

OIKOUMENE

October 2002

TASMANIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

From the General Secretary

Welcome to our new look Newsletter which, I hasten to say, is still a work in process. We are hopeful that the next edition will also include photographs, so please contact us with any news items that may be of interest to other member churches. Jenny and I are settling into our new offices with great enthusiasm and invite you to visit when you are in the city.

Without any planning on our part, this issue has taken on the theme of **peace**. Included is a statement from the National Heads of Churches on Iraq, also details about the formation of the Tasmanian Peace Coalition and notification of other events that focus on transforming our world from a culture of violence to a culture of peace.

In this regard, the TCC has endorsed the NCCA's Forum decision to support the Decade to Overcome Violence and we are presently discussing how we can engage more directly in this venture. The next Newsletter will outline a possible way forward commencing in 2003; if you are already engaged in DOV in some way I would appreciate any information that will assist our contribution.

As we pray for peace in our world, let us also pray that the churches will continue to work together towards the peace of God which passes all understanding.

The Tasmanian Council of Churches has moved to:

163 Macquarie Street, Hobart.

Mailing Address:

GPO Box 1130

HOBART

Tasmania 7001

The phone/fax number is the same:

(03) 6234 2543

E-mail: tcc@trump.net.au

The 'Lund' Principle

Should not the churches act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel them to act separately?

Christmas Bowl 2002

Christmas Bowl 2002 is fast approaching. Your kits will be delivered within the next month.

We hope you find the kit as appealing as we do, with the delightful, eye catching Leunig poster spreading the message of *A Gift for the World*.

Our Christmas Bowl Visitor this year is Matthew Wale, a Peace Activist from the Solomon Islands. He will be in Tasmania from 21 - 26 November and will visit the South, North and North West

of the State.

The Christmas Bowl Launch in Hobart will be a community event on Friday 22 November at 12.30 p.m. in the Elizabeth Mall. Please keep this date free and come along and be part of this exciting occasion.

The Launceston Launch will be at 5.00 p.m. on Sunday 24 November at Pilgrim Uniting Church. Details of the Burnie Launch will be advised later.



give to the christmas bowl
1800 025 101 www.ncca.org.au

The Christmas Bowl is a program of Christian World Service, a Commission of the National Council of Churches in Australia, Locked Mail Bag 196, Sydney NSW 1585



Nurturing a Culture of Peace

YOU ARE INVITED to talks and workshops conducted by **BRENDAN McKEAGUE** on *Nurturing a Culture of Peace: Spreading Peace in Violent Times*.

Brendan will be in Tasmania from 9—14 October, as follows:

9/10 October - At McKillop Hill, Forth

(Contact Sr. Margaret Chandler ph. 6428 3095)

11/12 October - At the Emmanuel Centre, Launceston

(Contact Sr. Margaret Cousins, ph. 6334 1082)

13 October 10.00 am—4.30 pm—Workshop at the D'Arcy Centre, New Town

14 October 7.30 pm at Friends Meeting House, Argyle Street, New Town.

Brendan grew up in the divided community of

Northern Ireland and, after graduating from the University of Ulster, had 10 years experience as a teacher in England and Australia. During the past 15 years he has worked in adult faith education, retreat facilitation, social justice and the development of spirituality of active non-violence.

Further enquiries about Brendan's Tasmanian visit to Maureen Holloway—ph. 6229 3269.

Spirituality in the Pub

Come to the pub and hear Father Brian Gore!

He has been a missionary, imprisoned under the Marcos regime in the Philippines and active in global justice today. Also speaking will be Sr. Gabrielle Morgan, PBVM, on the topic:

Responding to injustice— is the gospel message still relevant?

Where?

Musty's Bar, The Mustard Pot Hotel, 99 Main Road, Moonah.

When? *Thursday 17 October*

Time: *7.30—9.00 pm*

More information from Mary-Anne on 6228 6000 or Gwaine on 6228 2679.

ALSO

Fr. Brian Gore will be joined by Margie Law and John Rodsted to speak at the Poverty Eradication Breakfast at the Hobart Function and Conference Centre, Elizabeth Street Pier, at 7.15 for 7.30 a.m. on Thursday morning 17 October. Cost \$15.00

(17 October is the United Nations Day for the Eradication of Poverty)

Come to the pub and hear Father Brian Gore!

Forest Liturgy

An ecumenical gathering to celebrate and to express our hopes and concerns regarding the forests:

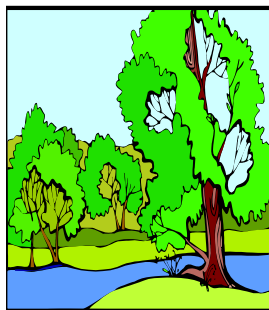
2.00 pm—Sunday November 17 in the Styx Forest, near the "Christmas Tree"

The gathering is being organized by a group representing the Anglican, Catholic and Uniting Churches and the Society of Friends.

Whilst it is a Christian liturgy, our hope is to be inclusive of all who have a concern for the forests.

Maps on how to get to the location can be obtained from most bushwalking shops and the Wilderness Society or online at http://www.wilderness.org.au/member/tws/projects/forests/styx_self.html.

More details from Paul Chalson, ph. 7247 3082 or chalson@bigpond.com



Farewell to TCC from Scots-Memorial UCA Congregation

You are invited to share in Morning Worship with the Hobart Scots-Memorial Uniting Church Congregation on Sunday 27 October.

The TCC office was in St. Andrew's Hall at Scots Uniting Church for some 36 years. Both the TCC and the congregation would like to acknowl-

edge this long and happy association. TCC members and friends are invited to share in worship with the congregation at Scots Uniting Church, 29 Bathurst Street at 10.00 a.m. on Sunday 27 October. Following the service (at 11.15) morning tea will be shared and opportunity will be taken to recognize the

long friendship between the congregation and the TCC.

If you are not able to attend the Worship Service, please come along to the Morning Tea at 11.15 in the G.A. Wood Hall (behind the Church), so that a fitting tribute can be given by the TCC to the congregation.

TASMANIAN PEACE COALITION

Following a meeting on 15 September, hosted by Unions Tasmania, the Tasmanian Peace Coalition was formed as a response to the situation in Iraq, and a concern for world peace. On Saturday 21 September the Coalition joined with International Peace Day celebrations in St. David's Park, and last Friday night held a Candlelight Vigil. The group is meeting at the Unions Tasmania building at 379 Elizabeth Street, North Hobart, every Sunday afternoon at 3.30 pm. More events are in the planning stages. If you would like to be part of this group, or would like more information, contact Lyn Fitzgerald on 6234 9553.

Churches express concern to PM over Iraq

All Member Churches of the National Council of Churches in Australia, together with a large number of Church Leaders and Ecumenical Officers through State Councils of Churches wrote to the Prime Minister expressing concern about the possibility of an attack on Iraq. A full list of signatories is available from the TCC office.

The following Media Release was issued on 29 August, 2002.

"The possibility of a US led attack on Iraq and Australia's involvement in such a conflict fills us with much disquiet: such action could have catastrophic consequences.

If such an attack takes place, the lives of many Iraqi citizens will be put at risk. It is a cause of deep distress that the threat of military action seriously devalues the lives of all people in countries such as Iraq, who are already suffering severely from harsh leadership and the economic impact of extreme sanctions and bombardments.

It is always deplorable when nations resort to war and the threat of war as an acceptable instrument of foreign policy.

We, therefore, **call** on the Australian Government

- To use its influence to dissuade the US Government from the threat of precipitate military action in Iraq;
- To refrain from all support of such threats;
- To continue with diplomatic efforts to reach a resolution of the problems of the region; and
- To work through the United Nations, as the duly constituted international body, for building a secure basis for world peace.

We believe that God loves all humanity, and that all people—regardless of race, nation or religion—are created in the image of God. This draws the world together, affirms us to be children of God, and unites us as brothers and sisters.

We affirm the importance of peacemaking through non-violence. The way to peace does not lie through war, but through the transformation of structures of injustice and the politics of exclusion. We affirm this not only because of its effectiveness, but because it is faithful to the prophetic life and ministry of Jesus Christ"

***"The way
to peace
does not lie
through war"***

The Anglican Parish of Burnie is reaching out to the local community during the week 13-20 October with a variety of events in the Church and at other venues.

Georgina Stott will be guest speaker at services on Sunday 13 October, followed by a free Sausage Sizzle on the corner of Mount & Cattley Streets, starting at 10.45 a.m.

Special guests for the week are:

- Paul Cameron, Chaplain to the Richmond Football Club and part of *Focus on the Family Australia*, will speak in St. George's Church Hall on Monday 14 October at 7.30 pm on the topic *Being a Parent in the 21st Century and Surviving*. His subject at a luncheon at the Burnie Dockers Football Club on Thursday 16 October at 12.30 pm will be *How to Succeed by Not Really Trying*.
- The Rev'd Val Graydon, General Secretary of the Tasmanian Council of Churches, will speak on *Shoes from Scripture* at a Coffee, Cake and Chat morning at St. David's Cooee at 10.30 am on Tuesday 15 October.

The week will conclude on Sunday 20th with normal Sunday Services and a St. Luke's Service at 2.00 pm.

All are welcome to join in these events. For more information, contact the Rev'd Aileen Fitzgerald on 6431 2780.

REFUGEE WEEK IN TASMANIA 7-13 OCTOBER

(Supported by AUSTCARE Refugee Week)

Activities throughout Tasmania. Contact Yabbo Thompson at TASDEC (ph. 6223 1025) for more details.

If you would like to join the Tasmanian Refugee Week Committee to plan ahead for 2003—please contact Yabbo.

SHAPING CHANGE; WOMEN, THE DIACONATE & PRIESTLY ORDINATION IN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

A REMINDER about the above Conference to be held from 22-24 November at Jane Franklin Hall, Hobart. More information available and details of registration from the Conference Convener, Mrs. Ann Ryan on 6292 1654, or E-mail: aryan@southcom.com.au

Forceten Project of the Month—October—East Timor

Forceten's "Project of the Month" for October is East Timor. The project covers the Oecussi region which is a tiny part of East Timor surrounded by Indonesian West Timor. It is a remote and very poor part of the poorest country in our region. Yet even here Churches are working to bring hope by supporting an agriculture project. The project focuses on distributing new varieties of seeds to improve the diet and better farming practices. The aim is for the village gardens to provide all the needs of the local people. Women are interested in becoming involved in the scheme because it means they can look after their families better.

If you would like more information, resources, or a speaker for your group, please contact the TCC Office on 6234 2543.

NEWS FROM TABOR COLLEGE

Enclosed is a leaflet listing courses on offer for the third semester at Tabor College, Tasmania. Register your interest now. Further enquiries to the Principal, John Morse, 45 Melville Street, Hobart (phone 6231 5889 or mobile 0407 972 912), or E-mail: hobart@tabor.edu.au

LOOKING AHEAD

The TCC's Commission on the Gospel and Human Relationships is planning the series of March Seminars for 2003—to be held on Tuesdays 4, 11, 18 and 25 March at the Friends' Meeting House, New Town.

Put these dates in your diary NOW. More details later.

WE NEED CHRISTMAS BOWL VOLUNTEERS

to assist with collecting in shopping centres through the state. Please advertise widely within your networks and advise the TCC Office (6234 2543) in the south, or Rev'd Aileen Fitzgerald (6431 2780) in the north and north west if you can assist. The shifts are not long, and this is your opportunity to help make a difference in the world!