



MCF-A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

1. The MCF AGM was held on the evening of Monday 13 November 2023 via zoom. The quorum was confirmed with 21 members. The meeting was opened by Steve N, MCF Chair at 1902 hrs. The agenda for the meeting is at Annex A to these minutes.

Attendees

2. The following 21 members, excusing ranks, were present during the AGM:

Eric B	Sue G	Daniel S
Helen B	Vani H	Dan S
Russell B	Julie J	Phil T
Thomas B	Cath N	Darren T
David C	Steve N	Tracey T
Matt C	Ian P	Quan T
Steven C	Geoff R	Jamie V

Apologies

3. The following apologies were received from MCF-A Members:

Rowland D	Peter M ²	Ken S ²
Dan F	Phil M ²	Gary S
James L ²	Trevor R ¹	Charles T ²
Darren J	Ian S	

¹ Proxy vote appointed

² Postal vote received

Previous Minutes

4. Copies of the previous minutes were distributed prior to the meeting and the Secretary provided a summary of key points. There was no further discussion on the previous minutes.
5. Darren T proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the 2022 AGM. This was seconded by Thomas B and the motion was carried.

Chair Report

6. Steve N delivered the Chair Report, which is attached at Annex B. He noted the impacts of the Defence Strategic Review and the Israel-Palestine conflict on Defence and MCF ministry activities.
7. Matt C proposed that the Chair Report be accepted. The motion was seconded by Geoff R and was carried.

Treasurer Report

8. Vani H delivered the Treasurer Report, which is at Annex C. The FY resulted in a \$10,313.37 deficit, due largely to a 45% decrease in donations coupled with increased operating costs. It was noted that Vani had only recently (September) taken over as Treasurer on Dave S's resignation.
9. Cath N proposed that the Treasurer Report be accepted. The motion was seconded by Helen B and was carried.
10. The draft budget at Annex D was presented and discussed. MCF projects a budget deficit of \$10,275 over the financial year 23/24. Vani H proposed that the budget be accepted. The motion was seconded by Dan S and was carried.

Administrator Report

11. Julie J presented her Staff Worker report for 2023 at Annex E.
12. Steve N proposed that the Staff Worker report be accepted. The motion was seconded by Matt C and was carried.

Election of Office Bearers

13. The Chair declared all positions on the MCF Council open. The following members were then elected as office bearers:

Position	Nominated person	Seconded	Vote
Chair	Steve N (2019 cont)	Continuing	Carried
Vice Chair	Darren T (2018 cont)	Continuing	Carried
Secretary	David C (2017 cont)	Continuing	Carried
Treasurer	Vani H (Sep 2023 cont)	Continuing	Carried
Chaplains rep	Andrew L (2022 cont)	Continuing	Carried
Members rep	Geoff R (2013 cont)	Continuing	Carried
Members rep	Quan T (New)	Bryce W	Carried
Members rep	Dinusha P (New)	Julie J	Carried

14. The following postal votes (of 5 in total, an additional vote was given to the Chair as proxy) were received for Council positions:
 - a. Steve N as Chair – 5
 - b. Darren T as Vice Chair – 5

- c. David C as Secretary – 5
- d. Vani H as Treasurer - 5
- e. Andrew L as Chaplain's Representative – 5
- f. Geoff R as Member's Representative – 5

15. The following proxy votes were votes accorded to the:
a. Chair – 1

16. The meeting also noted the following non-Council positions:

- a. Jono T, as webmaster,
- b. David C, as editor of Crossfire magazine,
- c. Daniel S, who took over from Brendan P as Prayer Coordinator during the year,
- d. Cath N, working in support of Vani as Treasurer.
- e. Ashleigh S has stood down as supporting Members' Rep on veterans and families.
- f. The meeting agreed to the appointment of Tracey T to the Media Outreach Resources Officer role.

MCF Mission and Objectives

17. The current MCF Mission and Objectives are at Annex F. There was no further discussion.

Other Business

- 18. Russell B reported on his book, a memoir on the history of MCF-A from its humble beginnings as the Officer's Christian Union. The book is currently being printed and will be available by early December for purchase directly from the author, via link on the MCF website.
- 19. Russell B also noted the opportunity exists for the sponsorship of overseas students through the Australian Defence College. He and Helen have been involved for 27 years and recommend it as a helpful means of witness. Further details are available from Russell and Helen for those interested.

20. The meeting concluded at 2006 hrs. Steve N closed the meeting in prayer.

Steve N

CHAP, Army
Chair, MCF-A

Annexes

- A. Agenda
- B. Chair Report
- C. Treasurer Report FY2022/23
- D. Budget FY2023/24
- E. Staff Worker Report
- F. MCF Mission and Objectives



AGM AGENDA 2023

**MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023
Via Zoom 1900 (AEDT) – 13 Nov 2023**

Agenda

1. 1900 -1902 Prayer and Confirmation of quorum
2. 1902 - 1905 Previous Minutes
3. 1905 -1915 Chair Report
4. 1915 -1930 Treasurer Report
5. 1930 - 1935 Staff Worker Report
6. 1935 - 1950 Election of Office Bearers
7. 1950 - 1955 MCF Mission and Objectives for 2024 and beyond
8. 1955 - 2000 General Business and closing prayer



CHAIR REPORT

Reflection

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death and burst their bonds apart. Let them give thanks to the Lord for his wondrous works to the children of man. Psalm 107:13-15

Over the last few weeks, we have seen unspeakable horror perpetrated by the descendants of Ishmael on the descendants of Isaac. We have seen the outpouring of hatred towards the Jews by the Muslims, a religion that is sworn to eradicating the Jews and Christians. We have seen some of the leaders in our community and abroad, sit on their hands while others turn the victims into the perpetrators.

It is times like this that we need to focus on the power, strength and purposes of God as demonstrated to us by Jesus. The Jews, even though they have rejected Christ as the Messiah and thus their Saviour, do worship Yahweh and it should be remembered that it was through the Jews and the promise to Abraham by God (Yahweh) that Christ came into the world so that we could be saved.

The fundamentals of Christianity are to love God first with all our heart, mind, and soul and then to love others as we love ourselves. Through our love of the first comes the outpouring of the second. In times like this we as believers of the way of Christ, need to first focus on God and his word and then reach out to our Jewish brothers and sisters and pray for our Muslim brothers and sisters that we may all be reconciled in Christ.

This we need to do also within Australia so that as a society we do not fracture yet come together as one people in Christ.

Earlier this year a 20m high cross was erected by the residents of Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff) on Memory Mountain which is the absolute centre of Australia. They built this as a symbol of hope for their community and Australia, it is also a statement of their spiritual faith and belief and their desire to see all Australians as one people.



The 20m high cross on Memory Mountain at Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff) in Central Australia

It is this attitude of love, respect and reconciliation that I hope all within the MCF share as we witness to our peers, subordinates and superiors within Defence.

Introduction

The last 12 months have been busy yet certainly more stable within the MCF as the team continues to build processes and structures to take us into the future. Fortunately, operationally Defence has been less engaged however with the release of the Defence Strategic Review there has been a lot of churn and change. This has affected all levels of Defence.

2023

Could I refer you all to Julie's Staff Worker Report as this covers off just about everything I needed to say or mention. It gives a good idea of all that has been going on within MCF-A as we all strive to reach out to those around.

I have found it encouraging throughout the year, listening to the stories of the MCF Reps at the monthly meetings and the way when one person is struggling with their group another has some encouragement and ideas to help.

Last year we brought out *40 Scriptures for Life* and these have been very popular, the next version *40 Scriptures for Life Extended* is hoped to be ready for BSA to look at by the end of the year and be produced sometime early next year. Russell B has been also beavering away with a personal reflection and memoir of the MCF and this should be available soon for people to purchase from him.

Next year will be the 40th Anniversary of MCF-A and we hope to produce an anniversary Crossfire edition.

For me there are many **thank you's** to give out –

Firstly, to Julie for being the glue that holds everything together and gently reminding me when I need to get things done. For David C who quietly works away in the background ensuring that everything is recorded. Thanks to Dave S who soldiered on as Treasurer for two years pulling our books into order despite ill health and family issues, he has enabled the MCF-A to clean up many things and set us up for the future. Thanks also to Vani H stepping in to take over as Treasurer and Cath N being willing to be Assistant Treasurer, this has developed redundancy within the Exec.

I also want to thank Darren T as Vice Chair who has 'had my back' and been an inspiration with the innovation and work he has done in Puckapunyal and other areas.

Finally, we have had a few key people step down this year for many reasons – Steve C who has been a Member Rep for some 2 years on Council but been involved as a small group rep and member for decades. Sam H who has been a Members Rep for over 16 yrs and a Small Group Rep and member for decades as well. Brendan P who has done a sterling job as Prayer Coordinator for over 8 yrs and we are blessed to have Daniel S take up that role. Finally, Dave S again who has been a member since arriving at 4 Fd Regt in 2007 and then Treasurer for the last 2 years.

All these people have contributed in many different ways and everyone's contribution has been valuable for the furthering of God's Kingdom in Defence, so I thank each and every one of them for their ministry in this corner of God's vineyard.

It is also a blessing to have Sue G as Patron as she provides good and clear guidance, as well as insight into the higher level thinking in Defence so that we are able to ensure the ministry is relevant and also staying within the Defence lanes.

In Conclusion

It is my intention to renominate for the position of Chair for 2024 in order to complete the work that has been begun, including developing a vision to 2030 and pulling together the role descriptions for the Exec and Council and thus hopefully encourage more people to have a go on the MCF Council.

As we head to the Advent Season remembering the birth of our Lord and the reason He came to earth - May you all have a Holy Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Emmanuel and Godspeed

Steve N

CHAP(LTCOL) Steve N
MCF-A Chair

05 Nov 23



**TREASURER REPORT FY 2022/23**

The following report outlines the financial position of the Military Christian Fellowship of Australia (MCF-A) for the Financial Year 2022-2023 (FY 22/23). MCF-A is a small not-for-profit organisation as specified by the Australian Tax office (ATO) and the Australian Not-For-Profit Commission (ACNC). MCF-A has Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status and during FY 22-23, MCF-A has met the financial requirements requires of the ATO, ACNC and its own constitution.

Under the MCF-A Constitution and the requirements of the ATO, a statement of accounts is presented to this AGM in the form of a: balance sheet, profit and loss statement and forward budget. As a small organisation as defined by the ACNC, this meets the requirements for annual financial reporting. A review or audit is not required by either ACNC, the ATO or the MCF-A Constitution, though the Council has sought an independent review of MCF-A finances for transparency to the membership. An audit/review statement is available to the membership on request.

During the FY 22/23, the MCF-A Executive in accordance with the requirements of the constitution, operated in accordance with the agreed budget except for agreed marketing products and some unforeseen increases to operating expenses; Workers Compensation insurance and website hosting up by 27.8% and 73% respectively. Income through donations was down by 45% on the previous year and 29.5% under budget.

To date, MCF-A Executive has operated in accordance with the agreed budget for FY 23/24.

No significant actions were taken during the FY 22/23, though with some relief from the Covid-19 restrictions, the Staff Worker was able to recommence travelling in support of regional reps.

Blessings,

Vani H
MCF-A Treasurer



MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Balance Sheet

Assets	30 Jun 23
1. I-Saver account 20380708	49,940.41
2. National Access 20514572 (old recurring deposits)	0.21
3. Payments 20753492 (for event and merch payments)	0.04
4. Term Deposit 171539441	30,120.12
6. Term Deposit 171552393	30,135.00
Total Assets	110,195.78
Liabilities	
Employee PAYG Payable	1,934.00
Employee SGC Super Payable	816.07
Total Liabilities	2,750.07
Net Assets	107,445.71
Equity	
Current Earnings	-7,044.34
Previous Financial Years (Retained) Earnings	114,490.05
Total Equity	107,445.71



MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Profit & Loss Summary

Income	01 Jul 22 to 30 Jun 23
General Income	
- Interest	921.29
- Donations and Gifts (incl Grants)	36,785.88
Income Total	37,707.17
Cost of Sales	0.00
Gross Profit	37,707.17
Expense	
Administration Costs	
- Accounting Software	550.00
- Office and Administration	95.09
- Travel (Staff Worker/Council)	2,279.36
	2,924.45
Marketing Costs	
- Marketing, Advertising and promotional items	4,080.92
- Web Site Hosting and Maintenance	562.20
	4,643.12
Ministry Resources	
- Ministry/Small Group Resources (+\$2,000 from BSA to spend at Kooyong)	1,322.76
	1,322.76
Personnel Costs	
- Insurance (Workers Compensation)	722.30
	722.30
Tithing	
- External Ministry Support (\$300 per ministry, \$1,800 additional)	225.00
	225.00
Employee Base Pay	34,667.78
Employee SGC Super	3,640.13
	38,307.91
Expense Total	48,145.54
Other Income	
- Tickets, Melbourne Dinner	1,077.50
Other Income Total	1,077.50
Other Expense	
- Melbourne Dinner costs	952.50
Other Expense Total	952.50
Operating Loss	10,313.37



ANNEX D

BUDGET FY 2023/24**Income**

Interest	800.00
Donations and Gifts (incl Grants)	48,000.00
	48,800.00

Expense

Accounting Software	600.00
Bank Fees	5.00
External Ministry Support (\$300 per ministry, \$1,800 additional)	3,600.00
Insurance (Workers Compensation)	570.00
Marketing, Advertising and promotional items	2,000.00
Ministry/Small Group Resources (+\$2,000 from BS to spend at Kooyong)	1,500.00
Office and Administration	300.00
Thank you Gifts	150.00
Travel	5,000.00
Web Site Hosting and Maintenance	650.00
Event Attendance (e.g. Tickets)	300.00
Employee Base Pay	40,000.00
Employee SGC Super	4,400.00
	59,075.00
Nett Loss	10,275.00



STAFF WORKER REPORT

This past 12 months seems to have flown by yet again. I have had the privilege of working with many of you in various ways again this past year. There have once again been many challenges but also a number of praise points, and I can see God's hand in what MCF-A, and Christians as a whole, are able to do in Defence. I am humbled and encouraged by the dedication and commitment of so many of our MCF-A members and supporters. The following is a small snippet of what's been happening from the MCF-A Office the past 12 months. If you have any questions from my report, or would like arrange a time for me to come visit you, feel free to contact me any time: mcf.office@defence.gov.au

Membership

This year we have again remained stable with memberships as some members have retired or passed away, we have also had a steady stream of new members come in. As I'm sure you've seen in your workspace, COVID has changed the way many things run these days and this has been a challenge to the Small Groups, but it has also brought many blessings along with new participants and members. Since the last report our membership (ordinary and associate) numbers are similar to last year at 691 (6 Nov 23). The MCF-A eNews goes out to 953 email addresses, with 228 of those being subscribe only. This is very similar to last year's numbers. At present the Exec and Council are looking at reinvigorating and tidying up the Centurion program which was put on hold over the COVID period. As more details are released via the eNews please consider becoming a Centurion This fits well to say thank you to all of you who have support MCF financially, as well as through other means. MCF-A can only keep doing what it does with your support as we get little to no Government funding, apart from the office space in Campbell Park. Thank you to MCF-A volunteers, especially previous MCF-A Treasurer, David S and current Treasurer Vani H who've kept the MCF books in order the past 12 months.

Events

Times have changed since COVID, MCF has evolved too. It was great to test getting the National Day of Prayer back on the calendar in 2023. Thanks to those who ran or attended an event. The National event was held at St John's Anglican Church Reid, in Canberra, just off Anzac Parade. This church has many ties to the military and this site has also been used for the farewell BBQ for MCF members and supporters at the end of 2022 and a welcome BBQ at the start of 2023. A big thanks to Rev Dave and the congregation for being so welcoming and supportive of MCF-A activities. I was thrilled to get to the Puckapunyal Dinner last year and the Movie and Meal event that was held a week or so ago. I'm also looking forward to getting to Adelaide for their Defence Christians Dinner at the end of November and dropping in on some of the groups in Sth Aust. Let me know any time if you'd like help hosting a Dinner, BBQ, coffee catch up, local night out or similar, and if I'm able, I'm very happy to come along and meet more MCF members and supporters.

The Forum of Christian Military Ministries (FCMM) annual gathering was able to go

ahead again this year at Solid Rock HQ in Canberra. It was a wonderful time of prayer and fellowship. We were also again privileged to have Tina K (special Bible projects) from Bible Society Australia (BSA) join us for the day along with Chris M (BSA Head of Mission), as well as other invited guests who stayed for part of the day, Jamie V (AMCF) and Kerry L (representing the MCF Chaplain Rep, Andrew L), who gave us an overview of Defence Chaplaincy for 2023 and beyond. I'll take this chance to publicly thank BSA, Chris and Tina in particular, for their amazing support to MCF-A and FCMM. Their sponsorship and grants pay for ADF Bibles, Devotionals and many other books and material that MCF Small Groups and others use. Please remember to send in any stories and photos of how these materials are useful and changing lives. They can be made anonymous if preferred and are then sent to BSA as part of reporting which helps secure future funding and support. Thank you to all the other people and organisations who also support MCF-A in so many ways. We couldn't support and build God's Kingdom in Defence without you! If you're not sure what material or help MCF-A has on offer, drop the office an email to find out. This support is for Chaplains too.

I am also very grateful to Phil R and the team at the Chaplains College who have invited the leads of FCMM to meet with new Chaplains studying at the College this year. I've been privileged to explain what each Christian ministry is and what it can do to support them as they do chaplaincy in Defence.

Travels

As mentioned, I've started traveling again, all be it on a limited budget but I have plans to do more in 2024. I am trying to make the best use of time and money, so being able to meet with larger groups of people from an area, or incorporate a few places into a visit is preferred. The MCF-A Exec are also trying to spread visits around, so you may only see one of us at a time, but hopefully this will mean you will see us a bit more often or in the places further away from Canberra. Please let the office know if you're planning a special gathering or event so one of us can try to visit at that time. Remember, if you're in Canberra I'm always happy to meet up with you there too, or I can catch you online anytime.

Small Groups

As mentioned, COVID has changed the landscape for many workspaces and this has also had an impact on the MCF Small Groups and when to meet. Some of the MCF Reps are coming up with new ideas for connecting Christians on Bases, and offering different opportunities for those seeking to engage with Defence Christians. I encourage you to keep on trying to meet, and for those of you who are unable to attend your Small Group, keep in contact with your MCF Rep/POC and encourage and pray for them. Also spread the word in your work space about MCF-A meetings and events and get creative as to when and how you meet. It doesn't always need to be a lunch time Bible Study. Maybe a quick prayer meeting before work from time to time, a coffee catch-up, go out for dinner and invite family members, the list goes on. The MCF-A Office is here to support, so feel free to make contact any time to discuss any of this, float an idea, or to ask for materials to help support your group. If the Office doesn't have it there may be another way for the Office to obtain it. This offer also goes to ADF Chaplains if they have exhausted the usual avenues. I feel MCF

groups in all forms (Bible Studies, prayer, coffee groups etc) are the heart-beat of MCF. A huge thanks once again to all the MCF Reps and Small Group leaders who have kept trying to work on getting people together. I'd also like to publicly thank the ADF Chaplains for their support of MCF-A and myself. Special thanks to Andrew L, who is the Chaplain Rep to MCF-A, and also to James C and Kerry L for giving guidance on Christianity in Defence going forward, amongst much other support. I'll also take this chance to thank MCF-A Vice-Chair, Darren T, and the 3 Member Reps, Sam H, Steven C and Geoff R and their assistants, for their amazing energy and support, especially in the Small Group space. They give me ideas and help to keep things rolling in this part of MCF-A. Also a huge thanks to all the MCF Reps/POCs who joined in the monthly online gatherings of support, info and trouble shooting. Reps/POCs, you are the backbone of MCF-A!

Communication

As with last year, the MCF-A eNews and Facebook page (over 600 followers) the main source of extra material and encouragement to members and supporters with some info also put on ForceNet. The website is still bringing in questions about MCF, new members and donations on a fairly regular basis. I've been able to connect people to Chaplains, connect schools and other organisations to ADF Christians for talks, and connect people to their local MCF-A group, amongst many other things. I always find it amazing and praise God for the way He uses so many different ways and people to connect, support and build his kingdom in Defence. I'll take this chance to say a huge thank you to Brendan P who has worked tirelessly for around 8 years as the MCF Prayer Coord and wish him well as he travels Australia with his family enjoying long service leave. I welcome and thank Daniel S for stepping into this very important role. Please remember to send in urgent prayer requests to the MCF Office or Daniel directly, and to pray constantly for all things Defence and MCF-A. Prayer is the key!

In finishing, I'd like to say a huge thankyou to the MCF-A Secretary, David C. Many of you don't see the hours David puts in to keeping the MCF-A minutes and other parts of MCF-A rolling along, making sure the AGM runs smoothly and he also gives help, encouragement and advice to many Staff Worker aspects and events. Thank you David! I also say a huge thanks MCF-A Chair Steve N for his many, many hours of behind the scenes work with organising, thoughts and guidance. The material and connections MCF-A has been able to achieve lately has been amazing, with much thanks to Steve. Also special thanks to the MCF-A Council assistants and to all the many others who work tirelessly behind the scenes volunteering their time to help me, the whole MCF-A community and other Defence Christians to grow God's kingdom. It's very much appreciated and doesn't go unnoticed! Lastly, a huge thank you for your prayers and support since the last AGM. A big thanks to those of you who contact the office with words of encouragement, stories, suggestions and the like. You guys keep me going! I love hearing from you and am here to help you wherever possible. Feel free to contact the office at any time about anything! I pray I can serve you better in 2024.

Lastly, remember MCF-A is yours, it's here for you! Keep sending in those ideas and things that are helpful to you, as they may also be helpful to other members and groups. Keep communicating with each other. Hang in there and keep working

through how to stay connected and supporting each other, how to get the groups running, bringing in new people, both Christians and seeking, and supporting the Defence community. All ideas, info, enquiries, stories for reporting, anything really, are very welcome so please email mcf.office@defence.gov.au

Blessings to each one of you as we walk together in faith into whatever 2024 has in store for the MCF-A community.

Julie J
MCF-A National Administrator/Staff Worker



MCF MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

The MCF Mission and Objectives are outlined in the Constitution.

Mission:

The mission of MCF is to promote Christian faith in the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

Objectives:

- To be an instrument through which others in the ADF are led to Christ
- To encourage, support, and develop Christians in the ADF, especially when deployed
- To support actively the ministry of ADF Christian Chaplains
- To manage MCF legally, effectively and efficiently

In order to achieve these objectives MCF acknowledges God's leading towards the following non-core objectives:

- Support Christianity in the wider ADO
- Support international MCFs
- Support other military ministries active in the ADF
- Advocate on moral and ethical issues that impact upon Christian faith in the ADF.