



2022 AGM Minutes

Wodonga Lutheran Parish

Minutes of the AGM held at St John's Luth. Church on Sunday, 6 March 2022

1. WELCOME

Chairperson, Jenny Simboras, welcomed all present and declared the meeting open for this year's AGM at 11.00am. Jenny announced that the Attendance Sheet is circulating and members are asked to enter their name and any apologies they have.

2. PRESENT

As per the voting registration requirements for the AGM, a minimum of 27 eligible members must be present to conduct business. Since 43 members were listed as present there was a quorum. There were also 7 apologies listed, although some were given verbally: Glenn & Claire Roennfeldt, Laurel Wiencke, Melba Walsh, Jason & Tania Zweck, Angela Uhrhane.

3. OPENING PRAYER: Led by Ps John Simboras.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM – 28 March 2021

The Minutes of the 2021 AGM had been published and circulated among the Parish membership; they were found to be a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Moved: Ingrid Harder **Seconded:** Margaret Burkert **AIF, Carried**

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- Business Plan for the new church
- Update WLP Constitution
- Motion to sell St Marks, Yackandandah
- Donation for overseas mission

6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

6.1 Parish Chairperson

- **Parish Council:** COVID restrictions didn't impact on the meetings schedule as much in 2021, with only one cancellation. The Executive were thanked for their work and support for Jenny, but special thanks go to Tim McInnes and John Donker for their hard work repairing the church roof/ceiling following the storm damage.

- **Retiring PC Members:** Sandra Dewhirst, Roger and Jan Farrell were thanked for their wisdom and contribution to Parish Council.
- **New Church Facility:** Tim McInnes, Chair of the Redevelopment C'tee (made up of John Donker, Rhonda Keller, Jenny Simboras), has worked tirelessly on moving the building project forward. Plans have been submitted to Wodonga City Council and should be approved soon. The project has moved at a snail's pace due to COVID restrictions in the workplace.
- **Retired Pastors:** Thank you to the retired Pastors for their tireless work during the vacancy.
- **Parish Vacancy:** A Postal Ballot was held in September 2021 due to COVID lockdown, and there was a very good response. Due to the calls being declined, the Call C'tee met again in January 2022 to select new candidates.
- **Storm Damage:** On 19 December 21, part of the ceiling in the church collapsed making it unsafe to use. Due to relocation plans, temporary repairs were made to the ceiling by Tim McInnes and John Donker; following the repairs Kerrie Donker, Glenn and Claire Roennfeldt cleaned the church thoroughly, making it ready for worship.
- **Worship in the Hall:** Many thanks to the volunteers who cleaned and readied the Hall for worship until the storm damage was repaired. Christmas services were very well attended in the Hall as were the others. Some members were 'quite sad to be moving back to the church, as the Hall had an intimate feeling' and 'you could hear people singing.'
- **NCLS:** The National Church Life Survey took place in Nov 2021 and the results should be available sometime in 2022.
- **Parish/VLC Partnership Workshops:** Were postponed in 2021 due to COVID restrictions and lockdowns so they were rescheduled to an appropriate date in 2022. These workshops are designed to help both the Parish and VLC to work out their Mission and Ministry goals.
- **Bibles Yr3 VLC students:** Parish members presented Bibles to Yr3 classes at an assembly of VLC students and afterwards interacted with them, sharing their own favourite Bible verses and messages of Jesus' love for them.
- **LLL Centenary Anniversary Grant:** In recognition of their 100th anniversary the LLL offered \$2,500 grants to congregations that applied. WLP received the grant and will use it to give a gift to Foundation and Yr12 VLC students. They are *Lord's Prayer Beads and Flip-Book* to learn the Prayer (for F), and a *Flip-Book called 'When I'm feeling...'* containing Scripture verses for when they are struggling with feelings (for Yr12). A date is yet to be set for the presentations.
- **Victory Sunday:** This was planned for Sunday, 20 February 2022, but has been postponed to May.
- **Closure of St Marks, Yack:** Bp Lester Priebbenow officially closed St Marks on 28/3/2021. Former members joined current members and visitors to hear Bp Lester preach, while Ps John Simboras was the liturgist. Following the service everyone had fellowship over afternoon tea.
- **Confirmation Classes:** Due to border closure the class of nine young people began with Ps Graham Zweck (standing in for Jenny Simboras), supporting Rhonda Keller in her role as instructor. Further restrictions prevented classes meeting so lessons were postponed until Feb 2022.
- **Thanks:** Much gratitude was expressed to all who served the Parish in any way – especially the many Volunteers who keep the church clean, the grounds

mowed, and do rostered service; Heather in the Office; Susan Edwards and band (music); the Pastoral Care team, and the retired Pastors.

6.2 Parish Pastor Report – VACANT

6.3 Treasurer's Report

- **Preamble:** Both 2020 and 2021 were remarkable years. The 2021 Budget accounted for the disposal of St Marks, Yack., that we would have a pastor by mid-year, and that St Johns would still be at Havelock St. Only one assumption proved to be right. There were unexpected expenses: replacing Parish Office computer, upgrading the external hard drive storage, and replacing the manse's HWS. The photocopier lease was to expire soon so we replaced like-for-like meaning that our printing costs are cheaper, and the lease is shortened to 3yrs.
- **Manse:** Pre-2021 the rental income was recorded as a nett amount, but from 2021 the income is being recorded as a gross amount, less Elder's admin fee. The result is that we are able to claim for a GST credit charged by the ATO on the admin fee, meaning a gain of \$112.93 in 2021.
- **Charity Status:** We have renewed our Declaration with the Vic. Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation for another 10yrs which allows us to conduct fund-raising events up to \$5,000.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- **Total Income 2021**—\$106,830.81 **Budgeted:** \$114,006.00
- **Total Expenses 2021**—\$98,142.86 **Operating Profit:** \$8,687.95
- **Bank Balances (ending 2021):**
 Westpac—decreased to \$3,159.64 **LLL**—increased to \$70,387.70
 Total Balance: \$73,538.34

OTHER BANK ACCOUNTS (as of 31/12/21)

- **Ladies Guild:** LLL—\$67.11; CBA—\$1,348.79 **Total:** \$1,415.90
- **Savers Corner:** LLL—\$12,220.35; CBA—\$151.91 **Total:** \$12,327.26
- **Grand Total:** \$13,788.16

LIABILITIES (as of 31/12/21)

- Combined liabilities from Annual Leave and LSL amount to \$5,762.25

FOR 2022

BUDGETED INCOME: \$111,812.15

BUDGETED EXPENSES: \$115,576.36

Operating Loss: \$3,764.21

Two motions were put forward for the consideration of the members of Wodonga Lutheran Parish...

1. That we continue to engage the services of Craig Hollis of **Stewart, Tracy and Mylon** (incorporating ATS Partners) as auditors of our financials. I have budgeted \$1,210.00 for this expense.

Moved: Marie Hill

Seconded: Jan Farrell

AIF, Carried

2. That the proposed Budget for 2022 be accepted.

Moved: Paul Vogelsang

Seconded: Rhonda Keller

AIF, Carried

6.4 Redevelopment Committee Report

❖ NEW CHURCH PLANS

- **Connections:** Currently finalising the issues around the fire service and sewer service connection requirements, including the design of the storm water discharge into Derwent Way.
- **Plans:** Alatalo Bros have submitted the architect's plans to Border Certification Group before submitting them to Wodonga City Council for a building permit.
- **Design:** Colour schemes and interior design matters have been agreed on; only a minor electrical matter is still outstanding.
- **Rezoning:** As of 31 Jan. 2022 the VLC site has been rezoned. This will allow the parcel of land to be sub-divided off for the new church facility.

❖ YACKANDANDAH SALE

- **Communications:** In December 2021 WLP asked the LCAVD Administrator and their Solicitor (Neil Young) whether there are any impediments to the sale of the St Marks property. Recently LCAVD indicated that there are no impediments and WLP can proceed with the sale given some provisos – namely, that the proceeds should go toward the construction of the new church, or are to be used for charitable purposes.

❖ HAVELOCK STR PROPERTY

- **Havelock St, GST & Sales Tax:** Further consultation is needed with Tammy Hughes (LEVNT) and our accountants re GST and sales tax for the sale of the Havelock St property to Alatalo Bros. Craig Hollis (Stuart, Tracy & Mylon Accountants) could see no major obstacles using the *margin scheme*. This means we could pay less GST on the sale.
- **Demolition:** There is NO intention to demolish any of the buildings at the Havelock St property until such time that the sale of the land is required to pay for the new church at VLC. The cost of the new building has not been finalised due to contractors being behind in submitting final costs to Alatalo Bros.

7. OTHER REPORTS

- **Lay Assistants:** Nil
- **Ladies Guild:**
 - Met monthly except for June, September, and November due to lockdowns. Jenny Simboras and Tim McInnes attended the October meeting to give an update on the new church project.
 - Bible Studies from the *Lutheran Women* magazine were led mainly by Ps Ernie Kiss, and in his absence by Ps John Simboras and Sue Housego. *Attendance* varied from between 5-10 members. There are 13 financial members and 17 *Lutheran Women* magazines ordered.
 - Supported LWA and LWA projects with limited funds; gave offerings donations to LWV and LWA Conventions.
 - Project: Prayer Cards to be used individually to help us pray for the baptised children and youth of the Parish. Handmade cards sent to children for Baptism Birthdays, and acknowledged birthdays of elderly members.

- Noreen Kelly retired after 20+yrs as Guild President. Margaret Burkert elected as the new President. Lenore de Garis (Sec) and Sheryl Parsons (Treas) continue in their roles. Vote of thanks for Noreen's long and faithful service.
- **Music Ministry Co-ordinator:**
 - **Joyful Noise:** During 2021 there wasn't much opportunity for the church band to play due to COVID lockdowns and restrictions. Current band members are: Paul Vogelsang, Mel Keller, Nicole Keller, Rolf Egeberg, and Susan Edwards. Thanks go to Peter and Carla Vogelsang for playing drums on a number of occasions.
 - **Ongoing Matters:** Thanks to members who have run the recorded music in Susan's absence. All Copyright Licences are up to date and reporting song usage has been done as needed. Continuing to research new music/hymns/songs that can be introduced in the future.
 - **Appeal:** Musicians and singers always welcome into the band.
- **Statistics**
 - **Baptisms:** Parker George ASQUITH – 3/4/2021 by Ps Darryl Mattner
Ivy Evelyn CONDON – 11/4/2021 by Ps Ernie Kiss
 - **Weddings:** Nil
 - **First Communion:** Nil
 - **Confirmations:** Nil
 - **New Members:** Darryl and Jenny JACOB on 20/6/2021
 - **Funerals:**
 1. Marian E Wachtmann—19/1/2021
 2. Kerry M Jennings—30/3/2021
 3. Eunice P Draper—9/4/2021
 4. Melva F Klemke—9/4/2021
 5. Myrtle E.M. GRAY—14/5/2021
 6. Gary W Rothenberg—10/9/2021
- **Park Hall Village Ministry Report (Ps Graham Zweck)**
 - **Worship:** Continue on a monthly basis (4th Thurs/mth) at 9.30am. Attendances were down a little, with 41 attending the Christmas Service. Susan Edwards has taken over as musician. On average 44 residents attend, out of 76 in the village.
 - **Services:** Simple format with Confession & Absolution, a Bible Reading, short Gospel-centred address, 4 hymns/songs, Prayers and Blessing. A gold-coin offering is taken up with the proceeds going to ALWS. Following the service people have fellowship over a cuppa.
 - **Outreach:** This is an opportunity for St Johns to reach out to the elderly in our community. [Especially as St Johns is moving to VLC in the next 12mths].

Proposal: Be it resolved that...

1. We thank God for the opportunity to serve Park Hall Village with the good news of Jesus through monthly worship and pastoral care.
2. We adopt Park Hall Village residents as a part of our ministry of love.
3. We include this ministry and pastoral care of residents at Park Hall Village in our Call documents when calling a Pastor to our Parish.

- **VICTORY LUTHERAN COLLEGE COMBINED REPORT**

- (Principal and Chair of College Council)

- **Transition:** During 2021 VLC was incorporated to meet VRQA requirements. The College Council has transitioned to a College Board responsible for the governance of VLC Ltd.
 - **Students:** Foundation = 52 across 3 classes. At the beginning of the College year the enrolment will be 409 Primary (F-Yr6) and 387 Secondary (Yr7-12).
 - **Staff:** Throughout the 2021 College year 17 staff have resigned to follow their careers elsewhere.
 - **School Governance:** Gratitude expressed for the College Board's expertise and governance. The Board continues to work on the policies, compliance requirements, and risk assessments – esp. COVID compliance.
 - **Mission and Ministry:** VLC continues to look for ways to grow the mission and ministry and provide a Christ-centred community with the assistance of College Chaplain, Andrew Dewhirst. Ongoing M&M partnership btwn WLP and VLC is being facilitated by workshops during March.
 - **Teaching & Learning:** Of the 2021 Yr12 class 1:5 achieved an ATAR above 90.
 - **Building & Grounds:** During 2021 the Miles Learning Centre was completed and grows the Primary School – triple stream. By May 2022, the Luther Drama Space will be completed; Learning Hubs will also be remodelled and upgraded.

Acceptance of all above Reports:

Moved: Ingrid Harder **Seconded:** Tim McInnes **AIF, Carried**

8. BUSINESS ARISING

8.1 Motion To Sell St Marks, Yackandandah.

- The Parish Council recommends that the property, known as St Mark's Lutheran Church at Wellsford St, Yackandandah, be sold and that the proceeds of the sale be used towards the construction of a new Church at Victory Lutheran College, Drage Rd, Wodonga.

Wodonga Parish Council,
9th February, 2022

Moved: Tim McInnes **Seconded:** Ps John Simboras **AIF, Carried**

Amendment to the Motion

That the words *... and other costs related to the...* plus *... or charitable purposes...* be added to the motion, as below:

The Parish Council recommends that the property, known as St Mark's Lutheran Church at Wellsford St Yackandandah, be sold and that the proceeds of the sale be used towards the construction *and other costs related to the* new Church at Victory Lutheran College, Drage Rd, Wodonga, *or charitable purposes.*

The amended motion became the Motion and voted on.

Moved: Sheryl Parsons **Seconded:** Tim McInnes **AIF, Carried**

Vote of thanks from the parish for Tim McInnes's work on this project.

Moved: Ps Graham Zweck. **AIF, Carried**

8.2 Redevelopment Business Plan

- A Business Plan for constructing the new church at VLC was presented at the AGM by Tim McInnes, and printed copies were available for members' information.
- In summary, although the sale of the Havelock St property and the new church are dependent on each other, the Alatalo Bros will generously assist in facilitating the costs of developing the church until the Havelock St Units are sold and return the desired profits.
- Tim McInnes said the new church has been designed to be a "Green Building" – with solar panels and the latest building technology. Whilst no comparative figures were presented, both property maintenance and running costs of the new church should be significantly less than the Havelock St facilities are currently.

8.3 Update WLP Constitution

- It has been pointed out that the current WLP Constitution is not in alignment with LCA and LCAVD constitutional requirements, plus it's not compliant with the charities regulator (ACNC) for its governance.
- The Chairperson indicated that it is too arduous for one person to update the Constitution, therefore a Constitution Committee will be established as soon as possible.
- The implementation of the Constitution C'tee was referred to Parish Council.
- The Parish Secretary was asked to respond to Phill Edwards's questions by email.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Proposal re Park Hall Ministry

1. We thank God for the opportunity to serve Park Hall Village with the good news of Jesus through monthly worship and pastoral care.
2. We adopt Park Hall Village residents as a part of our ministry of love.
3. We include this ministry and pastoral care of residents at Park Hall Village in our Call documents when calling a Pastor to our Parish.

Moved: Graham Zweck **Seconded:** Elke Haslam **AIF, Carried**

Discussion:

Following discussion on the merits of the proposal, an amendment was moved:

Motion:

That we accept points 1 and 2 of the Proposal, and refer point 3 to Parish Council for further investigation.

Moved: Carolyn Kiss **Seconded:** Marie Hill **AIF, Carried**

9.2 Amend Nominations List (Book of Reports)

- Remove the name of Jenny Simboras (duplicated) from the Nomination List for Parish Council.

9.3 Question from the Floor.

- Elaine Miller handed the Chairperson a written note asking whether it would be possible to change service times to 10am?

Discussion:

- Various members stated their preferences, some preferring a 9.30am service.
- Some suggested that the Parish Council seek the opinion of the membership through the Bulletin, others said we should wait until we get a new pastor before making changes.
- The issue was referred to Parish Council, and the retired Pastors for resolution.

10. VOTE OF THANKS for those RETIRING

- **Parish Council:** Sandra Dewhirst, Roger and Jan Farrell
- **Lay Assistant:** Andrew Dewhirst
- **Ladies Guild:** Noreen Kelly
- **Call C'tee:** Those who served on previous committees

11. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

- Ps John Simboras took the chair to conduct the election of office bearers and asked for nominations from the floor.
- ❖ As there were no other nominees for the following positions they were voted on *en bloc*:
 - **CHAIRPERSON:** Jenny Simboras
 - **PARISH SECRETARY:** Ps Ernie Kiss
 - **TREASURER:** Paul Vogelsang
 - **Continuing:** John Alatalo, Tim McInnes, John Donker, Mel Keller
 - **Extra Member Nomination:** Claire Roennfeldt

Moved: Roger Farrell **Seconded:** John Donker **AIF, Carried.**

12. LAY ASSISTANTS, LAY READERS and PERSONS of RESPONSIBILITY

12.1 See also the List of Nominations – BoR, page 43

(a) LAY ASSISTANTS: Sue Housego, Sheryl Parsons

(b) LAY READERS: Phill Edwards, John Donker

(c) PERSONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

- **Ladies Fellowship:** Margaret Burkert President
- **Ladies Fellowship:** Sheryl Parsons Treasurer
- **Ladies Fellowship:** Lenore de Garis Secretary
- **LWA Magazine:** Marie Hill Co-ordinator
- **Statistician:** Heather Grealy (Office Secretary)
- **Int'l Mission:** Jan Farrell Link Member

List continues p9....

- **Int'l Mission:** Ingrid Harder Stamp Collector
- **LLL:** Kerrie Donker Parish Representative
- **Safe Church:** Carolyn Kiss Co-ordinator
- **Music and Band:** Susan Edwards Co-ordinator

Appointed: All in favour

13. CLOSE

As there was no further business Chair, Jenny Simboras, declared the meeting closed at 12:20pm. Ps John Simboras concluded with a brief Prayer, ending with the Lord's Prayer, and a Blessing.

14. SIGNATURES

Minute Secretary
Ps Ernie Kiss

Chairman
Jenny Simboras

Dated:

Dated: