

Update with the Diocese of Brisbane: from +Bill Ray

1. **Ken Spreadborough** has stepped down as Chair of the Brisbane Committee. Ken's first involvement with ABM goes back about 65 years ago when he was a member of the Comrades of St. George. Then served in PNG as a teacher. On the Brisbane Committee for twelve years - eight as Chair. At Synod the Archbishop spoke glowingly of Ken's ministry and he was presented with his Coldrake Medal.
2. The Archbishop asked me to Chair the Committee for twelve months.
3. I invited John to come and speak to the Committee - and that was very well received. John was able to put our mission efforts into a wider perspective.
4. **Stamps.** Canon Arthur Fellows was ABM Provincial Officer for Queensland when I was Youth Officer in Brisbane and has been looking after the stamps for decades. We are in the process of honouring Arthur - who is still in fairly good health at 95 and has just moved into the aged care facility. Mrs Margaret Warren from Stanthorpe has taken over and is doing a fantastic job. We now have several collection points cross the Diocese and we collecting about 7 kgs a month. At Synod we invited everyone to bring their used stamps and we had 48 kgs. What surprises me is, the people are writing fewer letters due to email etc., but we still receiving about the same amount of stamps.
5. **Speaking** - we are seeking to keep or introduce some clergy on board with ABM, so we are speaking at Area Deaneries this half of the year, as well as our normal parish commitments.
6. **Synod** - The Auxiliary had a great stall at Synod - slices and cakes for sale. We have a bee keeper who supplies us with honey for sale, under the logo of A-Bee-M. Before I retired I planned to keep bees and I have now got a biosecurity number etc, and we are looking for another person and our plan is to regularly supply honey for A-Bee-M - as mission is on going - so is your need for honey - on going. Think of your health!
7. The **ABM Auxiliary** held their Annual Lunch last Friday. It was a great day - but it did highlight the age of many Auxiliary members as faithful and as wonderful as they are to ABM, they are ageing. To keep up the same work, we need to look for new members
8. **Encounter Programme** - a priest from the Solomon Islands came to Gayndah in the rural part of the Diocese. Heard John's comment about culture etc yesterday but this has been a great venture and there has been growth in the Parish and I think Fr Wilfred has brought enthusiasm about being a Christian.
9. **Pilgrimage** - Sponsored two people to go on Pilgrimage or a field trip to Wontulp - Bi -Buya in June. More details of this in session on Saturday.
10. **The Archbishop's November Appeal** - well underway. We will be distributing the material in the next couple of weeks. The focus is Newton College. I think our target is \$25,000. Before PNG gained independence, PNG was a part of the Province of Queensland. As mentioned some of our people are getting older but we hoping to draw on their memory of PNG and out past relationship within the Province of Queensland as well as appealing to your younger people by equipping people for ministry and looking to the future.