

ANGLICAN MEN'S SOCIETY

The National Council in Australia

NEWSLETTER

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FROM BISHOP JOHN STEAD – AMS National Chairman

Whose mission is it, anyway?

In the process of deciding what we should be doing to reach different generations than the one that forms the majority of members of the Anglican Men's Society and for that matter our church congregations, we need to understand that we are about God's work.

In both contexts, AMS and church, we can easily fall into the trap of thinking that we are being asked to do something by the person we designate as being in charge or, at the least, the one having some sort of authority within AMS and/or church: Clerical Chair, the parish priest or minister, the bishop, the diocese, the committee, and so the list goes on. We forget that the mission, or if you wish, the purpose for which we exist is God's purpose, is God's mission.

There are some among us who are given roles, most often in leadership, who carry the responsibility for articulating the mission or purpose. That role does not mean that it is **their** mission. It doesn't mean that they are recruiting us to **their** cause but rather are calling us to God's mission or purpose. They have been given the responsibility to call us because of the role that they fill.

Too often we hear or maybe even say the Diocese, the committee; the Priest/minister is expecting us to... when in fact what is happening is that we are being called to the higher purpose, God's purpose. The Diocese, the committee, the Priest/Minister is acting as the messenger of that higher purpose, calling us to God's mission/purpose.

We've all heard and no doubt said, 'don't shoot the messenger!'. It is the message we need to consider. Do we discern that the message is from the God of mission/purpose; even though it may call us to step outside of our comfort zone. If it is God's message about God's mission we are called to respond, not to react. Response requires that we take time to think, to pray, to discern and based upon that we determine an action to take. To follow where God would take us.

Whose mission is it, anyway?

God has called the AMS into existence for purpose, for God's purpose!

Peace,



NEWS FROM HONIARA, SOLOMON ISLANDS

Fr. Philip Rongotha, who attended the National Conference in Brisbane, is now the Dean of St. Barnabas Cathedral in Honiara. Our congratulations and best wishes were forwarded to Philip on his move to this new position. He has been very busy and 26 new members have been inducted into AMS in Honiara. Andy Brodersen, AMS National Lay Chairman, was delighted by this news and arranged for the Queensland Council to send 20 AMS diaries to the Honiara branch.

A big welcome to all the new AMS members.

AMS DIARIES – 2018

I have about 20 AMS Diaries left from the 300 which were delivered from the printer. These cost \$6 plus \$2 postage and are available from the National Secretary. Trevor Cowell is our editor/producer of these diaries would like advice from Diocesan groups and Lone Branches of numbers of diaries required for 2019. Please contact Trevor on e-mail:

trevorcowell@bigpond.com

NATIONAL TREASURER INJURED IN FALL

Late last year our National Treasurer, Grahame Foster, was inspecting stain glass windows at Holy Trinity, Launceston with two experts on a restoration assessment. Unfortunately the scaffolding moved and the party fell to the floor of the church. Grahame suffered a broken foot and cartilage damage. We wish Grahame and those injured a speedy recovery.

QUEENSLAND PROVINCIAL COUNCIL REPORT - 2017

2017 has been a good year for A.M.S.!

1. In February we initiated an annual bursary of \$15,000 to St. Francis Theological College to financially assist formation students during their study. This was done in cooperation with Principal and CEO of the college Bishop Jonathan Holland.
2. **AGM and State Conference** held at St. James, Toowoomba in May with 28 delegates and 10 ladies attending – the highest number in 20 years.
Bishop of the Western Region Cameron Venables took a very active part.

New branch at St. Peters, Southport – 4 members were inducted at the conference and a further 6 members were inducted later in the year. This was very pleasing as St. Peters had an AMS branch many years ago.

Tanzania: A donation of 3,000 was agreed on.

Solomon Island: Following numerous correspondence between St. Barnabas Cathedral Men's Group in Honiara and our General Manager, it was decided to start AMS in Melanesia in June.

South Sudan: Agreement to provide an annual bursary of \$2,400 as well as financial assistance with airfares for Bishop Abot travelling to and from South Sudan twice a year.

Financial Report:

The G.M. presented an audited report from Public Accountants Bachman Robinson, Ipswich for the years 2015-2016 – Financial statement as at 6/05/2017.

ANFIN TRUST ACCOUNT	\$30,862.33
ANFIN GENERAL ACCOUNT	\$ 878.73
BENDIGO GENERAL ACCOUNT	<u>\$59,043.88</u>
Total funds	\$90,784.94

Brisbane CC valuation of St. Oswald House, 16 Eliza Street, Clayfield - \$1, 3 million

Loan to member of \$3,000 – approved.

Christ Church, Bundaberg: Donation of \$5,000 for church bell project – approved.

Christian Religious Instructions in State Schools: \$4,000 – approved.

National AMS Conference in Brisbane in September:

Agreement to subsidise all hotel accommodation by 50% from donation of \$6,000 from

Zenonos Group of Companies, as well as free accommodation for directors and Qld country members and free lunch for all at the Danish Club, Newstead after church on Sunday.

How to disperse our annual income from St. Oswald House:

After much discussion it was agreed that 80% must be spent on administration, promotion of AMS and financial assistance to parishes which have an AMS branch. The balance of 20% to go to Anglican charities overseas.

AMS Benevolent Fund: It was decided to set up a Benevolent Fund to assist AMS members in crisis, with an initial amount of \$5,800.

GM's operating expenses:

Meeting approved the cost to purchase a new printer and copier (approx. \$400). GM to receive an annual support of \$300 to cover phone calls, minor office expenses, electricity as well as petrol.

Synod:

It was decided that we should have a stall at this year's Synod and try to get permission to address the Synod regarding AMS.

The Bush Ministry:

Bishop Cameron gave a detailed report on the problems facing the Anglican Church in Western Queensland. As a result of this it was decided to make the Bush Ministry our Queensland project for the next 2 years.

Election of office bearers:

Chairman Jim Smith and GM Andy Brodersen were re-elected as well as Review Editor John Brown- Dep Chairmen: Fr Bill Ross, Shane Inglis and Michael Cox.
Chaplain: Fr Mark Carlyon

Auditor: Mr Richard Dinsdale from Bachmann Robinson, Ipswich.

Following the election of office bearers the directors and some members present decided that we reduce mileage rebate from the Australian Tax Office's 66 cents per km to 40 cents for members travelling less 500 km and 30 cents for those travelling more than 500 km.

3. At the beginning of June Fr Bill Ross and John Fasi flew to Honiara to start AMS in Melanesia, with an initial membership of 12. Some 5 months later this was increased by another 26 new members. AMS Men's Fellowship member Vicar General of Melanesia Father Philip Rongotha, St Barnabas Cathedral, has now been promoted to Dean of St. Barnabas Cathedral.
4. AMS National Conference held at the Watermark Hotel in Brisbane 8th, 9th and 10th September 2017: The conference was chaired by AMS National Chairman Bishop John Stead. In attendance were Bishop Jonathan Holland and Bishop Daniel Abot as well 56 members – the highest attendance in over 10 years.
11 members attended from the Solomon Islands, which was much appreciated. AMS, Qld paid for their travelling, accommodation and food costs, which came close to \$15,000, but most members, feel that the cost was worth it, having achieved so much in the first year.

During the conference our beloved Queensland Chairman Jim Smith was made a Life Member of AMS Australia. Congratulation Jim – well deserved.

Changes to our National Constitution was discussed and approved.

Election of Office Bearers:

National Chairman	Bishop John Stead - re-elected
National Secretary	Ivan Holt, Victoria – re-elected

National Treasurer Grahame Foster, Tasmania – re-elected
 National Lay Vice Chairman Andy Brodersen, Queensland – elected

National Mission Projects:

It was decided to equal support between South Sudan and Tanzania.

Solomon Islands:

Chairman Robert Manekaea gave a brief history – population 600.000 – many languages and different cultures – domestic violence (big problem) – 30% of population are Anglicans.

South Sudan:

Bishop Daniel Abot told the meeting he has used the Qld donation to rescue 10 children from a refugee camps and streets and move them to Uganda for schooling.

Tasmania:

There are still 3 active branches in Tasmania.

Queensland:

The Oxley Men's Shed has now got 50 members – great work by John Brown.

While the men attended to business the ladies enjoyed a luncheon trip on the Brisbane River on board the famous Kookaburra Queen Paddle Steamer.

5. Our attendance at the Synod held in September was a disappointment. Very few people visited – not only our stall, but also the other stalls in the building allocated to us. During tea/coffee and lunch breaks delegates stayed in the main building and did not visit our building. We will take this matter up with the new General Manager of the Diocese. Likewise an even bigger disappointment was the refusal for us to address the Synod delegates.
6. **St. Francis Theological College:**
AMS provided a big luncheon for all (about 30) formation students on Saturday 28th October. Bishop Jonathan was in attendance and a great help. We addressed the students and told them of the many benefits of having an AMS branch in their Parish. It was a very happy lunch meeting. Many thanks to Bishop Jonathan. It is our intention to make this an annual event.
7. Queensland Provincial Council's second annual meeting in Ipswich – Sat 9th December.

Financial report:

ANFIN TRUST ACCOUNT	\$30,978.49
ANFIN GENERAL ACCOUNT	\$ 880.93
BENDIGO GENERAL ACCOUNT	<u>\$37,639.15</u>
Total funds	\$69,498.57

Brisbane City Council Valuation of St. Oswald House: 1,3 million

Motions moved and passed:

- Donate \$5,000 to St. Paul's, Ipswich for Sacristy renovations.
- Donate \$5,000 to St. James, Toowoomba for electrical upgrades
- Donate \$5,000 to St. John's, Oxley for Men's Shed
- Donate \$5,000 to Christ Church, Bundaberg for bell project

Agreement:

- That we limit our Qld Council meetings to 2 a year:
- One in May – AGM and State Conference and One in November

South Sudan:

That we cover return airfares for Bishop Daniel twice a year at a cost of approx. \$2,800 each time.

May 2018 State Conference at St. Peter's, Southport – Saturday May 26th:

Father Don Parker, St Peter's has agreed we hold our conference at this venue. Qld Council to pay usual mileage cost and 50% of accommodation costs.

Delegates from Honiara:

Qld Council to pay all cost for one delegate from Honiara.

New branches:

Everyone to help to form new AMS branches in Queensland.

We thank all members for their support.

Jim Smith – Chairman

Andy Brodersen – General Manager

NEWS FROM TASMANIA

There will be quite a number of AMS members who have fond memories of Max Robinson - a stalwart of the Society in Tasmania and together with his wife Barbara a regular at national Conferences and Council Meetings. Max died a few years ago: Barbara continues with an active life both in the Church and amongst the community at Derwent Waters where she lives - with a glorious view over one of the many bays on the Derwent River

My wife Shirley and I had the great pleasure of being hosts to Barbara at our Perth (Tas) cottage recently. Barbara looks a million dollars and recalls fondly their years of association with the Anglican Men's Society- and especially the many trips to Conferences across Australia. She wishes to be remembered to her many friends – men and women - in the AMS. I try to ensure she is kept in touch with what we are up to.

AMS Branches in Tasmania have been in holiday recess since about November - even though Members continue to provide leadership and help both in their parishes and the linked communities. But the New Year brings some stirrings though sadly the loss of a number of key men has diminished the capacity of Branches to do as much as they would like to do.

Longford, for example, is down to 4 active Members - one away in America for some months - but will be assisting at the Parish Fair on February 17. Members have insisted that numbers isn't everything and that "when two or three are gathered together" we can say the AMS Service, share a Meditation – and have a yarn. Witness! Fellowship! Service!

Trevor Cowell

NEW BISHOPS FOR NEWCASTLE

Bishop Peter Stuart has nominated the Venerable Canon Sonia Roulston to become the Assistant Bishop (Inland Episcopate) covering the Upper Hunter, Maitland and Paterson Deaneries. He has also nominated the Venerable Charlie Murry to become the Assistant Bishop (Coastal Episcopate) covering the Central coast, Lake Macquarie and Manning Deaneries. The ordination of these bishops will be held on 10th May at the Cathedral Church.

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING – ADVANCE NOTICE – Tuesday 11th September, 2018

This meeting will be held at Tullamarine, Melbourne and registration forms will be in the June Newsletter. This is a delegates-only meeting from 10am to 4pm with Morning Tea from 9.30am.

COMMUNIQUE is an occasional, opinionated, broad church news-letter from John Bunyan. It is particularly for those interested in new ideas or old ideas revived, and also for those in the Church who sometimes feel on the fringe. **Contact:** bunyanj@tpg.com.au
PO Box N109, Campbelltown North, NSW, 2560.

The news-letter is free but any donation towards the cost of printing (c. \$3 each) and posting them would be welcome!

The Rev'd John Bunyan is an AMS member and attended the Brisbane National Conference

CAMPAIGN FURNITURE.

One of my interests is restoring old furniture. This involves working out how the piece was built and finally restoring the finish which usually involves French polish. One special interest is Campaign Furniture. If you lived in the UK before the WW2 one source of employment was to join the Indian Civil Service or the British army and serve overseas in India. To undertake this venture one needs some furniture which is portable but strong and thus Campaign furniture was designed for this purpose.

Campaign Chests.

These were a brass bound chest that can be split into two parts and are the most iconic pieces of this style – a bit like the Morris chair of the Arts & Crafts movement. The typical British-made chest is mahogany with four rows of drawers, brass corner guards, and flush brass pulls. Most chests would fit nicely into a box that is 40”H x 40”W x 22”D. This box, once the chest was removed, could then be used as a wardrobe. While the external dimensions remained fixed there were chests which had fold down desks or additional drawers. The two sections locked together with metal bolts while the bun feet also screwed off for travelling.

Other Campaign Furniture.

These were many and varied but most were folding or collapsible to reduce space when travelling. Trunks, brass or metal bound and some were lined with zinc. Camp stretchers, folding beds, chairs, stools, writing slopes, tables and desks were all available from various outfitters in London. Perhaps the best known outfitter was the Army & Navy Co-Operative Society, Ltd in London but there were many smaller cabinet makers producing these items. This furniture first appeared in the early 1900's and in the late 19th century it is estimated there were 85 makers and designers of campaign furniture in the London area alone. Timber used in Campaign furniture include Mahogany, Teak, Camphor, Oak Ash and Walnut. This resulted in a style of furniture which was rugged, beautiful and stripped of ornamentation. As with any successful design copies were also made in China and India over the years. It is thought that many of the design ideas for British Campaign furniture evolved from furniture used by Chinese government officials as part of that country's mobile government in the 1800's.

Ivan Holt

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