49th National Conference
18th 20th 21st January 2020
Phillip Island, Victoria

Agenda & Reports
The Wesleyan Methodist Church
of Australia
49th National Conference
at Phillip Island Adventure Resort, COWES VIC

To the Delegates of the 49th National Conference

Greetings! I am pleased to have your attendance at the 2020 National Conference. It is a special event in the life of our denomination. It is a time of hearing reports and stories from around the country and to hear what God has been doing in our midst over the last four years and also capturing a vision of what He has for us in the next four years.

The theme of this Gathering is “Community in the midst of our Diversity.” It is to acknowledge that we are a diverse people, living in an increasingly diverse society, who are sharing in a depth of community that is formed and shaped from the message of redemption and transformation.

It is to say that every person is highly valued, for the story of the cross is a testimony of that truth. And out of that truth is the command to go and make disciples. (Matthew 28:19-20) Therefore, we have taken onboard the NATIONAL HEARTBEAT STATEMENT “We celebrate every time a disciple makes a disciple, and a church multiplies itself, until there is the transforming presence of Jesus Christ in every community throughout Australia.”

With this conviction, we are gathering together as children of the King, the Lord Jesus Christ. Our responsibility is to prepare ourselves to serve effectively as delegates which will require a careful reading of the reports throughout this Conference pack. There will be time for questions; however, it would be helpful to ask the appropriate people beforehand to give them time to gather any needed information to answer you effectively.

In light of the importance of this conference, I present to you the call to be in prayer that the outcomes and decisions will not be ours, but God’s. Pray that we will hear his voice to us, as a denomination. Additionally, I am calling us to pray for the unity of our mission and the unity of our fellowship, that Jesus will be seen in all we do and say. And as Jesus prayed, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. (John 17:21 ESV).

Added to this is Jesus’ words in John 13:34-35 (ESV): A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Together in Christ, we can make a difference.

Rev. Rex E Rigby
Table of Contents

ROLL OF DELEGATES ........................................................................................................... - 4 -
PROCEDURES ...................................................................................................................... - 6 -
WESLEYAN GATHERING DAILY SCHEDULE ................................................................. - 7 -
AGENDA 49th NATIONAL CONFERENCE ......................................................................... - 9 -
REPORTS:
REPORT OF THE NATIONAL SUPERINTENDENT ............................................................... - 11 -
REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT NATIONAL SUPERINTENDENT .......................................... - 17 -
REPORT OF THE NORTH QLD DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT ......................................... - 18 -
REPORT OF THE SOUTH QLD DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT ........................................... - 22 -
REPORT OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT ......................... - 25 -
REPORT OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT ........................................... - 30 -
REPORT OF THE NATIONAL TREASURER ........................................................................... - 32 -
REPORT OF THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF WORLD MISSIONS ...................................... - 38 -
REPORT OF NATIONAL DIRECTOR EVANGELISM & CHURCH GROWTH ...................... - 40 -
REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL KINGSLEY COLLEGE INC ................................................ - 41 -
REPORT OF THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR WESLEYAN WOMEN ...................................... - 44 -
REPORT OF THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR CLUB SOLO ...................................................... - 45 -
REPORT OF THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR CHILDREN’S MINISTRY .................................. - 47 -
REPORT OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICIAN ...................................................................... - 48 -
REPORT OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW .............................................................. - 52 -
REPORT OF THE ACTIONS NATIONAL BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION ........................... - 56 -
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR MEMORIALS .............................................................. - 64 -
REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE .................................................................... - 70 -
INTRODUCING THE NOMINEES ..................................................................................... - 73 -
NATIONAL STANDING RULES of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia ............ - 75 -
ROLL OF DELEGATES
To the 49th National Conference

Conference Co-Chair: Rev. Rex Rigby & Rev. Brett Jones

National Superintendent: Rev. Rex Rigby

Assistant National Superintendent: Rev. Dr. Lex Akers
Principal Kingsley Australia: Rev. Kevin Brown
Director Wesleyan Missions: Rev. Dallas Thomas
Director Evangelism & Church Growth: Rev. Troy Beer

National Board of Administration

Ministerial
Rev. 'Alefosio 'Ale
Rev. Rob Simpson
Rev. Heather Wright
Rev. Susan Lee

Lay
Jeff Adams
Sharyn Macdonald
Rose Richardson
Doug Ring

North Queensland District

Ministerial
Rev. Stuart Hall (D.S.)
Rev. Keith Rose
Rev. Bert Bunney

Lay
Lyndell Hall
Doris Graham
Myrtle Tilse
Alison Bunney
Bonnie Weston

South Queensland District

Ministerial
Rev. Rex Rigby (DS)
Rev. Lita Haufano
Rev. Graeme Carnell
Rev. Alan Brown
Rev. Brendan Edwards
Rev. Merryl Farmer
Pastor Nathan Bell
Rev. Heather Hall
Rev. Rodney Hall
Rev. Jay Knight
Rev. Gordon Kuss
Rev. Dr. Sifa Lokotui
Rev. Hulita Lokotui
Rev. Barry Reed
Rev. Pam Reed
Rev. Aisea Moala

Lay
Tina Adams
Heather Ring
Vicki Carnell
Frank Carroll
Karenne Brown
Ruth Thomas
John Mbangusi
Daniel Rigby
Deb Kuss
Warwick Stone
Kathy Whitfield
Shelley Bell
David Baker
Hana Seuao
Alaina Westaway
Mark Westaway
New South Wales District

Ministerial
Rev. Dr. Lex Akers (D.S.)
Rev. Richard Jackson
Rev. David Eco
Rev. Manny Pillay

Lay
Mary Pillay
Bridget Aitchison
Barry Sagar
Likaina Tupou

Southern District

Ministerial
Rev. Phil Hotchkin (D.S.)
Rev. Marco D’Angelo
Rev. Chris George
Rev. Anthony Kumitau
Rev. Jim Scott
Rev. Len Callhoun
Rev. Atu Finau
Rev. Dr. Peter Dobson
Rev. Iain McGill
Rev. Ben Sia
Rev. Judith Brown

Lay
Annette Dobson
Ofa Moala
James Ong
Karen Hotchkin
Ainise ‘Ale
Dale Richardson
Andrew Tyler
Julie Tyler
Helen Finau
Alicia D’Angelo
Kathy Pitkin-Liu
Milika Paseka

Solomon Islands

Ministerial
Rev. George Velopide (N.S.)

Lay

Non-Voting Delegates

Rev. Tom Blythe
Rev. Lindsay Cameron
* Mrs Annette Cameron
Rev. Melissa George
Rev. Steve Mitchell
Former National Superintendent
Former National Superintendent
National Director Wesleyan Women
National Director Children
National Director Club Solo

* Voting by other rights
PROCEDURES

Request to Speak: When you wish to address the Conference, stand and wait until the Chairman acknowledges you. Once acknowledged move to a microphone, state your name and District and proceed to make your point.

Courtesy Procedure: At all times you should direct your remarks to the Chairman and not to an individual delegate eg “Mr Chairman, the Treasurer should prepare a full statement of expenditure etc…”

Terms of Debate: At all times debate will be restricted to the content of a report before the house, or to a motion that has been written out on the form provided and delivered to the Secretary.

No delegate will be permitted to speak twice to a motion while there are others desiring to speak. Even then it will be at the Chairman’s discretion.

All other procedures will be in accordance with the Discipline 165-171 and Roberts Rules of Parliamentary Law.

Motions: To ensure accuracy of wording, if you are proposing a Motion, Amendment, Substitution, etc. please complete the Motion Form available from the Secretary. Thank you.

Questions: If you have a specific question to a Report, could you please complete the Question slip in the back of your Ballot Paper booklet and hand to the Secretary prior to commencement of the Session report is to be received.
# WESLEYAN GATHERING DAILY SCHEDULE

**Meal Times:**
- 7.45am Breakfast
- 10.30am Morning Tea
- 12.30pm Lunch
- 3.30pm Afternoon Tea
- 6.00pm Dinner
- 9.30pm Supper

Parents will need to ‘Sign In’ Children for each session and ‘Sign Out’ when picking them up. Please ensure children are picked up on time at the end of each session for meals and at the end of the day. For details of the Creche, Children’s, Youth and Young Adults’ programs refer to the Information Book in your Welcome Pack.

All Prayer meetings, Morning Devotions, National Conference and Evening Rallies shall be held in the Main Auditorium.

**Friday 17th**
- 5.00pm Registration
- 6.00pm Dinner
- 7.30pm Welcome Rally Speaker: Rev. Mike Hilson
- 9.30pm Supper

**Saturday 18th**
- 6.45am Prayer Meeting
- 7.45am Breakfast
- 9.00am Devotions Speaker: Rev. Dr Joanne Solis-Walker
- 9.30am Conference Session 1
- 10.30am Morning Tea
- 11.00am Conference Session 2
- 12.30pm Lunch
- 2.00pm National Women’s Conference Speaker: Rev. Mike Hilson
- 3.30pm Afternoon Tea
- 4.00pm National Women’s Conference continues Men/Family/Free time
- 5.00pm Free Time
- 6.00pm Dinner & Round Tables
- 7.30pm Evening Rally Speaker: Rev. Dr Joanne Solis-Walker
- 9.30pm Supper

**Sunday 19th**
- 6.45am Prayer Meeting
- 7.45am Breakfast
- 9.30am Missions & Kingsley Australia presentations
- 10.00am Morning Tea
- 10.10am Communion & Ordination Service - Love Offering Speaker: Rev. Dr Joanne Solis-Walker
- 12.30pm Lunch
- 2.00pm Free Time, Family activities
- 3.30pm Afternoon Tea
- 4.00pm Rally with Youth/Young Adult emphasis with Rev. Mike Hilson’s team
- 6.00pm Dinner
- 7.00pm Free Time
- 8.15pm Depart for Penguin Parade (at own expense, carpooling to be arranged)
- 9.30pm Supper
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<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
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<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>Evening Rally: Installation of Officers – Love Offering</td>
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**Bedrooms need to be packed, cleaned & vacated by 9am**

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<td>9.00am</td>
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Please listen for announcements for changes to the Schedule.
A more detailed program is in your Information Booklet.
AGENDA 49th NATIONAL CONFERENCE
Saturday 18th, Monday 20th & Tuesday 21st January 2020

Saturday 18th January

9:30am  Conference Convenes
Greetings from Church Leaders
Roll Call and Seating of Delegates
Adoption of Agenda
Election of sessional committees and officers (nominations from NBA)
Courtesy Committee

REPORTS OF NATIONAL OFFICERS:
National Superintendent  Rev. R. Rigby
Assistant National Superintendent  Rev. Dr. L. Akers

10:30 am  Morning Tea

11.00am  REPORTS DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS:
North Queensland  Rev. S. Hall
South Queensland  Rev. R. Rigby
New South Wales  Rev. Dr. L. Akers
Southern District  Rev. P. Hotchkin

REPORT NATIONAL TREASURER  Mrs. R. Richardson
Director World Missions  Rev. D. Thomas
Director Evangelism and Church Growth  Rev. T. Beer
Principal Kingsley College Inc.  Rev. K. Brown
Director Wesleyan Women’s Ministries  Mrs. A. Dobson
Director Club Solo Ministries  Rev. S. Mitchell
Director of Children’s Ministry  Mrs. M. George
Statistician  Mr. D. Ring
Board of Review Report

Conference Adjourns until Monday 20th

Monday 20th January

9:30 am  Roll Call
Courtesy Committee
Report of the Minutes Committee

Nominating Committee Report

Nominating Ballot – National Superintendent
Election – National Superintendent

10:30 am  Morning Tea

11.00am  NBA Actions
Nominating Ballot – Assistant National Superintendent
Election – Assistant National Superintendent.
Election of Officers

Conference Adjourns until Tuesday 21st

12:30 pm  Lunch

**Tuesday 21st January**

9:30 am  Roll Call
         Courtesy Committee
         Report of the Minutes Committee
         NBA Actions Continued
         Elections continued
         Committee on Memorials

10.30am  **Morning Tea**

11.00am  Elections continued
         Committee on Memorials continued

12.30 pm  Lunch

2.00 pm  Continuation of Elections if necessary
         Committee on Memorials continued

3:30 pm  **Afternoon Tea**

4.00pm  Committee on Memorials continued
         General Business

**Conference Adjourns**
REPORTS:

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL SUPERINTENDENT

Leadership is not a journey of one. Together by the power of God, we are making a difference.

Many Faithful People

There are many demands upon me as I serve in a variety of roles. These demands come with a price, not just for myself but also for my wife, Lien. While she at times struggles with sharing me with the church across the country and overseas, she remains my greatest supporter and encourager. Very few know how much of her heart and time is committed to praying for me and my ministry. I am continually seeing the fruit of her prayers.

Across the country we have faithful people making sacrifices, many of which are unseen. These sacrifices come from a heart of love for God and a desire to see people touched by the transforming presence of God. One of the privileges I have is travelling around to churches and hearing their stories. Our National Church is filled with many unsung heroes who are following in the footsteps of Christ.

As I consider the work of leadership, I have to acknowledge the leaders and support workers around me. There is the National Board, all of which bring something to the table of leadership. I want to highlight just a few of these key leaders. Rev. Dr Lex Akers, who is serving as the Assistant National Superintendent and who served as the Acting NS during my study leave. His wisdom and passion for leadership is crucial in our movement. Doug Ring, who serves tirelessly addressing many of the details of the business process of the National Board. I need to acknowledge Rose Richardson, who serves with several portfolios with the National church financial sector. She does this with grace, compassion and faith. Jeff Adams also serves in many ways beyond the allotted time. Jeff has been faithfully serving us in the area of compliance and been a personal help to me as we have been moving the church forward in this area. Others that I want to note that are not on the National Board is Kevin Brown who is serving as the Kingsley Australia Principal, Troy Beer serving on National Impulse as he has been seeking to consult with different churches across the country. I also need to acknowledge the faithful services of Claire Markotanyos, who serves as my personal assistant and as the Office Manager. While at times there are many demands placed upon her, she handles these demands with a high level of professionalism and grace. Another group I want to mention without stating their names are my closest prayer supporters. They pray into my life and ministry. I have also given them permission to speak into my life. I am blessed by the many that pray for me, and the results of those prayers are evident.

Some of the Highlights

I have attended all the district conferences in the previous four years. Logistically this has been a challenge, however the benefits have been worthwhile. The insights from these conferences are valuable and have given me a better understanding of the strengths and needs of each district. From September to the Gathering 2020 we have nine new Reverends added to our list. In the following year, I am expecting close to that number again.
The World Methodist Conference, Houston September 2016 was a positive experience, connecting with Methodists from around the world. It remains vital as we are seeing a continued influx of people with Methodist background arrive on our doorstep.

I have attended most of the New Zealand National Conferences and some other key events such as the Theological Symposium. My visits there have involved running workshops, seminars and presenting papers. Where I have not been able to attend, I have sent some of our other key leaders. It was exciting to visit Christchurch for the opening of their church. It was an acknowledgment of one of our own as the church planter of the church, Rev. Dr Clint Ussher. The Church plant also had the initial support of two families from Australia, the Fittells and the Wards. We now also have Rev. Kathy & Andrew Eddie serving in NZ. All this to note that our relationship with NZ is essential for mutual encouragement and development. They are our close neighbours. We have the critical opportunity to speak into each other’s lives.

Our other neighbours are also significant, such as the Solomon Islands and Bougainville, both of which I have attended and chaired their National Conferences.

I have had the privilege to travel to the International Conference in Barbados. The conference was inspiring as we shared with Wesleyans from around the world, learning that we are now in 100 countries. The theme “From everywhere to everywhere” is a challenge for all of us as we consider the next step of missional endeavours beyond our shores. At our International Conference in 2015, I heard Rev. Dr Joanne Solis-Walker speak and was inspired by her message. Then at the International Conference in Barbados, I had the opportunity to connect. Meeting her again was providential in arranging her to come and share with us at our 2020 Gathering.

I am looking forward to what God has in store for us through her ministry.

The many stories of God at work
It remains a blessing to travel around the country hearing local stories. There is no doubt that God is at work. We see Him in the small yet powerful connections that come across our path. We see Him in the painful moments when all we can do is to fall back into His arms with a heart of dependence. He is there working out His purposes, even when we are struggling to see Him. As I have travelled around the country, I have seen God at work. However, there is a yearning for more of Him, for more of His transforming presence impacting our communities. I am thankful for the opportunity to speak at many of the special events and Sunday services. I remain open to visit wherever and whenever I can.

Over the past quadrennial we have seen many new works started. There have been some open doors among several ethnic groups. In South Queensland, in the past four years, we have gone from one Mandarin ministry to five. At our 2019 SQ Conference we had our first Chinese minister ordained in Qld, Mrs Ruth Liao. We have also had two new Filipino churches begin, one in Sydney and one in Melbourne. We have also seen an influx of Central Africans join our Church, begin new Churches and more that appear interested in joining us. At the moment we have about 400 added to our numbers in Cairns, Townsville, Logan, Forest Lake, Toowoomba and Darwin. In September I had the privilege of officially starting an Indigenous fellowship in Wulkabimirri, Arnhem Land with about 50 people. We are having conversations with other communities nearby. This work has come out of the ministry of Pastors Aisea & Elisiva Moala. Added to these are the development of campus type ministries from Yeppoon, Gympie, Toowoomba and the possibility of one at Maryborough. Together by the power of God, we are making a difference.
A personal & outward Journey
I am committed to some qualities that impact who I am and what I do in this journey of leadership.

1. I am committed to building teams and working through them.
My style of leadership has been to work with the boards. I continue to encourage our pastors to do this also. I am not an authoritarian leader; I am a team player. As I have often said, I lead through relationships. A statement that I usually make is that “together we can make a difference”. While I fully accept my responsibility to undertake effective governance of people and activities within the Wesleyan Methodist Church, I also expect that others will be accountable to me for their duties. My accountability to the National Conference is carried out through a servant leadership style that focusses on the support of our teams to achieve the Great Commission.

2. I am committed to receiving ongoing professional mentoring.
I have employed a professional mentor, Dr Rick Lewis, who mentors and teaches around the world. He has also written books and papers related to this subject. He is from outside the Wesleyan Methodist Church, an ordained minister from the Church of Christ. He journeys with me and speaks into my life. We have been meeting every month for over five years.

3. I am committed to learning from the observation of those around me.
There are things that I cannot see that others can. As Socrates stated, “the unexamined life is not worth living.” But maybe Charles H. Spurgeon said it better, “Thorough examination will do the healthy no harm, and it may bless the sick.”

At the end of 2016, I requested that a confidential questionnaire be distributed to the DBA and the NBA and the office workers. Rev. Dr Peter Dobson, as the Assistant NS, oversaw this process and compiled the results for me to work on with the help of my mentor. It aimed to gain a better view of my strengths and weaknesses and to see some of the holes in my leadership style that may not be evident to me. I believe that this was the first time a review of an NS or a DS had ever been carried out. I say all this to show that I am highly committed to my personal development and that I have been open to others speaking into my life. Those that know me know that I work hard at listening. God is at work in my life, I have much to learn, and I continue to put the effort in to make that happen.

4. I am committed to ongoing study and research.
I am not an academic in the full sense of the word. However, I have been on a journey to complete my Doctor of Ministry studies to refine my skills around the topic of social cohesion within the multicultural church context. It is my aim that this enables me to lead our church forward as we face the challenges of ministry within a highly diverse society.

5. I am committed to building and utilising a prayer support team around me.
I have a deep sense that people are praying for me. I see this in God taking the small loaves and fishes that I have and multiplying them for His purposes and glory. I love the verse that says in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (ESV) “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”
6. **I am committed to the journey of walking with Jesus, becoming like him.**
I have much to learn, but I am on a journey of personal growth, of walking with Jesus, and as John the Baptist said, John 3:30 (ESV) *He must increase, but I must decrease.*”

7. **I am committed to raising the bar of our competence.**
God deserves our best, and more than ever, the world is watching. Therefore, I have been calling our pastors to a higher level of professionalism in such things as governance, accountability, compliance and personal behaviour. I have been working on increasing my level of professionalism, as well. I would add that we are on a journey, and in truth, we have come a long way in my time as a National Superintendent.

- There was no specialised compliance person in either the National or the SQ District before I took office in the District and in the National church.
- I started in the SQ District by saying to the DBA that we can’t afford a full-time position, however, let’s start paying someone half a day a week that we can work towards increasing this in time.
- The District and National office for most of the last 30+ years has functioned out of home offices. This was out of a necessity and a lack of funds. In my term, I have worked with the National and District Boards to set in place a District and National Office that would better serve the church. We have added to this a full-time administration staff and personal assistant.

In all this, I want to say we have come a long way. And I want to commend the faithfulness of our people. However, we do not wish to become complacent; we have a lot more to do in the ongoing journey of developing effective competences.

**NATIONAL HEARTBEAT STATEMENT**
I am thankful to Troy who helped to formulate this statement:

“We celebrate every time a disciple makes a disciple, and a church multiplies itself until there is the transforming presence of Jesus Christ in every community throughout Australia.”

Through the process of some grassroots strategies, we are working on ways to realise our desire to have disciples making disciples. We have been speaking to this at our pastor’s conferences across the country. Rev. Milk Hilson and his team have invested heavily in empowering us in this area. Troy has given himself to this also. Let’s take the opportunities that are in front of us.

I do want to say to our leaders that the journey of growth and learning never ends. One of the ways we can develop, is to learn from those around us. As I write this, I am noticing the trees out of my office window. They have not experienced much rain, but the leaves are still green because their roots go down deep drawing from the moisture and nutrients in the soil. As leaders, we need to be drawing not from the shallows but from the depths around us. Therefore, I am calling all of us to remain observant, hungry and teachable, keeping our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus, as scripture calls us in Heb 12:2 (ESV) “looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.” It is a look that learns from our own experiences and from the experiences of others. It is a look of a dedicated student who is intensely focused on the master teacher. It is a look of love to the one that laid down his life for us. It is the look of confidence that He who began the work in us will carry it on to completion, as Philippians 1:6 says.
Our strategies focus

- **To be grounded by Love.**
  We must understand our historical message of holiness that is captured in the phrase, “until there is the transforming presence of Jesus Christ in every community throughout Australia.” It is a call to a lifestyle of discipleship from one who is committed to being a disciple, a follower of Jesus. Holiness is not a journey devoid of loving our neighbour. Romans 13:9-10 (ESV) *For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.”* Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. The holiness message that we proclaim is a message that impacts our relationships with others which is at the core of the transforming presence of Christ. Therefore, this is a work that God does in our lives as we avail ourselves of the power and presence of Christ.

- **To be strengthened by support.**
  We are working on bringing together several specialists around the area of Church health that will be available to visit our leaders, boards and churches. Most of these specialists are people that are doing it within own Wesleyan Methodist Church context. At times it may mean drawing some expertise from outside our ranks.

- **To be placed by empathy.**
  To relate with other cultures and ethnic groups requires an empathy that places ourselves in their shoes. As we find ourselves placed in diverse communities, I want to help equip our church to develop an empathy that works at understanding the diversity of our communities. In doing so, we can find clarity in how to open doors to the transforming presence of Christ.

  A specialist area that I am working on is in social cohesion, within the multicultural church context. I long to see us build better church communities that join together, celebrate and nurture our ethnic and cultural diversities.

  A few questions that we need to pursue are:
  1. Does our church reflect the face of our communities?
  2. Do we understand that there may be untapped ripe mission fields on our doorstep?
  3. How do we empower our churches in ministry across the cultural divide?

  One of my concerns is for what we call Third Culture Kids, particularly those that have parents who were born overseas, or they were born abroad, however, they came here at a young age. They have the culture of their home, the culture of the present society that they are living in, and they have a personal culture that is a mixture of both. I want to come alongside these young people, their churches and their parents to help them navigate the journey that often leaves them confused, frustrated and forces them to ask the question, where do I fit? This is the journey of my life, living between the Aboriginal culture, the Western culture and finding myself somewhere in the middle. I guess mine is a little more complexed being married to a Vietnamese wife.

  Another import part of addressing the issues of cultural diversity and the multicultural churches is what can we do together to seize the opportunities that God has given us in ministering to the indigenous people of Australia, my people? The need is vast and complex, but our God is greater, and there appears to be doors that are opening before us.
**A word for the Church**

We are on the verge of taking an important next step in the life of our church. It is with this in mind that I present to you a call from Paul to Timothy, that is a call for us from God.

2 Timothy 1:6-7 (ESV) *For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.*

You have gifts that God has given you, that some of you have allowed to nearly go out. Perhaps there is smoke, but there is not necessarily fire. However, the call from God to us today is to fan these gifts into flames. But the question is, how? The answer is in these verses. It implies that we should use them and not allow fear to hold us back. The word fear here in the Greek is closely related to cowardice, a cowardice that holds us back from moving forward. In contrast to that, there is a power that we can experience. It is the power of God that is ours to get the job done. We need this power before we move forward. As God spoke to Zerubbabel, in Zechariah 4:6 (ESV) *Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.* This is the word of God for the Wesleyan Methodist Church today.

Then finally 2 Timothy 1:7 goes on to say, God has given us, also *a spirit of love and self-control.*

O that we would realise the love that God has given us. An agape love that comes from the Father himself, a love that motivates us, a love that impacts everything we do, a love that touches everybody we come across, that changes the communities that God has placed us in. We do this with a spirit of self-control that comes from God. It is a self-control that stops us from being all over the place, or ineffective because we are struggling with the basic disciplines of life.

- Together by the power of God, we are making a difference.
- Together by the power of God, we are making disciples that are making disciples.
- Together by the power of God, we are a part of churches that multiply themselves.
- Together by the power of God, we are seeing the transforming presence of Jesus spread from one community to the next.

Rev. Rex E. Rigby
National Superintendent
REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT NATIONAL SUPERINTENDENT

Mr Chairman and Delegates,

In May 2018 at the NBA meeting I was elected as the Assistant National Superintendent to replace Rev. Dr. Peter Dobson who resigned to take up further responsibilities around the home and with his local church. I am thankful for the confidence placed in me by the members of the NBA and I have willingly served in assistance to Rev. Rex Rigby up to the present.

As a part of my role as the Assistant National Superintendent, I have had to deal with some significant issues facing the National Church. As the point person for these issues I had to attend meetings, coordinate responses and supply material for the NBA in order for it to make decisions about how to proceed. While this responsibility was weighty and occasionally stressful, I served to the best of my professional ability and believe that we now have a satisfactory outcome.

When Rex took 16 weeks study leave during the year I was appointed as the Acting National Superintendent and continued to undertake extra responsibilities as they were handed to me. I have great respect for Rev. Rex Rigby and the role that he undertakes. He is a good and godly leader, and I have done my best to serve him and the church in this role to repay the honour given to me. As a part of this responsibility I chaired the November meeting of the NBA.

I wish to include here my high regard for the members of the NBA. These hard working men and women serve the church with self-sacrifice, skill, diligence and faithfulness. They wrestle with difficult issues and bring wisdom and godly insight. I am humbled to serve alongside these faithful servants of God.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Dr. Lex Akers
Assistant National Superintendent
REPORT OF THE NORTH QLD
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Developing Leadership Pathways

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from
God and not from us. 2 Corinthians 4:7 (NIV)
Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. 1 Corinthians 11:1 (NIV)

We Celebrate

- Disciples making disciples.
- Churches multiplying themselves - the planting of three new entities (1 church and
two extension campuses)
- Congratulations for reaching Provisional Status membership requirements as a
District – increased membership from 181 to 204! (Approved at November NBA)
- The Ordination of Pastor Ken Wilson at our District Conference
- 5 pastors who have served 25+ years: Rev. Lindsay Enderby; Rev. Joanne Enderby;
Rev. Vivyenne Manderson; Rev. Hugh Cameron and Rev. Stuart Hall
- The arrival of Pastor Kenneth and Janette Rutherford with their adult children
- 2 more licensed ministers
- 17 saved, 14 baptized, 106 in Sunday School (+9), 78 at Children’s Club (+46!)

District Conference

77 people, travelling up to 7 hours/620km from across NQ gathered to CELEBRATE the
above. We were blessed to have Tammy Susnjara who challenged us in Developing
Leadership Pathways; identifying, developing, empowering and releasing leaders; N.S.
Rev. Rex Rigby who challenged us to decide who will call the shots in our lives, our
ministries and our churches; D.S. Rev. Stuart Hall who called us back to this “One Thing”,
to KNOW Christ, personally, powerfully and persistently; and John Steenhof, Lawyer, of
The Human Rights Law Alliance law firm, who helped us to understand with greater clarity
what is happening in our nation concerning freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
A sobering reminder to be salt and light, while we are able.

Highschool and children’s programs made this an excellent time for the whole family and
we were blessed to welcome two Congolese refugee Pastors, who are now under our
DBMD.

Church Planting

Our Conference was excited to approve the support of $28,000 for our Church Planting
Partners, assisting Pastor Neels Prinsloo one day per week at Mackay (operating as a
campus of Yeppoon WMC), Rev. David Robertson half a day per week at Elliot Springs
(planted this year from Townsville WMC), and continued projects at Cairns and
Woorabinda. We are praying for more church plants to spring up in the next twelve
months.
With a vision of seeing new churches planted comes the need for earnest prayer for pastoral supply, establishing of these churches and for funding. The District took the initiative this year of producing a church planting video for use in the churches. It is our vision that every church member in our District would become a Church Planting Partner, supporting our new works in prayer and in finances. Partner cards have been printed and are available for each of the churches. There is good feedback from the new church plants via their Facebook pages and through the recent Church Planting Video. To close Capital this year was disappointing. Our prayers go with Rev. Hugh Cameron and his family.

**Ministerial Training**

**Certificate IV Training** – It is encouraging to see a rise in the number of lay people undertaking ministry courses and in the number of ministerial students plus several African refugees beginning the process of transferring their credentials. Courses are available through several options. Local courses have been running in Townsville, Yeppoon, and through other centres via zoom. These courses are readily available, and I encourage each church running a course to advertise it, so that students from other locations can participate.

**Connecting the Called** was held immediately after District Conference with 16 people in all: Townsville (9); Sarina (3); Mackay (1); Yeppoon (2); Speaker – Rev. Dr Don Hardgrave, who shared 7 leadership sessions from the life of Joshua, and I shared one session of effective and practical discipleship principles. Sarina WMC was encouraged by the event on their property and were excited to have their new toilet block functional for the guys who slept in tents.

This tool was designed to awaken and refresh the call to those whom God has called to ministry. Last year the theme was broadened to consider the importance of leadership, which was well received. Pastor Don Hardgrave was scheduled again for this year, but needed to withdraw for health reasons, so it comes as a time to reassess the focus for this ministry tool, and consider how we might bridge the gap between the initial call that is often received when younger, most especially at our High School camps and the time of stepping into ministerial training. I believe we need to continue to expose young people to the stories of our pastors and missionaries, how God has called them into ministry of various kinds.

**Pastors’ and Spouses Retreat**

This year Rev. Mike & Tina Hilson with Jordon & Becca Ryskamp visited Australia, sharing at each District Pastors gathering. They shared some practical tools to help us evaluate and focus our ministries with activities that were more in line with our givings and that connected with people more effectively. A number of Pastors reported that this was beneficial. While this year’s retreat was a unique teaching opportunity with minimal expense, getting time off work is still a significant issue for many of our pastors and spouses. Spouses, we also plan to better engage with you at our next retreat in February 2020.

**Prayer**

Without it we do not do well. Our thanks to Kerryn McClintock for weekly prayer text messages. I am grateful to all those who took part in the 21 days of Prayer leading up to District Conference. Each church, district ministry and Conference element was prayed for.
One Mob Fellowship
I have made four visits to Woorabinda since Christmas; preaching twice, including at the AGM; follow-up regarding property with Bert Bunney; meeting with the Council CEO and Church Planting Video production with Jared Bell. I have sought primarily to encourage with the Word, support them administratively and to help them with their property development. It was particularly encouraging to see 5 teens give their hearts to the Lord while I was there in January, and to hear of the follow-up.

I am grateful to Pastor Keith Rose who has been promoting a monthly visit of Wesleyan Pastors to Woorabinda as a means to support and connect them more strategically to our District. Thank you to those pastors who have travelled out to Woorabinda and invested into their lives.

Congolese Ministries
Over the past twelve months there has been a large intake of African refugees in both Cairns, Townsville and other regional centres. Townsville WMC and now Cairns WMC have welcomed many families. Many of these are people with a similar Christian heritage, but a different culture and we are privileged to minister to them. It is encouraging to see two Congolese pastors, Charles Amani and Lweya Sadiki transferring into the WMC.

Challenges include learning English, getting car licenses, education and getting jobs. These two churches in particular are exploring ways to help them integrate. Worship is difficult in another language and culture. Townsville Congolese members have made many trips to Cairns to welcome new families, whom they have known in Africa. There is clearly some value in networking between these various locations. Other Wesleyan churches with Congolese communities include Darwin and Toowoomba.

We can expect more refugees in more centres, so we need to consider how to help them in both the long-term as well as short-term.

Administration

DBA Meetings
“Zoom” meetings have reduced the budget, as well as reduced the time for travel, utilizing the two hubs of Rockhampton and Townsville for some meetings. Some meetings continue to be face to face. Journals have been produced for 2016 to the present thanks to Rev Bert Bunney. I have appreciated Kathryn Cameron and now Janette Rutherford in their role as District Secretary.

Ministry Application Plans
Under the broader topic of professional development, each pastor has been encouraged to develop a Ministry Application Plan that considers their particular strengths and weaknesses, ministry demands and opportunities. This is a difficult task, but one that can focus the sacrificial efforts being made by pastors into more rewarding outcomes personally and ministry-wise. Thank you to those pastors who have put in the hard yards. God will bless you for it.

Looking Ahead
From my observation and experience, the leaders who develop longevity, vision and fruit are those who have been discipled. I believe that every one of us who aspires to do great things for God needs to have a higher level of accountability to prevent burning, sinning,
or “vegging” out. This is the most basic function in the church, which must not be neglected.

The second level of fruitfulness is achieved by **multiplying churches**. Like any pregnancy, this is always a stretch, and when birthed, calls for strategic follow-up. We must not leave our new churches without support and follow-up. The idea of planting churches needs to become part of the DNA of every church, even from its infancy. The Lord’s timing is vital; it often happens before we think that we are ready.

**Training opportunities** need to be functioning at every level, for lay people of all ages and also for those following a call to equip the saints with APEST (Ephesians 4:11) gifting. I am excited that local churches can equip their people through TSM and Kingsley Community even if they have only one student. Let us recognise, train up and release people into leadership, which is vital for the churches that will be planted. Let’s keep people’s call alive by giving them opportunity to serve and gain experience. “Use them or lose them” applies here.

There is some scope here for churches with particular strengths to offer short-term internships / traineeships for those whose churches are limited by size and resources, to equip their leaders for greater effectiveness.

Just stating our National Heartbeat makes my heart beat faster:

**We celebrate every time a disciple makes a disciple, and a church multiplies itself, until there is the transforming presence of Jesus Christ in every community throughout Australia**

And adding some defining elements:

1. **God’s Word** is our instruction: 2 Timothy 3:16
2. **The Holy Spirit** is our teacher: John 14:26
3. **Passionate Prayer** unlocks God’s power: Philippians 4:6-7
4. **The Character of Christ** is our goal: Ephesians 4:12-13
5. **The Local Church** is our team: Ephesians 4:11-13
6. **The Community** is where I serve with others: Acts 1:8
7. **Perfect Love** is our DNA: John 13:34-35; Romans 5:5; 1John 4:18

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Stuart Hall
REPORT OF THE SOUTH QLD DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
Psalms 121:1-2 (ESV)

God is at work, we are growing.
Teamwork is one of the keys to our growth. Therefore, I want to begin by saying that I am surrounded by many faithful and gifted people. There are people serving on the District Board, in District Leadership and around me in the office such as Claire, Gordon, Jeff, and Rob. I am continually inspired by the level of commitment of these leaders and the leaders across the district. A big thankyou to Jake Gerber, Gordon Kuss, Alan Brown and Rod and Heather Hall for their hard work as Zone Supervisors. The level of sacrifice by our pastors and leaders is also noteworthy. Yet together as God enables us, we are making a difference.

Growth
As a district, we are continuing to move forward. When I started as District Superintendent of South Queensland, the district for the previous 20 years remained around 32 churches and pioneer fellowships. From that point with due acknowledgment of the cultural change brought about by those who serve before me, we give glory to God that we have reported 46 churches and pioneer fellowships at our last district conference. Most of these churches have been mono-ethnic in nature. It is my desire that we would see an increase in multi-ethnic churches that match the cultural context of their local communities. As we continue, we do need to see more significant development in making disciples and as some rightfully say disciples that make disciples. While we have seen a lot happen in our district, I feel these are still early days in our development for we have a lot more to do. Another sign of growth has been the continued ordinations and commissioning, and at our last conference, we had seven more people join those numbers. Next year is also looking very promising. Together as God enables us, we are making a difference.

Doctoral study leave
I am thankful for the opportunity to take fifteen weeks from a collection of holidays, long service and time without pay to concentrate on my research. While I still have some work to do to see my Doctor of Ministry completed, I have broken the back of the required work. But it remains a juggling act to finish it. It is an important journey that I pray will impact the church as we continue to come to terms with life and ministry across the ethnic and cultural divides.

Key Events:
- District Pastors, Spouses and Leaders Conference
- Visiting and speaking in the churches
- Problem solving and conflict resolution
- Giving counsel to pastors and leaders
- Exploring new church plants and possible leaders
- Involvement with the heads of churches
I have been working with the heads of churches to retain Religious Instruction in our state schools. Also, we are working together to maintain our religious freedom. While it appears that we are in danger of losing ground, God is sovereign. While the world gets mixed messages from the different denominations today, it is still important that our voice as the Wesleyan Methodist Church is heard in this space. We need to be reminded that a part of our history as Wesleyan Methodists is acts of compassion and social reform. Our country needs a voice that speaks up for the poor, the broken, the downtrodden and the refugee. This voice has to be more than words. As Jesus reminds us, *For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.* Matt 25:35-36 (ESV).

**District Ministries**

Three of the key ministries of our district and their associated events are the Young Adults Camp, the High School Camp and the Women’s Retreat. All of these have had a profound impact upon our people. I am grateful for the hard work of the leaders and the supporters of these ministries. In the months and years ahead, we will continue to see the fruit of these ministries. The Children’s ministry is also an important part of the overall picture that we are working on.

**Multiplying Churches**

A part of the funding of Multiplying Churches goes towards helping to support the work of National Impulse. Troy remains in this ministry and is available to assist and consult across the district. I would encourage you to connect with Troy and see where he might be able to help you. I am committed to seeing us together fulfil the National Heartbeat statement, ‘We celebrate every time a disciple makes a disciple, and a church multiplies itself, until there is the transforming presence of Jesus Christ in every community throughout Australia’.

The funding for Multiplying Churches is stretched. But we are seeing some new works with Oxley Samoan, Central African congregations and Ramingining in Arnhem Land, NT. Added to these is the Chinese Mandarin-speaking ministry at Axis which now means we have five Chinese Mandarin speaking ministries/churches. All of these have only started within the last 5 ½ years. At this year’s conference we ordained our first Chinese pastor in the South Queensland District (Rev. Ruth Liao).

Church planting has to remain a part of our DNA. It can be from the smallest form of the Pod type to a full church plant, both of which are valid. These church plants are often the most effective when they come into fruition from the outworking of the local church and, of course, with the support of the district and surrounding churches.

**District Health**

In our district there remains a high level of unity which we are continuing to work on. It is clear that we need to develop in the areas of evangelism, discipleship and baptisms. I want to note that our spiritual health and maturity is also measured by how well we can deal with conflicts, not so much the number of conflicts we have. Emotional maturity or EQ is important in our walk with God and in our relationships with others. I would also call us to become more and more people that are approachable, with open ears that encourage a depth of conversations that bring healing and forgiveness.

As we have worked at building the health of our district, we have continued to invest into our leaders through the pastors, spouses and leaders conference. I do need to note that Rev.
Mike Hilson and the team have also invested in our district, through the sacrifice of time, resources and experiences. They have been a blessing to us and the other districts.

**Areas of need**
Crossing cultural and ethnic barriers is a skill that is important and relevant in this present age. As I have often said, multiculturalism comes with a range of issues; however, it also gives us opportunities to spread the gospel to people that may have not heard the message before.

As we consider our District, we continue to see that some of our churches are facing an uphill battle in the area of finances. This plays heavily upon the viability of pastoral supply and maintaining day-to-day ministries. Additionally, we are finding ourselves in a place where compliance is becoming overwhelming for some of our treasurers, church administrators and pastors. But we, the district leadership, are more than willing to support local churches where we can.

**Personally**
I stand before you once again knowing that I am standing not alone, but with the support of many others, and by the power of God. Also, I am standing before you with the love and support of my wife Lien, who covers all I do with prayer, much of which is clothed in tears. *The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.* James 5:16b (ESV).

Therefore, I have a deep sense that in the giving of my service to the Lord, I only have a few loaves and fishes to offer. But God is in the business of multiplying the little we have to meet the needs that He calls us to. Let me say this is another way God has of showing up, as Scripture reminds us, *‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’* 2 Corinthians 12:9 (ESV).

A word that I want to leave you with is: God is still in control. He is still on the throne. He will have the final say even against the backdrop of a world that is lost, broken and confused. Let us not lose sight of the power and sovereignty of God.

Together as God enables us, we are making a difference.

Respectfully submitted,

Your servant,

Rev. Rex E. Rigby
South Qld District Superintendent
Mr Chairman, Conference delegates,

The year 2020 makes me think of vision. 20/20 is a term that refers to eyesight. But you know that. The term 20/20 vision means that you can see something at 20 feet that can ‘normally’ be seen at 20 feet. We know that vision can be worse than normal, but we don’t often think about the fact that some people have better than normal vision. Someone with 20/15 vision can see things at 20 feet that a normal person can only see at 15 feet. So what?

As I reflect on the past 4 years as the DS of the NSW District, I wonder how much of my leadership has been what is normally expected of a DS? How much of my leadership was worse than normal? And how much if any has been clear sighted, sharp-focused, insightful leadership? As I head into my 6th year in leadership of the NSW District, I want to do everything I can to improve my vision, to see things clearly, and to lead in ways that bring a better future. This might require me to get some help, to learn some new techniques and to try some different approaches, but I am up for the challenge. Life is too short to go on seeing things poorly or simply going through the motions. My prayer for 2020 and beyond is better clarity and better outcomes for myself, for the District and perhaps for the Wesleyan Methodist Church as a whole.

**Transition**

Although I have completed 5 years as DS, I have only been on the ground in NSW for 3. In the transition between pastoring Hills Church in Brisbane and arriving in Sydney, Phyllisia and I enjoyed 4 months long service leave fulfilling a long-held dream of travelling around Australia by caravan. The highlight for me was the opportunity to spend time with my wife. The trip was lovely and refreshing and it helped us to appreciate each other more as well as this wonderful country we all call home.

In the early part of 2016 I spent a good deal of time overseeing the senior pastor transition at Hills Church until my departure for long service leave on 31st of May. Nathan Bell started as senior pastor on the 1st of January and I served him as his associate pastor. I cannot tell you how important this is in any ministry process. How we make transitions is as important as how we start a job. Knowing when and how to pass on the baton is as spiritual a decision as knowing God is leading you somewhere in the first place.

I want to make a note here of the splendid work that Pastor Nathan and the team is doing at Hills in the years since I have left. Pastor Nathan has led the church through numerical growth, leadership development, an increase in the number of ministerial candidates, and he is about to launch a significant building program to enable the church to more effectively reach the community.

**Hills Church**

I also feel it is appropriate and important to mention here the ongoing support and encouragement I receive from Hills Church in Brisbane. When we visit there Phyllisia and I are welcomed as part of the family. There is a very warm and supportive environment. We are very blessed with this and have found it one of the major joys of leaving a church well. Praise the Lord.
Pittwater Wesleyan
In October 2016 I started work as pastor of the Pittwater Wesleyan Methodist Church. Prior to my arrival, they had been without a pastor for quite a while although ably looked after by Rev. Graeme Wright and an army of supply preachers. I can’t tell you how much of a blessing this church has been to Phyllisia and I. We love the fellowship and encouragement. I am sure that God sent us here for our benefit as much as for theirs.

Building Purchases
During my tenure as NSW DS, God has provided for a number of building purchases. The Taree church was able to purchase the house next door to the church as a manse, and the Lismore Church has been able to purchase a church building in East Lismore for their services. God miraculously provided a donation that covered 2 years of their monthly mortgage payments. This allows the local church to concentrate on growing the church. We are currently finalising the purchase of a manse and shop next to this church where the pastor will live, and the church will begin an op-shop to cater for the needs of the community.

Filipino Migrant Ministry
One of the things that happened just before we moved to Sydney was a meeting with Rev. Arestedes Balatan and Jun Abella at Sydney Airport in 2017. During this meeting we discussed the possibility of working together with the United Methodist Church to plant churches across the district. I am happy to report that the first church from this agreement was planted in Parramatta, is now over 3 years old and doing well. Our hope is that we can work out a more substantial arrangement with the United Methodist Church for an exchange of pastoral leaders across denominations and countries for a better connection with migrant Filipino workers.

Team from Eastview
Soon after our arrival in Sydney, our district hosted a team from Eastview Wesleyan Church in Gas City Indiana USA. Pastor Mark Aitkinson and his team were able to help three of our churches: Living Bread in Mount Druitt, Living Light in Maitland and Pittwater Wesleyan. At Pittwater they helped with a clean-up and a Christmas program, at Living Bread they helped paint a mural in the children's department, and at Living Light they were able to assist with outreach programs as well as with the church. There is still a strong level of support for this local church from Pastor Mark and the Eastview Congregation and we are thankful for their ongoing support.

DBMD
By 2017 we had almost cleared our books of ministerial candidates. We have completed 4 ordinations, but it has been hard to find suitable ministry candidates and this, along with local ministerial training, remains a focus and a struggle. It is my dream that eventually we will be able to add some young Tongan ministerial candidates who will plant a few second generation Tongan Churches that will go some way to addressing the loss of young people from the Tongan church.

District Pastors and Leaders Conference
In March 2017 we had a visit from Mike and Tina Hilson. They shared about how they lead and run their network of churches in Maryland USA. Their insights and ideas have been an inspiration as well as being a challenge. Mike and Tina have returned to our district every year for the last three years and have given immeasurable leadership training and encouragement to our pastors and leaders. I am indebted to them for their generous and
significant input to us. My prayer is that the impact of this training will lead to greater leadership and greater fruit.

**Excelsia College**

When I was sent to NSW as the DS, the National Church also asked me to plant a church in association with Excelsia College. The idea was that students can be discipled along with their study to be passionate followers of Jesus. This idea has not worked out as planned. Soon after beginning the process, IWU withdrew from the college and the momentum towards the church plant was lost. There was also some resistance in the college leadership for this idea and problems with council planning permission which delayed and dampened any movement towards the church plant.

I have however maintained my connection with Excelsia leaders and the college through teaching, which has not only helped with building trust, but also with the extra finances Phyllisia and I need to make ends meet. As a bi-vocational pastor and leader, I have been appreciative of the opportunity to work at Excelsia College on a regular basis. This year it has been for about two days a week. I have been privileged to teach Old Testament Introduction, New Testament Introduction, and to write and teach a new course that looks to help students integrate the Christian worldview into their work. While this was a challenge it was immensely rewarding. Excelsia College has grown from 270 students to 1000 students in the last 16 months which has presented many challenges and opportunities. Along with the many domestic students, we now have a large cohort of students from Nepal and northern India who are mostly Hindu, Sikh, and Buddhist.

Working at Excelsia has been a learning curve, and I am extremely privileged to have my boundaries and skills tested. As a part of this process I have on occasion taken on the chaplaincy roll and the acting head of department until the new head of department took up the official role.

Beginning in February 2020, I have been asked to head up a new initiative of the college to offer a community chapel. This chapel will be marketed to staff, students and workers from the surrounding offices in the Macquarie Park area. Perhaps this new challenge fits the call that God gave Phyllisia and I when we first moved to Sydney to plant a church attached to Excelsia College. It will be my plan to put together a team of people who can help bring this vision to fruition.

While it is a great joy to work at Excelsa College, it also contributes to some frustration because it takes two days out of my week that I could be using to support and develop the district work. My prayer is that I could be financially freed up in the future to spend those two days on district and local church matters.

**Kingsley College**

A part of any healthy district includes ministry training. In order to have pastors and leaders for the future we need to invest in this today. In an attempt to accommodate this, I started working with a few people to help them achieve the Certificate IV in Training and Assessing. This was not as successful as I would have liked and unfortunately, I am still unable to launch Kingsley subjects for ministerial training here in Sydney. These are early days however, and I will continue to work towards this goal to eventually offer a full range of subjects so that candidates do not have to go elsewhere to study towards ordination.
Tongan Changes
In 2018 we made some changes to the Tongan Zone. Each local church now reports directly to the district and takes care of their own budget and local church affairs. While the change presented some challenges, I believe that it is widely accepted and will bring some added benefits in future years. There is still some training required to transition to local boards and meetings, but I will assist with this in the coming year.

Graeme and Heather Farewell.
On the 15th April 2018 I attended Graeme and Heather Wright’s farewell from Hope Church after almost 20 years there. They have moved just south of Port Macquarie into a retirement centre for over 55s. I offer here again my thanks to both Graeme and Heather for their faithful service to Hope and to the NSW District.

FUEL Pastors and Leaders Training
In 2018 we also started FUEL (Fellowship, Unity, Encouragement and Learning) training for pastors and leaders. It has been fantastic to work towards the development of our abilities and insights as leaders. Rev. Cesar Sarmiento was a great help to get these up and running so I have had to put these on hold since he returned to Queensland. I hope to start them again in the near future.

Membership Training
In the later part of 2018, after discovering a broad lack of understanding and compliance of the matter, I began to train our churches in Membership. This has been a way to make sure we are all on the same page with what is involved in membership in the WMC. The response from churches has been very positive and we have been able to take in many members which I believe will be reflected in next year’s statistics. Many have commented on how much this has helped them to understand the form and direction of the WMC.

Leadership Development
In 2019 I tried to invest some time with youth and young adult leaders in leadership development. We managed to meet three times with varying success. We held a weekend retreat for leadership training which was a great success, and we plan to develop the youth and young adults’ program for the future. I’m excited about the leaders that we have in the District and the opportunities that will eventuate from this forum.

I also endeavoured to meet with as many leaders and pastors as possible given the time limits to help them develop in their ministry and leadership, as well as to help those pastors who might be struggling in or out of ministry. This is a very important part of the role that I play as the District Superintendent.

Hope Church Closed
Sadly, 2019 saw the closure of the first ever WMC established in Sydney after a couple moved away and the church ceased to have the critical mass to continue. We praise God for the forty plus years that this church ministered to Western Sydney and for the many pastors and church members who passed through that church. I continue to believe that sometimes a seed must be planted and die in order for it to produce a great harvest.

Inadequate
When I look at the work that still needs to be done in the District, I feel inadequate for the task, and I am thankful for the patience of those I work for as I try to juggle a growing number of jobs. I hope in the near future to develop a more substantial team to accelerate the pressing district and kingdom work.
Thanks
I want to finish on a note of thanks. Firstly, to my wife who has supported me through some hard days with the District work. She gets it, and loves me, which carries me through when it seems nothing else will. Secondly, I want to thank my prayer team who have faithfully prayed for me and the District. Thirdly, I want to thank Doug and Heather Ring who carry much of the load for the District work. And finally, I would like to mention my thanks to a friend and mentor of mine Father Dr Doru Costache - a Protopresbyter Priest in the Romanian Orthodox Church. He has been a source of encouragement and challenge to me over the last couple of years and I find our weekly meetings to be a lifeline of intellectual stimulation and spiritual challenge.

I could not do any of my work in the District without these people. Thank you.

Blessing to you all. And thanks be to God.

Respectfully Submitted

Rev. Dr. Lex Akers
NSW District Superintendent
Greetings in the name of the Lord to the delegates to the National Conference. It is a privilege to report the progress of the District in the last four years.

**Churches**
The quadrennium has been a good one for the Southern District in terms of church planting and congregations joining us. We have added eight new churches and attempted establishing work in at least four other locations that didn’t eventually work out in places as far flung as Bass Valley, Essendon, Renmark and Port Hedland. A quick look at the map shows the vast geographical difficulties to be overcome in our district. The new churches include two Samoan congregations, two Filipino congregations – one in Melbourne and one in Perth, Hope4 in Pakenham, a congregation in Heathcote called “Goldfields”, “Homily” a home church in Lower Templestowe, and St. Martins in Collingwood, which was under the pastoral care of John Smith, and still houses the God Squad clubrooms. Not all the existing churches are firing on all cylinders, but the addition of new groups has brought us cause for celebration and the realization that the Lord is still working among us and through us and wants to continue doing so.

With the addition of these congregations, our numbers got to a record high at last year’s District Conference in the categories of worship attendance, membership and attendance at Sunday School and midweek meetings.

**Personnel**
Two of our ministers have passed on to their eternal reward – Rev. John Taylor who planted the Katanning church at the age of 72, and Rev. Norm Tong who served in many of our churches in both North Queensland and Victoria as well as several missions in the South Pacific.

A number of our pastors have retired since we gathered last in 2016. Keith McLauchlan has done so officially, although he still remains very active in various ministries. Lyn Holland and Robin Clarke have both retired at Sunshine and Sione Vakautafafine at Mildura. We thank God for the fruitful service of these faithful people over many years. Two more have announced their intention to hang up the dog collar at the end of this year. This highlights one of the hurdles that the District faces.

Fortunately, the Lord has things in control, and we have quite a number of candidates coming through the DBMD pipeline. In the last two years we have had twelve people proceed to Licensed Minister status. Nevertheless, there remains the need for some younger people to join the ranks.

**Auxiliaries**
I would like to publicly thank our directors who put in a large amount of often unseen work organizing events. John Mohammed was appointed as Wesleyan Men’s Director a couple of years ago and has been coordinating two Saturday conferences each year along with a team of helpers. Julie Tyler has been heading up the women’s ministry, and Steve Mitchell the singles. Melissa George continues to run a children’s camp and support the local churches’ Sunday School and children’s club efforts. The youth and young adults work has been in the hands of the District Superintendent for the last part of the quadrennium.
and we have run several events including two camps, several Saturday fellowships and sports days, a couple of leadership training sessions, a Bible Bowl competition and joined the State Youth Games, an interdenominational sports competition and rally attended by three and a half thousand people camping in Gippsland in June! I have recently begun inviting key youth and young adults who I believe have leadership potential to meet with me sometimes face to face and sometimes via Zoom for discipleship and input on principles of leadership.

Zones
The District is divided into four zones and have run activities such as fellowship and prayer gatherings for the pastors, pulpit swaps and celebration gatherings. I intend to utilize them to a greater degree in the near future.

Personal
In 2017 I undertook study to gain my TAE Certificate IV in order to continue training through Kingsley College. It was the first formal study I’d undertaken for 27 years, although I’ve always seen the value of professional development. I went into it with a degree of student angst, worried that I wouldn’t be able to remember anything I’d read from one day to the next but was pleasantly surprised. The result is that I feel I am a more empathetic trainer. The Principal told me to do a “happy dance” because the institution I did it through anticipated the upgrades that most of the other trainers had to do this year and I didn’t because of their foresight. I also continue to read fairly widely and take a keen interest in trends in ministering to our changing society.

I enjoy the times set aside for my family and am grateful to the Lord for them, and the fact that they all follow the Lord. I had the privilege of baptising my oldest grandchild and dedicating the two youngest, along with the respective grandparents from the other side of each family, at a special gathering at our home. I’m grateful to the Lord for providing me with a wife who allows me to do what I do and I appreciate the times we get to spend together, even more so because the job sometimes necessitates us being apart.

I also thank the Lord for giving me strength and know that he has called me to His service and I really do enjoy ministering in the current role to the great people of the churches that comprise the Southern District.

I trust this report paints a picture of where we are as a district and that you are able to pray along with us, as together, we continue the task of multiplying disciples and churches to spread scriptural holiness across the nation.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Phil Hotchkin
Southern District Superintendent
REPORT OF THE NATIONAL TREASURER

Greetings Pastors, Delegates and Guests of the National Conference,
It is my pleasure to bring to you the National Treasurer’s report for the 2020 national conference. This report summarises the key activities of the National Treasurer and outlines the financial position of the National accounts for the past four years.

Annual Reports and Audits
Financial Statements for each separate entity under the control of the National Church has been prepared each year. These reports are received at the National Board of Administration at their November meetings with interim reports presented each May for each of the following entities:

The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia:
- National Treasurer’s Fund
- Wesleyan World Missions
- Wesleyan Investment Foundation Ltd
- The Wesleyan Methodist Church Property Trust Ltd

Due to the volume of paperwork (>300 Pages) it is not practical to produce a physical printout of the financial reports for the past four years. I have these reports available electronically should anyone require a full copy of any of these reports. An independent audit has been carried out in each of the four years and this has been carried out by:

Jason O'Connor CPA
J O'Connor Pty Ltd
PO Box 5480, Brendale DC 4500

National Treasurer's Fund
This fund is the main operating account of the National Church, deriving its income from the 30% of United Stewardship Fund income received by each of the Districts. The following is a graph on the total budget of USF versus actual payments received and then a similar graph on each of the Districts' Budget for USF for 2016-2019 and the actual payments received, also the figures are included as some of the graphs overlap.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>United Stewardship Funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>130000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>135000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>145000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Budget National Church</th>
<th>Actual Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>128856</td>
<td>142967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>140000</td>
<td>133951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>141850</td>
<td>140470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>145400</td>
<td>139907</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2016 2017 2018 2019
USF rates commenced at the start of the quadrennium at 10.5% and then from 1 October 2016 the rate reduced to 10% and has remained constant for the rest of the period. The graphs show you the variances between what we budget on and what we receive. The variances can be for several reasons, local churches financial crisis, closing churches which have been outside the scope of our best estimate.

Over the last quadrennium we have seen the introduction of Superstream and Single Touch Payroll by our government that has placed a greater workload on our local treasurers. Superstream transition was fairly smooth, it saw more churches coming under the National invoicing system to enable meeting this requirement. It is where we invoice the local church for all staff superannuation (where previously it was only AON Members) so in some ways this ensured consistency across the churches. Single Touch payroll and the education of church Treasurers has been an exhausting process and we are still working with some churches that are not quite there yet. In this process we have also discovered that some churches weren’t registered with the state government-based Worksafe provider which is a legislated and compulsory requirement. We are doing our best to educate and ensure all churches abide by the applicable state and federal laws. There are legal consequences for not abiding by government laws. We are here to assist the churches to meet these legal requirements and not be a hindrance. Given the complexity of the new requirements we have introduced the National Payroll Clearing House facility that seems to be helpful for some of our churches. Hopefully the last few Churches that haven’t addressed this issue yet will have by the time we meet.
This is the 2020 National Budget as adopted by the NBA at our May 2019 meeting.

This current budget funds our National Superintendent Team on 2 days per week with an administration assistance on average two days per week. It also pays 50% of the National Treasurer’s salary with the balance being funded by the Wesleyan Investment Foundation Ltd. The church’s preferred superannuation provider is AON Master Trust and the majority of Pastors and Administration staff have their superannuation paid into this fund. With the choice of fund and introduction of Super Stream during this period, we now invoice most churches which results in meeting this government requirement. This enables us to monitor and remind churches of their obligations as deadlines approach.

Long Service Leave requirements are now invoiced to most churches detailing the requirement for the year, the setting aside one week’s salary per annum in order to meet commitments to their Pastor for Long Service Leave. For Long Service Leave calculations churches also need to have accurate records of service dates of their Pastor(s), not only start dates but also changes in employment i.e. no days per week worked.

Several times over the last four years I have assisted in the calculations of leave payments due and will continue to be available for this. Also, to help train or assist Church Treasurers through any payroll issues that may arise from any changes in requirements.

Administration fees received shown in the budget– WIF funds a Property Payment of $37500, it also includes Compliance Funds from each district, and World Missions contributes towards the directors’ expenses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia National Treasurers’ Fund</th>
<th>BUDGET 2019/20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration Charges</td>
<td>86,909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Received</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry Income</td>
<td>175,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Stewardship Funds</td>
<td>144,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>406,329</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **EXPENSES**                                                 |               |
| Audit - National Treasurers Fund                             | 800           |
| Audit - WMC Property Trust                                   | 1000          |
| Bank Charges                                                 | 400           |
| Bank Merchant Facility Fee                                   | 200           |
| Conference Expenses                                          | 175,000       |
| General Expenses                                             | 1,005         |
| Legal Costs Provision                                        | 2,000         |
| National Staff – Compliance/Missions                         | 25,255        |
| National Church Growth & Dev Fund                            | 20,000        |
| National Board of Admin Exp                                  | 6,500         |
| National Website Operation Exp                               | 1,300         |
| National Superintendent & Office Exp                         | 38,176        |
| National Supt Secretary                                      | 21,322        |
| National Supt Travel                                         | 8,500         |
| Assist Nat Supt's Travel                                     | 500           |
| National Treasurer & Office Expenses                         | 66,266        |
| Subscriptions                                                | 950           |
| Personnel Protection Insurance                               | 105           |
| Workers Comp Insurance                                       | 400           |
| SPRC - Contribution                                          | 5,870         |
| Property Funds Allocation                                    | 37,500        |
| **TOTAL EXPENSES**                                           | 413,049       |

| Property Budget                                              |               |
| Property Income                                              | 355,000       |
| Expenses                                                     |               |
| Property Expenses                                            | 183,741       |
| Property Capital Payt                                        | 41,236        |
| Kingsley College Allocation                                  | 130,023       |
| **Total Expenses**                                           | 355,000       |

**OPERATING PROFIT**                                          **(6,720)**


**Wesleyan World Missions**

My role as National Treasurer has been to oversee the financial management of WWM and provide advice and guidance where necessary. During this last quadrennium the day to day accounts of Wesleyan World Missions has been carried out by Rev. Gordon Kuss up until 30 June 2018. This day to day function was rolled into the National Treasurers responsibilities twelve months ago. The National WWM Director’s report will bring to you a report on the various ministries and missionary staff. This report provides a brief summary of the financial position of the Wesleyan World Missions Funds and the variation in giving that has occurred over the last four years.

**WESLEYAN WORLD MISSIONS - SUMMARY OF FINANCES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Missionary Support</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Floyds</td>
<td>101,236.94</td>
<td>82,675.10</td>
<td>23,611.44</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>22,083.48</td>
<td>17,747.99</td>
<td>11,664.42</td>
<td>60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davies</td>
<td>29,186.97</td>
<td>675.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collins</td>
<td>59,550.83</td>
<td>59,537.22</td>
<td>65,821.53</td>
<td>101,643.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soto</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6,655.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sue Allport</td>
<td>3,524.40</td>
<td>2,530.80</td>
<td>2,304.00</td>
<td>1,420.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where needed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solomon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
<td>58,568.16</td>
<td>29,702.23</td>
<td>69,079.13</td>
<td>40,095.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islands</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>8,229.76</td>
<td>1,167.22</td>
<td>272.51</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry</td>
<td>2,673.65</td>
<td>485.23</td>
<td>1,862.31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Service Leave</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWSOM</td>
<td>62,263.38</td>
<td>17,055.06</td>
<td>24,086.36</td>
<td>5,390.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>5,279.78</td>
<td>4,859.79</td>
<td>4,432.05</td>
<td>3790.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>373,322.13</td>
<td>241,804.74</td>
<td>215,343.55</td>
<td>187,102.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>344,313.72</td>
<td>252,848.13</td>
<td>291,293.65</td>
<td>171,014.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus/Deficiency</td>
<td>29,008.41</td>
<td>(11,043.39)</td>
<td>(75,950.10)</td>
<td>16,088.63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As you can see from these figures, Wesleyan World Missions income and expenses fluctuates enormously based on the work being done in the Solomon Islands. In this quadrennium we have seen the transfer of the Floyds to Global Partners. Rev. David Collins manages and runs the Noro training college. Jeff Davies in the earlier years and now Alistair and Elaine Moss have been managing all of the building and site development. I haven’t yet seen the Noro budget for 2020/2021 yet, but I know that the funds are now limited to what is coming in, so please get behind Wesleyan World Missions to enable the completion of the building work to be done at Noro.

- 35 -

49th National Conference Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia
Wesleyan Investment Foundation

Over the last four years the Wesleyan Investment Foundation Ltd has sought to provide loans to churches who seek finance for the purchase of new property or to redevelop/extend existing property. We not only provide competitive interest rates on loans but we seek to offer competitive rates on investments. Churches that have benefited from loans sought from WIF over the last four years are Axis, Hills, Lismore, Taree, Viti, Warwick, New South Wales District and possibly another loan to Lismore and Hills in the very near future. We also celebrate with those who have paid out their loans, being Gympie, Hills, John Wesley, Katanning, Maitland, Peninsula Life, Rockhampton, Southern District and Three Sixteen in this last four years. Our aim in the next year or two is to continue to grow our investment base, to enable us to meet the building programs/purchases in the next 12-24 months.

Wesleyan Investment Foundation Ltd is a public company subject to the reporting requirements of the Corporations Law. The current directors are Rev Rex Rigby South Qld, Mr Richard Crosland North Qld, Mr Doug Ring South Qld, Rev Graeme Wright NSW and myself Southern District.

WESLEYAN INVESTMENT FOUNDATION LTD - SUMMARY OF FINANCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Term Deposits</td>
<td>3,511.6</td>
<td>2,766.7</td>
<td>2,659.6</td>
<td>1,672.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Receivables</td>
<td>148,048</td>
<td>174,611</td>
<td>105,796</td>
<td>113,028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National/Districts</td>
<td>1,007,4</td>
<td>1,009,2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans Nth Qld</td>
<td>383,383</td>
<td>440,118</td>
<td>357,340</td>
<td>32,411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans Sth Qld</td>
<td>1,716,4</td>
<td>1,742,2</td>
<td>1,890,9</td>
<td>2,072,7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans NSW</td>
<td>537,724</td>
<td>252,962</td>
<td>257,647</td>
<td>269,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans Southern</td>
<td>324,841</td>
<td>675,472</td>
<td>707,961</td>
<td>735,844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>7,629.5</td>
<td>7,061.4</td>
<td>6,875.8</td>
<td>5,890.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors &amp; Accrued Expenses</td>
<td>2,115</td>
<td>2,356</td>
<td>2,308</td>
<td>2,470</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investor Churches/Corpor ate</td>
<td>4,963.3</td>
<td>4,726.9</td>
<td>5,191.0</td>
<td>4,827.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investor Individuals</td>
<td>2,016.2</td>
<td>1,646.8</td>
<td>1,010.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investor LSL</td>
<td>429,515</td>
<td>435,916</td>
<td>390,919</td>
<td>364,741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
<td>7,411.1</td>
<td>6,812.0</td>
<td>6,594.4</td>
<td>5,580.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET ASSETS</td>
<td>218,322</td>
<td>249,350</td>
<td>281,473</td>
<td>310,701</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Over the last four years, 7 loans have been granted over this period. The National Church still has a loan sourced from WIF USA as there wasn't funds available here in Australia. We could now possibly fund this loan from Australian investments in WIF but want to keep these funds available for our Australian churches. We are aware that there may be some significant projects seeking funds in the near future. We are working hard on raising more capital for WIF, so continue to keep our rates above the banks to try to encourage investment.
We have produced new brochures for this conference which have been placed in your delegates packs. There are also more if you wish to take a bundle back to your churches distribute to members. Hopefully we can work together in raising funds for several large building projects scheduled over the coming year.

The Wesleyan Methodist Church Property Trust Ltd

This company holds the titles to all but one of our properties in the New South Wales and Southern Districts and also the National church properties. A separately incorporated body, governed by the South Queensland District Board, is responsible for the titles to the properties throughout Queensland.

These WMC Property Trust properties are held in trust by the corporation for the respective local churches or denominational entities. The Company must comply with the regulations of a Public Company under the Corporations Law administered by the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission and the Australian Securities and Investment Commission. The directors of this company are the National Superintendent, National Secretary, National Treasurer, the District Superintendent of Nth Queensland and Southern District. I serve on this company as both Director and Secretary.

Properties acquired over the last quadrennium:
1.4.16 124 Commerce Street, Taree NSW (NSW District)
27.3.19 172 Wyrrallah Road, East Lismore NSW (NSW District)

Properties sold over the last quadrennium:
18.12.15 3, 78 Logan Road, Woolloongabba Qld (National)
16.4.19 Factory 1, 27-29 Fuller Road, Ravenhall Vic (Southern District)

Insurances

Liability and Property Insurances

Our National Insurance policies are held with ACS Financial. Having both property and liability insurance cover with ACS has enabled us to negotiate significant savings for many of our churches.

Association Liability Policy

The National church also maintains a separate policy for the financial protection of our National, District and Local Church officers in the pursuit of their duties. The costs for this policy since our move to ACS Financial has been apportioned to the churches and also contributed to by Kingsley College and the Wesleyan Investment Foundation Ltd. This was previously borne by the districts and not the churches, however with the significant reduction in costs we were able to incorporate the cost into the churches premiums and still pass on significant savings.

Conclusion

It has been a pleasure to serve the National Church in the capacity of National Treasurer over the last four years. My aim has been to provide assistance to the district treasurers and to train/assist our churches in their understanding of their legal obligations, also to ensure they meet their financial commitments to their Pastors and Districts etc.

Summarising four years is not a simple task. I have sought to give you a brief overview and not to overburden you with significant paperwork hence if you have any questions please don’t hesitate to ask.

Blessings to you all.

Respectfully submitted,

ROSE RICHARDSON
National Treasurer
REPORT OF THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF
WORLD MISSIONS

God is good and I thank him for His continued guidance and direction over the last four years. Whilst there are challenges along the way in any leadership position, it is with satisfaction that I look back and see how the wider work of our church has developed during this time.

We have come through implementing a particularly difficult NBA decision with respect to concluding the Floyds ministry directly with WWM, to allow a season of giving full focus to our work in the Solomon Islands. The Floyds have subsequently been offered a position directly with Global Partners and have just recently moved back to PNG to continue to serve in a new capacity.

The Davies have completed their time of volunteering in the Solomons, they made an amazing contribution to the start of the development of the training centre site in Noro.

We have had Alister and Elaine Moss take over as self-funded volunteers. Their lifetime of building management experience has provided a marked increase in the building projects on site at a crucial time. They have been an incredible assistance in all areas of the ministry including being a mature sounding board for David Collins and Rev George Velopide in the day to day tasks of keeping a training centre and National Church operating. This despite the challenges of an aging father, and a business back home that still requires some attention.

Alister and Elaine will not be available beyond the end of 2020. So we are praying now for someone that may help with practical management of the site for a year or two from 2021, building experience may not be as necessary then, but someone with good practical and management skills that is willing to serve in this way is needed.

We have been blessed by numerous AWSOM teams that help in many ways. Be it helping to run Kids clubs, to theological courses, to building and English teaching. AWSOM Volunteers have come from New Zealand, USA, from High Schools in Qld, and YWAM teams, and of course most states of Australia. It never ceases to amaze me that people are willing to use their hard-earned holidays and cash to come and sweat it out in the tropics. May God truly bless each person that has served this way and those that support them in funds and prayer. Lives have been changed as a result.

It has been good to see National Superintendent Rev. George Velopide travelling to various Wesleyan conferences, (in most cases with David Collins) including this National Conference, but also our Australian Pastors Conference and Theological summit in Qld, International Conference in Barbados and recently the South Pacific Conference in NZ. It is hoped that he will shortly head to Bangkok for a regional Asia Pacific think tank meeting with Wesleyan Leaders from over 20 countries in the region. Whilst there is expense associated with each of these, unless our leaders get to rub shoulders, eat, pray, plan and share their experiences together we will become isolated and very easily stuck in our own way of doing things. Seeing God doing ‘His stuff’ in ways that we couldn’t think or imagine in other countries and cultures inspires and transforms us to believe for more and achieve more in our own setting. With George being re-elected for a further 4 years it has given stability in leadership and experience is being gained that will reap long term rewards for the work of God in the Solomon Islands.
David Collins continues to give his all for the furtherment of the leadership and the church in the Solomons. God has uniquely gifted him with the experience, knowledge, determination and patience to help guide those that are training at the Still Waters Training Centre. During this last quadrennium he spent 6 months travelling across our vast land visiting nearly all our churches, sharing stories, raising awareness and encouraging each of us to give and pray in support of the task before him.

He reports that since last conference, 252 courses have been taken, by 102 different students, with 25 different teachers/tutors (that includes 12 Solomon Islanders), in six different locations. A massive achievement.

I am continually thankful for David, his friendship, high level of integrity and work ethic. It is not a simple or easy task that is before him. Our continual prayers for his safety, health, strength and wisdom are needed as he pursues this calling on his life. May the Lord bless him beyond measure for his sacrificial service.

God has been generous as donations make it all happen. There is a continuous cost for maintaining the ministry, assistance with stipend of local lecturers, annual lease fees for the land, hire of onsite security, maintenance and building labour, materials, high maintenance costs of vehicles and machinery and buildings that deteriorate quickly in the harsh environment, support costs for missionary personnel, travel expenses for conferences and on it goes. Large items, like the tractor, 4x4, and Solar Battery upgrades, and boat have been sponsored in most part by single generous donors. Further donors for the ongoing monthly onsite basic running costs of ~$2000 per month is needed, along with further expected costs of $20,000 to complete the second half of the duplex accommodation in 2020. We have sponsorship cards for Richard Soto both online and at the conference to help support National Trainers.

We keep knocking on doors of ministry that present themselves. This included a trip in January 2019 to Dili to meet up with Wesleyans from Brazil that are looking at church planting there. Their invitation was to explore what synergy there may be for Australians to partner with the Brazilian Wesleyan Church in ministry in Timor-Leste (East Timor). It would appear at this point this door is currently closed. There remain potential discussions with Wesleyan Ministries in Pacific island countries. We remain open to ways in which the Lord may allow us to serve in the wider Pacific region. However, our current resources will continue to be tested whilst we are in the building stage with the Solomon Islands as our designated mission field.

The extension of our affiliation with World Hope International (Australia) provides an opportunity for continued involvement in PNG, with several projects there providing support of ministry that benefits our church members. A recent exciting development is the approval via World Hope International for an Australian Government Funded English teacher to work in the Training Centre in the Solomons! This will take some months to work through, but what an opportunity for us to select our own volunteer to serve in this way for at least a year, all paid for by our taxes.

God is still at work in many and various ways, may we continue to be open to what He has in store for us. I remain challenged and excited by all that the Lord allows us to be involved in. I am available to serve in this capacity for a further term if the church body wills it.

Respectfully submitted,
Dallas Thomas
REPORT OF NATIONAL DIRECTOR
EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH

It’s been a privilege and joy to serve in the role of National Director of Evangelism & Church Growth for the past 4 years. The first 2 years of being in this position I was pastoring Axis Church which had just been through unprecedented growth, and as a result this took up most of my time. The other major focus during those first couple of years was caring for my wife who has been living the ups and downs as a brain cancer patient and suffering through cancer treatment which has been stressful at times for our family.

In my 3rd year in this role, I resigned from my role as Pastor of Axis Church and was able to launch an initiative called ‘National Impulse’. I was able to support Rev. Rex Rigby and the National Board to introduce the new website and vision statement. Since then, I have been able to have ministry in quite a number of our churches providing coaching, consulting, and strategic planning to pastors and their leadership teams to focus on this vision, revitalising churches, creating discipleship pathways, and church multiplication.

I was blessed to have my friend, Stephanie McGill, helping me for a season as well. Steph was able to bring some unique strategic gifts to support the work but has since moved into a different season in her life.

I have been very blessed to visit with some of our pastors and their LBA’s around the country, establishing some wonderful relationships and providing support where needed. In some cases I have spent up to 4 days with a church, where I have provided a full church audit, met with the pastoral team, provided training with the LBA, and provided strategic plans for the team to use as a guide in moving forward.

A few highlights: I have presented at some of our district and pastor’s conferences which was an absolute honour. I have established a video recording studio to help with creating coaching videos; developed and launched our online Coaching program and NI website; developed our Pod Church multiplication strategy and launched the POD Church website.

Since March 2019 to the present day, I have focused a lot of my time on relaunching our Peninsula Life Church in the South Qld District, which had an unfortunate and sudden change of leadership. It has been such a joy to pastor these folks for a season and rebuild this wonderful fellowship.

I’ve had a lot of positive experiences in this role. I’d appreciate prayer for God to continue growing the momentum that will lead to revitalisation and multiplication within our movement.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Troy Beer
Dear Friends of Kingsley College,

In 2019 we celebrated 70 years of ministry training. What a milestone for the college! In 1949 Kingsley Ridgway (pictured below- outside the original college building) began to hold classes as the Wesleyan Methodist Bible College. The American Wesleyan church had accepted Kingsley as a representative, and so in his report to North America in 1948 Kingsley spoke of how the college was “destined to be the fountainhead of holiness teaching in this country.” Although much has changed since 1949, our goal remains the same; to equip men and women for a ministry that exemplifies holiness in heart and life. Since the first college class in 1949 (see below), thousands of men and women, both lay people and ministerial candidates, have studied with Kingsley College. Many have gone on to give their lives in service on the mission field, in chaplaincy, in teaching, and in pastoral ministry, having benefited from study with Kingsley College.

To celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the college we have released a video that captures interviews with just a few of the people with memories of the college early years. See the college website- http://kingsley.edu.au/ We are encouraged by God’s faithfulness over these years and trust that you will be encouraged by these stories of God at work in Kingsley College- in the past and the present. Take some time to watch the video, and then share it with your local church and homegroup.

**Kingsley Community Training Centres**

In this past quadrennium, Kingsley Community students have connected into study each week from around Australia and from around the world. We use web conference to connect students to classes in our two campuses in Mackenzie (Brisbane) and Broadmeadows (Melbourne), and to our training centres in Dandenong, Townsville,
Perth, Sydney, Moreton, and Ravenhall (Melbourne). In early 2020 an additional two Kingsley trainers will join the existing team of eleven experienced trainers, with further trainers set to begin throughout 2020. In short, we work hard to cater to a student body that is scattered across the country. We have also connected with students who are living and ministering overseas. Despite time differences, we have students connecting with Kingsley classes to complete an Australian award in their home country.

A table of enrolment numbers from the last few years provides an insight into the number of people studying with the college.

<table>
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<th>Semester</th>
<th>Enrolled (Including Accreditation)</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>88 (9 n/a)</td>
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<td>Sem II 2015</td>
<td>125 (Including 12 n/a)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sem II 2016</td>
<td>79 (1 n/a)</td>
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<td>Sem II 2017</td>
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<td>Sem II 2018</td>
<td>81 (17 n/a)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sem II 2019</td>
<td>99 (18 n/a)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**International Students with Kingsley College**
The opportunity for students to travel to Australia and study with Kingsley College is available. Through our partnership with Unity College Australia*, international students can apply to study with Kingsley College at the Melbourne campus. Please pass on the news to international friends and contacts.

**Kingsley College Training Options**
Throughout 2019 we have continued to offer four awards in Christian Ministry and Theology. Our Certificate IV is ideal training for a lay person (local preacher), as well as being the first year of study for a ministerial candidate. Our Diploma, Advanced Diploma, and Graduate Certificate provide all of the study required of a ministerial candidate for ordination. (A Field Education class is shown here-with David Wilson as a guest lecturer. The class included students studying for credit and some for professional development).

**Professional Development**
As ministry leaders, both lay and ministerial, we need to keep learning and honing our skills. One great way to learn, grow, and be challenged is to join a Kingsley Community.
class. Plan ahead to join a Kingsley subject for your own professional and spiritual development each year of the coming quadrennium (or pay for your pastor to join a class!).

**Student Testimony**
In the last few weeks of 2019 Murray, one of our students, completed his study of Biblical Interpretation. I asked for his permission to include his quote as he submitted work…

”Wow, all I can say is ... wow. I’ve never really delved into the life of Jethro and I was amazed at how many lessons there are in his life, the way he lived and leadership principles on sharing the load and discipleship he gave Moses that have stood the test of time and are still taught today as ‘world’s best practise’. As the textbook says, we miss so much when we just skim over the surface of the Word and don’t stop and take the time to really delve into the meat of what lies within. An eye-opening look at Jethro and, honestly, a joy to do.”

Each year Kingsley students just like Murray deepen their appreciation and knowledge of Scripture and hone their skills for ministry. Praise the Lord for His work.

**Kingsley College Scholarship Fund**
Each year ministerial candidates who are studying with the college are blessed by financial support (reimbursement) from the Kingsley College Scholarship Fund. Are you wanting to give in a way that directly supports ministerial training? Then mark your donation to the Scholarship Fund (Kingsley College (Westpac) BSB 033183. Ac. 345335), and email the college with your contact details to receive a receipt (kingsley@kingsley.edu.au). You can be confident that you are supporting women and men who are following God’s call into pastoral ministry.

**Graduations**
Each semester we celebrate with students who graduate with their Certificate IV, Diploma, Advanced Diploma, or Graduate Certificate. It is a joy to see lay people and ministerial candidates, women and men, progressing through their study having been stretched and challenged to grow in knowledge and skill. In March 2019 we marked the graduation of our first two Graduate Certificate students. In September, Scott and Scott were both ordained. Congratulations, gentlemen! Many more Kingsley students are likewise following God’s call on their lives to study and seek to serve Him in an ordained ministry.

I will look forward to seeing you at conference and to sharing more of what God is doing in the college as we seek to develop and equip people to shape their world.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Brown.
College Principal- on behalf of the awesome Kingsley College team.

(*Kingsley College delivers training as a partner campus of Unity College Australia RTO 6330 and CRICOS Code 02160A)
REPORT OF THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR WESLEYAN WOMEN

Conference Chair and Delegates,

As this is my final report in this role, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the last two terms in which I have had the privilege of serving God and His church in this capacity.

I have been able to meet with women across our nation and overseas at the opportunities in which I have been invited to speak at events for our Districts and in the Solomons. These occasions have stretched me and heightened my reliance on God to fulfil these functions. Meeting women from our wider church has been my delight and I have been impressed over and over with the calibre of women within our churches who exhibit incredible faith, generous hearts and dedication to God, His church, their families and communities.

I have worked alongside our faithful and hardworking District Directors. Most years we have gathered together face to face for training, encouragement, prayer and getting the business sorted. I have tried to regularly connect with these leaders for prayer and encouragement. I am thankful for the leadership within the National WW executive over the last eight years.

WIT (Women In Touch) magazine continues to link women with their stories and news as well as articles aimed to teach, challenge and inspire. Our recent issues have been sponsored by World Hope International and/or Kingsley College which allowed us to print some/all in colour. I quickly came to fully appreciate the expertise and tireless work of Deb Kuss as editor and Jade Griffiths and more recently Karina Green as art director. Heather McLauchlan, our treasurer, is another vital member of the National WW team.

The proceeds from WIT and the generosity of women directly supporting the work of Wesleyan Women (via Project Boomerang etc) has enabled the mission of Wesleyan Women to be realised. It has funded speakers to be sent to the Solomons, Priceless Cubes, Days for Girls projects, subsidised travel to/from Rise Up conference for women from Australia, Solomons and PNG, the Domestic Violence Forum etc. God is good.

The ability to work with experts in the field of Domestic Violence to open communication and educate our church has been a privilege. I pray we have started the ball rolling and it continues to gain momentum. My ongoing prayer is that Wesleyan Women continues to educate and resource women and the church in many arenas (eg mental health, integrating refugees, adolescent suicide, hope and healing etc)

Rise Up Retreat was a highlight for many reasons. The enthusiasm and response were beyond what we expected, and God’s Spirit was evident over the entire weekend. I found myself inwardly beaming with pride at the unending generosity of our women. Women who stepped up to give financially, women who gave so much time for the sake of others, women who made incredible sacrifices to get to Rise Up and women who were changed by the experience. It was a blessing in so many ways.

Throughout my time in this role I have seen Wesleyan Women as a movement of passionate, faithful women through whom God works in powerful ways in our homes, our workplaces, our communities and our churches. My prayer is that the National and District
bodies of Wesleyan Women, with God’s enabling, will continue to empower women to be the people God would have them be and to be enabled to do the things God would have them do.

I am thankful for your personal support as I have learnt and grown. I am thankful for your faithful support of Wesleyan Women as we aim to support the women in our Districts and our sisters from overseas. The ministry of Wesleyan Women is a powerful God-filled entity. Please pray with us for the next leader who takes on this role. God knows and we trust Him for the outcome.

My sincere thanks to you and all thanks to our Almighty God whom we serve,

Mrs Annette Dobson
National Wesleyan Women Director

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR CLUB SOLO

Greetings to each of you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord & Saviour. What a great privilege it is to be in His service through Club Solo Ministries. Thank you for allowing me to continue in this ministry.

In my last report I mentioned that I wished Club Solo had been better known around the national Wesleyan Methodist Church that it is now. Many a pastor from the denomination are surprised that we have a singles ministry, which I find a little distressing. There are many in each church of our denomination that need to hear about Club Solo and the ministry we offer to their older singles either widowed, divorced or never married. The NBA and denomination have known about us but haven’t really encouraged Club Solo to become further known around the Wesleyan Church.

As mentioned in the last report one pastor was deleting my emails before I met him as he thought we were an introductory agency and didn’t want anything to do with us. I wonder how many more of our pastors are deleting my emails because they simply don’t know who Club Solo is! Surely the National Superintendent and/or the NBA should be keeping the church up to date in relation to what their ministry to singles is.

Our June Long weekend this year was at the Norval Conference Centre in Halls Gap with Rev. Anthony & Sela Kumitau being the speakers. Wow what a dynamic couple they are in relation to speaking at camps. I thought Sela was such a quiet, timid type of lady that was until she got up to preach. That image changed immediately. What a powerful and passionate speaker she and Anthony are. It was a privilege to have them come to camp.

We have set up the Executive Committee as per the Wesleyan Handbook, as after some teething problems on the financial side all is working out ok. Because of this now being set up they were also dismayed when I told them about the pastor who deleted my emails etc and they are determined to make Solo known further. I believe that a presence at the National Conference was agreed to if I can make it. We haven’t had an AGM yet as I am
now just returning to normal after a neck operation, so I hope to have that sooner rather than later.

The sub-committee has decided that we would only have two national camps/holidays per year…one in Halls Gap on the June Long Weekend and the second one will be at the Salvation Army Collaroy Centre on the last week of January ‘20. Dr Allan Meyer will be the speaker.

At present I am doing Club Solo on a part time basis and I still have a casual job at present driving cakes, muffins & vanilla slices around from 5am till around 10am. The new driving job allows me the time to look at adding some events to Solo’s calendar this year.

My spiritual growth since the last report at times fluctuates, depending on how many distractions there are around. Praise God He is with me and I know that I am better than I was a year ago (you would hope so eh!). One of my weaknesses is not being consistent with my time with God and family, but I am working on it.

I want to thank Michelle for allowing me to do Solo when I’m away over some weekends, but I praise God for her as she is the backbone of the family at those times. Daniel is a 15 year old who is growing well and now taller than me. Sarah is now 10 and a delight as usual.

Finally, I thank and praise the name of Jesus Christ for all that He has given Michelle, Daniel and Sarah as we serve Him here.

I believe that the NBA should arrange for me to attend most or if not all the district conferences to promote Club Solo around the nation. A must should be a table/booth at the National Conference in the middle of January 2020, where I can advertise and promote this wonderful singles ministry of the Wesleyan Methodist Church! It is a vital ministry that is not only needed in the Wesleyan Church but in all churches around Melbourne and the nation.

I am willing to discuss this further if you need to before the meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Rev. Steve Mitchell
REPORT OF THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

It has been a joy and a privilege to serve as the National Children's Director. It is an exciting time to be a part of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Over the past four years, we have started to see a shift of energy and many churches have started to put an emphasis on reaching the next generation. Many churches are starting up new children's ministries either through Sunday school, midweek programs, camps and outreach opportunities. Through these opportunities churches are focusing on reaching children and families!

Children's ministry is an area we need to constantly be growing in.

Over the past four years myself and the district children's directors have visited churches, talked on the phone and had zoom conferences where we have encouraged pastors, ministry workers and volunteers through workshops, seminars and training sessions. I also have had the opportunity to visit many of the districts and have encouraged and championed workers to continue to empower the next generations. Some areas we have focused on are:

- Putting an emphasis on children and families coming to Christ
- Offering children a safe environment where they can grow in their faith
  - Making sure all volunteers are following working with children requirements and keeping their records of attendance up to date
- Encouraging churches to use a curriculum and make sure they are covering a wide variety of materials so that we are growing kids who are well rounded in their faith
- How to raise up volunteers who are willing and well trained to serve
- How to let children and youth start serving now in our local churches
- How to go full circle and reach an entire family for Christ

Although, these may feel like small steps forward in Children’s Ministry across Australia, I feel that we are effectively changing direction. My goal is to encourage every church to be reaching out in some way, shape or form to bringing families to Christ. It is important that we reach children while they are young! Once a child reaches 16, their chances of finding Christ in the future drop drastically! Here are the facts from George Barna Group:

- 6% of children accept Christ between ages 4 to 14
- 10% of people accept Christ between ages 15 to 30
- 4% of people accept Christ after age 30

If we are going to reach children for Christ who will grow through discipleship into strong leaders, we need to be reaching them now! The children in our churches are the future of our Australian church! We need children to be challenged to answer God’s call on their life to serve him in many various capacities, such as pastors, missionaries, Christian educators, leaders and many other professions. In order for this to happen we need to be offering opportunities for these children and families to connect with Christ.

I look forward to the future ministry in the Wesleyan Methodist Church and continuing to see us put an emphasis and a focus on reaching the next generation.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa George
REPORT OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICIAN

This report has been prepared from data submitted by District Statisticians for the last quadrennial. Graphs at conclusion of report show trends over the years.

Some observations on the trends and statistics since 2015:

➢ We have increased our number of churches from 89 to 100 (32 Established, 59 Developing and Pioneer and 9 Preaching points. Unfortunately, we have downgraded 2 established churches to developing during the period. There is a need to concentrate on getting some of these developing churches to established status.

➢ Total Membership (Covenant and Community) has grown by 247 (10%)

➢ Main Sunday service attendances have declined by 124 (3%) from a 20 year high of 4330. Time to get out and follow the Great Commission.

➢ Personnel: Whilst the total number of ordained ministers has declined, due mainly to retirement, it is pleasing to see big improvement in number of unstationed ministers.

➢ Number of licensed ministers has increased by 13 from 23 to 36.

➢ Number of ministerial students has remained basically constant.

➢ The number of people saved continues to fluctuate between 200 and 300. So, we ask, are we continuing the Great Commission of making disciples as only an average of 35% of converts are being baptised.

➢ It is pleasing to note over the quadrennium that we have reversed the trend downward in the number of children attending Christian Education/Sunday School on Sunday showing an increase of 183 (27%) over the quadrennium.

➢ Auxiliary attendances have remained constant for the quadrennium.

➢ Tithes and Offerings have fluctuated a little over the quadrennium and it is a little disappointing that mission giving has declined during this period.

We have a great field out there to harvest so let’s see how many more people we can bring into the harvest in the next 4 years. In the 2016 Census approx. 30% reported no religion to confirm there is a vast harvest out there.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Ring
National Secretary
Graphs

Number of Churches

- Number of established churches
- Number of Developing/Pioneer Churches
- Total number of preaching points

Total Ministers

- Number of ordained & commissioned ministers stationed
- Number of ordained ministers not stationed (incl. retired)
- TOTAL NUMBER OF ORDAINED MINISTERS
- Number of licensed/ commissioned ministers

Sunday main service average attendance
Auxiliary Attendance

- Average attendance Wesleyan Youth
- Average attendance Young Adults
- Average attendance Wesleyan Men's functions
- Average attendance Wesleyan Women's functions

Tithes and Offerings

World Missions Giving
REPORT OF THE
NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW

National Board of Review - Report to National Conference 2020

Preamble:
The National Board of Review (NBR) was requested to convene by way of correspondence dated July 18, 2019 by Dr. Rosalea Cameron. Co-signatories to the request were Rev. Jim Scott, Mrs. Heather Scott and Mrs. Sela Aaifou. (This letter is attached to the end of this Board’s report)

The request to convene was passed on to elected members of the National Board of Review by the National Secretary. Because accusations were made against the National Superintendent and the National Board of Administration (NBA), and that those accused would normally be the ones deciding if there was a case to answer as per ‘Policies and Procedures – 5012 Investigation’, the matter was handed directly to the National Board of Review for investigation.

Those who were deemed eligible to serve on the Board received the "June 2019 Policies and Procedures", along with twenty-three other documents of relevant background information from the National Secretary.

A further sixteen documents were received throughout our investigation.

After an exhaustive and serious consideration, including review of hundreds of pages of information, many interviews with concerned parties and many hours of conscientious deliberation, pertaining to the two matters in question, the National Board of Review have reached the following conclusions.

Findings:
These findings are published on a "without prejudice" basis.

Concerning matter one - "That the NBA sanctioned a letter to be sent via a lawyer as an initial means of addressing an alleged offence by a member", the National Board of Review finds that the letter:

(1) was a communication which followed extended communications with the alleged seeking to resolve the matter in a conciliatory manner. The letter was of a responsive nature to remarks considered as defamatory to leaders of the Wesleyan Methodist Church on the evidence provided.

(2) was not in contravention of the Handbook of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia.

(3) was warranted because of Dr. Rosalea Cameron’s repeated threats of legal action.

(4) resulted from the recommendations given by the "Resolve Christian Consulting Group Pty. Ltd" for the NBA to seek legal advice.
Concerning matter two - “The Board of Review is asked to investigate unresolved conflict that the NBA has declared as “matter closed”, and accusations that “the National Superintendent Rev Rex Rigby and other members of the NBA have colluded with him in aborting opportunities to present evidence that implicates him in negligence of duty”, the National Board of Review finds that:

(1) The matter of Rev. Hendrik Vorster progressed through the relevant legal proceedings, and resolved by way of a “without prejudice” settlement. Subsequently, the matter has been brought to a close. In addition, the National Church Policies and Guidelines [5040 [4]] state that a five-year limit applies to such cases. This period lapsed in 2017.

(2) Interviews with concerned parties show that Rev Rex Rigby was not party to the investigative process and played no part in the relevant decision which culminated in the decision not to proceed with the Christian Consulting Group, Resolve, conducting a review of the above-mentioned matter.

(3) Upon review of the evidence provided and referred to in the “Preamble”, the National Board of Review was satisfied that no collusion occurred among the relevant members of the National Board of Administration.

(4) There was no attempt by the NBA to prevent evidence from being disclosed. At all material times, the NBA complied with all requests for disclosure of evidence.

(5) Upon deliberation, the National Board of Review has resolved that there does not appear to be a substantial case to be met in connection with allegations made pertaining to Rex Rigby and other relevant members of the NBA.

Recommendations:

(1) As the letter referred to as the principal subject of Matter#1, the National Board of Review has considered the relevant service of the letter was not inappropriate. Subsequently, the NBR recommends that the recipient of aforementioned letter abide by its contents.

(2) The NBR further recommends that the NBA consider the matter closed subsequent to this investigation, and refrain from further engagement in relation to this matter.

Conclusion:

It is the view of this Board (NBR) that these findings should be considered a final resolution and that this matter should not be further investigated or considered.

Signed ________________________ Kay Fulcher, Chair of NBR

Signed ________________________ Frank C. Lees, Secretary of NBR
18 July 2019

To: The National Board of Administration
Re: Request for the Board of Review to be convened.

We, the undersigned, request that the Board of Review be convened to investigate two matters.

1. The NBA sanctioned a letter to be sent via a lawyer as an initial means of addressing an alleged offence by a Member.

The National Board of Administration, or individual members on the NBA, sanctioned the email delivery of a letter from lawyer, Mr Frank Carroll, purporting to act in representation of The Wesleyan Church of Australia, making allegations of scandal and defamation against Dr Rosalea Cameron. The delivery of this letter (9 May 2019) and its contents, as an initial means of addressing an alleged offence with a Member of the Church, is in violation of the spirit and guidelines of The Handbook regarding management of offences (Section 1541), and Policies and Procedures: Church Discipline Guidelines (referencing Appendix A flowchart). It is also in violation of biblical guidelines. The letter was delivered after a 19 month period (Dec 2017 – current) of Dr Cameron attempting to resolve allegations made to the NBA against the National Superintendent, Rev Rex Rigby, and following the untimely abortion of an NBA arranged opportunity to finally present the documented evidence supporting the allegations made against him. This evidence was to be presented to Mr David Bartlett at a meeting on 11 April 2019 as he had been commissioned by the NBA to conduct a governance audit and a review of the management of the Hendrik Vorster case (letters sent to Dr Cameron following NBA resolutions, Nov 2018 & updated confirmation Feb 2019).

The delivery of the letter making allegations of Rosalea Cameron, that had not been previously raised, and the failure to follow-through with the investigation that had been promised on multiple occasions, is in violation of The Handbook guidelines on handling allegations of offence in a timely, impartial, and transparent manner.

2. The Board of Review is asked to investigate unresolved conflict that the NBA has declared as “matter closed”. This conflict relates to the National Superintendent, Rev Rex Rigby and other members of the NBA who have colluded with him in aborting opportunities to present evidence that implicates him in negligence of duty.

The allegations against the National Superintendent were brought to the attention of the NBA in December 2017. These relate to Rev Rex Rigby’s handling of the Rev Hendrik Vorster crisis at the Riverside Church in 2010 – 2012. He acted against substantial available evidence that Rev Vorster was unfit to hold the office of Supply Pastor in the Church. He maintained then and now that he made proper decisions in handling this situation and that the available evidence was not sufficient to warrant removal of the Supply Pastor. There remains substantial evidence that has never been included in any previous review of the case. This fact has been repeatedly brought to the attention of the NBA.

Throughout the 19 month process of submitting to the directives of the NBA, Rosalea Cameron has proved herself willing to substantiate every claim through properly arranged meetings and through impartial mediation. The NBA stipulated at the outset that they would manage the allegations by
Member against the National Superintendent through biblical and Handbook guidelines. This has not been the case.

- The initial allegation was not reviewed by the NBA until 5 months after it was submitted by Rosalea Cameron.
- Rev Rigby has not been required by the NBA to meet face to face through a mediator with Rosalea Cameron, as is a clear biblical requirement.
- The eventually confirmed governance audit, including a review of the specific allegations against Rev Rigby in the Hendrik Vorster case, has not been carried out.
- The opportunity to present the evidence confirming the allegations was aborted by members of the NBA.
- In the persistence of seeking resolution, Rosalea Cameron has been required to add breadth and detail to the allegations to advance the process; at every stage those implicated along with Rev Rigby have refuted the validity of the claims stating that all involved simply “acted in good faith” – the facts remain un-interrogated.
- A significant number of the NBA have been intimately involved in the decisions made about managing the Rev Hendrik Vorster case and now in determining that their own actions were appropriate and there is no evidence of improper governance. This itself, is improper governance.
- Instead of participating in a transparent review as had been agreed upon by the full NBA, members of the NBA used their positional privilege and denominational resources to secure the services of a legal professional to send a letter of “warning” to Rosalea Cameron to silence her on this issue and in the letter included allegations of offences not previously raised with her as a Member in good standing in the Church.

In managing a complaint made by a Member and in the issuing of a letter via a lawyer, the NBA, or individuals on the board, have:

1. Operated outside the provision of The Handbook;
2. Been negligent of their own duties and in duty of care for a Member;
3. Manifested conduct unbecoming office bearers of the Church.

Referencing the flowchart in Appendices A of the Policies and Procedures of Church Discipline (June 2019):

- The conflict has been presented.
- The NBA has concluded that there is no fault found.
- No discipline has been required.
- The Matter is Closed.
- The complainant refutes this conclusion and submits the allegations to the next highest authority for investigation.

[Signatures]

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ABN 81 172 446 370

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National Superintendent
Rev Rex Rigby
Email: rexrigby@ms.com
National Secretary
Doug Ring
Email: nat.secretary@wesleyan.org.au
REPORT OF THE ACTIONS
NATIONAL BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION
SINCE LAST CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 2015

Meeting November 2015
1. Confirmed Minutes of May 15 meeting
2. Confirmed email vote September on Judicial Process Memorial
3. Confirmed Executive actions
   a) Approve Rose Richardson and Phil Hotchkin to sign builder’s contract for building fit out - 27 – 29 Fuller Road – Ravenhall
   b) Approval of Youth and Children’s Program for National Gathering
   c) Approval of change of portable Eftpos device -
   d) Approval of speakers fee for Gathering
4. Adopt the financial reports of National Treasurer’s Fund, Wesleyan Investment Foundation and Property Trust with amendment to registered office and representation and engagement letters to be signed by National Treasurer and National Superintendent.
5. Rex Rigby to work with Gordon Kuss and Dallas Thomas with input from Rose Richardson as to requirements to comply with auditing standards for World Missions
6. Received Treasurer’s report
7. Endorsed Finance Committee Actions:
   A) New South Wales
      Review of November 2015 finances and the Budget:
      a. Allow up to $2000 removal costs for Lex Akers allocated from gift funds
      b. Budget on salary for DS for 2015/16 at 2.5 days per week
      c. Doug Ring and Lex Akers to work with Genesis and other churches that are behind in USF
      d. Allocate up to $3000 for NSW Pastors to attend the Sth Qld District Pastors Retreat, funds to be allocated from National Sponsorship Funds reserve.
   B) Allocate ½ day salary for Lex Akers for 2016/17, funded from the Development Fund Scope for work to be drawn up, Church Planters Assessment Program to be developed and implemented
   C) Endorsed Adjusted 2016 budget
   D) Approved Leave arrangements
   E) Referred Debtors to District Superintendents to follow up.
   F) Approved Kingsley Australia budget
8. WIF Committee Report
   Interest Rates unchanged
9. Property Committee:
    Need to lease Properties at Tullamarine 6 currently vacant and agent been changed
    Property in Brisbane fully leased
    Settlement of vacant land at Broadmeadows scheduled for February 2016
10. Appointed Jeff Adams to NBA executive
11. Appointed Rex Rigby, Peter Dobson, Rob Simpson and Doug Ring to Finance Committee
12. Appointed Phil Hotchkin, Rose Richardson, Peter Dobson and Doug Ring to Property Strategy Committee.
13. Appointed Jeff Adams (Chair), Sharyn MacDonald and Phil Hotchkin to the Policy and Guidelines Committee.
14. Accepted Final report of Minutes Committee 2015 Conference
15. Agreed to allocate ½ day per week to Peter Dobson to relieve NS whilst on LSL
16. That the NBA and Kingsley Australia Principal are members of the association Kingsley Inc and the NBA Executive and Kingsley Australia Principal are the officers of the association with National Superintendent as Chair and National Secretary as Secretary.
17. Peter Dobson (Chair), Lex Akers, Lindsay Cameron, Sharyn MacDonald, Doug Ring and Jeff Adams form the Handbook Review Committee
18. Confirmed North Qld and NSW District officials
19. Confirmed that Southern District Conference did have a quorum at the District Conference.
20. Appointed Melissa George to the position of Children’s Ministry Director
21. Approve the reinstatement of ministerial credentials of Shannon Sheridan
22. To approve Judicial Policy and place in National Church Guidelines
23. Investigate Phillip Island Adventure Resort for 2020 National Conference

Meeting May 2016
1. Confirmed Minutes of November 2015 meeting
2. Approved Actions of Executive:
   Approved trip of Missions Director to PNG to discuss with Floyds possible redeployment,
   Approved establishment of Church Plant Tully/Mission Beach in North Qld.
   Approved travel of Lex Akers to Manilla to discuss work with Filipino migrants
3. Received Treasurer’s Report
4. Accepted resignation of Peter Lam as Director of Spiritual Formation.
5. Agreed Don and Cheri Floyd be asked to consider reassignment to Noro
6. Agreed that Alistair and Elaine Moss be appointed to Noro as Project Managers
7. Authorised swap of Youth Leaders between Australia and New Zealand for Youth Camps
8. Endorsed Actions of Finance Committee
   a) Set Insurance contributions for next period
   b) Discussed issues around Title for Hilton St Property and costs associated with transfer of trustees
   c) Change in Salary Rates for 2017 Increase 1.7%
   d) Preliminary budget approved
   e) Rescinded motion to pay Peter Dobson ½ day a week to be reviewed if time off work is required
   f) Letter to be sent to all churches reminding them of Superannuation requirements under law.
   g) Endorsed WIF budget
   h) New South Wales budget:
      Additional $800 in movement costs added to budget
      Approved NSW budget
   i) Approved World Missions budget with salary adjustments
   j) Question to be added to LBA report to confirm Long Service Leave provision made
k) District Superintendents requested to ensure all banking accounts, property transfers are authorized by 2 signatories as per National Church Guidelines.

9. **Endorsed Actions of WIF Committee:**
   - Withdrew Mildura Loan Application and requested resubmission when Council requirements met.
   - Kept current interest rates despite drop in official interest rates in an endeavour to attract additional private depositor funds.
   - Discussed Viti Loan and requested further information with final decision to be made when to hand.
   - Authorised printing of additional leaflets for District Conferences.
   - Authorised the extension of ThreeSixteen Loan reducing repayments to $500pm.

10. **Endorsed Actions of Property Strategy Committee**
    - Seek Tenants for Tullamarine.
    - Finalise Subdivision to sell vacant land at Broadmeadows.

11. **Meeting November 2016**
    1. Confirmed Minutes of May 2016 Meeting.
    2. Confirmed email vote of 6th October authorising signing of audit letters.
       - That the assignment of Don and Cheri Floyd will conclude at the end of 2017 and that they be reassigned to Solomon Islands. National Superintendent to advise the Floyds verbally of this decision with formal letter to be sent prior to end of September. Acceptance of reassignment will be at their discretion.
    4. Advised that Woorobinda Church building had been gifted to WMC.
    5. Received Treasurer’s Report.
    6. Authorised Rose Richardson and Rex Rigby to sign relative Letters of Authorisation for audits of National Treasurer’s Report and Wesleyan World Missions accounts.
    7. Asked Kingsley Australia to produce graphs on enrolments.
    8. Set a cap on Kingsley Student Scholarships.
    9. Endorsed Women’s Symposium and National Women’s Conference.
    10. To contact Steve Mitchell to ascertain direction of Club Solo and the relationship to WMC. Constitution not being adhered to regarding members of Executive.

11. **Endorsed Finance Committee Actions:**
    - Reviewed budget.
    - To ensure all churches and district accounts require 2 signatures.
    - To commence collating Long Service Leave provisions to ascertain requirements being met.
    - Endorsed arrangements for setting up of World Hope International Australia with office space being provided in District/National Offices and contribution of up to $5000 with set up costs.
    - Approved giving of medallions to retired pastors in good standing with 25 years of service from licensing.

12. **Endorsed WIF Committee Actions:**
    - Received Auditor’s report.
Agreed to set formula for lending Australian funds to be 2% above cash rate and lending rates adjusted accordingly.

13. Reduced rental being asked for Tullamarine Properties to gain tenants
14. Section on Sex Offenders in Churches to be included in Policies and Procedures.
15. Noted General Conference has amended Articles of Religion.
16. Confirmed District Officials for Nth Qld and NSW Districts
17. Remind Pastors when engaging guest speakers about sensitivity to Wesleyan Ethos.
18. Agreed to Memorandum of Understanding with World Hope International
19. Draft Partnership with TSM to be drawn up.
20. Policy on Refugees in Australia to be circulated.

Meeting May 2017
1. Confirmed Minutes of November 2016 Meeting
2. Approved Actions of Executive Committee:
   Agreed to use CommBizz Markets for International Transactions
   Confirmed MOU with World Hope International
   Confirmed MOU with The Second Mile
3. Endorsed plan presented by Rev Troy Beer Director Evangelism and Church Growth and agreed to fund him 2.5 days on conclusion of appointment at Axis
4. Received Treasurer’s Report
5. Appointed Rev Arestedes Balatan as Filipino Church Development Officer in partnership with the United Methodist Church of Philippines.
6. Appointed Rose Richardson as Treasurer for a further 2 year period.
7. Investigate whether changes required to Statistical Returns.
8. Editorial check to be done on Refugee Policy

Meeting November 2017
1. Confirmed Minutes of May 2017 Meeting
2. Approved Actions of Executive:
   Approved Lodgment of Appeal for Border and Immigrations rejection of Nomination of Position
   Approved signing of Lease of Property Unit 7 Butler Way
   Authorised signing of WIF Statements to auditor by Treasurer
   Authorised signing of National Treasurer’s Fund, Property Trust and Wesleyan World Missions
   Approve signing of Deed of Surrender Unit 2 Broadmeadows and signing of Lease for Units 2 and 3.
   Approval to sign lease of Unit 6 Butler Way.
3. Accepted Resignation of Nathan Bell as Young Adults Director
4. Approved 5-day week for Administrative Assistant and reduce Assistant NS to one day per month.
5. Adopted auditors reports on accounts: National Treasurer, Wesleyan World Missions, Property Trust and Wesleyan Investment Foundation
6. Received Treasurer’s report
7. Reviewed wording and structure of website
8. Requested Mission Director develop 5-year plan for Solomon Islands
9. Missions Director to ensure sufficient sabbatical time is built into David Collins leave.
10. Agreed to cap Kingsley Scholarship fund payments to $5000 per person.
11. Recommended asking Bridget Aitchison to conduct a review of Kingsley
12. Formed subcommittee to review Domestic Violence Policy and report to NBA
13. Approved reduction in WIF loan interest rate.
14. Approved National Treasurer’s budget
15. Treasurer to follow up outstanding LSL Payments
16. Appointed Barry Lex Akers, Jeffrey Herbert Adams and Robert Bruce Simpson trustees of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia Annual Conference Trust
17. Set cost of 2016 Handbook at $15
19. Approved North QLD officials
20. To work with Ares Balatan on relationships with Filipino Churches.
22. Approved costings for National Pastors Conference.

Meeting May 2018
1. Minutes November 2017 confirmed
2. Approved change of signatories on Kingsley Australia account
3. Accepted resignation of Peter Dobson from positions
4. Appointed Lex Akers as Assistant National Superintendent for balance of quadrennium
5. Approved National Superintendent’s leave from 16th – 30th June
6. Appointed a subcommittee to review Audit report on Kingsley Australia and report back to NBA
7. Approved CRICOS application for Kingsley Australia
8. NS and Southern District DS to address Club Solo non-compliance issues and allow them to remove from under WMC Banner if appropriate.
9. Approved Finance Committee Actions:
   a) Missions budget does not allow employment of Finance Officer from September
   b) Endorsed 2.4% increase in Pastors Salary
   c) Approved Property budget, NSW budget, National Treasurer’s budget, World Mission’s budget, Wesleyan Investment Foundation budget
   d) Approved leave of National Superintendent and National Treasurer
10. Approved release of updated Policies and Procedures guidelines with additional sections added and salary updated
11. Request Ministers to advise change of details so data bases can be kept up to date
12. Discussion on effective communication to Pastors
13. Authorised Lex Akers to review Membership booklet
14. Investigate Phillip Island Adventure Resort availability for 2020 conference in January
15. Appointed Emissaries to meet with Rosalea Cameron in response to her letter of complaint and report back to NBA with suggested further actions

Special Meeting September 2018
Meeting called to discuss options to follow up on complaint from Rosalea Cameron concerning governance
1. David Bartlett (Resolve Consulting) joined via zoom to answer questions concerning conduct of review and methodology behind options presented
2. Resolved to obtain second quote from Global Church Solutions
3. Resolved to seek legal advice as suggested by Insurer ACS Insurances.
4. Letter to be written to Rosalea Cameron advising processes being undertaken.

**Meeting November 2018**
1. Confirmed minutes of meeting May 2018 and special meeting September 2018
2. Approved change of signatories Wesleyan World Mission Account
3. Accepted resignation of Nathan Bell as National Young Adults Director
4. Approved NS Leave December and Study Leave May through June
5. Lex Akers to be acting NS during period of leave
6. Treasurer’s Report:
   a) Received Treasurer’s report
   c) Authorised Rex Rigby and Rose Richardson to sign letters
7. Troy Beer to follow up why low take up of video series
8. Confirmed that churches can invite Don and Cheri Floyd to speak at church services and accept donations
9. To investigate whether we can use an AUD account with Global Partners
10. Approved LSL of Kingsley Australia Principal
11. Added Gordon Kuss as signatory of Kingsley Australia account
12. Added Phil Hotchkin to committee overseeing review of Kingsley Australia
13. Advise Club Solo events cannot be run until compliant with constitution due to risks
14. Approved Finance Committee actions:
   a) Reviewed budget with updated USF figures
   b) Debtors reviewed
   c) Reviewed NSW budget
15. Approved Property Committee Actions:
   a) Appointed Rob Simpson as Chairman
   b) Agreed that Phil Hotchkin look after mowing of both properties
   c) Pursuing liquidator for Evolve Homes for some payment
   d) Seeking legal Letter of Demand for Freedom Wheelchairs
   e) Approved Advertising expenditure for CVA to let Units 2 and 6
16. Rob Simpson to review Pastors Manual
17. After hearing from Global Church Communications, agreed to accept quote from Resolve Consultants and Lex Akers to advise parameters to them
18. Nominated Rev Susan Lee to fill vacancy on National Board
19. Approved Nth Qld and NSW District Officials
20. Accepted recommendation from Compliance Officer that prerequisite for employment be a satisfactory outcome of external psychological testing for suitability of ministry in the WMC
21. To review statements on sanctity of life, gender fluidity, etc as a result of Legislative changes
22. To present 25 years’ service medallion as close as possible to service anniversary

**Meeting May 19**
1. Confirmed Minutes November 2018
2. Confirmed vote electing Rev Susan Lee to National Board
3. Confirmed email vote allowing Club Solo to continue under WMC as Constitution has been met.
4. Received Treasurer’s Reports
5. Informal discussion to be organized with Dallas Thomas and others to look at overall vision for missions

6. Approved Finance Committee actions:
   a) Resolved to use Retirement Benefit Fund to assist retired pastors to attend conferences
   b) Increased Salary Rates 2.4%
   c) Absolved Lismore USF arrears as per Handbook
   d) Forgive Peninsula debt of $2099 due to overpayment
   e) Centralise Single Touch Payroll to churches wishing to take up at $10pm.
   f) Approved National Treasurer’s, NSW and Wesleyan World Missions budgets
   g) Approved draft National Conference budget

7. Approved release of updated Policies and Procedures

8. Agreed to progress Minister of Religion Labour Agreements with Department of Home Affairs

9. Approved “That all Ministerial Candidates must have Working With Children Check and from 1st July 2019 will have to undertake psychological testing prior to initial appointment. Ministers in course of Transfer must have Working With Children Check and will be required to undertake psychological testing as part of the process of transferring credentials”

10. Discontinue Resolve Consulting Review of governance due to change of scope requested not being acceptable and at their suggestion

11. Letter to be sent to Rosalea Cameron advising outcome

12. Continued appointment of Jeff Adams as Compliance Officer for 12 months.

13. Appointed Rose Richardson as Treasurer for further 2 years

14. Recommend to National Conference appointment of Kevin Brown as Kingsley Australia Principal

15. Investigate use of commercial Dropbox for use

16. Endorsed Youth and Young Adults follow up tour in December, January

Meeting November 19

1. Confirm Minutes of May 19 meeting

2. Confirm email vote accepting Kingsley Australia accounts

3. Confirm email vote authorising signing of financial reports by Rex Rigby and Rose Richardson

4. Endorsed forwarding to the Board of Review a letter from Rosalea Cameron requesting a review be conducted by the Board of Review

5. Executive Actions:
   a) Endorsed removal of Peter Dobson as signatory to account
   b) Agreed to engage immigration lawyer to provide advice on Visa issues

6. Agreed to recommendation from NSW DS that rental funds from Hope be used to support NSW District.

7. Received Treasurer’s Report and adopted Auditor’s Report

8. Approved Finance Committee actions:
   a) Reviewed budget
   b) DS’S to discuss debts with churches in their districts.
   c) Discussed NSW budget and churches
   d) Questionnaire to be sent to Churches to confirm compliance to Single Touch Payroll
   e) Workcover on payroll to be added to Insurance premiums

9. Approved WIF Committee actions
   a) Adopted Auditor’s Report
   b) Reduced interest rates for loans to apply from 1st January 2020
General Purpose 3.2% down 0.1%
Special Purpose Loans 4.0% down 0.3%
New Loans 4.5% down 0.3%
c) Reduced Interest Rates on deposits immediately
d) Adjusted Interest rate bands $1 - $1999, $2,000 - $39,999, $40,000+ and Flexi Term $100,000+
e) Brochure to be printed showing new rates

10. Received report from Board of Review
11. Agreed not to participate in National Redress scheme.
12. Jeff Adams and Rex Rigby to continue work on process for psychological testing
13. Noted the following matters that we need to be aware of:
   Whistle-blowers and Complaint Handling Policies
   Leave requirements for part time employees
   ACIS requirements for sending funds overseas
   Terminologies used in Risk exposure
14. Agreed on Brett Jones (Acting vice-president South Pacific Regional Conference) and Rex Rigby to co-chair National Conference
15. Recommended Conference Personnel
16. Recommended nominations for national positions
17. Gave details on the Asia Pacific Conference with Lex Akers and Kevin Brown attending and elected NS to also attend
19. Approved Property Strategy Committee Actions
   a) 5 of 7 units at Tullamarine now let with follow up required on one tenant currently 3 months in arrears
   b) Broadmeadows all let – Owner of Freedom wheelchairs has authorised sale of goods left behind as well as some vehicles. Valuations to be sought to ensure fair value received. Decision then to be made on debt.
20. Kingsley Australia Report:
   a) Still awaiting costs and contract from Unity College for English Classes
   b) Assembly of Confessing Congregations recommending Kingsley Australia for study – 1 student already doing lay preachers course
   c) National Church to set aside funds for trainer’s accreditation and Districts asked to assist.
   d) Approved budget for 2020
21. Met as Committee for Memorials and ruled on Memorials.
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR MEMORIALS

MEMORIAL 1: from Southern District

MEMORIAL ON TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP (243)

WHEREAS most communication is now conducted electronically including documents previously requiring proof of receipt and

WHEREAS the requirement to transfer members from one church to another via registered or certified mail,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT that such requirement be removed from The Handbook by removing the words “by registered or certified mail” from paragraph 243

Recommended

MEMORIAL 2: from Southern District

BIENNIAL NATIONAL CONFERENCES

WHEREAS the decision to make National Conferences quadrennial was taken at a time when air travel was much more expensive than it is currently, and

WHEREAS natural attrition leaves positions vacant that have not been filled in the interim between National Conferences, and places the NBA in the position of having to replace its own members, and

WHEREAS waiting four years for the next National Conference to make changes to The Handbook hampers growth and streamlining the operation of the Church, and a sense of national unity in the Church,

1. BE IT RESOLVED that regular sessions of the National Conferences of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia be held biennially.

2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in order to save on costs, District Conferences be also held biennially, in the alternate years between National Conferences.

Not Recommended

Substitute Motion:
That the National Board of Administration investigate the efficiency of our structures and connectivity to provide a recommendation to District Conferences at their 2021 conferences specifically District Conference, Pastors and Leader Conferences, District Structures/Boundaries.

Recommended
MEMORIAL 3: from Southern and South Qld Districts

DISTRICT QUALIFICATIONS FOR COMMISSIONING

WHEREAS 1117.1(a) appears to apply primarily to “Track 1” ministerial candidates, the majority of ministerial candidates are following “Track 3”, and many of mature age, and some even approaching retirement age, and

WHEREAS it currently lacks flexibility for DBMDs to supervise such candidates, and

WHEREAS many of the candidates already have years of ministerial experience, much of it gained while in the process of studying, thus allowing them to apply the principles gained from their study immediately,

BE IT RESOLVED that the 1117.1.a be changed to:
“Satisfactory service under a District ministerial licence with appointment by the District. Ordinarily the candidate will have completed for a minimum of six years. However, the DBMD may reduce this to no less than two years, taking into account the age, proximity to retirement age, the capacity to study, and/or previous ministerial experience of the candidate.”
1117.1.a currently reads
“Satisfactory service under a District ministerial licence with appointment by the District for a minimum of six years.”

“Satisfactory service under a District ministerial licence with appointment by the District. Ordinarily the candidate will have completed satisfactory service under a District ministerial licence with appointment by the District for a minimum of six years. However, the DBMD may reduce this to no less than two years, taking into account the age and proximity to retirement age, the capacity to study, and/or previous ministerial experience of the candidate.

From South Qld District:
Motion 1: That the requirements in 1117(1a) be amended -Satisfactory service under a District ministerial license with appointment by the District for six years or more. This may be reduced to a minimum of four years under exceptional circumstances (e.g. age, language limitations) by the recommendation of the DBMD and approval of the District Superintendent.

Motion 2: That the requirements in 1117(1a) be extended - After the completion of study, the final two years are to be under DBMD appointed supervision by an ordained or commissioned minister.

Substitute Motion 1.
That the requirements in 1117(1a) be amended -Satisfactory service under a District ministerial license with appointment by the District for six years or more. This may be reduced to a minimum of three years under exceptional circumstances (e.g. age, language limitations, experience, etc) by the recommendation of the DBMD and approval of the District Superintendent.

Not Recommended

Not Recommended

Recommended
Substitute Motion 2.
That the requirements in 1117(1a) be extended - After the completion of study, the final two years are to be under DBMD appointed supervision by an ordained or commissioned minister.

Recommended

Memorial 4: from South Qld District

MEMORIAL TO CHANGE MEMBERSHIP OF THE DBMD (532)

WHEREAS the role of the DBMD is to carefully examine each applicant for ministry and this is more effectively done by a board composed of enough members to bring a depth of knowledge and experience, and

WHEREAS approximately one third of the board is to be elected each year for a three-year term, having the number of additional members divisible by three makes this easier to calculate, and

WHEREAS a Commissioned Minister can have similar knowledge, experience and skills to an Ordained Minister in serving on this board,

BE IT RESOLVED that 532 be amended to:

532 DBMD Membership: The Board shall consist of the District Superintendent, the Assistant District Superintendent, and from six to nine additional Members, at least three of whom shall be elected by the District Board of Administration (486:18) and the remainder by the District Conference (473:34). At least two Members shall be laypersons, and the ministerial Members shall be Ordained or Commissioned Ministers. The term of office for the elected Members shall be for three years; with the election so arranged approximately one-third shall be elected each year. General regulations for the Members of this Board are defined in 499-504. Recommended
Memorial 5: from South Qld District

**ADDITIONAL CLAUSE (290) ADDED REGARDING CALLING OF LICENSED MINISTER**

WHEREAS 290 allows for pastors to be called for a number of years and

WHEREAS licensed ministers are appointed as supply pastors with 12 month review and

WHEREAS a licensed minister may be in charge of a congregation that has a number of projects ongoing and

WHEREAS congregations need some stability

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Licensed Ministers can be called for 2 years

Clause 290 (3) to be added

290 (3) *A Licensed Minister can only be called for two years.*

**Not Recommended**

**Substitute Memorial:** A Licensed Minister may be called for up to two years or up to 4 years with approval of District Superintendent.

**Recommended**
Memorial 6: from South Qld District

**CHANGES TO SUBMISSION OF SERVICE REPORTS REQUIREMENTS 1123**

**WHEREAS** the only reporting of personal spiritual state and continued acceptance of the Articles of Religion and General Rules of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia is the Annual Service Report, and

**WHEREAS** the failure to do this for two years may allow someone listed by the District to be acting outside the ordinances of the church for up to three years,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the following amendment be made in regard to both Ordained and Commissioned Ministers

1123 (2) An Ordained Minister who fails to file the annual service report by the due date to the District Board of Administration shall be reminded of the requirement. If they fail to submit the report within one month of the due date and there are no extenuating circumstances, they shall be declared to be withdrawn and this will be noted in District records. **Recommended**

1117(4) b) A Commissioned Minister who fails to file the annual service report by the due date to the District Board of Administration shall be reminded of the requirement. If they fail to submit the report within one month of the due date and there are no extenuating circumstances, they shall be declared to be withdrawn and this will be noted in District records. **Recommended**
Memorial 7 from South Qld District

**DISTRICT DIRECTORS TO HAVE A VOTE AT CONFERENCE**

WHEREAS District Directors undertake a significant level of responsibility and a prominent area of service

BE IT RESOLVED that 440(7) be removed and an addition be made to 439 - District Directors have a vote as well as a voice.

Recommended

Memorial 8 from the National Board of Administration

**REMOVAL OF REQUIREMENT TO ELECT SECRETARIES BY BALLOT**

WHEREAS Members of Boards of Administration are elected at Conferences and
WHEREAS Handbook calls for Secretaries to be elected by ballot

Be it resolved the words by ballot be removed from Par 337, 516 and 751.

Recommended
REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

ELECTIONS:
National Superintendent: by nominating ballot and electing ballot
Assistant National Superintendent: by nominating ballot and electing ballot

APPOINTMENT:
National Treasurer: appointed by NBA for 2 year term

NOMINATIONS:

1. National Secretary:
   HANDBOOK: 751-755 elected by Ballot
   DECLINED: Annette Dobson
   Doug Ring

2. Director of Education and the Ministry:
   HANDBOOK: 820-828
   DECLINED: Susan Lee
   Rev. Dr Peter Dobson

3. Director of Spiritual Formation:
   HANDBOOK: 805-812
   DECLINED: Melissa George; Paul Homer; Nathan Bell

4. Director of Wesleyan World Missions:
   HANDBOOK: 860-882
   DECLINED: Robin Knight
   Rev. Dallas Thomas

5. Director of Evangelism & Church Growth:
   HANDBOOK: 845-852
   DECLINED: Rev. Stuart Hall
   Rev. Troy Beer

6. Director of Social Concern:
   HANDBOOK: 895-897
   DECLINED: Ange van der Leeuw

7. Principal of Kingsley College Inc:
   HANDBOOK: 933.2
   Rev. Kevin Brown
8. Director of Wesleyan Women:

Nomination from Wesleyan Women

9. Director of Wesleyan Men:

HANDBOOK: 1211-1235

10. Director of Wesleyan Youth:

HANDBOOK: 1271-1327
DECLINED: Caleb Maple, Adam Cousins

11. Director of Young Adults:

HANDBOOK: 1331-1369

Claire Markotanyos

12. Director of Children’s Ministry:

Rev. Melissa George

13. Director of Club Solo Ministry:

HANDBOOK: 1371-1381

Rev. Steve Mitchell

14. National Board of Administration

HANDBOOK: 678

Ex-officio members: National Superintendent, Assistant National Superintendent, National Secretary, National Treasurer, District Superintendents

Number to be elected will be advised following election of NS and ANS. Due regard shall be given to the balance of Ministerial and Lay members.

DECLINED: Heather Wright; David Eco; Susan Lee; Jade Griffith; Jillian Weir; Mike Woodrow; Ken Fleischner

MINISTERIAL  LAY

Peter Dobson  Jeff Adams
Rob Simpson  Sharyn Macdonald
‘Alefosio ‘Ale  Frank Carroll
Keith Rose  Bridget Aitchison
Ange van der Leeuw  

49th National Conference Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia
15. Board of Review
HANDBOOK: 1640
Required to elect 7 members - Four Ministerial and Three Lay. Also required are 2 Ministerial & 2 Lay alternate members. Must not be members of the NBA
DECLINED: Kay Fulcher; Paul Homer; Dale Richardson; Kane Crawford

MINISTERIAL    LAY
Frank Lees     Frank Carroll
Richard Jackson Mike Woodrow
Jake Gerber    Bridget Aitchison
Keith Rose     Ben Sia
Dennis Hartin

16. South Pacific Regional Board Lay Representative
Doug Ring
## INTRODUCING THE NOMINEES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Overview</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADAMS</strong></td>
<td>Jeff</td>
<td>Jeff is a member of Axis Church. He currently serves on the SQld DBA as Secretary, member of the NBA and is the National Compliance Officer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AITCHISON</strong></td>
<td>Bridget</td>
<td>Prof. Bridget Aitchison is currently Campus Dean for the Ballarat Campus of Australian Catholic University. She has worked in the faith-based higher education sector in Australia and the USA for over 30 years, including at Indiana Wesleyan University. She has extensive experience in governance of not-for-profit organisations. In addition to her doctorate from the University of Wollongong, she holds a Master of Practical Theology from Wesley Seminary at Indiana Wesleyan University.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>‘ALE</strong></td>
<td><em>Alefosio</em></td>
<td>Rev ‘Alefosio ‘Ale is Senior Pastor of Upper Room Dandenong Church Vic. Served on Southern District DBA as ADS since 2013; on the DBMD over ten years; on NBA past 3 years. Kingsley Community Trainer and Assessor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BEER</strong></td>
<td>Troy</td>
<td>Troy has been a church planter and pastor for 20 years in the WMC. He founded and led our largest church, Axis Church, and launched the Peninsula Life Church out of Axis. One of Troy’s passions in the ministry is to support pastors in the areas of revitalisation and multiplication of the local church.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BROWN</strong></td>
<td>Kevin</td>
<td>Kevin has served as Principal of Kingsley Australia since May 2010. He has completed Masters degree study.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CARROLL</strong></td>
<td>Frank</td>
<td>Frank is a Solicitor and a member of Nambour WMC. Has previously served on the NBA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DOBSON</strong></td>
<td>Peter</td>
<td>Rev. Dr Peter Dobson has served in several churches; currently pastoring a house church called Mimos Network. Peter's primary ministry has been in theological education for the past 15 years including 6 years as principal of Kingsley College and then at Tabor Victoria, Excelsia and currently as Academic Dean at St Athanasius Coptic Orthodox Theological College. Peter served as Assistant NS from 2001-2004 and 2012-2018. Peter has also served as National Director of Education and Ministry since 2012.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GEORGE</strong></td>
<td>Melissa</td>
<td>Melissa is ordained and is the Associate Pastor at Landsdale Community WMC for 15 years. She loves empowering people to start kids’ ministries and going full circle so that not just children meet Christ, but that entire families can have healing and have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GERBER</strong></td>
<td>Jake</td>
<td>Jake Gerber has been the Pastor at Lifebuilders WMC for the past 10 years. He has served as the SQld Missions Director and is currently the Lower North Zone co-ordinator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HARTEN</strong></td>
<td>Dennis</td>
<td>Dennis has been pastoring Wesleyan Churches since 1975. He has also taught several courses in our Bible College for many years in the Solomon Islands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JACKSON</strong></td>
<td>Richard</td>
<td>Richard has pastored Coff's Harbour WMC for 11 years and commences a new role in 2020 as School Pastor at Coff's Christian Community School. Richard has held various district positions including DS &amp; DBMD. He is a former policeman and is an honorary chaplain with NSW Police Force.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LEES</strong></td>
<td>Frank</td>
<td>Frank serves as Pastor at Thorpdale (Southern District) currently part-time, and he is also a University Chaplain part-time. He has previously served on various District and National Committees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MACDONALD</strong></td>
<td>Sharyn</td>
<td>Sharyn is a lay minister and attends Goombungee WMC. She currently serves as secretary of the SQld DBMD and a member of the NBA.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MARKOTANYOS</strong></td>
<td>Claire</td>
<td>Claire is a member of Hills Church SQld. She serves as the SQld District Young Adults Director.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MITCHELL</strong></td>
<td>Steve</td>
<td>Steve is an ordained minister and has been the Director for Club Solo since 1998.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RING</strong></td>
<td>Doug</td>
<td>Doug Ring is Treasurer of the Logan Church and has served for many years as the SQld District Statistician. He is also the current National Secretary.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ROSE</strong></td>
<td>Keith</td>
<td>Keith Rose is the Pastor at Rockhampton WMC and is serving as Assist. DS and chair of the DBMD. Keith has also served in roles in District Youth (SQld) &amp; Young Adults (NQld); has worked as a Chaplain in both Primary and High Schools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SIA</strong></td>
<td>Ben</td>
<td>Ben Sia is a retired Cardiologist serving as a Lay Leader-Elder at Balwyn Church for about 30 years. He is active in overseas missions, teaching and preaching ministries locally and with churches in Melbourne and overseas.</td>
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<td>Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>SIMPSON</td>
<td>Rob is the Senior Pastor of LifeChurch Maryborough and is currently serving as the Assistant District Superintendent and is a current member of the NBA.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rob</td>
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<tr>
<td>THOMAS</td>
<td>Dallas has served 22 years as National Director Wesleyan World Missions. He is an ordained minister and a member of Axis church. God has called him to serve the church in missions and development.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dallas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Van der LEEUW</td>
<td>Ange has been Senior Pastor at Wangaratta WMC for the past 3 years. Her ministry has mainly been with youth; more recently in school &amp; hospital chaplaincy prior to pastoring Wangaratta.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ange</td>
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<tr>
<td>WOODROW</td>
<td>Mike Woodrow is currently Treasurer of Hills Church and has served for many years in other roles on the LBA as Secretary and Chair.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike</td>
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NATIONAL STANDING RULES
of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia

1. **STATISTICAL YEAR:**
   National Conference Statistical year will end on June 30th.

2. **TREASURERS BOOKS:**
   All books throughout the Districts will close on June 30th.

3. **STATISTICAL REPORTS:**
   District Statisticians to have reports in the hands of the National Statistician by the 30th September.

4. **CREDENTIALS:**
   The names of all delegates to the National Conference are to be in the hands of the National Secretary within 14 days of their election.

5. **ORDERS OF THE DAY:**
   The National Superintendent will list the Orders of the Day at the first meeting of the National Conference Session.

6. **REPORTS:**
   Reports of National Officers are to be presented before the election of new officers.

7. **MEMORIALS:**
   All memorials are to be submitted to the National Secretary 21 days before the meeting of the National Board of Administration meeting as the Committee on Memorials. Copies of the memorials and the Committee’s responses are to be sent to all delegates to the National Conference 21 days prior to the National Conference.

8. **SPECIAL PROMOTIONS AND OFFERINGS:** (Handbook 910)
   Each church shall present the works and needs of Educational Fund, Wesleyan World Missions and Evangelism and Church Growth through a special annual service of same. Recommended times for these are: Evangelism and Church Growth – March; Educational Fund – July; Wesleyan World Missions – October.

9. **MINISTERIAL REQUIREMENTS:**
   "All ministers shall be required, in conjunction with their annual service report, to sign the following declaration of commitment:

   "I am persuaded that the Holy Scriptures are the fully inspired and inerrant written Word of God, and that they contain sufficiently all doctrine required for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. I am determined out of the said scriptures to instruct the people committed to my charge, and to teach nothing as required of necessity to eternal salvation but that which I shall be persuaded may be concluded and proved by the scriptures. I cordially accept our Articles of Religion and General Rules, and agree to declare and defend them. I further acknowledge my obligation to promote the institutions established and approved by The Wesleyan Methodist Church”
10. **MINUTES COMMITTEE:**
   The report of the Minutes Committee for the final day of Conference shall be made to the organising session of the National Board of Administration.
National Office
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Mackenzie, Qld 4156
Email: office@wesleyan.org.au
Web: http://wesleyan.org.au