



Palms Australia

Annual Report 2012-2013



President's Report:

Marginalised? Or a Movement at the Margins?

This year's Australian Catholic Social Justice Council (ACSJC) statement asks: "How is it that so many still lie like **Lazarus at our gate** ... denied access to the table of participation and solidarity?"

Palms' Development Philosophy mirrors the ACSJC conviction that this is not achieved while anyone is "... excluded from enjoying spiritual, cultural, educational, social, economic and political freedoms". Those who volunteer with Palms are chosen because communities want them to pass on skills and knowledge that will assist to achieve these freedoms. Palms' Values Statement reminds them that solidarity also requires living justly, loving tenderly and walking humbly.

"This is the challenge for us, as Australians and as members of the global community, as we seek the path to reducing and eliminating poverty in the years to come" (ACSJC). And it is a real challenge. Breaking through today's Australian psyche, to achieve the critical mass needed to really meet this challenge has concentrated minds at Palms over the last couple of years.

"We can remind ourselves during difficult times that engagement in the margins brings greater fulfilment."

Engagement with AusAID in the Pilot Volunteer Fund (PVF) provided a pathway, however despite offering great value-for-money, sound and ethical approaches and seeing local communities achieve outstanding outcomes by engaging Palms volunteers, AusAID discontinued the PVF. While reducing poverty was given lip service, their emphasis discounted solidarity. Increasing opportunities for the most marginalised communities seemed to come second to engaging volunteers in soft diplomacy and branding "Australian" aid.

Under the government's core volunteer program (AVID), volunteer agencies needing to keep risk-obsessed government contract managers happy are given the funds to lure volunteers with good pay and conditions and institute safety measures that remove them from authentic connection with local communities. A doubtful efficiency outcome sees AusAID prioritise paying larger agencies \$60,000+ per volunteer notwithstanding that Palms model allowed us to recruit, prepare, send and support volunteers, and meet all of the requirements of their PVF for around \$30,000 per head.

It would be easy for Palms as an organisation, as it can be for Palms volunteers, to feel marginalised in the face of others receiving more money, especially for questionable practice. Our Western measures of worth through monetary reward and sense of comparative poverty may make it difficult to keep perspective on the critical principals that achieve sustainable development through volunteering. We can remind ourselves during this difficult time that engagement in the margins brings greater fulfilment but a base level of income is required to maintain the program and we cannot depend solely on others for the rewards.

Just as Palms asks volunteers in the field to persist, building the necessary relationships to achieve solidarity, the organisation is investing in building the relationships necessary to challenge the narrow mainstream approaches to international development volunteering. Fortunately forward planning in 2011 anticipated this need and strategies are being implemented already to reinforce what by contrast to these approaches we are now characterising as 'Solidarity Volunteering'.

The deep challenge for us at Palms Australia goes to the very heart of what building genuine human solidarity means, be it challenging existing funding models or problematic voluntourism, Palms' vision, mission and values call us to look beyond the human as an 'issue', and begin to 'see' the sacred humanity that is in each other, and to have the faith to ask Australians: Who is that rich man? And how is it that we keep missing Lazarus that is before us?



Benjamin Oh
President



President Benjamin Oh (centre) with Palms' Patrons Deacon Gary Stone and Dr José Ramos Horta at Palms' 2012 Solidarity Awards.

Executive Director's Report:

The 2012/13 financial year was always going to show a loss due to our decision to invest reserves in strategies to encourage income growth. These strategies will be outlined later in the report. The expected loss was just over \$41,000. The actual loss was closer to \$90,000.

While total expenditure was within \$2,000 of the budgeted \$699,904, income was down by around \$50,000. At nearly \$3,000 more than the previous financial year, income from individual donors was \$197,224, nearly \$13,000 under the budgeted figure. Memberships were slightly down and our efforts to get a budgeted \$53,000 from CommUNITY contributions fell short by around \$25,000.

The CommUNITY program attempts to get support from Australian communities to assist overseas communities to cover volunteer hosting costs (accommodation, a small living allowance, flights and insurance). Without significant grants from government and other organisations CommUNITY contributions determine the number of volunteers we can send without dipping into reserves. We have rearranged our calendar and assigned new staff to new strategies to lift this area of contribution in the current financial year.

Grants were more predictable. When the budget was finalised we already knew the figure for the AusAID grant. The Home Mission Fund provided \$5,000 more than the \$40,000 budgeted while other grants were down around the same, so overall grants were as budgeted.

Interest rates falling faster than expected, and the expenditure of more reserves than anticipated, meant about \$6,500 less investment income. It is hoped that investment income can support our administration, but we will need to see more reinvested and higher returns again for that to happen.

Just one Encounter to Kiribati not getting enough takers saw expected income dip \$30,000. It seems promoting trips to an unknown destination such as Kiribati is a good deal more difficult than promoting trips to Timor Leste. With two trips to Kiribati scheduled for this financial year it is possible that a \$60,000 gap will appear in this year's Encounter income, however on the expenditure side the \$40,000 to do two trips would also be saved so it is not as bad as it might look. In the current financial year we are looking to provide Encounters for organisations rather than having to find eight individuals for each group, so we hope to

see savings there in some of our personnel costs.

Cross cultural program income expected late in 2012/13 arrived later than expected in early 2013/14 so that is also down around \$15,000 while our fundraising dinner brought in \$2,000 above budget. Coffee sales were on target.

It is in this area of other income that we expect to see most short-term income growth. Government income is still possible in the medium-term, but it is clear that they will not look at funding smaller programs so we have to do what we can to grow. Coffee sales, Palms Cross Cultural and Encounters are areas that can provide a solid independent source of funds to support the volunteer program.

The sale of services in cross-cultural training and doing a development program evaluation in the current financial year already indicate an income of \$15,000 over the \$10,000 budgeted. A solid plan to expanded coffee sales will be online soon and should also produce significantly increased income before the end of the financial year.

Accompanying this Annual Report are proposals for constitutional change to be put before Palms Annual General Meeting. Working out in a concentric circle from the prophetic wisdom that has been built at Palms centre for over 52 years we seek more integration with Australian organisations who share our values and approach. This is part of the strategy designed to assist Palms and those who join with us to bid for the next government contract expected to be open in two to three years.

We hope to offer the government a volunteer program that will assist them to fix the problems with the Australian Volunteers for International Development program, as highlighted by Ben in the President's report. I believe we can convince them to fund a more effective model, at a much lower cost, to reach far many more grass roots communities where authentic relationships and knowledge sharing have more currency than money. Please join us in promoting 'Solidarity Volunteering' as Palms unique gift to "people cooperating across cultures in order to achieve a just, sustainable, interdependent and peaceful world free of poverty". (Palms Vision)



Palms Australia Volunteer Placements

July 2012-June 2013

During July 2012 - June 2013 Palms Australia has supported 40 volunteer placements delivering 7,890 days of service to 25 partner organisations and communities in Thailand, Timor-Leste, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Tanzania, Zambia, Ethiopia & South Africa.



Dr Andrew Leong and his colleague Lucy in the Railaco Clinic, Timor-Leste

Rural Health

Aligned with health objectives of Palms Australia's Country Strategies for Timor-Leste, Ethiopia and Zambia

Objectives

- The provision of skilled health practitioners to assist with up-skilling of local staff, with a focus on child and maternal health outcomes.
- To increase health awareness through the development of health related education projects.

Results to June 30, 2013

7 volunteer placements provided 1,581 days in health care delivery and health worker training in rural and urban areas of Timor-Leste, Ethiopia, and Zambia.

- Organisational strengthening and development through the establishment of procedures and training of management staff and specific skill development programs for nursing staff of Bushulo Health Clinic, Ethiopia

- Conducting health awareness programs across schools, workshops in ante-natal, nutrition, hygiene and sanitation initiatives in Atabae, Timor-Leste
- Strengthening the capacity of a rural health clinic to provide regular and reliable services for acute cases, diagnostic services, developing procedures and record keeping, resulting in improved patient health outcomes in Hatubuilico, Timor-Leste.
- Building capacity of NGO health clinic staff, and providing clinical care in Triloka, Timor-Leste
- Building relationships, assisting and mentoring staff in maternal health and strengthening the capacity of a health clinic in Dili, Timor-Leste
- Provision of sustainable health care/promotion/outreach and the mentoring of clinic staff in Railaco, Timor-Leste
- Providing organizational support, guidance and clinical care for a newly established health facility in Lusaka, Zambia.

Agriculture, Water Management & Information Technology

Aligned with rural development objectives of Palms' Country Strategies for PNG & Timor-Leste

Objectives

- To enhance income generation schemes, agriculture development and build capacity to effectively manage natural resources with appropriate technology for sustainable development.
- To encourage comprehensive networking opportunities for communities and organisations who are linked to rural and agriculture development.

Results to June 30, 2013

5 volunteer placements provided 1,080 days of mentoring in technical skills including agriculture, water management, and information technology.

- Capacity building in communities to develop processes for submitting formal requests directly to government bodies responsible for rural development/services in Timor-Leste.
- Provided learning opportunities for community trainers on maintaining catchment/water systems healthy resulting in successful erosion control projects in rural communities, Timor-Leste.
- Provided knowledge and skills for staff working in environmental protection/management; disaster risk reduction; water resource management; and safe housing/construction techniques. Timor-Leste.
- Developed food producing gardens, reforestation programs and fish farming in PNG.
- Trained staff and students in sustainable agricultural practices in Papua New Guinea.

Miriam Buchhorn and Fr Adriano Ola in Hatubuilico, Timor-Leste



Building Individual & Organisational Capacity

Aligned with community development & Administration objectives of Country Strategies for Timor-Leste, PNG, Kiribati & Zambia

Objectives

- To assist organisations forging links with equivalent Australian institutions or churches and to access skill/capacity development and increased opportunities.
- To strengthen individual and organisational capacity of NGO's to provide social programs in response to community needs, especially for women and young people.
- To enhance organisational management and administrative systems to improve efficiency, accountability, transparency and efficacy.

Results to June 30, 2013

12 placements built and strengthened individual, community and organisational capacity.

5 volunteers provided 750 days professional expertise, mentoring in finance, human resource management, law and gender programs.

7 volunteers provided 1,980 days of skill development workshops and on-the-job mentoring in project funding/management, monitoring & evaluation and donor reporting.

- Workshops conducted on using social media, internet/email usage, strategic project planning (budgeting, accountability, administration, donor reporting) and strategic networking resulting in increased and ongoing project funding/access and strengthened relationships with umbrella government organisations in Timor-Leste, PNG, Kiribati & Zambia.
- Assisted with the development and implementation of small business income generating programs for youth and women in Timor-Leste and PNG resulting in small business development, increased financial independence and sustainability.



Emma Yates (right) and Catherine with the Zambian Church declaration on Gender Justice.

Increasing Educational Access & Opportunities

Aligned with education objectives of Palms Australia's Country Strategies for Timor-Leste, Thailand, Kiribati, PNG, Tanzania & South Africa

Objectives

- To support the English language and Science curriculum in schools and community programs through the provision of qualified teachers to provide student learning, training and mentoring of local teachers.
- To assist educational institutions in strengthening their administrative capacity to continue to offer programs in primary, secondary and tertiary education.

Results to June 30, 2013

14 volunteer placements delivered education to 2,044 students at primary, secondary and tertiary levels and mentoring and training 82 adult teachers.

- 61 students graduated from Community English Program at intermediate and beginners level in Atabae, Timor-Leste end of 2012.
- Trained English teachers and Administrative staff across the Agricultural College in Maliana, Timor-Leste.

- Trainee teachers now planning and delivering lessons, reporting and assessing students in Community English Program in Atabae, Timor-Leste
- Developed and supported a local youth program, through the teaching of English to adults and children in Maliana, Timor-Leste.
- Worked alongside teachers, students and Administrative staff across the Instituto Profissional de Canossa, Dili, Timor-Leste.
- Tutored 38 students who have graduated with an 8-Unit Diploma of Liberal Studies ACU Refugee Program on the Thai-Burma Border
- Taught students across the English and Science curriculum and gave professional development workshops for teachers in Kiribati.
- Developed curriculum for English programs for 120 students and mentored of local teachers in Arusha, Tanzania.
- Trained teachers, developed home-work/ tutoring programs and after-school activities for the 70 children of Holy Family Care Centre in Limpopo, South Africa.

Dr Rosaleen Smyth presents new student, Saw, with his ACU student card at the Thai/Burma border.



Community Engagement

July 2012-June 2013



Aunty Janice Kennedy acknowledged country and welcomed attendees to Palms' Inaugural Solidarity Awards.

Palms Inaugural Solidarity Awards

On Tuesday 16 October 2012 Palms Australia held its Inaugural Solidarity Awards at Doltone House, Pyrmont. The awards were the culmination of a celebration of solidarity and featured addresses by Palms Australia's two recently inaugurated Patrons, Nobel Prize Laureate and Former President and Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, Dr José Ramos Horta and Deacon Gary Stone.

The evening was hosted by former SBS broadcaster Indira Naidoo and featured performances from Sydney's Solidarity Choir. Aunty Janice Kennedy from Parramatta Diocese's Aboriginal Catholic Services began the evening with a traditional acknowledgment and welcome to country.

Award winners included the Catholic Education Offices of Parramatta and Broken Bay, in honour of their long-term engagement in improving education in Timor-Leste; Mary Gilchrist, a former director and volunteer of Palms Australia who was present at Palms Australia's founding in 1961; Barbara Clark, who has volunteered her services in Palms Australia's offices for ten years; and Catholic Mission received the Cyril Hally award for contributions to ongoing recruitment and preparation for cross-cultural mission.

The event was successful in bringing together Palms supporters with the venue capacity of 140 seats being fully booked for the event.

Dr Nichole Georgeou at the Sydney book launch.

CommUNITY

Website profiles were used to resource pre-departure gatherings with volunteers' friends, family, colleagues and supporting organisations. Media releases were drafted on new and ongoing volunteers, and were featured in 44 articles or stories in publications throughout Australia.

Palms Encounters to Timor-Leste, July 2012 and September 2012

Two Encounters to Timor-Leste were held during the financial year. Roger O'Halloran guided the July 2012 Encounter, with Pollyanna Forshaw, who volunteered with Palms from 2003-2005 in Baucau, Timor-Leste, leading the September Encounter. Participant feedback was primarily positive, and valuable feedback was received as to improving the preparation process and materials.

Two participants from the July Encounter, Mary Seong, a midwife and her husband Andrew Leong, a doctor went on to become Palms volunteers, and are currently placed in Timor-Leste. A participant from the September 2012 Encounter, Guida Cabrita, a teacher, has now accepted a volunteer position in Timor-Leste in 2014.

Neoliberalism, Development and Aid Volunteering by Dr Nichole Georgeou

Two book launches were co-hosted by Palms Australia and Australian Catholic University for Dr Nichole Georgeou's book, *Neoliberalism, Development and Aid Volunteering*. The launches were held on 13 May 2013 in Melbourne and 17 May 2013 in Sydney. Several Palms returnees attended each launch. The launches were part of a growing strategy to develop interest and reflection around Australian development volunteering.



SUMMARISED FINANCIAL REPORT 2012-2013

PALMS AUSTRALIA (A Company limited by guarantee)

Board Information

The names and details of Board Members in office during the financial year and until the date of this report are as follows.

Name	Date of Appointment	Qualification	Experience
Benjamin Oh (Chair)	22 October 2011	BComn, BA (Psych & Media), MPACS, JP	An independent consultant and adult educator in the area of conflict resolution, peace and conflict studies, and human rights within a cross-cultural framework
Roger O'Halloran	27 November 2001	B. Arts, Grad. Dip. Ed., M. Ed.	Executive Director at Palms Australia, and former Palms' volunteer in Western Samoa
Robert Coady	1 July 2009	CPA, MBA	Contract Accountant and volunteer teacher, and former Palms' volunteer in the Republic of Kiribati
Greg Browne	1 July 2009	B Econ, MBA, CA	An accountant and former Palms' volunteer in Papua New Guinea
Antony Faa	22 October 2011	BMedSc., MBBS.,	Senior Medical Officer at Warwick Hospital, and former Palms' volunteer in Papua New Guinea
Nichole Georgeou	22 October 2011	BA, MA, Ph.D. on international volunteering, Honorary Research Fellow, UOW	Research in the areas of state-citizen relations, development volunteering and models of cross-cultural preparation and training. Teaching in both Sociology and International Studies courses
Clare Seddon	22 October 2011	BA, M. Int. Dev.	Manager of the Latin America, Middle East & Pacific with oversight of a team of development professionals who provide design, monitoring and evaluation expertise to World Vision's programs, and former Palms' volunteer in the Republic of Kiribati
Ivapene Seiuli	22 October 2011	B Soc. Work, M. Int Soc Dev.	Two years working with AusAID in Samoa, continued her relationship with Palms Australia, as In-Country Manager of Palms volunteers in Papua New Guinea from 2007 – 2010, based in Port Moresby, Goroka and Alotau
Duncan MacLaren	1 February 2012	MA (Hons), M.Theology	Twenty five years worked for Caritas, becoming Secretary General for Caritas Internationalis and has held Board positions on the Volunteer Missionary Movement and Dominican Volunteers International; currently lectures at ACU on international development studies

For a copy of the full financial report for the year ending 30th June 2013 please contact Palms Australia on +612 9518 9551.

PALMS AUSTRALIA**(A Company limited by guarantee)****A.C.N 001 882 337****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2013**

CONTINUING OPERATIONS	NOTE	2013	2012
REVENUE			
Donations & Gifts			
Monetary		197,224	194,489
Non-monetary		0	0
Bequests and Legacies		10,000	0
Grants			
AusAID		198,582	364,249
Other Australian		58,500	55,500
Investment Income		50,049	71,061
Other Income		<u>98,266</u>	<u>46,104</u>
Total Revenue		612,621	731,402
EXPENDITURE			
International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure			
International Programs			
Funds to international programs		477,234	509,069
Program support costs		21,310	25,555
Community Education		75,811	63,076
Fundraising Costs			
Public		20,838	2,490
Government, multilateral and private		0	0
Accountability and Administration		65,204	78,870
Non-Monetary Expenditure		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure		660,397	679,060
Domestic Programs Expenditure		<u>38,054</u>	<u>3,734</u>
Loss on Sale of Asset		<u>3,328</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Expenditure		701,779	682,794
(SHORTFALL)/EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURE		(89,158)	48,608

During this financial year, the organisation had no transactions in the International Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs and other overseas grant categories.

PALMS AUSTRALIA**(A Company limited by guarantee)****A.C.N 001 882 337****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2013**

	NOTE	2013	2012
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	57,334	59,426
Trade and other receivables	3	11,001	3,411
Prepayments	4	1,363	4,407
Other	5	5,151	13,201
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		74,849	80,445
<u>NON - CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
Property, Plant & Equipment	6	20,331	16,546
Other financial assets	7	1,021,897	1,129,337
TOTAL NON- CURRENT ASSETS		1,042,228	1,145,883
TOTAL ASSETS		1,117,077	1,226,327
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
Trade and other payables	8	26,330	27,912
Revenue Received In Advance	9	3,545	17,628
Provisions	10	50,180	62,634
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		80,055	108,174
<u>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
Provisions	11	53,840	50,236
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		53,840	50,236
TOTAL LIABILITIES		133,895	158,410
NET ASSETS		983,182	1,067,917
<u>EQUITY</u>			
Reserves	12	5,164	741
Retained Earnings		978,017	1,067,175
TOTAL EQUITY		983,182	1,067,917

At the end of the financial year, Palms Australia had no balances in the other financial assets, inventories, investment property, borrowings, current tax liabilities, non-current payables and other financial liabilities categories.

PALMS AUSTRALIA**(A Company limited by guarantee)****A.C.N 001 882 337****STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2013**

	Retained earnings	Reserves	Total
Balance at 1st July 2011	1,018,566	741	1,019,307
Net surplus/(deficit)	48,609	0	48,609
Amount transferred to/(from) reserves	0	0	0
Balance at 30th June 2012	1,067,175	741	1,067,917
Balance at 1st July 2012	1,067,175	5,164	1,072,339
Net surplus/(deficit)	(\$89,158)	0	(\$89,158)
Amount transferred to/(from) reserves	0	0	0
Balance at 30th June 2013	978,017	5,164	983,182

PALMS AUSTRALIA**A.C.N 001 882 337****(A Company limited by guarantee)****STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2013**

	2013	2012
<u>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</u>		
Grants & Donations Received	441,930	243,745
Other Income	94,765	42,757
Interest Received	49,116	56,990
Dividends Received	806	805
Payments for Projects to Suppliers & Employees	(656,509)	(645,580)
NET CASH INFLOW/(OUTFLOW) FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	(69,892)	(301,283)
<u>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</u>		
Payment for Investment on Term Deposits	(1,001,923)	(1,113,785)
Proceeds from Maturity of Investments - Deposits	1,091,405	1,406,746
Payment for Purchasing Company Car	(21,682)	0
NET CASH INFLOW/(OUTFLOW) FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	67,800	292,961
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and cash equivalents	(2,092)	(8,322)
Cash at Beginning of Financial Year	59,426	67,748
CLOSING CASH AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	57,334	59,426

1 (a) BASIS OF PREPARATION

The financial report is a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards and the Corporations Act 2001, the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991, and the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct. The financial report has been prepared on the basis of historical costs and the going concern assumption.

The financial report is presented in Australian Dollars.

1 (b) STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The financial report complies with Australian Accounting Standards as issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Code of Conduct Summary Financial Report Format found in the Guidance Document to the ACFID Code of Conduct. For further information on the Code please refer to the ACFID of Conduct Guidance document available at www.acfid.asn.au

2 CASH MOVEMENTS FOR DESIGNATED PURPOSES

TABLE OF CASH MOVEMENTS FOR DESIGNATED PURPOSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2013

	Cash available at beginning of financial year	Cash raised during financial year	Cash disbursed during financial year	Cash available at end of financial year
Volunteer Program	59,426	586,617	(588,709)	57,334
Total	59,426	586,617	(588,709)	57,334

PALMS AUSTRALIA

(A Company limited by guarantee)

BOARD DECLARATION

In accordance with a resolution of the Directors of Palms Australia the Board declares that:

- 1 In the opinion of the Board:
 - (a) The financial statements and notes of Palms Australia have been prepared in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001; and
 - (b) Giving a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30th June 2013 and of its performance for the year ended on that date;
 - (c) Complying with Accounting Standards and Corporations Act 2001, the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991, and the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct.

- 2 There are reasonable grounds to believe that Palms Australia will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

On behalf of the Board



Roger O'Halloran
Executive Director



Benjamin Oh
Director

Sydney
13-Sep-13

Independent auditor's report to the members of Palms Australia.

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Palms Australia which comprises the Statements of Financial Position, Financial Performance, changes in equity and cash flows for year ended 30th June 2013.

Director's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial report in accordance with Auditing Standard AASB 1039 *Financial Reports*, and for such internal controls as the directors determine are necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit procedures which were conducted in accordance with ASA 810 *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*. We have conducted an independent audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, of the financial report of Palms Australia for the year ended 30 June 2013. The Australian Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report for the year is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal controls. Our procedures included testing that the information in the financial report is derived from, and is consistent with, the financial report for the year, and examination on a test basis, of audit evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures which were not directly derived from the financial report for the year. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report complies with AASB 1039 *Financial Reports*.

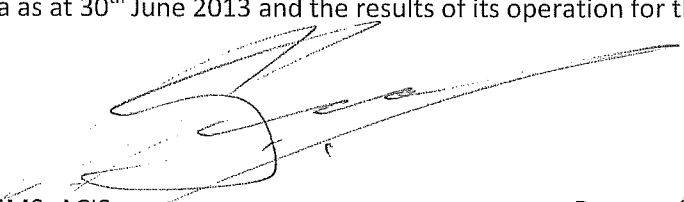
We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have met the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of Palms Australia for the year ended 30 June 2013 complies with Accounting Standard AASB 1039 *Financial Reports* and presents fairly the financial position of PALMS Australia as at 30th June 2013 and the results of its operation for the year then ended.


B.A. SIMMS, ACIS
Registered Company Auditor
3522

Date: 10th September 2013

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For the year 2012-2013, **Palms Australia** was a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development Code of Conduct. The Code requires members to meet high standards of corporate governance, public accountability and financial management.



**ACFID
CODE**

If you wish to make a complaint to the organisation, please contact our Executive Director or President, using our secure web form located at <http://www.palms.org.au/about/contact-us/>.

A copy of the complete financial report is available to members on request.

If you believe Palms Australia has breached the ACFID Code of Conduct, you may contact the ACFID Code of Conduct Committee at www.acfid.asn.au.



Palms Australia

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