

# HopeNET



## Hopenet Reports at AGM- David Hoffman

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### Chairperson's AGM Report – August 2015 David Hoffman

Hope Mission Network includes 60 congregations ranging from the South East to the West Coast. The majority are rural or regional and many are without paid ministry. Our priority and main purpose is to support member congregations as they express the presence of Jesus Christ in worship, witness and mission in their local communities. The most direct way in which this is done is through our Field Minister, Rev Ian Clarkson. Ian's ministry of encouragement, resourcing, teaching and preaching is a wonderful source of refreshment and exhortation. If you haven't done so already, please consider how Ian's ministry might help your congregation grow in faith and mission, and invite him to come and visit you.

There are four opportunities each year for us to gather as a whole Network and fellowship together.

1. The annual Ministers/Pastors and Spouses Retreat (mid-May) – this year again held on Kangaroo Island. This was again an important time of refreshment and support for these congregational leaders and our grateful thanks are offered for the generosity of our hosts.
2. Presbytery/Synod Gatherings (x2) – held on the Friday evenings of Synod immediately prior to the start of Synod (June/July Synod) or during the meal break (October/November Synod). These aren't just for Synod Rep's. I encourage someone from every HopeNet congregation to come along. As we share our stories of how the Spirit of God is moving in individual lives, in ministry activities, in healings or conversion experiences, there's a sense a rising joy of shared hope for the strengthening of the life and witness of our congregations.
3. Stir the Fire Annual Conference and AGM

In the past 12 months the HopeNet Executive has continued to engage on your behalf with the issue of same-sex marriage: distributing information to congregations; encouraging emails to our politicians; engaging further with the Moderator regarding the use of the UCA

name in the Gay Pride March; and attending a meeting with the Moderator and representatives of Friends of Unity (a gay lobby group within the Uniting Church).

We were also delighted that a number of HopeNet people were elected to attend Assembly. We also represented the interests of HopeNet congregations in further meetings with Presbytery/Synod relating to the 'Changing Landscapes Report' and the 'Rural and Regional Review'. We are continuing discussions with the Presbytery Pastoral Relations/Mission Planning Team (PRMPT) in an effort to better integrate our activities

I would like to again thank the members of the HopeNet Executive Committee for their commitment to the congregations of the Hope Mission Network and for the support I have received in my role as Chair. We are here to serve you, the Hope Mission Network Congregations and invite you to contact us if there is any way that we can help you as you embody the mission of God to your part of the world. Grace and peace to you. David

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