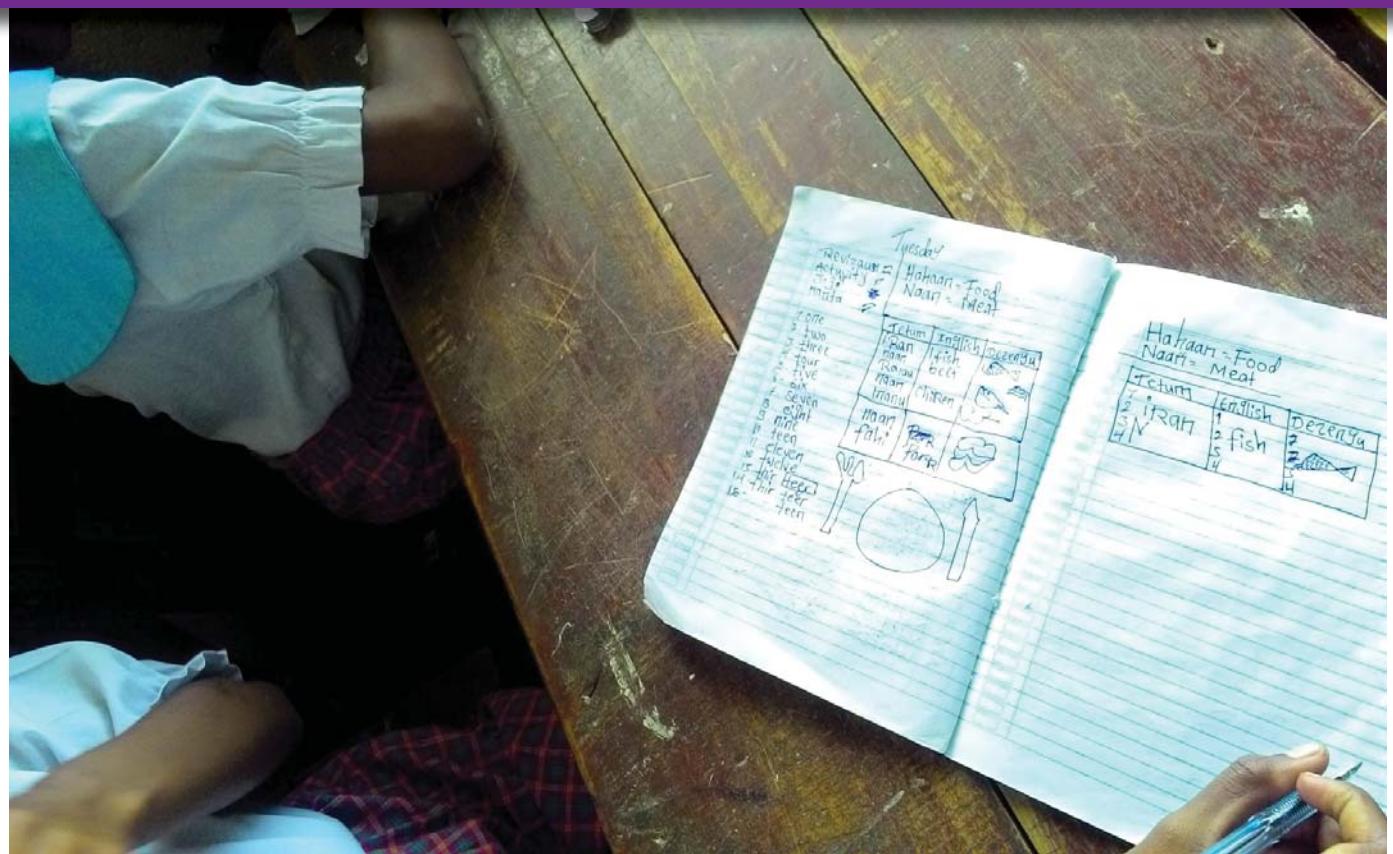




# Palms Australia

## Annual Report 2013-2014





## President's Report:

# A sanctuary- Not just for some, but for all.

What a challenging year it has been for Palms Australia and for our common humanity. There is perhaps no greater time to reconsider what our lives are truly about and what roles we are playing as individuals and as communities in bringing about peace with justice in our world. In my view there are only two roles in the pursuit of peace with justice: actors and bystanders - complicity in injustice knows no victims nor perpetrators, just apathy.

It's amazing what an organisation like ours can achieve when a dedicated lot of 'actors' come together to work for justice, even with very limited resources. Whether it is about advancing gender equality through the promotion of women's leadership in Zambia, or the reduction of infant/maternal mortality in Timor Leste, or rebuilding hope through education and health support for children whose lives have been devastated by poverty, abuse, civil unrest and disease in South Africa - these are just some of the remarkable works that we have managed to advance together.

Keeping all of this in mind, a new way forward is needed in expanding our work, a greater partnership amongst peoples, groups and organisations that must be found in order for our shared mission, vision and values to reach their fullest expression.

Partner organisations and groups, who share a common passion for our work but do not have the same capacity, have been in conversation to further enquire about a more effective way to resource solidarity volunteering through a joint Single Entity approach. These discussions will culminate in a roundtable conference on April 10th 2015, which would then inform a strategic planning workshop for partnering organisations to examine and implement a new plan forward. I urge our members and supporters to further engage in these exciting times of greater opportunity.

Last but not least, I want to take this opportunity on behalf of all Palms' members to thank our team at Palms' headquarters for their tireless work and continued dedication, our patrons, partners and benefactors

*"Embodiments of Gospel living challenge us to live beyond ourselves."*

This year we mourned the passing of our former Executive Director Mary Gilchrist who left an indelible mark on our organisation's life. We also saw Palms' member and long-time chaplain Father Peter Maher being recognised with a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his exemplary service "in promoting acceptance and diversity." Both embodiments of Gospel living challenge us to live beyond ourselves.

for their faith and commitment to our cause, and most of all- our global solidarity volunteers that exemplify the spirit of what Palms Australia is about.

In our much polarised world at this present moment, our peace-building work calls us to reach out to build deeper relationships amongst all peoples *'in achieving a just, sustainable, interdependent and peaceful world free of poverty'*, as Pope Francis reminds us, to *"be 'protectors' of creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment"*. We must respond without any hesitation to make this world that sanctuary not just for some, but for all.

*Benjamin Oh  
President*



President Benjamin Oh with Donna Mulhearn and Dr Nam Phan at Palms' 2013 Solidarity Awards.



# Executive Director's Report - Clarifying Direction



In 2013-14 Palms took on new strategies and discovered new approaches to support what we had begun to characterise in 2013 as 'Solidarity Volunteering'. With over 50 years in the business one might think we know what we are doing and largely we do, but in a constantly and rapidly changing external environment we know that the successful organisation is one that is alive to new learning.

## Financials

When the Board passed the 2013-14 budget with a projected deficit of \$177,518 to be drawn from Palms reserves we were a little apprehensive, but it was based on a decision to explore ways to expand Solidarity Volunteering into the future. AusAID had decided again to support just their own Australian Volunteers for International Development program, so we were determined to provide for the many communities preferring the values and approach that underpin the preparation of Palms Solidarity Volunteers. However, prudence did demand that we rationalise the number of new volunteers, and we had to turn down many legitimate requests, which we hope we can honour in the not too distant future.

The figures at year's end show a deficit of \$104,693, so we managed to clarify directions while keeping over \$72,000 more in reserves than the budget projection. Our total income was under budget by \$30,716, however more than half of this resulted from an Encounter visit not going ahead as planned and there were cost savings on the other side of that ledger. If you exclude the AusAID grant we actually achieved an income growth of \$65,565 above the 2012-13 year. More importantly we now have a clearer picture of income development strategies that work best for Palms and with refinement in the year ahead we expect to move much closer to a balanced budget.

The real savings on the budget came on the cost side with some adjustments to Palms management and staffing and this pointed to how we can achieve a much smaller deficit in the coming year. We have found reliable interns and office volunteers who are already adding capacity to recruitment, orientation, encounters and the host of other events that keep our Palms open to the world. The work they are doing is an outstanding testament to the support for Palms approach to mission and development and if converted to dollar value would provide the picture of the significantly larger operation that is Palms.

## Palms Cross Cultural

Palms Cross Cultural grew through the implementation of two contracts during 2013-14. One might anticipate growing it further; however we do not have the same flexibility of staff to provide training programs during the coming year so a decision has been taken to put further promotion of it on hold. This will allow us to make more space for new collaborations around solidarity volunteering.

## Solidarity Volunteering Round-Table

Collaborations are planned as part of a longer-term strategy of affiliating with organisations that share Palms values and see advantages in building a stronger program to engage solidarity volunteers in mission and development both in Australia and overseas. We have started calling for expressions of interest from those who might prepare a paper, or join us on April 10 2015, when we will hold a small round-table conference to consider the possibilities presented in such papers. Stage two will involve the ideas coming from the round-table being further investigated at a larger conference later in the year.

## Governance

At last year's AGM members voted for constitutional change that also will open our Palms to more collaboration. Changes provide for five elected directors and the Executive Director to make three further appointments to the board. In this way Palms remains a democratic organisation, and also provides another opportunity for representation of organisations and individuals that share Palms vision and have much to offer implementation of the mission.

There was a need in 2013-14 to turn programs and processes around in order to find a sustainable direction as we moved away from Government funding. We can be pleased that this was able to be done with less damage to the Balance Sheet than had been expected. There will be a small deficit again in 2014-15, but with a clear direction and strategies for maintaining the program now in place we can build towards growth again in coming years.

*Roger O'Halloran  
Executive Director*

# Palms Australia Volunteer Placements

## July 2013-June 2014

During July 2013 – June 2014 Palms Australia has supported **41 volunteer placements** delivering **8,310 days** of service to **27 partner organisations and communities** across Timor-Leste, Thailand, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Tanzania, Zambia, Ethiopia & South Africa.

### Health

#### 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 develop and increase health awareness through the development of health related education projects.
- Supporting healthy communities through sports and recreation programs.

#### Results to June 30, 2014

*10 volunteer placements providing 1,911 days in health care delivery and health worker training in rural and urban areas of Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, Ethiopia, Zambia and South Africa.*

- Conducting health awareness programs across schools, workshops in ante-natal, nutrition, hygiene and sanitation initiatives in Atabae, Timor-Leste.
- Building capacity of NGO health clinic staff, and

providing clinical and maternal care in Triloka, Timor-Leste.

- Introducing sporting programs, that supported links with other community youth programs resulting in improved physical fitness/health for young women and men, increased confidence, and opportunities to develop new skills in Atabae, 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.
- 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.
- Providing organizational support, guidance in the setting up of an operating theatre, commencement of an endoscopy service, and the design of the inpatient ward for a newly established health facility in Lusaka, Zambia.
- Providing clinical care and support for medical staff in a rural hospital in Chikuni, Zambia.
- Further developing and strengthening the health services in Tapini, PNG, through supporting and mentoring local clinic staff and providing clinical care.
- Developing and maintaining health programs/plans and procedures for supporting children living with HIV/Aids in the care of OLSH Sisters in Ofcolaco, South Africa.



Mary Seong, Registered Nurse/Midwife was working with her husband Dr Andrew Leong with Fundacao Lafaek Diak, a clinic in Triloka, Timor-Leste. Mary's role included assisting and supporting the maternal health program clinic staff through guidance and training to help ensure continuity and sustainability of FLD.

# **Agriculture, Water Management & Information Technology**

## **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, 2014**

*Four volunteer placements providing 907 days of mentoring in technical skills including agriculture, water management, and information technology*

- Capacity building communities to develop processes for submitting formal requests directly to government bodies responsible for rural development/services in Timor-Leste.
- Provide learning opportunities for community trainers on maintaining catchment/water systems healthy resulting in successful erosion control projects in rural communities, Timor-Leste.
- Providing knowledge and skills for staff working in environmental protection/management; disaster risk reduction; water resource management; and safe housing/construction techniques in Timor-Leste.
- Improved analytical approach to reporting of field projects to staff and international donors in Timor-Leste.
- Development of food producing gardens, reafforestation programs and fish farming in PNG.
- Training of staff and students in sustainable agricultural practices in PNG.

# **Increasing Educational Access & Opportunities**

## **Objectives**

- Supporting 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 in Kiribati, Timor-Leste & PNG.
- To assist educational institutions in strengthening their administrative capacity to continue to offer programs in primary, secondary and tertiary education in Kiribati, Timor-Leste & PNG.
- Supporting educational programs on the Thai-Burma border that provide opportunities for students from refugee camps to obtain accredited University qualifications.
- Supporting tertiary institutions in Timor Leste and PNG by providing qualified lecturers to supervise and tutor post graduate students.

## **Results to June 30, 2014**

13 volunteer placements delivering education to 1,726 students at primary, secondary and tertiary levels and mentoring and training 246 adult teachers and ancillary staff.

- Trainee teachers have now achieved a Certificate iii in Planning & Assessment and are employed in the local schools in Atabae, Timor-Leste.
- A multi-language library (English, Tetun & Portuguese) has become operational servicing ages from four years to adults in Atabae, Timor-Leste.
- Increased confidence and self-esteem in students, and employment opportunities for trainee teachers in Atabae, Timor-Leste.
- Teachers across two catholic primary schools in Dili, Timor-Leste have started to utilize and implement different teaching methods that provide more interactive engagement of students, increasing and enhancing learning opportunities.
- A resource room/library has been established and in use for students, teachers and the wider community in Bedois, Timor-Leste.
- 36 students who have graduated with an 8-Unit Diploma of Liberal Studies ACU Refugee Program on the Thai-Burma border.
- Teachers in Tapini, PNG, are now able to utilize, repair equipment and teach IT skills.
- Through student participation in a Leadership Awareness Program, female and male students in Tapini, PNG are practicing leadership within their school.
- Secondary Science students and teachers have enhanced learning opportunities through increased practical science experimentation across the Science curriculum in Bikenibeu, Kiribati.
- Professional development workshops have been increased for English and Science teachers across the catholic schools in Bikenibeu, Kiribati.
- Curriculum development of English programs for 120 students and mentoring of local teachers in Arusha, Tanzania.
- Training teachers, developing home-work/tutoring programs/reading programs and after-school activities for the 75 children of Holy Family Care Centre in Limpopo, South Africa.

# **Building Individual & Organisational Capacity**

## **Objectives**

- To assist organisations forging links with equivalent Australian institutions or churches.
- 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 improve organisational management systems and administrative systems to improve efficiency accountability, transparency and efficacy.

## **Results to June 30, 2014**

*14 volunteer placements using an asset-based approach to building and strengthening individual, community and organisational capacity.*

*Eight volunteer placements providing 1,265 days of professional expertise, mentoring in finance, human resource management, law and gender programs.*

*Six volunteer placements providing 1,442 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 and Zambia.

- Overall improvement in the implementation of the WIG (Women in Governance) in areas of reporting, financial management and monitoring of the program in Lusaka, Zambia.
- Assisting with the development and implementation of income generating programs for youth and women in Timor-Leste, Kiribati and PNG resulting in small business development, increased financial independence and sustainability.
- Coordinated the logistics for conducting workshops within the Diocese of Tarawa & Nauru on climate change, gender programs, budgeting, and agricultural programs in Kiribati.



Rofina from Balibo Community Learning Centre, setting up the new cafe that has been established to provide refreshments for people visiting and passing through Balibo. Palms volunteer Leanne Hayes, Institutional Development Officer with Balibo CLC, has worked with Rofina and other CLC staff to build the capacity of their team to design manage and evaluate development and training activities in partnership with the community. Balibo CLC provides community services including computer training, mechanical workshop training, English classes and training for rural women's cooperatives. With the community facing high youth unemployment, the Centre provides an opportunity for local people to gain valuable vocational skills and training.

# Community Engagement

## July 2013-June 2014

### Palms 2nd Solidarity Awards



The Australian Karen Organisation performs Burmese traditional dance at the 2nd Annual Solidarity Awards

Palms' 2nd Annual Solidarity Awards Luncheon was held on Saturday 5th October 2013 at Lachlan's, Old Government House, Parramatta. Our guest speakers, Donna Mulhearn, a human shield during the Iraq War, and Duncan MacLaren, lecturer of the ACU International Development Studies, both gave their responses to the year's theme- "Countering a Culture of Waste with Solidarity" - which had been inspired by a recent speech of Pope Francis.

Traditional Burmese music and dance performed by the Australian Karen Organisation enlivened the luncheon and Samanth Haddin spoke on behalf of those participating in Palms' 95th Orientation Course which was occurring at the same time

#### The 2013 Solidarity Award Winners

Cyril Hally Award: Caritas Australia

Damian Keane Award: Tatiana Ebessu

Community Engagement Award: Jim Johnson

Development through Relationship Award:  
Australian Catholic University's Thai-Burma  
Refugee Program

Roy Boylan Award: Pauline Randall

Donor Contribution Award:  
Anonymous by request

An outstanding venue and perfect spring weather staged this most successful event (considering the long weekend and distance from the CBD) which engaged the Palms community and raised over \$10,000 after expenses.

### Palms Orientation 2013

Palms' 95th Orientation Course held was held on was held from 29 September to 7 October 2013 at the North Parramatta Uniting Centre. Both the new timing and

venue where fitting for a course which included new sessions, new staff and was for the first time integrated into our Solidarity Awards function. The participants therefor became our first group of volunteers prepared under the title **Solidarity Volunteers**.

Although the new directions highlighted Palms' willingness to adapt our formula to meet changing needs, there was still much which would be familiar to participants from earlier courses. The expert facilitators provoking deep thought on issues of culture, personality, development, health, security and skill exchange; the enhanced learning resulting from participant interaction where each brought their own experience and expertise; the camaraderie between participants, staff, facilitators and guests; and the fun and interactive nature of Palms' course which makes it a worthwhile experience for all.

Seven participants completed the course, taking their pledge and receiving certificates at our 2nd Annual Solidarity Awards.



The Solidarity Volunteers make the Palms Pledge

### Palms Encounters: Timor-Leste

Encounters to Timor Leste were held in July 2013 and May 2014, both again led by Pollyanna Forshaw, who volunteered with Palms in Baucau, Timor-Leste, 2003-05. The May Encounter hosted 8 Development Studies undergraduates from Australian Catholic University. Catherine Mitchell, one of the ACU participants writes-

*'Roaming around the country in a troopy carrier, we visited the Palms volunteers in their placements. The encounter opened my eyes to the practical side to what has been drilled into us by our lecturers. The concepts of solidarity and sustainability were rife in the experience, and I finally understood how significant it is to understand and develop relationships. Development should not be done for the people, but with the people, and therefore cannot be done in a short timeframe. ... Although I have previously travelled extensively throughout Asia, my experience on the Palms Australia Encounter has increased my passion and motivation for a career in this field and I have been lucky enough to become a part of the Palms Australia team as an Intern.'*

# SUMMARISED FINANCIAL REPORT 2013-2014

## 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     | BComm,<br>BA (Psych & Media),<br>MPACS,<br>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,<br>Grad. Dip. Ed.,<br>M. Ed.   | Executive Director at Palms Australia, and former Palms' volunteer in Western Samoa   |
| Robert Coady        | 1 July 2009         | CPA,<br>MBA   | Contract Accountant and volunteer teacher, and former Palms' volunteer in the Republic of Kiribati  |
| Greg Browne         | 1 July 2009         | B Econ,<br>MBA,<br>CA   | An accountant and former Palms' volunteer in Papua New Guinea   |
| Antony Faa          | 22 October 2011     | BMedSc.,<br>MBBS.,  | Senior Medical Officer at Warwick Hospital, and former Palms' volunteer in Papua New Guinea   |
| Nichole Georgeou    | 22 October 2011     | BA,<br>MA,<br>Ph.D. on international volunteering, Honorary Research Fellow,<br>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,<br>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,<br>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),<br>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 2014 please contact Palms Australia on +612 9518 9551.

**PALMS AUSTRALIA**

(A Company limited by guarantee)

A.C.N.

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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2014**

| CONTINUING OPERATIONS  | NOTE | 2014             | 2013             |
|--|------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>REVENUE</b>   |      |                  |                  |
| Donations & Gifts  |      |                  |                  |
| Monetary   |      | 222,228          | 197,224          |
| Non-monetary   |      | 0                | 0                |
| Bequests and Legacies  |      | 0                | 10,000           |
| Grants   |      |                  |                  |
| AusAID   |      | 0                | 198,582          |
| Other Australian   |      | 78,500           | 58,500           |
| Investment Income  |      | 33,058           | 50,049           |
| Other Income   |      | 144,333          | 98,266           |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>   |      | <b>478,119</b>   | <b>612,621</b>   |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>   |      |                  |                  |
| International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure   |      |                  |                  |
| International Programs   |      |                  |                  |
| Funds to international programs  |      | 391,615          | 477,234          |
| Program support costs  |      | 14,054           | 21,310           |
| Community Education  |      | 45,586           | 75,811           |
| Fundraising Costs  |      |                  |                  |
| Public   |      | 5,828            | 20,838           |
| Government, multilateral and private   |      | 0                | 0                |
| Accountability and Administration  |      | 74,091           | 65,204           |
| Non-Monetary Expenditure   |      | 0                | 0                |
| <b>Total International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure</b>  |      | <b>531,175</b>   | <b>660,397</b>   |
| Domestic Programs Expenditure  |      | 51,638           | 38,054           |
| Loss on Sale of Asset  |      | 0                | 3,328            |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>   |      | <b>582,813</b>   | <b>701,779</b>   |
| <b>EXCESS / (SHORTFALL) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURE</b>  |      | <b>(104,693)</b> | <b>(89,158)</b>  |
| During this financial year, the organisation had no transactions in the International Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs and other overseas grant categories. |      |                  |                  |
|  |      |                  |                  |
|  |      | 2014             | 2013             |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>  |      |                  |                  |
| Cash and cash equivalents  |      | 79,961           | 57,334           |
| Trade and other receivables  |      | 12,700           | 11,001           |
| Prepayments  |      | 55,660           | 1,363            |
| Other  |      | 7,659            | 5,151            |
| <b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>  |      | <b>155,980</b>   | <b>74,849</b>    |
| <b>NON - CURRENT ASSETS</b>  |      |                  |                  |
| Property, Plant & Equipment  |      | 17,190           | 20,331           |
| Other financial assets   |      | 806,642          | 1,021,897        |
| <b>TOTAL NON- CURRENT ASSETS</b>   |      | <b>823,832</b>   | <b>1,042,228</b> |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>  |      | <b>979,812</b>   | <b>1,117,077</b> |
| <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>   |      |                  |                  |
| Trade and other payables   |      | 16,509           | 26,330           |
| Revenue Received In Advance  |      | 0                | 3,545            |
| Provisions   |      | 36,554           | 50,180           |
| <b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>   |      | <b>53,063</b>    | <b>80,055</b>    |
| <b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>   |      |                  |                  |
| Provisions   |      | 45,104           | 53,840           |
| <b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>   |      | <b>45,104</b>    | <b>53,840</b>    |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>   |      | <b>98,167</b>    | <b>133,895</b>   |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>  |      | <b>881,645</b>   | <b>983,182</b>   |
| <b>EQUITY</b>  |      |                  |                  |
| Reserves   |      | 8,321            | 5,164            |
| Retained Earnings  |      | 873,324          | 978,017          |
| <b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>  |      | <b>881,645</b>   | <b>983,182</b>   |

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.

**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 the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

**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<sup>th</sup> June 2014. 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 judgement, 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<sup>th</sup> June 2014 complies with accounting standard AASB 1039 *Financial Reports* and presents fairly the financial position of Palms Australia as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014 and the results of its operation for the year then ended.



B.A SIMMS, ACIS  
Registered Company Auditor  
2527

Date: 30th Sept. 2014

**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 2014 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  
Roger O'Halloran  
Executive Director



Benjamin Oh  
Director  
Benjamin Oh  
Director

Sydney  
04-Sep-14



# Palms Australia

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ABN: 33 001 882 337

**Palms Australia** is a public company (ACN 001 882 337) limited by guarantee whose legal structure is voluntary, not-for-profit and non-government. We are committed to living up to our values in all that we do. We value honest feedback, or any critique you might have about the way our team have implemented the Palms program.

If necessary our Executive Director or President can be contacted in confidence, using our secure web form located at <http://www.palms.org.au/about/contact-us/>.