



The ACC Newsletter

Confessing the Lord Jesus Christ, Proclaiming the truth, Renewing the church

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The ACC Newsletter is an occasional publication. Next issue: February 2009.

1. ACC National

1.1 ACC Conference and AGM September 11 – 13: Coromandel Valley Uniting Church

The 2008 AGM and Conference was wonderfully hosted by Coromandel Valley Uniting Church, situated in the Adelaide Hills. The host church provided an amazing example of Christian hospitality and service, with over fifty local members involved in helping with the arrangements, including worship, sound and visual aid, cleaning and supplies, set-up for meals, washing dishes, helping with catering, office help, copying, among many aspects. Excellent professional catering was also provided through a local member.

The SA ACC committee, under the leadership of Revd Dr Phil Marshall, made life substantially easier for the ACC officers. The committee handled the local arrangements superbly and members continued to provide support well past the official closing of the conference (lunchtime on Saturday). SA Treasurer Kevin Fielke also provided invaluable help for ACC administration through oversight of all the registrations.

The Prayer Network, led by Revd Anne Hibbard undergirded the whole time in prayer, following their 'Prayer Muster', the day before the AGM started.

The AGM arrangements were well received, with reports from all Commissions and groups. A report booklet will be provided when the minutes of the meeting are confirmed. The Theological Declaration received by the National Council in August was also commended for wider reading and study and arrangements and the methods of distribution are now being considered.

The four speakers were warmly received, and their presentations are now available to purchase in a special four disc DVD set (\$17).

The offering at the Public Rally on the Friday night was \$1870 and was provided in equal amounts to *Living Waters Ministry* in Australia and also the support for the *indigenous ministry through Cairns Emmanuel Uniting Church*. State networks had time to meet together to share and encourage each other and to offer ideas for the coming year.

There were **68 voting members** represented by 11 council members and 57 from Congregations: **NSW – 17; Queensland – 9; South Australia - 22; Tasmania – 3; Victoria - 5; WA – 1.**

Registered full-time individual Supporting Members numbered 88: NSW – 15; Queensland – 9; South Australia - 43; Tasmania – 4; Victoria – 17, (a small number of pre-registered members were not able to make the conference at the last minute), and with speakers and support people, the minimum attendance was about 160, increasing to 200 at some sessions with occasional session or part-time visitors and also members of the local church team as they were able.

The National Council was appointed, with three members retiring: **Margaret Macmillan, Revd Don Purdey and Revd Mike Fawcett;** and three new members elected (names in Bold below).

The National Council for 2008 - 2009:

Chair: Revd Dr Max Champion

Deputy Chair: Revd Steve Estherby

Secretary: Revd Ivan Kirk

Council Members (9)

Revd Walter Abetz (Tasmania);

Pastor Grahame Abrahams (NSW);

Dr Colin Adam (Victoria);

Revd Dr Ian Breward (Victoria);

Revd Dr Hedley Fihaki (Qld);

Revd Anne Hibbard (NSW);

Revd Rod James (SA);

Ms Robyn McKay (SA);

Revd John Whaley (WA).

Convenors or Boards and Commission – the following were appointed:

Board of Management – Dr Colin Adam

Board of Communication – Mr Peter Bentley

Cross Cultural Commission – Revd Lulu Senituli

Disciple and Evangelism Commission – Revd Derek Schiller

Doctrine and Theology Commission – Dr Rosalie Hudson

Ecumenical Commission – Revd Dr Alan Crawford

Networks Development Commission – Pastor Grahame Abrahams

Prayer Network – Revd Anne Hibbard

Social Responsibility Commission – Revd Dr Brian Edgar

1.2 Membership Renewals and arrangements: 2008 - 2009

Congregational renewals and individual or couple renewal notices have now been forwarded to everyone needing a renewal notice for the current financial year.

1.3 Council Meetings: The National Council will next meet via teleconference on November 10. Any comments can be forwarded to the office for the ACC Secretary and Council.

1.4 **ACCatalyst and Advertising Opportunities**

The ACCatalyst Editorial Committee invites potential advertisers to use our columns, with cost-of-advertising to be arranged with the editorial group. Enquiries to Warren Clarnette: either by email wclarnet@bigpond.net.au, or phone (03-9500 9323).

Also any potential ad-sales people who could help with this project are encouraged to speak with Warren.

2. **State and Region Reports**

NEW SOUTH WALES

ACC NSW

ACC NSW held their half-yearly meeting at Sutherland on October 11. Revd Ian Weeks gave a timely address to approximately thirty members, highlighting his considered reflections on 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9 about the marks of a confessing church. NSW ACC also received reports about plans for 2009, including visitations and also a programme of events in conjunction with Wesley Institute.

QUEENSLAND

There are plans for Professor Ian Breward's address '**The future of our heritage**', given at the 2008 Queensland ACC AGM meeting to be made available on the website to download. It would provide an excellent opportunity for a discussion group to reflect on his stirring counsel about renewing the Uniting Church by congregations recovering a vigorous witness to Jesus Christ.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

South Australian ACC have had a jam-packed time with the 2008 conference and post conference matters, but are now becoming focussed on planning for 2009 and have developed a long list of matters for consideration. Interested people can attend SA ACC meetings or contribute comments:

Contact the SA ACC secretary: Ian Croft: i_scroft@chariot.net; (08) 8289 2627

3. **ACC WEB CHAT**

The final web chat for 2008 will be held on Monday 1 December at 7: 30 p.m. (EDST). Join us in our live Chat Forum to come and 'chat' about the designated ACC topic, **The topic is – ACC – its future and development in 2009. Share your thoughts on what ACC can do and should be doing to help confess Christ, proclaim the truth and renew the church.** To access the Chat Forum simply go to the 'Resources' section on the ACC website, www.confessingcongregations.com, and click on 'Chat Forum' and obtain an ACC ID.

4. News from the WEST

Rod James reports that he had a fulfilling time in Western Australia in September. "In six days of visiting farming folk out from Geraldton, Mac Forsyth and I had many valuable times of talking with folk and praying with them. On one weekend about seven of us replaced the gutters on a large shearing shed on the Saturday, and on the Sunday we held a worship service in the farmer's machinery shed and people from surrounding areas came."

Peter Bentley also had a partly personal visit to Perth in October and was also able to speak to have warm Christian fellowship with a group of ACC members and friends at a gathering organised by Revd Mike Fawcett at Bicton Uniting Church.

5. Opportunity to hear Revd Rod James in 2009

Rod would appreciate prayer and contact regarding the 2009 schedule for his evangelical resource ministry - ***Abounding Grace***. He has indicated that "The slate is clean and many opportunities exist. Please pray that the Lord will sovereignly oversight the planning process that His good will may be done and opportunities to preach His word may abound."

If your church or group would be interested in meeting with Rod, you can contact him directly: **Phone:** 08 8381 8345; **Email:** rodjames@internode.on.net

Also, state or regional groups may like to consider talking with Rod about a regional tour.

6. ACC Signs of the TIMES

Thank you to the member congregations who have provided photos to date for use in ACCatalyst and other publications. If you have a new sign it would be very helpful if you could let the office know and send a photo (preferably high resolution via e-mail). Camperdown Stanmore Community Church (inner west Sydney) sign below.



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