



# The ACC Newsletter

**Assembly of Confessing Congregations** within the Uniting Church in Australia

**WEB:** [www.confessingcongregations.asn.au](http://www.confessingcongregations.asn.au)  
**Mail:** PO Box 968 Newtown 2042

**EMAIL:** [admin@reformingalliance.org.au](mailto:admin@reformingalliance.org.au)  
**Tel:** (02) 9550 5358

**No. 3 July 2007**

---

**Note:** Please circulate this newsletter to interested members.  
Next newsletter August 2007: Deadline for submission: August 17 2007

---

## 1. State and Region Reports

---

### New South Wales

#### ACC Tonga

An enthusiastic group of Tongan members from 9 different congregations (none ACC congregational members yet) met for worship and a time of celebration on **Saturday July 14** at Rodger Page UC, Auburn. Revd Sione Alo Fakahua preached on the texts Amos 7; 14-15 and Acts 22:21 at the inspiring service which had several choirs. The guest speakers were Revd Dr Max Champion and Revd Dr Gordon Moyes AC. All the speakers encouraged commitment to the work of reform and renewal in the church and above all a commitment to Jesus Christ and the truth revealed in Scripture. The Tongan members were commended for their faithfulness in standing firm within the Uniting Church and their encouragement of support for the work of the ACC.

#### A Day of Learning and Encouragement at Wesley Institute

Wesley Institute at Drummoyne has planned a full day seminar with bible messages and resources for ACC congregational and group members. Congregations hopefully received multiple copies of the brochure for distribution in early July. The date is Saturday August 11: 9.30 am – 4 pm. Cost \$30.00.

#### The Hunter

ACC members in the Hunter region have now established a good group of interested people and are meeting regularly to support each other, and with prayer for local needs. If you would like further information the contact is Alton Bowen: 4957 2722 (home & work), 4957 3533 fax & 0412 789 557 mobile.

---

---

## **SOUTH AUSTRALA**

*Phil Marshall reports on the Max Champion "statewind" SA tour.*

In one week, Max Champion spoke to 340 people in 16 centres. The tour took him from Eyre Peninsular to the South East spending the weekend in Adelaide. People from over 40 congregations (not all ACC congregations) gathered to hear him speak about the ACC and its positive program for the future.

The ACC is committed to assisting believers live out a vibrant evangelical, reformed and orthodox faith within the UCA. Central to this is the need to confess Christ crucified as our hope and salvation. Max put before people a vision that was not limited to the UCA. It was a vision of confessing Christ crucified for the sake of the world. This vision lifted our eyes above the issues of the UCA to see the world around us for which Christ died and rose again.

While on tour, Max explained the strategic role of the six national Commissions which have the responsibility of giving practical resources to members that reflect the inspirational vision of confessing Christ crucified for the sake of the world. Announcing the imminent release of the flagship publication of the ACC called the ACCatalyst Max said, "The new quarterly magazine will be sent to every ACC congregation and individual member".

Thank you to those who hosted Max during his tour (Jun 12 to 20) and made it an outstanding success. There are now 45 congregations in the ACC SA movement.

*(Ed. With other advice that some 15 SA congregations are considering membership , ACC in SA could soon have about 25% of SA congregations as members)*

### OTHER NEWS

**The next SA Steering Committee: Monday 6th August** at Glenunga at 1.30 pm.

Note: A reminder that these meetings are open to all members. The time of prayer starts at 9.00 (to Noon)

**Forward Notice: Mini-Conference Focusing on the Bible**

Saturday 15th September. Note: Venue to be advised.

9.30am for Cuppa through to 4.00pm.

---

## **2. Report of the Latest ACC National Council meeting**

The Council had a full teleconference on July 2. A considerable number of matters are still being addressed and prayer is requested for wisdom and strength for the officers and members as they continue to shoulder heavy responsibilities.

### **Vision Statement**

A short draft vision statement has been developed and will be finalised in the next month. Council members are also working on strategic plans and ideas based on 1, 3 and 5 years.

**The explanation of the ACC logo** has been approved and will be made available on the new website.

**Office arrangements:** Unfortunately there were no suitable applicants for the part-time office position and the Board of Management will review this position based on new contract arrangements with a bookkeeper. The hope is still to have some part-time office support. Peter Bentley has been appointed as Executive Consultant (part-time) to the ACC for a 6 months period and continues with the administration and office role at present.

**Explanatory note:** *Peter Bentley is employed on a part-time basis, with a variety of roles and the office cannot be physically attended all the time as Peter is often at meetings or seeing people, or arranging mailings etc. He is reliant on messages or e-mails. There have been a few problems with the answering service and also huge problems with spam e-mail and if your inquiry has not been attended to by the time of the newsletter please contact Peter again.*

*In regard to e-mails, please make sure the inquiry has a specific subject, or includes if possible the letters ACC. General e-mails with a subject hello, or re: or similar or have no subject may be deleted before reading. Earlier in the year, the e-mail address had up to 400 spam e-mails a day and while this is now reduced to 40-50, it can take time to even check these and occasionally a real inquiry may be missed.*

**Board of Management Oversight Role:** The National Council approved the devolution of operational and management processes of the ACC to the Board of Administration and Finance in order to allow the National Council will concentrate on the development of the strategic directions of the ACC.

**Social Responsibility Commission:** The National Council approved a paper: 'The Church's Social Responsibility'. Arrangements for publication and distribution will be advised.

**Ecumenical Commission:** Letters and copies of the magazine will be sent to a range of denominations and similar reform groups (in overseas countries) in order to provide an update about the development of the ACC.

#### **Cross Cultural Commission**

The CCC met in late June, and now has people involved from eight ethnic groups within eleven different UCA congregations in Australia (including corresponding members). The commission is working hard to make contact with leaders, and help migrant-ethnic communities in the UCA to realise the need to support the ACC to help their own mission and ministry within the UCA.

#### **New Website**

The frame outline for the new website has been completed by Tyssen Design and material is now being arranged for inclusion.

**Ministry Help.** The National Council agreed to commend Rod James and Gil Cann as suitable people to represent the ACC and encourages congregations, groups and clusters to financially support their work

**Next Meeting:** The Council agreed that it would be helpful to have a face to face meeting before the November Annual Meeting with council members and Commission and Board representatives. This will be held in Sydney: 12 noon Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October until 5 pm Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

---

### 3. ACC Magazine - Catalyst

It is pleasing to report that the first issue of ACCatalyst has been well received.

5 500 copies were ordered and nearly all have been distributed as follows:

*1 700 to member congregations – note if your congregation has not contributed financial support to the ACC yet, only 1 copy was sent unless you had advised the office of numbers required and contributions.*

*600 to ACC supporting members.*

*800 to RA members*

*1200 to Queensland for special mailings in their Synod*

*500 to SA for a special mailing in their Synod*

*100 to ACC Tonga for distribution*

*100 extras through requests and individuals asking for sample copies.*

A further 1000 copies have now been ordered. If you would like extra copies please contact the office. At present there is no individual price, and people have been requested to make a donation (the ACC is grateful for the generosity of members).

---

### 4. Engaging with Islam material

Islam has become an important worldview to respond to. Even if you don't know a Muslim you may be asked questions about Islam, or have questions yourself. Samuel Green has put together **Engaging With Islam**, an informative and easy-to-run course, which aims to help Christians. Members who have received the leaflet and advice about this material distributed by the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students, would have noted it is only available by order through their website: <http://www.afes.org.au/publications.html> or <http://www.engaging-with-islam.info/>

**Cost for the course: \$25 for DVD + workbook** (not including postage)

**Koorong Books** are also distributing and have many stores throughout Australia. They arrange mail order by phone. It is not possible to list all the stores here, but you would be able to find out the details in your local directory.

---

### 5. Federal Election 2007: Make it Count.

The Australian Christian Lobby has organised a webcast night with Prime Minister John Howard and Opposition Leader Kevin Rudd on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> August: 7 pm – 9.30 pm (EST). 6.30 for non EST, and delayed time for WA. The event itself will be held at the National Press Club in Canberra before a representative group of church and para-church leaders. Many churches have already registered as centres for the webcast, and while most churches would not have the technical requirements to be able to host a local event, you can look up the list of churches hosting and consider attending yourself: <http://www.australiavotes.org/>

---