

ABM Anglican Board of Mission - Australia **Working for Love, Hope & Justice**

Brisbane Diocese Committee

Committee Chair: The Rev'd Ken Spreadborough

Ph: 07 5543 2189

Mob: 0418 838 013

220 Dennis Rd, Cedar Vale, Qld 4285

e-mail: kspread@bigpond.net.au

Other Correspondence to: GPO Box 421, Brisbane, Qld 4001 (or as indicated)

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Report of the ABM Diocesan Representatives Conference held at St Thomas' Parish, Cardiff, Newcastle from 24-26 July, 2015.

Representatives from most Anglican Dioceses in Australia attended the ABM Diocesan Representatives Conference over three days in Newcastle from the 24th to the 26th of July, 2015. The only Dioceses not represented were Willochra, North West Western Australia, Bathurst and the Riverina in New South Wales.

May I express my thanks to Archbishop Phillip Aspinall for his support for my attendance at the conference and for the Diocese for providing to finance for me to do so.

The conference was officially opened by the Bishop of Newcastle, The Rt Rev'd Greg Thompson.

Christopher Brooks asked that the delegates indicate what they hoped to achieve from the conference. The following is a synopsis of most topics. Many of the questions were answered as part of presentations throughout the weekend, with some still unanswered questions dealt with at the end of the conference.

Advocacy : What is ABM doing about climate change?

What the Diocese of The Murray and the Dioceses in Oz may be able to do with ABM in supporting the status of women overseas, in their education, trafficking and female genital mutilation?

Mission : Auckland Mission Conference. ABM Melbourne mission conference.

Can individuals access School programs esp from Dioceses with no schools?

Youth in Mission – concern for others – the 20-50's. Where are they?

Office and Procedural: Christmas Cards (Please note - this year these will be e-cards available on the ABM website). For the Board of ABM to clearly articulate ABM's direction re each individual Diocese strategic Plan for the next 5 years. Coaldrake Award. Availability of ABM staff members to visit dioceses. How is ABM travelling in terms of its size and relevance in the Anglican context?

Partnership: How can ABM encourage our work in Partnership with churches in Pacific Islands?

How the ABM may assist or coordinate, or keep tabs more so in the Diocesan links with overseas Dioceses? Gifts (goods) going to the Solomons. How can we find out if it gets to the appropriate location?

Programs: What is the best shape for Clergy Exchange programmes? How are the pilgrimages going (youth)? Schools programme. Engaging Parish in all aspects of Mission as in ABM. Church to Church. Community Development. Greater understanding of ABM – projects – Partnerships. What are the more important considerations in choosing a project to support? How can ABM encourage Aboriginal and TSI leadership?

Promotional : The work of the diocesan representative – how best to contact / approach or relate to individual parishes? Ideas for making youth more aware of ABM. How is ABM promoted around Dioceses eg Motions at Synod. What makes ABM stand out from other Mission Agencies. Sharing motions about ABM. Closed caption DVDs, Overseas visitors speaking. Promotion of ABM compared to TV advertised Mission Agencies – even in its standing with the multiple Anglican Agencies' *Mobilegeddon* – smart phone website optimisation. How are the current Lenten envelope scheme going? How does ABM compare to its competitors (mission agencies)? What are we doing the same / different? New fundraising ideas??? How do we "get to" some parish clergy who do not know about ABM?

(Space (and time) prevent me from including written answers to each of these, but please contact me if you would like to explore any matter further. Ken)

Christopher Brooks gave an update on ABM's communications strategy, to help ABM build better relationships with its supporters, that ABM has a strong presence in 13 cathedrals, as well as those points outlined below.

He listed the Communications team at ABM and their responsibilities

- Vivienne For, Communications Coordinator works for 5 days each week on Parish Communications, Project Updates, Website updates, Volunteer organiser
- Mike Begaud, Fundraising and Bequests Officer works for 5 days each week on Individual Communications, Campaign coordinator, Bequest management, Logistics coordinator
- Christopher Brooks Marketing and Fundraising Manager – 3 or 4 days each week on General communications and Publications
- Divya Midhaven, Database Supervisor – 20 hours per week on Report management and Data integrity
- Lorraine Forster, Committee Support Officer – 2 days per week on Committee communications and Promotional material management
- Michael Robinson, Speakers Organiser – 1 day each week on Speaker communications and Speaker Corner production
- Liz Baker, Media Consultant – retainer for Media communications, Content writing, PR Coordinator
- Silvia, Graphic Designer – invoice for Print and on-line design.

He also indicated the Achievements in 2014 as 11 fundraising campaigns, 1 new website, 19 bequests received totalling nearly \$500,000, 175 speaking engagements, 5 publications produced, 12 synod representations, 22 Diocesan representatives nurtured, 900+ money boxes sent out, 1,823 Grit and Grace books distributed, 19 news items posted on our website, 121 Facebook posts about our Partners and the Church, 253 new Facebook fans, 56 mentions on Twitter, 13 videos posted to ABM's YouTube Channel, 12 On-A-Mission eNews sent, 9 Emergency appeals set up, 1 Youth ambassador role created, 33 project updates posted on the website, 1,500 ABM bags made by our Partners in the Philippines handed out, 4,100 promotional pens, lanyards, bookmarks and stick-it notes given away.

At each conference, each Delegate is asked to indicate the activities taking place in their Diocese. The following is a summary prepared by Christopher Brooks, for which I thank him as I did not have to try to read and then type from my own almost illegible notes !!!

Willochra—100 years as a diocese. All 3 South Australian dioceses get together 4 times a year as a Province. Willochra has companion Diocese of Mandalay, Myanmar. Fundraiser - pallet of wine (208 bottles) that was auctioned and proceeds donated to ABM. Auxiliary - had a couple of events.

Wangaratta - Auxiliary is still defunct. Kim coordinator of clergy diocese event - showcased ABM. Have a visitor from PNG. Got John Deane attended and spoke at Synod.

Tasmania – Provided ordinands with stoles. Trevor Smith new Chair of Committee. 2014 supported a motion asking Bishops to write to Government to increase overseas aid. Didn't work as government still went ahead with cuts. Tas Youth Ambassador Rowena handed over to Lauren. Both have been excellent and Lauren has had good access to schools. Grace Williams originally from Sierra Leone is the 2016 Youth Ambassador. Asked Registrar if anyone interested in pilgrimage but got a negative response back.

Sydney - Ran function for Bishop of Mandalay before heading to Willochra. Still have many keen people and 12-14 ABM supporting parishes.

Rockhampton - Diocese struggling and has new bishop. Don't have an Auxiliary. Lots of areas still in drought and so getting them to support ABM is understandably difficult.

Riverina – not represented

Perth - Committee had a bit of a mixed year. Few tireless workers retired, notably Judith Cottier. Rejuvenating the committee - approaching curates. New format - 1 meeting administrative, 1 meeting have a speaker. Auxiliary no longer exists but have a local group called Friends of ABM Perth. Used to have an annual dinner - 250 attendees. Now trying to have local smaller functions. Schools project continues - ReachOUT Manilla. 2nd group gone to Taize in France. GFS meeting in Perth in 2017—Have a partner diocese in Eldoret - may have to put on hold due to travel advice. So bringing people from Eldoret to Perth.

North West Australia – not represented

North Queensland - Rod has now been at Cairns a year. His parish was 100% CMS but now starting to support ABM. Handing out Lenten envelopes. 6 months ago he rang all parishes in Diocese. Found a lot of parishes already doing a lot for ABM. Some supporting projects, event nights raising funds. Paul Beasley inducted as 50%, Weekly envelopes - introduced.

Northern Territory - Greetings from Bishop - thanks for Reconciliation support. ABM has low profile in NT. No organised support of ABM - done by individuals. CMS and BCA have people on the ground in the NT so they get most of the money.

Newcastle - Bishop Peter Stuart coming to talk to the conference about the Companion Diocese of Guadalcanal. About the sharing of the human resources. In process of establishing projects in Guadalcanal. (see below) Mission giving has increased over the past few years. Thanks to staff for speedy response to emergency appeals. Parish level - family Eucharists - 2nd Saturday night of month - Mass and Meal - starts at 6 and finish by 7.30.

The Murray - 18 months has been a transition with new bishop. Bishop very mission focused. Diocese has sister relationship with Popondotta. Bishop of Mandalay visited. Supported emergency appeals. Distributed USB sticks.

Melbourne - Had 2 long-term people retire. Looking for theological student to join committee and another who can drill down on finances. Look at giving in the Diocese. Giving is quite good. Review strategic plan each 12 months - needs to be able to articulate.

1. Personal connections with 2 parishes - helps with dinners.
2. Encourage Pilgrimages.
3. Increase in diocese giving by 10%.
4. Successfully launch the Lent appeal each year.

Been an explosion of speaker requests. Have 7 in the next 2 months. Don't have that many speakers so one person can be out of their parish for a few weeks. Annual dinner - raises approx \$2,000. Celebrate Martyrs Day. Going out to Parish Council or Vestry meetings. Ask for 5 minutes on the agenda. Talk about Project Book. Support the ABM & other mission conference in Melbourne. Dinner for 12 at 12. Have a lunch with curates and their partners and discuss what ABM is, what they do. Successful strategic way to work with curates.

Grafton - Most activity - small parish events. Large event - Bishop's garden party - happening next Saturday. Titled the "Big Day" by Jackie Draffon GFS & connection to mission activities around the Pacific. Motoring along quietly.

Gippsland - Not a great deal of ABM stuff has occurred. New bishop - supportive of continuing support for ABM Mission giving continued at same level or increased in the past 2 years. Most parishes support ABM projects. Arranged a speaking engagement. Mission Helpers are in parishes to spread the word of Mission.

Canberra / Goulburn - Parishes gave \$38K to ABM. No ABM structure currently in the diocese.

Bunbury - Nothing official happening. Bill is the Bunbury Mission Council. Has used the stoles for ordinations. Trying to get ordinands onto Pilgrimages. Set up a Facebook page for all Mission Secretaries to access.

Brisbane - Main effort - visiting parishes and giving thanks or if needs be give a bit of a boost. Some parishes even without a full-time priest. Want to go in and educate them about Mission - particularly ABM. Anglican Schools going on pilgrimages - mainly to Vanuatu. ABM "Who Is My Neighbour" exhibition still going well into October last year. Presented stoles to priests and deacons - do a personal presentation. November Appeal - pretty good - covers whole province. Raised \$37K. There is a Catechises of the Good Shepherd in Kenya supporter on the Committee so lot of input. February - 2nd Provincial Conference - Rod, Chris and Val there. Arch Clyde Igara of PNG visited in March. Kicked off the new project for the November Appeal. Training for clergy. Bishop Tennyson due at Synod but no show due to administrative error. One World Wontok conference happened. Started a Youth Ambassador - starts in a couple of weeks. Talked about at Synod and had 3 schools approach about having a visit from that person. Sale of stamps covers admin costs for committee - around \$10K. Synod 2015 - great - had prime position next to barista! Does still have an Auxiliary - looks after fundraising projects and Martyrs' Day.

Bendigo - Michael . No notes available

Bathurst - not represented

Ballarat - No functioning ABM Committee. Good amounts to ABM projects and appeals. Support for extra emergencies low - may be due to AOA Apo Rongo in PNG - partner diocese.

Armidale - Ethos of diocese changed over the years. Parish support waxes and wanes year on year. Cathedral good supporters, along with Moree, and St John's Tamworth. Have 3 fundraisers a year.

"Whatever" sale, high tea, and a book sale. Mission breakfasts - first one this year - flash backs. Australia Day breakfast at reps' home. Envelope system works well - not ABM envelopes though. Has a retired school teacher that sells jam and part of sale goes to ABM. At Lent, gave young people an ABM money box. ABM provides a mission spot twice a year to talk about their mission.

Adelaide - Bishop David McCall has retired from Chair. Archbishop has taken over as Chair. Provincial Dinner in Adelaide. Brad Chapman was guest speaker. Has an ABM Sunday - diocesan Sunday for ABM. Has a Martyrs Day service. Auxiliary raised \$12K last year & \$10K this year. Bishop David met Anglican Chaplains - ultimate responsibility up to school principals though.

National Auxiliary - Work of Auxiliary is supported by Anglican Women. Discussing how to connect with younger generations. Discussed how to have a joint social with Dio Reps conference in the coming years. Have them in the same week.

Christopher responded to the question on finances, noting that the finances last year were \$138 000 down on the previous year. The two emergencies raised a total of \$60 000 for Vanuatu and Nepal. It is thought that perhaps Parishes used funds for these emergencies that would otherwise have come to other ABM projects. Otherwise, other appeals held steady. The total ABM income is about \$5.5 million, of which no more than 10% is used on administration. Because of cuts in Government funding, it has been necessary to release Beth Sneddon. Julianne Stewart will have to pick up her work.

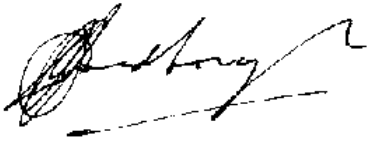
The Rt Rev'd Peter Stuart, Assistant Bishop of Newcastle, was the guest speaker. He spoke on the work of the Diocese in developing a sister relationship with the Diocese of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands where 32 per cent of the population claim to be Anglican. He spoke of the History of the Anglican Church in the Solomons. The land is strewn with the remnants of World War 2 and there are still ethnic tensions with tribal issues and economic wealth. The civil war between 1998 and 2003 had almost left the country bankrupt. He indicated that the Diocese of Guadalcanal was inaugurated on the 23rd of June 2013 at the St. Paul's Chapel at Legalau village, Tasiboko – east of Honiara. The first Bishop of the Diocese is the Rt Rev'd Nathan Tome who was elected into the post on the 6th of September 2013. The Diocese of Guadalcanal covers areas from beyond Lunga Bridge on the east and from beyond White River Bridge on the west of Honiara. He also spoke of the Melanesian Brother Martyrs. Bishop Stuart also spoke of its association with the Anglican Church in Korea. The Anglican Church is very small, although 29 per cent of the population of Korea are Christians. The Korean word for peace, when translated literally back into English, means "share food equally". The Korean Church – small with strong social ministry. ABM has supported Korea since 1970s. The Current project – TOPIK – Anglican Church of Korea works with other Christian and faith-based organisations, to further the realisation of peace between North and South Korea.

The ABM's Partnerships Co-ordinator, Robert MacLean spoke of a draft document for the conference on suggested guidelines for successful church partnerships. The conference was given several scenarios, based on all experiences but the details were fictitious. The scenarios involved dioceses and churches that had gone ahead and worked with overseas people or dioceses, without the assistance and help of the ABM. It was noted that important considerations in choosing which project to support included photos, Prayer, choosing a non-tax deductible project and encouraging individuals to do the same, feedback information is available for all church-to-church projects, thank offerings for a particular project can be channelled through ABM, where there has not been personal contact.

Other points discussed/explained included:

- Identification of future indigenous leaders and perhaps using bursaries to help them gain their qualifications. c.f. ACNZ
- The Encounter (clergy) programme. Looking at PNG– Kenya and Australia –PNG to make it more useful in both dioceses.
- Promotion of ABM vs Aid Agencies on TV etc. Using Christian Radio stations who are always looking for Church news items. The biggest problem is expense vs income.
- Comparison of ABM with other Anglican Mission agencies. ABM is one of the most successful with a budget of \$5.5 million. (Anglican Overseas Aid has a budget of \$3.4 million). ABM uses only 10% of income for administration costs.
- To ensure that donations go to the right place it is important to have a designated receiver.
- ABM and climate Change. (i) Some projects with our partners are of this type. (ii) Non-investment in fossil fuels (See Board minutes)

- A request for a document to be prepared indicating what ABM asks of/expects of its Diocesan representatives. i.e. a job description

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Spreadborough', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Rev'd Ken Spreadborough,
Chair,
Brisbane ABM Committee