



ENGAGE



START



CONNECT



GROW



SERVE

God Willing 2020

The Lakes AGM

Reviewing 2019; setting goals for 2020 & beyond



The Lakes



The Lakes Mission

We seek to **engage** personally with everyone in our community to help them **start** following Jesus, **connect** with his people, **grow** in knowing Jesus and **serve** in love.



ENGAGE



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SERVE

“We want Jesus’ love and God’s Word to so fill us and overflow from us that everyone in our region has compelling reason to follow Jesus.”

The Lakes Vision

There are six things we believe that really shape our hopes and dreams as a church:

1. God gets the glory

We believe that God’s glory is the ultimate goal of our lives, our church and our world. Everything we do needs to be placed under this great goal!

2. God’s word sets the agenda

We believe that God’s word is the powerful means that God uses to accomplish his purposes. God’s Spirit takes his word and brings new birth, growth and perseverance. We want God’s word to set the agenda for everything we do as a church.

3. Prayerful

We believe God is in control of all things. As a result, all our goals and desires ought to be brought to God in prayer with humility, striving for God’s will to be done, not ours. We will only reach our goals through God’s generosity and power.

4. Urgent and sacrificial

We believe we are living in the last days. With Jesus’ death and resurrection the last days began. Jesus could return any day to bring judgement and usher in the kingdom of God in its fullness. This brings an urgency to Christ’s commission to make disciples of all nations. We want to be sacrificial, intentional, and accountable for outcomes as we strive to fulfil the great commission.



Dave & Ruth Sheath

5. Loving

God wants us to love each other. No matter the size of our church, we want everyone in our church community to be loved and cared for.

6. Generous

We worship a God of immense grace. He wants us to be generous to the work of the gospel: not just generous to the ministries of The Lakes, but also to the mission beyond The Lakes.

FROM DAVE

2019 was a year of incredible blessing from God! Over the course of the year we witnessed the construction of our Ministry Centre as evidence of the way God has been stirring generosity and love in the hearts of his people. Our desire has been to create a vibrant hub where God’s people can grow spiritually and numerically. Already we have seen a 20% increase in numbers since we have moved into our Ministry Centre. The year ahead will present great opportunities and challenges as we seek to work together to make the most of what God has so generously provided.

At The Lakes we are constantly reviewing our goals and activities to ensure we are answering God’s call. That’s what this booklet is about. We want to evaluate our church’s goals and re-focus our plans for this year and beyond. But we want to do more than that: we want to call you to pray and play an active part in God’s mission.

Dave Sheath



Junior Jivers

OCS

ESL

Women's Events

Men's Events

Chinese Events

Primary SRE

High School SRE

Good News Week

Missions

Evangelism Training

ENGAGE

HIGHLIGHTS AND CHALLENGES OF 2019

Ministry Centre

We take Jesus' commission of his disciples seriously and so aim to have every partner active in engaging others with the gospel in their setting. We worship the God of all nations, and in 2019 we saw a massive increase in attendance at our Chinese events. Other demographics were also given many opportunities to hear the gospel, with attendance at men's and women's events throughout the year steady and healthy.

The move into the Ministry Centre has coincided with an overhaul of our website and social media presence, which together have raised the profile of The Lakes in our community. Meeting in the school was always a limitation on our *Engaging* efforts, so we're excited by the potential of the Ministry Centre in 2020 to make The Lakes and the gospel more visible and attractive to people.

We also praise God for his provision of money through truly sacrificial giving from within our church family. It was a delight to see that giving to the cause of the gospel remained a priority in 2019, despite obvious pressure from the Ministry Centre construction.

“Good News Week is a wonderful channel to spread the gospel and reach out to the local community!” The Lakes survey



GOALS FOR 2020

Losing Michael Plaege from our staff team was a big blow at the end of 2019 and creates a challenge for 2020. The remaining staff will be maintaining all the ministries that Michael has run so well over the years. We're thankful for Michael's legacy as he leaves a church community with a culture of looking outwards with gospel-urgency and seeking to make disciples of all nations, just as Jesus commissioned the first disciples to do. God willing in 2020 we will capitalise on our new, more visible profile in the community, and maintain and develop our culture and practice of being accessible to new people. We don't want anything to hinder the opportunities people have to hear and be persuaded by the good news of Jesus!

Good News Week

Good News Week 2020 was an amazing effort by all involved! What an encouragement to have so many from our church family giving up time, energy, money and annual leave(!) to work together on such a concentrated week of evangelism. Kids numbers were down slightly compared to last year and adults numbers held steady compared to last year.

Thomas McConaghey



Baptisms



Simply Christianity

“*Having never stepped foot in a church, my partner didn't believe me when I said I'd gone to Simply Christianity. She was sure I'd gone to the pub.*”

Simply Christianity participant 2018

START

Our goal for *Starting* remains that we want to give every seeker compelling reason to follow Jesus. We want to create a clear path for people to walk from first contact with a Christian through to putting their trust in Jesus.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

Simply Christianity

God's method for bringing people to repentance and faith remains the power of his Spirit working through his word. For this reason, we continue to create opportunities for seekers to read and consider Jesus as revealed in the Bible. Thirty-two people attended Simply Christianity in 2019. We have a great team of people who have worked to run this course, including catering for it. Our congregations also display a high level of confidence in the course and its presenters, by always being willing to invite friends.

Baptisms

Twenty-three people were baptised in 2019 and our baptism events at Toowoon Bay are becoming a well-loved part of our church calendar. Baptism is not just for the baptisee - it is encouraging for all of us to see and hear about God's work in people's lives. Also, our presence in public at the beach gives great visibility to the church and the gospel. It was very encouraging in 2019 to see so many, young and old, take up the opportunity to profess Christ in this very public manner.

CHALLENGES OF 2019

People in our wider community are becoming less likely to have any background knowledge of Jesus before they come to church or attend Simply Christianity. For this reason, in term 4 of 2019 we tested a new gospel course, called Life. The strength of Life is that it starts in a place where more of our friends and family are starting from: by considering what the good life is and where to find it.

We enjoyed sharing the Life course with all of our church family on Sundays in January and pray that this new course structure will allow the glory of the gospel of Jesus to shine all the brighter.



GOALS FOR 2020

God willing, in 2020 we will develop a plan for making the best use of the Ministry Centre for our Life course. We pray that the facilities will allow us to make our guests comfortable and so remove any hindrance to them considering and responding to Jesus.

We also hope to continue our new baptism classes leading up to our baptism services at Easter and in November. We will continue to encourage new Christians and Christian teens to get baptised.

As our numbers grow it will become increasingly important to be able to guide people along the 'pathway' from them being far away from Jesus to knowing and believing in him. God willing we will structure our events and systems so that nothing will get in the way of people considering and responding to Jesus.





Welcoming



Helping Hands



Men's Pastoral Care



Women's Pastoral Care



Connecting Events



Lakes Family Weekend

CONNECT

HIGHLIGHTS AND CHALLENGES OF 2019

God continues to send new people to our church for us to welcome into our community. In 2019 over 400 people came through our doors for the first time and 30 people signed up as Partners in the Mission. The move into the Ministry Centre has energised and grown our congregations, such that average Sunday attendance is up by 20% on this time last year.

We've worked hard to create opportunities for people in church to connect with each other: women's, men's, and Chinese events; church-wide lunches and in-home hospitality. Our newcomers' lunches ran almost monthly in 2019 and the introduction of a new pastoral care team supported our Growth Groups in making sure everyone at church was connected.

We are still finding our feet in the Ministry Centre, working out how best to use the facilities. Please pray that the fruit of God's Spirit would be evident in the way we interact with one another. We must also remain open and welcoming even as our numbers swell. Growth Groups play an important role in enabling us to care for one another.

“Please pray that we would mature as disciples of Christ, and so grow in our love for one another. Jesus said, ‘By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.’” John 13:35



Thomas & Laura McConaghey

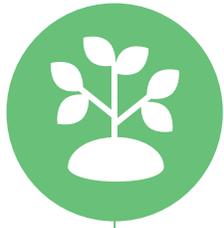
GOALS FOR 2020

We are praying for further growth in numbers in 2020, hoping that many of our summer newcomers will stick around and commit to working together with us in God's harvest field. Our aim is that there be no-one in church who is not connected to others in a real way, so please look out for one another!

Thomas
McConaghey

“Returning to The Lakes after ten years, we have received a warm welcome and it's like we never left. I've enjoyed reuniting with old friends, meeting new people and worshipping God together - a preview of heaven.” Jeremy Crooks





Music Team



Service Support



Growth Groups



Recovery



Chinese Church

GROW

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

Ministry Centre

As we transitioned from gathering at Berkeley Vale High School for the past 18 years and moved to our new Ministry Centre, we were able to reflect on how God has surely blessed us as we've gathered around his word, despite many of the difficult practicalities and increasing restrictions placed on us. We've held firm to the belief that listening to God's voice through his word must be the rallying point for gathering together. In accordance with God's promises, this has led to growth, both with our bigger Sunday gatherings and our smaller, weekly Growth Groups.

The Lord has provided our Ministry Centre at just the right time. Our new facility has returned our freedom to speak the whole counsel of God publicly and we now have plenty of space to gather in large or small groups at any time.

Sermon Series

Leading up to entering the Ministry Centre, we took the opportunity to allow God to set us ready for 2020. We looked at God's purposes for us and our church through the *Connect* sermon series; how much God has given us, and all the ways we can give back, through the *Life of Generosity* series; and celebrated the diverse church family God brings together through young and old, male and female, and all nations with the *One In Christ* series.

“Having the prayerful support and gentle guidance of a loving Christian brother reminded me to take a more Hebrews 12 perspective of things and run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus. I encourage men of all ages to find a mentor for themselves, and similarly to be a mentor to another.” Lachlan Pratt



Tim & Deb Lynn

WOW Growth Groups

Last year the WOW Growth Groups lost the venue where they used to meet as a large supportive group. We look forward to renewing this dynamic at the Ministry Centre, and the opportunities we now have for many other groups to expand and have an accessible and comfortable space in which to meet.

Focus Mentoring for men

Last year at the Men's Weekend Away we launched Focus Mentoring between older and younger men, with the purpose of encouraging one another in the wisdom of the Lord.

GOALS FOR 2020

As we reach deeper into our community, we desire to be able to guide people more and more to Jesus as the source of their great needs. For the immediate future, we anticipate numerical growth this year so we need to raise up more Growth Groups and therefore leaders. Likewise, we aim to foster more discipleship outside of Growth Groups and Sunday gatherings, so need people willing to mentor others in their walk with Jesus and help facilitate our Recovery courses. Please pray that we continue to go to God's word for guidance and that we continue to enable this to take place in community with each other.



Ministry Support



Comms Team



Ministry & Me



Leadership Pipeline



MTS

SERVE

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

Starting afresh in the Ministry Centre

The last 12 months has been a busy year for all at The Lakes. Our big prayer request was for the Lord to enable us to achieve the many extra things involved with transitioning to the Ministry Centre, while keeping our foot on the throttle for ongoing gospel ministries. The Lord answered! So much was done through the members of The Lakes, working together with observable enthusiasm, self-sacrifice and comradery.

We conducted church-wide one-on-one conversations, asking people to consider the ministry changes and opportunities which the Ministry Centre would bring for 2020. This was warmly received and resulted in many people reorganising their lives and making themselves available for the new ministries that have emerged with the advent of our own premises.

We thank God for the way the fruit of the Spirit has been displayed within his people at The Lakes as we've all embraced and stepped up to the task ahead of us in 2020.

Rolling in and out of the high school each week was a tiresome and relentless task for all ministry operations, so we are truly thankful to God for all the people he provided over the years to make our gatherings happen each Sunday.

“...I have found working with this group, as we constructed the ceiling panels, to be something special and has most definitely been helpful in connecting further into The Lakes community.” Geoff Hynd



GOALS FOR 2020

Growing healthy teams

God willing, our new and visible premises will bring more people to join The Lakes as it already has! We must continue to be ready and willing to serve these people in our community. To that end, we do need more people to join the ministries at The Lakes and operate as passionate teams. To help grow healthy teams, we will raise up and equip those ready to lead these teams. Please pray that the Lord will bless us through his people with much fruitful ministry.

Tim Legan



Kids

“Thank you to all you wonderful volunteers for your knowledge and commitment in teaching Gods word to all the children. My child thoroughly enjoys kids Church!”

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

Teaching in teams

Our kids church sections have grown in the way they function as teams. Teachers have been taking on more responsibility for the ministry as they meet and share resources. This has provided greater engagement with kids as lessons are targeted to individual kids and their needs and capacities.

Creative Engagement

The kids church teachers sought to personally disciple kids with the gospel in new and creative ways.



Pete & Sonya Cheng

GOALS FOR 2020

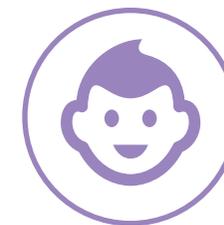
In 2020, we pray:

- that we can grow gospel partnerships with parents as we minister to the kids in our care;
- that our kids would express a real joy and excitement about the ministry as they grow in their love for Jesus;
- that God would expand the ministry by raising up more teachers who can lead the next generation of rock solid disciples of Jesus.

Pete Cheng

“Going to Salt camp was an amazing experience. It was great opportunity to talk about things that Christians believe, ask questions and discuss them around the campfire. We definitely grew in our faith and relationship with one another. Can't wait for next year!!!”

Mikaela Stubbs



Youth

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

- Amongst the youth, we have a real desire to reach the broader community with the gospel. This reach is evident since approximately 50% of the children that we had contact with over the year came from families outside of The Lakes.
- A great inviting culture amongst the kids as they encourage their friends to come and hear about the wonders of Christ.
- The youth leaders owning the responsibility of getting and growing young disciples of Jesus.
- Salt Lite continues to grow as a place where senior primary kids can come and grow in their faith. Last year saw record numbers.

GOALS FOR 2020

- A ministry that grows numerically and spiritually.
- Youth who are engaged with the truths of the Scriptures.
- Youth who are connected to one another as fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Pete Cheng



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

Ourimbah Christian Students increased its presence in 2019, with students running five pancake stalls and hosting three evangelistic talks entitled Jesus101. Between events an average of nine students met each week to pray and read the Bible. The Student Association even awarded OCS the Club-of-the-Year award!

In December, four OCS students joined 1800 other students from around the country (plus international guests) for the AFES National Training Event conference (NTE). We heard some fantastic talks on the topic 'Encountering God: Hearing His Voice,' and spent hours in 'strand groups' being trained to read and teach God's Word.

“OCS has been an amazing encouragement to me in my uni life. It reminds me that Jesus is to be the centre of our lives in all ventures.” Bianca Smit, Food Science student

GOALS FOR 2020

At the start of 2020, Thomas McConaghey was replaced by Dan Sheath as OCS staff worker. The transition was smooth with Dan raising enough financial support to work three days a week. Two students will be leading extra Bible study groups in semester one, which we hope will allow more students to meet around God's Word each week. Please pray for Dan to settle in well, and for the student leaders.

Thomas
McConaghey



“When I first came to The Lakes, the thing that struck me was just how welcoming everyone was. Everyone was so approachable, even the pastors themselves.” The Lakes Survey

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

- A strong welcoming culture has led to newcomers being warmly received.
- Healthy growth in the congregation as Church@5 grows and evolves.
- Increased purpose area engagement has led to progress and other efficiencies.



GOALS FOR 2020

Throughout 2020 the young adults desire to:

- continue to raise up new growth group leaders to nurture and grow our people;
- see all our members sacrificially serving Christ and modelling Christ-like behaviour to one another.

Felic Cheng





Men

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

Engaging & Connecting:

This past year of Men's Ministry has been absolutely fantastic! We really look forward to putting on events for men of all interests, from the sporting events including golf, lawn bowls and footy, to the more "kickback and have a chat" events including the Men's Breakfast and Good News Week Men's Night. These are the best opportunities for men to bring their mates along to hear about the saving words of Jesus and we have seen a lot of fruit this past year, hallelujah!

Men's Weekend Away & Basecamp:

We also want the men of The Lakes to be challenged in their faith and relationship with God which is why we have the Men's Weekend Away at Tahlee in February and why we encourage men to attend Basecamp Men's Conference in August. These events enable us to take time out of our normal routines, to get away, sing, have a yarn and be put under the teaching God so wants us all to hear.

GOALS FOR 2020

- Give the men of the lakes opportunities to grow in their faith and relationship with God through the Men's Weekend Away and Basecamp.
- Run a number of events that we can invite our dads, brothers and mates along to, so that they can hear the gospel of Jesus in a way that's genuine and easy to hear.
- Expand the mentoring ministry that was piloted last year so that all men of every age can have the opportunity for someone to support them with their walk with God through prayer, God's Word and fellowship.

“Great food, great fire, great company and I felt at ease inviting a mate.” Footy Night



Pat Torley



Women

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

In the midst of complicated, busy lives and lack of suitable venues, women still met regularly around God's word to encourage each other to be faithful, godly and loving.

Our second Women's Retreat grew in number with 80 women attending and was an enjoyable and encouraging success. In 2019, 130 women (including 80 non-Lakes members) attended 'Sprucing Up for Spring' to enjoy activities, fellowship and hear an engaging gospel talk.

GOALS FOR 2020

- We aim to provide on-going opportunities for women of The Lakes to encourage each other, grow together and invite others to connect with our community and hear the good news.
- We are eager to make the most of our new ministry centre with women's Growth Groups and Junior Jivers now having space to thrive and grow.
- After years of having to cancel, we are excited to finally invite women to join us for a women's breakfast in May and our Gingerbread House making event in November.



“I loved having time to connect with women from other services and age groups... They all have so much to offer from their own lives with God. The testimonies were very real and encouraging. They are a beautiful element and I really appreciated women sharing so personally about their lives and their struggles.”

Women's Retreat attendee

Ruth Sheath



SRE

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

An amazing opportunity

Scripture in our local primary and high schools continues to be an amazing opportunity to share the good news of Jesus with a large number of students who otherwise have very limited contact with Christians or the gospel. We currently support the needs of SRE at three local high schools and seven primary schools.

Committed teachers

We are blessed with a very committed group of teachers who give themselves wholeheartedly for the cause of Christ. It is especially encouraging to see how they arrange their commitments in retirement, parenthood or paid employment to allow time each week to teach children the gospel.



“What a great opportunity to share Jesus with the kids in our community. I'd love others to join us too!” SRE teacher

CHALLENGES FOR 2020

- An increasing number of high school students are choosing not to opt into SRE classes.
- A number of primary school SRE teachers are retiring after many years of faithful service.

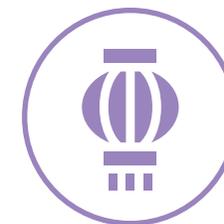
GOALS FOR 2020

In 2020, God willing we plan to:

- continue to recruit and train up a new generation of teachers for the task;
- raise the profile and share the story of SRE amongst our church family.

Fete Cheng

“Because of the translation during the service, I understood what was preached for the first time!” Chinese church member



Chinese

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

Healthy Numbers

God has been good and gracious to us. We had about 100 people, including children, celebrate Chinese mid-autumn day, (40 were non-Christians). Our guests were challenged to take Jesus seriously and check out eternal life with him. We also welcomed 20 newcomers to our Sunday services and some of them became regulars.

PTC New Testament 1

Once a month about 20 Chinese brothers and sisters gathered after the normal Sunday service to share a meal, sing Chinese hymns and study PTC New Testament 1. We were blessed by the Chinese textbooks and robust theological discussion around important Christian concepts. We had our first Chinese Carols in the function room in December to mark our last monthly meeting for the year.

Mandarin Life Course

We have been running Simply Christianity in English with Chinese translation. Much thought, prayer and preparation has been invested in a Mandarin Life course and we are hoping to launch this during term one of 2020.

Susie Schubert



GOALS FOR 2020

In 2020, God willing we plan to:

- strengthen Chinese Growth Groups through mentoring and training;
- encourage and facilitate regular Bible reading and prayer personally and with others;
- launch the Mandarin Life course;
- raise up four leaders under the areas of engaging, connecting, growing and serving.



Seniors

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

In the past 12 months our seniors ministry has grown to include over 130 senior members. This year we plan to facilitate and provide a set of ministry opportunities that cater to these faithful members of our church. There are some Growth Groups which cater solely for seniors while many other seniors are integrated into other Growth Groups throughout The Lakes.



Seniors events

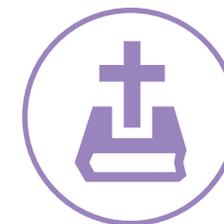
We planned and implemented over 40 different events at which over 550 of our members and friends attended. We will continue a series of connecting events during this year and have now settled on a full and varied event schedule.

Ministry to others

We are also encouraged by the ministry of seniors in their work in school scripture (SRE), nursing homes, retirement villages and support of other Lakes ministries, for example Good News Week and Helping Hands. We are also excited by how many of us have been involved in bringing our new Ministry Centre to life.

GOALS FOR 2020

- To ensure all seniors are well connected to the congregation and have access to ministry opportunities.
- Take advantage of the better accessibility we have at our new ministry centre.
- Grow our monthly church service in Glengara Retirement Village.
- To hold an annual Seniors Day each year. This year we have a day set aside in June where Jim and Leslie Ramsay will be sharing God's Word with us.
- Plan to use every opportunity to invite neighbours and friends to our events and work towards increasing our membership to 30% of the congregation, which will be more in line with the demographic of our local community.



MTS

At The Lakes we feel the joy and responsibility of raising up the next generation of gospel leaders. We are committed to creating a pathway of leadership to mature young leaders in Christian character, competencies and convictions. A key part of this pathway is the Ministry Training Strategy (MTS): a full-time ministry apprenticeship.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

Mel Clement has been our ministry apprentice over the past two years. She has engaged in a range of ministries, primarily leading teams amongst our children and youth. Ruth Sheath has met weekly with Mel to provide training, coaching, support and supervision. Mel has also been doing part time theological study with Moore Theological College.

In 2019 we exceeded our fundraising goals for MTS. This has enabled us to establish an "MTS future fund" of over \$20,000.

“What a privilege to gain a solid confidence in God’s Word and its power to change lives. Meeting with Ruth has challenged and equipped me for a life of ministry.” Mel



GOALS FOR 2020

- To strengthen our training and coaching for those considering MTS in the future.
- To increase our capacity to train people for ministry by growing the "MTS future fund".



Missions

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

A year of generosity

In 2019 The Lakes continued to partner with local and overseas ministries. Despite the massive financial pressure of building in 2019, Lakes members contributed over \$100K to external ministries (slightly down from 2018). This figure includes our members giving over \$70K to Compassion Australia, as well as continuing to partner with Norm and Janelle Gorrie (CMS - Kenya), Jeremy & Miri (Pioneers), and Matt and Lisa Pearson (CMS - Northern Territory). In our backyard, we partner with local primary and high school SRE, Ourimbah Christian Students, and FIEC churches.



Pearson family



Norm & Janelle Gorrie

India mission trip

In September, Michael Plaege and Joel Fletcher travelled to India and trained 40 pastors with the New Testament PTC course. Hindi study Bibles were gifted to 20 of the pastors and others received Bibles to give away in their churches.

GOALS FOR 2020

We thank God for his provision to us so that we can give generously to others. God willing, in 2020 we will continue to give approximately 10% of our budget to ministry outside The Lakes and will raise the profile of international ministry by starting a mission champion team.

Thomas
McConaghey



FIEC

“We had a fantastic week at our annual FIEC Conference... I feel very blessed to be in fellowship with these brothers and sisters working in church planting across the country.” Mike Plaege



New National Director

Late last year our National Director Dave McDonald resigned from his role due to his ongoing battle with lung cancer. We are so thankful for his wise and godly leadership over the past three years. In God's good timing and providence, this month we appointed Al Stewart to the role of National Director. Apart from being a faithful and godly man of deep Christian character, who together with his wife Kathy, has longing to win our country for Christ, he also comes to us with a wealth of experience and knowledge. He has led churches of various sizes within a wide range of socio-economic contexts. He has led large ministry organisations, Youthworks and Katoomba Christian Conventions. He is a gifted preacher, being sought after both here and overseas. We are thrilled to have Al leading our fellowship of churches.

Our denomination

Beyond The Lakes, we have continued our commitment to fostering and supporting church planting throughout Australia. Our church is part of a small but growing denomination called the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC). FIEC has 39 member churches across Australia and we continue to see new churches added each year. The Lakes continues to support FIEC financially in two ways: giving to support the national office and giving to new churches as the need and opportunity arises.

Dave Sheath



**Ministry
Centre**

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

We're in!

The year started out with Pluim Constructions taking possession of the site on 21st February. The Lord blessed us with an excellent start-up period with the rain staying away during the establishment of the earthworks and laying of the concrete slab. Construction continued throughout the ensuing months with weekly meetings held each Friday morning where an excellent working relationship was formed with our builders.

Despite several periods of wet weather, construction continued pretty much on schedule resulting in the building being handed over for our first service on 17th November.



Working together

The Admin Committee recognises the contribution made by a great many people throughout our church during the construction period. Contributions both great and small have made a significant difference to The Lakes having the functional building we are using today. We are encouraged to have John Watson stepping into the role of Property Manager and now leading various teams who are fitting out, maintaining and cleaning our Ministry Centre.

The generosity of our members

Financially, the Ministry Centre has been a true "loaves and fish" experience. At the tender process we shaved back a number of aspects of the building to enable the required financial hurdles to be met.



“It's exciting that we now have a permanent home with greater opportunities to reach out to our local community.” Lakes member



The Ministry Centre has come in pretty much on budget, final figures will not be available until after the AGM. However we have been able to agree on just over \$200,000 of additional work being added back into the building contract as well as completing Supplementary Projects (work done by our members) to a similar value.

Giving into the Building Fund during 2019 totalled \$768,842, made up of one-off and regular giving. We are close to having drawn down the full amount of our loan \$3.85M from Baptist Finance and we have just over \$1.1M in our Loan Offset account (which is a combination of church member loans and church funds).

*Maurice
Wrightson*

PRAY

Praise God for his wonderful provision and pray:

- that we continue to honour our financial pledges and have a spirit of goodwill towards each other as we work through the challenges of doing things differently than we are used to;
- for those who now perform a broad range of functions in maintaining our new building;
- that we work through ways of operating our new building in a cost-efficient manner;
- that God uses our Ministry Centre to gather and grow his people.



Admin Committee

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

Willing service

The current Admin Committee is charged with the responsibility of managing the financial affairs and property matters on behalf of members of The Lakes. The Committee is chaired by Senior Pastor, Dave Sheath and its members include Lois Asher, Michael Lowbridge (Secretary), Greg Mason and Maurice Wrightson (Treasurer). The Committee meets on a monthly basis to pray, review a number of tabled reports and consider a range of other matters that support The Lakes operations. Each member considers it a privilege to serve our church community in this way and value your prayers as we seek God's wisdom in managing the resources that he has provided in a way that does not distract from our primary purpose of serving our Lord and Saviour.

Ministry Centre

Along with all members of The Lakes we rejoice in the recent completion of the new Ministry Centre. Members of the Building Committee and many other willing volunteers have worked tirelessly to contribute to the construction process. We are so thankful to God for his generosity, so clearly demonstrated in the sacrificial giving of time, expertise and finances from many of our partners in the gospel. What a wonderful blessing!



GOALS FOR 2020

With the recent increase in church assets the Committee has identified a need to modify our legal structure and will commence planning for this in 2020. It is intended that a proposal will be tabled at an upcoming General meeting in due course.

Michael Lowbridge

SUNDAY 29TH MARCH, 2020

Welcome/opening remarks: Michael Lowbridge

MOTION 1: that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 31st March 2019 be confirmed and signed as a true and accurate record.

Report on Association's Activities: David Sheath & staff team

MOTION 2: That the Report on Association's Activities be adopted.

Admin Committee Report: Michael Lowbridge and Lois Asher

MOTION 3: Acceptance of the Admin Committee Report.

2019 Financial Report: Maurice Wrightson (audited financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2019)

MOTION 4: That the audited financial statements and Financial Report for the year ending 31 December 2019 be accepted.

2020 Budget: Maurice Wrightson

MOTION 5: Acceptance of the 2020 Budget of the Association.

Admin Committee Vacancies: As per clause 24(2) of the Constitution, the term of the following members of the Committee concludes: Lois Asher, Maurice Wrightson.

NOMINATION: Lois Asher, Maurice Wrightson

Close in prayer: Greg Mason

Board of Reference Notice:

The Board of Reference of external clergy available to be accessed in extenuating circumstances is made up of John Woodhouse, Andrew Heard, Andrew Mitchell, Connan O'Shea and Roger Burgess.



AGM Agenda



AGM Minutes

SUNDAY 31ST MARCH 2019

This year the Pastors' Reports, the Financial Report and proposed Budget for 2019 were distributed to the partners of the Association at church in the two weeks leading up to the meeting and were also made available on the church website. Attention was drawn to the two vacancies needing to be filled on the Admin Committee and to the names of nominees being proposed by that Committee. This enabled partners to read the reports, to submit considered questions and also to propose any further Admin Committee nominees either prior to or at the meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Colin Montiford who called the meeting to order at 9.45am. He confirmed that there was a quorum of partners present at the meeting. He noted that Glenys Sheath was taking the minutes and that all voting was to be done by a show of hands, with the majority vote passing the motions.

The Chairman opened the meeting with prayer and acknowledged apologies from Allan and Lois Asher, Rod and Janice Derley, Bob and Janette Taylor, Jane Mackintosh and Linda Nash.

Motion 1: Acceptance of the Minutes from previous Annual General Meeting held on 18th March 2018

The Chairman moved acceptance of the Minutes of the 2018 AGM which was carried by a show of hands.

Report on Association's Activities

The Senior Pastor, Dave Sheath introduced the reports, reminding us that all purposes of the church are invested in seeing the vine established, kingdom work, the gospel at work in the lives of people and bearing a harvest. The trellis (not the vine, but necessary for the health of the vine) makes sure that we are supporting the gospel ministry in every way. The Ministry Centre has so far

involved a large investment. We need to be aware that the Ministry Centre is part of the trellis. We need to ensure we have a good lattice but the key is that the vine is healthy and strong.

The team leaders' reports were set forth in the 'God Willing 2019' booklet and each leader spoke briefly in relation to their area of responsibility:

Tim Lynn: Growing and Serving

Thomas McConaghy: Connecting

Pete Cheng: Children/Youth/Young Adults

Michael Plaege: Engaging and Starting

Dave Sheath: expressed anxiety felt by the staff team as we move forward. With the large investment in the Ministry Centre it is important that we

continue to be prayerful, to consider our individual ability to invest significant time voluntarily and/or finance to employ extra staff.

Motion 2: Acceptance of the report of the Association's activities

The Chairman moved acceptance of the Reports of the Association which was carried by a show of hands.

Financial Report

In speaking to his report and the proposed budget which had been included in 'God Willing 2019' booklet, Maurice Wrightson thanked Russell Windon, Craig Ayling and Julie Barlow (together with the offering counters) for their support as he has settled into the role of Treasurer.

Motion 3: Acceptance of the 2018 Financial Report

Maurice Wrightson moved acceptance of the 2018 Financial Report which was carried by a show of hands.

Motion 4: Acceptance of the 2019 Budget

The Ministry Centre means we are stretched to capacity. The arrangement is that the church expends its funds first and then calls on the loan. We cannot afford to run at a loss for the coming year. Budget set forth in the 'God Willing 2019' booklet.

Maurice Wrightson moved acceptance of the 2019 Budget which was carried by a show of hands.

Vacancies on Administration Committee

Motion 5: Nomination of Greg Mason to the Administration Committee

The Chairman proposed that Greg Mason be elected to the Admin Committee which was carried by a show of hands.

Motion 6: Nomination of Michael Lowbridge to the Administration Committee

The Chairman proposed that Michael Lowbridge be elected to the Admin Committee which was carried by a show of hands.

Board of Reference

The Board of Reference of external clergy available to be accessed in extenuating circumstances is made up of John Woodhouse, Andrew Heard, Andrew Mitchell, Connan O'Shea and Roger Burgess.

Admin Committee member Greg Mason officially thanked Colin Montiford for his service on the Committee over the past ten years. He then closed the meeting in prayer at 10.45am.



Treasurer's Report

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

Another Year to be Thankful for!

2019 was another year to give praise to God for the financial achievement of the church. Over the course of the year our overall income was \$147,869 greater than 2018, a huge confirmation from God of our decision to proceed with the construction of the Ministry Centre. Our normal operating expenses were somewhat greater due to further expansion of the ministry support team and general increases in costs.

General giving was \$47,663 per month, not quite meeting the budget of \$48,262. The result for the year in our 'operating level' (excluding missions, building fund and church departments) was a surplus of \$28,124. Giving to the Building Fund was at a higher level than 2018 with a total of \$768,842 being received!



GOALS FOR 2020

2020 will be another challenging year for the church from a financial perspective.

General church giving

At an operational level we will start out with approximately \$13,000 less income than 2019. The Genesis Grant for Susie's ministry amongst Chinese reduces by \$5,000 per year over a 4-year period starting in 2019. In 2019 we accrued just over \$8,500 in interest income from the Building Fund monies. In 2020 we will face the pressure of increased operating costs for running the Ministry Centre as well as covering the interest payment on the Loan from Baptist Financial Services.

Whilst we have done our best to manage next year's costs there will be some further costs to complete work on the Ministry Centre. As we continue to pursue



our vision to grow there will inevitably be similar pressure both to support a larger church as well as minister to its needs. There is an increasing need to create an office/business manager role along with additional pastoral staff. We intend to commence this process in the 2020 budget and have started saving for additional positions.

Given all of these challenges we have set a budget for 2020 of \$53,302 per month requiring an increase in our general giving of \$5,640 per month from the actual result for 2019, which is almost a 12% increase. We believe this is an achievable target given the growth we expect with the increased mission we will have with our new Ministry Centre.

Acceptance of the 2020 Budget includes a call to action, to prayerfully review our regular giving and to update our cash giving and/or direct deposit instructions to a new increased amount.

Ministry Centre

At the end of 2019 a total of \$4,867,513 had been paid to Plum Constructions and we had drawn down \$3,830,695 of our loan from Baptist Financial Services. In addition to this we completed close to \$200,000 in Supplementary Projects.

Monthly Pledges

It will be critical to the success of our General Budget that during 2020 we continue our strong record of meeting our pledge commitments of \$27,000 a month.



Loan Offset

Another point of praise is the response to our request for member loans. In December 2019 we had a total of \$240,000 in the Loan Offset account which grew after the end of the year to \$740,000. This, together with some of our accumulated cash, now has \$1,140,000 helping on a monthly basis to reduce our interest charges.

Supplementary Projects

In the first half of 2020 we are expecting to be in a position to complete the majority of the Supplementary Projects.

Note: The full financial accounts will be available via email once finalised by the auditor. Hard copies can also be requested by emailing: andrea@thelakes.net.au

Maurice
Wrightson



Financial Report

The Lakes Evangelical Church Incorporated

For the year ended 31 December 2019

The following are some of the key points from the Financial Reports as at 31 December 2019:

- Total income increased from \$1,350,700 to \$1,498,569, primarily due to faithful giving towards both the General Offerings and the Building Fund
- General giving increased from \$546,358 to \$571,954
- Giving to the Building Fund increased from \$697,847 to \$768,842
- Total expenses increased from \$654,564 to \$760,664 mainly due to loan interest charges
- Employee expenses increased from \$496,298 to \$515,229
- The net surplus for the year was \$737,904 (2018: \$696,135)
- The asset value of our land and buildings increased from \$2,072,002 to \$7,099,368 primarily due to the investment in the Ministry Centre
- Cash in the bank at the end of the year was \$800,869 (2018: \$1,178,974)
- Liabilities has increased, primarily made up of our Baptist Financial Services loan of \$3,847,942 and funds owing to members of \$240,000 (2018: \$100,000)

Note: The full financial accounts will be available via email once finalised by the auditor. Hard copies can also be requested by emailing: andragroves@thelakes.net.au

The Lakes Church cares about the gospel and about ensuring the safe and ethical environment for worship, fellowship and Christian growth for all who come into our care.

In each of our areas of ministry, staff, leaders and volunteers are trained to understand their responsibilities and are required to commit to the Faithfulness in Service Code of Practice (see web link below).

Incident reporting and referral processes ensure that matters of concern are swiftly and properly addressed.

When someone has reason to believe a person associated with The Lakes Church (including a pastor, staff member or leader) has failed to meet the code, that person may notify any of the following:

- any pastor
- a staff member
- a leader
- one of our Safe Ministries representatives:
Matt Stubbs or Lois Asher

Should a person believe the matter has not been adequately dealt with by the church, he or she can refer the matter to the Board of Reference which is comprised of five highly respected people who are not members of The Lakes church. Matters can also be referred directly to the Board of Reference if an individual prefers.

Board of Reference

The Board of Reference has the power to mediate a dispute or even call a General Meeting to resolve serious issues including the removal of the Senior Pastor.

The Board of Reference of external clergy available to be accessed in extenuating circumstances is made up of John Woodhouse, Andrew Heard, Andrew Mitchell, Connan O'Shea and Roger Burgess.

For more information:

https://safeministry.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/FaithfulnessInService_May-2018.pdf



Safe Ministries

ADMIN COMMITTEE BIOS



DAVE SHEATH

Dave (married to Ruth) is the founding pastor of The Lakes Church and has been the Chairman of the Admin Committee since its inception in 2002. He is a qualified Civil Engineer, having completed a degree in Civil Engineering in 1991. He also holds a Bachelor of Theology from Moore Theological College.

Dave is engaged in mentoring church planters through the Geneva Push network. He has also been the Secretary of the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC) since its formation more than 18 years ago.



GREG MASON

Greg (married to Jenny) has attended the Lakes since its first service, 18 years ago. Since then Greg has actively engaged in a range of ministries. Greg has been an active member of the Admin Committee for nearly four years and last year headed up the supplementary projects during the Ministry Centre build. Greg also leads a Growth Group with his wife Jenny.

Greg is an Electrical Engineer and has spent 30 years working in power, mining, manufacturing and heavy industry in various locations around the world. He is currently is a Senior Reliability Engineer at ALS Global.



LOIS ASHER

Lois (married to Allan) has attended The Lakes since 2012. Lois has served on the Admin Committee for the past five years and is responsible for the Safe Ministries policies and women's advocacy.

Lois has been a teacher and trainer, especially in the TAFE context. With her husband Allan, Lois assists in development projects in the Asia Pacific Region. Lois has a Bachelor of Arts degree, a Diploma in Education, a Diploma of Training and Assessment and a Graduate Certificate in Management Communication.



MAURICE WRIGHTSON

Maurice (married to Frances) has attended The Lakes since 2013. He has lead the Ministry Centre Building Committee since 2015. Maurice is The Lakes Treasurer and has held this position for two years.

Maurice holds a Bachelor of Business Degree as well as a Diploma from the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He is currently Chairman of the Australian Post Tel Institute; Independent Director with the Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association; Chairman of Headspace Consortium Gosford/Lake Haven and Correspondence Secretary of the Ourimbah Public School P & C. As part of his Board responsibilities, Maurice chairs a Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, a Property Committee, and sits on two Governance Committees.



MICHAEL LOWBRIDGE

Michael (married to Vicki) is a founding member of The Lakes. He is currently Secretary of the Admin Committee and member of the Selection Committee. Michael also serves as part of the audio-visual team on Sundays.

In his professional capacity, Michael serves as Business Manager and Company Secretary at Green Point Christian College. Previous roles as Science teacher, Head of Department and ICT Director in a number of schools has provided Michael with the opportunity to develop practical experience in leadership and a strong understanding of the governance obligations of Christian organisations.



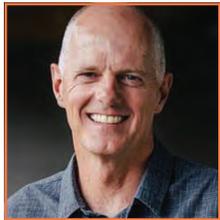
**Admin
Committee
bios**

BOARD OF REFERENCE BIOS



ANDREW MITCHELL

Andrew completed studies at Moore College in 1992 and then served in pastoral ministry at Gladesville Anglican Church until 2008. He was appointed to a senior role at Wesley Mission overseeing many social service initiatives. In 2013 he moved to the Central Coast to be Executive Pastor at EV Church, Erina. Prior to Bible college, Andrew held senior executive positions in the insurance and merchant banking industries. Andrew is married to Helen with three sons in their twenties.



ANDREW HEARD

Andrew has been involved in Christian ministry for over 25 years. In 1996, together with his wife Cathie, he established Coast Evangelical Church (now EV Church). In 2005 he was elected the founding President of the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC). In 2009 he became a founding Director of Geneva Push. In the last couple of years he has led the founding group of Reach Australia. Andrew and Cathie have four grown children and three grandchildren.



JOHN WOODHOUSE

John served as Principal of Moore Theological College in Sydney from 2002 to 2013. Previously, he worked in pastoral ministry in a suburb of Sydney. He has published articles in various academic journals and is the author of two volumes in Crossway's *Preaching the Word* commentary series.



CONNAN O'SHEA

Connan is the Senior Pastor of Lighthouse Church on the Central Coast where he has served since 2006. Connan was ordained in the Sydney Diocese of the Anglican Church. He has previously worked as a minister at Richmond Anglican Church and as a Christian staff worker at the University of Western Sydney (Hawkesbury) for three years. Connan has also undertaken a Masters in Theology whilst planting Lighthouse Church. He is married to Belinda and they have three children.



ROGER BURGESS

Roger is in his 15th year of pastoring Maitland Evangelical Church (MEC) and is an Executive of the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches. Every year Roger is part of a team from MEC that serves at the Katherine Christian Convention which brings together Indigenous sisters and brothers from 30 remote communities in the Top End. Roger is married to Carolyn and they have four children.



**Board of
Reference
bios**



The Lakes

The Lakes Church

6 Pioneer Avenue, Tuggerah NSW 2259

02 4353 0977

office@thelakes.net.au

thelakes.net.au

BANK DETAILS

Account Name:

The Lakes Online Savings Acc

BSB: 704-922

Account No: 100017667