2017 Diocesan Representatives Conference

**Around the Dioceses**

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| **Report** | **Plans** |
| Adelaide – Mary Catford | |
| * Invited to join ABM Auxiliary in Adelaide * Very impressive – raise a lot of money selling items * New Archbishop (Geoff Smith) is previous ABM National Executive Director |  |
| Armidale – Bill and Judy Howarth | |
| * Support of parishes continue to fall. 7 out of 30 parish support ABM. This year down to 5 * Moree – new vicar. Income down * Cathedral parish – doubled giving. Other parish has increased giving. * Diocese supports Uganda, Solomons and Eye Openers International (registered with Anglican AID). * 5-6 breakfasts a year. Looked at Uluru Statement and Celia’s response. * Australia day gathering at the Howarth’s on patio * Music and mulled wine evening in the evening. | * Luncheons – Judy and Richard Bloomfield are the guests at the next lunch. Talk about Wontulp. * Martyr’s week-end in September. * Mission week-end in October – ABM presenting at this year’s. |
| Ballarat – Mathew Crane | |
| * Talk of forming committee * Ladies guild raises money for ABM * Most churches has posters in them * Has increased giving. * Martry’s Synod Mass is good fundraiser * Ministry Dev Com set the 5 Marks of Mission as their guiding principles. * Encourage participation in the Pilgrimages. |  |
| Bathurst – VACANT | |
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| Bendigo – Michael Hopkins | |
| * Running same as previously * Auxiliary has a new member * Focus on Prayer support for programs and using the Prayer Diary * Has lots of annual events as is a rural diocese – strawberry fair, apron festival, etc * Giving declined slightly – due to rural parishes. Been 23 church closures in the Bishops time. * Competing with BCA parishes. CMS launching a concerted effort too. |  |
| Brisbane – Ken Spreadborough | |
| * Many speaking engagements * Have an ABM Facebook page * Very blessed with Synod – always have a slot to speak. Plus a stall * Had a Provincial Conference. This year was Cairns; next year in Rockhampton * November Appeal – Jan Gate stepping down so huge thanks to her * Auxiliary – offering prayer support. Is aging and declining in numbers though * Youth Ambassador – had 3 this year. Diocese pay to get them there; ABM pay in-country costs. | * Coaldrake Award – 36 in Brisbane diocese. Trying to work out how to do it – synod or other event |
| Bunbury – Bill Byleveld | |
| * Not much change on the parish level in relation to ABM * Diocesan level – involvement in developing a partnership with Kapsabet, Kenya * Very good for self-reflection as a diocese * Working with Perth diocese. | * Looking at taking ordinands over to Kapsabet to help broaden their understanding of what’s happening in the Church. |
| Canberra/Goulburn – Paul Black | |
| * Bishop Stuart – supporter of ABM. Sends out anything that comes in to the diocese * No committee – important to have a rep each year * Interesting patterns in giving – some unexpected results from CMS and evangelical parishes |  |
| Gippsland – Vacant | |
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| Grafton – Janice Peate | |
| * First year for Janice * Diocese gave $18.5K to ABM * Bishop is on ABM Board * No Committee – is a declining Auxiliary * Janice is the new President of the Grafton Auxiliary * No limit in the diocese as to number of members on committee – so identified people passion about mission. Has recruited Greg Jenks, new Dean and Development Committee member. * Diocese always allocates spot for mission on at Synod. * Gave $4K to sand damns in Kenya. |  |
| Melbourne – Brett Collins | |
| * Committee been around 7 years in current format. Six people on committee. * Successful launch of Lent Appeal. 10 out of top 15 parishes attended launch. Planning 2018 already. * Hosted those attending the Wontok Schools conference. * Clergy conference – every 3 years – is a must for the ABM Committee. * 17 request for speakers and met most of those. * Attending parish council and thanking them for their donation has worked well. * Giving is OK – on par with last year. * Marketing Working group – supports the marketing and communications team. Brett is on this group along with some Board members | * Looking for new direction. Going back to review guidelines for committees. Over the next 2-3 months * Recruitment – Identifying top giving parishes and getting 1 person from each parish to be on Committee. * Coaldrake Award – hosting a gathering in the diocese. |
| Newcastle – Katherine Bowyer – unable to attend | |
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| North Queensland – Rod Gooden | |
| * Holding its own in giving. * Cairns used to be CMS parish but now very focused on ABM. * Hosted provincial ABM conference. Bishop present and gave a good wrap-up about the diocese * Diocese is now using the term “ministry district” rather than parish – focuses on mission and ministry. May be good for ABM |  |
| North West Australia – VACANT | |
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| Northern Territory – Keith Joseph | |
| * One of largest diocese geographical – but smallest by population. * Has 3 viable parishes – can afford to pay for fulltime minister. * Others paid by CMS and BCA * 2 parishes giving to ABM. * Quite a bit of personal giving from Alice Springs * No paid aboriginal clergy in the territory. |  |
| Perth – Lionel Snell | |
| * Perth in a challenging position at the moment with ++Roger retiring. * Committee shrunk in size. Last serving missionary has stepped down. * Have the partnership with Eldoret * In discussions about scholarship with Education unit. * Speaker Program is filled by Claire and Lionel | * Rebuilding committee – trying to track down parish and institutional (Schools Commission) people for committee. * Lots of ideas about fundraising. * Reinvigorating the love and support for ABM |
| Riverina – Janet Mills – unable to attend | |
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| Rockhampton – Val Gribble and Delfina Trail – unable to attend | |
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| South Australia (Provincial) – +Chris McLeod – unable to attend | |
| * The Murray is on SA Provincial Committee - have the Annual Dinner next Friday at Christ Church North Adelaide. 80 people attending |  |
| Sydney – Edwina Waddy | |
| * Has been urged and helped to increase the size of the committee. * John Deane link in process. Chris and John attending. * Committee have always said if they can’t get to clergy then it’s an uphill battle. Function with Bishop Garry for Sydney clergy hosted a few weeks ago. * People who don’t know ABM aren’t necessarily anti-ABM. | * Organising Martyr’s Day. * Looking at doing more social activities to gather people. |
| Tasmania – Trevor Smith | |
| * Tim Swifte has retired from committee * Tasmanian Auxiliary has closed – still a couple of parish auxiliaries * Warwick Cuthbertson has retired from parish ministry so has more time to spread the ABM word * Chris gave a presentation to a faithful group * Had a table at synod – lot of stuff taken. Well accessed even though nobody manning the stall * How do we train ordinands but also the old ones * Diocese is number 8 on the hit list of giving | * Had a candidate for the Youth Ambassador but not a pilgrimage to send them on. Head office need to investigate further * Talking to the Youth Ambassadors they asked how long they remain a “Youth Ambassador”. Now starting to refer to them as YA Alumni - need to change expectations |
| The Murray – Paul Devenport | |
| * Profile of ABM increased in the Diocese – recognised number 1 agency * Annual Report was included in Synod. * Paul spoke at Synod – stimulus was the promotional materials available. * Media Release getting in The Murray Anglican newspaper. * More amenable to ABM material going out to clergy. * Giving dropped – diocese has gone to an integrated accounting system. No local treasurer. |  |
| Wangaratta – Clarence and Michelle Bester | |
| * Diocesan cycle of understanding ministry * Current strategic plan for the diocese * Replaced Kim Benton * 7 parishes supporting – 7 others not supporting as much. * Support within the diocese continues. | * Redefine and re-establish links within parishes with ABM * Stamps still going to Norm Hart – need to find out what’s going on with that. |
| Willochra – Vacant | |
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**Other Reports**

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| Auxiliary – Mary Catford | |
| * Tasmania Auxiliary closed but parishes still supporting * Perth Auxiliary closed but parishes still supporting * Willochra – waned a lot * Age is increasing * Sydney Auxiliary very active and does a lot |  |

Outcomes

**Networking**  
- Ideas from other dioceses about what works  
- Bringing clergy and laity together  
- How to link Dio Reps with ABM staff on a regular (more than annual) basis? Is this desirable/possible?

**Partner Experience**  
- Exchange programmes – Pacific Islands and with Australia  
- Youth Ambassador Pilgrimage Program

**Reconciliation**  
- More on ABM involvement with NAIDOC – cross cultural material  
- ABM fund a scholarship for indigenous person (NT!)

**Promotional**  
- People Resources to promote ABM  
- Promotion in smaller rural communities  
- Methods of educating rural areas re ABM  
- Updated promotional material for Diocesan and Parish magazines  
- ABM strategies  
- Things to do differently  
- Speaker support  
- Distance & speakers knowledge of ABM through their parishes  
- What can be done if visitors cannot come to a Diocese from ABM & there are not people able to do it from within?  
- How to deal with a Diocese where support for ABM is diminishing  
- The Lent Appeal  
- ABM is not adequately publicised in parishes in Adelaide  
- Speakers – not encouraged even if we had a supply of willing people  
- Project Updates – more needed

**Growth**  
- Combating distance & isolated parishes  
- Is ABM growing or declining? What are the joys and challenges?  
- Few committee members – not clear where we will find recruits  
- To help people recognise the impact ABM can have through our love of Jesus Christ

**Mission Support**  
- Mission strategies in other Dioceses  
- Finances – rural parishes who find it hard to make ends meet  
- ABM’s offer to help Dioceses with mission strategies  
- Share ideas – getting more info re: ABM and its mission  
- How do we best connect Parishes to the mission initiatives of ABM  
- Diocesan indifference to the point of criticism of ABM method of theology

Speaker Strategy

**Talent**  
- 3 categories that we need to work for  
- Difficulty in finding talent in Tasmania and Northern Territory  
- Engaging in overseas contacts  
- ABM staff members  
- ABM’s perception being a government funded agency  
- Criticism of ABM’s Missiology  
 - Doesn’t send missionaries  
 - Tasmania’s perspective – isn’t saving souls  
- Encouragement for those who are giving and giving well  
- The cost of bringing overseas visitors prohibitive  
- Possible use of retired clergy to be trained and lay people  
- Problem of Dioceses concentrating on their own mission  
- Possible bigger groups coming from O/S but it is difficult if there is no diocesan support

**Market (location)**  
- For parish fundraising – not individual  
- First thing is to get into parish  
- Decide where attendees are greater rather than fewer  
- How long does one speak for?  
- Clergy preferred by clergy – generally   
- Might be preferable to attend a “meal event” with interaction from guests and speakers – rather than sermon and deputation  
- Synods can be an irritation / annoyance so we put clergy and lay people off  
- Can General Synod help with re-enforcement of ABM as the official mission arm of the Anglican Church to Bishops?  
- ABM – a tool for parishes to do mission

**Resources**  
- Good and passionate speakers / hands on / energy  
- Empower speakers  
- Education officer  
- Regional remote Dioceses – parishes  
- Knowledge of projects  
- Network of people – who they are  
- No need to reinvent the wheel  
- Technology needed – material / resources – print and media – need a mix of both  
- Content of presentation – the website has a wealth of resources  
- Partners mag / moneyboxes  
- Follow up  
- Who are we targeting?  
- Twitter / Facebook – needs to be more active plus link   
- Print material  
- On-A-Mission  
- Clergy engagement

ABM Conference Locations

2018 – Adelaide   
2017 – Brisbane  
2016 – Canberra  
2015 – Newcastle  
2014 – Perth  
2013 – Melbourne  
2012 – Sydney  
2011 – Southport  
2010 – Adelaide   
(This is as far as CB’s corporate knowledge goes back!)