

Catalyst For Renewal Incorporated
2020 Annual Report to Members by the Executive Committee
May 2021

On behalf of your Committee I am pleased to present our report for the 2020 year.

The members of the Executive Committee at the date of this report are:

Bob Birchall	President
Catherine Hammond	Vice-President NSW
John Stuart	Vice-President Vic
Gay Walsh	Secretary
Richard McLachlan	Treasurer
Margaret Goggin	Committee Member
Julie Thorpe	Committee Member
Carmel Vanny	Committee Member

Pauline O'Neil attends our meetings by invitation.

The Executive Committee met six times during 2020. This was the year of the global Covid-19 pandemic and a challenging year for many church and charitable organisations, including Catalyst. In March 2020 we commenced our program for the year with meetings of some SIP groups, our Reflection Mornings at Hunters Hill and Lawson and a dinner at Hunters Hill. Due to public health orders, our program was then suspended. Late in the year the Lawson Reflection Mornings were able to recommence with limited numbers and a Covid-safe plan. No other face to face events were able to proceed.

However the emergence of internet video conferencing tools enabled us to keep meeting. This proved particularly important for our Victorian members who experienced long periods when face to face meetings were not possible. In the middle of the year, the Paddington SIP group was able to recommence its program under the banner of Spirituality on the Sofa – meetings in the format of SIP held online using the Zoom. These meetings were hosted from Port Macquarie by Susan Eichorn to whom we express appreciation. The format was successful with about 230 people joining the October conversation. We will continue to innovate in the online space in 2021.

The work of Catalyst is largely conducted in our Committees as well as in general meetings of members that occur four times per year in NSW and monthly in Victoria. We are blessed to have Committee members who are rich in the charism of Catalyst, enthusiastic and diligent. Although the pandemic continues, with relaxed public health orders now in place, the committees have recommenced their work and a program of events for 2021 is in place and underway. The generous service of committee members ensures the success of our program year after year and we are grateful for their commitment.

Despite the challenges of 2020 we are able to report a small financial surplus. This is largely due to the continued support of our donors for whose loyalty we are truly thankful

Catalyst is about engagement in life-giving conversation that has the power to bring renewal in our hearts and in our church. We will continue in 2021 to create forums for rich conversation.

Bob Birchall
President
May 2021