



Newsletter

Australian Anglican Schools Network

From the President

Dear Colleagues,

Some time has now passed since the Adelaide Conference and I have had time to reflect on the proceedings. Firstly I must pay tribute to the organising committee for all their hard work and thoughtful preparation for a very successful conference. I say successful in spite of the final keynote address that caused concern and consternation for many. The success and appropriateness of the keynote addresses, workshops and social functions need all to be measured against the vision and purpose of the Network and its conferences. It is well known that the Anglican Church both nationally and internationally is a diverse organisation.

Not only that, it is not nationally or internationally a hierarchical body, but more a confederation of dioceses each headed by a Bishop or Archbishop. Our meeting together is by goodwill rather than compulsion; by our allegiance to Jesus Christ in whom we have our unity rather than by legislative requirement. So too is our network so loosely configured. Our independence is prized but in spite of that we are able to meet on those issues that bind us and make us Anglican. To define what is Anglican is not appropriate for this message but it is pertinent to understand our connections. Seen in that context the conference elements may well not suit all of us all of the time. There is though a unifying theme and that is true for all Christian denominations irrespective of their organisation or worship practices. To be called a Christian; to claim that we

are Christian is quite simple. Namely that we believe that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God by whose death and resurrection we are reconciled to

God and each other, resulting in an abundant eternal life.

Conferences are meant to be thought provoking with a hoped for reaction that might lead to a change in our thinking and practice. We may not hear what we want to hear, we may not agree, even very strongly, but if the conference is to be worthwhile attending then we do need to be taken out of our comfort zone. However for a Christian organisation or network, there are some non-negotiables. So does that mean we cannot listen to one who does not believe what we believe? In this case we did not expect one who is an ordained clergyman of the Anglican faith to doubt the fundamentals of Christianity. The committee's expectation of the content and challenge for that particular address was not fulfilled. It proved to be offensive for some, embarrassing for others and for still others there was no complaint. Given that diversity of reaction will we ever have addresses that are acceptable to all? Probably not, but we must maintain our love in Christ towards each other.

I believe that this network is a wonderful opportunity for those of differing churchmanship across the national Anglican scene, involved in the education of young people, to consider ways of engaging those young people in matters of faith. We are as I have said before an integral part of the mission of the Church, doing what Jesus commanded his followers in Matthew 28. I was so encouraged by nearly all of the conference proceedings, and not necessarily in agreement with all that was said. More than this, the gathering of those who love the Lord Jesus, involved in Anglican schools, and desiring to better communicate His wonderful message, encourages me. I hope I can learn something new every time I attend! Thank you Adelaide Committee for providing this opportunity in 2004 and I am looking forward to our time in Tasmania in 2005.

Since the Conference I have had the pleasure of visiting the Anglican Schools Office in Brisbane. I must thank Peta Smith and Roseann Whyte for making me so welcome and for accommodating my needs. The work of the Network is well served by this office and I am most grateful. Whilst I was there I had the opportunity to meet with the Archbishop of Brisbane, The Right Reverend Philip Aspinall. Our discussion centred around the significance of Anglican schools in the mission of the Church and the possibility that the Anglican Church across the nation might involve itself in the funding debate as the Roman Catholics do so well. To that end he is hoping to organise for me to address the Bishops' conference to be held in Adelaide early in 2005. Remembering that the Network is not a lobby group, it would be good if the Anglican Church were involved in a non-partisan discussion on the funding of independent schools to influence the thinking of the major political parties. Too often non-Anglican lobbyists represent our position. Now more and more Anglican schools are becoming important players in the education scene. My hope is that just like the Roman Catholic Bishops, the Anglican Bishops will become involved and add to the contribution of ICSA in the debate on funding. From low fee to high fee schools we all need to be given adequate and appropriate funding and not be isolated as we were in the last election. Thankfully, as far as funding is concerned, the coalition government was returned. I give thanks to God for that.

Tony Horsley
President



State Reports

The purpose of State Reports is to keep members informed about initiatives and strategies happening throughout Australia. Sometimes, there is an unbelievable amount happening and at other times, there is a lull before the storm. If you feel

there is something happening in your state that you'd like your representative to pass on, let him or her know. Contact details for State Representatives are featured on the back page of this Newsletter.

New South Wales

A meeting of about 90 representatives from all Anglican schools in NSW and ACT was held on Friday 23 July at Blue Mountains Grammar School. John Lambert AM presented a keynote

Mr Malcolm Powys

address posing questions about the future of Anglican schools. It provoked a stimulating discussion. Another meeting of representatives from all Anglican schools in NSW is planned for 2005. Another

meeting of representatives from all Anglican schools in NSW is scheduled for 1 April 2005 at Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College. The meeting will be hosted by Phillip Goldsworthy..

South Australia

The Diocese of Adelaide is still looking for an Archbishop and at a meeting of Synod in September, there was a decision not to appoint any of the remaining short-listed candidates. The search is on again, and there will be no decision until at least March 2005.

Mr Stephen Matthew

There has been much progress on the opening of Cathedral College in Murray Bridge in 2005, in the Diocese of the Murray. A Principal has been appointed This is intended to be initially a Primary School only. A second school has been proposed in the Mt Barker area, which is awaiting

Ministerial approval to start in 2006. Peter Casson is working with a committee of School Principals to prepare an appropriate Anglican Ethos Statement for our schools. We are grateful for the work that has been done in other States to help us on this journey.

Western Australia

The Western Australian Anglican Schools Association (WAASA) conducted a very successful PD Day for Chaplains in September. Under the theme "Chaplaincy – Risk, Care and Support", a series of workshops were held focusing on legal issues facing Chaplains (including risk, confidentiality, disclosure and child protection), their self-care and the role of supervision as a means of personal and spiritual support.

WAASA is hosting an evening to celebrate the ministry and contribution to schooling

The Reverend Peter Laurence

in Western Australia of the Archbishop of Perth and Primate, the Most Rev'd Dr Peter Carnley AO, on the occasion of his retirement. A Eucharist will be held in St George's Cathedral on Wednesday 24 November for members of School Councils, senior staff and student leaders. The Archbishop will be the celebrant and preacher. This Eucharist will be followed by a Dinner at the Novotel Langley Hotel.

The Diocese of Perth looks forward to welcoming the Right Reverend Roger Herft, current Bishop of Newcastle, as the new

Archbishop of Perth and Metropolitan of WA in mid 2005.

The Anglican Schools Commission of WA (ASC) is progressing with plans to open two new schools in Perth in the next couple of years – one in the Swan Valley and another in the south-western suburbs as well as exploring the possibility of the establishment of schools in Broome and Esperance.

Queensland

The Anglican Schools Commission, under the new Diocesan Governance Canon, met for the first time on 26 October 2004. The major focus has been on addressing the new Commission structure in terms of the identified goals within the Five-Commission model for the Diocese of Brisbane. A natural consequence will be the changing role of the Anglican Schools Office in the development of strategies to achieve our constitutional and reporting relationships in order to meet Diocesan obligations and fiduciary requirements for School Councils

Mrs Peta Smith

and Boards. In order to properly support the governors of our Schools, considerable research has been undertaken in the area of identifying a training package to enable Councils and Boards to achieve best practice models which will in turn empower schools to offer best outcomes to our students.

A "Project Synergy" overnight Retreat has been held to assist in progressing the development of the Strategic Plans for the Diocese as a whole as well as for each of

the five Commissions. Cross-functional teams considered strategies and policies to be pursued by each Commission.

The Anglican Child Protection Policy for Children & Young People has been amended in order to comply with State legislation requirements. The Policy will be presented to Diocesan Council this week for adoption before being distributed to schools for implementation.

From Queensland - Religious Education Philosophy & Curriculum Framework

Launched in October 2003 by Archbishop Aspinall, the Religious Education Philosophy and Curriculum Framework document serves as a collection of signposts- giving direction to the Religious Education programs to Anglican Schools of the Brisbane Diocese. Because the type of curriculum a school embraces depends to a large extent on the philosophical approach taken towards the subject, the Framework does not advocate any specific curriculum program or collection of resources, but provides guiding principles for consideration under the headings of: Philosophy; Pedagogy; Curriculum Aims; and Curriculum Outcomes. Each school is free to develop a sound Religious Education and faith development program to suit its particular needs.

Philosophy - The Ethos Statement for Anglican Schools in the Province of Queensland has a bearing on the

philosophical foundations for the development of syllabi for Religious Education that is: to foster growth in character, faith and spiritual awareness; to develop inquiring and flexible minds and to encourage qualities of respect for others, self discipline, self motivation and commitment.

Pedagogy - This section draws on the work of Smith and Lovat addressing the product and process of Religious Education curriculum. The importance of learners being active participants in a meaningful learning program is emphasised.

Curriculum Aims - Cognitive, affective and physical aims are considered under the concept of "curriculum as intention".

Curriculum Outcomes - This fourth section outlines some key anticipated outcomes from students' engagement with

the curriculum and the learning process. Also provided in the Framework document are four Appendices. Appendix One elaborates on the guiding principles for Religious Education, explores contemporary Australian culture and its implications to the Religious Education classroom, and reflects on Fowler's "Stages of Faith". Appendix Two provides a suggested curriculum overview for Prep to Year 7, detailing a rationale, outcomes, unit topics and comprehensive list of suggested resources. The third and fourth Appendices provide two different approaches for Years 8 -12 curriculum.

For further information visit the Anglican Schools Office web site: www.aso.qld.edu.au

For Chaplains

Chaplaincy Shadowing

At the recent conference of the Australian Anglican Schools Network in Adelaide, we launched the Chaplaincy Shadowing program. This program will become the first major 'project' of the AASN.

The purpose of Chaplaincy Shadowing is to provide an opportunity for Chaplains to share with each other, become refreshed, re-energised and refocused, to get new ideas and to develop a spiritual mentor or buddy with whom to 'share the journey'.

The program will run over three years; that is, each Chaplain will be asked to give a three year commitment to the shadowing process.

In short, two Chaplains will be 'paired up' through the Chaplaincy Shadowing program. They can nominate their 'shadow' or if they would rather, the programme co-ordinator can suggest a partnership. Each Chaplain will spend one week each year in the other Chaplain's school. They may choose a suitable partner from anywhere in Australia. It is proposed that there be three different pairings over the years. Each school will bear the expenses for

their own Chaplain whilst he/she is visiting another school. As a commitment to this project, the AASN Management Committee has established a fund to distribute grants to schools towards covering some of the costs involved in Chaplaincy Shadowing. Each school with a Chaplain participating in the Trial will receive a \$1,000 grant in 2005 towards costs.

Participants in the Trial Group of six schools attended a workshop with other participants in Sydney on Friday 12 November 2004. Following the workshop, Chaplains will undertake a pre-shadowing research project, prior to their first shadowing visit in 2005.

A pre-Conference Workshop will be held at the AASN 2005 National Conference in Launceston, Tasmania. On this occasion, we will share the experiences of the first trial year and provide feedback that will be valuable in assessing the program, both for the second year of the Trial Group as well as those undertaking Chaplaincy Shadowing for the first time in 2006.

Chaplains interested in participating in the program in 2006 should attend the

2005 AASN pre-Conference workshop in Launceston. Details will be sent out with the Conference Registration Brochure.

Peter Laurence (Rev'd)
PROGRAM CO-ORDINATOR

Welcome to RevNet!

Another initiative of the Australian Anglican Schools Network is to facilitate the sharing of information between members, especially in the area of the teaching of Religious Education. From the beginning of 2005, a communication tool will be provided so that AASN members can conduct discussions, post information, share resources easily and quickly. All that is required is for us to have your email address listed on our database. If you think that you'd like to participate and that we may not have your email address, please send it through to rwhyte@aso.qld.edu.au. If you do not want your email address included on this facility, all you have to do is advise the AASN secretariat on the above email address.

Keep a watch out during January for details of RevNet!



Vision Statement

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

(The Australian Anglican Schools Network was established in 1999)

AASN Conference 2004 Report

The planning committee of the conference was delighted with the number of registrations. The feedback on the conference was very positive. Considerable concern was expressed about our final keynote speaker, Father Nic Frances, but it should be noted that not all comments were entirely negative. He was provocative to say the least. In general the Committee was congratulated on the organisation of the Conference, and with the selection of the speakers, including the attendance of Mem Fox at the conference dinner. There was considerable agreement about the length and timing of the conference.

The 14th Annual AASN Conference

16-18 September 2005

Launceston Grammar School

Heritage, Heart & Horizons – Nurturing the spirit

See you in Tasmania in 2005! If you have any suggestions for suitable speakers, would like to offer to deliver a paper or facilitate a workshop, Stephen Norris from Launceston Church Grammar School would be delighted to hear from you. Email him on hmrec@lcs.tas.edu.au

Heads on the Move!

- Mrs. Judith Wheeldon will retire from Abbotsleigh as Principal at the end of 2004. Mrs. Judith Poole, currently Deputy Head at Abbotsleigh, will take over as Principal from the start of 2005.
- Mr. John Scott will retire as Headmaster of St Luke's Grammar School at the end of 2004. Mrs Jann Robinson, form William Clark College, will take up this position from the start of 2005.
- Mr. Paul Kidson from Ballarat Grammar School has accepted the appointment as Principal of Shoalhaven Anglican School from the beginning of 2005.
- Mr Phillip Grutzner has been appointed as Headmaster of St Peter's College, effective January 2005. Phillip is currently Head at Braemar College in Victoria.

AASN - State Representatives

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