



Local Leaders International and Controlled Entity

(ACNC Reporting Group)

ABN 68 092 388 746

Financial Report

For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

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Local Leaders International and Controlled Entities

Directors' Report

January – December 2022

In respect of the financial period of 12 months ended 31 December 2022, the directors of Local Leaders International (Local Leaders) submit the following report made out in accordance with a resolution of the directors:

Directors

The names of directors of the company in the office as the date of this report are:

David Barrie Brown
Catherine Louise Crouch
Sandra Clarke-Errey
Nicola Grace Gibbs
Allan Jeffrey Hall
Frederick Kuan Hean Lee
Stephen Robert Kerr
Perry William Howard Shaw
Andrew Alexander Peter Simpkin

Purpose and Principal Object

The Company has been established to be a charity the purpose of which is to advance religion and education.

The principal object of the Company is to advance the mission of Jesus Christ of "making disciples of all nations", and in particular -

- (a) to achieve this by partnering with theological colleges, students and others in developing countries to train and develop outstanding Christian leaders in their own context; and
- (b) to encourage excellence in theological education by supporting theological colleges which are or have the potential to be leaders within their own countries and to raise the standards of theological education and Christian leadership throughout their own countries and regions.

Key highlights of the year included:

- Our total income was \$4.03 million which was again an all-time high for the ministry.
- Funds and services totalling \$2.83 million were distributed, donated or applied for the purposes of our partner Bible colleges.
- We directly supported around 230 students in 21 bible colleges. We received a large donation to student support at the end of the year so will increase this number by about 40 students for the next few years.
- More than 45 individual faculty members were supported to upgrade their qualifications. On top of this we supported faculty to upskill through MTh programs in Egypt, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea.
- We secured significant funding for the second year for our online strategy (\$1.7 million) to continue our strategy, Local Online: A Global Strategy (LOGS).
- As part of the Africa Mile Deep Strategy the fifth conference was held in April 2022. This was Cairo with 20 key leaders from the continent and was able to continue to build this 15-year strategy.
- We continued to support our partners in Indonesia through the PASTI consortium of 45 bible colleges, with funding for various conferences and research grants for senior faculty in a dozen of the PASTI colleges.

- We welcomed two international speakers, Joshua George from SAIACS, India whom we are supporting in his PhD studies and Abp Dr Samy Shehata the Primate of Alexandria under whose leadership we support three of the college campuses.
- We expanded our staff and board members as indicated elsewhere in this report.

Strategy

Our principal strategies continue to be help partner Bible colleges build their capacity to serve their communities through Christian leadership and scholarship. We do this college by college, country by country, region by region, and globally. We continue to work with like-minded organisations internationally, especially in the Overseas Council (“OC”) Network.

Local Online: A Global Strategy – Following the emergency support to our partner colleges during the lockdowns we devised Local Online: A Global Strategy. Now into its second year this strategy has engaged the whole OC Network and several other key international organisations. The focus is to equip colleges with the IT they need and the faculty with the skills they need to deliver better online education.

At the end of the first year (June 2022) we were ahead in most Key Performance Indicators as we sought to improve both the quality of the online education experience for students and increase access to allow more students to study. Our goal of 1,000 extra students able to study was exceeded. The three-year goal is 10,000 extra students.

Dr David Turnbull, Director, and Elise Heerde, Manager (following Linda Peterson who resigned due to sickness) have overseen the program, keeping up the many relationships necessary to fulfil the strategy.

The Pasifika Strategy is in its eleventh year and has continued to focus on supporting the Master of Theology program at Christian Leaders’ Training College in Papua New Guinea along with various other elements to promote the development of the region. Dr George Mombi of Christian Leaders Training College was appointed in February 2022 to be our Pasifika Strategy Director. He did four trips around PNG visiting CLTC’s affiliate colleges and encouraging them. He was able to organise a librarian training conference, distribute books, and is embarking on assisting five colleges to lift up their programs to teach diploma courses for pastors. He will expand this work in 2023 including visits to the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu where there are close historical contacts with CLTC.

The Africa Mile Deep Strategy – 2022 was the fifth year of the strategy and it continues to deliver well to expand the competence of over 50 bible colleges in Africa. Each year we have introduced new themes for our partners to consider and engage as they choose. We have continued with the dozen key themes for training that have been introduced and picked up by the various colleges. One example is the Africa Generosity Project which gathered a dozen scholars in Cape Town to write a series of resources and courses for use by institutions and churches. Negatively it seeks to counteract the errors of the Prosperity Gospel and positively give a firm foundation for promoting biblical stewardship and generosity. A local committee will soon be formed to oversee the new resource and expand its uptake in the continent.

We also have combined the LOGS strategy initiatives with our work in the AMDS and in the Francophone region of Africa.

PASTI Indonesia – This relationship continues to drive our investments in the consortium of 45 theological colleges in Indonesia. A visit to the group in September has led to further developments to improve the theological competence of the senior research people in PASTI. On top of the various support we provide this greatly strengthens the theological enterprise of the group and equips them to satisfy government requirements for Christian colleges.

Other Strategies – We continue to work towards on our early stage strategy for the Mandarin speaking world. In 2022 we appointed a Director for this strategy and have been growing this work. Members who wish to learn more can contact the Executive Director.

Grassroots to Canopy: A Century Impact - The Executive Director has begun working with the Board to consider ‘what’s next after LOGS?’ A broad long-term strategy for the theological enterprise of the majority world is being considered. As this is a concept much bigger than Local Leaders, discussions have been underway with various ‘fellow traveller’ organisations throughout 2022. The next phase, throughout 2023 will focus on shaping the strategy and exploring potential funding options.

Five Year Plan 2020 - 2024

Concluding in the November 2019 Board Planning Day we devised a Five-year Plan for the organisational development in three headings: International Ministry, Domestic Operations, and Resourcing Strategy. Many of the goals were accelerated through the LOGS strategy. One new area of exploration is in the Buddhist world. We hope in the coming year or so to develop a more coherent plan to strengthen the theological colleges of that region.

Review of operations

Income

Local Leaders' income continues to be derived mainly through donations from individuals, churches and foundations. We had a few large new donors give for the first time in 2022.

We had a record income year, over \$4 million for the first time this year due to the year-two LOGS funding and a bequest for nearly \$600,000 which was allocated to student support and faculty study grants.

Our budget for 2023 is in the high \$3 million range.

Board

The board held its main meetings 4 times during the period, including its planning meeting held in October and the AGM in May. We also held short online meetings as needed to conduct more urgent business.

Ken Chapman – Ken resigned from the Board in April after more than 20 years' service on the Board. His enthusiasm for the ministry, and consistent wisdom as a Board member will be missed.

Andrew Simpkin was appointed on 15th October 2022 to fill a casual vacancy and in accordance with our constitution comes to the members seeking election at this AGM.

Yong Tan - Under a scheme promoted by CMA we accepted Yong as a Board Intern. He has been an observer at our meetings since mid-2022, and also contributed as part of the Audit and Risk Committee. His term ends in mid-2023.

Staff

Stuart Brooking – 2022 marked our Executive Director, Stuart Brooking's 20th year of leadership with Local Leaders. The anniversary was marked at the Board meeting in February 2023.

Isha Dodanduwa – Operations Assistant. After a year of service, Isha resigned prior to Christmas.

Peter Clark – Finance and Compliance Officer. October 2022 – Peter was appointed to assist our Head of Operations with the growing compliance and reporting needs. He has also stepped into the role vacated by Isha.

Bp Stephen Hale – Victorian Director. After three years' service, Stephen finished in January 2023. His other leadership and pastoral duties were demanding more of his time. We are seeking a replacement.

Supporters

We are glad to be able to both hold public events and to visit our supporters personally after the lockdowns. It is encouraging for us all to reconnect and we are grateful for the high retention of support over the past few years. We are pleased to have attracted new donors in the last six months including some higher capacity donors.

Our two international visitors in 2022, Joshua George from SAIACS, India and Abp Samy Shehata, from Alexandria School of Theology were well received as they met supporters around Australia.

Audit and Risk Committee

The committee consisted of:

Stephen Kerr – Board member and Chairman
Alan Hall – Board member
Stuart Brooking – Executive Director
Richard Timberlake – Head of Operations

The committee met nine (9) times in the year with all members present each time.

The committee worked on the following matters:

- Review the risk matrix, registry of risks, and devised suitable treatments.
- Worked to fulfil the ACNC, Missions Interlink and CMA-Standards Council standards.
- Review tax and other regulatory compliance
- Review policies, key internal controls and external conduct processes
- Review of key providers and insurance
- Review of our new audit firm.

Auditors

Saward Dawson provided a rigorous base in their first year of auditing (2022) and while the workload was significant to prepare for the upcoming AGM it was not as demanding as last year. We are grateful for their thoroughness and recommendations.

Operating Results

Our total income for the year was \$4.03 million which was significant increase on our highest previous year. We had a large single grant associated with LOGS of \$1.7 million and a bequest of approximately \$591,000. The Board and executive are conscious of the need to plan for the coming years to ensure that our general donations continue to grow.

Directors' Meetings

The number of directors' meetings held in the period each director held office during the financial year and the number of meetings attended by each director were:

Member	Board Meeting # Possible	# Attended
David Barrie Brown	5	5
Kenneth McCathie Chapman (Resigned 12 April 2022)	3	2
Catherine Louise Crouch	5	4
Sandra Clarke-Errey	5	5
Alan Jeffrey Hall	5	5
Nicola Grace Gibbs	5	5
Stephen Robert Kerr	5	4
Frederick Kuan Hean Lee	5	5
Perry William Howard Shaw	5	4
Andrew Alexander Peter Simpkin (Appointed 15 October 2022)	1	1

No indemnity has been given or insurance premium paid, during or since the end of the financial year, for any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the company with the exception that Directors and Officers insurances have been taken out by the company and that premiums have been paid for professional indemnity insurance in respect of the directors.

Members Guarantee

The entity is a company limited by guarantee. Under the Constitution, in the event of a shortfall of funds upon a winding up the members guarantee the obligations of the Company to the extent of \$10 per member. At balance date as there were 76 members, the amount so guaranteed in total amounted to \$760.

Name Change to Local Leaders International

Following the determination by the membership at the last AGM (May 2022) we undertook the many activities to change the name from Overseas Council Australia to Local Leaders International.

There has been good support of the new name by existing supporters and by our overseas college partners.

All our legal identities have been changed as have nearly all other references. We continue to play 'spot the old name/initials' in various documents and update them as they are noticed.

Our website has been launched (www.localleaders.org.au) and we encourage supporters to review it and recommend it to friends. We believe it helps more crisply explain our ministry and its significance.

Final Comments

We thank God for his continued oversight and blessing of the work of Local Leaders International. He has continued to raise up faithful donors who share in this gospel ministry; a wonderful team of workers and volunteers who serve with their gifts, capabilities and time; a board who provide faithful oversight and governance and college faculty and students to support and serve. Praise be to God.

April 2023

For and on behalf of the Board



Director