

ANGLICAN MEN'S SOCIETY

The National Council in Australia

NEWSLETTER

No. 113

Thirty Ninth Year of publication
ISSN 1836-7364

October, 2017

FROM BISHOP JOHN STEAD – AMS National Chairman

I was at a gathering of the Leaders of Christian Churches of South Australia recently and the head of the Churches of Christ in South Australia and the Northern Territory was leading the reflection before our meeting commenced. He used some of the poetry of Malcolm Guite <https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/>. I had not come across this poet before and was inspired to look him up on the web.

It turns out that Malcolm is an Anglican Poet-Priest and Chaplain of Girton College, Cambridge. Poetry often can open a perspective on an issue in a way that prose cannot. There is something about the rhythm and form of the poetry, the use of words and at times the sparsity of words that can lead us to insights which we may not have gained in other ways. Obviously, Malcolm Guite has a focus on faith matters with a particularly strong interest in the sonnet form, although he also writes and performs songs. The following forms the chorus of a song/poem:

*The heart is wide open, the true life is brimming
And yearning to come flowing through
I lay down my burden and walk to the well head
And drink and then bring some to you*

The 'true life' that is on offer to us through Jesus is imagined as water welling up and flowing. Jesus speaks of himself as being the source of living water in his encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well; the Book of Revelation tells us of the River of Life which flows from the New Jerusalem. This life-giving water is available to us who choose to follow the Christ. We, along with Malcolm Guite are invited to 'walk to the well head', to 'drink and then bring some to you', to bring some to the one who is 'other'.

We cannot be passive receivers of this water, we must become active in carrying the water to others and bringing others to the well head that they may also carry it to even more who are 'other'.

The gospel challenges us to be an 'open community' – open to the other – the outsider, the marginalised, and so forth. Maybe the best way to judge how well we are doing at being such an open community is to assess how well we invite and accept the one who is other.

Are we creating sources of 'living water'? Are we being locations where the well head can be found? Are we being places from which the water is taken and given to others?

As members of AMS are we creating 'open communities'?

Peace,



NATIONAL CONFERENCE – 2017

A total of 56 delegates and partners attended this triennial conference at the Watermark Hotel in Brisbane. This event broke new ground in many ways. Firstly there was the sponsorship by the ZENONOS group which gave attendees a 50% reduction in accommodation costs, secondly there were 11 men from the Solomon Islands and finally the presence of the Archbishop Daniel Deng Abot from the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and his wife, Rachel and The Rev'd Peter Mayen and his wife, Rachel.

The Solomon Islanders represented a new branch in Honiara and included three clergy. This group formed an excellent choir which performed several times during the weekend.

In the business session the following members form the Executive for the next three years

National Chairman:	Bishop John Stead
National Lay Vice Chairman:	Andy Brodersen -Queensland
National Secretary:	Ivan Holt - Victoria
National Treasurer:	Grahame Foster - Tasmania

It was decided to support two National Mission Projects during 2018 (more information on pages 4&7)

1. The Anglican Episcopal Church of South Sudan – 36 Dioceses and some 3.6 million members!
2. The Dodoma Children's Multipurpose Project, Tanzania (DCMP).

The newly formed branch at Southport had five members attending while the Bundaberg branch also had five attendees. Dioceses of Newcastle, Sydney, Tasmania, Melbourne, Brisbane and Willochra were represented by members. Good discussions were held on the ballot on Same Sex Marriage and helping those people abused by clergy in past years. The recommendations from the Royal commission will probably mean the introduction of more regulations for people supervising minors.

Bishop Jonathon Holland spoke at the dinner. He now heads the now expanding St. Francis College in Brisbane training ordinands and lay people and who is a keen supporter of AMS. The ladies enjoyed a lunch cruise on the Brisbane River on the Saturday, while Sunday included a Service at St. John's Cathedral and lunch at the Danish club. It was good to see many new faces at this Conference where we enjoyed the friendly atmosphere of a small, but elegant Watermark Hotel. Our thanks go to the Queensland committee for organising a very interesting program for the weekend.

Ivan Holt - AMS Sec

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Fr. Philip Rongotha, the Vicar General and Robert Manekaea, Chairman of the Honiara Branch, brought greetings to the conference from the Church of Melanesia, the bishops and members. They gave us a brief history of the Islands with a population of 600,000+ people and an overview of the church and the challenges it faces – many languages, various cultures and village practices, people moving to cities and corruption. About 30% of the population are members of the Anglican Church and the Honiara Diocese has six parishes and two schools. The AMS branch has 11 members and is keen to support the church in developing Christian centres providing counselling for men's ministry, men's role models and combating family violence.

There are not much paid employment outside the cities and subsistence life style is normal in villages. The church has connection with the following Diocese in Australia – Newcastle, Bathurst and Canberra/Goulburn.

SOUTH SUDAN

Archbishop Daniel Deng Abot of South Sudan and The Rev. Peter Mayen spoke about the Episcopal church of South Sudan at the National Conference.

He commenced by thanking AMS Queensland for a donation of \$2,000 which he used to rescue 10 children from a refugee camp and take them to Uganda. South Sudan gained independence 6 years ago but unfortunately civil war broke out again in 2016.

The Episcopal Church of South Sudan have a home for orphans and abandoned children and we hope to improve our health and education systems. He requested support for their orphanage. Sudan still has trafficking in men, women and children and after decades of war there is now a drought and a famine. During questions he briefly explained his life.

He was a refugee for 9 years in Kenya followed by 6 years in Ethiopia before coming to Australia where his wife and family now live. Many people are still leaving South Sudan mainly due to the current famine.

The Rev. Peter Mayen supported Bishop Daniel and commended the orphanage for support from AMS in Australia.

J. Smith commented that Bishop Daniel receives no stipend, house or car and Queensland AMS gave \$2,400 over 3 years to assist his living costs and also paid his return air fares to South Sudan to attend this conference.



Bishop Daniel with ten orphans whom he took from a refugee camp to live in safety in Uganda.

QUEENSLAND DIOCESAN COUNCIL

A. Brodersen reported that a new branch has been formed at St. Peter's, Southport and Honiara in the Solomon Islands. Next weekend there will be a presentation at Clayfield to their men's group. Queensland have set up a benevolent fund with initial amount of \$5,000. The Queensland Provincial annual meeting this year was a weekend event at Toowoomba with social events which went very well.

TASMANIA STATE COUNCIL

The State council met twice during the year, once at St. John's, Newtown and at Christ Church, Longford. Our three branches still meet monthly, with members taking an active part in parish activities and actively participating in Sunday worship as sides people, readers and Eucharistic assistants.

Our membership remains steady with an average of 7 members in each branch and 1 Diocesan member. We were all saddened by the passing of Gordon Millar OAM in June. Gordon was a foundation member of the Longford branch and chief organiser of many fund raising activities. All branches endeavour to support worthy community charity organisations with donations towards appeals, as well as parish based appeals.

Colin Hingston - State Lay President.

NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN COUNCIL

The Diocesan Branch is still functioning and gained two members who were inducted by Bishop John Stead at the National Council meeting held at Toukley. AMS is sponsoring men's breakfasts at Toukley and Bateau Bay parishes over the last year and also plans the annual Men's retreat. In May this year the retreat was held at Tahlee, Port Stephens with the theme "Getting fine-tuned for Life" where nine men attended.

A member of the Diocesan Branch is actively pursuing the establishment of members for the branch amongst his friends in the Sydney Diocese. This is quite a change considering the activity of the Sydney Diocese in our Diocese! Neil McMullen has regular interviews at peak periods on Sydney radio station FM NBC 90.1 promoting membership of AMS and has had good response from radio listeners.

AMS is offering local parishes the provision of guest speakers and explaining the benefits that AMS gives by meeting with men at a National level and providing contacts with the Anglican Church worldwide.

Neil McMullen – Acting Lay President

MELBOURNE DIOCESAN COUNCIL

This organisation has been functioning for 107 years but on Sunday 22nd October, 2017 closed down with a final thanksgiving service which attended by the Archbishop Philip Freier. 24 members, partners and friends of AMS were present. We were unable to find a Lay President to replace Warren Cole who has served in that position for the last 10 years.

Four branches and Diocesan members (total 45 members) will now affiliate direct with the National body and continue to operate as will the welfare arm – "AMS Bill Brady Welfare Organisation Inc."

So we continue in Witness, Fellowship and Service.

Ivan Holt - Diocesan Secretary

AMS Diaries – 2018

These pocket diaries are now available – the little red book 125mm x 80mm x 8mm contains calendars, church year, Prayers, AMS Services and several hymns. All for \$6 plus \$2 postage. Contact Trevor Cowell phone 03 6398 2507 e-mail: trevorcowell@bigpond.com or the National Secretary – see back page.

NATIONAL MISSION PROJECTS

Dodoma Children's Multipurpose Project

This project supports the orphanage in the village of Mahoma Makulu and many children are now teenagers and education is now a big issue. The Rev'd John Naumann is seeking 47 sponsors at \$336 each which will support each child for a year. It would be good if each AMS branch could support one child. AMS Melbourne donated \$5,000 in late September, 2017 to this appeal.

Donations can be sent to Hearts for Africa, Ross Dunning, PO Box 593, Ashgrove, Qld –or to AMS National Treasurer, G. Foster (see back page for address).

Episcopal Church of South Sudan.

The second project is to support Archbishop Daniel Abot in relocating refugees to safer places providing them with food and shelter. Bishop Cameron Venables based at Toowoomba oversees a Bank Account for A/B Daniel. Donations can be sent to the AMS National Treasurer, G. Foster or direct to the following Bank Account.

Bank: cnr Margaret & Neil Sts, Toowoomba, Qld 4350

Account Name: Daniel Abot – Duk Diocese

BSB No: 633 000 Account No: 155046006



Bishop John Stead presented with a shell necklace by Fr. Philip Rongotha, Vicar General, of the Diocese of Central Melanesia, Solomon Islands.

JOHN BROWN – OXLEY MEN'S SHED

John Brown has always had a passion for outreach and helping others.

In 2010 John, alongside other members of St. Matthew's Anglican Parish council, started the Oxley Men's Shed with the aim of providing support to the broader community, especially men who are marginalised and isolated.

"I have been lucky enough to have received the help of other people over the years and I wanted to give back," John said.

The Oxley Men's Shed is a smaller shed of around 50 members and is committed to connecting with men of all backgrounds, especially those who are older, unemployed, isolated, disabled or need of emotional support.

"Men who come to the shed have been welcomed to a safe and non-judgemental environment where they can develop positive, supportive and trusting relationships as well as play a meaningful role and contribute to the shed and its activities."

"I recently lost my wife and there are about three or four blokes at the shed who are in the same boat – we help each other out."

The members themselves have built the shed, as well as a community garden on site.

"Come along and see what we do – some like to do the mowing, others like to build – if you like us, please join us."

Reprinted from a Brisbane City Council News brochure. John is a member of the Sherwood Branch.

EXPLORING BRISBANE

One of the benefits of attending AMS Conferences interstate is the opportunity to explore the town or region where the event is held. Some of the Victorian delegates extended their visit and took in the sights around Brisbane following the weekend conference. Free ferry rides along the river and the Botanical Gardens and Mount Coot-tha were included using the extensive bus system. This enabled us to have discussion with overseas tourists visiting Brisbane. We met up with tourists from Belgium and Algeria.

The big find was the McArthur Museum on the 8th floor, 201 Edwards St (Old AMP building) which has excellent displays, maps and videos and is staffed by very knowledgeable volunteers. This Museum should be visited by all High School students as it covers the perilous days Australia faced during World War II.

COMMUNITY POWER

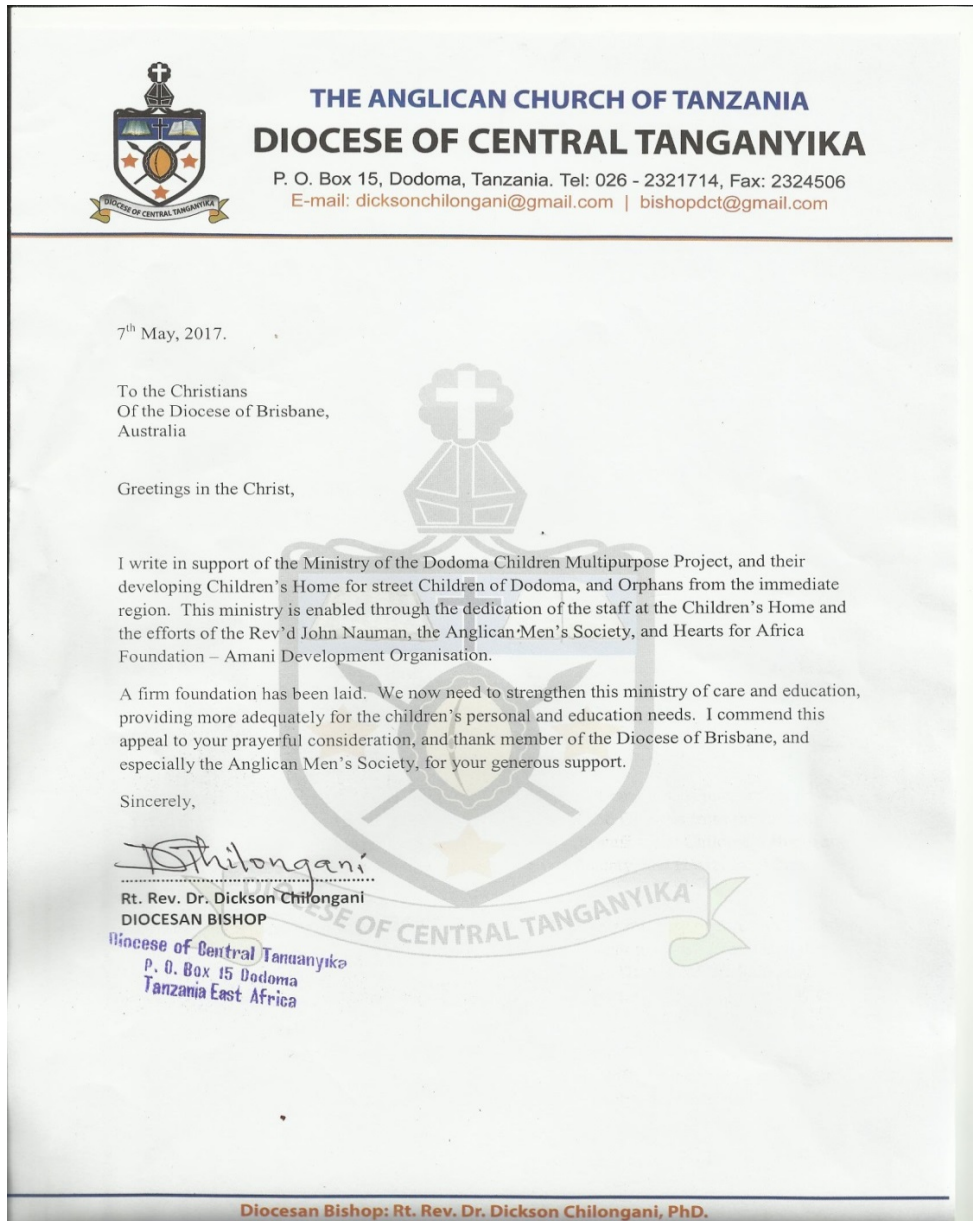
With the rapid increases in the cost of power there is increasing interest in renewable power being community owned. Why leave the generation of power to large companies? In February this year Melbourne hosted the second **Community Energy Congress**. This included indigenous groups from Canada and Australia, the Alternative Technology Association (ATA) and many others. The Canadian group reported that 50% of community energy in Canada is owned by indigenous groups.

A community group on Denmark's Samsø Island with investment plus government funding installed wind farms starting in 1973. The onshore turbines generate 11MW which balances the energy demand for the Island. They now have another 23MW of generation capacity with offshore turbines which is exported to the mainland. This export energy generates US \$8million in annual revenue for the local investors. The island now has a negative carbon footprint.

The aboriginal groups were impressed with these developments and at the end of the Congress launched the **First Nations Renewable Energy Alliance** to develop solar power for aboriginal communities. While it is early days the Alliance has attracted assistance from many other delegates at

the Congress providing technical, financial and legal skills, expertise and networks. With the battery systems now becoming readily available and cheaper, the provision of cheaper energy to these rural and remote groups looks very promising.

More information: ATA web site: www.renew.org.au



DIRECTORY OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OFFICE BEARERS.

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

Tel: (08) 8662 2249 – Fax: (08) 8662 2027 –
 e-mail: bishopsecretary@diowillochra.org.au

Clerical Vice Chairman: vacant

Lay Vice Chairman: Andy Brodersen, 3 Gabrielle Ct, Collingwood Park, Qld, 4301.

Tel/Fax: 07 3381 8817 - e-mail: andyandaase@optusnet.com.au

Secretary: Ivan Holt, 3 Scarborough Road, Vermont South, Vic, 3133.

Tel: 03 9886 8516 - e-mail: iaholt6@bigpond.com

Treasurer: Grahame Foster, 30 Upton St, Launceston, Tas, 7250

Tel: 03 6331 8551 e-mail: oceanic@internode.on.net

AMS WEB PAGE: amsnational.org.au

