



OIKOUMENE

Newsletter of the Tasmanian Council of Churches

DECEMBER 2020

A New Way ...

From the President, DAVID O'HALLORAN

ON SATURDAY 19th September, I was elected to the role of president for the Tasmanian Council of Churches (TCC). I would like to sincerely thank Sr Elizabeth Vagg for the tireless work she has undertaken as president over several years now.

I am one of the Co-clerks of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Tasmania and accepted the TCC's nomination with the clear understanding that I would not preside over a business as usual approach. I proposed a different way of working that I would like to outline here.

Obedience to God requires us to do whatever we are called to do, and in a world where everything seems important, it can be easy to be overwhelmed by what God is asking of us. There are so many issues that each of our churches direct considerable energy and resources – often to great effect, but sometimes less so.

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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

P: 23 Clarence Street, Bellerive, Tasmania. 7018

E: tcctas@bigpond.net.au | **W:** www.tcctas.org.au

IN 2021, THE WIDER TCC WILL MEET JUST FOUR TIMES. By wider, I mean not only executive members. Each of these meetings will be focussed on just one topic of concern – that is, we will direct our attention to four concerns only in 2021. Indigenous reconciliation is an important concern for us all and this will be the focus of our first meeting in 2021. I ask each member and observer church and the TCC associated bodies to send representatives to these meetings who meet any of three criteria:

- they are church or associated body leaders; or
- they have expertise and commitment to the topic of the meeting; or
- they are skilled writers.

How these participants are selected will be for each church to discern.

Ideally these meetings will be face to face, COVID-19 permitting and take no more than one day. I see these meetings as an opportunity for our churches to engage in dialogue, to share the things in which we can encourage one another as part of the outward expression of unity that makes us all followers of Christ in Tasmania.

THE ‘OUTPUT’ OF EACH MEETING WILL BE A SHORT EPISTLE from the Tasmanian Council of Churches to Christians of Tasmania and to the wider community. We will rely on our leaders and experts to provide the content, and our writers to refine the words. I see these epistles as a combination of advice and queries on the topic of concern, which are enduring and not simply another list of tasks to overwhelm our already busy lives.

I intend that the legacy of these meetings and epistles will be several: that the experts in our churches forge new relationships that offer a wider Christian community from which they might draw spiritual sustenance and encouragement to lead; that our church communities have a distillation of thought on a topic that both informs and challenges us to make our lives speak; that the broader Tasmanian community gains an insight into Christian perspectives on matters that are important to us all; and that finally, we may go some way to achieving our purpose as a body seeking Christian dialogue and unity.

In peace

David O’Halloran

president@tcctas.org.au

Tasmanian Council of Churches

MEMBERSHIP OF THE TCC EXECUTIVE

as at 11 November 2020 (until September 2021)

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

Elected by the Annual Meeting:

President: David O'Halloran (*to commence in January 2021*)
Vice-President: Mr David Morris
Treasurer: Mr David Clarke

Ex officio:

Immediate Past President: Sr Elizabeth Vagg, PBVM

Heads of Churches (appointed by the Member Churches)

Anglican: The Right Reverend Dr Richard Condie
Catholic: The Most Reverend Julian Porteous
Churches of Christ: *position vacant*
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers): David O'Halloran
The Salvation Army: Captain Kim Haworth
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)

Anglican: *to be advised*
Catholic: Sr Elizabeth Vagg, PBVM
Churches of Christ: *to be advised*
Religious Society of Friends: *to be advised*
The Salvation Army: *to be advised*
Uniting: The Reverend Rosalind Terry

Representatives of Member Churches (appointed by the Member Churches)

Anglican: Mr David Morris
Catholic: *position vacant*
Churches of Christ: *position vacant [Contact: Pastor Simon Clemow]*
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers): Julie Walpole
The Salvation Army: Envoy Basil Giffard
Uniting: The Reverend Carolyn Field

Conveners of TCC Commissions, elected by the Annual Meeting/Executive:

currently there are no commissions

Executive Members elected by the Annual Meeting (up to five):

5 positions vacant

Executive members co-opted by the Executive (up to three):

3 positions vacant

Representatives of Associated Bodies:

Principal, Jane Franklin Hall: Ms Joanna Rosewell
Australian Church Women: Miss Daphne Mitchell
ReVenture: *position vacant*
Spiritual Care Australia Ms Carmel Fader (Hobart meetings until end 2020);
Mr Bradley Taylor (non-Hobart meetings until end 2020)
Mr Paul Hueston (from January 2021)
TCC Emergencies Ministry Inc. Pastor Gordon (Gus) Yearsley



TCC Executive Liaison Persons:

NCCA Act for Peace: The Reverend Carolyn Field
Christian Ministry in State Schools: The President (DoE, DCI, HCM); Mr David Clarke (SU)



Jane Franklin Hall

Residential College

Hobart, Tasmania

What is Jane Franklin Hall?

Jane Franklin Hall is a residential college for university students, located in South Hobart. More than just accommodation, it provides residents with a home away from home where they can connect, belong and achieve while studying at university.

Founded by the Tasmanian Council of Churches in 1950 as an all-female college, Jane became a co-educational residency in 1973. Fondly known as 'Jane', it is now home to a community of students from all over Tasmania, Australia and the world.

Why Jane?

At a time when students are concerned about the future of their studies, a supportive environment has never been more important. At Jane, we offer:

A unique experience

The only fully-catered, collegial accommodation provider in Tasmania, Jane's mission is to enhance the lived and learned experiences of their students. Following an Oxbridge-style model, Jane residents live, study, dine and achieve together. A nurturing environment, the Jane community offers academic development programs, social growth and networking opportunities, scholarships and 24/7 support.

A close-knit community

The Jane experience allows residents to forge ties to a unique community that extends worldwide. Offering a wealth of support, knowledge and strength, it is a community that residents belong to for life. Made up of undergrad and postgrad students, Alumni, Fellows and Chaplains, it is a community, it is the perfect environment for students to learn and grow.

...and so much more!

To find out more about life at Jane, visit jane.edu.au
or call **(03) 62100 100**.

Connect, belong and achieve

at Jane Franklin Hall



TYPHOON GONI EMERGENCY

ON SUNDAY 1ST OF NOVEMBER, the devastating Typhoon Goni struck the Philippines, bringing winds of over 310 km/h and storm surges of over 5 metres. The Philippines has regularly experienced typhoons, however, with the ongoing impact of climate change their frequency and ferocity has been rapidly increasing.

Sunday's typhoon was the second to hit the Philippines in a week, with this typhoon bringing winds and rain not experienced since Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 which saw 6,300 people lose their lives and over \$3 billion in damage. Learning from the devastation caused by Haiyan the government and other key actors worked swiftly to evacuate as many people as possible ahead of Goni making landfall.

ACT FOR PEACE has been supporting the **National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP)**, and its members, over the last five years in disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response where they can act as first responders in the event of an emergency. The NCCP is currently undertaking needs assessments in affected communities to determine who are most in need and what services will be best suited to supporting the most vulnerable people in affected communities.

This quick action will undoubtedly save lives, but given thousands are now displaced amidst the COVID-19 pandemic the impact of this cyclone is likely to worsen. As information from the field comes in Act for Peace will continue to update Churches and supporters on the work NCCP will be undertaking to ensure those most affected receive the necessary shelter, water, medicine and food supplies they need.

If you'd like to make a gift to support this emergency please visit

<https://www.actforpeace.org.au/typhoongoni>





Christmas Bowl

THIS YEAR, LIFE HAS CHANGED FOR ALL OF US. The coronavirus has affected us all, but not equally. For our brothers and sisters in urgent need around the world, the effects of this crisis are catastrophic. Already struggling, vulnerable communities are now being pushed to the brink without the support they need to survive. As the world battles this pandemic, the legacy of the Reverend Frank Byatt, the founder of the Christmas Bowl, has never been more important. Frank believed we have a responsibility to share what we have with others who need it. He saw it as a fundamental part of living out Jesus' call to love our neighbours as ourselves.

That's why in 1949 he called his congregation to "get a bowl to put on your Christmas dinner table as a Bowl of Remembrance and see if you can get everybody round the table to make a generous gift so that you can share your good dinner with hungry children in other lands."

THAT FIRST CHRISTMAS BOWL APPEAL raised £1,808. No small sum for a congregation at the time. But Frank didn't stop there. His mission was to unify all Australian Christians, of all traditions, to work together to put the word of the Gospel into action. As Frank wrote in 1958: "The evangel is complete only when the action of the Gospel matches the message of the Gospel."



More than 70 years on from the first Christmas Bowl, we continue to follow Frank's example and the Christmas Bowl has raised more than \$100 million for people affected by conflict and disaster. And each year, tens of thousands of Australian Christians, from more than 15 denominations, come together to share God's love through the Christmas Bowl appeal.



**Christmas
Bowl**

Love thy neighbour

Share God's love through the Christmas Bowl.

Please give today. Call 1800 025 101
www.actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl



The Christmas Bowl is the Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 84 529 940 182



National Council of
Churches in Australia

ACT FOR PEACE

OPERATIONS RUN BY TRUSTEES
THROUGH THE CHURCHES

LAST YEAR'S APPEAL

2019 MARKED THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHRISTMAS BOWL. The focus for that year was on the needs of families in South Sudan. Norwegian Church Aid, our local partner working on the ground, worked with communities that, due to conflict and harsh weather, were only able to access dirty and polluted water.

Your gifts last year to the Christmas Bowl helped to provide families in South Sudan with clean water - one of life's most basic needs. Clean water transforms a community and because communities now have access to clean water you've also helped to increase:



EDUCATION:

With easily accessible water, girls spend less time collecting it and now have the time to go to school.



HEALTH:

With access to free water, families that can barely afford to buy water can dedicate the money saved to other life-saving resources, like medicine.



HYGIENE AND SANITATION:

Being able to bathe helps to protect families against preventable, life-threatening diseases like cholera and dysentery.



2020 Christmas Bowl

THIS YEAR WHEN YOU SUPPORT THE CHRISTMAS BOWL you'll be helping to provide food, medical care and lifesaving support to families in need during COVID-19.

In Zimbabwe, families who had suffered through drought, floods and food shortages have now lost their livelihoods too. Since the pandemic began, Act for Peace's partner – the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) – has been distributing food rations, soap, clean water and vital health information.

With your kind help, they're now supporting communities to grow their own food so they can get through this crisis – and towards a more secure future.

FOR DECADES, TASMANIAN CHURCHES ACROSS DENOMINATIONS have been instrumental in responding to some of the most urgent crises of our time.

Thank you for joining with us once again, as we share God's love through the Christmas Bowl.

Your 2020 Christmas Bowl resources should have reached you by now. If you've not got them and want to make use of the worship resources, PowerPoint presentations, clip art and videos to use please contact Act for Peace at info@actforpeace.org.au or call **1800 025 101**.

You can find additional resources online including tree decorations, colouring sheets for children, posters and hymns available on the Christmas Bowl website.

<https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au>

“Love your neighbour as yourself.”

Mark 12:31

Share God's love through the Christmas Bowl.

Please give today. 1800 025 101

www.actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl

ACT FOR PEACE

CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER
THROUGH THE **act**alliance

PARTNERING FOR JUSTICE AROUND THE WORLD

GAZA:

Healthcare for vulnerable women and children and vocational training for young people.

WEST BANK:

Non-violent protective presence to vulnerable communities living under occupation.

JORDAN:

Providing urgently needed support for Syrian refugees including food rations, healthcare, education, livelihoods and counselling.

AFGHANISTAN:

Giving girls a brighter future through improved access to quality education.

PAKISTAN:

Preventative and curative healthcare for rural families, especially mothers and children. Improving access to quality education.

MYANMAR:

Capacity building and training for communities to help prevent human rights abuses.

THE PHILIPPINES:

Disaster risk reduction and preparedness. Action and advocacy to support vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, including indigenous people, to access their human rights.

INDIA:

Healthcare, livelihoods and empowerment programs for Sri Lankan refugees.

THAILAND:

Support for encamped Karenni refugees including those refugees looking to return home.

SOUTH SUDAN:

Helping families affected by flooding to access shelter, sanitation and safe drinking water.

ETHIOPIA:

Emergency healthcare for critically ill or injured refugees, as well as counselling and vocational training.

SRI LANKA:

Livelihoods and support services to help newly returned refugees reintegrate.

VANUATU:

Support for vulnerable communities to prepare, respond and recover from the impacts of natural disasters.

KENYA:

Helping vulnerable urban refugees in Nairobi with food, case work, and other support.

INDONESIA:

Disaster preparedness and risk reduction activities to help communities stay safe during disasters.

TONGA:

Improving safety and inclusion for people living with disability in Disaster Risk Management.

ZIMBABWE:

Supporting farmers to be more resilient to climate change through conservation farming, responding to food insecurity with urgently needed food rations, and supporting peace building initiatives through national dialogues.

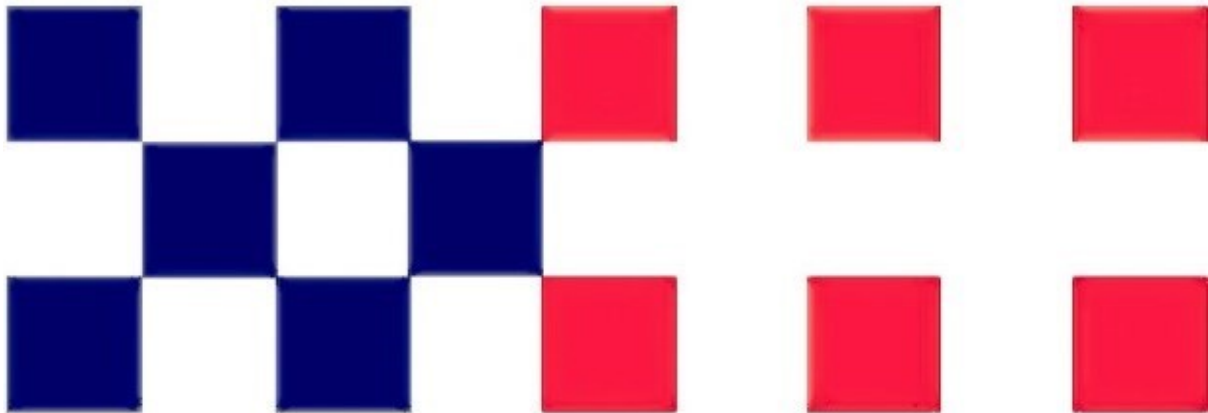
This year, you helped to fund 39 projects in 16 countries. By supporting emergency response, sustainable development and advocacy programs around the world, your generosity brought increased safety, justice and dignity to the lives of more than 282,000 people. Thank you.

AUSTRALIA:

Advocacy and campaigning for refugee rights.



Tasmanian Council of Churches



EMERGENCIES MINISTRY

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