

# **AUSTRALIAN ANGLICAN SCHOOLS NETWORK**

## **REPORT TO THE FOURTEENTH GENERAL SYNOD 2007**

### **1. The Australian Anglican Schools Network**

The AASN, established in 1999, developed from the National Anglican Schools Consultative Committee formed in Adelaide in 1992.

Since 1999, the AASN has grown and developed, enjoying an increasing significance in the life of Australian Anglican schools in supporting the spiritual nature of Anglican education. In 2007, 141 schools are members.

At the heart of the AASN is the Annual Conference that provides a unique occasion for Governors, Heads, Chaplains and Religious Education teachers to gather together to work towards enhancing and enriching Anglican education.

### **2. AASN Secretariat**

The Secretariat continues to be based in the Anglican Schools Commission Secretariat in Brisbane, under the guidance and leadership of Mrs Peta Smith with the support of Mrs Dawn Andersen.

### **3. Management Committee**

The Management Committee meets face-to-face three times a year, as well as via teleconference to continue the work of the AASN.

Membership of the Committee includes a representative from each State, with the Northern Territory and the ACT being linked to Queensland and NSW respectively.

The inclusion of a President, a President-Elect and an Immediate Past President ensures continuity of the leadership for the AASN as the term of Office for a President is two years. The current membership of the Management Committee includes:

<b>Member</b>	<b>School/Institution</b>
Mrs Lynne Thomson President	St Mary's Anglican Girls' School, WA
Mrs Peta Smith President-elect	Anglican Schools Commission, Qld
Rev'd Peter Laurence	Anglican Schools Commission WA
Rev'd David Cole	Overnewton Anglican Community College, Victoria
Mr John Fradgley	Chairman of Council All Saints Anglican School, Qld and NT
Mr Phillip Grutzner	St Peter's College, SA

Mr Stephen Norris            Launceston Grammar School, Tasmania

Richard Tudor                Trinity Grammar School, Victoria

Mr Timothy Wright         Shore School, NSW

Since 2004, changes to the Management Committee have included:

Mr Tony Horsley completed his term as President in August 2005; in 2005 Mr Bruce Fairfax retired as Tasmania's representative, Mr Michael Irwin retired as Victoria's representative and Mr Malcolm Powys retired as New South Wales and the ACT's representative. In 2006 Stephen Matthew retired as South Australia's representative.

#### **4. Activities and Initiatives Since General Synod in 2004**

(a) The Constitution has been amended to include a Chaplain Representative. We are very pleased that the Rev'd David Cole accepted the Primate's invitation to be on the Management Committee. The Constitution has also been tidied up and the wording improved.

(b) The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference will be held at Trinity Grammar in Melbourne in August 2007 (*The Wired Generation: Faith, Learning and Community with Generation Y*). The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference was held in 2005 in Launceston at Launceston Grammar School (*Heritage, Heart and Horizons: Nurturing the Spirit*) and the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference was held in 2006 in Sydney at Shore School (*Salt and Light*)

(c) A Chaplaincy Shadowing Programme has been instituted, commencing in 2004 with just six chaplains and growing to more than twenty in 2007. This has been a most worthy initiative and has been the inspiration of the Reverend Peter Laurence.

(d) After the success of Trevor Cooling's address at the 2005 conference in Launceston, arrangements are being made for him to return to Australia as a travelling scholar in the second half of 2008, beginning with the Perth conference in August that year.

(e) An electronic newsletter has been developed to send to members.

(f) Members of the Management Committee of the AASN were invited by the Primate and Standing Committee of General Synod to meet with five Bishops to discuss a possible National Anglican Education Forum. Investigations into this proposal continue.

#### **Conclusion**

The Management committee is grateful for the opportunity to serve the members. Levies from Schools contribute to the administration of AASN and profits from conferences contribute to projects. We look forward to our new project, that of the travelling scholar, which will be supported in part by conference monies. We look forward to the continued growth and success of the Chaplaincy Shadowing programme.

The Committee is representative of all Anglican Schools across Australia and enjoys the strength that our diversity brings to Christian education. We are consistently hearing about and exploring a number of common threads across the States as we address and dialogue on the nature of leading and teaching in Anglican schools.

AASN sees the need to encourage the support of the leaders of the Church in our outreach and mission. The opportunities for sharing in the Anglican Communion are growing, as we provide a supportive environment to share our Christian message to young people and their families.

Lynne Thomson  
President