



## **MCF-A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024**

1. The MCF AGM was held on the evening of Monday 18 November 2024 via Zoom. A quorum was confirmed with 24 members. The meeting was opened by Steve N, MCF Chair, at 1900 hrs, inviting Darren T to pray. The agenda for the meeting is at Annex A to these minutes.

### **Attendees**

2. The following 24 members, excusing ranks, were present at the AGM:

Helen B	John H	Steve N
Russell B	Vani H	Christiaan P
Thomas B	Mark H	Doug R
David C	Darren J	Geoff R
Peter E	Julie J	Paul R
Martin F	Darren K	Daniel S
Sue G	Andrew K	Darren T
Susan H	Cath N	Jamie v

### **Apologies**

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

Eric B	Sam H	Phil M <sup>2</sup>
Noel C <sup>1</sup>	David H	Brendan P <sup>2</sup>
Steve C	Kerry L	Trevor R <sup>1</sup>
Robin D	James L <sup>1</sup>	Ian S
Ian G	Peter M	Kenneth S <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Proxy vote appointed

<sup>2</sup> 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, noting it was largely a business-as-usual AGM. There was no further discussion on the previous minutes.
5. Geoff R proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the 2023 AGM. This was seconded by Sue G and the motion was carried.

### **Chair Report**

6. Steve N delivered the Chair Report, which is attached at Annex B. He noted this was MCF's 40<sup>th</sup> year since amalgamation. He drew from his recent Camino de Santiago pilgrimage experience in Northern Spain and noted that we serve as way-markers for Christ. He also noted that it is not the size of our ministry that

matters but God's providence works through the small things as well as the large and encouraged all to continue faithfully in ministry.

7. Helen B 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 \$10,469.04 deficit. This was very close to the budgeted deficit of \$10,275, despite income through donations being 16.3% below budget and significantly increased operating costs across a number of key areas.
9. Vani H proposed that the Treasurer Report be accepted. The motion was seconded by Darren T and was carried.
10. The draft budget at Annex D was presented and discussed, including the additional of Public Liability insurance at a cost of \$2,500. MCF projects a budget deficit of \$10,995 over the financial year 24/25.
11. Cath N proposed that the budget be accepted. The motion was seconded by Christiaan P and was carried.

### **Administrator Report**

12. Julie J presented her Staff Worker report for 2024 at Annex E and summarised key points.
13. Steve N proposed that the Staff Worker report be accepted. The motion was seconded by Daniel S and was carried.

### **Constitution Amendments**

14. The Secretary presented 2 motions for amendment of the MCF-A Constitution to expand the Council by 2 members. The motions, agreed by a two-thirds majority of the Council were distributed to members 30 days prior to the meeting and are as follows:
15. Motion 1: *That the constitution be amended at paragraph 17 to include the Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer positions, and that a new paragraph 21 be inserted to read as follows: The Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer will ordinarily function as members of the Council, but may be formally appointed, in writing and by agreement of the Executive, to fulfil the relevant Executive role for a specified period.*
16. The motion was carried unanimously (30 for, 0 against, 0 abstained – including proxy and postal votes).
17. Motion 2: *The references to the "Vice-Chair" at paragraphs 18. and 24.f. be amended to "Vice Chair" for consistency throughout the document.*

18. The motion was carried unanimously (30 for, 0 against, 0 abstained – including proxy and postal votes).

### **Election of Office Bearers**

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

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nominated person</b>	<b>Seconded</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Chair	Steve N (2019 cont)	Continuing	Carried
Vice Chair	Darren T (2018 cont)	Continuing	Carried
Secretary	David C (2017 cont)	Continuing	Carried
Assistant Secretary	Nil (Vacant)	N/A	N/A
Treasurer	Vani H (Sep 2023 cont)	Continuing	Carried
Assistant Treasurer	Cath N (New)	Daniel S	Carried
Chaplains rep	Kerry L (New)	Vani H	Carried
Members rep	Geoff R (2013 cont)	Continuing	Carried
Members rep	Paul R (New)	David C	Carried
Members rep	Martin F (New)	David C	Carried

20. The following postal votes (of 2 in total, an additional 4 votes were given to the Chair as proxy) were received for Council positions:

- a. Stephen N as Chair – 2
- b. Darren T as Vice Chair – 2
- c. David C as Secretary – 2
- d. Vani H as Treasurer – 2
- e. Kerry L as Chaplain's Representative – 2
- f. Geoff R as Member's Representative – 2
- g. Paul R as Member's Representative – 2
- h. Martin F as Member's Representative – 2

21. The following proxy votes were votes accorded to the:

- a. Chair – 4

22. The meeting also noted the following non-Council positions and thanked them for their service:

- a. Sue G as Patron,
- b. Jono T, as webmaster,
- c. David C, as editor of Crossfire magazine,
- d. Daniel S, who took over from Brendan P as Prayer Coordinator during the year,
- e. Media Outreach Officer – Tracey T,
- f. Deployment Coordinator – vacant,
- g. Cath N, working in support of Vani H as Treasurer.
- h. Tracey T supporting Members' Reps,
- i. The Chair noted outgoing Council members; Andrew L (Chaplain's Rep), Dinusha P and Quan T (Members' Reps) and thanked them for their service to the ministry of MCF.

### **MCF Mission and Objectives**

23. The current MCF Mission and Objectives are at Annex F. The Chair noted the draft MCF strategy *Towards 2030 and beyond* that is built around the Defence values and sought feedback or ideas from the membership. There was no further discussion.

### **Other Business**

- 24. Peter E noted that he retired from Defence in mid-2024 but maintains contacts with those he's met through MCF and remains part of the MCF family.
- 25. Russell B asked with the trend to move more of the ministry off base, whether consideration had been given to 'safe ministry'. The Chair noted that the differing requirements between all of the states and territories that MCF potentially operates makes this challenging, but that the Executive was considering a workable approach.
- 26. Jamie v as the South-west Pacific rep provided an update on the recent AMCF Regional Conference and the work of the Defence Pacific Faith Network.
- 27. The meeting concluded at 2035 hrs. Sue G closed the meeting in prayer.



**Steve N**  
CHAP, Army  
Chair, MCF-A

## **Annexes**

- A. Agenda
- B. Chair Report
- C. Treasurer Report FY2023/24
- D. Budget FY2024/25
- E. Staff Worker Report
- F. MCF Mission and Objectives



ANNEX A

**AGM AGENDA 2024**

**MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIA  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024  
Via Zoom 1900 (AEDT) – 18 Nov 2024**

**Agenda**

1. 1900 Prayer and Confirmation of quorum
2. 1902 Previous Minutes
3. 1905 Chair Report
4. 1915 Treasurer Report
5. 1930 Staff Worker Report
6. 1935 Constitution Amendments
6. 1945 Election of Office Bearers
7. 1955 MCF Mission and Objectives for 2025 and beyond
8. 2000 General Business and closing prayer

**CHAIR REPORT****Reflection**

*Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?” Jesus said: “I am the Way the Truth and the Life, no one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:5-6*

Over October this year Cath and I along with Darren and Tracey T undertook to walk 315km of the Camino de Santiago (The way of St James) from Leon to Santiago de Compostela in Northern Spain. There were many other people walking this pathway for many differing reasons. People would either walk past you or you would walk past them, this gave you an opportunity to engage with and at times speak with them, find out about them and encourage them. There were a couple of times when people who were walking solo really appreciated the companionship even if it was only for 5 or 6 kilometres.



To show you the way there were yellow arrows and way markers. You could also buy maps, download guides all to help you stay on the right path. Even so, there were times when we missed a turn or thought we were going the wrong way only to discover that we were actually on the right way.

The important thing about this walk is that it forced you to focus on the immediate and stay in the present moment. At times Tracey

would stop us all and we would have to describe 5 things we could hear. Each morning, we started with Scripture readings and morning prayer and each evening we would discuss what we had done new, what we had liked and a Spiritual Insight that had struck us during the day. All this helped us to focus on listening to God and seeking Him intentionally during the day.

In the MCF, we are like a way marker pointing people to Jesus and helping them either get onto the right Way or assisting them on the Way. This is our mission, walking alongside people, to introduce them to the Way of Christ, to encourage them, to journey with them for a season be it long or short.

Can I encourage you to remember this when you feel discouraged or that others in the MCF are doing better than you. You never know the importance of speaking with that one person who came this week, or you had a chat with in the coffee line.

**2024 some highlights**

Could I refer you all to Julie's **Staff Worker Report** as this covers off on 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 am truly amazed at

the passion and dedication of all the MCF Council members and Reps to reach out to their fellow members in Defence and share the good News with them. I am only going to touch on some highlights as the detail is in Julie's report.

**2024 marked 40 years** since the amalgamation of the Officers Christian Fellowship (OCF) and the Australian Services Christian Fellowship (ASCF) in 1984. The OCF had been formed in 1959 with links back to the British Army – Officers Christian Union which had been formed in 1851. The ASCF had been formed in 1973. It could be argued that this is in fact the 65th year of the MCF-A.

The celebrations this year were kicked off with a function at Government House hosted by the then Governor General and former MCF-A Patron – General David Hurley and his wife Linda. This was a wonderful event where the Governor General affirmed the work of the MCF-A and Mrs Hurley sang a song she had written for the occasion.

It was decided early on, not to have one major Canberra centric event but that each of the Regions would be encouraged to hold events. This has occurred with many of the regions hosting events that were either small or large but each catering to the needs of their region. More about this can be found in Julie's report. The final event is a Canberra based event as this also doubles as our local end of year function, to which all are welcome. These have all been times of wonderful encouragement and fellowship.

At the Canberra the start of year Welcome Event, we also launched Russell B's memoir on MCF-A called Faithful Service – A personal history of the Military Christian Fellowship of Australia. This is certainly a worthwhile book to read to gain a good understanding of MCF-A over the last 40 years.

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. Darren T the Vice Chair has done an outstanding job leading these and encouraging the Reps across Australia.

Finances - God has continued to bless us with what finances we have needed however these continue to drive us to our knees as there are many new expenses that have appeared on the horizon which we now have to deal with. Postage is no longer free as Defence moved to a new model which means organisations such as the MCF-A sit outside the funding streams, public liability insurance became a must as we moved more activities off defence bases in order to reach a wider group of people – families and veterans in particular.

We continue to trust God that He will provide, thanking Him for what has already been provided.

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.

Darren T as Vice Chair who has 'had my back' and been an inspiration with the innovation and work he has done, it was a blessing to be able to spend a month with him, Tracey and Cath on our Camino walk, he is truly a humble man of God.

David C who quietly works away in the background ensuring that everything is recorded and correct. Vani H as the Treasurer and Cath N the Assistant Treasurer who both approach the finance issues differently and thus enable everything to move forward smoothly and correctly.

All the MCF Reps, as they have contributed in many different ways with their contributions being 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 a continued 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 2025 to continue the work that has been begun, including developing and writing Towards 2030 and beyond. Please if you have ideas for this and how we remain faithful to Christ and relevant to Defence please contact me and give me your ideas. At this stage I will be moving from the COMD CHAP 2(AS)DIV role to work in the DGCHAP-A's Office.

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

MCF-A Chair

09 Nov 2024



**TREASURER REPORT FY 2023/24**

The following report outlines the financial position of the Military Christian Fellowship of Australia (MCF-A) for the Financial Year 2023-2024 (FY 23/24). 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 23-24, 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 the 2024/25 budget. As a small organisation as defined by the ACNC, this meets the requirements for an 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 23/24, 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; We had to purchase a few 'Thank-you' gifts to those who were leaving MCF due to other commitments, Income through donations was down by 20.3% on the previous year and 16.3% under budget. Thankfully the interest on the term deposits was up 214%.

To date, MCF-A Executive has operated in accordance with the agreed budget for FY 24/25.

No significant actions were taken during the FY 23/24, 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

**Balance Sheet**

Assets	30 Jun 24
1. I-Saver account 20380708	36,482.96
2. National Access 20514572 (old recurring deposits)	105.21
3. Payments 20753492 (for event and merch payments)	5.07
4. Term Deposit 171539441	31,083.96
6. Term Deposit 171552393	31,099.32
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>98,776.52</b>
Liabilities	
Employee PAYG Payable	2,284.00
Employee SGC Super Payable	962.36
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>3,246.36</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>95,530.16</b>
Equity	
Current Earnings	-18,959.89
Previous Financial Years (Retained) Earnings	114,490.05
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>95,530.16</b>

**Profit & Loss Summary**

<b>Income</b>	<b>01 Jul 23 to 30 Jun 24</b>
<b>General Income</b>	
- Interest	2,511.99
- Donations and Gifts (incl Grants)	38,270.33
Other error	37.13
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>40,819.45</b>
Error repayment	1,189.26
Square account	0.03
Cost of Sales	0.00
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>42,008.74</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
<b>Administration Costs</b>	
- Accounting Software	550.00
- Thank you gifts	182.40
- Travel (Staff Worker/Council)	3,147.92
	<b>3,880.32</b>
<b>Marketing Costs</b>	
- Marketing, Advertising and promotional items	1,169.77
- Web Site Hosting and Maintenance	443.40
	<b>1,613.17</b>
<b>Ministry Resources</b>	
- Ministry/Small Group Resources (+\$2,000 from BSA to spend at Kooyong)	1,563.81
	<b>1,563.81</b>
<b>Personnel Costs</b>	
- Insurance (Workers Compensation)	779.83
	<b>779.83</b>
<b>Tithing</b>	
- External Ministry Support (\$300 per ministry, \$1,800 additional)	200.00
	<b>200.00</b>
Employee Base Pay	40,036.62
Employee SGC Super	4,404.03
	<b>44,440.65</b>
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>52,477.78</b>
<b>Operating Loss</b>	<b>10,469.04</b>

**Other Income**

- Clothing/merch sales	385.00
- Dinner/event subsidy money	720.00
	<b>1105.00</b>

**Other Expense**

- Melbourne Dinner Costs	850.00
- Clothing/merch sales/postage	377.25
- Miscellaneous	1.324.26
	<b>2,551.51</b>

**Net loss** **11,915.55**

**Operating loss** **10,469.04**

**BUDGET FY 2024/25****Income**

Interest	3,000.00
Donations and Gifts (incl Grants)	48,000.00
Fundraising	5,000.00
	<b>56,000.00</b>

**Expense**

Accounting Software	600.00
Bank Fees	5.00
Crossfire Printing (40 <sup>th</sup> ann. Edition)	2,000.00
External Ministry Support (\$300 per ministry, \$1,800 additional)	3,600.00
Insurance (Workers Compensation)	750.00
Insurance (Public Liability)	2,500.00
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	500.00
Thank you Gifts	150.00
Travel	5,000.00
Web Site Hosting and Maintenance	650.00
Event Attendance (e.g. Tickets)	300.00
Dinners and Seminars	2,000.00
Employee Base Pay	40,000.00
Employee SGC Super	4,400.00
Ministry Courses (Alpha/Faith Under Fire/etc)	1,000.00
	<b>66,955.00</b>
<b>Net Deficit</b>	<b>10,955.00</b>

**STAFF WORKER REPORT**

Greetings all,

The past 12 months I have been privileged to have been able to meet many of you face to face with visits including more far flung MCF groups. I love working with and talking to you and seeing and hearing how God is working in your space. I know it's not always smooth sailing and I hope MCF and I am an encouragement to you as you are the light and salt in your workplace. I am always encouraged and amazed at what is happening through the dedication of God's people in the ADF space. Here is a snippet of what's been happening in the MCF Staff Worker world this past 12mths Sorry it's so long but there's been a lot happening! If you have any questions from my report, or would like to arrange a time for me to come visit you, feel free to contact me any time: [mcf.office@defence.gov.au](mailto:mcf.office@defence.gov.au)

**Membership**

This year we have again remained stable with memberships. Some members have retired and asked to leave membership, or have passed away, but we have also had a steady stream of new members come in. Since the last report, our membership (ordinary and associate) numbers are slightly up on last year at 706 (29 Oct 2024).

The MCF-A eNews goes out to 962 email addresses, with 250 of those being subscribe only. (Some people use two emails for the eNews.) Both of these are also up on last year's numbers. The Exec and Office are working on how we stay connected to and support our MCF members and supporters better, along with their family members, especially those who have left Defence, as they are still part of the MCF-A family and an encouragement to the newer members. The Exec have also bought a number of insurance policies to make sure as times change those involved with MCF-A are covered for activities undertaken through MCF-A. This is good governance, but it also comes at a cost.

The Centurion program is being revamped and the Office is looking at what other ways it may get in \$\$ to help with the extra costs of running MCF-A, as most of our funding comes from donations. Postage in Defence has also changed and this too is adding a bigger cost. I'll take this opportunity to thank Vani for all her hard work as the MCF Treasurer as well as Cath N who has assisted her in this role. Also, special thanks to Suz who has looked over our books the last few years to make sure all is in order. MCF-A can't function properly without the hard work these ladies put in.

**Events**

MCF-A started 40 years ago this year after the amalgamation of two other Christian Defence groups. A cross-section of MCF-A Council members and Staff Workers from across the years were privileged to be invited to attend Government House in Canberra in March by a former MCF-A Patron and Chief of Defence, the Governor General and Mrs Hurley, for a morning tea. It was a great way to start MCF-A's celebration year and I look forward to the Informal Dinner at St John's in Canberra at the end of November to finish off the celebrations.

Again this year, the National Day of Prayer for Defence was one of the highlights and I thank all the Reps/Chaplains who organised something in their location. Special thanks to St John's Anglican Church in Canberra for their amazing support allowing us to use their Church and facilities for this and other events.

Another highlight was the launch of Russell B's long awaited memoir on MCF-A and beyond. This too was held at St Johns and I recommend this book to you so you can understand where MCF-A has come from up until today. It can be purchased via the MCF website with links under the 'about us' section.

I was once again privileged to attend the MCF Dinner in Adelaide and help them celebrate the 40 years of MCF-A. It was a great night which included hugely encouraging stories from when MCF-A started right up to today. I was sad I couldn't attend the gathering in Melbourne the next day, but thank organisers of both these events, Geoff R in Sth Aust and Vani and friends in Vic, and make special mention of the sponsorship/Grant from DVA Mental Health Week events, which covered the cost of the Melbourne Dinner.

The Forum of Christian Military Ministries (FCMM) annual gathering this year was hosted by Everymans at Wodonga. Unfortunately, I was unable to travel down, but am very grateful to David C traveling to represent MCF in person, while I was able to zoom in. It was a very encouraging event and the comradery and eagerness to work together in the Defence space is very encouraging. Thank you to Kerry L for giving an overview of Chaplaincy and how FCMM and Chaplains can work collaboratively in this space, amongst other topics.

Some of the MCF leads were again privileged to have from Bible Society Australia (BSA) Tina K (special Bible projects) along with Chris M (BSA Head of Mission) meet with us in Canberra a few weeks prior to the FCMM gathering. It was a chance to work on what new Christian Defence material may be possible and how we can partner better with BSA and Chaplains in this space. A huge thank you to BSA for their time, money and material gifted to Christians working in Defence. It is hoped that more support can be worked on in the Defence Veteran and family space going forward once a few regulations are worked through.

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 for the following year, as well as encouraging their donors.

I'll also take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Principle Chaplain Andrew L, who has been the MCF-A Chaplain Rep the past few years, for all his guidance and support during this time. God's Blessings as you retire from a very long Navy career! I look forward to working with Principle Chaplain Kerry L (Army) who has kindly said he will step into this role.

I am also very grateful to Chaplain Phil R and the team at the Chaplains College who again this year have invited the leads of FCMM, amongst others, to meet with new Chaplains studying at the College. It's a privilege and joy to meet together and learn from each other.

Also thank you to all the other organisations, and their people, who 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.

## Travels

As mentioned, I've been able to travel a bit more this year and am hoping to expand that in the next 12mths. I thoroughly enjoy meeting you where you work and get a lot out of seeing the different Bases. It helps me, and then the MCF Council, understand the challenges of meeting together, work situations and other challenges often unique to that Base. I really appreciate the effort all my hosts and others have put in to my visits and the generosity of their time, information, connections and coffees when they already have busy schedules.

I had a wonderful day trip to the NSW Sth Coast visiting HMAS Albatross near Nowra and the beautiful HMAS Creswell at Jervis Bay. Thank you to all the Navy Chaplains in the area for being available to meet, and special thanks to CHAP Byron S (also an MCF Rep) for his generous giving of time and vast knowledge during this trip. I learnt so much about Navy, as well as the challenges each Base has for their various MCF Small Groups.

This past 12 months I've also been able to attend the MCF Dinners in Adelaide, both this year and last, as well as while there, meet other Small Group members during visits to DSTG Edinburgh, RAAF Edinburgh, including meeting the Philanthropics there, and being invited to meet with the Sth Aust Army Chaplains. I also visited the Everyman/MCF Rep at Woodside. Thank you to all (too many to mention) who made this a very informative trip!.

I was also very well looked after in Townsville, meeting with MCF Reps, Small Group and MCF members, and all the Army Chaplains in the area (I think there were about 12, including one visiting from down south and one visiting from Alaska) while also being shown around the Army and RAAF Bases. I was also able to meet the RAAF Chaplain David K and visit the lovely RAAF Chapel. It was great to help connect some of the Army and RAAF MCF members during my visit so they can look do some studies and events together, and it was nice to escape the Canberra cold for a while. Special thanks to CHAP Luke D (also an MCF Rep) and MCF Rep Joshua A for your hospitality and organising.

I've tried to dovetail my further reaching trips into personal/church travel commitments to help with costs to MCF. This seems to have worked well and I thank the Exec for being willing to think outside the square to help make these trips happen and Reps and members for making themselves available. Also a huge thanks to all the Chaplains during my travels who have gone out of their way to make me welcome and organise special 'Chaplain' gatherings to listen and learn about MCF-A and what we do. Thank you for supporting MCF-A.

## **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 they are able 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 and keep an eye out for 'out of hours' events the Reps may organise. 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 again publicly thank the ADF Chaplains for their support of MCF-A and myself. Special thanks to the three DGCHAPs, Andrew L, 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 V-Chair, Darren T, and the 3 Member Reps, especially Geoff R for all the ideas, support and much more in this space. Also a huge thanks to all the MCF Reps/POCs who joined in the monthly online gatherings to share support, info and trouble shooting. You are the backbone of MCF-A!

## **Communication**

As with last year, the MCF-A eNews and Facebook page (over 600 followers) are the main source of extra material and encouragement to members and supporters. This year ForceNet hasn't been used as much, partly due to issues with use, partly as the uptake on info has waned. Suggestions on the best way to get extra info to members and supporters is most welcome. We've had some suggestions in regard to the eNews but have kept things as they are as not everyone is on the DPN, not everyone wants to give a personal email address, and most email mail out platforms are blocked on the Defence network, so we are limited in what we can use. We've also found if we include the eNews as a link most people don't look at it.

The website is still chugging along and bringing in questions about MCF, new members and donations on a fairly regular basis. As the website is aging, parts of it are breaking or are harder to update. If you have a passion for this type of volunteer work please get in touch with the office as we'd love your expertise, and if you don't have much time, advice is also welcome. I've been able to connect people to Chaplains, connect schools and other organisations to help and support each other, and I'm very grateful to the DFMS in various locations across Australia who have

been willing to advertise MCF-A and/or our events from time to time in their State/location eNews. I always find it amazing, 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 Dr Daniel S who pulls together the MCF Prayer Calendar. I also wish to thank Paul V who pulls together the Word @ Work Paul each week that goes out to around 150 people. Paul has been doing this for many years and even if it's not a huge job, it's a constant job. I appreciate the thoughtful quick reflection each week and look forward each week to sending it out to others. Paul feels it is time a new person took on this role. If you'd like to be on the W@W email list, or feel called to take over this important role, please contact the MCF office. Thank you Paul and blessings as God uses you in other ways. 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 thank you 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 to the MCF-A Chair Steve N for his many, many hours of behind the scenes work with organising, thoughts, writing and guidance. The material, governance, connections and more MCF-A has been able to achieve this past year has been amazing! Thanks Gents.

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 wider MCF-A community and other Defence Christians to support and further God's Kingdom. It's very much appreciated and doesn't go unnoticed! Lastly, a huge thank you to you for your prayers and support since the last AGM. A big shout out 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, and I pray I can serve you better in 2025.

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 even when you feel like giving up. Keep working out ways of 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, just email them to [mcf.office@defence.gov.au](mailto:mcf.office@defence.gov.au) (they come through to me).

Blessings to each one of you as we walk together in faith into whatever 2025 has in store for the MCF-A community and I pray you have a wonderful Christmas Season as we remember the birth of our Saviour.

Julie Jaensch 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.