Book of Reports

Annual General Meeting

22 NOVEMBER 2026



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OUR **MISSION**



OUR **VISION**

WE ARE A **VIBRANT** MULTI-ETHNIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH **EQUIPPING** AND **EMPOWERING** DISCIPLES OF ALL AGES IN **ADVANCING HIS KINGDOM** LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY BY **LIVING** FULLY, **SHARING** BOLDLY AND **GROWING** PURPOSEFULLY IN THE LIFE-TRANSFORMING **GRACE** OF JESUS CHRIST.

At LifeWay we are committed to **LIVING**, **SHARING**, and **GROWING** as empowered disciples of Jesus Christ. Our belief that Jesus Christ is the Saviour, who has reconciled us to God through his death on the cross, guides and motivates our actions as a church.

LIVING PRAISE

OUR **CORE VALUES**

As disciples we are called to follow Jesus with our lives. Discipleship is an intentional pursuit as we seek to walk Jesus' way and become more and more like him each day. Here at LifeWay our spiritual core values reflect that desire to embody lives of **LIVING PRAISE** which bring honour and glory to his name.



P

Pray

DEVOTEDLY

Prayer is the lifeblood of the Christian. We take everything to God in prayer, not hoping that our prayer will change God, but hoping that our prayer will change us.

Matthew 6:5- 5, Philippians 4:4-7, Ephesians 6:18-20



R

Read

GOD'S WORD DAILY

Luther said that we are to 'so love God that we keep his word holy and gladly hear and learn it.' Growing in grace begins with a willingness to be lifelong students at the foot of Jesus, and purposefully grow into maturity in Christ through his Word.

Psalm 119:105, John 8:31-32, Isaiah 55:11, Colossians 3:16. 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 4:12, Ephesians 4:15-16, Colossians 1:9-10, 1 Peter 2:2, 2 Peter 3:18



A

Attend

WORSHIP INTENTIONALLY

We gather weekly in worship to be transformed by the grace of God as we are equipped by God's word and nourished at his table. We gather to receive in his presence and to celebrate his living presence among us.

Luke 24:30-32, Psalm 95:6-7, 1 Chronicles 16:28-29, Ephesians 2:8-9, Ephesians 5:18b-20



I

Invest

IN REAL RELATIONSHIPS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Living in relationship with others is what we were created for. We build among us a community of welcome, love, encouragement and support. We take every opportunity to grow in grace together through Christian fellowship as we build lasting relationships based on faith, acceptance and respect.

1 Thessalonians 2:8, Acts 2:42-47, Philippians 2:1-4, Colossians 3:12-15, John 13:34-36



S

Serve

IN, THROUGH AND BEYOND THE CONGREGATION

"Each one should use whatever spiritual gift you have received to serve others." 1 Peter 4:10. We are strongest when all partners in this faith community discover and use their spiritual gifts to serve God's mission and his people, and share his hope both locally and globally.

Matthew 20:25-28, Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12:7, 1 Peter 4:10-11, Ephesians 4:11-16, Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, Ephesians 5:1-2



E

Embody

CHRIST-LIKE GENEROSITY

We are of all people most blessed. Jesus came that we may have life and have it abundantly. Giving joyfully, thankfully, freely and generously is one of the most blessed things we do.

John 3:16, 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, Proverbs 3:5-9, Psalm 112:5, Luke 21:1-4, Acts 20:35

OTHER **KEY VALUES**



FAITH FORMATION IN THE HOME

We value the home as the primary place for 'incubating faith'. We equip and support parents in modelling and teaching a life of discipleship to their children.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Psalm 78:1-7, Mark 10:13-16, Joshua 24:14-15



GIVE OUR BEST

God gave us his very best in Jesus. He deserves no less. In everything we do in ministry, we give God our very best in response to his great love for us.

John 3:15, Colossians 3:17, 23-24, Philippians 4:8-9



'HAVING A GO'

We value people 'having a go' and taking a risk in ministry. We will celebrate and empower people to 'try' new things and to risk failure for the sake of the Gospel.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23, Acts 4:13



ACCOUNTABILITY

We keep each other accountable to our mission and commit to ongoing learning and growing as a congregation as we regularly review God's mission and purpose for us by asking:

1. What worked?
2. What didn't work?
3. What could we do better next time?

OPERATING **ABOVE** THE LINE

Adopt the 'can do' mentality
Take responsibility
Be encouraging
Be confident
Focus on the future
Be innovative
Consider our mission
Use imagination
Think of others
Plan for change
Be positive
Live our Core Values

THE LINE

OPERATING **BELOW** THE LINE

We can't do that
Make excuses
Do not accept change
Be frustrated
Dwell on the past
Blame others
Put self interests first
Ignore our mission
Be angry

AGENDA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held on Sunday 22nd November 2026 LifeWay Epping, LifeWay Newcastle LifeWay Illawarra and via video hookup at 11.30am

1. WELCOME
2. OPENING PRAYER - Pastor Nich Kitchen
3. PRESENT – (registration via Slido)
4. APOLOGIES
5. CALL FOR NEW BUSINESS
   5.1
   5.2
6. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE 2025 LIFEWAY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
   6.1 Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 23rd November 2025 at LifeWay Epping, LifeWay Newcastle, LifeWay Illawarra and online
   6.1.1 Alterations / Additions
   6.1.2 Adoption
7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES
   7.1 Nil
8. CORRESPONDENCE - Nil
9. REPORTS
   1. Chairperson (Martin Rowney)
   2. Lead Pastors (Mat von Stanke & Nich Kitchen)
   3. Epping Report (Nich Kitchen)
   4. Newcastle Report (Mat von Stanke)
   5. Illawarra Report (Michael Dobie)
   6. Chinese Report (Francis Leung)
   7. Cambodia Report (Khit Vibol)
   8. Finance Director's Report (Ed Burke)
   9. ACR Report (John Weiss)
10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1 Account Signatories

MOTION 1: "Be it resolved that the following LifeWay office bearers be authorised to operate all LifeWay bank accounts, with one to sign, including accounts with LLL, ANZ, CBA, Bendigo Bank and Maquarie Bank Investments: Edward Burke (Shadow Finance Director) and Martin Rowney (Outgoing Chairperson, with the addition of the new Finance Director and Chairperon when appointed. This motion replaces all prior instructions regarding access to bank accounts"
Moved: Leadership Team
Seconded:

10.2 ANZ Account Signatories:

MOTION 2: "Be it resolved, that, in addition to Motion 1, the following LifeWay members be authorised to operate the ANZ bank Account, with one to sign: Josianne Weiss, (Office Coordinator) and Sabina Pichler, (Newcastle Finance Coordinator)."
Moved: Leadership Team
Seconded:

11. ADOPTION OF BUDGET FOR 2026-2027

MOTION: Be it resolved that the budget for 2026-2027 as presented in the Book of Reports be adopted.

12. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

12.1. Election of Office Bearers

Leadership Team

12.1.1	Chairperson	Vacant
12.1.2	Vice Chairperson	Vacant
12.1.3	Secretary	Sabina Pichler (Newcastle)
12.1.4	Finance Director	Vacant
12.1.5	Shadow Finance Director	Ed Burke (12 months only)
12.1.6	Extra Member (3)	Kerri Wegener (Newcastle)
		Vacant
		Vacant

Word and Sacrament Ministry

12.1.7	Pastoral Assistants	Errol Atkinson (Word and Sacrament)
		Charles Bertelsmeier (Word and Sacrament)
		Elise von Stanke (Word and Sacrament)
		Jo Brownett (Word and Sacrament)
		Michael Dobie (Word and Sacrament)
		Andrew Oppitz (Word and Sacrament)
		Andrew Njau (Word and Sacrament)
		Phil Wegener (Sacrament Only)
		Dieter Schmidt (Sacrament Only)

12.1.8	**Public Officer:**	Shane Albances
12.1.9	**Seal Holders:**	Public Officer, Sabina Pichler

13. EXTRA GENERAL MEETING (IF NECESSARY)

If we are unable to appoint a new chairperson and Finance Director at this AGM we will need an Extra General Meeting of all of LifeWay prior to the 31 Mach 2027 to enable LifeWay to report to the ACNC who the new Chairperson and Finance Director are.

14. NOTE OF THANKS

15. CLOSING PRAYER - Pastor Mat von Stanke

MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 23rd November 2025 LifeWay Epping, LifeWay Newcastle
LifeWay Illawarra via video hookup at 11.30am

1. WELCOME – 11:30am

2. OPENING PRAYER - Pastor Nich Kitchen

3. PRESENT – See Slido Registration. Confirmed quorum (70 in attendance; minimum number required for quorum is 33)

4. APOLOGIES – Calvin S, Jessica S, Dianne B, Jan V, Shaun V, Shane A, Karen A, Widi W, Shane B, Peter H, Annie, Peter, Renata, Anna, Ben, Andrew

5. CALL FOR NEW BUSINESS
   5.1. N/A
   5.2. N/A

6. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE 2024 LIFEWAY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
   6.1. MOTION: Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 24th November 2024 at LifeWay Epping, LifeWay Newcastle, LifeWay Illawarra and online be accepted.
      6.1.1. Alterations / Additions – N/A
      6.1.2. Adoption:
      Moved and Seconded: Miriam
      Vote for Motion: Majority in favour. The motion is successful.
   6.2. MOTION: That the written reports in the book of reports be accepted as read.
      6.2.1. Adoption:
      Moved and Seconded: Miriam
      Vote for Motion: Majority in favour. The motion is successful.

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES
   7.1. N/A

8. CORRESPONDENCE – N/A

9. REPORTS
   1. **Chairperson (Martin Rowney)**
   Martin said this year has substantial change and transition in LifeWay. We saw the departure of Mark Shultz and Mark Simpfendorfer. With each loss comes substantial opportunity as we've been blessed to know Nich and Julie from Mountainside to be leaders for the next phase in LW's development. We've had significant change in leadership, with new diligent leaders. We're looking to do what God has in store for us in the future.

   2. **Lead Pastors (Mat von Stanke & Nich Kitchen)**
   Pr Mat: Something that he didn't get to include in the written report; when Mat thinks about LifeWay's conception, they think of being above and below the line and they want to sustain that. When we're a community of people working together, when someone has a concern, then we can have a healthy conversation about it as a community, is there's differences in opinion. He wants people to feel comfortable to let the lead pastors know that they may not like certain things. We can communicate together to work together to sort things out.

   Pr Nich: Nich reflects on his first few months at LifeWay, and says that his personality is straight-up, and he'd rather people tell him if something wrong. He will genuinely listen to anyone who is talking to him. His background as a counsellor helped him with this. He wants people to tell him their thoughts and feelings.

Addition from Martin: in his experience in football clubs, people always meaningfully express their thoughts and ask questions.

3. **Epping Report (Nich Kitchen)**

Nich wants to make one point that he mentioned in the report, about the whole idea from moving from the big picture of LifeWay and where we are and where we're going. Nich is always thinking about all the sites and ministries across LifeWay. We are all LifeWay, but how are we all functioning together? Nich is keen to work with the people of Epping, to see what Epping wants to do. We have a big, huge vision, but he would like to break it down. As Samuel says, when he moves to a new community, he gets asked the same question all the time. Nich has been here long enough to feel like he has been here long enough, but not long enough that he knows nothing. Nich would like to thank people for their patience as he adjusts to life at LifeWay and Epping. He is still learning new things every day. Nich wants to highlight a couple of things that are at the end of his report, which is regarding communication at LifeWay. A LifeWay calendar, and what the intention behind it is, is to put everything on there and work backwards so that we can plan. Currently, everything we do is reactive, but he doesn't want to work like that. He wants to communicate everything clearly and early enough. Most things are communicated online, but not everyone has access to this online. For example, we know that the AGM every year is on the second last Sunday in November, so we prepare in advance for that.

Pastor Mat had nothing further to add, and so his report stands as presented in the Book of Reports.

5. **Illawarra Report (Michael Dobie)**

Disruption caused by technical difficulties over Zoom communication.

6. **Westside Report (Danny Brock)**

Disruption caused by technical difficulties over Zoom communication.

7. **Chinese Report (Francis Leung)**

Pastor Francis had nothing further to add, and so his report stands as presented in the Book of Reports.

8. **Cambodia Report (Khit Vibol)**

Pastor Vibol had nothing further to add, and so his report stands as presented in the Book of Reports.

9. **Finance Director's Report (Ed Burke)**

Ed had nothing further to add, and so his report stands as presented in the Book of Reports.

10. **ACR Report (John Weiss)**

John had nothing further to add, and so his report stands as presented in the Book of Reports.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1. Account Signatories

MOTION 3: Be it resolved that the following LifeWay office bearers be authorised to operate all LifeWay bank accounts, with one to sign, including accounts with LLL, ANZ, CBA, Bendigo Bank and Macquarie Bank Investments: Edward Burke (Finance Director) and Martin Rowney (Chairperson) This motion replaces all prior instructions regarding access to bank accounts

Moved: Leadership Team
Seconded: Miriam Zanker
Vote: Majority in favour. The motion is successful.

10.2. ANZ Account Signatories

MOTION 4: Be it resolved, that, in addition to Motion 1, the following LifeWay members be authorised to operate the ANZ bank Account, with one to sign: Josianne Weiss, (Office Coordinator) and Sabina Pichler, (Newcastle Finance Coordinator).

Moved: Leadership Team
Seconded: Alex Shultz
Vote: Majority in favour. The motion is successful.

10.3. Specific Ministry Pastor for Illawarra

MOTION 5: Be it resolved that LifeWay Lutheran Church recommend to and request of the College of Bishops, that Michael Dobie be approved as a Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) candidate to serve the LifeWay Illawarra community as their pastor.

Question 1, from Phil at Newcastle: Given the strange LifeWay context, would we be calling Michael specifically as a pastor for Illawarra, or is he a LifeWay pastor?
Answer by Pr Nich: Michael would be ordained as a pastor of LifeWay, with a specific responsibility to the Illawarra.

Question 2, from Newcastle: this is a request for Michael to be put on the pathway?
Answer by Pr Nich: The motion is to support his candidacy to allow Michael to take the next steps to serve the people at LifeWay Illawarra, in a more foundationally qualified and appointed way.

Question 3, from Helen at Epping: If he's ordained for Illawarra, can he still do the pastor swaps?
Answer by Pr Nich: Yes, he can serve at whichever LifeWay site.

Question 4, from Pr Francis at Epping: Is this SMP specific to location or ministry?
Answer by Pr Nich: It can be both.

Additional notes from Pr Nich: Once you're ordained, you're ordained – it's just a title.
Additional notes from Pr Mat: Historically, LifeWay has a precedent in this area. Pr Mark Simpfendorfer was originally ordained as an SMP at Epping.

Moved: Leadership Team
Seconded: Nich Kitchen
Vote: Majority in favour. The motion is successful.

11. ADOPTION OF BUDGET FOR 2025-2026

MOTION: Be it resolved that the budget for 2025-2026 as presented in the Book of Reports be adopted.

Question 1, Anonymous (via Slido): For how long can we maintain deficit budgets of these sort of magnitudes?
Answer by Ed at Epping: LifeWay from an accounting perspective, records everything on a cash basis. There are unforeseen expenses, or expenses that were planned but cost more than was expected. For example, preparing the Epping manse for Pr Nich's arrival, cost $40,000 to improve it. Other things we are supporting, primarily the Asian ministry and Westside, we are supporting where previously we did not cover those costs. If we look at the main operations of LifeWay pre-2020, our budget and income can support the core foundations of LifeWay.

Question 2, from Phil in Newcastle: Where has that money come from to help us continue to operate?
Answer by Ed: There are capital that is in the P&L. Example, when we sold the Wollongong church, the funds from that sale were invested into an investment strategy to support our income stream. In short, we can't continue to keep running in a deficit. We as a congregation can agree to support the key ministries.
Additional note from Nich: What other income sources can we investigate to sustain our ministry, as it cannot be sustained only from the people within. What ministry as we supporting and do we want to continue to support it?
Additional note from Martin: as LT we don't look at the road, we look around the bend. We try to evaluate everything and the risks that are around the corner.

Question 3, from Anonymous (Slido): We count the attendance each week. Is the shortfall in offerings a reflection of falling attendance?
Answer by Ed: The offerings this year is a reflection of the aftereffects of COVID. The drop-off in tithings could be from many things; Could be attendance, could be the cost of living. Our balance sheet is higher than last year. Financially, for the time being, we are in a fairly healthy position.

Moved: Leadership Team
Seconded: Noami Moss
Vote: Majority in favour. The motion is successful.

12. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

12.1. Election of Office Bearers

Leadership Team

12.1.1.	Chairperson	Martin Rowney (Illawarra)
12.1.2.	Vice Chairperson	Vacant
12.1.3.	Secretary	Kerri Wegener (Newcastle)
12.1.4.	Finance Director	Ed Burke (Epping)
12.1.5.	Extra Member (3)	Florry Lung (Chinese)
		Naomi Moss (Epping)
		TBC

Word and Sacrament Ministry

12.1.6.	Pastoral Assistants	Errol Atkinson (Word and Sacrament)
		Charles Bertelsmeier (Word and Sacrament)
		Elise von Stanke (Word and Sacrament)
		Jo Brownett (Word and Sacrament)
		Michael Dobie (Word and Sacrament)
		Danny Brock (Word and Sacrament)
		Andrew Njau (Sacrament Only)
		Phil Wegener (Sacrament Only)
		Dieter Schmidt (Sacrament Only)
		Joshua Simpfendorfer (Sacrament Only)

12.1.7.	Public Officer:	Shane Albances
12.1.8.	Seal Holders:	Public Officer, Sabina Pichler, TBC

Question from Oliver at Epping: Josh Simpf is listed as Westside, does that mean he has left LifeWay Epping, and is only authorised to do it at Westside?
Answer by Martin: Once Josh is authorised to do the sacrament, he can do it at any other sites. He is a member of LifeWay, not just Westside.
Additional note from Pr Mat: Any of those people will mainly serve in their local site, but they can do the sacrament at any other site. It also does communicate that he (Josh) has transitioned to Westside.

MOTION: That the nominations for the Election of Officers, as presented within the Book of Reports, be adopted.
Moved and Seconded.
Vote: Majority in favour. The motion is successful.

Additional note from Mat: LifeWay requires delegates to attend the Synod (August 2026). They don't need to be voted in at the AGM but will still require a vote by the congregation. Preferably one person from each site. Greg (Epping)

13. NOTE OF THANKS

Martin at Epping: Thanks to the tech people at the back (Oliver, Matthew, Hai Shan) helping us run the AGM, through all the stress.
Alex Shultz at Epping: Thanks to Errol, Jo and Charles for holding the fort down in between pastors.
Oliver at Epping: All the musicians, particularly Calvin, and Alex who stepped up when Calvin was unavailable.
Pr Mat at Newcastle: Acknowledge Oliver's contribution to keep things running during this period of vacancy. Pro Presenter, etc.

14. CLOSING PRAYER – Pastor Mat Von Stanke

15. MEETING CLOSURE – 1:00pm

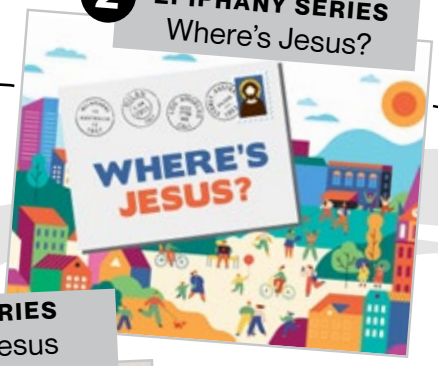
LOOKING BACK

HOW WE'VE BEEN LIVING, SHARING AND GROWING IN THE WORD THROUGH WORSHIP IN 2026

1 ADVENT SERIES
Christmas Is ...



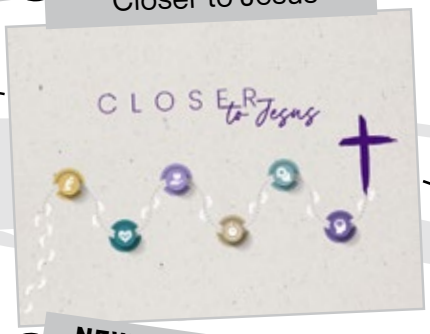
2 EPIPHANY SERIES
Where's Jesus?



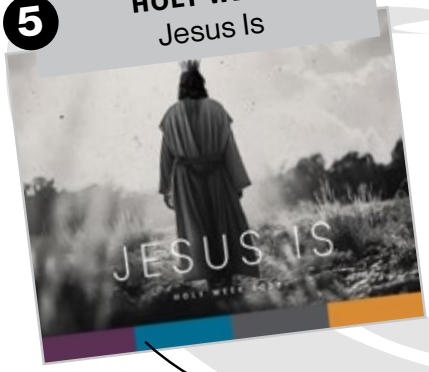
3 VISION SERIES
Jesus' Vision



4 LENTEN SERIES
Closer to Jesus



5 HOLY WEEK
Jesus Is



6 NEW TESTAMENT SERIES
Knowing the Why



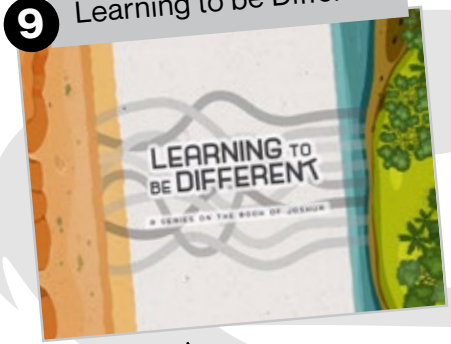
7 DISCPLESHIP SERIES
What if God Really Could...



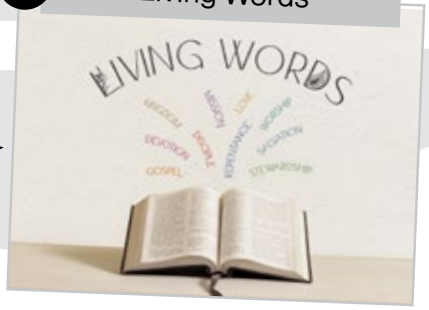
8 JONAH
The Sign



9 OLD TESTAMENT SERIES
Learning to be Different



10 CATECHETICAL SERIES
Living Words



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Dear LifeWay Members,

2026 has been a significant year in the development of LifeWay for the future.

The leadership team have worked hard on what is needed to ensure LifeWay has a sound organisational structure and processes to move forward with.

LifeWay has a considerable number of historical and present strengths.

The church is in a strong financial position and has a commitment to mission and living, sharing and growing together.

After substantial growth in the number of congregations and projects being undertaken over recent years, 2026 has been about taking stock, reviewing what is needing to be tweaked or reshaped and reflecting on appropriate leadership models for the future.

With a joint lead Pastor model with Pastors Nich and Mat, we have needed to work towards the embedding of a structure that provides role clarity and allows each of our Pastors to use their gifts in the best way for the Church and function of our membership.

We have also needed to continue to consider regulatory matters, with the Cambodian initiative continuing to deliver fruits to the local people, but there being a need for sufficient rigour to satisfy the ACNC that the appropriate levels of governance for a charitable registration are in place. This remains a work in progress.

A missionally focused investment team is being established to assist in our financial positioning and investment processes going forward. With congregational interest strong in the application process, it will be started in 2027 and thank you to Ed for all the hard work in planning this financial governance initiative.

LifeWay is in a time of transition. With new Pastoral leadership will always come some level of change and stylistic difference. The spirit within LifeWay of having a go and putting your hand up if you can contribute remains critical to the function of our congregations.

In 2026, the leadership team has been working with a Church Planner to review and map for the future. As part of this process there have been many community consultation sessions to receive feedback from our LifeWay members and the outcomes of this project will be openly presented and available to review by all. Thank you to everyone who took the time to come along and contribute to the process. The input from our members has been invaluable.

Thank you to Pastors Nich and Mat for your strong and capable leadership in a time of transition for LifeWay.

I would also like to thank all members of our Leadership Team, Kerri, Ed, Naomi and Florry for all their work in 2026 and previous years. Many of us have been on the leadership team for an extended period and are stepping out of roles at this AGM.

It will be important for the health of the church in the future that there are people prepared to step into leadership roles for the coming years. LifeWay sits on the cusp of further missional development, after spending some time principally focused on consolidation and review recently.

Please prayerfully consider what you may be able to contribute in terms of your time and skills, however big or small in involvement.

Martin Rowney

CHAIRPERSON, LEADERSHIP TEAM



CO-LEAD PASTOR'S REPORT



Growing into Maturity

There is something fascinating, challenging and occasionally bewildering about parenting teenagers.

When children are infants, parents must make almost every decision and take responsibility for nearly everything. As they grow, good parenting changes. We continue to guide, care for and support them, but increasingly make room for them to exercise responsibility, develop their gifts and grow in maturity.

Next year, LifeWay celebrates thirteen years as a multisite church. In a sense, LifeWay is becoming a teenager!

What began as one church across two locations now includes three geographical locations, an additional Chinese-language worshipping community and international missional activity in Cambodia. We celebrate the vision, leadership and commitment that established LifeWay and brought us to this point.

But growth also brings new opportunities and responsibilities. The structures and ways of working that served LifeWay in its early years must continue to develop so that they can support the church we have become and the mission to which Christ continues to call us.

Growing into a new season

As LifeWay enters this next chapter, we believe there is an opportunity to strengthen both our shared identity as one church and the capacity of each local community to engage meaningfully in ministry and mission.

Our vision is for a LifeWay in which our church-wide leadership, governance and resources actively support vibrant local communities; where responsibilities and decision-making processes are clear; where initiative is encouraged; and where the gifts of God's people are recognised, equipped and released for service.

This will require continued development of our structures, communication, and models of working together. It will also require a culture in which pastors and ministry leaders provide clear direction, encouragement and support while creating genuine opportunities for others to contribute and lead.

We see this as an important expression of faithful pastoral leadership in the next stage of LifeWay's life together, and you can see one of the ways we have begun moving in that direction in the establishment of the LifeWay Mission Investment Team.

The aim is not simply to distribute more tasks among more people. It is to cultivate communities in which the whole people of God are increasingly confident and active in participating in the life and mission of Christ here at LifeWay.

Growing into maturity in Christ

The Apostle Paul describes the purpose of his ministry as proclaiming Christ so that people may become "fully mature in Christ" (Colossians 1:28–29).

This is the kind of growth we desire for LifeWay.

Our vision extends beyond organisational development or greater independence for our local communities. We long to see LifeWay continue growing into maturity in Christ, both individually and together, across every dimension of our mission:

Living Jesus' love, sharing his hope with all, growing in grace together.

Our mission and vision have not changed. Since LifeWay's inception, our mission has always been to "Live Jesus' love, share his hope with all and grow in his grace together". That remains our primary goal and focus even as we look to achieve that in new and innovative ways.

We grow in living Jesus' love as care, generosity and service increasingly characterise our relationships and the shared life of our communities.

We grow in sharing his hope as God's people become more confident and intentional in participating in his mission, responding to the opportunities before them in their own local contexts.

And we grow in grace together as Christ continues to nurture and sustain us through his Word, Baptism, Holy Communion and the fellowship of his people.

These are not separate ambitions, but interconnected expressions of one calling: to grow together into the likeness of Christ.

Shaping the next chapter

Throughout this year, we have been encouraged by the willingness of LifeWay members to contribute their experiences, hopes and ideas as we have considered the future of our church.

As Co-Lead Pastors, we are grateful for that engagement. Your contributions have helped inform our discernment of the opportunities before LifeWay and the priorities that will shape our next steps.

We have identified 4 key priorities for LifeWay over the next three years. Clarifying organisational structure, Establishing an every member ministry culture, Growing connectedness across LifeWay sites, and Focus on Local outreach.

Some practical expressions of this direction are already taking shape.

Working with our Finance Director, we have made provision in the coming year's budget for $1,000 for each LifeWay site to develop and organise a local community-building event. Each community has been invited to propose an event that will strengthen relationships in its local context. These events will be planned and led by local LifeWay members, with pastors and ministry leaders available to provide advice and encouragement.

This initiative reflects our desire for church-wide resources to support local creativity, responsibility and engagement in ministry.

We have also seen this approach reflected in the improvements underway at LifeWay Newcastle. Initiated by the local maintenance team, these works are intended to create greater opportunities for community-focused outreach, improve the usability of the facilities and establish a potential new source of ministry income through rentable office space. The first two stages are nearing completion, primarily funded through Newcastle's building sinking fund, with assistance being explored for the third stage. Further details are included in the Newcastle site report.

Another encouraging development has been our growing relationship with the NSW/ACT District. More regular and open communication has created opportunities to seek additional support for both the community-building initiative and the Newcastle facility improvements. While the outcomes of these requests are not yet known, we value the encouragement we have received from the district and look forward to strengthening our partnership as we participate together in God's mission across Sydney, the Illawarra, Newcastle and Cambodia.

Growing together into the future

As LifeWay approaches its teenage years, we have much to celebrate and much to look forward to.

The next stage of our journey will bring opportunities to strengthen our unity, develop our leadership and structures, and encourage greater participation in ministry across our communities.

We are committed to leading LifeWay into this next chapter with a clear focus on the mission Christ has entrusted to his church, providing faithful pastoral leadership while equipping and encouraging God's people to exercise the gifts he has given them.

But ultimately, our confidence for the future rests not in the structures we develop or the plans we make, but in Jesus Christ, the head of his church.

He is the one who has gathered and sustained LifeWay through its first thirteen years, and he continues to work among us through his Word and Spirit, building up his people in faith, love and hope.

LifeWay is growing up. And our prayer is that, as we grow, we will become ever more fully the people Christ has called us to be: living Jesus' love, sharing his hope with all, and growing in grace together.

Blessings,

Mat von Stanke and Nich Kitchen

EPPING REPORT

As I reflect on the past year, I am grateful for the opportunity to slow down, listen well and become more familiar with the LifeWay Epping community. I know from experience that it always takes time for a new pastor and the pastor's family to settle, but I feel like I belong here at LifeWay and our family is settling very well. This has been a season of learning, not only about the practical needs of our church community, but also about the hopes, gifts and possibilities within the Lord's gathered people of this community.

In this report gives I will give an overview of where LifeWay Epping has been over recent months, what I have learned, and the direction I am proposing we focus on for 2027. It reflects on an intentional season of observation and listening, outlines some proposed structural and ministry priorities, and identifies practical ways we hope to strengthen community engagement, discipleship and participation.

Taking Time to Observe

Over the first six months, I have made a deliberate decision to move slowly. Rather than rushing into significant changes, the focus has been on journeying through the normal rhythms of church life, watching carefully, learning as I go, and seeking to understand the dynamics of our LifeWay Epping community.

This has been a valuable season. It has helped me gain a clearer picture of the life, strengths, needs and opportunities within this community, and it has laid a good foundation for the direction outlined in this report.

I want to thank all of the people of LifeWay Epping for your patience and openness during this time. Your willingness to engage, share has been an important part of discerning the way forward.

Listening to Our Community

A significant part of this season has been listening to the Epping community through group discussions.



Easter Sunday service at LifeWay Epping.

The feedback received has been greatly appreciated and has helped better understand what might be called the "heartbeat" of our church community, its particular character, calling and my pastoral priorities looking ahead.

These groups have played an important role throughout the year. What began as general feedback conversations has gradually developed into a more intentional process for shaping LifeWay's future direction and pastoral focus, in LifeWay in general, but also within a LifeWay Epping context.

Thank you to everyone who has taken part in these conversations. Your honesty, ideas and willingness to contribute have helped shape the proposals and priorities in this report.

A Proposed Ministry Team

As we move forward, I would like to establish simple ministry team at LifeWay Epping. This team would focus on maintenance, pastoral care and and general ministry.

The aim is not for this team to take on every task. Instead, it is about creating a practical structure that helps us respond to community needs in a timely, coordinated and effective way.

An important part of this structure will be pastoral care of the community. The ministry team will help ensure that the Pastor remains informed about pastoral concerns and is able to respond well when needed.

This local structure is also intended to work alongside the broader changes happening across wider LifeWay. It will help us stay connected to the bigger picture while remaining responsive to the needs and context of Epping.

Community Engagement

Another key focus for LifeWay Epping, that came out of the community conversations, will be community engagement. The goal is to create a way for people to use their gifts within the church community, while also building deeper relational connections. We hope to do this in three main ways:

- **Service and gifts:** Developing clear ways for people to be encouraged and supported to use their gifts, skills and time in the life of the community.
- **Social connection:** Prioritising events and initiatives that help build relationships and strengthen a sense of community.
- **Spiritual growth:** Refreshing life groups and resuming grow courses so that faith remains connected to everyday life.

Together, these areas will help create more opportunities for people to belong, contribute and grow.

Budget Allocations

To help support these community engagement goals, two funding allocations have been approved.

Allocation	Amount	Purpose
General Engagement	$1,000	For social events and initiatives that help build relational connection.
Young Adult Life Group	$1,000	For engaging youth and young adults, and encouraging engagement with this age group.

These allocations will be given to a team that will use it give us a practical engagement initiatives planned for the coming year. They will help create opportunities for connection, participation and the development of gifts within the LIfeWay Epping community. There is potential for this amount to increase as we have a current grant proposal before the NSW/ACT district and are awaiting the outcome.

While these amounts are currently budgeted for 2027 it is my expectation to see this continue to be budgeted in future years.

The bigger goal behind this work is encouraging our community to move toward active growth, deeper discipleship and renewed participation in life groups and the wider life of this community.

This will mean a pastoral focus of continuing to think carefully about how we invite, support and equip people to participate in ways that are meaningful and sustainable.

Looking Ahead to 2027

As we look ahead to 2027, I believe LifeWay Epping is being called to focus intentionally on ministry across generations, with a particular emphasis on children, youth and young adults.

A clear priority for the coming year will be the establishment and development of a children's ministry. This will begin with prayerful discernment and practical exploration of what a sustainable and effective ministry for children and families could look like at LifeWay.

This will involve thinking through what form the ministry might take, what people and resources will be needed, and how we can best support children and their families. Communication and community engagement will also be important, as we share the vision with the congregation and wider community and create opportunities for people to be involved.

Establishing a children's ministry is about more than starting a program. It is about creating a welcoming e environment where children and families can belong, grow and encounter faith.

Youth and Young Adults

Alongside the development of children's ministry, we will seek to strengthen our engagement with youth and young adults. I am planning an step up class and also a pastors class for youth in first term of 2027.

We want to find practical ways to support, encourage and connect with these groups, and to increase their meaningful participation in the life of the church. This includes listening well to young people, creating appropriate opportunities for connection and discipleship, and involving them in the mission and ministry of LifeWay.

The Young Adult Life Group allocation reflects the importance of this priority. It will help support initiatives that engage youth and young adults and encourage them to use their gifts..

Renewed Opportunities for Connection and Participation

Alongside these generational priorities, 2027 will also include a renewed focus on connection, learning and participation across the whole congregation.

I aim to have a renewed focus on LifeGroups and Grow Courses.

These initiatives are intended to strengthen relationships, deepen discipleship and create renewed opportunities for people to connect, learn and participate in the life of the church.

Conclusion

The direction proposed for LifeWay Epping reflects a commitment to listening well, building ministry support structures and creating meaningful opportunities for people of all ages to connect, grow and serve.

Through the establishment of a children's ministry, continued engagement with youth and young adults, refreshed Life groups and intentional community engagement, the aim is to build a connected and purposeful ministry environment that supports the Living Sharing and Growing of all people at LifeWay Epping.

Nick Kitchen

EPPING PASTOR

NEWCASTLE REPORT

Ministry at LifeWay Newcastle has continued to be an unpredictable but exciting journey in 2026 and a year that might be best described as one of 'building for the future'.

In my 2025 Newcastle report, I mentioned some of the work that our newly established maintenance team had begun fixing up the entrance to the church to provide a safe and accessible entry to the church with a new concrete driveway and completing some much needed updates and repairs to our bathrooms. This team have continued to meet and earlier this year presented another plan to further upgrade the Newcastle church facilities primarily to improve out capacity to interact with our local community and provide increased missional opportunities into the future.

At the time of writing this report, stage one of that process is almost complete, with air-conditioning having been installed in the worship space and also in one additional side room which is being converted into a rentable office space. To make the whole church more inviting to those who may visit the site an upgrade to the roofing and lighting in the main entry is also underway.

The hope and expectation of this work is not only that renting out this office space will provide an additional income stream to fund ministry and further upgrades, but that by renting the space to the right kind of professional whose clientele may also benefit from connection to a caring church community, we may also be able to share Jesus to a new group of people. This is building for the future in a very 'concrete' way.

I believe that God is also building and preparing us as a community here in Newcastle for what he has in store for us next. God has continued to bring people into worship and fellowship with us at Newcastle, a number of whom live further out in the Hunter Valley area. These families have begun meeting together regularly as a LifeGroup on Saturday mornings and are regularly joined by other friends and families in the area who are not so well connected to faith or church but are curious about the Christian faith and Jesus.

While we have no formal plans at this stage, I have spoken with these families about what ministry out in the Hunter Valley might look like in the coming years and we are prayerfully considering what the next step might be for LifeWay ministry out in the Hunter Valley. Please join us in praying for clarity about the next steps of God's plans in that area.

Along with the LifeWay Leadership Team, the Newcastle Ministry Team also have a number of long serving members, many of whom are looking to mentor and support new people into some of their roles. Firstly, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Maureen Macpherson, who has assisted numerous pastors over her time at Newcastle in facilitating pastoral care and visitation. Maureen continues to call people for a chat regularly but has handed the reigns of this ministry to Andrew Njau who has stepped up into that role to help me lead and facilitate our pastoral care team.

In 2027, our Newcastle Ministry team's focus will be on formally establishing a number of new smaller teams





Kids ministry at LifeWay Newcastle.



A wonderful turnout for the annual 'Biggest Afternoon Tea' fundraiser for the Cancer Council, held in June at LifeWay Newcastle.

to better support the various ministry areas we hope to grow and develop in 2027. Specifically, If you think you might have the time and interest to start a new Life Group or to get involved with organising some of our fellowship events, we'd love to hear from you.

The number of young people in our congregation continues to grow and so too does our need for volunteers to assist with children's and youth ministry. I want to say a big thank you to those few individuals who have put their hand up and have begun helping Elise with both the Kid's Table during services and also with our Kid's Way program after service. However, we could always use some additional support. If you would like to know more about ways to serve in this ministry, please speak to Elise.

I mentioned Andrew Njau earlier, many of you will remember that LifeWay, through the Maitland Training fund, have been contributing to the cost of Andrew's online study through ALC in their 'Discover' program. Andrew is almost finished that 2 year course of study and is currently discerning whether to continue with Pastoral Ministry Study through ALC on a part time basis and to work towards ordination. Andrew has put his learning to great use among us in Newcastle and as I already mentioned, is taking a significant role working with me in the pastoral care space at Newcastle moving forward. I'd like to thank the LifeWay community for getting behind Andrew and to also congratulate Andrew on all the hard work so far.

While I many ways, this report feels very similar to my last report, in that not many 'new' initiatives have really taken off in the last 12 months, I would want to conclude by saying this, things are growing at Newcastle. Yes, there are a few new people sitting in church on Sunday, but more importantly, I look back at the year, particularly in light of our recent Future directions discussions and see how God is growing us together in unity and purpose for His mission. I see how people are growing in their faith as disciples of Jesus and discovering more and more the joy of living his love, sharing his hope with all and growing in His grace together.

Finally, let me say, as I usually do, a massive thank you to the LifeWay Newcastle community, without whose partnership, encouragement, and support, none of the things mentioned above would have been possible.

Let me end with these words of scripture from 1 Peter 2:4-5 as a reminder of the work that God is still at work doing in and through us.

"As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

May we continue to be built into a spiritual house where God's love is experienced and people can encounter the risen Jesus in and through us as we offer ourselves as living sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ.

Mathew von Stanke

NEWCASTLE PASTOR

One mission, God's mission

Last year, I shared how our Illawarra community was growing in following Jesus together, moving from relying on leaders towards becoming active disciples. Along the way, we've kept reminding each other that God loves and uses imperfect people, including us.

This year, we've continued that journey by asking a practical question: What does it look like to be disciples who make disciples, right here in the Illawarra?

With LifeWay's vision in mind, we've been asking God:

- How are we becoming a vibrant, multi-ethnic Christian community that equips and empowers disciples of all ages to advance His Kingdom?
- What does living fully, sharing boldly and growing purposefully in the life-transforming grace of Jesus the Christ look like in everyday life?
- How are we taking part in the one mission of making disciples of all nations?
- How do we live as one community serving multiple locations, making room for God to use our many journeys and the unique gifts each person brings?

These questions have helped connect the LifeWay vision with the everyday life of our local community.

Living Sharing Growing

As we practice being disciples (apprentices) of Jesus and learn to abide in Him, we're seeing signs of a healthier community. There's a growing expression of the fruit of the Spirit, in the ways we relate to one another and our neighbour.

We described our three areas of focus this way:

- **Living fully:** being a healthy church community.
- **Sharing boldly:** connecting with the wider community, serving people in need and creating opportunities to share the Good News.
- **Growing purposefully:** maturing into the Christ-filled people God calls us to be, so He can use us to live fully and share boldly.

To put this into practice, we've focused on training and modelling a few simple habits: prayer, time in God's Word, gathering together in fellowship and sharing what we know of Jesus. We've also been developing simple disciple-making skills and using Discovery Bible Study in our Life Groups.

We're noticing that worship is becoming more connected with all of life, rather than something we do only on Sundays. Life Groups using the Discovery process are resulting in more engagement, prayer and sharing of the gospel. As people get involved, we're noticing deeper relationships with God, greater trust in Him and stronger relationships with one another.

This year, we've celebrated five baptisms, only one being an infant and all traced to embodying the living, sharing and growing practices above. New people are also beginning to turn up, and we give thanks to God for drawing people to Him and our community.



As part of the Power Change Winter Conference in July, around 20 students and missionaries gathered at LifeWay Wollongong to pray for the city and then went out into the streets to have conversations with people to make God's love known.

Ministry Opportunities

Local ministries give us practical ways to come together, pray, build relationships, and have conversations about Jesus. Examples:

- The Next Chapter Bookshop.
- Oikos Prayer (intentional prayer for people in our own circles who are far from God).
- Together for the Illawarra meetings.
- Better Conversations.
- Street Libraries.

Working with the wider church

God calls us to work together as one body. Looking beyond our own bubble also helps us recognise blind spots, learn from others and discover opportunities to create unity in diversity.

This year, we've continued building connections with other local churches.

My roles as District Mission Facilitator and a Move Network disciple-making trainer have provided opportunities to help other church communities put mission vision and skills into practice.
They've also brought benefits back to LifeWay through:

- Building relationships with the NSW DCC and the State mission directors.



Celebrating five baptisms on 11 October 2026, with only one of them being an infant.

- Learning from what else God is doing.
- Encouragement and peer support.
- Broadening my experience and skills across different ministry settings.

The Team

We've also refined a local ministry structure, drawing on the LifeWay model, prayer and discussions around the Future Directions work. Its purpose is to make it simpler for all to engage in God's mission.

- Five threads run through the whole structure:
- Christ at the centre.
- A focus on mission.
- Relationships over rules.
- Grace-filled communities.
- Discernment of the Spirit.

The model brings together three teams with distinct but connected roles.

Local Leadership Team: This Team exists to release, resource and connect people for participation in God's mission. It connects with LifeWay's multi-site teams, keeping our local community engaged and aligned with the wider LifeWay network.

Local Ministry Team: The Local Ministry Team's purpose is simple: to be the church on God's mission. It brings together the living, sharing and growing ministries.

Local Operations Team: The Local Operations Team is there to get stuff done so mission can happen. It brings together the administration, finance, IT, communications and facilities.

What's next?

Build on what's already taking shape. We want to keep growing purposefully by:

- Deepening community prayer life.
- Using Discovery Groups as places where growth, care and connection begin.
- Encouraging more disciples in training as they see its fruit in the lives of others.
- Broadening training and peer support for people serving in ministry.

Praise God

I'm grateful to every member and guest of the Illawarra church community. A big thank you to all who have responded to God's call in various ways this year. Your part in Living, Sharing and Growing whether behind the scenes or up front does not go unnoticed and God is using you in this place.

Thanks to the LifeWay Pastors, the Northern Illawarra Pastors Fraternal and Move Ministries you've guided, corrected and inspired me, and I'm thankful to be walking this journey with you.

A special thank you to my wife, Karen, who continues to support me in so many ways.

Above all, I praise God for all He has done and look forward with anticipation to all He has in store for us this year.

Michael Dobie

ILLAWARRA
LOCAL MINISTRY LEADER

CHINESE MINISTRY REPORT

The only thing that matters is faith expressing itself in love. Galatians 5:6

We believe that a disciple is someone who connects with God, grows in community, serves with one another, and gives to the mission of God.

The evidence of God's faithfulness can be seen all around us, and we are grateful for what God has done in and through us over this last year. Spiritual transformation and life change have been the norm as testimonies of the victory and hope set ablaze a bright and shining light. We exist to glorify God by helping people find and fully follow Jesus.

This year marks the year of cohort of dedicated brothers and sisters who are deeply committed to our flourishing as a community. We are able to see strengthened relationships within our congregation and focus congregants on being public about their faith throughout the neighborhood.

We had another year of growth in realizing its vision to transform people from all walks of life through the redemptive power of gospel and training others in our Gospel-centered ministry.

This year we continue to support expression of faith and work ministry through organized programs, outreach events to serve the community. We focus upon different areas of emphasis, namely theological and discipleship training and community formation. The theme is sharing the hope with those who do not identify as Christian to process their questions about the Christian faith.

We are a church family that seeks to equip the congregation to glorify God, enjoy Him forever and see His kingdom come to our neighborhood. This vision is what connects us, and it also presents us with an opportunity to celebrate the one who puts our individual stories together. We pray with conviction against stagnancy and comfort. We continue to prayerfully consider the framework of our ministry. There may be headwinds ahead of us. God willing, his fullness is shown in supplying resources needed to grow Chinese ministry.

Francis Leung

CHINESE MINISTRY PASTOR





中文事工報告　　2025

加拉太書5:6　惟獨使人生發仁愛的信心、纔有功效。

我們認為，門徒是指那些與神建立關係、在弟兄姊妹的群體中成長、彼此服侍，並為神的使命做出奉獻的人。

神信實的明證在我們周圍隨處可見；過去一年裡，神在我們生命中以及透過我們所成就的一切，令我們深深感恩。屬靈的蛻變與生命的更新已成為常態，這些見證彰顯了勝利與盼望，如同點亮了一道明亮而耀眼的光芒。我們存在的目的，是透過幫助人們尋得耶穌並全然跟隨祂，來榮耀神。

今年，我們擁有一群盡心竭力的弟兄姊妹，他們深切委身於我們會眾的興盛與成長。我們欣見會眾彼此間的關係愈發穩固，並能專注於在各自社區中公開見證自己的信仰。

在過去的一年裡，我們持續成長，不斷實踐我們的願景：透過福音的救贖大能改變眾人，並在以福音為中心的各項事工中訓練他人。

今年，我們繼續透過各類計畫和旨在服務社區的外展活動，支持「信仰與工作」事工。我們的工作重點包括神學與門徒訓練，以及與社區建立關係。本年度的主題是：與那些不自認是基督徒的人分享盼望，幫助他們探討基督信仰的疑問。

我們是教會大家庭，致力於裝備會眾去榮耀神、永遠以祂為樂，並見證祂的國度臨到我們所在的社區。這個願景將我們緊密相連，也讓我們有機會去頌讚那位將我們各自的人生故事串連在一起的主。我們堅定地禱告，抵制停滯不前與安於現狀；我們也在禱告中不斷檢視和構思我們的事工架構。前路或許會面臨挑戰，但若神願意，祂必會豐盛地供應我們發展華人事工所需的一切資源，從而彰顯祂的豐盛。



Photos of Chinese New Year and Moon Festival celebrations.

CAMBODIA REPORT

LifeWay Cambodia has continued a period of significant ministry growth, particularly in youth engagement and school-based health education. At the same time, the work remains dependent on a small number of people, with Vibol the main person.

The immediate priority for the coming year is to establish a robust local governance framework. This is essential to securing Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status, strengthening accountability, and providing sustainable long-term support for Vibol and the Cambodian leadership team.

Ministry Impact and Operational Progress

Educational Outreach

Vibol has maintained consistent engagement with schools throughout the year. This has included motivational talks and specialised health education, with a particular focus on diabetes awareness and prevention as well as other health areas.

This work continues to provide a meaningful point of connection between LifeWay Cambodia, local schools, young people, and their families.

Youth Engagement

Again, this year saw considerable momentum in youth camps and related activities. These programs resulted in a high number of conversions and baptisms, reflecting both spiritual growth and increasing engagement among young people.

Youth ministry remains one of the most productive and strategic areas of LifeWay Cambodia's work.



The 2026 Mission Team helped plant some trees as part of the school beautification program, January 2026

Leadership Team

Regular leadership team meetings were inconsistent during the earlier part of the year. However, meeting frequency increased over the last two months.

This improved consistency is vital moving forward. It will help establish the reporting structures, decision-making processes, and operational discipline required for formal recognition and future growth.

Strategic Priorities and Governance

DGR Status

LifeWay has done all it can on its end to get things ready for DGR application. Responsibility for further progress therefore shifts to the Cambodian leadership team, who must formalise local structures and strengthen governance arrangements.

Securing DGR status is the primary strategic measure of success for the next 12 months. Achieving this will provide a stronger foundation for sustainable funding, accountability, and ministry expansion.

Church Planting

There is a strategic intention to develop the current work into a dedicated worshipping community. Establishing a church alongside the existing organisation would provide Vibol with a more intentional spiritual and operational base. There is a small church that Vibol has started, but the goal is to increase this so that there is meaningful support.

A local church presence would also strengthen discipleship, leadership development, and long-term community engagement.

External Reconciliation

Bridging the relationship with the Lutheran Church of Singapore is identified as a critical factor for long-term regional stability. Renewed cooperation would support stronger relationships, shared learning, and greater stability for LifeWay Cambodia's future ministry, as well as wider on the ground support for Vibol.

Leadership Transition and Risks

Vibol Capacity

Vibol is currently the sole operator for many key initiatives. His high workload, combined with limited immediate local support, presents a significant risk of burnout.





Youth Camp in Siem Reap, July 2026

Increasing on-the-ground support for Vibol is a non-negotiable priority for the coming year. This includes identifying, developing, and equipping additional local leaders to share operational responsibility.

Succession and Adjustment

The organisation is navigating a transition period between Pastor Mark and Pastor Nich. This season has being a learning phase, with a focus on strengthening internal planning, communication.

January 2027 Strategic Visit

Pastor Nich is scheduled to visit Cambodia in January 2027. The purpose of the visit is to spend time with Vibol and the local leadership team, strengthen relationships, and define a clear structural roadmap for the following year.

The visit will focus on governance, leadership development, operational planning, and the practical steps required to establish a sustainable local structure.

There is no mission trip planned for 2027, it is being planned for January 2028.

Open Questions

Local Recruitment

A key question for the coming year is how the leadership team can move beyond meeting regularly to actively sharing the operational workload with Vibol.

This will require clearer role definitions, intentional recruitment, leadership training, and practical delegation of responsibility.

Structural Dependency

While LifeWay Australia has done all it can within its current capacity, the specific barriers on the Cambodian side require clearer definition.

Identifying these obstacles precisely will be an important outcome of the January 2027 visit, enabling the leadership team to develop practical and achievable next steps.

Priorities for the Coming Year

- Formalise local governance structures and pursue DGR status.
- Increase local leadership capacity and reduce Vibol's operational burden.
- Establish consistent reporting, planning, and decision-making processes.
- Develop a church-planting strategy alongside the existing ministry.
- Work towards reconciling the relationship with the Lutheran Church of Singapore.
- Use the January 2027 visit to agree on a clear structural and ministry roadmap.

Nich Kitchen

EPPING PASTOR

FINANCE REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Just as the Bible calls believers to be agents of change reflecting the Kingdom of God in their communities, LifeWay throughout 2026 financial year has continued with its strategy of implementing change with our LifeWay community front of mind. Structural change with a focus on community is a multi-faceted process that involves spiritual, cultural, social and economic renewal.

The 2026 financial year has shown us a glimpse of how the financial structural changes and realignment, is starting to demonstrate that economic renewal. In 2025 we implemented the engagement of 3rd party professionals as key structural pillars that form the foundation of LifeWay. These pillars have enabled us to refocus on LifeWay's financial structure in how we can best integrate the economic renewal within the LifeWay community.

In 2026, key financial investments within our communities included:

- Providing $76,000 for the investment in our sites to:
    - Complete much needed church repairs and improvements to Newcastle Church making the space a much more enjoyable place to worship.
    - Repairs and maintenance to the Epping Church and Manse
    - New signage and official opening of the Next Chapter Ministry at Wollongong.
- Maitland Training Fund and Newcastle Community providing approx. $8,000 in funding for Andrew Njau to continue his studies.
- Continued support and fundraising for Cambodia Mission of approx. $18,000.



2026 Cambodia Mission Team

- The financial support for Westside to be migrated across to St Marys with the final Grant funding payment of approx. $21,000 being returned to the NSW district to help financially support the Westside ministry.
- Identifying community engagement opportunities for 2027 through our sessions held in August 2026 and the announcement of $5,000 in allocated FY 2027 budget funding being made available with a ministry / community focus in mind.
- Identifying the need to finish the Newcastle Church building works by applying to the NSW District to increase our existing district loan by approx. $46,000. If these works can be completed in early 2027, it will provide LifeWay Newcastle the opportunity to start outreach programs through different communities.
- Identifying the need to invest in LifeWay staff by having made available in the 2027 budget $5500 for professional development, strategic planning and leadership development.
- Identifying the need to strategically focus on our Ministry and Mission opportunities by establishing the LifeWay Ministry Investment Team which will commence in FY 2027.

Financial Investments

The Macquarie Investment had its first full financial year of investing during 2026. The investment generated $251,000 in income of which LifeWay drew $150,000 as an income stream to support our cash flow. The capital value of the investment at the end of our 2026 EOFY was $3,041,410. This demonstrates the structure of the investment strategy is working in generating income whilst preserving capital with modest increases. I am confident over the next few years as economies start to normalise, the investment and its income can provide LifeWay more financial security whilst opening opportunities to invest further into LifeWay ministries.

Maitland Training Fund

The Maitland Training Fund saw growth in its investment funds enabling LifeWay to provide further grant funding to Andrew Njau to help with enrolment fees into the Australian Lutheran College to study a Diploma in Ministry. Andrew is due to finish his studies late 2026 or early 2027. **If you would like to find out more about how the Maitland Training Fund can support, please contact a Leadership Team Member or a member of the Ministry Investment Team as there are funds available.**

Grant Funding and Ministry

In supporting our Ministries, the NSW District provided Grant funding of $17,500 for the Chinese Church Ministry and $42,500 for Westside Church Plants. LifeWay continued to also support the Cambodia Ministry, the Chinese Ministry and the Westside Church Plant providing over $25,000 in assistance. As at October 2026, LifeWay received the last Grant payment for Chinese Ministry from the NSW District.

2026 Financial Results

Unaudited financials are predicted to show an operating loss of ($30,280). This is a considerable improvement on the proposed budget for 2026 which noted a loss of ($61,134). This is a $31,000 improvement compared to the forecasted amount. Whilst this is a significant improvement on previous years, our expenses continue to be higher than our income which is not sustainable into the future.

The main items of note that influenced this result were:

- Total offerings were $363,908 which was approx. $10,000 higher than FY 2025.
- Investment income was approx. $265,000.
- Strategic repairs & maintenance investments across LifeWay sites of $76,000.
- Returning $21,250 of the Westside Grant funds to the NSW district.

Positive items of note within the finances are:

- Investment income was approx. $100,000 higher than budgeted.
- Capital value of Wollongong investment is approx. $45,000 higher than original amount investment whilst providing $150,000 in direct income stream payments to support our cash flow.
- Wollongong Next Chapter generating its first $1000 towards Wollongong Ministry. This was inline with proposed 2026 budget!
- Our income generated continues to be more diversified than in previous years.



Financial Insights

- 56% - Offerings contributed approx. 56% of total revenue. In FY 2025 this percentage was 64% and in FY 2024 this figure was at 80% of total revenue.
- 40% - Investment income contributed approx. 40% of our total income for FY 26. In FY 25 this figure was 32% and in FY 24 this figure was 13%
- $650,584 – Total income received in FY 26 an increase of approx. $100,000 on FY 25
- $30,000 – LifeWay's expenses continue to be around $30,000 higher than total income generated.
- 61% - the percentage of our employment costs against total expenses. This is comparable with FY 2025
- $150,000 – income stream generated from the Wollongong Investment to assist with Cashflow
- $45,000 – Amount the Wollongong Investment capital value grew after approx. $151,000 in deductions were made for income stream, product and adviser fees.
- $1,231,000 – the amount LifeWay's overall assets (total equity) increased by courtesy of property assets increasing during FY25.

PROFIT & LOSS / BALANCE SHEET - SUMMARIES

The summary Profit & Loss Statement shown in Figure 1 provides an overview of our financial performance for 2026 with a comparison to the 2025 financial year.

FIGURE 1 – Summary – Profit & Loss Statement with Previous Year Comparison

	Actual	Last Year	Variance $	Variance %
INCOME				
Rent for leasing Newcastle Church	0.00	3,282.50	(3,282.50)	-100
Epping Church Hall Hire	500.00	0.00	500.00	-
Offerings, All Sites	363,908.05	353,752.57	10,155.48	2.9
Facility Usage	9,089.14	5,400.00	3,689.14	68.3
Special Groups Income	0.00	354.85	(354.85)	-100
Other Income	262,082.42	177,899.57	84,182.85	47.3
Wollongong Ministry Income	1,049.56	509.48	540.08	106
Div/Dist - Income on MCQ Investment V59120	13,955.42	9,614.18	4,341.24	45.2
Total INCOME	**650,584.59**	**550,813.15**	**99,771.44**	**18.1**
EXPENSES				
Church Expenses	136,397.23	78,625.36	57,771.87	73.5
Office Expenses	28,634.21	28,335.36	298.85	1.1
Manse Expenses	2,746.37	47,354.63	(44,608.26)	-94.2
Worship Expenses (Living)	7,676.65	14,164.58	(6,487.93)	-45.8
Sharing Ministries/Mission	2,163.54	1,695.30	468.24	27.6
Growing Ministries	852.93	2,587.61	(1,734.68)	-67
Other Expenses	68,214.57	73,296.45	(5,081.88)	-6.9
Employment Expenses	418,290.95	372,711.68	45,579.27	12.2
Other Emp. Expenses	13,366.12	22,044.38	(8,678.26)	-39.4
Staff Education Expenses	2,522.73	2,797.24	(274.51)	-9.8
Total EXPENSES	**680,865.30**	**643,612.59**	**37,252.71**	**5.8**
OPERATING PROFIT / LOSS	**(30,280.71)**	**(92,799.44)**	**62,518.73**	**67.4**



FIGURE 2 – Summary – Balance Sheet Statement with Previous Year Analysis

	Actual	Last Year	Variance $	Variance %
ASSETS				
CURRENT ASSETS				
Bank Accounts, Common	88,400.24	90,326.44	(1,926.20)	-2.13
Bank Accounts, Epping	5,335.55	19,679.91	(14,344.36)	-72.89
Bank Accounts, Newcastle	1,524.38	64,987.49	(63,463.11)	-97.65
Maitland Training Fund	125,635.74	133,081.55	(7,445.81)	-5.59
Other Current Assets	75,434.56	(55,288.23)	130,722.79	-236.44
Bank Accounts, Illawarra	133,124.18	202,429.39	(69,305.21)	-34.24
Bank Accounts, Macquarie	3,041,410.52	3,065,145.01	(23,734.49)	-0.77
Total CURRENT ASSETS	**3,470,865.17**	**3,520,361.56**	**(49,496.39)**	**-1.41**
NON-CURRENT ASSETS				
Church Property, Epping	4,522,941.70	4,522,941.70	0.00	0
Manse Property, Epping	2,377,000.00	2,377,000.00	0.00	0
Church Property, Newcastle	2,365,740.00	2,365,740.00	0.00	0
Manse Property, Newcastle	1,087,000.00	1,087,000.00	0.00	0
Australian Christian Resources	614,325.71	614,325.71	0.00	0
Total NON-CURRENT ASSETS	**10,967,007.41**	**10,967,007.41**	**0.00**	**0**
Manse, Capex 2020	45,671.82	45,671.82	0.00	0
Total ASSETS	**14,483,544.40**	**14,533,040.79**	**(49,496.39)**	**-0.34**
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Special Purpose Bank Accounts	100,046.24	100,046.24	0.00	0
Maitland Training Fund	56,742.47	56,742.47	0.00	0
Other Special Purpose Funds	129,797.35	115,289.08	14,508.27	12.58
Other Current Liabilities	5,161.05	4,003.02	1,158.03	28.93
Payroll, PAYG	10,096.99	4,457.88	5,639.11	126.5
Payroll, Super	237.90	13,741.89	(13,503.99)	-98.27
Payroll, FB Allowances	11,306.93	7,509.67	3,797.26	50.56
Lay 5 - FB Allowance	(48.60)	(48.60)	0.00	0
Total CURRENT LIABILITIES	**313,340.33**	**301,741.65**	**11,598.68**	**3.84**
Long Term Loans	48,536.00	54,872.00	(6,336.00)	-11.55
Total LIABILITIES	**361,876.33**	**356,613.65**	**5,262.68**	**1.48**
NET ASSETS	**14,121,668.07**	**14,176,427.14**	**(54,759.07)**	**-0.39**

INCOME / EXPENSE CHARTS

FIGURE 4 – Offering Income totals compared to a percentage of overall income

We can see the offering income amounts remain relatively stable whilst the percentage of overall income reduced as income diversifies from other sources

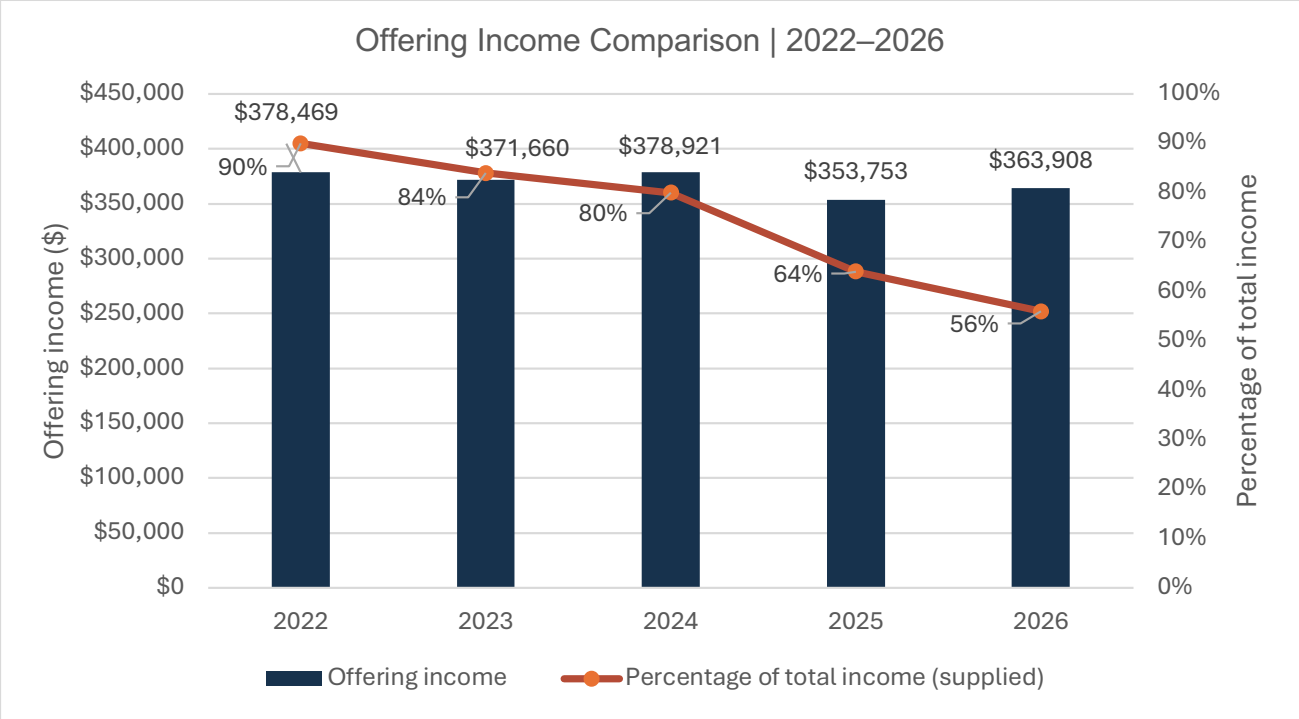


FIGURE 5 – Investment Income total compared to overall percentage of income.

We can see the investment income amounts increasing as the investment strategy is implemented post 2024 sale of the Wollongong Church.

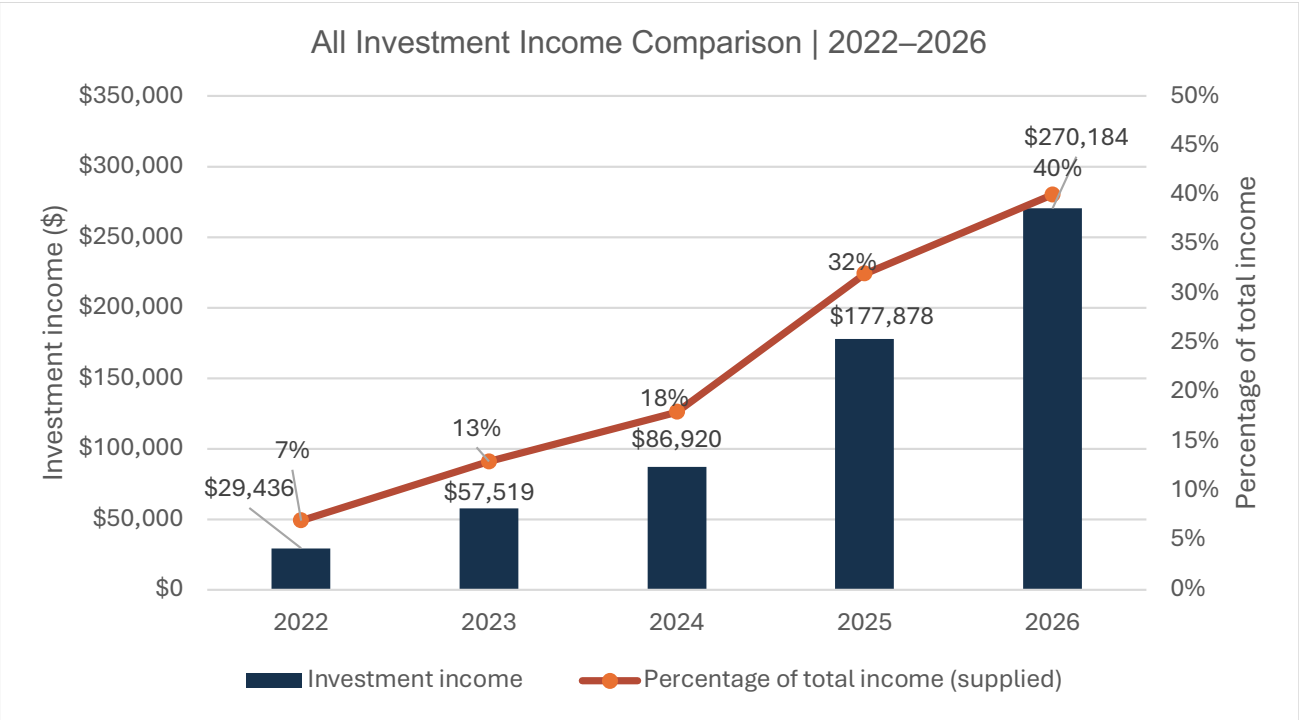
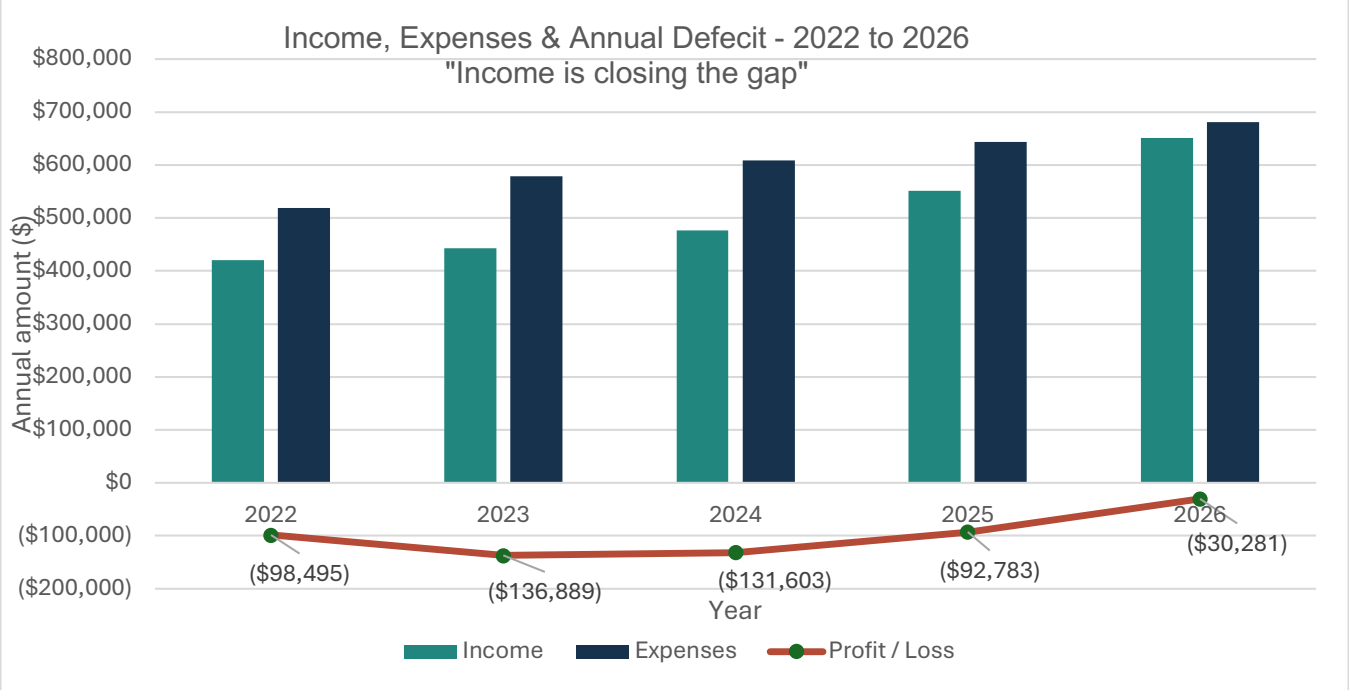


FIGURE 6 – Total income & expenses comparison from 2022 to 2026

This has shown n total increase in income of $230,000 between 2022 to 2026 vs a total increase in expenses of $162,000 from 2022 to 2026.





PROFIT & LOSS - DETAILED

The Profit & Loss Statement shown in Figure 7 provides a detailed view of our financial performance for 2026 with a comparison to the 2025 financial year. This detailed view also includes off budget income and expenses for example, Cambodia Ministry, North Epping Carols, Maitland Training Fund expenses.

FIGURE 7 – Detailed profit & Loss statement with previous year comparison

	Actual	Last Year	Variance $	Variance %
INCOME				
Rent for leasing Newcastle Church	0.00	3,282.50	(3,282.50)	-100
Epping Church Hall Hire	500.00	0.00	500.00	-
Offerings, All Sites				
9:30am Service Cash Offerings	14,947.95	13,410.50	1,537.45	11.5
11:15am Chinese Church	19,965.50	12,459.45	7,506.05	60.2
Direct Offerings	328,994.60	327,882.62	1,111.98	0.3
Total Offerings, All Sites	**363,908.05**	**353,752.57**	**10,155.48**	**2.9**
Facility Usage				
Zumba	0.00	2,520.00	(2,520.00)	-100
Other Facility Usage	3,696.00	2,880.00	816.00	28.3
Facility Usage Newcastle Church	5,393.14	0.00	5,393.14	-
Total Facility Usage	**9,089.14**	**5,400.00**	**3,689.14**	**68.3**
Special Groups Income				
Mainly Music	0.00	354.85	(354.85)	-100
Total Special Groups Income	**0.00**	**354.85**	**(354.85)**	**-100**
Other Income				
Bank Interest	4,873.21	30,763.78	(25,890.57)	-84.2
Macquarie INV Income	251,355.87	137,500.00	113,855.87	82.8
Other Fundraising	5,853.34	9,635.79	(3,782.45)	-39.3
Total Other Income	**262,082.42**	**177,899.57**	**84,182.85**	**47.3**
Wollongong Ministry Income	1,049.56	509.48	540.08	106
Div/Dist - Income on MCQ Investment V59120	13,955.42	9,614.18	4,341.24	45.2
TOTAL INCOME	**650,584.59**	**550,813.15**	**99,771.44**	**18.1**
EXPENSES				
Church Expenses				
Church Insurance	19,406.35	18,351.16	1,055.19	5.7
Church Hall Rent Oak Flats	1,700.00	2,600.00	(900.00)	-34.6
Chruch Post Box Rental	417.27	0.00	417.27	-
Church Council Waste	2,572.00	3,259.47	(687.47)	-21.1
Church Council Rates	5,323.85	4,351.07	972.78	22.4
Church Water Rates	3,745.60	3,469.14	276.46	8
Church Electricity	4,712.56	8,908.93	(4,196.37)	-47.1
Church Cleaning	9,274.37	9,425.03	(150.66)	-1.6
Church Repairs & Maint.	76,027.81	12,679.84	63,347.97	499.6
Church Equipment Purchase	1,417.88	3,162.64	(1,744.76)	-55.2
Church Kitchen Supplies	1,729.45	2,274.90	(545.45)	-24

Church $95k loan repayment	6,336.00	6,336.00	0.00	0
Wollongong Ministry Expense	2,824.99	1,157.17	1,667.82	144.1
Westside hall hire	909.10	2,650.01	(1,740.91)	-65.7
Total Church Expenses	**136,397.23**	**78,625.36**	**57,771.87**	**73.5**
Office Expenses				
Office Phone / Internet	6,819.66	7,344.57	(524.91)	-7.1
Office Supplies	16,779.87	16,756.12	23.75	0.1
Office Equipment	3,559.03	2,499.99	1,059.04	42.4
Office Photocopier Costs	1,475.65	1,734.68	(259.03)	-14.9
Total Office Expenses	**28,634.21**	**28,335.36**	**298.85**	**1.1**
Manse Expenses				
Manse Strata	372.33	373.50	(1.17)	-0.3
Manse Repairs & Maint.	2,374.04	46,929.18	(44,555.14)	-94.9
Manse Rent	0.00	51.95	(51.95)	-100
Total Manse Expenses	**2,746.37**	**47,354.63**	**(44,608.26)**	**-94.2**
Worship Expenses (Living)				
Worship - Setup	29.00	1,284.41	(1,255.41)	-97.7
Worship - Advertising	1,220.27	2,372.68	(1,152.41)	-48.6
Worship - Materials	756.16	1,379.69	(623.53)	-45.2
Worship - Copyright Costs	129.05	3,472.18	(3,343.13)	-96.3
Worship - Website Maint.	5,542.17	5,655.62	(113.45)	-2
Total Worship Expenses (Living)	**7,676.65**	**14,164.58**	**(6,487.93)**	**-45.8**
Sharing Ministries/Mission				
Mission - Pastoral Care	89.59	797.64	(708.05)	-88.8
Mission - Chinese Ministry	500.00	897.66	(397.66)	-44.3
Mission - Local Mission	1,573.95	0.00	1,573.95	-
Total Sharing Ministries/Mission	**2,163.54**	**1,695.30**	**468.24**	**27.6**
Growing Ministries				
Mainly Music	421.54	1,272.16	(850.62)	-66.9
Church Planting	0.00	102.00	(102.00)	-100
Sunday School	329.94	966.59	(636.65)	-65.9
KidsWay	59.97	31.80	28.17	88.6
Grow Courses	41.48	215.06	(173.58)	-80.7
Total Growing Ministries	**852.93**	**2,587.61**	**(1,734.68)**	**-67**
Other Expenses				
Macquarie Investment fee	3,478.70	1,900.56	1,578.14	83
Adviser fee	14,391.63	12,833.93	1,557.70	12.1
Bank Fees	4.53	190.17	(185.64)	-97.6
Strategic Planning	0.00	185.40	(185.40)	-100
Financial Audit Fee	3,500.00	3,300.00	200.00	6.1
Legal advice	0.00	6,000.00	(6,000.00)	-100
NSW District Contributions	8,199.96	8,199.96	0.00	0
LCA Synod & Pastors Conf.	1,486.45	1,446.88	39.57	2.7
Kenny Wollongong Church - rent	37,153.30	35,896.89	1,256.41	3.5
Other Fundraising Expenses	0.00	3,342.66	(3,342.66)	-100
Total Other Expenses	**68,214.57**	**73,296.45**	**(5,081.88)**	**-6.9**

Employment Expenses				
Gross Salary / Wages	426,601.94	383,874.32	42,727.62	11.1
FB Allowance	0.00	28,507.83	(28,507.83)	-100
Research Allowance	0.00	1,532.62	(1,532.62)	-100
Car Allowance	0.00	4,984.56	(4,984.56)	-100
Employer Super	58,430.74	51,441.86	6,988.88	13.6
Lay 5 Grant Offset	(49,241.73)	(82,105.02)	32,863.29	40
Asian Ministry Grant Offset	(17,500.00)	(22,500.00)	5,000.00	22.2
Annual leave payment	0.00	6,975.51	(6,975.51)	-100
Total Employment Expenses	**418,290.95**	**372,711.68**	**45,579.27**	**12.2**
Other Emp. Expenses				
Other Employ. Expense	4,156.57	10,167.31	(6,010.74)	-59.1
Work Comp. Insurance	6,695.06	5,722.31	972.75	17
Staff - Vehicle Usage	1,590.47	5,664.51	(4,074.04)	-71.9
Staff - Other Travel	879.02	170.25	708.77	416.3
Staff - In Service Exp	45.00	320.00	(275.00)	-85.9
Total Other Emp. Expenses	**13,366.12**	**22,044.38**	**(8,678.26)**	**-39.4**
Staff Education Expenses				
Education - Prof. Dev.	2,160.00	2,532.24	(372.24)	-14.7
Leadership Development	362.73	265.00	97.73	36.9
Total Staff Education Expenses	**2,522.73**	**2,797.24**	**(274.51)**	**-9.8**
Total EXPENSES	**680,865.30**	**643,612.59**	**37,252.71**	**5.8**
OPERATING PROFIT	**(30,280.71)**	**(92,799.44)**	**62,518.73**	**67.4**
OFF BUDGET INCOME				
Special Purpose Grants				
LCANSW Grant - Lay5 Western Sydney	42,500.00	85,000.00	(42,500.00)	-50
LCANSW Asian Ministry Grant	17,500.00	22,500.00	(5,000.00)	-22.2
Total Special Purpose Grants	**60,000.00**	**107,500.00**	**(47,500.00)**	**-44.2**
Special Purpose Mission Funds				
Cambodia - Relief appeal (prev. Bikes & Education)	13,853.82	2,800.00	11,053.82	394.8
Cambodia Church Plant	2,005.07	10,292.67	(8,287.60)	-80.5
Total Special Purpose Mission Funds	**15,858.89**	**13,092.67**	**2,766.22**	**21.1**
Special Purpose Funds Raised				
North Epping Carols	1,514.48	3,044.42	(1,529.94)	-50.3
Other Fundraising	560.00	260.00	300.00	115.4
Total Special Purpose Funds Raised	**2,074.48**	**3,304.42**	**(1,229.94)**	**-37.2**
Total OFF BUDGET INCOME	**77,933.37**	**123,897.09**	**(45,963.72)**	**-37.1**
OFF BUDGET EXPENSES				
Other Reimbursements				
Misc Events {reimbursed}	181.41	154.46	26.95	17.4
General Reimbursements	277.08	0.00	277.08	-

Total Other Reimbursements	**458.49**	**154.46**	**304.03**	**196.8**
Special Purpose Provisions				
Provision for Lay5 Western Sydney	63,750.00	85,000.00	(21,250.00)	-25
Provision for Asian Ministry	17,500.00	22,500.00	(5,000.00)	-22.2
Total Special Purpose Provisions	**81,250.00**	**107,500.00**	**(26,250.00)**	**-24.4**
Special Purpose Expenses				
Connecting seniors grant exp.	0.00	13,305.78	(13,305.78)	-100
Total Special Purpose Expenses	**0.00**	**13,305.78**	**(13,305.78)**	**-100**
Overseas Mission Expense				
Thai Mission Trips Expenses	0.00	269.92	(269.92)	-100
Cambodia Mission&Trip Expenses	8,735.22	20,477.89	(11,742.67)	-57.3
Cambodia - Bikes & Education	9,568.02	(4,914.15)	14,482.17	294.7
Total Overseas Mission Expense	**18,303.24**	**15,833.66**	**2,469.58**	**15.6**
Maitland Training Fund				
Training Course Costs	8,736.00	8,436.00	300.00	3.6
Total Maitland Training Fund	**8,736.00**	**8,436.00**	**300.00**	**3.6**
Total OFF BUDGET EXPENSES	**108,747.73**	**145,229.90**	**(36,482.17)**	**-25.1**
ADJUSTED NET PROFIT	**(61,095.07)**	**(114,132.25)**	**53,037.18**	**46.5**

With the changes in financial structure being implements during 2025 and 2026 LifeWay is moving towards a structure that will enable community discussion and involvement about how ministry and mission can be integral to the financial objectives for LifeWay. Through community engagement we can continue to build good solid structure and foundation to enable us to grow further in God's Kingdom.

Whilst this is my official final year as LifeWay's Finance Director, I call on members of LifeWay to pray and answer God's call to finding a successor. I will continue to operate as a Shadow Finance Director during the 2027 financial year to assist the incoming Finance Director with a smooth transition and provide support in the same way John Weiss provided me when I took over the role. The Leadership Team and I will continue to focus on strategic outcomes that engage the community and encourage meaningful conversations within all areas of LifeWay.

Ed Burke

FINANCE DIRECTOR

PS. We've introduced new Online Giving cards as another way to make your Sunday offering, particularly if you've experienced difficulties giving through the LifeWay app. The cards include the direct debit and PayID details for making an offering directly from your bank account. Separate cards are available at Epping and Newcastle, so be sure to pick up the one for your location. Wollongong will continue with its usual cash offering arrangements.

These are different from our existing *I Give Online* cards, which can be placed in the offering plate in place of cash.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of LifeWay!



2027 BUDGET

The 2027 budget proposes a balanced budget. LifeWay continues the desire to make strategic decisions that benefit all sites of Lifeway. This proposed budget provides the opportunity to continue our financial support of the Cambodia Ministry, Chinese Ministry and Westside Church Plant in addition to the considerable grant funding being provided by the NSW district.

Please find below the proposed budget for the 2027 Financial Year.

INCOME		
Total Offerings, All Sites	**$365,000.00**	
Facility Usage		
Other Facility Usage	$3,500.00	ACR Rent
Facility Usage Newcastle Church	$10,000.00	including renting out Newcastle Office
Total Facility Usage	**$13,500.00**	
Other Income		
Bank Interest	$5,000.00	
Macquarie INV Income	$239,000.00	Includes income Stream and INV Income
Other Fundraising	$2,000.00	
Total Other Income	**$246,000.00**	
Wollongong Ministry Income	$1,500.00	Next Chapter
Total INCOME	**$626,000.00**	
EXPENSES		
Church Expenses		
Church Insurance	$17,400.00	Actual cost as invoice for FY 2027 recvd
Church Hall Rent Oak Flats	$2,600.00	
Church Post Box Rental	$420.00	
Church Council Waste	$2,500.00	
Church Council Rates	$4,200.00	
Church Water Rates	$3,850.00	
Church Electricity	$5,500.00	including Newcastle church aircon
Church Cleaning	$8,800.00	
Church Repairs & Maint.	$45,000.00	Includes proposed works on Newcastle
Church Equipment Purchase	$1,500.00	
Church Kitchen Supplies	$1,800.00	
Church $95k loan repayment	$6,336.00	proposed repayment unchanged
Wollongong Ministry Expense	$2,800.00	
Westside hall hire	$0.00	
Total Church Expenses	**$102,706.00**	
Office Expenses		
Office Phone / Internet	$8,000.00	
Office Supplies	$16,000.00	
Office Equipment	$2,000.00	
Office Photocopier Costs	$1,800.00	
Total Office Expenses	**$27,800.00**	
Manse Expenses		
Manse Strata	$200.00	

Manse Repairs & Maint.	$4,000.00	no major expenses / works proposed
Total Manse Expenses	**$4,200.00**	
Worship Expenses (Living)		
Worship - Setup	$100.00	
Worship - Advertising	$1,300.00	
Worship - Materials	$100.00	
Worship - Copyright Costs	$0.00	
Worship - Website Maint.	$6,000.00	
Total Worship Expenses (Living)	**$7,500.00**	
Sharing Ministries/Mission		
Mission - Pastoral Care	$100.00	
Mission - Chinese Ministry	$500.00	
Mission - Local Mission	$6,000.00	Includes $5000 to sites as per community meetings
Total Sharing Ministries/Mission	**$6,600.00**	
Growing Ministries		
Mainly Music	$300.00	
Sunday School	$400.00	
KidsWay	$300.00	
Grow Courses	$500.00	
Total Growing Ministries	**$1,500.00**	
Other Expenses		
Macquarie Investment fee	$3,500.00	
Adviser fee	$15,000.00	
Bank Fees	$500.00	
Strategic Planning	$1,000.00	
Financial Audit Fee	$3,750.00	
NSW District Contributions	$8,400.00	slight increase to NSW district
LCA Synod & Pastors Conf.	$1,000.00	
Kenny Wollongong Church - rent	$37,500.00	
Total Other Expenses	**$70,650.00**	
Employment Expenses		
Total Employment Expenses	**$387,643.00**	
Other Emp. Expenses		
Other Employ. Expense	$2,500.00	
Work Comp. Insurance	$7,200.00	
Staff - Vehicle Usage	$2,000.00	
Staff - Other Travel	$1,000.00	
Staff - In Service Exp	$0.00	
Total Other Emp. Expenses	**$12,700.00**	
Staff Education Expenses		
Education - Prof. Dev.	$4,000.00	
Leadership Development	$500.00	
Total Staff Education Expenses	**$4,500.00**	
Total EXPENSES	**$625,799.00**	
OPERATING PROFIT	**$201.00**	

AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN RESOURCES REPORT

FY2026 was a challenging year for Australian Christian Resources (ACR).

Like all small businesses, we faced the double blow of rising costs coupled with reduced consumer confidence, while still aiming to look after our staff.

Sales were down on the prior year however I'm pleased to report we still achieved an overall profit result of near $9k. Capital repayments of $10,000 were made to LifeWay, in addition to a monthly rent contribution. We also improved our gross margin by a further 2%, through close attention to pricing on key products.

This year we negotiated and signed our first European reseller, for our unique, green, fully biodegradable, disposable communion cup, in the French speaking markets of France, Belgium, Switzerland and Luxembourg. In FY27 we anticipate this relationship bearing fruit, as we work through the initial logistical issues with BioPak UK as our manufacturing and delivery partner.

While both our staple product areas of books and consumables were down, it was tremendous to see strong growth in our gift and non-book products: up 27%! A credit to our team who have put some considerable focus on diversifying our product range in this area. Check out what ACR can do for you this Christmas!





AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN RESOURCES

LifeWay purchased ACR because it has a ministry purpose. While the business performs an important practical function of supplying resources and consumables to congregations of all denominations, its ministry goes well beyond that. Good Christian resources will deepen our faith journey, and Christian-oriented products and gifts for others can be great conversation starters. God can do wonderful things when we put our Christianity on display!

This Christmas, see what ACR might offer for your family and friends.

Our staff are our most critical resource. They're a dedicated bunch of part-timers, and I thank the Lord for each of them! It's not so easy to maintain a continuity of focus when working part-time. Bandwidth and limited crossover hours are an ongoing challenge, but our staff bring a passion and enthusiasm that is critical for success.

May God continue his good work through Australian Christian Resources. Visit us via your browser!

www.shopACR.com.au

John Weiss

ACR MANAGING DIRECTOR

Attachments:
1) ACR FY2026 P&L
2) ACR FY2026 Balance Sheet

Note: Attachments are management accounts, pending completion of work by the tax accountant and auditor.



Profit & Loss [Last Year Analysis]

July 2025 To June 2026

AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN RESOURCES
ABN: 57 125 531 375
Email: service@shopacr.com.au

	This Year	Last Year
INCOME		
Sales	$321,424	$361,417
Other Income	$4,305	$2,230
Total INCOME	$325,730	$363,648
COST OF SALES		
Direct Cost of Sales	$141,334	$170,011
Other Cost of Sales	$37,116	$37,611
WEB TEST COS A/C	$0	$0
Total COST OF SALES	$178,450	$207,622
Gross Profit	$147,280	$156,025
EXPENSES		
Operating Expenses	$20,051	$24,977
Marketing Expenses	$16,728	$21,860
Employment Expenses	$96,724	$89,398
Other Fees	$5,005	$3,533
Total EXPENSES	$138,508	$139,768
Operating Profit	$8,772	$16,257
Total OTHER INCOME	$0	$0
Total OTHER EXPENSES	$0	$0
Net Profit/(Loss)	$8,772	$16,257

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

Balance Sheet [Last Year Analysis]

June 2026

ABN: 57 125 531 375
Email: service@shopacr.com.au

	This Year	Last Year
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash On Hand		
BSA Business Account	$2,553	$6,597
StG Business Account	$5,544	$10,114
PayPal Account	$1,690	$3,319
MBL4.15 Capital Account	$61,044	$29,746
MBL2.25 Capital Account	$0	$0
OFX AUD Holdings	$1,474	$0
Undeposited Funds	$632	$817
Total Cash On Hand	$72,937	$50,592
Accounts Receivable		
Accounts Receivable	$21,274	$20,201
Inventory		
Stock on Hand	$197,202	$180,978
Other Assets		
Prepayments	$922	$0
Deposits Paid To Suppliers	$2,592	$592
Total Current Assets	$294,927	$252,363
Non-Current Assets		
Goodwill		
Goodwill	$321,626	$321,626
Plant & Equipment		
Website Development - Cost	$29,888	$29,888
Website Development - Accum Dep	-$29,888	-$29,888
Total Non-Current Assets	$321,626	$321,626
WEB TEST INVENTORY A/C	$0	$0
Total ASSETS	$616,553	$573,989
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Customer Prepayments	$19,506	$2,474
Customer Gift Vouchers	$412	$412
Customer Unmatched Deposits	$423	$162
Accounts Payable	$29,738	$4,744
Stock Payable - Provision	$0	$0
GST Collected	$6,578	$6,821
GST Paid	-$5,985	-$4,713
PAYG Payable	$2,883	$2,715
Super Payable	$2,523	$2,450
Employment Provisions	$2,734	$0
Total Current Liabilities	$58,812	$15,066
Long Term Liabilities		
LifeWay Capital Loan 1	$183,636	$183,636
LifeWay Capital Loan 2	$130,000	$130,000
LifeWay Stock Loan	$0	$5,000
Total Long Term Liabilities	$313,636	$318,636
Other Liabilities		
Franking Capital	$82,689	$82,689
LifeWay General Capital	$67,718	$72,718
Total Other Liabilities	$150,407	$155,407

Balance Sheet [Last Year Analysis]

June 2026

ABN: 57 125 531 375
Email: service@shopacr.com.au

	This Year	Last Year
Total LIABILITIES	$522,854	$489,109
Net Assets	$93,699	$84,880
EQUITY		
Share Capital	$218,001	$218,001
Current Year Earnings	$8,818	$16,257
Retained Earnings	-$140,463	-$156,720
Historical Balancing	$0	$0
Total EQUITY	$86,356	$77,538

2026 NOMINATIONS

	Nominations	1 year remaining
Chairperson	Vacant	
Vice Chairperson	Vacant	
Secretary	Sabina Pichler	
Finance Director	Vacant	
Extra Members	Kerri Wegener (Newcastle)	
	Vacant	
	Vacant	
Public Officer	Shane Albances	
Pastoral Assistants	Errol Atkinson (Word and Sacrament) Charles Bertelsmeier (Word and Sacrament) Elise von Stanke (Word and Sacrament) Jo Brownett (Word and Sacrament) Michael Dobie (Word and Sacrament) Andrew Oppitz (Word and Sacrament) Andrew Njau (Word and Sacrament) Phil Wegener (Sacrament Only) Dieter Schmidt (Sacrament Only)	
LCA Synod Delegate (till next Synod)	Sabina Pichler	
NSW Synod Delegate (three to be elected)	Greg Lane Andrew Njau	
LifeWay Mission Investment Team	Tim Baillie Shane Burdack Ed Burke Martin Rowney Miriam Zanker	

LifeWay
LUTHERAN CHURCH