

e-newsletter - August 2009

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Australian theological education: the covers are lifted

Uncovering Theology launched at ANZATS Conference

Uncovering Theology: the depth, reach and utility of Australian theological education was launched at the ANZATS conference on July 7, 2009. It is issued by ATF Press, the leading publisher of theological research in Australasia.

The book is the result of a project on which the Revd Dr Charles Sherlock has been working from January 2008 to June 2009, 'scoping' the Australian theology sector for the first time.

Dr Sherlock has been engaged in theological education for some four decades, notably as Senior Lecturer at Ridley College and later at Trinity College, Melbourne, teaching Theology and Liturgy, alongside active involvements in the Anglican church, and in ecumenical theological work. Charles was Registrar and Director of Ministry Studies of the *Melbourne College of Divinity* 2003-2007. He currently ministers in the Anglican Diocese of Bendigo, and as Executive Officer of ANZATS.

The *Uncovering Theology* project, funded by the *Australian Teaching & Learning Council*, was overseen by a Project Team chaired by Dr Mark Harding and Professor Neil Ormerod (ACU). The other members were Dr Robert McIver (Avondale) and Associate Professor Gerard Moore (SCD).

The book "marks the emergence of theological education as a part of the mainstream of Australian higher education landscape," write the project's co-chairs, Dr Mark Harding and Professor Neil Ormerod. "It will shape the future of the discipline."



Dr Mark Harding (Project co-chair), Dr Charles Sherlock (author), Professor Gabrielle McMullen and Dr Robert McIver (Project team) after the launch at the ANZATS Conference.

Launching the book, Professor Gabrielle McMullen FRACI (Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic) ACU) noted three themes in its pages.

First, "the spirit of recognition and respect for the traditions" of the various churches is evident. "Such theological ecumenism is linked to spiritual ecumenism, the very heart of ecumenism," she said. This dialogue, cooperation and

collaboration become 'an exchange of gifts' (as John-Paul II put it in *Ut Unum Sint*). "This publication provides rich detail of this exchange between institutions from different traditions."

Secondly, faith: "faith in Jesus Christ as the answer to the question that is every human life." Professor McMullen cited Neil Brown in saying, "far from being easy, reflective faith is often more a tumultuous sea than a calm lake".

"The third theme is that of service," she noted, as exemplified in the life and ministry of Jesus. *Uncovering Theology* "expresses this principle powerfully," she stated, citing from the book (pages 196-7):

Theology graduates in professional ministries serve local communities across the nation, seeking to discern, respond to and demonstrate the love of God shown in the depths and

Continued on page 2

Your secretary writes ...

Welcome to another ANZATS Newsletter! As always, please share it round with your faculty and students.

2009 Conference: 'Come Holy Spirit!'

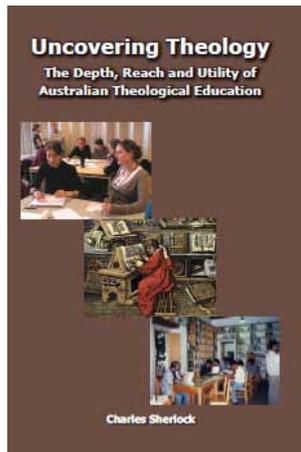
The ANZATS Conference at the *Australian Lutheran College* engaged the 98 participants in four days of concentrated reflection the Holy Spirit - and just about every other topic in theology, given the range of members' papers! ALC were wonderful hosts: that every paper and plenary ran to time speaks loudly of their care in planning, and care for participants. Thank you to Peter Lockwood and the committee, drawn from ALC and Adelaide College of Divinity / Flinders University faculty.

Unfortunately, for health reasons the main speaker, Prof Max Turner, was unable to come from London. I am glad to report that hospital care has enabled him to begin to recover health. Denis Edwards filled his first plenary spot with a stimulating, thorough and challenging presentation

Uncovering Theology launched

continued from page 1

heights of human existence. The many graduates not employed by the churches or church agencies find their theological learning shapes and informs their Christian worldview, equipping them for their work, political engagement and social relationships ... By its own nature, theological education ... entails ongoing reflection on the nature and meaning of community identity and service.



"Australian theological education is long-established," Professor McMullen continued. "It is an 'academically robust and distinctive dimension of higher education' (*Uncovering Theology* page 14), making a significant and unique contribution to the Australian sector."

She concluded her address by noting a "further dimension to theological education, and as the report concludes so powerfully, Australian theological institutions

continue to set their priorities by seeking to discern and follow the purposes of God, as revealed in Jesus Christ, not only for the sake of the churches, but for humankind in all its diversities, and the whole created cosmos."

Dr Sherlock responded by expressing his delight that what he saw as a 'dry' book was read as a work of theology. "I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to work on such a project, allowing me to pull together four decades in theological education," he concluded.

Uncovering Theology is being sent to theological institutions and library in Australia, church leaders and selected government and higher education authorities. ANZATS members are encouraged to buy further copies for key faculty and Board members. For further information go to www.atfpress.com > 'Books' > 'Uncovering Theology'.

on divine action in the world. Stephen Haar (ALC) took on the mammoth task of editing Max Turner's draft of his second paper for presentation, with lively responses. Vicki Balabanski, Helen Bergin and Rick Strelan gave sparkling plenary presentations. A feature of the plenaries was how speakers worked closely and creatively with the scriptures.



Conference Scholars

Two scholarships were awarded to theological students - Daniel Ang (Catholic Institute of Sydney, MDiv) and Adam Dodd (University of Otago, PhD). Daniel writes,

The 2009 ANZATS Conference provided an enriching and stimulating experience of contemporary Christian theology in the Asia-Pacific. The plenary and concurrent sessions provided insight into the breadth and depth of contemporary theological thinking, and I was deeply impressed by the rigorous research, dynamism of conversation and shared commitment to discern and articulate the movement and calling of the Spirit in various contexts of Christian community and ministerial life.

The issues of hermeneutics, cosmos and creation, worship and mission loomed large throughout the gathering, and the event has supported and further energised my own thinking on a number of fronts, particularly in reflection on the interplay of contextual theologies and classical Christian philosophy. Sincere thanks to ANZATS and the organising committee.

Adam Dodds made the following comment:

I found many of the presentations stimulating, and particularly enjoyed getting to know other theological and biblical scholars from around Australia and New Zealand, including from traditions and institutions different to my own. Two outcomes I am particularly grateful for:

First, I am appreciative of the opportunity to present part of my doctoral research and greatly valued the constructive feedback from the scholars present and the ongoing discussion it generated. Being able to test one's ideas in a more public setting as theologically broad as ANZATS is quite invaluable.

Second, through the conference I met scholars from universities and colleges across Australia and New Zealand and learned much about the number, range and type of institutions that exist. This is most useful as I approach the end of my doctorate and am looking for a lecturing position, for I was previously quite uninformed about the Australian theological landscape. Furthermore, since ANZATS I have already been in touch with a number of conference participants and so look forward to the ongoing theological conversation.

Papers from the conference will be appearing in *Colloquium*, the *Lutheran Journal* and other journals.

Next year's conference will be in Melbourne, July 7-9, on the theme 'The Future of God' - read about it inside!

New ANZATS member schools

ANZATS welcomes two new members: the *Worldview Centre for Intercultural Studies* (Tasmania), which I visited in February, and the School of Theology, Faculty of Theology & Philosophy, Australian Catholic University, so supportive of the *Uncovering Theology* project. We look forward to all they offer.

Charles Sherlock

The Tertiary Quality & Standards Agency (TEQSA)

- what do we know at present?

Theological institutions' submissions to the Bradley Review of Higher Education noted the many complexities in dealing with the network of state accreditation agencies - welcome as their introduction had been in the 1970s.

The Review has recommended the establishment of a national body, to integrate both the 'quality assurance' role of AUQA (and the few state agencies which have emerged very recently) and also 'standards', i.e. accreditation, currently under much public discussion following the closure of some HEPs catering for overseas students.

How all this will work out is not yet fully clear: the next article in this *Newsletter* includes AUQA's plans for the next 18 months: the following DEEWR piece gives more details.

Charles Sherlock

* * *

A DEEWR Fact Sheet

The Rudd Government will allocate \$57 million over four years to establish a new national body for regulation and quality assurance.

The *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency* (TEQSA) will oversee the development of strengthened quality assurance arrangements and protect the overall quality of the Australian higher education system. It will accredit providers, evaluate the performance of institutions and programs, encourage best practice, de-clutter current regulatory arrangements and provide greater national consistency.

In a period of expansion, when higher education institutions are attracting students who have not traditionally considered going to university and student choices are linked to funding, institutions will be required to demonstrate that their graduates have the capabilities that are required for successful engagement in today's complex world.

The current regulatory environment for higher education is complex and fractured, with different states and territories all implementing arrangements in varying ways. This creates inefficiencies and risks leading to under-performance.

A national approach to regulation and quality assurance will mean Australia's knowledge and skills needs can be met in a more efficient and transparent way, enabling higher education providers to focus on what they do best - providing quality higher education.

Benefits

The new agency will balance the move towards a more student-centred funding model, ensuring that increased participation will be accompanied by improvements in the quality of university teaching and learning.

- Domestic and international students will benefit from improved information about the performance of higher education providers, helping them make informed decisions about what and where they will study.

- Higher Education Providers will benefit from being able to more clearly demonstrate students' academic performance and document what students learn, know and can do. Providers will also benefit from being able to operate in a more streamlined regulatory environment.
- Employers will have greater confidence that graduates are well prepared for the global knowledge economy.
- Taxpayers will be able to see that value for money is being delivered and the national interest is well served.

Australia will have a new quality and regulatory agency with real powers to work with the tertiary education sector to lift standards and address underperformance.

TEQSA will be established in 2010. From 2011, TEQSA will build on the strong foundation established by the *Australian Universities Quality Agency* (AUQA) and operate with an extended brief. Higher Education Providers will be evaluated every five years or whenever an evaluation is considered necessary to address an unacceptably high level of risk to quality or viability.

A range of sanctions, proportionate to identified deficiencies, will be available for Higher Education Providers that do not measure up against standards.

As well as institution-specific audits, the new agency will carry out audits that focus on particular areas of risk for the higher education system, such as providers operating in a particular geographic region or offering a particular program of study.

TEQSA will build its capacity over the medium term with the aim of expanding to cover the entire tertiary sector from 2013.

Next steps

The Government will work closely with states, territories and the higher education sector in relation to the development of the new agency and the new quality assurance framework. These discussions will take place during 2009 and beyond.

Responsibility for quality assurance in higher education is currently shared between the Commonwealth Government, States and Territories, and the new arrangements will require the involvement of the newly created *Ministerial Council for Tertiary Education and Employment* (MCTEE).

The agency will be established under its own legislation and the Government expects to introduce legislation in the 2010 autumn sittings of parliament.

The Government will facilitate consultation with the academic community and other key stakeholders to develop the new quality assurance framework, including the development of academic standards.

Website: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/HigherEducation/Pages/TransformingAustraliasHESystem.aspx>

[Taken from the *AUQAademic Auditor* Issue 30 - May 2009]

AUQA 2009 – some observations

Charles Sherlock

The annual AUQA Auditors' meeting took place in Alice Springs from Tuesday evening to Wednesday evening June 30 – July 1. It segued into the AUQA Forum until Friday July 3, at which I made a presentation on 'Australian Theological Education: Issues for the AUQA Audit Process' arising from the *Uncovering Theology* project.

The following report seeks to draw out some major themes which I believe are relevant to the work of ANZATS.

Standards and Quality

The major issue raised was 'standards'. This term has been gradually creeping into discussion about higher education in the last 3-4 years, and has become associated with 'ranking' and 'league tables'. Such notions are strongly resisted by the universities, who see them as quantitative measures which give a false view of a HEP overall. The Bradley Report, however, recommends that 'academic standards' be taken into account more explicitly in higher education in the future, alongside a commitment to greater 'social inclusion' of disadvantaged students.

In the Non Self-Accrediting Institution world, the process of registration, accreditation and re-accreditation has become familiar: undertaken by nine separate state / territory Government Accreditation Agencies (GAAs), it is very much a 'stick' approach. The process of 'quality assurance' (AUQA's business, along with some state agencies) applies across SAI and NSAI higher education, and has a quite different feel, being more of a 'carrot' approach (though it has some 'stick' implications where an imbalance of Recommendations characterizes an AUQA Report).

NSAI people at the Forum were as wary of a 'standards' approach as the universities, while noting that having to prepare very similar submissions for accreditation and AUQA entails unnecessary repetition. My conclusion from discussion was that accreditation needed to be kept under watch at the *institutional* level, but that *course* initiation and review should become an internal matter, as quality assurance processes become instinctive across the whole of Australian higher education.

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA)

One certainty is that TEQSA is the body which will have oversight of HE from 2011, bringing accreditation and quality assurance together.

How TEQSA will relate to the present state / territory agencies is not yet worked out, but AUQA's review of all GAAs in 2010 will have an impact: three audit Panels will look at NSW, Queensland and Victoria in the same week, then the same panels will look at the ACT / Commonwealth, WA / NT and SA / Tasmania agencies respectively. The final Report will deal both with each GAA and also with the group as a whole.

To assist discussion of these issues, AUQA in May issued a paper on academic standards (circulated earlier to ANZATS

members) which some (to my mind, over-sensitive) university people criticized as implying that AUQA had already 'given in' over standards. David Woodhouse (AUQA Director) replied by indicating that AUQA was simply trying to lead the game on the topic, and stimulate response from the sector, rather than allow it to develop too far without scrutiny. David made the important point that the National Protocols – now in place – set the 'standards' *framework* for higher education, while quality assurance was about their ongoing *implementation*.

At the Forum we heard two excellent plenary papers on standards, from Prof Roger Brown (Liverpool Hope, UK) and Prof Chris Brink (Newcastle UK). The latter presentation was brilliant – Brink trained initially as a philosopher / mathematician, and his grasp of detail and ability to communicate complex notions very clearly was superb. Both papers are available from the AUQA website (www.auqa.edu.au) and would be well worth while sharing with faculty and member of governing bodies.

Quality, standards - and being a university

Brink made the seemingly simple point that 'quality' is our response to the question, 'is it good?' (and could be answered in several ways), while 'standards' is our response to the question, 'is it good enough?' (drawing a nice recall by one person of 'and the man that holds his own is good enough' from *The Man from Snowy River!*).

In his address, Brinks observed that by 'university' he meant a body which undertook

- *research* (the exploration of knowledge),
- *teaching* (transferring knowledge) and
- *civic engagement* (knowing the point of the new and transferred knowledge).

I found this characterisation helpful, especially on civic engagement. When asked how 'quality assurance' could be conducted here, Brinks noted the importance of engaging with professional bodies (the 'higher skills agenda'), industry and business (addressing 'long-term economic benefits') and taking care with the corporate responsibility profile (facing issues such as sustainability, migration, charities – inputs which enable a university to contribute to a better society).

A question which occurred to me was, 'What questions would an AUQA audit of ANZATS pose for us?' What processes of quality assurance do we have now? What ought we to have?

Indigenous perspectives

Being in Alice Springs, opportunity was taken to bring some focus on the way indigenous perspectives bear upon higher education. This gave a particular way of addressing the 'social inclusion' Bradley Report recommendation, and its specific reference to indigenous education.

A very informative plenary panel on Friday morning included impressive presentations from an indigenous student, staff member and vice-chancellor. What came across strongly was the importance of allowing an indigenous world-view to engage with a 'western' (presumed to be 'secular') one,

AUQA 2009 - some observations

rather than 'do', ie formative learning; and being oriented to communal relationships more than individualism. All of which is very like what theological education seeks to offer!

More broadly, the importance of taking our Australian context 'across the curriculum' was stressed, in particular the 'first peoples' heritage which all share. Further, we must avoid a 'generic' Aboriginality approach, but be specific about particular peoples, places and language groups.

I spoke with a Newcastle academic who in a presentation addressed the particularities of what happened when this approach is brought into a university curriculum. She spoke of the unexpected pressures which racist attitudes from students brought upon indigenous lecturers (in any discipline). This has some parallels with my own experience of coming under pressure from students who perceive a theological teacher as threatening their Christian identity. She warmly supported my contention that good higher education will not set aside worldview commitments, but will be open about these (e.g. a public university's commitment to social justice) and so enable more effective 'civic engagement'.

Private Higher Education

There was a disproportionate number of people from private higher education bodies at both meetings - understandable, since these are much smaller institutions than the universities, and are nearly all NSAI, and so face greater 'risks' from an AUQA audit. However, I found the general 'ethos' presented by their vocal representatives to be depressingly 'market'-driven (well beyond appropriate responses to changing demand for learning).

I came away somewhat disconcerted by the image given of private higher education by the (non-theological education) practitioners whose voices were heard in both meetings. ANZATS needs to be careful in the way that it presents the contribution which private theological education can make to higher education in Australia, and how this relates to some organizations in the private sector.

NSAI Audits

Karen Treloar (AUQA Audit Director responsible for NSAI audits) gave an interesting presentation to the Auditors, and also a pre-Forum workshop, on the 15 NSAI audits conducted thus far. These started with the ACTh 'pilot' audit in 2006, and have since covered Moore, Avondale, Tabor NSW and the SCD (audit visit just completed), with Wesley to be audited later this year.

Karen noted the following main points:

- there were 3898 EFTSL in the Theology bodies audited, covering 6970 people ('others' involved 4028 / 6610 EFTSL / students);
- all NSAI audits have been very positive not only about the audit, but the overall process of preparation, audit and follow-up, as providing invaluable input on sustained quality improvement;
- most NSAI are also RTOs (ie VET as well as HEPs), and at least half have SAI aspirations; FEE-HELP coverage ranges from 30 - 70% in Theology, averaging 51%.
- major issues for NSAI are the streamlining of regulation, and the costs of doing business;
- NSAI staff are highly committed, many are sessional industry-based teachers, there is a fast staff turnover, and staff development and scholarship are under development;
- NSAI are building a continuous quality improvement culture slowly, while understanding is growing as to what it means to be a HEP;
- major issues for AUQA are the relation of corporate and academic governance (Academic Boards must be independent of the governing body), the need for best practice models, the quality of external representation on Boards / Councils, and the low use of data by NSAI.

An NSAI Academic Roundtable held in May 2008 had been useful, she reported, and the NSW DET was developing guidelines for NSAI. A formal review of NSAI audits would take place in late 2009 (as had happened for SAI earlier this year, which was reported to Auditors), and an NSAI Academic Governance Forum is proposed for 2010.

Conclusion

As with my previous experience of AUQA Fora, I found this to be an engaging and educative three days. The opportunity for networking with a wider range of people from Australian higher education is a further large benefit, closely related to the work of ANZATS.

I would strongly encourage theology HEPs to continue to send not only staff concerned with quality assurance, but also academics with an interest in good teaching, to participate in the annual AUQA Forum.

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ANZATS Annual General Meeting

The 2009 AGM was held on July 7 during the Adelaide conference. The meeting agreed to approve the draft Constitution, empowered the Council to seek incorporation, received Reports from the President, the Executive Officer and each State (printed elsewhere in this Newsletter) and noted the 2008 accounts. The AGM elected the following Council, in accord with the new Constitution (which is available on the website):

ANZATS Council 2009

President: Dr Robert McIver

Vice-President: The Revd Assoc Prof Gerard Kelly

Vice-President (New Zealand):

The Revd Prof Paul Trebilco

Members:

Dr Paul Beirne (Vic)
The Revd Dr John Capper (Vic)
The Revd Dr Mark Harding (NSW)
The Revd Dr Brian Harris (WA)
The Revd John Henderson (SA)
The Revd Dr David Pascoe (Qld)
The Revd Dr Brian Powell (NSW)
Dr Dianne Speed (NSW)

Executive Officer / Secretary / Treasurer:

The Revd Dr Charles Sherlock

The Australasian Religion Index (ARI)

- ♦ is an author and subject index covering over eighty religious and theological serials published in Australia or New Zealand, many of which are not indexed in any other index database
- ♦ indexes articles, notes and book reviews in religious studies and related fields
- ♦ is indexed and edited by members of the Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association Limited (ANZTLA Ltd)
- ♦ began publishing in 1989. In 2008, the database became available as an online resource
- ♦ the online version contains the full contents of ARI from v.1 (1989) to the present.

For a list of serials indexed, visit ARI's website:

http://www.anztla.org/Serials_indexed.htm

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"This resource is highly recommended for every library supporting research in religion or theology"

- Daniel Kolb. Theological Librarianship, Vol 1, No 2 (2008)

ANZATS Regional Reports – 2008

New Zealand (Paul Trebilco)

Distance Education conference

The Annual Meeting of NZATS was held on June 26-27th, at Laidlaw College, Auckland. As well as reports from Colleges, and the business of an AGM, we normally focus on a theme. Since virtually all of our Colleges are involved in distance education in one way or another, we asked three people to lead our discussions on different facets of this topic. The three sessions were “Transformational education in theology at a distance” (Mark Nichols, Laidlaw College); “Institutions, infrastructure and integration: Developing sustainable eLearning, online and distance programmes in theological education” (Dr Stephen Garner, University of Auckland) and “Formation at a distance: Issues and potential solutions” (Ruth Smith, Bethlehem Tertiary Institute).

Carey Baptist College has appointed Laurie Guy as Interim Principal; Paul Windsor has become a Vice-President for Preaching of the Langham Partnership.

The Catholic Institute of Theology ended 2008 with substantially reduced staff due to retirements. They have not replaced any staff, although a close association remains with those who have retired: so Pa Henare Tate taught a summer school in *Maori Theology* for the School of Theology in January 2009 and Neil Darragh is teaching *The Theology of Sacraments* as an MRelEd course in July 2009.

The Department of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Otago had a slight drop in student numbers in 2009, to 185 EFTSL. There has been an encouraging increase for PhD and Masters by thesis students, who now total 40. The Department was reviewed in November 2008 with the Report released in February 2009; the Department is considering its recommendations. Work continues on developing the New Zealand Centre for the Study of Islam and Muslim Cultures which will be co-hosted by the University of Otago and Victoria University of Wellington. Associate Professor Murray Rae will become Head of Department in July, at the conclusion of Professor Paul Trebilco's term as Head.

Good Shepherd College (CIS / SCD) begins teaching a Graduate Diploma in 2009. This year they have 73 students enrolled, well up on last year: 29 distance and 44 face-to-face students; 44 doing the Bachelor of Theology degree and 27 students the Graduate Diploma. Staff are gradually increasing the number of courses on line each semester.

Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership has completed its transition from the School of Ministry. After being short staffed through 2008 it has welcomed Jason Goroncy and Mark Johnston as new faculty, the latter being the first Auckland Dean. Student numbers have begun to increase, and 2010 will see the highest number of ordinands commencing formation for some time. Knox continues to work with others in providing foundation theology degrees. A multi-million dollar refit of the Hewitson wing has commenced, and the Centre continues to develop new courses and seminars to provide ongoing ministry development for the church.

Laidlaw College, changed its name from the Bible College of New Zealand in August 2008, after a well-known NZ businessman. It is moving towards a 'workplace' focus and more general tertiary Christian institution (education and counselling as well as missions). Laidlaw has incorporated the *Masters Institute*, as its School of Education, offering the Bachelor of Teaching and Worldview Studies. The College is in the process of applying to the NZ Qualifications Authority for accreditation of a Bachelor of Counselling degree.

The College of St John the Evangelist embraces the College of the Southern Cross, Te Rau Kahikatea and the College of the Diocese of Polynesia. The Revd David Jeans finished his term as Southern Cross Dean in 2008 and the Revd Jim White begins as Dean at the beginning of 2009.

The School of Theology, University of Auckland will be renewing its Memorandum of Agreement this year. The School has approximately 100 EFTSL and in 2010 will transition into becoming a School within the Faculty of Arts. Professor Elaine Wainwright is on a year's research leave and the Revd Dr Mary Caygill is Acting Head of School. Dr Nicholas Thompson joins the faculty in July 2009.

Trinity Methodist College has a new Principal, the Revd Dr David Bell. The Council has written a three-year Strategic Plan, 2009-2011, which provides a framework in which the College will operate “to keep the Spirit Aflame”. It concentrates on ministry formation and development, cooperative links, support provisions and infrastructure.

Bishopdale Theological College continues to develop its programs, teaching a Diploma of Biblical Studies, Bachelor of Theology and Bachelor of Ministries in conjunction with Laidlaw: there are 12 full time and 11 part time students.

The ANZATS Council was also informed that the Anglican bishop has closed Theology House in Christchurch.

New South Wales

Two NSW providers of theological education were audited by AUQA in 2008 - Moore Theological College (July) and Avondale College (October): the audit reports are on the AUQA website (www.auqa.edu.au). Three more NSW theology providers are to be audited in 2009—Tabor NSW, the Sydney College of Divinity and Wesley Institute.

The Australian College of Theology

Report from Dr Mark Harding, Dean

The ACTh has completed its reform of corporate and academic governance. During the latter half of 2008 it had the great benefit of the wisdom and advice of an external governance consultant, Dr Anne Cusick (the Provost of the University of Western Sydney) for the setting up of its Academic Board and its standing committees.

The College appointed an Associate Dean, the Revd Dr Graeme Chatfield, in September 2008. His responsibilities mostly focus on fostering research across the ACTh's affiliated colleges, and assisting the Dean in the preparation of the application for self-accreditation.

Student enrolments in the 2008 academic year held at their 2007 levels. Pleasingly, some younger members of academic staff are being employed at affiliated colleges. Research load and output – all without the benefit of the external government funding that flows to self-accrediting institutions – remain at pleasingly high levels.

The Bradley Review and its recommendations are supportive of the private sector, especially with respect to the learning entitlement and the proposed *Tertiary Quality and Standards Agency*. As well as making contributions to the Bradley Review, several NSW theology HEPs also made submissions to the Senate enquiry into academic freedom. The ACTh published a paper on this by Professor Dr Neil Ormerod (ACU) in its Occasional Papers series in December 2008.

Morling College

Report from Brian Powell

During 2008 Morling continued to teach theology as a member institute of the ACTh, from Certificate through to doctorate level. Numbers in theological studies were steady, with distance studies being the main growth area.

A 'gap year' Certificate 4 level course began in association with Vose Seminary (WA). We continue to offer courses accredited by NSW DET in counselling (on campus) and teaching (by distance). During 2008 Morling was in the process of having new awards accredited in each of these areas (MCouns and GradDip/MTeach).

ANZATS Regional Reports – 2008 (ctd)

Victoria and Tasmania (John Capper)

Bible College of Victoria

Report from Delle Matthews (based on ACTh 2008 Report)

8.6 FTE English faculty, 3 in Chinese faculty) plus numerous casual faculty at two campuses – Lilydale (English language) and Burwood (Chinese language).

Teaching: there has been some increase in units offered by distance, with less units taken; a unit was successfully offered in the Melbourne CBD, and BCV is considering offering a unit with a major Singapore church.

Governance: unchanged in form, some changes in its composition.

Enrolments: there has been a slow rise over recent years, but drops in most sectors this year:

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Commencing students	118	120	107	101
Continuing students	160	147	180	153
Total	278	267	287	254
Graduating students		65	70	68
<i>Students by course level:</i>				
Certificate IV	39	30	25	21
ACMA	41	39	33	16
Undergraduate	76	72	75	67
Graduate	90	95	105	101
Postgraduate	39	31	49	47
Total	285	267	287	252
Distance unit enrolments	111	110	82	70
Audit Enrolments			42	24

Centre for Theology and Ministry

(UCA Synod of Victoria & Tasmania - UFT)

Report by Randall Prior (Principal)

2008 was the second full year of the College's integration into the Synod's Centre for Theology and Ministry (CTM). While the Theological College retains its own identity, it is assumed into a 'Ministerial Education' unit which sits alongside a partner unit, 'Discipleship Education'. The two units are co-operatively responsible for the whole spectrum of education for ministry.

This second year in the new Centre has led us beyond the *honeymoon period* and provided opportunity to identify both advantages and challenges about our life together in the Centre. No-one doubts the great benefits of being in the new Centre, but there are questions around the nature of our common life and the extent to which we can work as a single community across our diversity.

Personnel

Exec Director [CTM] Alistair Macrae (to June),
 Jenny Byrnes (from July)

Principal, Ministry Studies and Missiology
 Randall Prior

Worship and Preaching Garry Deverell

Continuing Education Sharon Hollis

Church History Katharine Massam

Systematic Theology, Deputy Principal
 Chris Mostert

Dean / Field Education Barbara Spencer

Old Testament Howard Wallace

New Testament Sean Winter

Executive Director: following the decision of the 2006 Assembly, the Revd Alistair Macrae will leave the CTM in the middle of this year. The Revd Dr Jenny Byrnes has been appointed to replace Alistair; she begins in July 2009. Faculty looks forward to working with Jenny as she makes her own contribution to the CTM.

We farewelled Robert Gribben at the end of 2008 after 11 years of teaching Worship and Mission. His contribution to the College, Synod and Assembly of the UCA and internationally, was acknowledged with gratitude. Robert's position (now titled 'Professor of Worship and Preaching') has been taken up by the Revd Dr Garry Deverell, a young scholar and Minister of the Uniting Church who did his PhD on sacraments and formation, published in 2008 as *'The Bonds of Freedom'*. Garry's preparation for publication was supported by a Sanderson Fellowship at the College in 2007.

The Rev Dr Sean Winter, an ordained Minister of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, was the successful applicant for the position of Professor of New Testament Studies. He arrived with his wife and two young girls in January to take up his appointment. In his early 40s, Sean has an impressive academic background and wide exposure to church life and leadership.

The arrival of these two faculty has brought a renewed sense of energy into the community. That one has indigenous Australian heritage and the other is from a different country and church tradition adds even more to the significance of these two appointments. Both positions were revised to provide for a conscious commitment to serve as teachers of the wider church, and to be proficient in online pedagogy.

Research and publications

The faculty continues to give a high priority to research activity, leading to publications of substance. In December, coinciding with his retirement, Robert Gribben published his book on the Great Prayers of Thanksgiving in the Eucharist liturgy of the Uniting Church; Katharine Massam is scheduled in May to complete her monograph in Church History on the Spanish Benedictine Community in New Norcia, WA, and Howard Wallace has almost completed his commentary on the Psalms. Chris Mostert is on study leave in Cambridge and is working on a publication on the eschatological nature of the church. Randall Prior has study leave in 2009, being spent mainly in the United States.

The Dalton-McCaughey Library now has its home in the newly constructed four-storey building as part of the CTM. The library, jointly owned by the UCA and the Jesuit order, is a major attraction for scholars within and beyond Australia.

Teaching (in line with *Ministry Education Commission* requirements)

Faculty teach in each of the traditional theological disciplines for the BTheol and MDiv. Candidates complete majors in Biblical Studies and sub-majors or majors in Systematic Theology, Church History and Practical Theology. Each year a number complete postgraduate coursework degrees or diplomas as they add the core requirements to their other studies. The faculty continues to supervise doctoral and masters students from within and beyond the UCA in both research and professional streams.

The Diploma of Ministry program (taught on Fridays as part of our Formation Day) has been opened up to leaders from the wider church. We are pleased to say that this opportunity is being taken up by non-ordinands, and this semester there are nine extra people in our Friday community.

Enrolments

a) *Ministry of the Word candidates* 2009: 14 (10 women, 4 men), including three part-time, one temporarily deferred and another studying in Germany. Two of these are expected to exit in 2009, four in 2010, five in 2011, three uncertain.

b) *Ministry of Deacon candidates* 2009: one man and one woman, expected to exit in 2009.

c) *Ministry Intern Phase:* 4 candidates completed the Ordinand course in 2008. With two who have been engaged in post-graduate study, six have recently entered intern ministry.

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d) *Reception of Minister referrals*: a number of referrals are required to fulfil various commitments at the College.

e) *Transition candidates*: following the Assembly's decision to re-order the ministries of the Church, providing for people in specified ministries to apply for ordination as MoW or MoD, the first group of 14 transition people (12 women and 2 men) concluded College requirements for ordination. Three more women are making the transition to MoW.

f) The College is providing significant scholarship support for post-graduate studies to its graduates.

All candidates are required to undertake spiritual direction.

Changes

The merger of the two existing and separate committees (Formation and Studies) into the one *Formation Committee* has been an important step and continues to support better integration of all aspects of preparation for ordained ministry.

The decision to make the *Coordinator of Continuing Education* a member of the Faculty has been fruitful in providing better connections between the College and the wider church.

The past twelve months has seen the consolidation of the e-journal *Conversations* which the Faculty launched during 2007, and the creation of our own *Uniting Academic Press*, whose inaugural publication was the book by Robert Gribben. Several other works, including a memorial publication to honour the Rev John Paver, are in the pipeline.

The *Scholar on the Road* program is now in its sixth year and continues to be popular with presbyteries. All faculty offer teaching topics available for presbyteries and other groups.

As part of the College's commitment to supporting young scholars, two *Sanderson Fellows*, Ji Zhang and Stephen Ames, were appointed for 2008-9. Both scholars have recently completed their appointments, enriching our community life through seminars and informal conversation. Each expects to publish from the research undertaken in 2009.

A bequest allows the appointment of a *Northey lecturer*; this year, Elsie McKee, a Reformation Scholar from Princeton Theological Seminary, is leading a week-long celebration in August of the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth. For the second consecutive year a teacher of theology from the *South Pacific* is taking study leave at the College as a way of developing their teaching and research: Pastor Selerik Michel teaches Pastoral Theology at the Ministry Training Centre in Vanuatu, and spent semester one '09 with us.

Online education: there has been further growth in online teaching, via UFT Theology Online. Competence in this mode is becoming a normal requirement for all teachers: the CTM is appointing a part-time person to equip personnel with skills and the CTM with material support.

Exploratory conversations are taking place about cooperation with Trinity College (Anglican) in the provision of the DipMin and Advanced DipMin program for candidates.

Trinity College Theological School (Anglican - UFT)

Report by Tim Gaden, Dean

Student numbers continue to be strong in the formation programme (50+): teaching for MCD degrees takes place with the UFT, including the extensive Online programme. The current big issues include changes in denominational identity, and engaging with 'fresh expressions' and emerging forms of church.

The United Faculty of Theology (UFT)

Report from Peter Sherlock, Dean

The UFT marks its 40th anniversary this year. It comprises three equal partners: the UCA Theological College, the Jesuit Theological College, and Trinity College Theological School,

who have covenanted since 1969 to teach each other's students free of charge. There are over 300 students in the UFT this year, 80% of whom are independent (non-ordinand) students.

A new Dean, Dr Peter Sherlock, a research historian at Melbourne University, began in June 2008, and is giving significant academic leadership to the UFT.

The UFT is one of a number of Recognised Teaching Institutions of the MCD. Increasingly, in part due to its being a Higher Education Provider, MCD requirements demand more time and attention by the UFT, both administratively and in matters of quality control.

Reformed Theological College (Geelong)

Report by Murray Capill

We are working toward the implementation of a second ministry training track alongside our existing model of four years' on-campus study. The new model seeks to interface RTC study with church-based training.

Geelong ministry

The trend toward more local training is a difficulty for us in terms of training people from Reformed churches around Australia, however it is potentially an advantage in Geelong itself. Geelong has no other Bible college, though various attempts have been made to establish training ministries. Already about half our students come from local Geelong churches, and there is, it seems, growing interest in the RTC by local churches. We have sought to network more closely with churches over the last couple of years and we hope at the beginning of 2010 to launch a new ministry more focused on the Geelong and Western Victoria church scene. We see this as a great opportunity to offer biblical and theological training to local churches.

Revised Core Values

The RTC Board has adopted a new set of Core Values, which clarify the kind of emphases we want to pursue. In some regards they are more aspirational than actual – they set a direction, anchored in an unwavering commitment to confessionally Reformed theology. That is not up for grabs. If anything, we want to strengthen our allegiance to Reformed theology because we fear that in a renewed passion for spreading the gospel, churches may become overly pragmatic and forget the rich theological heritage foundational to the gospel that has been passed on to us.

The core values seek to see that heritage shape a mission-focused training that is academically substantial, strongly connected to the local church, relevant to contemporary culture and concerned with the formation of godly as well as knowledgeable and skilled pastors and church leaders. To effect this, the new core values have been accompanied by an ongoing action plan that is setting the pace for us in making these values real in the life of the RTC.

Spiritual formation

The last core value concerns the importance of spiritual alongside academic formation. We are seeking to place a more overt emphasis on this to ensure that graduates from the College have not just grown in their knowledge of God and his Word, but have grown in their relationship with God through Christ, and are sensitive to the powerful inward work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. To this end we have re-shaped our small group ministry and pastoral care system, as well as putting in place mechanisms for student evaluation.

Four themes arising from the pastoral epistles will be the focus of our spiritual formation ministry:

Gospel soundness – that is, a heart commitment to and experience of the message of the gospel, and the ability to clearly and substantially articulate biblical truth, advance the gospel and oppose error;

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Personal discipline – that is, development of the physical and spiritual disciplines that help us build healthy lives marked by a strong relationship with God, right priorities, and a commitment to godliness;

Relational health – that is, the kind of relationships with family, friends, peers, the church and non-Christians, that make the gospel attractive to others and indicate mature self-awareness and relational skill;

Ministry engagement – that is, awareness of the gifts God has given us, and a commitment to use and develop those gifts as we serve him in gospel work with a servant heart.

Ridley College

Report from Tim Foster, Director of Theological Education and Formation

Our site has undergone major change following the sale of half the property (that bordered by Walker Street and The Avenue). This has resulted in increased functionality, and created an endowment which escaped the Global Financial Crisis.

A restructure was implemented which hands faculty supervision and day-to-day academic matters from the Principal to a Director of Theological Education and Formation. This also increases teaching capacity by 0.5. The Principal's role is focused more on fund raising, writing and representing the college externally.

Online education is a major growth area. All foundational units of the (ACTh) BTh, BMin and MDiv can now be taken online.

Students: 190, EFTSL 90 - modest growth. HRD numbers the same - no graduations, no discontinues.

Tabor College Victoria

Report by Wynand de Kock, Principal, and Peter Dobson, Registrar

Tabor Victoria merged with Kingsley College's Higher Education arm at the start of 2008. This consolidated teaching and resources, and strengthened the Theology and Ministry as well as Counselling and Education programs. All HE is now offered in Tabor's name. Some staff consolidation was undertaken during 2008 in the wake of the merger; the Counselling faculty has expanded.

Having previously offered teaching at three centres, the College has consolidated on one site with a growing availability of online options for many units.

Tabor Victoria launched two new centres of learning and research in 2008: the *Centre for Education and Youth* has been established in partnership with the *Victorian Council of Christian Education*. The aim of the centre is to develop the youth work program at Tabor Victoria. It will also work with our School of Education to equip teachers for public private, private and Christian schools. The *Micah 6:8 Centre* has been established in partnership with TEAR (Australia) and Eastern University (USA), to develop and deliver a Master's degree in Aid and Development. Both Centres will contribute to the College's ongoing research programs.

As a independent private higher education provider, we are under continuing pressure to meet government regulatory requirements, especially since moving into teacher education. We are now required to report on those who receive HECS funding associated with Commonwealth Supported Places.

Library

The inclusion of the bulk of the Kingsley library has increased monograph holdings to over 70,000 volumes. New online journal collections have been added to provide resources in new teaching areas (such as ERIC for education). Two libraries (some 12,000 volumes in total) were purchased in 2007 and are near integration in the local collection.

Teaching: students 516, EFTSL 254: UG 143, PG 46, VET 65)

Tabor continues to develop courses that enables it to equip, enable and empower those with a sense of call to vocations in the church, society and the marketplace. We have received re-accreditation of its undergraduate theology degree (now incorporating ministry and mission studies as options, rather than as separate awards) as well as a suite of Graduate Diplomas. The BA continues its early growth with expanding offerings. The first graduates in the GradDipEd (Secondary) were employed at the end of 2008.

Governance

Bill Simpson, our long-standing Board chairperson, retired at the beginning of 2009: Dr Andrew Menzies has been appointed as the new chairperson. Dr Brian Howe has recently been appointed to chair the Academic Board.

Having worked under the formerly national, now SA, Tabor RTO, Tabor Vic became its own RTO in 2008.

We are grateful for the progress that we have made in 2008. It was especially pleasing to graduate more than 100 students, and to have the Victorian graduation of the SCD in our own graduation program. We were once again reminded that we are doing this work because we believe that education can transform a nation.

Churches of Christ Theological College

Report by Merrill Kitchen, Principal ('from Jerusalem where I have been a Visiting Lecturer for the past month')

CCTC continues to be a Recognised Teaching Institution of the MCD. Advantage was taken during the last 12 months of the significant funding made available for eligible HEPs by the Federal Government. New carpets were installed in classrooms and new technology has become available in the library, classrooms and administrative offices.

The Principal, Merrill Kitchen, will retire at the end of 2009; a Search Committee is engaged in negotiations for her replacement.

CCTC faculty meet annually to review our teaching and learning plan and to prepare for the year ahead. In addition to the core learning material offered by CCTC, a number of intensive learning programs have been presented over the past 12 months including a six week program in Israel and Greece, and a one week Practice of Ministry unit.

Governance

Close co-operation occurs between CCTC and the Conference of Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania. The Governance Committee is continuing to work on a relevant CCTC Strategic Plan: the proposed educational objectives have been examined in the context of this year's teaching and learning plan. In addition, the Conference is undertaking a Review of Theological Education and Ministry Formation: it is hoped that its findings will be available by the end of 2009.

Enrolments

Enrolments over the past 12 months have been steadily around 150-160 students, most taking undergraduate awards, but an increasing number of graduates and postgraduate students are enrolling also. All proposed classes this year have been viable, with some having larger enrolments than expected. Student residential accommodation is fully occupied.

The Salvation Army Training College

Report by Stephen Court, Principal

SATC is the training institution of The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territory and is a Recognised Teaching Institution of the MCD. The primary focus of SATC is the two-year preparation of SA Officer Cadets for commissioning.

Residential enrolment has increased significantly, with 15 in second year and 26 in first year. There are also many non-residential and part-time students.

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SATC celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2008 with the Lieut-Colonel Milford McPherson Lecture Series in Perth, Adelaide, and Melbourne, named after a celebrated Training Principal of the 1970s, and Famous Last Words, a popular speaking series featuring veteran preachers.

Eleven full-time training staff and 17 qualified lecturers are associated with SATC, including four training principals. The library holds 22,839 items, 2,547 being added in 2008. 454 registered members made 12,908 loans during the year.

Harvest Bible College

Report by Jon Newton, Head of Biblical Studies

Harvest Bible College continued to expand in new directions and into new territory during 2008. A new teaching site for evening classes was established at Richmond Assembly of God. Harvest lectures entitled "Ancient Truths Revealed" were screened on the Australian Christian Channel.

A new Academic Board was established, with Prof Gary Bouma as its chair. The College added more technology with the introduction of Paradigm database software. On-line learning grew exponentially as a major form of study.

Dr David Morgan was appointed as Director of Academic Affairs. Dr Eileen Bezjian, Dean of the School of Business at Asuza Pacific University, California, taught in our MA program in May.

Enrolments: 607 (EFTSL 165) in VET, UG, graduate and MA programs. 70 students graduated with a Certificate, Diploma, BA, GradDip or MA in Ministry.

Library

Harvest purchased the library of Garden City College of Ministry, which was closing, to establish a new Mt Gravatt campus in Brisbane. 50,000 volumes total, 35,000 volumes (Dandenong) and 15,000 (Mt Gravatt).

Presbyterian Theological College

Report from Douglas Milne, Principal
(based on ACTh Annual Report)

Staff levels: 4 FT and 4 PT faculty

Library

Number of monographs	22,000
Number of serials	120
Accessions (monographs and serial titles)	1600
Budget [for 2008]	\$47,000
Qualified librarian	0.5
Other library staff	0.25

Tabor College Tasmania

From John Morse, Executive Officer

Tabor College Tasmania decided to focus on degree and post graduate courses and desist with diploma level courses. It had these courses re-accredited with the Tasmanian Qualifications Authority:

- BMin with early exit points, and majors in six areas;
- GradDipMin; GradDipChristian Studies;
- BSocScience (Counselling); GradDipCounselling.

The re-accreditation has led to forming our own Academic Board, rather than relying on the services of Tabor Adelaide. Governance is strengthening, with a review of constitution, documentation and practices to recognise changes.

Staff is mostly part time = 3.5 FTE, and sessional lecturers (20). The situation is limited by funds. The Revd Dr Aileen Lyle is head of Theology, 0.6 FTE; Dr Margaret Austen is head of Counselling, 0.3 FTE. A person has been appointed to oversee preparation for an AUQA audit in 2010.

Tabor engaged Prof Andrys Onsman (Monash) to give three day sessions in GradCert HED topics through 2009: we are seeking out a GradCert HED for our staff.

In 2008, we topped 100 enrolments for the first time, 50 EFTSL, spread evenly between Ministry and Counselling.

Library

Steadily growing library with acquisition priority for new subjects. Lecturers are encouraged to recommend new books for their subjects each semester. Good internet resources through EBSCOhost. 8,000 volumes.

Queensland and Northern Territory (David Pascoe)

The Dean of the Brisbane College of Theology, Dr Les Ball, writes about Queensland trends:

One development is the increased casualisation of teaching faculty, in both university and theological college situations. Virtually all such bodies (including BCT) have reduced permanent faculty and are using more sessional teachers. This has been accompanied by a reduction in the number of elective units offered across the board. These developments are clearly resource driven, as the costs of delivering theological education are increasing enormously. The overall result is a diminution of the resident critical mass in our colleges and the lessening of the richness and variety of study programs available. There is something of a return (in theological colleges) to courses set to meet minimum ordination requirements, without catering so well to general theological study and wider interests.

Associated with resourcing is the decreasing viability of independent private providers. Prime examples of this are the relinquishing of independent accreditation by Malyon (Baptist) College (in 2007) to return to the ACTh, the same thing with the Nazarene Theological College to join SCD, the closure of Garden City College of Ministries in 2008, and the impending closure of BCT. Others, such as Mueller College, have strategically expanded offerings beyond theology/ministry into VET to maintain viability. The move (of BCT and perhaps others) towards university affiliation or merger, while enhancing the institutional viability of colleges, carries with it the potential loss of self-determinative initiatives (even institutional identity) and challenges for the retention of key formation values for ministry development.

An extract from the BCT Dean's Report to the BCT Board, December 2008:

In August 2008 ... we received word that ... a withdrawal of a member was being mooted. ... The pressing needs of re-accreditation and the need for effective transitions to be put in place during 2009 meant that the College had no choice but to assume such a withdrawal. Consequently, the BCT Board at its September-November 2008 meetings resolved that the College will cease operations as a deliverer of accredited courses as at 31 December 2009, which effectively means the closure of the college.

Because of this decision, the proposed re-submission of courses scheduled for September 2009 did not proceed. Similarly, the proposed HEP Audit planned for 2009-10 has been cancelled. Other policy and faculty development has also been discontinued. Instead, our energies have been devoted to ensuring an effective completion of courses for as many students as possible and the smooth transition of the remaining students to appropriate institutions.

Many St Francis' students will transfer to Charles Sturt University ... St Paul's College has implemented a merger with Australian Catholic University from the beginning of 2009 ... Trinity College (UCA) is also in dialogue with ACU with a view to an affiliation in 2010. Students [also] have the option of transferring to other colleges within Australian College of Theology or Sydney College of Divinity, with whom BCT has official Deeds of Course Assurance in place. In all of these arrangements, much detailed care is

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being taken to ensure students are not disadvantaged in progressing through their chosen course.

... I am at this stage quite confident that we will be able to close down the college in a fitting way, with good results for all concerned, despite the admittedly sad demise of the ecumenical institution of BCT.

St Paul's Theological College

Extract of a letter from Bishop Brian Finnigan to the BCT Board, February 2009:

“The following recommendations were endorsed in principle by the Queensland [Catholic] Bishops and the Senate of ACU in April and June 2008 respectively.

- (a) that St Paul's Theological College integrate with the Queensland component of the national School of Theology at Australian Catholic University, to constitute a single Catholic higher education facility, located within the organisational structure of ACU;
- (b) that the new entity be entitled “St Paul's Theological College” (referred to in this document as ACU-SPTC); and
- (c) that the effective date of implementation of the integration be 1 January 2009.

Since June 2008 an Implementation committee has been working to bring the above recommendations to fruition. I would like to inform the BCT Board that the committee has successfully completed its task as of 1st January 2009. This means that the Catholic teaching entity for BCT is now ACU School of Theology, which, in Brisbane, has retained the name St Paul's Theological College.

The Bishops of Queensland consider that the integration of St Paul's and ACU has positive consequences for the BCT. For example, while retaining the ecumenical association with regard to theological higher education between the member Churches of the BCT, there is also the significant increase of teaching faculty available to the BCT through the ‘new’ St Paul's.”

Nungalinga College, Darwin

From L Lee Levett-Olson, Principal

In a period of many changes, Nungalinga College remains anchored to the Rock of faith symbolised by the honour of its Larrakia name. While the waves and tides swirl around us, never resting, we cling to the stability of the Alpha and Omega, Jesus Christ. Throughout 2008 and early 2009 there have been many staff changes, with a new Principal (the Revd Dr L Lee Levett-Olson), Assistant Principal (Jane Holt), Theology Coordinator (the Revd Rob Haynes), and teaching staff (Sr Rita Clancy, the Revd Helen Richmond). Changes in administration staff, other departments, and membership of the Governing Board, combined with a new Constitution and new Strategic Plan, have made this a turbulent time.

With so many staff changes, intensive external reviews, and facing re-registration as an RTO, it has not been possible to do ‘business as usual’. This has been a strain to all our staff and disruptive to our students across Australia. Many things remain unclear about the way forward, but the commitment to providing quality service to meet the needs of our students continues.

As well as these changes, our students have felt the strain of Federal Intervention and Council (super-Shire) restructures, and the confusion and sense of disempowerment this has brought to many. Amidst the turbulence, it is pleasing that students keep saying good things about study here, in a safe and welcoming place where the food is good and healthy and the fellowship is real.

Despite the changes, 2008 was a wonderful year of generosity! Across Australia people contributed to our work in amounts both small and large, a commitment to support us with prayers, good wishes, and sacrificial giving; the budget ended in a healthy balance.

Nungalinga College has been providing theological studies and ministry training for 35 years, for the three member churches (Anglican, Catholic, Uniting) and others, including the Lutherans and Churches of Christ. Graduates of our Theology courses can be found all over Australia, some holding key positions in churches and community governance and enterprises.

The UCA re-engagement with Nungalinga included conditions that the cultures and languages of indigenous communities be respected and maintained in teaching: this has taken place not only in theology but in the training offered through our Family and Community Studies Department as well. A new UCA initiative, the *Centre for Study of Indigenous Scriptures* (CSIS), is housed at the College and allows us to work closely with other groups (Bible Society, AUSIL) in the translation and use of biblical texts in original languages of our students. Through our partnerships and distance education modes, Nungalinga caters for students across the Territory, Queensland, NSW, Victoria, South and Western Australia.

The crucial need for *all* of our training and assessment staff to hold the required qualification of Cert IV TAA has forced Nungalinga into making early 2009 a focus on ‘training trainers’. Both full-time and visiting teachers are working towards achieving the Cert IV in the first half of the year, and consequently no theology students are being offered training in face to face mode until July 2009.

The nationally accredited VET Certificate III in Theology, our staple qualification for decades, expires at the end of 2009. Believing that we have the resources to teach only five of the 22 subjects in second semester at the required level of quality, we hope to teach them three times over, using visiting teachers to the maximum, and in this way trial some approaches to training that will help us develop a new Certificate II in Theology to commence in January 2010.

Partnership with others will help us cater for the widest range of student needs, and we rejoice in the historic and lively relationships we enjoy with Wontulp-Bi-Buya in Queensland. Wontulp-Bi-Buya is working to accredit their own version of our Certificate III course, with a Cert IV and Diploma to follow in 2009. We are closely involved in this process, which may lead to opportunities for English speaking students of Nungalinga as well. This in turn will strengthen our partnerships with Lismore Institute of Theological Education in NSW, TACL in South Australia, and less formal cooperation in Victoria and Western Australia.

Besides theology, Nungalinga offers VET training in family and community studies, workplace access, enterprise readiness, and support for disaffected high school age students. Our extensive grounds with comfortable accommodation is a haven of safety for Indigenous adults whose lives are often made more difficult by factors completely beyond their control. There is a crucial need for child care facilities at Nungalinga. Besides the chronic shortage across the Northern Territory, it would be a wonderful blessing for families to receive quality care of their children in a culturally-respectful Christian environment. Our present inability to provide for young families is the single biggest obstacle to recruiting students. We are also keen to move beyond the present Chapel which is uncomfortably sited in an old classroom.

These needs have prompted Nungalinga to seek formal tenders for a Master Site Plan that will allow us to use our outstanding location and extensive campus in ways that will foster genuine community, enhanced learning, and respect for the traditions of those we seek to serve.

In the midst of political decisions that leave Indigenous leaders feeling disempowered and despairing at white dismissal of their wisdom, experience, and ageless expertise, we exist as a genuine partnership across the cultural divide. That impels us to explore new ways of telling - and re-discovering - the gospel story with our elders in this place. God was here before us, and on that Rock our faith stands firm.

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Western Australia (Brian Harris)

The Theological Passions Colloquium

Perhaps the most satisfying event of the July 08-June 09 year was the “Theological Passions” Colloquium held at the worship centre at Murdoch University in November.

A co-operative venture between Murdoch, Notre Dame, Vose, Trinity, Perth Bible College, Tabor and Harvest West, and designed to allow scholars from each institution to share the fruit of their research, it was well supported by both staff and students of the named Colleges.

It was the first time in many years that we have had such a diverse group work together so closely to share “Theological Passions”. Papers presented were of a very high standard, and much discussion followed each. Another such Colloquium will be held in November 09. This time a more concerted effort will be made to organise for the publication of the papers presented.

Tabor College Perth

During the past year, the inability to offer FEE-HELP has proven to be a serious hindrance to enrolments and to the financial status of the college. The strangest thing for me has been to realise that the policy seems to be that we have to prove that we don't need Fee Help in order to be approved to offer it.

The Principal has completed his master's degree with High Distinction and several others are commencing or continuing PhD programmes. By the end of the year, approximately half our staff will be involved in PhD research.

There have been approximately 100 students at the college for the past several years. We have begun to see a slight increase in overseas students – notably from various African countries. The other trends of interest are a growth of interest (and enrolments) in counselling and a growing trend toward Higher Education.

Trinity Theological College

Significant milestones were the appointment of Dr David Baker (former deputy warden of Tyndale House) as our senior lecturer in OT, and the appointment of Mr Stephen Gullery as our Business Manager. Another was the publication of “Trinity Working Papers”, a non-refereed collection of papers presented at “Work in Progress”, a monthly seminar for budding researchers.

David Baker has a monograph on riches and poverty in the Pentateuch to be published in July. He is also revising his Two Testaments – One Bible with IVP, released perhaps early 2010. David also presented a paper at a local research seminar.

The completion of a PhD on petitionary prayer by our Principal, Donald West, and publication of his paper presented at a conference in 2008 in *Christ's Victory over Evil* (IVP, 2009). Don also presented a paper at the inaugural Perth Theology Colloquium and two research seminars, including one with Vose Seminary. Martin Foord presented a paper at a Cambridge conference on John Owen in September, 2008, and spent 6 months in Cambridge researching his ThD (ACT) on John Owen's understanding of the gospel.

About 80 students are enrolled in BTh and MDiv/GradDipDiv with about 42 EFTSU: the trend is climbing. Some 200 students are enrolled in our non-accredited Certificate course (Trinity@Night)

Vose Seminary

We were delighted that the *Uncovering Theology* project was undertaken, and hope that ANZATS can leverage its findings to work for greater recognition and support for this sector.

After the successful launch of Vose Leadership in February 08, Vose Mission was launched in May 09 and Vose Research will be launched in the 2nd half of 2009. Each of these centres of excellence provides a focus on the speciality area of the centre.

Vose and Trinity have formed a joint postgraduate board of studies and have received the approval of the Australian College of Theology to offer their research MTh and ThD degrees, an approval awaiting the ratification of WA Dept of Ed. There are several prospective research candidates.

We are in the final stages of preparation for the “Beyond 400” conference, which Vose hosts at the end of August with keynote speakers Dr Nigel Wright (Spurgeons, UK) and Dr Martin Sutherland (Laidlaw, New Zealand).

We commenced discussion with MBTI in Mauritius about their using our VET sector courses in their training.

Staff achievements

Dr David Cohen and Dr Mick Stringer (our new Academic Dean) both completed their PhD's.

All members of the faculty publish and present papers regularly. Of particular note in the year under review was Dr Brian Harris' presentation of 2 papers at Baptist World Alliance conferences in Prague, both of which have been accepted for publication. In addition, Dr John Olley completed his commentary on Ezekiel. Dr Mike Parsons and Dr David Cohen are in the final stages of editing a series of papers on worship which have been accepted by Wipf and Stock for publication later in the year.

Dr John Olley's retired as Academic Dean at Vose, but will continue as a Vose Research Associate in his retirement. John's contribution to theological education spans several decades, and has been enormous.

Enrolments

135 students in semester 1, 2009 representing approx 70 EFTSL. In addition, over 500 people attended seminars and workshops hosted by Vose Leadership. The upward trend has continued. There is an increase in the number of international students.

South Australia (Peter Lockwood)

Adelaide College of Divinity

This section of the report was written following an interview with Vicky Balabanski, NT lecturer.

For the past couple of years the participating churches in the Adelaide College of Divinity have been trying to determine their ongoing involvement in the consortium. Things have been very much up in the air. But in recent times the three churches have made a firm commitment to the continuation of the consortium. Each church has said it wants to be involved.

The Anglican and Catholic colleges have decided not to participate in the ACD any longer as their RTO and HEP. They have decided instead to put their eggs in the Flinders University basket as their HEP, and not sponsor certificate/diploma, MMin and DMin through the ACD any longer. This does not mean that the consortium will cease: the Anglican and Catholic colleges will continue to offer their students studies in UG and postgraduate courses. But they will cease to offer courses in the VET sector.

On the other hand, the UCA college will continue its VET work, offering certificate and diploma courses. A major reason for their commitment to this is that they have taken over the national UCA distance education program, formerly Coolamon College, in recent years housed at ACD. Parkin-Wesley College, now re-badged as the *Uniting College for Leadership and Theology*, will continue to offer its own BMin, MMin and DMin.

These developments mean that the consortium will no longer be called ACD. The infrastructure of the consortium, the library and all the physical facilities of the property, will be something like *'Adelaide Theological College Incorporated'*. The constitution of ATC Inc is being reworked currently. The latest draft is before the heads of churches and the principals: Bishop Stephen Pickard,

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(Anglican); Revd Dr Andrew Dutney (UCA); and Dr Stephen Downs (Catholic acting principal). It is envisaged that the new constitution will be in place by the end of the year.

New teaching staff at ACD include the Revd Dr Matthew Anstey, OT lecturer and Anglican College principal designate; Dr Liz Boase, OT lecturer; and the Revd Craig Bailey, missiology.

The Revd Dr Peter Trudinger, OT lecturer, has left and now serves as minister at Scots Church, North Terrace. The Revd Tony Eldridge, now minister at Pilgrim Uniting Church in the city, will continue to teach homiletics and worship. Former NT lecturer, the Revd Dr Alan Cadwallader, has moved to Canberra (Murrumbateman, in fact) to take up a post at the ACU campus.

Vicky ventured the opinion that the extent and the speed of the changes that have taken place have had an unsettling effect on some people. But she said that the most recent developments, especially the whole-hearted commitment of the constituent bodies, bode well for the long-term survival and strength of the consortium.

Adelaide College of Ministries

Report from Tom Golding, Principal

We offer a BMin, an AdvDipMin, and a DipMin. We have 15 full-time students, plus around 10 part-time (eventually full-time) and numerous “one-off” students. We have 3 full-time lecturers, 4 part-time lecturers, and several guest lecturers.

No lay ministry steams per se, although we are looking at a lay ministry stream in our diploma.

We have a new secretary and are creating the new position of Projects Manager.

Australian Lutheran College

Report from Peter Lockwood

The retirement of principal Dr Michael Hassold at the end of the 2008 school year and the arrival of his successor, the Revd John Henderson this year, head the list of new developments at Australian Lutheran College (ALC). For the past eight years John served as NCCA Executive Secretary. His leadership style is marked by consultation and inclusivity, clear direction, warmth, compassion and a wry sense of humour. He has also shown that he will not steer clear of radical innovation.

The next most important item of interest is the round of meetings between representatives of MCD and ALC, with a view to ALC joining the MCD consortium. The mutual benefits of the proposed liaison appear to be considerable.

ALC focuses on preparing people for ministry in the congregations and schools of the Lutheran Church of Australia, and in the wider community, through its three constituent schools: the School of Pastoral Theology (SPT), for clergy education; the School of Educational Theology (SET), for teacher education; and the School of Theological Studies (STS), for lay ministry education.

Clergy in training complete a five year BTh-BMin double degree, with a seven month placement (vicarage) in a parish spanning the fourth and fifth years.

Teachers in training have the option of taking a range of theological subjects as part of their education degrees at various universities across Australia, especially the campuses of ACU and Flinders University in Adelaide. There is growing reluctance, however, on the part of universities to yield space in their education courses for such ‘Lutheran strand’ offerings. At the same time, aspiring Lutheran school teachers are more and more electing to take the units required for accreditation as a Lutheran school teacher during their years of service rather than during pre-service.

Lay ministry candidates may opt to take the college’s DipTh, with its potential for specialisation in fields such as counselling, youth ministry, aged care, chaplaincy, and parish education. Or they

can access the bachelor degree courses. The college also offers a Graduate Diploma of Theology in Faith Community Nursing.

ALC offers an extensive distance education program that focuses on the units offered within SET and STS. Teachers in the field can access master’s degrees in education. And there are masters and doctoral degrees offered in education and theology. During the past three years ALC has graduated 78 students in 2006, 105 students in 2007, and 99 students in 2008. These numbers don’t account for all our students because many lay church members simply take individual units to enhance their theological education, and some church worker positions only require a selection of ALC units rather than a full degree course. A considerable number of students are lay church workers who can take all the units for the various DipTh awards by distance mode.

Teaching staff numbers: 12 full time, 5 sessionals.

Student numbers: 36 SPT, 33 (SET and STS, on campus students), with the vast majority of students completing requirements by distance education.

Bible College of South Australia (BCSA)

Report from Stephen Raison, Principal

We are grateful to the Lord for the encouragement in recent years. There has been a slow but steady increase in full-time enrolments; our regional certificate program has continued to expand to new towns; we have developed new resources for our off-campus programs and donations have grown.

The appointment of a Development Officer and the commencement of the Foundation have been fruitful in terms of the College’s financial strength. Our cooperation with other Christian organizations at different levels has been mutually productive and will certainly be an important part of our future. Along these lines, the introduction of a Partnership in Training Scheme has been slowly increasing the level of engagement of church leaders with students in their training for future ministry.

The College has increasingly relied on digital technology both for administration and its educational activities. This has brought many benefits, particularly in the delivery of library services.

A distance education program is being developed and should commence operation in 2010. This is a natural extension of the College’s developments over recent years that should strengthen our service, particularly in country areas.

Tabor College Adelaide

Report from Stephen Spence, Principal

As a Higher Education Provider we offer BMin, BTh, and BIS (Intercultural Studies), MA Christian Studies, MMin, MTh, DMin, and ThD (accredited for the first time in 2009).

I was appointed Head of School in 2007. Aaron Chalmers (OT) completed his PhD in 2006. Matt Gray, MTh, is church history lecturer. Bruce Hulme, GradDipMin, is lecturer in Christian spirituality and director of field education.

We will add an MDiv (3 year, graduate entry) in 2010.

I don’t have trend numbers, but the number of theology units we ‘sell’—on-campus and external—is increasing. We are approximately 90-100 EFTSL. We have 4.8 FTE faculty plus a pool of 10 adjuncts, the specifics of the adjuncts changes each semester.

We are dual-sector provider, offering the VET Diploma in Christian Life and Ministry (newly approved as a national program). The minority of our students will seek full-time ministry positions.

We have moved our external studies program on line (using Moodle). All our on campus classes use a Moodle site for resources and mp3 of lectures, uploading assignments, etc.

Principals' Conference 2009: *Managing Theological Education*

Date:	Monday, October 5th 2009 (6pm dinner) to Wednesday, October 7th, 2009 (5pm).	Theme:	Managing Theological Education: Finance and Compliance
Place:	Amberly Conference Centre, Melbourne	Programme:	
Participation:	College principals and business managers.	<i>Monday evening</i>	Welcome, introductions
Chair:	Rob McIver, ANZATS President	<i>Tuesday morning</i>	Charles Sherlock will speak to the <i>Uncovering Theology</i> project
Speakers:	Richard Cardew, formerly of the <i>Centre for Environmental and Urban Studies</i> at Macquarie University, will address 'Theological Education: the financial costs'. Karen Treloar is the Audit Director, Non Self-Accrediting Institutions, AUQA, and directed theological institution audits. She will address the role of the Australian government in higher education, including the new <i>Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency</i> . Shirley Stokes, recently retired as Manager, <i>Quality and Regulation Higher Education Directorate, NSW Department of Education</i> , will speak to State government responsibilities in higher education, including accreditation.	<i>Tuesday afternoon</i>	Richard Cardew
		<i>Wednesday morning</i>	Karen Treloar
		<i>Wednesday afternoon</i>	Shirley Stokes

The four main sessions are planned to be interactive: an introductory address, questions, small group discussion. Evenings are kept free to give opportunities for personal engagement, and time has been allowed for groups to meet by church, educational and geographical relationships.

Information was sent out in May: residential places are limited, and prompt registration is encouraged.

For more information, contact Charles Sherlock.

2010 ANZATS / ANZSTS Conference:

July 7-9, Trinity College, Melbourne

The Future of God

Eschatology and the global challenges of the future

That God 'will be whom God will be' is not in question. Yet the future of God's people, of humanity, of the earth, of the whole cosmos - these are very much open questions.

Christian faith places its trust in the One who raised Jesus from the dead, the great sign of the prophets' vision of a new creation in which all things would be transformed.

What does it mean to live in the light of this hope, that the future is God's? How shall we speak of the unknown - and the unknowable?

The 2010 ANZATS/ANZSTS Conference aims to explore this question in depth, drawing on the scriptures, Christian tradition, and the natural and social sciences.

The Conference is being held in conjunction with the Centenary Conference of the *Melbourne College of Divinity*. The MCD, established in 1910 by the Parliament of Victoria, has chosen the theme 'The Future of Religion in Australian Society' to engage a wide range of scholars in public dialogue. The MCD Conference will begin with the Centenary Dinner on Sunday July 4, and run until Wednesday.

The ANZATS/ANZSTS Conference will start on the Wednesday morning, and run until Friday: AGMs will take place from mid-Friday afternoon, with the ANZATS Council in the evening and on Saturday.

On Wednesday the opening ANZATS/ANZSTS plenary and the final MCD plenary will be shared. Members' papers will take place on each day.

The *Australian Catholic Biblical Association* and the *Australian Catholic Theological Association* will commence their annual conferences on the Friday.

This conjunction of conferences offers ANZATS and ANZSTS members a unique opportunity to engage in complementary approaches to the fundamental question of hope.

The organising committee for the ANZATS/ANZSTS conference is being co-ordinated by Charles Sherlock, ANZATS Executive Officer.

NB: the 2011 ANZATS/ANZSTS Conference will be held in Sydney - theme to be determined.

For up-to-date details, see the ANZATS website:

www.anzats.edu.au