

ANGLICAN MEN'S SOCIETY
The National Council in Australia
NEWSLETTER

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FROM BISHOP JOHN STEAD - AMS National Chairman

Earlier this year I was fortunate to attend the Parish Collective Annual Inhabit Conference in Seattle, Washington State. One of the sessions I attended during the Inhabit Conference raised the issue of the decade of the 2020's being a decade of disruption. We have already experienced the disruption that is occurring through the political process in the UK (Brexit) and the USA (the Trump Presidency). Also, we experience it in the rise of new companies such as UBER which disrupt how people contract for travel – the usurping of the TAXI service; and in Social Media and how many younger people find news online rather than through TV and Print Media.

The church also experiences disruption with the last few generations being more interested in the pursuit of spirituality than of Religion, by which they mean the Institutional Church. Dianna Butler Bass, in her book, *Grounded*, reflects on how the question her theological students are asking has changed from *What do you believe?* to, *How do you believe?* The two questions operate out of two very different domains – the first deals with the mind and thought processes and can be responded to, for Anglicans, by reference to the Historic Creeds, The Trinity, The Thirty Nine Articles and the Book of Common Prayer. The latter operates out of action, a faith which is enacted by a church which sees itself as a 'verb' rather than a 'noun.' The 'practice' of Church. How do we do church in a way which demonstrates what we believe?

The rejection of the institutional church is partially justified by the view that the church is hypocritical – failing to live up to and out of its rhetoric. For example, God, the creator sees that the whole creation is good, indeed very good, and yet the church (Christians) act as if the creation can be justifiably trashed! The church's teaching is that the dignity of every human being is to be honoured and yet supports governments who act to consolidate wealth among a small proportion of the population at the expense of the marginalised and those who have the least.

How we want to shape the church for the future is important. We are doing so in the context of the disruption, which is and will occur around us and within the church. We need to build both resilience and agility: the flexibility to meet the disruption. Maybe central to this is a return to the 'heart of worship': Jesus. How are we to be Christ-shaped and shaped by Christ? How are we to be the Church of now and tomorrow?

+ John

NEWS FROM QUEENSLAND

The Queensland Provincial Council had an annual conference and AGM in Bundaberg over the weekend 25/26th May. Thirty one members and fourteen partners attended this conference. Included in the attendees were no less than four Bishops – Bishop James Tama, Vanuatu, Bishop Daniel Deng Abot, Duk Diocese South Sudan, Bishop Jonathan Holland, Brisbane Diocese and Bishop Jeremy Greeves, Brisbane Diocese. The Solomon

Islands were represented by Dean Philip Rongotha, Fr. Wilfred Kekea and Francis Kapini, AMS Branch Chairman (Honiara).

A Branch has been re-chartered at Laidley, Qld. with Ivan Peters as Chairman and there could be new Branches at St. Francis Theological College, Brisbane and also in Vanuatu. The parish of Gayndah will see a new AMS branch formed this month. Conference delegates favoured Gayndah as the location for next year's Qld. Conference/ AGM.

The election of Office bearers for 2019/20 resulted in:

Chairman	- Jim Smith of Toowoomba
General Manager	- Andy Brodersen of Ipswich
Directors	- Shane Inglis of Southport and Howard Kingston of Bundaberg
Chaplain	- Fr, Stephen Monsieigneur of Ipswich
Review Editor	- John Brown of Sherwood

Bishop Jeremy Greeves was the guest speaker at the conference dinner. Five new members were inducted during the AMS service before the business session commenced.

The new members are Bishop James Tama and Regional Secretary, Selwyn Leodoro, from Vanuatu, Father Wilfred Kekea from Solomon Islands, Ray Harris from Gayndah and David Kirkwood from Bundaberg.

This AGM was a very successful and effective conference which strengthened connections with the Church in South Sudan, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu and promoted AMS in Bundaberg.

REMEMBRANCE LIST

This year has seen the passing of the following members and partners

John Isager - Ipswich, Norman McKenzie – Southport,
Mrs Betty Kingston – Bundaberg – Feb, 2019
Geoffrey Francis – St. Oswald's parish, Sydney – March, 2019
Laurie Thompson – Romsey Branch, Victoria – June, 2019

A gate has opened and a soul passed through Into a brighter land to stay A well-loved spirit clothed in life anew Has run, with eager feet, to seek the day.	We must not sorrow when the Master calls, Though parting is a saddening thing, We know that peace awaits those gone before While we find solace in remembering.
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NEWS FROM VICTORIA

Two of our stalwart members are currently in care; Len Evans who was the Diocesan Secretary for some 35 years and Stan Boreham who was the Diocesan Chairman for many years. We wish them well. There are two active branches at Mitcham and Romsey/Lancefield and a branch in recess at Rosanna.

Two charitable trusts continue to operate and the following list of donations has been made this year.

Bill Brady Welfare Organisation Inc.

Bush Church Aid – Jindabyne project	= \$1,000
Wycliffe Bible Translators (Swan family)	= \$1,000
Hearts for Africa	= \$2,000

OAC Ministries	= \$ 500
Open House, McLeod, Vic.	= \$ 1,110
Access Ministries (now Korus Connect)	= \$ 610
Royal Flying Doctor	= \$ 610
TOTAL	= \$6,830

Tyler House Trust:

Anglicare, Victoria	= \$ 610
Bush Church Aid	= \$ 610
TOTAL	= \$1,220

NEWS FOM TASMANIA

On Friday May 17 some AMS Members from across the State met at Longford to discuss a Motion that the State Branch be closed.

Ten were present and following the AMS Service - led by Reverend Henry Ivey - considerable discussion took place around the Motion: "The Tasmanian State Branch of the Anglican Men's Society be closed as from May 17"

The overwhelming emotion was regret that this Motion was required, but understanding that there was no alternative.

Accordingly the Motion was passed and the State Branch no longer exists.

However, there was support for the encouraging of existing Members to continue their association with AMS and Longford – now the only Branch in the Diocese - will do all it can to keep the numbers up.

There was support from amongst the men present for an occasional lunch meeting somewhere in the State so that the Fellowship of AMS is maintained.

Following the Meeting all adjourned to Sticky Beaks café across the road and were guests of the Longford Branch for a very social lunch.

AMS (CEMS) in Tasmania has a 100 year plus history - and it continues - but the same difficulties which are affecting so many organisations present a challenge that has to be met - by God's grace we will.

Trevor Cowell

BCA CENTENARY

The 26th March marked the centenary of BCA in Australia. Special services were held in all states to mark the occasion. As reported in the February Newsletter one Victorian AMS member, The Rev. Tom Morgan, has been involved with BCA for seventy of those years – a mighty effort.

The former National director of BCA, Mark Short, was inducted as the Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn Diocese on 6th April, 2019. Archdeacon Greg Harris of Bendigo has been named as the new National Director of BCA. Greg graduated from Moore College in 1996 and has served in many rural parishes and has a passion for country ministry.

VICTORIAN DIOCESAN MEMBERS – ANNUAL SUBS 2019.

Annual subs for these members are \$20 and due on 30th June, 2019. Please send a cheque to the National Secretary OR by transfer to **AMS National Council Account** - NAB 083 343 20793 4089.

If paying by transfer please add your name to the transfer – many thanks.

ANNUAL FEES

Diocesan Secretaries and Secretaries of Lone branches are reminded that annual fees should be paid by 30th June each year. It was agreed at the last National Council that the fees for 2019 would remain unchanged at \$20 per member. Membership return forms are available from the National Secretary.

ANNUAL REPORTS AND AGENDA ITEMS

Provincial Councils and Lone branches are reminded to send copies of annual reports to the National secretary by 1st August, 2019 for inclusion in the papers for the National Council meeting. Any agenda items for consideration by the National Council should also be sent to the Secretary by that date.

AMS CAR STICKERS

The new car stickers are transparent and measure 80mm x 80mm the same size as the old model. The art work is unchanged from the old car stickers. These are available from the National Secretary at \$2.50 each - Post free.

A LETTER FROM HONIARA

The AMS Chairman, Francis Kapini, in Honiara writes

Dear Andy,

How are you and greetings from Honiara. Let me say thank you for putting us up for the AGM Qld conference in Bundaberg. Fr. Philip and I thoroughly enjoyed it. We have yet to call the whole group to update them about the conference.

Last Tuesday Scott Morrison, PM of Australia, visited St. Barnabas Cathedral and spoke to the church leaders. Under his government they are opening direct assistance to the churches as a means of supporting development in SI. He talked about supporting dialogue between Australia and the SI churches and I think what AMS is doing is right on the dot!

I just sense that we have an opportunity now to pursue our ideas regarding the development of the Anglican men's ministry in SI.

I just thought I'd update you on this as we move forward.

Will keep in touch. God bless - Francis.

POSSIBLE NEW BRANCHES IN THE BRISBANE DIOCESE

Andy Brodersen and the executive members in Brisbane are following up enquiries received from parishes about forming a local AMS branch. Enquiries have been received from the following parishes – Maryborough, Hervey Bay, Gympie, Nundah, Kenmore – Brookfield, St. Francis Theological College, St. Clements on the Hill and Freshwater (Deception Bay/ Burpengary).

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY CHURCHES

Many churches sponsor community programs such as "Mainly Music" or a community meal. These programs introduce people to the church as many people have had no connection

with a church before. Both programs help build the community but generally do not provide many new parishioners for the church. Mainly Music is well received by first time mothers and other mothers, as the volunteers helping are mostly mothers and even grandmothers with years of experience in understanding the needs of children (of any age) both medically and emotionally.

The community meals also meet a need for many people who are lonely, hungry, homeless and have little in the way of support networks. Ben and Jane Frawley set out to establish the Mitcham Community Meal program to offer a nutritious meal to people they saw begging around the local mall. Based at All Saints', Mitcham, Victoria, it commenced in October, 2018 and they have been surprised at the support from various church and youth groups, sporting clubs, school groups and family groups to cater for these meals.

The catering groups provide the ingredients and cook the meal, serve, and clean up, and Ben reports he has groups booked up till December this year. The Mitcham meals are held on a Sunday evening where 25 to 30 attend and recently received a Federal Government grant to buy catering equipment. Ben is using Facebook to advertise Mitcham Meals and seek volunteer groups and also any equipment required. Recently advertising a need for a large freezer on Facebook a local lady rang him to say she would donate the freezer – she would meet him at the local Good Guys store!

Mitcham Meals is travelling well and fills a real need in the community.

More information: see the excellent web site - mitchamcommunitymeal.org

BOOK REVIEWS

QF 32 by Richard de Crespigny – published by Pan Macmillan in 2012. This book is a very technical explanation of the systems which keep the airbus A380 flying and what systems failed in November, 2010, following an engine explosion. However it was his great leadership and communication with other pilots, cabin crew and passengers which resulted in no loss of life. It has become a “must read” for plane buffs and the aircraft industry, being reprinted 17 times to date.

BLACKOUT by Matthew Warren – published by Affirm Press in 2019. This book explains in plain language how energy rich Australia is running out of electricity. There is an ongoing clash between politics, physics, psychology, markets, economics, and various pressure groups which is affecting the performance of the eastern Australia grid. In January 2016 the South Australian electricity grid failed totally due to very heavy demand and some instability. In January, 2019 Victoria load shedding occurred (various areas lacked power for several hours) as a result of excessive demand.

With current technology, once an electricity grid has inputs of 40% of renewables (except hydro power) the grid becomes unstable. A new challenge for Electrical Engineers.

A very timely and well written book.

DIRECTORY OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OFFICE BEARERS.

Chairman: The Right Rev'd John Stead, PO Box 96, Gladstone, SA, 5473.

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AMS WEB PAGE: amsnational.org.au

REGISTRATION FORM - AMS NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING, MELBOURNE.**One day only – Tuesday 17th September, 2019**

Delegate Name.....
 Address.....
 Representing

Phone – Home.....	Mobile.....
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E-mail.....
 Name for Name Tag.....
 Have you any special needs i.e. Diet or mobility.....

Location of Meeting.

This will be held at the PARK ROYAL Hotel at Tullamarine Airport on Level 5, which is above the multistorey carpark opposite the airport terminal building. The same venue was used in 2018. This year we will be in the Lorne Boardroom.

Program

9.30 – 10am	Arrival and Morning Tea	Foyer
10am – 4pm	Business sessions	Room
12.20 – 1.30pm	Lunch	Buffet in Foyer

CAR PARKING

This is available in the short term carpark underneath the Hotel at \$22 for 3 hours and \$40 per day.

N.B. Please ensure you validate your parking ticket at the hotel reception to obtain this reduced rate.

DELEGATES

Provincial and Diocesan Councils are entitled to 2 delegates. Lone Branches can nominate 1 delegate this Meeting of the National Council. Costs will come from Society funds.

Please post this completed form to the National Secretary by 9th August, 2019

The Hotel requires a firm number by this date for catering.

Mail Address: I. A. Holt – 3 Scarborough Road, Vermont South, Vic, 3133

The Park Royal Hotel is the venue for the National Council Meeting. The entry to the Park Royal Hotel is directly opposite the T2 terminal – go to level 5.