

**Minutes of the NZLPA Annual General Meeting
held by Zoom, 7:00pm, Tuesday 31st October 2023**

President Joshua Robertson opened the meeting at 19.04

Present: Joshua Robertson (Chair & Minutes), Diane Claughton, Garth Cant, Linda Hall, Peter Lane, Allen Little, Dorothy Willis, Pam Davis, Judy McFall-Caffery, Margaret Woodcock, Vic Longley, Rachael Masterton, Viv Whimster Richard Small, John and Gillian Thornley.

Apologies: Doreen Sunman, Linda Cowan, Judy Robinson, Allan Hall, Christine Bailey, Mary Somerville Received (Accepted - Allan Little, Viv Whimster) Brian Jones

Opening Devotions: Taken by NZLPA President Joshua Robertson

John 15: 16

¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

Jesus was pretty clear when He reinforced to his disciples that He had chosen them, He had appointed them – it wasn't the other way around.

They were appointed and selected to serve him – and to each were given certain gifts, gifts that would enable them to go out into the nations and make disciples, to bear fruit. In order to use these gifts, which were given by the same Spirit, each needed to remain and abide in Christ.

We all have diverse gifts – given to each of us by the same Spirit, gifts that we need to continue to serve him, to bear fruits – as appointed servants of Christ we bear much responsibility:

- As Carriers of the Gospel
- As People that need to put the Gospel into Action

Joshua shared a story about how he was able to organise the construction of a wash facility in a small Samoan village as an example of how God can use us to transform others and whole communities. Without knowing where to start, God provided Joshua with the means of bringing this wash facility to fruition by connecting him with particular people who eventually linked him with a Norwegian organisation that funded the project.

Minutes

The Minutes from the 2022 AGM had been emailed to those who had registered. They were taken as read and received.

(Moved Rachael Masterton, seconded Linda Hall).

Matters arising – to be addressed in the reports.

Reports:

President's Report

Praise God for his many blessings upon us all. He continues to equip us with the tools needed to undertake the work he has called each of us to do. He has brought us safely to this point in time where we draw closer to the end of another year.

Throughout 2023 we have continued the work that the NZLPA has traditionally done over the years, including managing membership, issuing long service certificates as well as continuing to provide access to useful preaching resources via the internet and of course the Touchstone Methodist newspaper. It has been encouraging to see a steady flow of accreditation and long service certificates being processed throughout the year.

Following the passing of former editor John Meredith, the NZLPA Executive decided it was an appropriate time to review the future of the Word & Worship publication. After much discussion during a strategic planning meeting earlier this year, it was decided that the publication would be discontinued. We will continue to explore ways of trying to cater for the needs of our membership in ways that are relevant and accessible for them. Utilising our existing online platforms is one such way whilst sharing materials in other relevant languages is another opportunity to be explored further.

Thank you

Due to other commitments, I will be stepping away from my role within the NZLPA after this year. It has been an honour to serve the Association as president for the last five years alongside some amazing people who have become good friends.

I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to the current NZLPA Executive team – Linda Hall, Rachael Masterton, Peter Lane, Dorothy Willis, Viv Whimster, Judy McFall-McCaffery and Rosalie Gwilliam – for their ongoing work and commitment to the cause. I would also like to acknowledge previous NZLPA executive members, some have passed on while others continue to provide us with prayerful support and guidance. To God be the glory!

Blessings

Namulau'ulu Taotua Leaoa Joshua Robertson
President NZLPA

Report received

(Rosalie, Dorothy)

Treasurer's Report

With the decision to cease producing Word and Worship, and therefore also not charging an annual subscription for NZLPA members, our annual income is reliant on the fee \$25 charged for new members and the fee \$15 charged to produce Long Service Certificates. However, it also means our expenses are reduced also.

In the last financial year, the Executive held their Strategic Planning weekend in Dunedin (February 2023). The grants received to cover the cost for this weekend were received in the previous financial year, which is why there is a net loss for this financial year.

Balance of accounts as at 30 June 2023:

Cheque account	\$1,390.84
Savings account	\$11,594.78
Term Deposit	\$10,000.00

Rachael Masterton
Treasurer

Profit and Loss

NZ Lay Preachers Association For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
Trading Income		
BNZ Interest Received	521.31	181.02
Donations	-	6,343.69
Grants Received	-	7,480.00
Subscriptions Received	980.00	3,270.00
Total Trading Income	1,501.31	17,274.71
Gross Profit		
	1,501.31	17,274.71
Other Income		
Other Income	98.00	60.00
Total Other Income	98.00	60.00
Operating Expenses		
General Expenses	162.20	269.90
Postage & Courier	49.39	202.71
Printing and Stationery	-	142.09
Travel & Accommodation Costs	4,741.11	-
Word & Worship Expenditure	-	5,115.95
Total Operating Expenses	4,952.70	5,730.65
Net Profit	(3,353.39)	11,604.06

Joshua thanked Rachael for her report.
There were no questions. The report was received

(Margaret Woodcock, Garth Cant)

Membership Secretary Report

Membership Report for NZLPA 2023 AGM

Our data base currently shows a membership of 268.

Over the past year the main task has been contacting the appropriate Parish and supplying them with the form to organise a Long Service Certificate.

Several times this year I have been offered the resignation of a Lay Preacher who is now no longer able to lead worship. I have made the call to reply that they most certainly can maintain their membership with NZLPA if they wish.

Communication is the most important component of the membership role. A lot of time is spent trying to find people who have moved or changed their contact details.

The membership data base is now ready to go back under the Registrar's portfolio.

Dorothy Willis
Membership Secretary

- Dorothy explained about ongoing challenges with maintaining up-to-date information.
- Discussion had re recording active status of members
- Garth raised topic of developing materials / resources in other non-english languages

Joshua thanked Dorothy for her wonderful work over the years

The report was received

(Neville, Garth)

Registrar Report

Rachael provided a verbal report:

- During the 12 month period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023
22 new members, 7 long service certificates
- Majority of members are from Methodist Church with large portion of this contingent from Sinoti Samoa

Election of NZLPA Executive Roles:

President

Lute Taufalele – Vute was nominated by Joshua for President. Her nomination was accepted by the AGM.

(Rosalie, Alan)

Correspondence Secretary No nominations received

Linda Hall happy to continue

Minute Secretary No nominations received – Role Vacant

Treasurer No nominations received – Role Vacant

Registrar No nominations received – Role Vacant

Membership secretary role to be absorbed into Registrar role.

Joshua to remain available to support as and when able.

Richard Small sought some further clarification re tasks associated with the vacant roles and time commitment required.

Agreed that Richard discuss separately with current exec members re their roles

Garth Cant thanked Josh (outgoing president) and Lute (incoming president) for taking on the role and acknowledged their presence within the exec as being positively strategic for the NZLPA

Other business discussed

- **Resources**

Richard Small commented about the discontinuation of Word and Worship and what the plans might / could be going forward. Feedback from some members (Peter Lane, Vivian Whimster, Pam Davis and Rosalie Sugrue) reinforced reasons for the discontinuation of W&W and the challenge/s with trying to develop a replacement resource that accommodates a diverse readership. Discussion had about utilizing existing resources (from both local and overseas) and perhaps by sharing appropriate links to the membership

- **Resthome Chaplaincy / Religious Services**

Vic Longley raised concern about many Resthomes no longer supporting religious activity / prohibiting the gospel from being shared in resthomes thereby denying us the right and freedom to share the Gospel. After much discussion, it was agreed that NZLPA write a letter to Methodist Mission Alliance to see if they can raise this matter with central government

- **Introducing Lute Taufalele-Vute**

John Thornley suggested incoming president Lute write an introduction about herself and it be posted online

Joshua thanked Exec and all the participants for attending the AGM and for their work over many years serving Jesus Christ via lay preaching.

Viv Whimster thanked outgoing president for his leadership over the last five years. Viv also acknowledged and thanked outgoing exec members Dorothy Willis and Rachael Masterton.

Closing: Ended with saying the grace together at 8.42pm