

NEWCASTLE ANGLICAN SCHOOLS CORPORATION

Synod Report

The Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation was established under an Ordinance of Synod in 2007. Amendments to the Ordinance were passed by Synod in 2009 and the proposed Diocesan Schools Corporation Ordinance 2009 was accepted. This ordinance more succinctly outlines Membership of the Corporation, duties and powers of the Board, articulates appointment of school chaplains, the imperative of a Christian Religious Education syllabus and reflects the appointment of a CEO. The CEO, Ms Natalie Raine, in June/July, inspected models of Anglican Schools systems in Western Australia and Grafton, and began to work with the four Diocesan Schools to achieve best practice financial management and synergy.

Ms Natalie Raine, appointed CEO in June 2009, resigned her position in August. The NASC Board decided to divide the role of CEO into two part-time positions, and in November appointed Mrs Sharon Waters as Business Manager, and in January 2010 Mrs Margaret Gibbs as Executive Officer. The NASC office was established within the new Diocesan Office complex in November 2009.

The Board members are:-

- The Right Reverend Dr Brian Farran (Bishop of Newcastle) (President)
- The Right Reverend Peter Stuart (Assistant Bishop)
- Mr John Cleary (Diocesan Business Manager)
- Mr Malcolm McDonald (Trustee of Church Property)
- Mr Colin Johnston (Audit Committee)
- Mr Alan Green (Elected representative of School Principals)
- Mrs Beryl Fenwick (Elected Board member from Member school Councils)
- Mr John Deasey (Diocesan Council appointment)
- Dr Allan Taylor (Diocesan Council appointment)
- The Reverend Stephen Dent (Bishop's appointment)
- Mrs Margaret Gibbs (Executive Officer and Board Secretary) (no voting rights)
- Mrs Sharon Waters (Business Manager) (no voting rights)

Priorities for the Officers of the Corporation are to manage the administrative needs of the NASC and to develop policies that will enable secure financial management in the schools and oversight by the Corporation. The schools report on their fiscal status by submitting financial reports, forecasts and budgets monthly to the NASC for approval, and by preparing ten/twenty year strategic plans.

Another priority is the affirming to all of the Christian ethos and Mission of our schools by facilitating:- a Mission in the schools in Term 3, a Celebration Day in Term 4, and the development, with school personnel, of a Christian Religious Education Progress Map/Syllabus for implementation in the schools.

The Bishop and Executive Officer attend at least two School Council meetings each year for each school. School Principals meet each term with the Executive Officer and submit a monthly report to the NASC. School Council Chairpersons and Business Managers are included in various NASC forums – meetings and teleconferences.

Currently the NASC is developing its strategic plan, and is devising a '*Chaplaincy in the Newcastle Anglican Schools*' policy for implementation. Future challenges for the Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation include creating opportunities for synergising our schools, for growing our school system and for advocating our schools as models of low-fee Anglican Schools that provide high quality inclusive educational opportunities for all and outreach to their communities.

Margaret Gibbs
Executive Officer
June 2010