

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Colleagues

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

It was good to catch up with so many of you at this year's National Conference, which was held at the Duxton Hotel in Perth from 22-24 August. Approximately 200 delegates from all states crossed the Nullarbor to share in a wonderfully inspiring few days of input, dialogue and fellowship.

The theme *Faith in Action: Living the Gospel in Anglican Schools* focused delegates' minds on what being an Anglican school is all about. We were challenged to reflect on how effective we are at 'living the faith' in our schools. This is a critical question for governors, educational leaders and the wider Church.

An outstanding program of national and international speakers challenged our thinking and inspired our hearts and minds. Michael Chaney (Chairman of the National Australia Bank, Chancellor of the University of Western Australia and former Chair of Council of a church school) teased out for governors, principals and their school communities what 'living the Gospel' meant for him in the role of Chair of Council of a large Catholic school in Perth. International speakers also brought their perspective. The Revd Dan Heischman, Executive Director of the National Association of Episcopal Schools (USA), spoke on the relationship between 'church' and

'school', illustrating his points with some US examples whilst thoroughly connecting with our Australian perspective. Dr Trevor Cooling, one of the UK's most recognised experts in Christian education, and whose life work is to promote teaching as a Christian vocation amongst churches and Christian organisations in Britain, provoked our thinking in relation to Anglican schools as places of Christian mission. Phillip Heath told the story of the establishment of the Indigenous campus 'Gawura' at St Andrew's Cathedral School in Sydney, and Rick Tudor's written account of Trinity Grammar School, Melbourne and their Indigenous partnerships was shared. To close the Conference, Estelle Blackburn, Walkley Award-winning investigative journalist and author, touched all our hearts through recounting the stories of John Button and Darryl Beamish.

The Archbishop of Perth, the Most Reverend Roger Herft, presided at the main Conference Eucharists and both he and Bishop Mark Burton, Assistant Bishop of Perth, preached. Workshops were presented by a number of the keynote speakers as well as AASN members.

The Reverend Roly Bain proved that humour should be a key component of any conference. As our 'Holy Fool', Roly brought a light-hearted perspective to the Conference, whilst also entertaining delegates with his 'slack rope' routine on the Friday evening.



The Revd Roly Bain 'fooling about' on the slack rope

The Dean of Perth, The Very Reverend John Shepherd, entertained the conference as 'After Dinner Speaker'. He was followed (but not upstaged) by musical entertainer Steve Armstrong and his support act 'The Fabulous Flirtettes', a first for a AASN conference!

In summary, a rich 2008 Conference. Papers are available on the AASN website at www.aasn.edu.au.

Thank you to our brilliant Conference Manager, Ros Christie, and to the Conference Committee:

Ms Anne Ford
Mrs Teresa Gastevich
Mrs Gillian Jenkins
The Revd Peter Laurence
Mr Peter Martin
The Revd Geraldine Nixon
The Revd Toby Sherring
Mrs Lynne Thomson

DATE CLAIMER

The 2009 Conference will be held in Adelaide and hosted at St Peter's College. Philip Grutzner and his local organising committee are planning another first-rate gathering. Please mark the dates in your diary - **FRIDAY 14 to SUNDAY 16 AUGUST 2009**.

TRAVELLING SCHOLAR

Dr Trevor Cooling recently completed a whirlwind trip around Australia as the inaugural AASN Travelling Scholar. His speaking engagements started on 22 August in Perth and concluded on 23 September in Sydney. The statistics are impressive! During this time, Trevor delivered

- 3 keynote lectures
- 28 seminars/workshops
- 5 presentations for a whole school staff or at conferences
- 5 informal dinners with principals and chaplains
- 16 individual consultations with principals and heads of departments

- 2 sermons
- 2 group consultations
- 12 school visits
- 6 lessons with pupils
- 3 meetings with pupil groups

Trevor's ministry amongst us over that month covered the following topics:

- The vocation of the Christian teacher
- The Anglican school as a key expression of the Church's mission to the nation
- The distinctive contribution of a Christian/Anglican education to the general curriculum
- The inclusive school and tackling religious diversity and controversial issues in the Anglican school
- The teaching of the Bible in Religious and Values Education and Christian Studies
- The nature of Christian belief and the role of evidence and interpretation (with pupils)

Trevor has written to me of '*schools which are clearly making great efforts to put their Christian distinctiveness at the heart of everything they do. They have invested time, resources and staffing in a way that demonstrates the value that they put on this dimension of school life. I judged at least one of the schools I saw to be world-class in this respect.*'

With regards to the approach taken by many Anglican schools in Australia, Trevor writes:

I was very struck by the influence of Peter Vardy's five-strand RAVE approach across Australia. It is not well known in England, although it draws on many of the influential ideas that have shaped RE here. My observations are (a) it needs complementing with the learning about and learning from dimensions that are extremely influential on English RE; (b) it is sometimes interpreted in too formal an academic mode; and (c) the strands should not be taught discretely but weaved together in designing topics.

He concludes his report by commenting:

I was both moved and pleased by the overall response I received. I focussed on sharing ideas from the UK scene, leaving my audiences to draw from them insights that were applicable to their particular context. Generally it seemed as though there was much that people felt was relevant in Australia . . . This was the experience of a lifetime for me. I had a wonderful time and met many inspirational people. I have learnt much about Christian education. I felt highly privileged to have had the opportunity of fulfilling the role of Travelling Scholar.

The Management Committee plans to continue the Travelling Scholar program so well begun through Dr Trevor Cooling's visit. It is not planned to occur on an annual basis, but rather as-and-when a first-rate specialist in a field relevant to AASN's purposes is available to work with us.

AASN ENGAGEMENT

In the opening President's Address at the Conference, I mentioned that over the next year the Management Committee wants to explore how the AASN may be able to position ourselves to play some role in engaging with the Federal Government, national Anglican agencies, other national education bodies and industry groups on matters which affect the Church's mission through Anglican schools. In so doing, we must not lose sight of the very strength of Anglican schooling being based on local governance. Any attempt by the Federal Government, National Church, the AASN or any other entity to erode this governance base will likely be met with strong resistance, and this is rightly so and a good thing! We also must not do anything which will erode the good work of the Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) as the independent school sector's prime voice with government.

However, the Management Committee, together with many other Anglicans, believe that we must address the issue of effective representation and engagement with government and industry (most

especially at the national level) and put in place appropriate structures to allow this to occur. It would seem logical that the AASN is an appropriate means to achieve this but, under our current terms of reference, we are largely prevented from such engagement. All other schooling groups have advocacy in Canberra. I put the question to you . . . Is there a means by which we can influence policy as Anglican schools, yet retain our valued independence and local governance?

Members are asked to consider this matter carefully over the coming months, discuss it around your state and with your State Representative on the Management Committee and, when we gather in Adelaide at next year's conference, be in a position to give direction to our Management Committee on this matter.

Anglican schools are as diverse as the Church itself. We come in all shapes and sizes, from large to small, single-sex to co-educational, old to young, high fee to mid-range and low fee. Governance structures include Diocesan-, order-, system- and independently-owned. Acknowledging this diversity, the Anglican Church, with a long and proud history of quality schooling in Australia, must position itself to engage appropriately with government and industry to ensure that our voice is heard and our interests are represented. I look forward to dialoguing with you on this matter over the coming months.

INDIGENOUS RESEARCH PROJECT

Dr Tim Wright has picked up this ball and is well-and-truly running with it! The Annual General Meeting took the decision to use part of our consolidated surplus to fund a part-time research officer, to examine what is happening in Anglican schools across Australia with regards indigenous education. The officer will report to the Adelaide Conference in August, at which time we will consider how best as a Network to respond to the challenges of supporting indigenous students in Anglican schools.

Members should direct queries to Dr Wright.

FINALLY, as we are in the last weeks of the school year, I wish you every blessing for the season of Advent that is almost upon us. Advent is a time to prepare our hearts, minds and spirits to again receive the good news of Jesus Christ being born into our world and our lives at Christmas. May 2009 bring new beginnings and opportunities.

Every blessing



Peter Laurence (Revd)
PRESIDENT



STOP PRESS

Dr Jennifer Barr has been appointment as Indigenous Research Officer in Anglican Schools.

Dr Barr has been a Research Consultant in Education for the past eight years, investigating a range of topics, including policies of inclusion of second generation migrant secondary students, collaboration between youth work organisations and local schools in a disadvantaged locale, and policy and practice regarding child safety education in childcare centres.

She is a linguist and, prior to being a research consultant, Dr Barr was Principal and co-owner of the Australian College of English, a private English language teaching college for overseas students.

Schools are asked to give Dr Barr their full cooperation as she does her research.

STATE REPORTS

Queensland

Peta Smith

New Chair of the Schools Commission

The Queensland Anglican Schools Commission has welcomed Bishop Geoff Smith as the new Chair of the Commission. Born and raised in Brisbane and a trained primary school teacher, Bishop Geoff served in the Grafton Diocese and with Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) New Guinea. Further service in northern New South Wales preceded his 2000 appointment as the National Director of ABM. Bishop Geoff has been in the Brisbane Diocese since 2005 and was consecrated as Bishop in July 2007. He currently serves on two school councils and the Diocesan Services Commission.

Heads Retreat

The Anglican School Principals and Heads recently held their 2008 retreat at the beautiful Bungunyah Manor Resort from Wednesday 27 August to Friday 29 August. It was led by Bishop Geoff Smith. All feedback and reports received indicate that it was a very successful retreat! The Heads Retreat will be returning to Tranquil Park, Maleny, for 2009.

Visitor to Anglican School Chaplains

Earlier this year the Archbishop appointed the Revd Theo Woods to the role of Visitor to Anglican School Chaplains. Many of you will know of Revd Theo from his work at Hillbrook Anglican School. This important ministry appointment is initially for this year and will provide confidential pastoral care and support for chaplains at Anglican Schools. The ASC and all Anglican Schools are extremely blessed to receive this voluntary ministry from Revd Theo, and join together to pray for and support him as he undertakes this ministry amongst us.

Diocese of Brisbane - 150 Year Celebrations

The 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Brisbane is to be celebrated in 2009. The Anglican Schools Talents Quest has been

organised for all schools to celebrate the anniversary, dedicate themselves to a ministry and anticipate continuing acts of service by their young people.

Governance Issues

Following the request from the Diocesan Leadership Team, the Anglican Schools Commission is consulting with the schools for their input into developing some baseline measures of the identified four aspects of strategic growth in the Diocese as a whole. These are the elements of faith, service, generosity and size.

Further consultation is also taking place with respect to suitable Governance Principles and Indicators for the detailed delegations that will flow from the Diocese to the Commission to facilitate its implementation of the objects of the Diocesan Governance Canon. The Commission is seeking certainty on the expectations of its stakeholders in such important matters, given the operational importance of such issues. The Principles and Indicators document considers the potential risks and rewards all parties bring individually and jointly to the Diocese as, in the broader community, there is one 'Anglican' brand that is largely ignorant of the subtle variations and differences that have been known to impede and/or distract much of our internal machinations.

Agreements flowing from the consultation will provide the basis for further progress in the development of the governance framework for Schools and the ASC in the Diocese of Brisbane.

Industrial Relations

The IR group of Anglican Schools in Queensland is close to reaching agreement on a new Industrial Instrument for staff across most of the Anglican Schools in the State. This will be the first Anglican Agreement since the introduction of the *Workchoices* legislation, and member schools have made implementing a longer term agreement than the recent single year Deeds and their extensions a high priority. January 2009 is the expected commencement date for the new agreement.

Issues that have impacted on the lengthy industrial relations discussions since late 2007 include:

- The teacher wage movements in all other Australian States that are likely to result in Queensland Teachers being the lowest paid in Australia.
- The emergence of more national approaches to industrial relations, given the pending award modernization process.
- The positioning of the Anglican sector as the 'lead-off batter' in any of the industrial relations discussions for all teaching sectors in Queensland.

One positive outcome that has been driven by the ASC Secretariat is the consolidation of all existing industrial awards, agreements and the like impacting on our schools into a single document. While Anglican school staff benefit from the 'highest and best provision' approach to the consolidation process, the schools now have an effective one-stop manageable document as their industrial reference, facilitating efficiencies in daily operations and minimising the risks previously associated with the 'small library' of documents that required referencing when undertaking any industrial relations-based research.

Eucharist and ASC end of Year Celebration

This year's ASC End of Year Celebration will commence with a Service at St John's Cathedral followed by dinner at the United Services Club. It is being held on Monday 8 December, and provides a wonderful opportunity to meet in worship and share a meal near Christmas time, to celebrate the year, and to thank those who are continuing their 'schools' journey in new areas or new places.

Change of ASC (Queensland) domain and website addresses

Please note that the Anglican Schools Commission in Queensland has changed its email and website domain.

Our new website address is: <http://www.ascqld.org.au>

Victoria

Stephen Higgs

With the encouragement of the Archbishop of Melbourne, Anglican Schools are planning a service to celebrate Anglican Schooling. This will be held in St Paul's Cathedral on Sunday 26 July 2009. In a sense, this event is a sequel to the very successful service held as part of the AASN Conference in Melbourne last year. Schools are looking forward to the installation on 23 November of the Right Reverend Dr Mark Burton as Dean of Melbourne, and then to working with the new Dean in preparation for the Anglican Schools' Service.

Following her appearance at the AASN Conference in Perth, Ms Theresa Ardler, Head of Aboriginal Perspectives at St Andrew's Cathedral School in Sydney, was invited to Victoria. She took part in a public forum on Indigenous education initiatives held at Ballarat Grammar, where she was involved in a week's residency program.

Tasmania

Stephen Norris

As the end of the school year draws close, the Anglican school community within Tasmania is bidding farewell to two of its three chaplains, The Reverend John Goodwin and The Reverend Eleanor O'Donnell, who leave to take up chaplaincy positions elsewhere. Revd John moves to New Zealand and Revd Eleanor to Victoria. We will miss their input into our various meetings and collective events and thank them for their friendship and collegiality. We wish them well for the future.

Travelling Scholar, Dr Trevor Cooling, had a short but very full visit to Tasmania, managing to spend a half-day in both The Hutchins School and St Michael's Collegiate School, and a whole day at Launceston



Church Grammar School. During his two-day visit to our schools, he conducted a full range of group sessions, presenting to class groups and Christian fellowship groups, senior management staff, teachers of Religious Education and chaplains. Dr Cooling successfully engaged and challenged his audiences, and we sincerely thank him for his contributions.

South Australia

Philip Grutzner

AASN Conference 2009 in Adelaide

South Australian Anglican Schools are looking forward to hosting the 2009 AASN Conference. It is to be held at St Peter's College, Adelaide, from Friday 14 August to Sunday 16 August 2009. Those involved with the Chaplaincy Shadowing Program will meet one day prior to the conference, on Thursday 13 August. The conference theme is *Beauty for Brokenness: The Appeal of Anglicanism*. Members of the organising committee are most excited about the planned list of keynote addresses and workshop presenters. They are also confident that the Tastes of South Australia Cocktail Party and the Dinner at the National Wine Centre will be most enjoyable. Please put the conference dates in your diary and make plans for an enjoyable, stimulating and successful 2009 AASN Conference in Adelaide.

Visiting Scholar Dr Trevor Cooling

South Australian Anglican Schools were pleased to host Dr Cooling for two days. Dr Cooling spent a day at St Peter's College, a half-day running workshops for Religious Education Coordinators and Chaplains, and a half-day running a workshop for South Australian Anglican Heads. Dr Cooling enjoyed his time in South Australia and, at that stage of his busy Australian schedule, we know he enjoyed a well deserved rest day on Kangaroo Island.

Sudanese Project

The Adelaide Archbishop, The Most Reverend Jeffrey Driver, has challenged the South Australian Anglican Heads to reflect on the important missionary role in our schools. All Heads have reflected on what their schools do for local and

international charities. I am confident a random audit of any of these schools would reveal some amazing work, which not only raises much needed funds but also raises awareness amongst our students, staff and parents about those far less fortunate than ourselves.

In January 2009 Archbishop Jeffrey returns to southern Sudan for a ten-day visit. He will be accompanied by a team of experts who will make contact with local people to explore ways in which assistance can be provided. Former Head of St John's Grammar School and the current Anglican Schools Liaison Officer, Stephen Matthew, will be one of those experts. It is pleasing to see each South Australian Anglican school willingly supporting Stephen's trip in conjunction with excellent cooperation from the Anglican Diocese. The South Australian Heads look forward to hearing Stephen's reports following his return.

Western Australia

Anne Ford

National Conference a success

Thank you to all delegates who supported the AASN National Conference in Perth in August. Positive feedback was received about the quality of the program, speakers, venue and conference organisation. Such feedback, whilst gratifying for the Conference Committee, more importantly continues to affirm the place of an annual National Anglican Schools Conference. We look forward to supporting our South Australian colleagues by gathering at St Peter's College in South Australia, 14-16 August 2009.

WA Anglican Schools Association Chaplaincy Day

School Chaplains participated in a successful Chaplaincy Day held at Wollaston Conference Centre on 13 November. A twice yearly event, the day continues to enhance the strong network of school Chaplains who gather to discuss issues of mutual concern. The Archbishop of Perth, The Most Reverend Roger Herft, joins the Chaplains on each occasion.

2008 WAASA Student Leaders Day with The Archbishop of Perth

Following the success of last year's Student Leaders Day, the Archbishop hosted the 2008 Leaders Day on 7 November at Wollaston Conference Centre. Schools were invited to send a small group of Year 11 students who have either been selected as school leaders or regarded as potential leaders for 2009.



This year the Archbishop invited Bishop Kaye Goldsworthy and The Reverend Canon Richard Pengelley to join him in addressing the subject of leadership with the students. Feedback from participants acknowledged their enjoyment in interacting with their peers and the important insights they gained into student leadership in Anglican schools.



AASN VISION STATEMENT

The AASN was established in 1999

Australian Anglican Schools Network, giving honour to God, putting God first and working within God's will, seeks to:

- Provide a forum at the national level for Anglican schools to facilitate discussion on spiritual, moral and values related issues as they have bearing on education.
- Be an effective network of General Synod of the Anglican Church.
- Achieve recognition of Anglican schools as part of the mission of the Anglican Church.
- Be a forward-looking, dynamic organisation aiming to develop a strong unity of purpose among Anglican Schools.

AASN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

The Reverend Peter Laurence
CEO, Anglican Schools Commission

PAST PRESIDENT

Mrs Lynne Thomson
Principal, St Mary's Anglican Girls' School

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Mr Stephen Norris
*Headmaster, Launceston Church Grammar
School*

CHAPLAIN APPOINTMENT

The Reverend Dr David Cole
*Senior Chaplain, Overnewton Anglican
Community College*

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Queensland

Vacant

New South Wales

Dr Tim Wright
Headmaster, Shore School

Victoria

Mr Stephen Higgs
Headmaster, Ballarat Grammar

Tasmania

Vacant

South Australia

Mr Philip Grutzner
Headmaster, St Peter's College

Western Australia

Ms Anne Ford
*Principal, John Wollaston Anglican
Community School*

AASN SECRETARIAT

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Ms Jan Kaye

ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

Ms Rachel FitzGerald

ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT

Mrs Asher Dymock

LOCATION

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7th INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE AUSTRALASIA NETWORK CONFERENCE

15-17 April 2009, Old Parliament House,
Canberra

Teaching the Abrahamic Religions: Christianity in Dialogue with Judaism and Islam

Relations between Christians, Jews and Muslims are among the most divisive, challenging and important issues in the world today. Despite their often violent differences, each share a common heritage as the Children of Abraham and the worship of one God. In a time when understanding these three religions has taken on a new and critical urgency, this important international conference will equip educators with *practical strategies and resources* to enable students to explore the similarities, differences and relationships between the Abrahamic faith traditions.

Delegates will receive a DVD containing PowerPoints, teaching notes and video resources.

The Conference Programme and Registration are now online at

<http://www.dialogueaustralasia.org/>