

e-newsletter - April 2009

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Your secretary writes ...

Welcome to another ANZATS Newsletter!

Can I first ask that you who receive it please pass it on to your staff members: ANZATS is formally an association of 'schools', but schools are nothing without the people who enable them to be places of learning!

Two particular pieces of important news have occasioned the timing of this issue:

The ANZATS Constitution

At the AGM in July 2008, the following motion was passed, on the recommendation of the Council:

It was agreed that

- ANZATS move towards incorporation along the lines of the proposal from Michael Horsburgh that Members be the Principal or delegate of each member institution, who elect Directors and office-bearers (replacing the Council and Executive);*
- That the President, Secretary and Mark Harding be appointed as a committee with authority to obtain legal advice, to pay for this, and to co-opt other members,*

with a view to the revised Constitution being placed before a meeting of the Association (whether face-to-face, postal or by email).

This motion has been acted on over the past nine months, led by a sub-committee of Rob McIver (ANZATS President) and Executive members Dianne Speed and Mark Harding. With the expert assistance of Mr Garth Blake QC in its drafting, a new Constitution has been prepared, and accompanies this *eNewsletter*.

This proposed Constitution is a far more comprehensive document than its predecessor (which is also attached). The ANZATS Council believes that it fulfils both the aims of the above motion and the intentions of the existing Constitution, and recommends that it be adopted at the 2009 AGM, which will take place on July 7, 2009 during the Conference in Adelaide.

Our present Constitution requires that three months' notice be given to members - which is one purpose of this *eNewsletter*.

Please do not hesitate to myself, the President of any Executive member if you have questions: it is within the power of the AGM to amend the draft. The Council's hope is that we can reach agreement and then proceed to the incorporation of ANZATS.



Welcome to *Worldview*

In August 2008, the *Worldview Centre for Inter-cultural Studies* (in Launceston) applied for membership of ANZATS. Its application was considered by the Executive, which agreed that a *prima facie* case existed. A Commission consisting of myself and the Revd Alison Whish (UCA Presbytery Minister - Leadership) visited the Centre on March 25th. We had no hesitation in recommending to the Council that *Worldview* be admitted as a full member, and the Council has accepted this recommendation.

Worldview is our first Tasmanian member. Its name, while appropriate for a college whose purpose is to prepare men and women for cross-cultural ministry, was that of the farm site on which it commenced teaching in 1956, with its glorious view out over the Esk valley.

Finally, thanks to the many member colleges who have paid their subscription for 2009. I am continuing to learn the niceties of the accounting processes needed to let ANZATS run smoothly, and am grateful for your tolerance of my occasional mistakes! The 2008 accounts are currently with the auditors: my hope is that audited accounts will be available by the AGM.

Charles Sherlock
ANZATS Executive Officer / Secretary

CALL FOR PAPERS - ANZATS Conference 2009

Please note the change of date to Friday, May 22nd

Australian Lutheran College, 5–9 July 2009

104 Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide, SA 5006

Phone: (08) 8267 7400 www.alc.edu.au

‘Come Holy Spirit, renew the face of the earth’.

Pneumatology is a theme that ANZATS conferences have not addressed for many years. But the lively discussion in theological schools world-wide, and the rich and diverse theology and practice of the gifts of the Spirit in the churches makes the topic particularly pertinent at this time.

Please consider offering the proposal for a paper either within the conference theme or outside the theme.

As a rough guide, the steering committee suggests that papers fall within or overlap the following categories:

- the Holy Spirit in the Bible,
- the Holy Spirit in theology,
- the Holy Spirit in church history, and
- the Holy Spirit in the life of the church.

The committee also welcomes proposals for papers in areas outside the theme, to ensure a more comprehensive smorgasbord of offerings and to allow participants to test their findings in current areas of research.

1. Proposals should be e-mailed by **Friday, 22 May 2009** to peter.lockwood@alc.edu.au
2. Proposals should be about 200–250 words long and must include your full name, title, institution (or location), email address, telephone number, mobile phone number, and mailing address.

Principals' Conference plans confirmed

The ANZATS Council had originally planned to have a further conference for college principals in 2008, but for a variety of reasons this was pushed back to 2009.

Plans for the 2009 Principals' Conference have now been confirmed, the theme (as recommended by the 2006 Conference) being

*‘Managing theological education:
finance and compliance’*

Date: Monday, October 5th 2009 (6pm dinner) to Wednesday, October 7th, 2009 (5pm).

Place: Amberly Conference Centre, Melbourne
(There are 26 single rooms with en suite;
others are twin share)

Cost: \$220 (all-inclusive)

Participation is limited to college principals.

The conference will be chaired by Dr Rob McIver, ANZATS President, and facilitated by Dr Charles Sherlock, ANZATS the Executive Officer.

Programme outline:

The draft programme is as follows:

<i>Monday evening</i>	Welcome, personal introductions
<i>Tuesday morning</i>	Theological Education in Australia - the picture today Charles Sherlock is available to address the <i>Uncovering Theology</i> project, whose Report will be launched at the ANZATS July Conference.
<i>Tuesday afternoon</i>	Financial management Richard Cardew has agreed to lead a workshop on the monetary costs of theological education
<i>Tuesday evening</i>	Conference dinner
<i>Wednesday morning</i>	Relationships with governments: FEE-HELP, (re)accreditation, ESOS, research funding etc. - and reporting requirements (a facilitator is still being finalised)
<i>Wednesday afternoon</i>	Quality Assurance - AUQA's role An AUQA staff member who works with theological colleges has agreed to facilitate this session.

Each day will open with prayers. The four main sessions are planned to be interactive: an introductory address, questions, then small group discussion.

Evenings and the middle of the day are kept free to give opportunities for personal engagement.

Comments on this draft programme are welcome: please contact the Executive Officer, Charles Sherlock.

Invitations to participate will be sent out in May.

Not yet registered for the 2009 ANZATS Conference?



Go to the ANZATS website:

www.anzats.edu.au

and follow the prompts

Julia Gillard's speech on the Bradley Review

a response from Mark Harding

The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, delivered a major speech on March 4, at the Universities Australia Conference, responding to the Report of the Bradley review. Her speech is available at

www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Gillard/Media/Speeches/Pages/Article_090304_155721.aspx

Mark Harding, Dean of the Australian College of Theology, prepared the following comments for ACTh colleges, and has kindly given permission for them to be reproduced here:

Let me draw attention to a number of very significant issues for theological education, especially in the private sector:

On page 1 the Minister draws attention to very poor completion rates of about 72% in the universities. The Rudd government is keen to increase participation rates to 40% for Australians aged 25 to 34. We believe that the ACT completion rate is higher than that ~ about 85-90% ~ and we will do work on our database to produce the relevant data. Completion rates for HDR candidates are almost 100%, but the numbers here are small.

On page 2 the Minister notes that a full response from the government will be released at the time of the May budget.

On page 3 Ms Gillard affirms that Australian universities "will be funded on the basis of student demand by 2012". She immediately goes on to speak about a Commonwealth supported place "for all domestic students accepted into an eligible accredited higher education course at a recognised higher education provider". This strongly suggests that private HEPs will receive such funding, as long as their courses are deemed "eligible". Equity demands that if university courses in theology are funded, then so should the theology courses provided by the non-university sector. Note too that she expresses no support for "vouchers". Rather, she foreshadows institutional funding.

On page 4, Ms Gillard affirms support for the establishment of a national regulatory body to "accredit providers, carry out audits of standards and performance, protect and quality assure international education, streamline current regulatory arrangements to reduce duplication and provide for national consistency". This is a very significant commitment, one that we should applaud.

Clearly the time frame for the implementation of the recommendations in the Bradley Review will take longer than initially anticipated. But it is good to see the Minister getting behind some of the very important initiatives of the Report.



Conference logo: designer Greg Haar offers this comment.

The Holy Spirit as the face of the earth

Showing the Holy Spirit as the defining shape of the planet, placing the spirit at the centre of all global activity. The force that created and sustains the continents, divided the seas and engineered the exact conditions to make life as we know it possible. There is some reference here to the Southland of the Holy Spirit. Our ecology is never static and the Holy Spirit continues to work despite our lack of care for our own environment.

ANZATS Council 2009

President: Dr Robert McIver
Vice-President (and President-elect):
The Revd Assoc Prof Gerard Kelly
Vice-President (New Zealand):
The Revd Prof Paul Trebilco
Members: The Revd Dr Mark Harding
Dr Paul Beirne
Dr Dianne Speed
Co-opted: The Revd Dr Brian Powell

State representatives:

Qld: The Revd Dr Peter Ralphs
NSW: The Revd Dr Brian Powell
Victoria: vacant
SA: The Revd Dr Peter Lockwood
WA: The Revd Dr Brian Harris

Executive Officer / Secretary / Treasurer:

The Revd Dr Charles Sherlock

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