

# THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

## STANDING COMMITTEE OF GENERAL SYNOD

### REPORT

SCGS MEETING DATE: 18 & 19 November 2005

SCGS AGENDA ITEM No:

SCGS DOC No. \*

FROM NAME:	<i>Mrs Lynne Thomson President</i>
FROM GROUP:	<i>Australian Anglican Schools Network</i>
AREA:	
SUBJECT:	<i>Annual Report by the Australian Anglican Schools Network to General Synod Standing Committee</i>
DRAFT RESOLUTION:	<b>That the report on the Australian Anglican Schools Network be received.</b>

The past year has seen steady progress for the Network including some firsts! These included the adoption of the first Constitution at the 2004 Conference held at St Peter's Woodlands in South Australia; the introduction of the Network's first project – the Chaplains' Shadowing Project led by the Western Australian State Representative, the Reverend Peter Laurence; and most significantly, the opportunity for the then President of the Network Mr Tony Horsley, to address the Bishops' Conference in February to fully brief those present on the vision of the Network and the mission of the Church in Schools. It was pleasing to be able to participate in this way and to see the willingness of the Bishops to engage in discussions on education issues.

Our Annual Conference was held at Launceston Church Grammar School during September with the theme "*Heritage, Heart and Horizons – Nurturing the spirit*". The feedback post-conference has been so very positive both from the point of view of the program, the nurturing and supportive environment for delegates attending and the broad range of national and international speakers to provide the stimulus for the discussion groups and lively conversations during the breaks. We were honoured to have the Primate, The Most Reverend Dr Phillip Aspinall, with us for the Conference Dinner and to preside at our Sunday Eucharist in the Chapel at Launceston Church Grammar School. The Conference Dinner entertainment was further enhanced by an impromptu dash to the car park when the candles set off the fire alarms! The success of this year's conference augurs well for those planning next year's Conference at Shore in Sydney from 15 to 17 September 2006 with the theme "*Salt & Light*".

The Annual General Meeting of the Network held during the Conference saw the retirement of Tony Horsley as President and the confirmation of a new President, Mrs Lynne Thomson, Principal of St Mary's Anglican Girls' School in Karrinyup, Western Australia for a term of two

years. Mrs Peta Smith, Executive Director of the Anglican Schools Office in Brisbane was confirmed as President-elect. She will take up her appointment at the 2007 Annual Conference. Members of the Management Committee retiring at the Conference included Phillip Heath (Immediate Past President); Michael Urwin (Victoria); Malcolm Powys (New South Wales); and Bruce Fairfax (Tasmania).

Other matters formalized at the Annual General Meeting included some revisions of the Network's Constitution. The most significant change to the Constitution allowed for the inclusion on the Management Committee of a Chaplain who will be appointed by the Primate. The process for the identification and appointment of a Chaplain to the Committee is in train and it is hoped to put forward a name to the Primate before the end of 2005 so that the new appointment can commence at the first meeting for 2006.

Membership is strong with nearly 160 financial member schools being listed with the Network. Support of the Network's vision is evidenced by the almost unanimous vote at the Annual General Meeting to substantially increase the subscription levels in order to maintain a balanced budget for 2006. The philosophy of the Network is that subscription levies provide the funds for the administration of the Network and that Conference surpluses fund Projects. The Secretariat of the Network remains with the Anglican Schools Office in Brisbane.

The first major project for the Network has been the Chaplains' Shadowing Project that commenced in 2005 with six Chaplains. 2006 will see the group grow to eighteen. Falling within the Vision of the Network, the Project represents the importance placed on supporting our Chaplains. 2005 participants highlighted the benefits of the project which included:

- Being able to look at their role from a different perspective;
- Having the opportunity to engage with another Chaplain in discussions;
- Bringing a focus to their role and re-energizing;
- Having the benefit of a mentoring program;
- Providing something special for Chaplains; and
- Having the opportunity to "live" in another school environment not just visit.

Other highlights for the year have included:

- A Service Agreement between the AASN and the Anglican Schools Office to formalize the service already being provided by the Office;
- The upgrading the AASN website;
- The introduction of a tri-annual Newsletter; and
- The establishment of RevNet as a communication tool for Chaplains.

Future projects are at present being discussed by the Management Committee and it is hoped that members will be able to put forward suggestions for future projects which reflect the vision of the Network. In the meantime, the Network remains a group focussed on inclusiveness and collegiality with its annual Conferences a forum for open and honest discussion.

**Lynne Thomson**  
**President, AASN**  
**& Principal, St Mary's Anglican Girls School, Karrinyup, WA**