

OIKOUMENE

TASMANIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

163 Macquarie Street, Hobart (GPO Box 1130 Hobart 7001)

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September 2007

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?



From the President

You will be aware that, due to changes in funding arrangements, the Tasmanian Council of Churches has needed to review its modus operandi. As a result, the Rev'd Tim Matton-Johnson (General Secretary) completed his placement with the TCC on 30 June and Mrs. Jennifer Roddam (Administrative Assistant) was to have retired in July. However, advertisements for the newly created Executive Officer position (2 days per week) have not resulted in an appointment being made for the immediate future.

Therefore, at the request of the TCC's Executive Working Group, Jenny has kindly agreed to delay her retirement until January 2008 to take on the role of "Interim Executive Officer" by which time we expect that a longer term appointment will be clarified.

Would you also please note that the **TCC office will continue to operate from 163 Macquarie Street, Hobart** – phone/fax 6234 2543, e-mail tcctas@bigpond.net.au (mailing address continues as GPO Box 1130, Hobart 7001).

I would be grateful if you would share this information as widely as possible through your networks.

I ask for your prayers and support for all involved in the work of the Tasmanian Council of Churches as we continue to work together to seek that unity which is Christ's gift and will for the church.

Elizabeth Vagg

Sr. Elizabeth Vagg PBVM
TCC President

National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA) Report on Forum

Elizabeth Vagg represented the TCC at the 6th NCCA Forum in Queensland in July. The theme of the Forum was drawn from Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book, "Life Together".

The opening address considered the role of the NCCA in working towards unity of the churches. The NCCA is about witnessing to the Church and the world that we are ONE in Christ and that this unity is God's will and integral to the new creation. Because of human weakness, we have broken this unity; the NCCA is a means to bring the members together. It is a faith-centred tool of the Churches, but does not replace the Church. Its goal is unity, not the NCCA itself. It must listen to the churches, remember God's faithfulness, discover what works, and draw on underutilized resources. Tolerance is not sufficient. The challenge is to foster dialogue, to contribute to common platforms, interacting with Governments on relevant issues and to walk with the vulnerable, in solidarity. These concepts hold true of the TCC also.

The public address was given by Monsignor Don Bolen, from the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity. His talk also centred on Bonhoeffer's theme of Life Together. He spoke of an Ecumenism of Truth, an Ecumenism of Love and a Spiritual Ecumenism. The first requires a dialogue to reach agreed statements on points of consensus. Many of the theological issues which kept us apart have been resolved. The NCCA Covenant model is a good model for ecumenism at this level. The Ecumenism of Love involves a growing respect and drawing together in our lives, as we work, pray and live together. Spiritual Ecumenism involves prayer, worship, study and witness. It seeks to build a community based on the Sermon on the Mount, living out the gospel intently.

Jesus
ALL ABOUT LIFE



Jesus: All About Life (JAAL) (a prime-time media campaign developed by the Bible Society in New South Wales) is happening in Tasmania from **12 September to 30 October**.

- It aims to motivate Christians to share their faith.
- It is thought provoking, challenging the ordinary person with Jesus and his life
- It is a series of advertisements that are contemporary, sharp and strategically focused, each presenting the values of Jesus and his teachings in a way that has proven to generate thought and discussion among viewers.

A key part of the JAAL campaign is the involvement of local churches. **Your** church can be involved at two levels: firstly, through a financial contribution to help buy media time; and secondly, by running local events that help your church members reach out to their friends, relatives and neighbours. The JAAL team encourages you to talk with other Christian leaders in your community to consider how to partner with their churches to use this opportunity. Up to a few days ago, 186 registrations had been received from a wide spectrum of denominational groups.

The **Media Launch** of the campaign will be held at **10.00 am on Monday 10 September at the Door of Hope church, cnr. Glen Dhu & Heather Streets, Launceston**.

For more information, contact the Jesus: All About Life office on 6349 193
or visit <http://www.jesusallaboutlife.com.au/tasmania>



DRAMATIC INCREASE IN STATE SCHOOL CHAPLAINCIES



Following the first round of Federal Government funding for School Chaplaincy positions 13 State schools were able to extend the hours of their existing chaplain or employ an additional chaplain. Of these schools 4 were Senior Colleges. In addition 20 schools were able to employ a new chaplain, some 12 of these being Primary schools. This is an exciting development and one full of potential for a more effective Christian presence in State schools in Tasmania.

Such a development has, of course, placed considerable additional pressure on Scripture Union, which acts on behalf of the Tasmanian Council of Churches, to provide professional and caring support for all these chaplains. To date, Greg Foot the part-time Chaplaincy Support Officer, has carried this load and has exercised a very fine ministry. The churches in Tasmania owe a great deal to the expertise of Greg and to Scripture Union. The "Genesis Foundation" has provided some additional funding to Scripture Union and it is hoped that

a Chaplaincy Support Officer can be appointed to serve the northern part of the State.

The story however does not end here! The second round of Federal Government submissions closed on 15 August and a further 56 schools have applied and nominated the TCC/SU as their Project Sponsor. This is an amazing response and indicates the value of this program to schools in this State. Of course, it creates significant pressure on the Commission for Christian Ministry in State Schools and Scripture Union to ensure that the chaplaincy program operates effectively.

This is a new day of opportunity for Christian ministry to young people and creates a pressing challenge to the churches to enhance the effectiveness of this ministry through prayer and practical support.

Tom Wallace
Convener
Commission on Christian Ministry in State Schools

2007 TCC ANNUAL MEETING

On Saturday 12 May last the Annual Meeting of the Tasmanian Council of Churches was held. The Rev'd Professor Christian Mostert was the keynote speaker for the occasion. He used the theme *Called to be the One Church* for his address. The title was taken from a Text on Ecclesiology which the World Council of Churches' 9th Assembly addressed to the churches – an invitation to the Churches to renew their commitment to the Search for Unity and to deepen their Dialogue. Dr. Mostert explored the importance of unity, dialogue, the nature and mission and doctrine of the church and concluded by pointing out the importance of Councils of Churches. He urged members to consider that churches do need each other, do need encouragement and enrichment from each other, do need to be in relationships of mutual accountability with each other, and do need time to reflect on their faith and life together. Councils of churches are uniquely placed to help this happen.

If you would like to have a full text of Dr. Mostert's address, please contact the TCC Office (phone 6234 2543, or e-mail tctas@bigpond.net.au)

TCC Officers elected for the coming year were Sr. Elizabeth Vagg PBVM (President), the Rev'd Fr. Michael Delaney (Vice-President). Tribute was paid to the contribution by the Rev'd Allan Thompson who had presided over the Council for the previous two years. Since the AGM, the Executive has appointed Dr. Alex Bell as TCC Treasurer.



Pictured (from left) Sr. Elizabeth Vagg (President), Rev'd Tim Matton-Johnson (former General Secretary), Rev'd Dr. Chris Mostert, Rev'd Fr. Michael Delaney (Vice-President), Rev'd Allan Thompson (retiring President).

A NOTE FOR YOUR 2008 DIARY—SATURDAY 10 MAY TCC Annual Meeting—Hobart

Keynote speaker—Bishop Richard Appleby, President of the National Council of Churches in Australia.

Bishop Appleby was to have been guest speaker at the 2007 Annual Meeting but needed to withdraw due to health issues, so we are delighted that he is able to accept our invitation for 2008.



CHRISTIAN PEACE GROUP

Following an inaugural meeting of a new Christian peace group in the south of the state in July, eleven people from across the state gathered at Ross on 25 August to discuss directions, objectives, purpose and vision for the group to function on a state-wide basis. Discussion was greatly assisted by the presence of Harry Kerr, Convener of Pax Christi Victoria, who shared information about Victorian Christian peace activities and Pax Christi from a national and international perspective.

The meeting resolved to adopt the following as its focus:

- Mutual support and encouragement, including the sharing of information and study
- Prayer for peace
- Action for peace, as a Gospel proclamation and imperative
- To spread the message of peace through congregations and parishes throughout Tasmania.

If you would like to receive information about future meetings and activities, please contact Dr. Alex Bell in the north (e-mail afjbell@bigpond.net.au), Dr. Ian Newman in the south (e-mail ian.newman@utas.edu.au or home phone 6223 1172) or the TCC office (e-mail tctas@bigpond.net.au or 6234 2543).

ACT!

for the
Christmas
Bowl



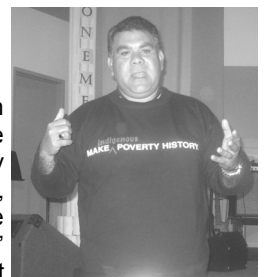
LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS BOWL 2007-2008

Tasmania's tradition of Christmas Bowl collections in shopping centres throughout the state will be happening again from late November through to Christmas Eve in 2007. Last year over \$32,000 was raised for Christmas Bowl through shopping centres, a significant proportion of the \$90,000+ Tasmanian figure for the current Appeal. If you can volunteer to collect in a centre near you, your assistance will be much appreciated.

Christmas Bowl is working in 23 countries around the world in the areas of "Assistance in Emergencies", "Injustice Response" and "Development & Poverty Reduction". Your support enables this important work to continue!

REMEMBER, RECOGNISE, RECTIFY

At an Ecumenical Forum (held in conjunction with the Make Indigenous Poverty History Campaign) on July 20 last, Graeme Mundine from the National Council of Churches' National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission (pictured right) and Rodney Dillon representing Tasmanian Aborigines, spoke on the theme *Remember* (Knowing our History), *Recognise* (What is happening now) and *Rectify* (Hopes for the future). The former General Secretary of the Tasmanian Council of Churches, the Rev'd Tim Matton-Johnson, chaired the event.



Graeme and Rodney raised awareness of current matters facing the Indigenous community throughout the nation, stressing the need for the Church to be aware of and involved in issues of reconciliation, responsibility and hurt which are experienced by the Indigenous population.

More information, and the opportunity to order resources, can be found at the NATSIEC website

<http://www.ncca.org.au/natsiec>

**ARCHBISHOP PETER & MRS CHRISTINE JENSEN
VISIT TO HOBART—28-29 SEPTEMBER**

As part of the *Jesus: All About Life* campaign, the Anglican Diocese of Tasmania is hosting Archbishop Peter Jensen, and his wife Christine, during the weekend of 28-30 September. Dr. Jensen was elected Archbishop of Sydney in 2001. Previous presentations have included the 2005 Boyer Lectures as well as lecture series in the United Kingdom, United States, Eastern Europe, South Africa, Chile and Ireland. Dr. Jensen has published a number of popular theological texts, including 'At the Heart of the Universe', a book that is widely used as a textbook on Christian Doctrine.

You are invited to participate in the following events.

Friday Evening 28 September - 7:30 pm Archbishop Jensen
Public Lecture @ the Stanley Burbury Theatre, UTAS, Sandy Bay
Topic – *The Future of Jesus*
Lecture 1 hour Q&A time 20 minutes
Refreshments to follow

Saturday Afternoon 29 September - Mrs Jensen
Ladies Afternoon Tea \$15 per person
3:30 pm @ Hadley's Hotel
Topic – *Living Securely in an Insecure World*

Saturday Evening 7:30 pm Archbishop Jensen
Evangelistic Event – St Georges Battery Point
Topic - *Engaging with God in the 21st Century* – we live in a confusing world with strong claims about truth and Jesus – will the church survive the 21st Century?

To register interest for the above events please phone the Diocesan Office on 62202020 or email dme@anglicantas.org.au

Archbishop Jensen will be preaching at the **Cathedral Church of St David at 10.00 am on Sunday 30 September.** Topic – *Church is Family-Philippians 2:1-11*

Sunday evening 6:00 pm Archbishop and Mrs. Jensen
For the Young & Young at Heart
Stanley Burbury Theatre, UTAS, Sandy Bay
Topic – *Jesus – What Future has He Got?*

IDA BIRCHALL LIBRARY

The Ida Birchall Library is part of the Uniting Church in Tasmania, and is currently based at Pilgrim Church, 34 Paterson Street, Launceston.

Its function and purpose is;

- to support and encourage spiritual growth
- to assist in worship preparation
- to provide a resource base of theological and Christian life books, videos, DVD's and CDs for the Uniting Church and the wider community.

You are invited to become a subscribing member for just \$15.00 per year so that you can enrich your reading and theological understanding. The rate for family membership and church groups is \$20.00. Temporary (3 months) membership is also available for \$5.00.

For more information, please contact David Calvert at Pilgrim Uniting Church (phone 6331 8757).

**AN INTRODUCTION TO
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION**

Meditation is not something new. Rather, it is central to the Christian experience and deeply rooted in Christian tradition. This form of silent, imageless prayer using a mantra or prayer word is rooted in the Gospel, the letters of St. Paul and originated with the early Desert Fathers of the 4th century.

This six week course will introduce the history and spirituality of meditation in the Christian tradition and provide an experience of the practice each week. The program is non-denominational.

The program runs from 4 September to 9th October on Tuesdays from 11.30 am – 1.00 pm, at Emmanuel South, 24 Hopkins Street, Moonah. Cost: \$5.00 per week.

For more information, or to register, please phone Toosey 6223 8817 or Mina 6268 1988.

**VISIT TO TASMANIA – FR. BRUCE
DUNCAN CSSR**

**Who is my Neighbour? –
Australia's Role as a Global Citizen.**

Fr. Bruce Duncan completed his doctorate in political science in 1987 at the University of Sydney. Since 1986, he has taught at Yarra Theological Union in Victoria, where he currently coordinates the program of social justice studies. He is an engaging speaker with a particular interest in our progress towards the UN Millennium goals.

Fr. Bruce will be speaking at 3 public events in the three areas of Tasmania to promote Social Justice Sunday.

South:

Where: Spirituality in the Pub, the Waratah Hotel, Harrington Street, Hobart
When: Wednesday 26 September 7.30–9.00 pm. (Book for meals 6234 3685).
Enquiries: Penny Edman 6223 3948 or 0400 896 191.

North:

Where: Spirituality over Supper, at the Emmanuel Centre, 123 Abbott Street, East Launceston
When: Thursday 27 September at 7.30 pm
Enquiries: Emmanuel Centre, ph 6334 1082.

North-West:

Where: McKillop Hill, Forth
When: Friday 28 September at 7.30 pm
Enquiries: Kim Chen, phone 6431 6714 or Betty Smith, phone 6425 2168.

DEEPINGS QUIET DAY—WEDNESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

The next Deepings Quiet Day on 12 September (from 9.30 am—3.30 pm) will be led by the Rev'd John McRae at The Deepings (also sign posted as Peregrine School), 1118 Nicholls Rivulet Road, Nicholls Rivulet.

Further information from Roslyn Hunt (phone 6295 1398 or 6225 5127 or e-mail seaner@tadaust.org.au). As Roslyn said, it is that time of the year when the valley will be awash with the gold of the silver wattles—a lovely setting to participate in this special ecumenical gathering.