

e-newsletter - february 2012

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ANZATS / ANZSTS Conference 2012:**The Theological Interpretation of Bible, Church and World****Main speaker: Professor John Goldingay**

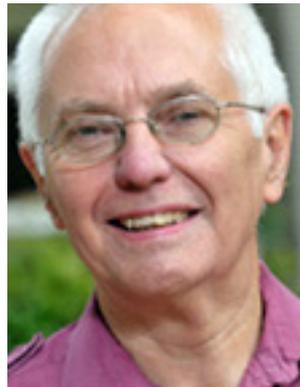
Plenary speaker for the 2012 ANZATS Conference will be Professor **John Goldingay**, whose contribution in the field of Old Testament theology and biblical commentary over many years is outstanding.

John is David Allan Hubbard Professor of Old Testament in the School of Theology of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, where he has served since 1997. He is also an associate pastor at St Barnabas' Episcopal Church, Pasadena.

Before coming to Fuller, Dr Goldingay was the Principal of St John's Theological College, Nottingham, England. Originally from Birmingham, he retains his 'Brum' accent ... and laugh. He is a most engaging speaker.

John's books are well known, from his classic pair of direct relation to the conference theme, *Models for Scripture* (1994) and *Models for the Interpretation of Scripture* (1995), major commentaries on Daniel, Isaiah, and Psalms (three volumes) and his *Old Testament Theology Volumes 1-3* (2003-2009). He has also written several 'popular' books, including *To the Usual Suspects*, *After Eating the Apricot* and *Men Behaving Badly*. Most recently, he has published *Genesis for Everyone* (Parts 1 and 2), the first two volumes of the 'Old Testament for Everyone' series.

Professor Goldingay holds membership in the *Society of Biblical Literature* and serves on the editorial board for the *Library of Hebrew Bible / Old Testament Studies*. □

**Transforming Theology**

The *Transforming Theology* project, with Dr Les Ball as its manager, continues in 2012 under the auspices of the *Council of Deans of Theology*.

The project's latest Newsletter, issued in January, contains thought-provoking material on 'Deep Learning', informed both by data gathered in the project, and research undertaken by Charles de Jongh. If you have not received one, it is available from <http://web.me.com/anzcdt> or the ANZATS website under the 'Transforming Theology' tab.

April workshop

A workshop for all teaching faculty has been arranged for **Friday 27 April 2012**, in Sydney. Flyers have been distributed to all Australian theological Higher Education Providers. If your college has not received them, please contact Les Ball.

In preparation for the workshop, Les would like to hear from you with regard to what sort of information and further development you would find beneficial from the research. **Please forward ideas to him by February 29.**

Registrations are limited, and must be in by 15 March.

Contact details:

Dr Les Ball
33 Cooradilla Street
JINDALEE Qld 4074
les.j.ball@gmail.com
0448 143 778

Conference 'Call for Papers' - page 5

<http://web.me.com/anzcdt>

Your secretary writes ...

Welcome to another ANZATS Newsletter! As always, please share it round with your faculty and students (especially those undertaking research degrees).

AACTh report ... Editor?

2012 Conference: 'Theological Interpretation'

THE 2012 ANZATS / ANZSTS CONFERENCE takes place at Emmanuel College, St Lucia Qld from **July 1 - 4th 2012**, and the **Call for Papers** is included in this Newsletter.

As usual, **two student scholarships** are available, to a maximum of \$800: application forms are included with this Newsletter, and are available from myself and on the ANZATS website, 'Conferences'.

One 'tradition' at ANZATS / ANZSTS Conferences is **book launches**. If you know of a book which it would be appropriate to have sent on its way at the 2012 Conference, please let its Convenor, David Pascoe, know.

ANZATS takes on Colloquium

The *Australian & New Zealand Society for Theological Studies* (ANZSTS) has now merged with ANZATS. The main consequence is that *Colloquium* will come under ANZATS's responsibility in the second half of 2012.

Colloquium has sustained a consistently high standard under its New Zealand-based Editorial Panel. Special thanks must be extended to the Editors, Dr **Nicole Hoggard-Creegan** and Dr **Tim Meadowcroft**, and the Book Review Editor, Dr **Derek Tovey**.

I am delighted to announce that Dr **Anne Elvey** has been appointed as Editor by the ANZATS Council, and Professor **John McDowell** as Book Review Editor. Anne, a Research Associate of the MCD, has significant experience in academic theological publication through *Pacifica*, while John's university context offers a breadth of perspective.

I am pleased to say that, after consultation between the present Editors, myself and the *ANZ Theological Librarians' Association*, *Colloquium* is now indexed on ATLA's database, as well as continuing on EBSCO.

The ANZATS Council is currently looking to appoint members of an Editorial Panel - expressions of interest should be directed to the President or myself.

Higher Education submissions

ANZATS has, since the August 2011 *Newsletter*, made three submissions to government bodies, after consultation across the sector:

- 'Commonwealth Supported Places for Postgraduate Coursework Students', to the *Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations* in December 2011
- 'Masters (Extended) graduates being able to be addressed as Doctor', and 'Possible Changes to Graduate Certificates and Graduate Diplomas', both to the *Australian Qualifications Framework Authority* in January 2012

While not all of these Consultation papers relate directly to the theology sector, the ANZATS Council and the

Council of Deans of Theology believe it is important to continue to engage with government and Higher Education bodies, since most theological education in Australia takes place outside public universities.



I am increasingly aware of the need to understand and contribute to these issues. Higher education continues to change quickly, and it is important that Theology - "whose traditions run in centuries rather than triennia" as one person from AUQA once put it to me - plays its part. □

Charles Sherlock
ANZATS Executive Officer / Treasurer

A Tribute to retiring ANZATS President, Dr Rob McIver

As incoming President of ANZATS, and on behalf of all our members, I would like to pay tribute to **Rob McIver**, who has just completed four years as President. A number of important achievements marked these years.



First and probably most important was the opportunity for ANZATS to reflect on and clarify its identity at a time when the theological sector was undergoing significant change. A notable outcome of this was the thorough revision of the Constitution. This also enabled the Association to clarify its goals, become incorporated, and work out its relationship with the new body, the *Council of Deans of Theology*. Membership of the Association increased, and we became even more representative of the breadth of theological schools in Australia and New Zealand. A further development was the merger with ANZSTS and bringing *Colloquium* under the oversight of ANZATS.

As well as these institutional developments, Rob's time as President was marked by the clear desire that ANZATS should be a place for theological conversation. Each year of his term has seen a successful Conference, with international speakers invited to participate. While these were ably organised by the local organising committees, the leadership of the President gave the overall direction to the conferences. Rob also oversaw a successful Principals' Conference, an important event for an association of theological schools, and offering timely support for principals of colleges in their increasingly complex role.

Rob finished his term as President with ANZATS as strong as ever, on a sound financial footing, and with a clearly defined place and role in the higher education sector and more particularly in theological education.

On behalf of all members I express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the leadership Dr Robert McIver has given us over these four years, and wish him every blessing in his continuing ministry.

Gerard Kelly

New appointments in theological education

Inaugural Vice-Chancellor for MCD University of Divinity

Dr Peter Sherlock has been appointed as the inaugural Vice-Chancellor of *MCD University of Divinity*. He takes up the position in April, following the retirement of Professor Paul Beirne after 12 years at the MCD, 11 as Dean and CEO.

Dr Sherlock (DPhil Oxford) has been Dean of the *United Faculty of Theology* (MCD) since 2008. An honours and MA graduate of the University of Melbourne, he was previously a Lecturer and ARC Postdoctoral Fellow in its School of Historical and Philosophical Studies. His research interests include funerary monuments, the English Reformation and the role of women in the church. Dr Sherlock's current research project is a history of the monuments of Westminster Abbey.



"The Council is very pleased to appoint Dr Sherlock to the role of Vice-Chancellor," said MCD Chancellor, Dr Graeme Blackman. "His strong research, teaching and administrative background will ensure that the MCD University of Divinity is well placed to make a significant contribution to research and teaching in the specialist areas of theology, religious studies and philosophy."

New Principals for 2012

A significant number of changes have taken place in theological college Principals since the August 2011 issue of this Newsletter, especially in Melbourne.

Melbourne School of Theology

The Revd Tim Meyers took up the position of Principal of the *Melbourne School of Theology* (formerly the Bible College of Victoria) in late 2011. He brings a rich background of ministry experience, along with academic work at Dallas Theological Seminary.

Growing up in a missionary family in PNG, Tim has long experience with the missionary agencies *Pioneers Australia* and *Pioneers International*, and in pastoral ministry with Baptist churches in Queensland. Tim trained and worked as a professional musician, secondary school teacher and commercial pilot (flying with *Mission Aviation Fellowship*) before entering professional ministry.

Ridley Melbourne

Dr Brian Rosner has been appointed as Principal of *Ridley Melbourne Mission & Ministry College* from July 2012. Dr Rosner (PhD, Cambridge) is currently Senior Lecturer in New Testament and Ethics and Faculty Research Coordinator at *Moore Theological College*, Sydney, having taught previously at Macquarie University and the University of Aberdeen. His ThM from Dallas Theological Seminary included a double major in Semitics and OT Studies, and NT Literature and Exegesis.

Ms Claire Rogers, who chairs Ridley's Board, said it is excited by Dr Rosner's academic achievements, and his enthusiasm for the faculty to develop research and publication activities at all levels.

The Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne, Dr Philip Freier, also welcomed the announcement: "Dr Rosner's theological scholarship and his extensive academic contacts will further strengthen our ties internationally." Dr Rosner - the first layman to be nominated as Ridley's Principal - was ordained deacon on 4 February 2012. □

School of Christian Studies

Mr Bruce Pollard, Master of Robert Menzies College (Macquarie University) from 2012, is the new Principal of the *School of Christian Studies* based there.



Bruce has long experience in leading university colleges, including Eliot College (University of Kent) and Bruce, Burton and Garran Halls (ANU). His professional discipline is accounting, which he has taught at UNE, ANU and the University of Kent (England).

Queensland Theological College

The Rev Dr Gary Millar (DPhil Oxford) has taken up the position of QTC Principal from January, lecturing in Old Testament and Hebrew. Prior to this appointment he was the minister of two Presbyterian churches in North Dublin, Ireland, and taught Old Testament at the Irish Bible Institute.



Convener of the Presbyterian Church Committee for Ministry Training, the Revd Phil Strong, said QTC is thrilled at the appointment of Dr Millar to the role. "Gary comes highly recommended by theological scholars and churches around the world. He is a world-renowned teacher and scholar, and theological students and ministry workers have widely benefited from his published work."

Presbyterian Theological College Victoria

The Revd Peter Hastie has been appointed Principal and Pastoral Dean of the *Presbyterian Theological College of Victoria*, and will teach Systematic theology and Apologetics. Peter was inducted on 10 February 2012.



With initial training in Law, Peter brings to his new position three decades of pastoral ministry, two decades of involvement in Christian education and 14 years as Editor of *Australian Presbyterian*. □

Lynlea Rodger ATF Press Theological Book Prize announced

The 2010 Lynlea Rodger ATF Press Theological Book Prize has gone to the Revd Dr **Ormond Rush**, Associate Professor, Australian Catholic University, Brisbane, for his book *The Eyes of Faith: The Sense of the Faithful and the Church's Reception of Revelation* (Catholic University of America Press, 2009).

The prize is for the most outstanding theological book authored by a theologian in the Australasian region over a two-year period, in this case 2009-2010.

Associate Professor Babie, Chair of ATF Press, said that the judges' panel considered Dr Rush's work "outstanding", an "extensive exploration of the action of the Spirit and human receptivity in divine revelation, exploring the action of the Spirit in Scripture, Church tradition and history, theology".

The panel found that the "exploration of the human receptivity of divine revelation as the action of the Spirit made the book stand out from all those submitted".

In sum, the book is "a fine work of analysis and synthesis of the Spirit's action in and human reception of divine revelation, and is clearly argued and readable. The book has an admirable breadth of scholarship, and is well-referenced."

ATF celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2012, and believes very strongly in the importance of the prize as recognition of outstanding theological writing in Australasia. From 2009 onwards it is awarded biennially.



Previous winners are:

Dorothy Lee (2005), Denis Edwards (2006),
Anne Hunt (2007), Gary Bouma (2008),
Alan Cadwallader (2009).

Theological conferences of interest in 2012

(apart from ANZATS of course!)

The fourth *Oriente Lumen: Australasia and Oceania* conference will convene at Ormond College, Melbourne from July 4-7 with the theme 'Churches East and West: Questioning the Modern Context'. "The conference will provide an opportunity for Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, Eastern Catholics and Oriental Orthodox Christians to gather and discuss the quest for unity from their different perspectives. The conference welcomes the participation of all interested Christians," states the website, www.orientalelumen.com.au, from which full details of speakers, registration and accommodation are available.

Fruits and Future of Vatican II - a symposium to mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council - will be held from 19-21 September at the East Melbourne and Box Hill campuses of ACU. Speakers include Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Professor Alberto Melloni (John XXIII Foundation for Religious Studies, Bologna) and Professor Gerald O'Collins SJ AC. The Symposium aims to provide participants with a fresh look at the history of the Council in the context of the Church today. Proposals for papers must be sent by May 31: contact admin@ytu.edu.au. □

2012 is the 50th anniversary of the start of the First Session of the *Second Vatican Council*. The French Dominican Yves Congar wrote a diary throughout the Council, the publication of which was embargoed by Congar himself until 2000. The lengthy annotated diary was published by *Editions du Cerf* in 2002. **ATF Press will launch the translated diaries in June 2012.**

For more information, contact Hilary Regan: 0411 876 099.

Meet the new Editor of *Colloquium*

Dr **Anne Elvey** has been appointed by the ANZATS Council as the Editor of *Colloquium*.



Anne brings a wide range of experience to the position, including editorial roles for *Pacifica*, being an active participant in the Earth Bible Project, and with a strong publications record, notably *An Ecological Feminist Reading of the Gospel of Luke: A Gestational Paradigm* (Lewiston NY: Edwin Mellen Press, 2005) and *The Matter of the Text: Material Engagements between Luke and the Five Senses* (Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2011). Her latest collection of poetry is *Claimed by Country* (PressPress, 2010).

Anne's blog is 'Leaf Litter' (<http://anneelvey.wordpress.com>), where she describes herself as follows:

I am an adjunct research fellow in the *Centre for Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies*, Monash University, and an honorary research associate with *MCD University of Divinity*. My recent research focuses on ecological hermeneutics and the materiality of the text. I am also interested in ecological ethics and questions of cultural change for an ecologically sustainable way of being and living.

Anne can be contacted at anne.elvey@monash.edu. □

MCD Dean retires after 12 years' service

Professor **Paul Beirne** retires as Dean and CEO of the *Melbourne College of Divinity* on March 31, twelve years precisely from his coming to the MCD from Korea on April 1, 2000.



The MCD has changed more in Dr Beirne's decade plus as Dean than in its previous 90 years, in large part due to his careful leadership. In 2005, the Parliament of Victoria passed a thoroughly revised MCD Act, giving it a strong and flexible legislative foundation for its future. The MCD was the first non-university Higher Education Provider to gain access to Australian federal research funds, the first to be audited by AUQA, and is now the first to become a University of Specialisation.

In 2010 the MCD Centenary celebrations included a joint Conference with ANZATS, in which Dr Beirne played a leading part. Paul has been an active member of the ANZATS Council, and helped inaugurate the *Council of Deans of Theology*, of which he is currently President. We wish him well in his retirement, which will no doubt be active! □

CONFERENCE 2012 - STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The 2012 ANZATS Conference is being held at Emmanuel College, St Lucia Brisbane Sunday evening 1st July to Wednesday afternoon 6th July. The theme of the Conference is 'Theological Interpretation of Bible, Church and World'. Details can be found at www.anzats.edu.au/conferences.html

ANZATS is offering two student scholarships for the conference, under the following conditions agreed to by the ANZATS Council:

Eligibility: The scholarships are available to students enrolled in theological courses at member institutions of ANZATS who have completed the equivalent of at least three semesters' full-time study, but not completed their course.

Criteria: As a general rule, one scholarship will be awarded to a coursework student (BTh, MDiv etc) and one to a Higher Degree by Research candidate.

The basic criterion for the award of a scholarship is academic merit: preference will be given to persons working in an area related to the major theme of the conference. The extent to which participation in the conference will encourage and assist successful students to undertake further theological studies will also be taken into account.

Value: Registration for the ANZATS Conference, plus up to \$500 towards travel and accommodation costs, to a maximum of \$800. The amount of each scholarship will not exceed the amount of those expenses.

Applications: Applications must be in writing and transmitted electronically to Dr Charles Sherlock secretary@anzats.edu.au by 5.00pm Eastern Standard time on Friday 1st June 2012. **Late applications will not be considered.**

Applications must include the following:

- A statement of the course in which the applicant is enrolled, and progress made;
- A brief statement of the benefits the applicant hopes to gain from participating in this conference;
- A letter from the Principal of the member institution, or the student's principal academic supervisor, certifying that the applicant is eligible to apply, and commenting on her or his academic merit;
- A statement of other support which the applicant can receive to attend the conference;
- Full contact details for the student and the person giving the accompanying reference.

The scholarships will be paid by ANZATS to each successful applicant on presentation of documentation justifying the expenses towards which the scholarship is directed.

Further enquiries should be directed to Dr Sherlock at the above email address.

2012 ANZATS / ANZSTS Conference:

July 1-4, Emmanuel College, Brisbane

Theological Interpretation of Bible, Church & World

with Professor John Goldingay

The 2012 conference will begin with registration and a lecture on the evening of **Sunday 1st July**, and conclude mid-afternoon on **Wednesday 4th July**. The venue will be Emmanuel College in the University of Queensland. (Delegates are asked to make their own accommodation bookings separately from registration.)

The main speaker will be **Professor John Goldingay**, from Fuller Theological Seminary USA, and formerly of St John's Theological College, Nottingham, England - see front page..

Planning Committee (in alphabetical order, after the Convenor)

The Revd Dr David Pascoe (Brisbane ANZATS Chapter Chair, ACU School of Theology)

Mr John Coulson (Crossroads College)

The Revd Dr Geoff Thompson (Trinity Theological College)

The Revd Dr David McEwan, Nazarene Theological College

Dr Sam Hey (Citipointe Ministry College)

The Revd Dr Bruce Winter (Qld Theological College)

The 2012 ANZATS AGM will take place during the Conference, and will include a report on the *Transforming Theology* project from Dr **Les Ball**. (The ANZATS Council will meet on the previous Saturday, June 30th.)

Student Scholarships

Two scholarships are available for theological students studying full-time in Australia or New Zealand, to a maximum value of AUD\$800 each (usually enough to cover registration and accommodation, and assist with travel.) Usually one has been to give one to a coursework student towards the end of their degree, and one to a research degree candidate. Due date for application is **June 1st, 2012**.

Application forms are enclosed with this Newsletter, and are also available from the ANZATS Executive Officer.

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

www.anzats.edu.au/conferences.html

2013 Conference - advance notice

The 2013 ANZATS Conference will be held in Auckland, New Zealand, from **Sunday 30th June** to **Wednesday 3rd July** - please note these dates in your diary now! The theme will be determined by the local organising committee, led by Professor Paul Trebilco (University of Otago).

Call for Papers - Guidelines

The 2012 Conference Planning Committee is pleased to invite members of the theological and wider academic community to submit proposals for short papers to be presented at the conference. It is expected that presentations will occupy 30 minutes, including question time.

The due date for proposals is **Monday 27 February 2012**.

Papers relating to the conference's theme of 'Theological Interpretation of Bible, Church and World' are encouraged. However, as is ANZATS custom - proposals in other areas are welcome, especially to enable participants to test current research findings (including research students).

Without intending to be restrictive, the nominated theme draws particular attention to three focal areas of theological reflection: the Bible itself, the nature and mission of the Church, and the inter-relationship of Christian faith and society. In this latter category, papers can deal with areas such as the arts, culture, environment, ethics, justice, and politics.

Please send submissions to dmcewan@ntc.edu.au or mail to

ANZATS 2012, c/- Revd Dr David B. McEwan
Nazarene Theological College,
40 Woodlands Drive,
Thornlands, QLD 4164

Proposals should be 200-250 words long and must include

- o your full name, title, institution (or location), email, phone / mobile number, and mailing address;
- o title, aim, and indication of the position being put;
- o any additional information that may help the committee weigh your submission;
- o what audio-visual equipment your presentation needs.

It is helpful if you can demonstrate how the paper fits into relevant discussion among scholars and / or within the churches, and preferably both.

Please indicate if you have an interest in creating a forum, for example to discuss a significant new book, to focus on a discrete area of specialisation, or to discuss recent trends in theological education. (This may need a double session.)

Proposals will be peer-reviewed, with responses made by June 1, 2012. Finalized abstracts of provisionally accepted papers are due June 14 (to be included in the conference booklet, allowing participants to make informed choices).

Papers presented at the conference can be submitted for consideration of publication to *Colloquium* (the journal of ANZSTS). □