

e-newsletter - October 2008

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Your secretary writes ...

It is a great privilege to take up the role of Executive Officer / Secretary for ANZATS. The first person to hold the position, Dr Keith Cole, was a formative influence on my own learning as a theological student. I have followed his subsequent career as founding principal of Nungalinga College, and then Diocesan Theologian for the Anglican Diocese of Bendigo, with great interest: indeed, I now find myself holding a similar position in that diocese, in which Dr Cole still lives.

ANZATS has from its beginning sought to embrace theological colleges of varied heritage, theological outlook and church relationship, in bonds of trust and co-operation. I trust that the Association continues to embody this ethos, fostering networks for sharing insights, learning and resources, and facilitating conversations about theology, especially around what matters today for the mission and ministry of Christ's church, and the wider growth of the Kingdom of God.

ANZATS played an active part in the recent Conference held in Auckland. In the past, a conference sponsored by several bodies can lose the particular focus which each body brings, with a consequent loss of a sense of a community of scholars engaging. Auckland was not like that at all. The way in which the programme was planned, and the physical facilities in which it was held, meant that ANZATS's own identity and contribution was clear, and the fruit of being able to share with sharing with other bodies and colleagues (notably our sister body ANZSTS, and the *Society for Biblical Literature*) was maximized. As well as the well-attended AGM, another highlight was the late-afternoon reception sponsored by ANZATS, at which over 150 participants enjoyed themselves.

Also in July, I was able to assist the Committee of Deans in Theology with preparation of a detailed submission to the Bradley Review of Higher Education. Rather than repating much of this, ANZATS submitted a Letter of Support, highlighting topics raised at the Council meeting and Conference - accreditation issues, credit transfers from th VET to Higher Education sector, and opening

Commonwealth Supported Places and Research funding to all accredited HEPs. All submissions, including others from institutions in the theology sector, can be read on the DEEWR website at www.dest.gov.au/sectors/higher_education/policy_issues_reviews/reviews/highered_review/#Submissions.



The reports elsewhere in this Newsletter will update you on what has been happening. I particularly encourage faculty to take with full seriousness the 'Call for Papers' for the July 2009 conference on the Holy Spirit, and to encourage research students to consider presenting their work. These are due by February 27th, 2009.

And I encourage colleges to continue to support the *Uncovering Theology* project, which happily now has a link with ANZATS, as well as the Committee of Deans of Theology, through my involvement as its Manager.

I trust that ANZATS will grow in its usefulness in facilitating the community of theological colleges and the people who make up their greatest resource.

Charles Sherlock,
ANZATS Executive Office / Secretary



Council members at the July meeting in Auckland: Gerard Kelly, Brian Powell, Charles Sherlock, David Cohen, Rob McIver, Ray Nobbs, Mark Harding, Chris Mostert, Paul Trebilco, Peter Lockwood.

The President offers AGM highlights

The ANZATS 2008 Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday July 10, at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, with some 45 people present.

1 Forthcoming ANZATS Conferences

July 5-9, 2009, at Australian Lutheran College, Adelaide: the theme is 'Pneumatology', and the convener of coordinating committee is Dr Peter Lockwood – see the 'Call for Papers' elsewhere in this Newsletter.

A third 'Principals' Conference' is also scheduled for 2009. Details will be distributed to member institutions.

July 7-9, 2010, at Trinity College, Parkville, in co-operation the centenary of the *Melbourne College of Divinity* (whose conference will run July 4-8).

2 Uncovering Theology project

Highlight of the AGM was undoubtedly the preliminary report given by Charles Sherlock on his research relating to the *Uncovering Theology* project, 'scoping' theological education in Australia.

The project is being funded by a grant from the *Australian Learning and Teaching Council* (formerly the Carrick Institute), arising from an initiative of the Committee of Deans of Theology. Its Report will be expected to be submitted in February 2009.

A copy of Dr Sherlock's paper, and its associated spreadsheet of colleges, was circulated to all members of ANZATS after the AGM.

3 New ANZATS leadership team

As a consequence of the fact that they have now moved out of the theological education scene, both Professor Raymond Nobbs and Professor Michael Horsburgh have resigned from their offices in the Association. Ray has been President of the association, and Michael been its Secretary and Executive Officer.

The Executive and Council gave a warm vote of thanks to these two men for their services to ANZATS as officers, and in Ray's case, as a long-time member of the Council. A consequence of Ray's resignation is that the society has lost ready access to the services of Messrs David Cheetham and Richard Gillard, who have looked after the financial affairs of the association.

On the recommendation of Council, these office holders and Executive members were elected at the AGM:

The Executive

President: Dr Robert McIver
Vice-President (and President-elect):
The Revd Assoc Prof Gerard Kelly
Vice-President (New Zealand):
The Revd Prof Paul Trebilco
Executive Officer / Secretary:
The Revd Canon Dr Charles Sherlock
Treasurer: The Revd Canon Dr Charles Sherlock
Members: The Revd Dr Mark Harding
Dr Paul Beirne
Dr Dianne Speed
Co-opted: The Revd Dr Brian Powell



Presidential handover: Ray Nobbs hands over the ANZATS presidency to Rob McIver following the July Council meeting.

The Council of the Association is made up of the Executive plus state representatives, recommended either by the state chapter or by the Executive (in consultation with member institutions in the state).

It has taken time to transfer files and bank signatures, but the new team is at work, including updating the website and finalizing arrangements for the 2010 Conference.

The Secretary's email is secretary@anzats.edu.au.
The President's email is rob.mciver@avondale.edu.au

4 2008 ANZATS Conference Scholars

Two students were granted travelling scholarships of \$750 each to attend the 2008 ANZATS Conference:

Tiffany Hammer, St Francis College (*Brisbane College of Theology*) - see photo on next page.

Martin Wright, United Faculty of Theology (*Melbourne College of Divinity*).

Rob McIver and Charles Sherlock, who assessed the applications, commended the high quality of all those received: the task of choosing just two was not easy!

5 Other highlights

A recommendation that **ANZATS be incorporated**.

A **financial report** which indicated that sufficient funds were on hand to meet current needs, so that membership fees should remain unchanged for 2008-2009. The Executive will adopt a budget at its first meeting, and form a recommendation for the next Council meeting regarding membership fees from 2009 onwards.

ANZATS's archives had been offered to the Australian National Library, but this was declined. A generous offer to store these with the archive collection at Avondale College was accepted: they will be available to qualified researchers under conditions to be specified by the ANZATS Executive.

The President offers AGM highlights (continued)

Dr **Ray Nobbs** represented ANZATS at a **WOCATI** conference held in Greece earlier in 2008.

Dr **Rob McIver** represented ANZATS at a *Council for Humanities & Social Sciences* sponsored **consultation** on “The PhD in the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences,” at the UNSW on 7th March 2008 (see separate report).

The Council, after consultation with ANZSTS, has reactivated a **joint planning committee with ANZSTS** to act as a consultative and steering body for plans for future conferences. Rob McIver and Charles Sherlock will represent ANZATS on this joint planning committee, while Derek Tovey and Greg Jenks will represent ANZSTS.

Significant work has been done on the **ANZATS website**, which is now up-to-date. An increasingly-utilised page has been added allowing members to advertise teaching positions. It is hoped that the detailed FACT database of college faculty can be reactivated in the next year.

*Rob McIver,
ANZATS President*



ANZATS President, Rob McIver, congratulates Tiffany Hammer on her scholarship to the Auckland conference.

Two other significant academic conferences in 2009:

The *Australian Academy of Liturgy* - ‘Liturgy and time: a view from the Antopodies’: Canberra, January 19-22. This will also prepare participants for

Societas Liturgica - ‘Liturgy and time: the Christian Year’, Sydney, 9 - 15 August. This is the first time that this peak international body for liturgists has come to the Sounthern hemisphere.

Information on both conferences can be found at www.liturgy.org.au.

Anglicans will be interested in the meeting during the previous week, in Auckland, of the *International Anglican Liturgical Consultation*, which as well as calendar issues, will continue work on funeral rites.

anzats THE AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION OF THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS

2009 Conference: July 5-9, Australian Lutheran College, Adelaide

Theme: ‘Come, Holy Spirit, renew the face of the earth’:

Pneumatology in biblical, theological, historical and church-life perspectives.

Main speaker: Professor **Max Turner**,
Professor of New Testament Studies,
London School of Theology

with addresses from Vicky Balabanski (Adelaide),
Helen Bergin (Auckland)
Denis Edwards (Adelaide) and
Rick Strelan (Brisbane).

Organising committee contact: Peter Lockwood, Peter.Lockwood@alc.edu.au

General ANZATS enquiries: Charles Sherlock, secretary@anzats.edu.au

www.anzats.edu.au

Humanities PhDs: Rob McIver reports on a CHASS workshop

On 7 March 2008 a group of about 30 people from all parts of the Australian university scene met at the University of NSW for a workshop, "The PhD in the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences". It was sponsored by CHASS (the *Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences*, of which ANZATS is a member).

As many of the member institutions of ANZATS mount a doctoral program, or plan to do so in the near future, many of the issues raised at the meeting will be of great interest. Some of the key issues that emerged throughout the day include:

A Entry standards

The experience of the universities varies. The traditional route into a PhD (a First Class degree) is still the main route into a PhD in many. It appears that all universities use alternate routes into the PhD program for a proportion of their students: in doing so, they look for evidence of ability to do research (eg a relevant publication). On the other hand, a few have a high number of overseas students applying to do a PhD, and honours degrees amongst such students are rare.

The suggestion was made by Mandy Thomas (PVC – Research, ANU) in her presentation that such students should be asked to sit a 'Graduate Records Examination' (GRE) used by most American universities. I was one of those who raised difficulties about this suggestion, but further thought and conversations during the day convinced me that, despite the difficulties, the idea of a GRE as part (and only part) of the entrance requirements for a PhD made a lot of sense, especially in the case of overseas students seeking to do a PhD in Australia.

Difficulties with asking Australian PhD candidates to do a GRE:

1. The GRE, while a standardized test, is somewhat biased towards American education, particularly in mathematics (interestingly). This problem would ameliorate over time if all PhD applicants had to do the GRE, as it would become possible to get Australian norms for the GRE. It would probably be desirable initially to keep with the existing standard GRE rather than produce an Australian version.
2. The GRE is a somewhat blunt instrument. It is entirely multi-choice, and while designed to test not only language and mathematical competency, it also attempts to test the ability to reason. The exact relationship between such questions and the ability to engage in the protracted research and writing involved in producing a PhD dissertation could be debated.
3. Max King (PVC [Research and Training] at Monash) noted in his presentation by for one US university (Duke), the GRE had in fact not proved a good predictor of who would finish a PhD. However, what is the lowest GRE that Duke, a prestigious US university, sets as the lower bound for entry into its PhD program?

Advantages in asking for a GRE result, especially from international students:

1. The GRE provides a standardized, recognized measure of a graduate aptitude for international students. Clearly, there is no need for such a measure from a graduate with a First from an Australian university (aside from building up a database from which Australian GRE norms could be determined). But such a measure can at times be very important for evaluating the ability of an international student to handle PhD level study. For example, I recently was on a committee evaluating an PhD application from a student from an African nation famous for its corruption and civil disorder. He was a graduate from institutions that none of the committee knew. A GRE score, while less than ideal, at least would give some objective basis for evaluating the application.
2. While the GRE would only be one of the criteria looked at in selecting a student, and perhaps not even the most important, it can identify those with a low likelihood of being able to cope with PhD study. It can also be used as an initial screen to reduce a large number of candidates. As one conversation partner put it, if you had 500 applications for 20 positions, you would use GRE results to eliminate 400, and other criteria to work through the last 100 to determine which ones should go to interview.

In sum, I think that the advantages significantly outweigh the disadvantages. It will be interesting to see if any Australian institutions follow Oxford and Cambridge and require a GRE of international applicants for PhD programs.

B. Completion Rates

The best figures are from a large study of some 49,113 students covering 300 programs offered in 30 universities across the US. PhD completion rates in the humanities are 29.3% after 7 years, 49% after 10 years; this compares to 40.9% and 55.9% in the social sciences, and 48.2% and 54% in maths and physics for 7 and 10 years completion rates. Australian figures cited at the conference tended to support these kinds of completion rates (see figures for Monash in the next paragraph).

Mandy Thomas also presented figures of average time (in years) for completion of PhDs in the Group of Eight universities: for PhDs in the disciplines of HASS it takes an average of 4.48 years full time, 6.3 years part time. PhDs in other disciplines take an average of 4.29 years full time and 6.11 years part time.

One of the most intriguing presentations was a case study from the Arts faculty at Monash by Denise Cuthbert, Associate Dean (Graduate Research). They studied their completion rates, and found that only 14% of their doctoral students completed their programs of study within 4 years, and only 37% within 5 years. Further investigation shows that a disproportionate number of completions came from just three of their faculty members [I regret that I did not ask how many were supervising PhDs, though I did ask if these three also found time to research as well as supervise: the answer was that they

Humanities PhDs: Rob McIver reports on a CHASS workshop (continued)

were not only active in publication, but also were some of the best teachers on campus]. The conclusion reached was that the quality of supervision was a crucial element in whether or not students completed.

The Arts faculty at Monash became pro-active in this area. They sought advice from Engineering about the differences between a PhD in that faculty (which has a very high completion rate) and those in Arts. In Engineering, and indeed science generally, the PhD student is part of a research group, where the supervisor often takes the role of principal investigator (PI). The actual research is highly structured, and clear performance targets are set and monitored.

Monash Arts responded to this and other information by giving a much higher profile to the quality of PhD supervision. Several faculty were taken off the list of potential supervisors, and given pathways by which they could be placed back on the list (promotion was tied to being on the list). Greater emphasis was placed on the importance of the supervisor as PI. A suggestion that created widespread discussion was that supervisors in HASS PhDs should also seek joint publications with their graduate students (this would enhance the concept of supervisor as PI). The upshot is that though Monash Arts faculty completion rates are not quite at the 80% level that they are aiming for, three years after implementing these changes, the completion rates are getting close to 80%.

C. Significant research taking place in the field

Two of the presentations reported on some significant (and fascinating) research taking place on Australian PhD students:

Terry Evans shared some of the work he was doing with **Peter Macauley** and **Margot Pearson**: this was reported mainly with graphs and so is hard to comment on here, but keep an eye out for publications from this group.

Graeme Hugo reported on the potential demand for PhD graduates, particularly looking at the demographic profile of the teaching workforce in the Australian university system – it is skewed very much to the 50+ age group, and therefore in need of replacing over the next 5 to 15 years. Universities have to compete internationally for good teachers and researchers. The trick will be to attract the best, while retaining the best, and allowing those who are already in semi-retirement on full pay to take the step into retirement!

These are but some of the more significant things that were discussed. The workshop was of very great interest and potential importance for those members of ANZATS already with a PhD program in place, or contemplating mounting one. I was glad that ANZATS had been invited to send a representative.

*Rob McIver,
delegate representing ANZATS*

CALL FOR PAPERS - ANZATS Conference 2009

Australian Lutheran College, 5–9 July 2009

104 Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide, SA 5006

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

Dear colleagues,

The steering committee for the 2009 ANZATS Conference has pleasure in inviting you to submit the proposal for a paper that you would like to offer at the conference. The chief topic to be addressed is pneumatology, in biblical, theological, historical and church life perspectives. The theme is 'Come Holy Spirit, renew the face of the earth'.

We are delighted to announce that five eminent scholars have agreed to serve as keynote speakers:

- Dr **Max Turner**, Professor of New Testament Studies at the London School of Theology;
- Dr **Denis Edwards**, Theology Lecturer in the School of Theology at Flinders University, South Australia;
- Dr **Vicky Balabanski**, New Testament Lecturer in the Flinders University's School of Theology;
- Dr **Rick Strelan**, Senior Lecturer in Studies in Religion at the University of Queensland; and
- Dr **Helen Bergin**, Lecturer in Theology in the School of Theology at the University of Auckland, NZ.

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

The steering committee concluded that pneumatology was a theme that ANZATS conferences had not addressed for many years. But the lively discussion in theological schools world-wide and the rich and diverse theology and practice of the gifts of the Spirit in the churches makes the topic particularly pertinent at this time.

As a rough guide we are suggesting that papers fall within or overlap the following categories:

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

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

ANZATS Conference 2009 — guidelines for proposals

- 1 Proposals should be e-mailed by Friday, 27 February 2009 to peter.lockwood@alc.edu.au
2. Proposals should be about 200–250 words long and must include your full name, title, institution (or location), email address, telephone number, mobile phone number, and mailing address.

3. Give the proposed paper a title, state its aim, and indicate the line of argument it takes. It is important that you demonstrate how the paper fits within the relevant discussion, among scholars, within the church, and preferably both.
4. Let the steering committee know if you have an interest in creating a forum at the conference, for example to discuss a significant new book, to focus on a discrete area of specialisation, or to discuss recent trends in theological education.
5. If you plan to present your first paper at an ANZATS conference, you are asked to submit the entire paper by Friday, 24 April 2009. Attach your curriculum vitae or include in your cover letter any additional information that may help us weigh your submission.
6. Time allowed for each paper will be 30 minutes, with an additional 15 minutes for questions and discussion.
7. It is important that you indicate whether you wish to use audio-visual equipment for your presentation, so that the appropriate room can be allocated.

Yours truly,

ANZATS 2009 Steering Committee members

Vicky Balabanski, Alan Cadwallader, Denis Edwards,
Janise Fournier, Stephen Haar, Peter Lockwood,
Jeffrey Silcock, Peter Truding, Dean Zweck

Accommodation arrangements

You are urged to book your accommodation early to take advantage of the motels in short walking distance from ALC. To help you decide what nights to book for, the conference will open with registration and a reception on the afternoon and into the early evening of Sunday, 5 July 2009, and close late afternoon on Thursday, 9 July.

Registration application forms will be down-loadable from the ANZATS website within the not-too-distant future. If you would like to book accommodation at this early stage, arrangements have been made with the five motels within easy walking distance. The conference planning committee does not intend to handle accommodation: motel details are given below.

Regal Park Motor Inn Don Coad, proprietor

44 Barton Terrace East, North Adelaide, SA 5006
www.regalpark.com, info@regalpark.com.au

Phone: (08) 8267 3222 Freecall: 1800 355 116

Tariff: Rooms from \$110-125, the Lutheran Church's corporate rate, available to conference attendees on request.



Conference logo: designer Greg Haar offers this comment.

The Holy Spirit as the face of the earth

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

O'Connell Motor Inn Laura & Herb Schmidt, managers
197-199 O'Connell Street, North Adelaide, SA 5006

www.oconnellinn.com.au, reservations@oconnellinn.com.au

Phone: (08) 8239 0766

Tariff: \$125 single, \$135 double.

Princes Lodge Motel

73 LeFevre Terrace, North Adelaide, SA 5006

www.princeslodge.com.au mail@princeslodge.com.au

Phone: (08) 8267 5566

Tariff: \$65 (single, 5 available), \$95-\$120 (twin, double or single). Subtract 10% discount at Lutheran Church of Australia corporate rate on request, for attendees.

Gurny Lodge 190 Gover Street, Nth Adelaide, SA 5006

www.gurnylodge.com gurnylodge@hotmail.com

Phone: (08) 8267 2500 0419 827 775 (Jimmy)

Tariff: Budget room \$87, studio \$105, budget 2 bed \$139.

Adelaide Inn 160 O'Connell St, Nth Adelaide, SA 5006

Phone: (08) 8267 5066

Tariff: Starting at \$149 a night.

www.oldadelaideinn.com.au

ANZATS contact details

The Revd Dr Charles Sherlock,
Executive Officer / Secretary,
ANZATS,
PO Box 2,
BENDIGO 3552

Phone: (03) 5444 2429 (home, often work)
(03) 5443 4771 (often work)
0423 020 699 (not in range on Fridays)
email: secretary@anzats.edu.au
web: www.anzats.edu.au