



OIKOUMENE

Newsletter of the Tasmanian Council of Churches

NOVEMBER 2018

WHAT IS ECUMENISM?

The President of the Tasmanian Council of Churches,

SISTER ELIZABETH VAGG, PBVM writes:



ECUMENISM IS THE LONGING TO ATTAIN THAT UNITY within the Church for which Jesus prayed the night before he died: “...that they may be one...” It encompasses the efforts to renew the One Church of Jesus Christ – in terms of its life, unity and mission. Sadly, the Church of Christ today is not united. However, unity does not mean uniformity; we can be united even though we may be different. Ecumenism tries to understand others, to find where we are united in thought, beliefs or

*Ecumenism encourages us
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practice, to understand the differences – why they exist and whether these differences are major or superficial. It encourages us to pray together, to act together and to give a common witness to our world.

One of the aspects of Church’s mission is our compassionate response to the world’s needs and anguish. In the past year, there have been some beautiful examples of various groups working **together collaboratively** to respond to the distressing situations in our society, both locally and internationally. (e.g. Winter appeals for homeless, Christmas dinner).

DURING THE PAST YEAR, the Tasmanian Council of Churches engaged in a review of its structure and operation. The underlying question was “What is God asking of us, as a Council of Churches, at this time?” As a result of multiple changes in our situation, we were faced with three options: continue to operate the TCC as before – no longer an option; disband as an ecumenical body – unacceptable; continue the TCC in a modified form, working and

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?*

TASMANIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

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praying for unity, in accord with the available resources (finances, personnel and time commitment). The Executive was strongly committed to this third option, though we are still trying to determine some of the practical details.

At the Annual Meeting in September, three areas for current joint action emerged:

- **Emergencies Ministry**
- **Act for Peace — including Christmas Bowl Appeal**
- **Reconciliation Tasmania**

This newsletter provides some further information on these areas.

SOME OTHER ASPECTS EMERGED DURING THE REVIEW. The various ecumenical bodies around Australia (State and National) are different, according to their location, structure and composition. Ecumenical relationships will vary in different places and the approach that is suitable for a national body in Sydney is not necessarily applicable in other regional areas. Therefore, the ecumenical bodies themselves will change over time and must continually ask themselves: “What is God asking of us at this time, in this place?” The fact that change is required does not mean that we have failed, but rather that different approaches may be needed. Thus over the years, the emphasis in ecumenism has been on **SPIRITUAL ECUMENISM** (praying with other Christians), **THEOLOGICAL ECUMENISM** (study and dialogue with other Christians), **PRACTICAL ECUMENISM** (acting together, sharing resources and common witness) and **RECEPTIVE ECUMENISM** (listening and learning from each other).

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WHILE SOME CHRISTIAN GROUPS are not part of the formal ecumenical bodies, there are people who are working together, praying together and longing for Christians to be united as One Church, even though they may be part of different Christian gatherings. Perhaps we are also being asked to look beyond Christian groups to consider the beliefs and values that we share in common with other faiths.

Let us continue in our efforts to pray together, to listen to each other, to support and encourage each other as we work towards unity.

(Sr) Elizabeth Vagg PBVM
PRESIDENT

ACT FOR PEACE
CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER
THROUGH THE **actalliance**

2018 CHRISTMAS BOWL APPEAL

AS A CHRISTIAN, THE Revd Frank Byatt believed he had a responsibility to share the joy of his Christmas with our brothers and sisters in need.

That's why, on Christmas Day in 1949, he put a Bowl of Remembrance on the dinner table and asked his family to place a generous gift in it to 'share your good dinner with hungry children in other lands.'

Today, tens of thousands of us now follow Frank's example; sharing God's love with our brothers and sisters in urgent need around the world, through our gifts to the Christmas Bowl.

The world needs God's love now, more than ever.



Christmas Bowl

Share God's love through the Christmas Bowl.

You can download worship resources at:

actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl

Call **1800 025 101** to have worship resources and giving envelopes posted to you for use in your congregation.

FROM AUSTRALIA, WITH LOVE

How a meaningful gift for a loved one in Australia empowered Saliwe in Zimbabwe.



PUTTING FOOD ON THE TABLE for her four children was hard enough before Saliwe's husband died.

They live in a rural part of Zimbabwe, where the worst drought in 35 years is crippling people's crops and livelihoods.

After Saliwe lost her husband, surviving became even harder. With barely any income and no support, she struggled to feed her children and keep them in school.

Her two older boys moved away to find work and she was left to care for her teenage daughter and youngest son on her own. It was tough. Saliwe was desperate.

She prayed constantly, asking God to protect her and her children.

ACT FOR PEACE'S LOCAL PARTNER IN ZIMBABWE, Christian Care, saw the dire situation that Saliwe was in, and invited her to join the chicken farming program, funded through [GIFTS FOR PEACE](#).

A Gift for Peace bought by someone for a loved one in Australia, enabled Saliwe to be given chicks, feed and building materials. She learnt how to build a chicken coupe, raise healthy chickens and run her own business.

Saliwe began making an income from selling her eggs and extra chickens. Soon, she had enough to buy more chicks, as well as turkeys, which fetch a higher price.

Using her business training, she found more business supplying the boarding school down the road.

TODAY, SALIWE IS A THRIVING POULTRY FARMER, and her biggest customer is the same school her daughter goes to.

Because of her Gift, Saliwe can now afford to feed her children and give them the education they need to build a better life.

Saliwe stands in a nutritional garden which is providing her Masvingo community with a valuable source of income.

Saliwe believes this gift saved her life:

***“I can’t thank you enough
for funding this program.
Without this knowledge, I would have
been dead by now and I do not know what
would have happened to my children.”***



Saliwe stands in a nutritional garden, which is providing her Masvingo community with a valuable source of income. This is just one of twenty gardens across the region that this program has helped.

IT HAS MADE A LIFE-CHANGING DIFFERENCE FOR SALIWE. But it doesn’t stop there. This is a gift that gift keeps on giving.

Now Saliwe is also helping to improve the lives of other children and families – by providing them with an affordable source of protein during a time of desperate shortages.

Last year, a massive outbreak of bird flu wiped out chickens across Zimbabwe.

But thanks to her training, Saliwe was able to protect her chickens and livelihood, and keep bringing food to her community.

Saliwe has lifted her own family out of poverty and helped others around her to survive. when you purchase a Gift of Peace - you give her hope for the future – and the confidence that comes from knowing she can survive the worst. She told us:

***I am now respected.
People see me for my true worth as I have made something out of
my life despite being a widow and being left with very little.***

Gift Some Chicks for Christmas!

WANT TO GIVE A LOVED ONE a meaningful gift that also helps vulnerable families like Saliwe's?

Go to [Actforpeace.org.au/gifts](https://actforpeace.org.au/gifts) to view the gift catalogue, where you can buy a family of baby chicks that will help to support a struggling household in Zimbabwe.

It's one of many unique gifts that lets you touch someone in your own life, and make a lasting difference for people affected by conflict and disaster around the world.



ACT FOR PEACE

CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER
THROUGH THE **act**alliance

Reconciliation Tasmania



THE REVEREND JOHN MIDDLETON PRESENTED HIS KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE TCC ANNUAL MEETING ON THE HISTORY AND WORK OF RECONCILIATION TASMANIA. Mr Bill Lawson AM founded the Beacon Foundation to find and examine the causes of youth unemployment and ways of addressing these proactively. In 2011 he was appointed to the Prime Minister's Expert Panel for the constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians. In 2015 he was appointed to the board of Reconciliation Australia.

In October 2016, the Tasmanian Parliament unanimously passed the *Constitution Amendment (Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal People) Act 2016*, and it was given Royal Assent by Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AM in a ceremony at Government House in December 2016. The Act amended the *Tasmanian Constitution Act 1934* to recognise Aboriginal people as Tasmania's First People. The effect of this was that the following words were added to the preamble of Tasmania's constitution:

AND WHEREAS THE PARLIAMENT, ON BEHALF OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF TASMANIA,
acknowledges the Aboriginal people as Tasmania's First People and the traditional and original owners of Tasmanian lands and waters; recognises the enduring spiritual, social, cultural and economic importance of traditional lands and waters to Tasmanian Aboriginal people; and recognises the unique and lasting contributions that Tasmanian Aboriginal people have made and continue to make to Tasmania.

IN AUGUST 2017 THE GOVERNOR LAUNCHED a not-for-profit organisation, RECONCILIATION TASMANIA (RT) which, quoting RT's vision statement, exists to
... provide a safe and friendly place where all Tasmanians can seek to become involved in real reconciliation. We aim to achieve this through building relationships, respect and trust between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Tasmanians through our projects and activities.

RT is governed by a board made up of 12 Tasmanians, 6 Aboriginal and 6 non-Aboriginal, drawn equally from the north-west, north and south of the State. The board is co-chaired by Mr Bill Lawson based in Hobart, and Ms Fiona Hughes, Executive Director of RT based in Launceston. Mr Mark Redmond as Chief Executive Officer of RT is based in Hobart.

RT provides, on a fee-for-service basis, a “reconciliation action plan consultancy” which aims to help Tasmanian organisations to participate in the national reconciliation program supported by its national counterpart Reconciliation Australia, of which Mr Lawson is also a board member.

THE RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN (RAP) program provides a framework for organisations to support the national reconciliation movement. RT’s own notes on reconciliation action plans advise:

An RAP is a strategic document that supports an organisation’s business plan. It includes practical actions that will drive an organisation’s contribution to reconciliation both internally and in the communities in which it operates. It does this by

building and encouraging relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities, organisations, and the broader Australian community;

fostering and embedding respect for the world’s longest surviving cultures and communities; and

developing opportunities within your organisation or services to improve socio-economic outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

Each of the four RAP types (Reflect, Innovate, Stretch, Elevate) set out the minimum elements required from your organisation to build strong relationships, respect and opportunities within your organisation and community.



PART OF RT’S 2018 OPERATIONAL PLAN is to build relationships with faith communities, including church organisations and denominations. The four RAP types vary in their implementation time-lines from around a year to 3 years, depending on the needs of the organisation. Salient characteristics of the four RAP types are:

Reflect –

Timeline is around 12 months

Suitable for organisations that may be new to reconciliation and may have limited or poor relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders

Suitable for organisations that need time to engage the whole of organisation in reconciliation, including gaining support from senior leaders

Innovate 1 –

Timeline is around 2 years

Facilitates organisations in establishing and implementing reconciliation strategies

Prerequisites include:

General support and goodwill throughout the organisation

Support from senior leaders of the organisation

Innovate 2 –

Timeline is around 2 years

Suitable for organisations that:

have strong relationships with their stakeholders and understand who, how, why, and when to seek guidance and consultation

are ready to begin or continue to implement strategies,

are ready to commit to additional tailored actions

Innovate 3 –

Timeline is around 2 years

For organisations ready to develop mutually beneficial relationships with Aboriginal and stakeholders:

Develop and pilot strategies for reconciliation initiatives

Engage staff in reconciliation

Identify the best approach for the organisation through aspirational deliverable

Explore how the organisation can drive reconciliation through its business activities, services, programs, stakeholders and/or sphere of influence

Stretch –

Over 2 to 3 years

RAP objectives are to

Embed reconciliation initiatives into the organisation

Utilise sphere of influence to drive reconciliation

Build on previous foundations of sound structure in all RAP goals with enhanced and tailored practises.

Prerequisites for ‘Stretch’ type RAP:

Completion of positive RAP exercise/s

RAP culture embedded, governance, relationship, working group/s with Aboriginal reps.

Progress staff cultural learning, Enhancement of Aboriginal cultural interaction internally and externally.

Annual progress assessment

Elevate –

Become ambassadors for reconciliation nationally





IN AN EMERGENCY:

If an emergency (either fire-related or otherwise) occurs, please listen for advice on **ABC Local Radio**, our emergency broadcaster in Tasmania. ABC Local Radio is found at

- **936 AM** in Southern Tasmania
- **91.7 FM*** in Northern Tasmania

(*see table below for regional frequencies).

ABC Local Radio	Frequency	ABC Local Radio	Frequency
Bicheno TAS	89.7 FM	Queenstown TAS	90.5 FM
Burnie TAS	102.5 FM	Rosebery TAS	106.3 FM
East Devonport TAS	100.5 FM	Savage River/Waratah	104.1 FM
Fingal TAS	1161 AM	St Helens TAS	1584 AM
Hobart TAS	936 AM	St Marys TAS	102.7 FM
King Island TAS	88.5 FM	Strahan TAS	107.5 FM
Launceston City TAS	102.7 FM	Swansea TAS	106.1 FM
Launceston TAS	91.7 FM	Waratah TAS	103.3 FM
Lileah TAS	91.3 FM	Weldborough TAS	97.3 FM
NE Tasmania TAS	91.7 FM	Zeehan TAS	90.5 FM



ABOUT EMERGENCIES MINISTRY

THE TASMANIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES' Emergencies Ministry (TCC EM) seeks to provide compassionate care in times of crisis. We provide emotional and spiritual care, personal support, and psychological first aid, and contribute to outreach in the event of a disaster or emergency.

As part of the Tasmanian Social Recovery Plan, through the activation of a regional social recovery committee, the TCC EM is the primary agency whose sole purpose is to deliver pastoral care in times of crisis. Deployment can also come through local councils or other government departments.

We hope to continue building on our network by training and accrediting volunteers from various Tasmanian faith communities who can provide Pastoral & Spiritual Care in disaster settings and the emergency context.

EMERGENCIES MINISTRY TRAINING

THE INITIAL EM TRAINING COURSE requires about 3 hours of pre-reading and preparation followed by a one-day face-to-face training session. The pre-reading material will be made available to registrants about a week prior to a training course.

Personal Support Worker Training, 2019

TRAINING IS OFFERED IN REGIONAL CENTRES — please see our [TCC EM website](http://tccem.org.au) for the training schedule. Plans are well underway for training for churches in the Circular Head area on Saturday 30 March 2019. This Smithton training day is generously supported by the Tasmanian Christian Fund.

Initial Training for potential new volunteers is currently combined with *Refresher Training* for accredited volunteers.

If you would like to attend a course, please see the details and registration form by visiting http://tccem.org.au/register_for_training on the [TCC EM website](http://tccem.org.au). The price differs for new volunteers and established volunteers because of the accreditation process required for the former.

Prior to accepting your registration, the TCC EM will seek endorsement from your church/faith community/denomination and confirm that you are in good standing with your faith community.

A Working With Vulnerable People card and a National Police Check are required, but these can be acquired after the EM training day.

Tasmanian Council of Churches

MEMBERSHIP OF THE TCC EXECUTIVE

as at 22 September 2018 (until September 2019)

Officers (members of the Executive Working Group [EWG])

Elected by the Annual Meeting:

President:	Sr Elizabeth Vagg, PBVM
Vice-President:	Envoy Basil Giffard
Treasurer:	Mr David Clarke

Ex officio:

Immediate Past President:	The Reverend Jeff Gray
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Heads of Churches (appointed by the Member Churches)

Anglican:	The Right Reverend Dr Richard Condie
Catholic:	The Most Reverend Julian Porteous
Churches of Christ:	Vacant
Religious Society of Friends:	Maddy Walker
The Salvation Army:	Major John Freind (until end 2018); Captain Kim Hayworth (from 9 January 2019)
Uniting:	Mr Rohan Pryor

Alternates for Heads of Churches

(appointed by any Member Churches who choose to appoint an alternate for their Head of Church)

Catholic:	Sr Elizabeth Vagg, PBVM
Churches of Christ:	Pastor Simon Clemow
Religious Society of Friends:	Julie Walpole
The Salvation Army:	Major Christine Ellis
Uniting:	The Reverend Rosalind Terry

Representatives of Member Churches (appointed by the Member Churches)

Anglican:	Mr David Morris
Religious Society of Friends:	To be advised
The Salvation Army:	Envoy Basil Giffard

Representatives of Associated Bodies:

Principal, Jane Franklin Hall:	Ms Joanna Rosewell
Australian Church Women:	Miss Daphne Mitchell
ReVenture (Converge RTK):	position vacant
Spiritual Care Australia	Ms Carmel Fader (Hobart meetings); Mr Bradley Taylor (non-Hobart meetings)

TCC Emergencies Ministry Inc: Pastor Gordon (Gus) Yearsley



TCC Executive Liaison Persons:

NCCA Act for Peace:	The Reverend Rosalind Terry
Christian Ministry in State Schools:	The President