

Item 7.1

	<p>FREE REFORMED SCHOOL ASSOC. (TAS.) INC. administering the JOHN CALVIN SCHOOL 49-53 Howick Street Launceston, Tas. 7250 Ph: 6344 3794, Email: board@jcs.tas.edu.au ABN No 32 415 227 180</p>
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Treasurer's Report to the FRSA (Tas) Inc for the Annual General Meeting on 31st March 2025

Prepared by Eric Bakker

Dear members of our School Association,

Please find attached the audited financials for 2024. In line with our strategic plan, our school is well funded and maintained, being able to pay our expenses as they arise with no major works required. This has enabled us to direct surplus funds towards our new school at 171 Westbury Road by way of large payments off our loan. God has blessed our school with staff, students and engagement from the association and these blessings are also financial as we close the financial year with cash at bank of \$553,361.

During the year the administration team have been extremely busy implementing the TASS program for our school. The Alpha School System (TASS) streamlines the school's processes with a web-based school management system. This has been a huge undertaking switching from our old system and MYOB to the various platforms available. We have utilised the programs full potential such as managing payroll, finance, administration, teaching and communication. As all reporting and communication is now on one platform, we have already seen improvements in efficiency. With any large operating change comes hurdles and minor problems but Karen and her team have worked hard behind the scenes to make this change as smooth as possible and we also thank the teachers and parents for your patience as this new system has been implemented.

Another milestone which you have recently read about in the Calvinist and Kings Bridge is the Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), completed and signed between the Free Reformed School Association and the Free Reformed Church Launceston. In essence the MOU is a written agreement outlining the steps to be taken with the sale of 53 Howick Street and subsequent move to 171 Westbury Road. This agreement eliminates the risk which was brought up at the SGM when voting to purchase 171 Westbury Road. The main

benefit for us as association is the possibility to commit surplus funds to paying down our loan reducing the principle while at the same time reducing our interest payments. Over the next few years, our focus will shift to preparing plans for our transition and development of the new school premises.

Money from government grants were below budget. The reduction comes from student numbers, our student wellbeing program and the change of assessment from addresses to income. We have a considerable number of students on this program who received funding, however an audit revealed our reporting processes were insufficient and so our funding was reduced. This issue has been resolved as the school has implemented a teacher with the sole purpose of planning and documenting for these students resulting in evidence of implementation. TASS has been an integral part in streamlining this documentation.

The fundraising figure of \$360 is from student-initiated projects at school. During the year the fundraising committee was active with highlights being the wedding expo and fun run. These moneys go straight into the building fund and therefore not recorded in the fundraising column. With all thanks to our Lord and Saviour we can look forward this year to celebrating 60 years of our FRSA. If you are excited to contribute, please reach out to our fundraising board member Courtney Graafland.

This past year we have also been able to make significant payments towards our loan. The statement of cash flows reflects \$1,750,000 reduction of borrowings. This year we reduced the loan with rent received after expenses from 171 Westbury Road. All funds from the building fund were also paid towards the loan as per the agreement. Since our discussions with the FRCL were progressing very positively in December 2024, regarding the MOU, it was decided to also pay \$500 000 from the school's funds. The positive flow on from these payments is reduced interest on the loan. The board would like to thank the continued work of John Van Asperen and the fundraising committee. As mentioned in their letter to the members of both the Launceston and Legana congregations recently, there is much to be thankful for, and also to our wider church bond for their huge support, while there is an ongoing need for pledges. Please give prayerful consideration how you can contribute.

The budget for this financial year 2025 is very similar to the previous year, with some reduced funding. Again our biggest expense is employment costs. The past year the board has made one member responsible for helping to assist the principal with seeking out potential staff and recruiting for our school. The Lord has blessed our endeavours, and we have a great complement of staff/teachers meaning we could split years, 3 and 4. We also have a full-time well-being position in the leadership team with no teaching hours. The rest of the leadership team also has reduced teaching time to commit their resources to planning and implementation of programs. The budget reflects these employment costs and after income and expenses we project a \$711,336 surplus. This surplus would be used to pay down our loan while maintaining a healthy cash at bank to account for any liabilities and payments required during the year. Surpluses will also be used to build up the provision for improvements to the new school building.

Attached to our finances is the proposed fee structure for this year. The board asks for approval from the association for a very minor increase to fees as stated in the documents. Factoring in rising costs during the year and our current financial situation and projected surplus, a minor increase is proposed.

We also ask the association to vote for approval to continue using Auditing and Accounting Solutions as our auditor. As we took on TASS mid last year and having the cross over with the old system it would be prudent to stay with our current auditor as he is aware of the intricacies of these changes.

We can be truly thankful for Gods goodness and provisions in the past year and pray for His ongoing blessings in the year ahead. May we rejoice in the 60 years of Reformed teaching at our John Calvin School.

Eric