

ANGLICAN MEN'S SOCIETY

The National Council in Australia

NEWSLETTER

No. 89

Thirty Second Year of Publication

October, 2009

ISSN 1836-7364

SPECIAL EDITION FOR AMS NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING AT BATHURST,
21ST NOV. 2009.

Chairman's Welcome to the AMS National Conference

It gives me great pleasure on behalf of the clergy and people of the Diocese of Bathurst, to welcome the visiting Delegates and their wives to the City of Bathurst, on the occasion of the 2009 AMS National Conference, which commences on Friday, 20th November and concludes on Monday, 23rd November 2009.

Members of Bathurst Diocese are aware that delegates from all those Dioceses in Australia which currently have active AMS branches will be attending this conference, and our Bishop-in-Council has observed that it is not often that a provincial country diocese has the privilege of offering hospitality for such an event. With all this in mind, we are delighted that the venue for this conference is the Bathurst Goldfields at Mount Panorama, our Diocesan Conference Centre. This facility is in constant use by our diocesan family for a host of different activities and is an important asset for our diocesan life which serves such a vast and diverse part of NSW - some 215,000 square kilometres in area. It is situated on the internationally acclaimed Mount Panorama motor racing circuit and commands a magnificent view over the City of Bathurst and the surrounding district.

The Conference Dinner on the Saturday night will be held in the main dining room at Bathurst Goldfields and the Guest Speaker is to be Professor David Goldney, who is a Commissioner of the NSW Land and Environment Court. Dr Goldney, who holds professorial appointments at both The University of Sydney and Charles Sturt University, is also the principal consulting ecologist with Cenwest Environmental Services.

We are particularly delighted that you are joining us at this point of 2009 as we prepare to celebrate the opening of our 140th Anniversary Year of the Foundation of the Diocese of Bathurst in 2010. It will be a joy also to welcome the delegates and wives to All Saints' Cathedral Bathurst and to its worship on Sunday morning. It is my prayer that this visit to our diocese will prove to be not only hugely beneficial to the administration and planning of the work and mission of AMS in the life of our National Church - but that it will absolutely refreshing and life-giving for all who participate.

Advent and Christmas Greetings

As the Church's year draws to a close with the Feast of Christ the King on Sunday, 22nd November, I would like to wish to all members of AMS and their extended families a blessed and fulfilling season of Advent, and a joyous celebration of Christmas!

With my warmest regards in Christ.

The Right Reverend Richard Hurford - Bishop of Bathurst & AMS National Chairman

CONTINUING STORY FROM The Rev'd John Naumann, Tanzania - July 2009 Part Two

I love my porridge especially now that I eat it with a spoon! This is one of the wonderful children of CHILDREN OF PEACE, Igondola. Work continues of the construction of the first two buildings for the English Medium Primary School at Mvumi Makulu. We have also accepted a quote for the construction of the Toilet Block, Elevated Water Tank and a 20,000ltr In – Ground Water Tank. The pace of construction relates to availability of funding. Many thanks to Hearts for Africa and the wonderful volunteers at the Thrift Shop. Presently we anticipate that the school will open with Kindergarten/Pre School and a Tuition program for upper Primary and Secondary School students. We are involved in assisting local young people who have good Form VI results to access teacher training with the intention that they will become involved in the Makulu School. One young woman, Anna Chimbui, has completed Training College and will now spend one year studying Advanced English at Msalato Bible College. Another, Stellan Simoni, is commencing her second year at College. I expect that she will also go on to the Advanced English Course. A young man, Netho Ndilito, has completed three years at Mt. Meru University and is hopeful of attending Montana State University at Billings, Montana. Ndilito has been our effective contact with Rotary! Of course, while these and others in the coming years continue with their preparation we shall draw upon experienced teachers to 'set the tone' and put the organisational and academic life of the school on a good foundation. Without a doubt there will be further sponsorship needs as we commence operation of the Makulu School. There are many orphans in the area and so many very poor households. However, in this situation (and this is also true of Igondola) I do not believe in 'total' sponsorships. Every household can do something. The only exceptions would be circumstances like those I mentioned in the first part of the Report where an already extended household now has three orphaned secondary school students added to the care. Of course, every Pre School orphan will one day become a Secondary School orphan. However here is the good news. If we can assist in maintaining them in the local Secondary School the fees are quite low and sponsorship not at all onerous. It is highly likely that in the future we shall need to look to developing a Secondary School at Mahoma Makulu in relation to the Home for Street Children. Actually it would become the local Secondary School. At Mvumi Makulu people have asked when we would plan for a Secondary School there. My present response is, "Never." There is a Secondary School adjacent to the Primary School. However it struggles as there are insufficient teachers and some of the teachers are very poorly prepared. Sadly, this is the normal situation in much of Tanzania. My conviction is that there will develop a plan whereby we can cooperate with the local school and assist in lifting the standard of education. For example, maybe in the future Amani could construct a Science Lab and assist with the provision of excellent science teachers: or maybe a Computer Lab.... ? I do have a piece

of land next to St. James' Anglican Church. I have long wondered what to do with this gift. Now I expect it will be used for some Teacher Accommodation and maybe also a Hostel for Secondary School girls. There is a great need for this as presently girls are scattered in rented rooms in homes and lack adequate care and supervision. The Maumi Primary School project has reached ring beam stage and there it rests until further funding. The local people have done so very well however the present cost of roofing timber and iron sheets is beyond their resources. The class rooms are quite large. However I am sure it will be completed before this next wet season. We need approximately \$2,500.00US. I was at Maumi on the 15th. They are so full of expectation! Paradise Valley, Montana has brought a vision of educational paradise to the people. Well, it seems that way when compared with the present structure and restrictions. Our visitor from Butte, Craig Smith, is being kept busy with relief teaching at Mvumi Makulu Secondary and also at Mvumi Mission Secondary. Craig has a bicycle but the road conditions here are not kind to bicycles –corrugations (Aust), washboard (USA), Spain (?) – and the ever present THORNS. Craig has also joined the choir of St. Andrew's Church. He has all of the correct 'moves'. There is so much more to share but that must wait for another time. I shall send a special report on the Dodoma Street Children/Mahoma Makulu Home Project. I do expect to see many of you in Australia and in the USA later in the year. Presently I plan to be in Australia from August 6th to September 3rd. The USA dates have not yet been set but I expect to arrive in the second week of October and depart second week of November. These should be busy times of sharing and celebrating together the gifts of life, faith and love. In a separate mailing will be attachments for Sponsorship for Children of Peace and Students for Peace. The students are either orphans or young people who have a parent who has no capacity to support them! Contact me directly by e-mail for child or student selection or for further information. Every blessing.

John Naumann Managing Director, Amani Development Organisation P.O. BOX 2094 Dodoma TANZANIA. Gifts may be directed through:
Hearts for Africa Foundation, P.O. Box 8160, Sunnybank, Qld 4109 AUSTRALIA
Phone: 61-7-3868-3466 Email: heartsforafrica@gmail.com

FROM IVAN PETERS - 30th October, 2009

Conference is getting close. Two stories - one a bit depressing, the other great.

The Amani Centre is on fairly low staff at the moment, waiting for rain for dryland cropping. As a result, of last poor wet season, we have so many people calling everyday wanting some work for some money for food.

The Gov has maize and beans available at the village. Fr John has an emergency fund for such circumstances, but the demand is just too high. The people are checked so as we help the two local villages first. Some parents are having one meal a day, so as to have more food for their children. Val and I have propped the fund up somewhat, but its still a long time to the harvest as nothing is planted yet.

I know you'll probably have pressing projects on your agenda, but if members agree, anything for naught to \$1000.00 would be a blessing. The local Ingondala pre-school is going well, with round 120 pupils about half orphans. Val and I have been over

a couple of times, round 11 o'clock, they all get a cup of white maize porridge. They chant Babu and Bibi when they see us coming, then it's a sea of hands, all wanting to touch and shake our hands. Everyone sits on the ground and they tuck their legs close (takes a bit of doing nowadays) as they await their cup of porridge. A youngster brought me a cup and showed me how to dip it out with your first two fingers into your mouth. If you want an experience to feel humble and a tear to the eye, this is it "mate".

Yours in W.F.S - **Ivan Peters**

REPORT FROM TASMANIA

The AMS in Tasmania have focussed their aims on the advancement of the Christian faith through the fellowship of men within the family of the Church, and to encourage and support men to live out the Christian faith in all situations.

Since September 2008, we were unfortunate to learn of the closure of the St. George's Branch at Battery Point, one of our oldest Branches. To balance this, we are pleased to report an increase in membership by three at the Holy Trinity, Launceston Branch; the addition of one new member both at Longford and the Moonah branches. We have also have an increase of four new diocesan members.

On Saturday 4th July 2009, our State AGM was held at the historic town of Ross, in the Tasmanian midlands. 20 members attended from throughout the state. As our Constitution provides for the election of office bearers for a two year term, this AGM was a bye for such elections.

Interesting reports were received and tabled from each branch together with the Lay-President's and Treasurer's reports.

St. Oswald's Day was celebrated as last year, at St. Andrew's Church, Westbury in northern Tasmania. Members renewed their AMS pledge at the Communion Service and a delightful lunch was served by the ladies of the parish. The Service was conducted by our State Chaplain, The Rev'd Jo Pyecroft assisted by the Westbury Parish priest, The Rev'd Marie White.

The State council has met on five occasions at various venues since the 2008 National Conference. Branches generally meet on a regular monthly basis - some more often.

Tasmania was well represented at the National conference in WA and pleased to know that financial support for the water project in Tanzania and the solar power initiative in Kenya, was renewed nationally. We are proud that the Tanzania project was a Tasmanian initiative. We are likewise proud that Trevor Cowell was re-elected National Vice-Chairman.

We report that the AMS in Tasmania donated \$1,000 to the Gippsland Diocese Victorian Bushfire Appeal. This amount came from Branch and State funds together with individual donations.

On a sad note, we report that three members have passed to Eternal Peace since January this year.

The members from Tasmania send their best wishes for a successful National Council Meeting at Bathurst. Our prayers ask the Lord to grant you all, wisdom in your decision making; a fellowship full of Christian warmth and inspiration; and a safe journey to and from Bathurst.

Max Robinson - Hon. Secretary, Tasmania

REPORT FROM PERTH

The National Conference of AMS, 2008, was held at the St John's Conference centre, Shoalwater Bay, south of Perth from the 5th to the 8th of September. It proved to be a great success. Many of the men from the dioceses of the eastern states agreed it was the 'best ever'. In fact several of the ideas from this event will be used for the next National Conference to be held at Bathurst in November 2009.

One of the outstanding experiences for our visitors took place in the two days preceding the main conference, and cannot be replicated anywhere else in Australia. This was a retreat at New Norcia, the unique Catholic monastery town situated two hours north of Perth. Many participants felt this set the mood for the days which followed.

Our association with New Norcia, in the form of AMS retreats has been a great blessing to us all and extended over fifteen years. During this time we have had the privilege of a close association with Abbot Placid. We were therefore very saddened to hear of his sudden death in England while on sabbatical. Archbishop Roger and Bishop Kay attended his funeral service in Subiaco, and Geoff Leiper represented AMS. Diocesan Council of AMS voted to give \$500.00 to an archival memorial to Abbot Placid, and Applecross AMS is also giving \$500.00 in recognition of his invaluable work in promoting ecumenism, and his example for all of Christian charity and love.

We members of AMS may be few in number, state and nationwide, but great in enthusiasm and dedication to the task of introducing as many people as possible to the joy of knowing Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. This was endorsed by both Archbishop Roger, who spoke at the final conference dinner, and Bishop Tom, who chaired the meeting sessions, and who concluded the weekend with an inspiring farewell address. The small, and rather unexpected profit from the conference was used to promote AMS in WA. We purchased copies of the AMS diary and the "Book of Witness" – produced for the 100th anniversary of AMS in Australia, as all will remember. We sent one set of these to all the parishes in the Diocese of Perth. A lapsed member of one of our local parishes was so moved by the 50 stories in the book that he returned to worship and meaningful involvement in the life of his parish, and now organises a regular breakfast for as many as 30 men in that parish.

We are pleased to report on the annual diocesan St Oswald's Day dinner, which was held at St David's church hall. This was a very well attended evening, with great fellowship, a highlight of which was our Chaplain, The Reverend Keith Wheeler's, address. He told us of his Christian journey, with particular emphasis on his remarkable athletic career, where he achieved his ambition to break the four minute barrier for the mile at the Commonwealth Games.

We look forward to seeing AMS friends at Bathurst in November, and renewing friendships made in Perth, at the last conference.

Geoff. Leiper -- Lay President

MELBOURNE REPORT - 2009

The executive of AMS in the Diocese of Melbourne acts as a secretariat for all AMS branches and members in the Province of Victoria. Currently there are 8 Branches and 130 members including Diocesan members (those members who do not have an AMS branch in their home Parish) in Victoria.

The executive currently meet monthly at the Seafarer's Mission in Flinders St, Melbourne and promote various functions for all metropolitan AMS members to attend. This year's events were monthly evensongs at St. James Old Cathedral, a Book Fair at Holy Trinity, Oakleigh, a monthly Men's breakfast at Holy Trinity, Oakleigh and a special dinner to celebrate St. Oswald's Day (St. Oswald is the Patron Saint of the Society). This year a new storage shed was built at Holy Trinity, Oakleigh for the sorting and storage of second-hand books. This annual Book Fair now has a large following from the wider community and raises funds for the society.

The strength of the Society has always been in the local branches and they have promoted and organised Art shows, Anzac Day services, Parish breakfasts, Sausage sizzles, Quiet days or retreats for men, Hospital visitations and services, bowls competitions, card nights, fire wood drives, building work etc.

The AMS National Conference this year was held in Perth, W.A. led by Bishop Tom Wilmot, Clerical Vice-Chairman of AMS. Also included was a three day visit to New Norcia where we stayed at the Monastery and worshipped with the Benedictine monks.

AMS Welfare

The welfare arm is registered as "**The Bill Brady Welfare Organisation Inc.**" in memory of a past Lay President of AMS in this Diocese. It operated successfully again this year donating a total of \$8,000 to both Anglican and secular causes. One of the recipients have been Philip and Guinevere Swan, who work with the Wycliffe Bible Translators. We also supported the Anglican Benevolent Society who assisted bush fire families in Victoria. Fund raising included running two sausage sizzles at Bunnings warehouses in Melbourne. By these various activities the Society has been able to live up to its motto.

Motto: *"Witness, Fellowship and Service"*

Warren Cole - AMS Lay President, Melbourne

QUEENSLAND REPORT

The AGM of the Provincial Council was held at Drayton on 6th May, 2009.

Present were thirteen members representing branches of Drayton, St. James - Toowoomba, Sherwood, Zillmere, Ekibin and Ipswich. Annual reports from branches were printed in the annual report book. St. Oswald's House at 16 Eliza Street, Clayfield (owned by AMS Queensland and leased to the Richmond Fellowship as a Retreat House) is holding a rededication Service on Saturday 23rd May at 1400 hrs which will be attended by a number of members.

The following were elected as Office Bearers for the coming year.

Chairman: **John Brown** Vice Chairman: **Steven Humphries** Secretary /

Registrar: **James Smith** Treasurer: **Barry Boothy** Review Editor: **John Brown**

Chaplains: **Irvine Scott & Keith Briggs**

Two Representatives to Richmond Fellowship: **Keith Briggs & Steven Humphries**

Representative to Mission to Seafarers: **Derek Dickey**

A committee to explore the incorporation of The Society in Queensland: **John Brown, Barry Boothy & James Smith.**

The National Council Meeting in November was discussed and several members and their partners will be attending. One member is going via Bourke to look at the museum there. The meeting closed in prayer and lunch and fellowship was enjoyed.

Well done to the Drayton Branch, which is 100 years old this year!! This event will be celebrated at Drayton on Sunday 28th June at 11am.

Yours in W.F & S - Jim Smith - Provincial Secretary.

NEWCASTLE REPORT

The end of the year 2008 was very difficult. Two Branches decided to sever their connection with AMS and become Parish Men's Groups. The two branches left are Lambton and Diocesan Branch.

Both Branches have had a reduction in members due to deaths being Bros. Tom Craig, George Reynolds and Bill Drake.

Our Diocesan Programme has been reduced to the A.G.M. in March, a Day of Reflection in May, and a Retreat for all Men in September. The Men's Retreat, held in October, attracted 17 men, of this Diocese. The venue was on a property called "Watagan Mountain Escape", which is in a small town known as Martinsville. The conductor this year was the Reverend Maree Armstrong Rector of Lambton Parish.

Lambton Branch has gained two new members, who will be inducted into the Society on the 16th of September. The Branch is still working within the Parish and members are carrying out many activities and tasks as well as mateship. Our members supply and sell fruit and vegetables at the three market days per year. Monthly meetings are held with guest speakers and then dinner at the local Bowling Club, excepting February & August when the members entertain handicapped people at a local Church hall for the night after a quick Eucharist, meeting and dinner.

Yours in Witness, Fellowship and Service

Jack Jones - Diocesan Lay-President

WEST GOULBURN REPORT

The Men's Fellowship met regularly during 2008 with 11 members. Highlights of the year include:

- The Annual Men's Dinner on Friday 25th August with **Mr. Neil James, Executive Director of the Australian Defence Association**, gave an excellent talk on the practicality of Christian "just war" theory in modern Australia. Unfortunately the numbers were down, and those who were frightened away by the topic missed out on a very enlightened talk delivered by an excellent speaker. (*Neil is the son of Allen James, a past AMS National Secretary - Ed.*)
- The Men's Fellowship catered for the Ladies Dinner on Friday 21st September where the guest speaker was Anne from the Mother's Union who spoke of the work of that organisation. The women seemed satisfied with the meal dished up to them by the men - the only complaint being 'quantity' (too much) not 'quality'.
- A number of breakfasts were held during the year, speakers including **The Rev'd Brad Lovegrove**, the Rector of North Goulburn, whilst **Canon Peter Peter Bertram** gave an informative talk on various world religions at one of our meetings.
- Donations were made to the Church Army, Boomerang Meeting Place and BCA.
- We arranged an indoors bowls tournament with the ladies following Cafe Church on Sunday 30th March.
- The group has continued its affiliation with the AMS National Council.
- Our year ended with an enjoyable BBQ at Terry & Lyn Hall's place on 3rd December.
- This year we will meet on the 3rd Wednesday in February, April, June, August and October at 7.30pm, and arrange Breakfasts and Dinners on the other months.

Ron Neate - Secretary

SITUATIONS VACANT - AMS WEBMASTER

The AMS website needs a person in charge to keep the site up to date. This function was carried out by **Bruce Gibson** from the Melbourne Diocese until his death in April, 2009. We are currently paying \$39.95 per month to inet to host this site but it is our job to maintain and update the site. Please contact the Secretary, Ivan Holt, iaholt@teksupport.net.au if you can handle this task.

ANOTHER AMS SHED IN MELBOURNE

After much time spent in planning and obtaining the various Council and Diocesan permits and approvals a new **AMS Shed** has been built at **Holy Trinity, Oakleigh**. This occurred on 11th June and a concrete floor finished five days later, just in time for the annual book fair on the 11th July. This new location will be more convenient and will save time and labour in moving truck loads of books from Doncaster to Oakleigh, which is the site of the Book Fair.

Harold Boddy says that this is **Shed No. 7 for AMS in Melbourne** although some sheds have been dismantled and re-erected at new sites. This new shed has been very timely as we have been advised that the ground lease for our Doncaster shed (Shed No: 6) will not be renewed in 2010!

FROM THE MESSAGE - The AMS Paper, Tasmania.

History gives us some amazingly true stories.

His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog.

There, mired to the waist in black mud, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death. The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had rescued.

"I want to repay you", said the nobleman, "You saved my son's life". "No I cannot accept payment for what I did". the Scottish farmer replied, declining the offer.

At that very moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel. "Is that your son?" the nobleman asked. "Yes" the farmer proudly replied. "I'll make a deal" said the nobleman, "Let me provide him with the level of education my own son will enjoy; if the lad is anything like his father, he'll no doubt grow to be a man we'll both be proud of." And that was what the nobleman did.

Farmer Fleming's son attended the very best school and in time graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of penicillin.

Years afterwards, the same nobleman's son who was saved from the bog, was stricken with pneumonia. What saved his life? -- penicillin!! The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill.

His son's name?? - Sir Winston Churchill.

VALE JOHN T. RIDGE

Look at the AMS documents in the Queensland Provincial Council Archives as far back as the seventies and very few up until 2003 will not have the signature of John Ridge.

A passionate and tireless worker, John was a perfectionist and during his long stint as Provincial Council Secretary and sometimes Secretary/Treasurer saw many changes. He always had his finger on the pulse serving faithfully under many chairmen and not afraid to put forward his views. The threat of resignation was sometimes a valuable tool in getting his way.

John was the recipient of an OAM but never spoke of it to my knowledge but played it down so much that I had to be reminded of it.

His role in the National Council (National Secretary 1986 - 1999 & 2001-2002, National Treasurer 1980 - 1986, Newsletter Editor 1985 - 2002) mirrored his Qld role and no one enjoyed more a National Council conference or meeting. He had the skills and happy knack of selecting the best possible venue and programme with everyone going home looking forward to the next time.

John lacked nothing in humour and was a hit with his witty sayings. Sometimes his jokes in the Review brought mild criticisms but most of us loved them and John's offer to let the complainant take over the editor's role ensured his continuing of his excellent informative publication. John's dream was to reach the 500th publication but sadly his deteriorating health and death denied him this. The desire to see this through

was my driving motive in taking on the Review publication role even knowing that I would not be able to match this professionalism. Thankfully his publications are secured in the Diocesan Archives and the State Library.

Dear Florence accompanied John in her healthy times to functions and like all AMS wives gave up much to support her man and at her passing John lost a bit of his sting and though he continued his good work as long as he was able. AMS commitments were taking their toll and eventually health problems caused him to seek shelter where he became an inmate at a Church Home remaining under their care until his call from God.

I befriended John in the early seventies and had contact with him during my stints as Treasurer and more personally after the passing of Florence when I would call for a chat on my way to tennis after Julie married and moved. I am sure John would not mind me telling a couple of stories about him.

John's memory towards the end of his time at Dundee St was getting pretty bad. He was getting meals from Meals on Wheels. Running late for tennis I still called on John who told me that they had not brought his meal so I took him around to the centre, When they looked up the delivery book they were adamant that they had delivered his meal. Back at the house we found the empty carton in the bin John had forgotten he had eaten it . John was embarrassed and I tell the story only to show the humility of this remarkable man who did so much good work for AMS.

Now we all know that John was a pretty good orator and at times extend a meeting to its limits when on a favourite topic. It was a hot muggy afternoon and we had parked our cars at the Collingwood church leaving the windows down. John was about halfway through his speel when we heard a clap of thunder and a few drops of rain on the roof. Most of us rushed out to close our car windows as the thunder increased and the rain came down in buckets .We returned to the meeting to find John without interruption was still putting his case.

This was our John giving his all in Witness Fellowship and service. To Julie his beloved daughter of whom he was so proud and to her family we extend our condolences and we give thanks to God that we were given the privilege of sharing in John's Earthly sojourn.

Yours in wfs - **John Brown - Lay President, Queensland Provincial Council**

MARTIN PYECROFT

Martin died on Monday 26th October after a long illness and his funeral followed on 4th November. Martin was the husband of The Reverend Jo. Pyecroft, AMS Chaplain in Tasmania, to whom we send our prayers and condolences. Bishop Richard was able to meet with Jo while at the consecration of the Brisbane Cathedral recently.

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