



Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation

Report to Synod 2013

The Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation continues to serve and support the four member schools of the Corporation under the direction of the Board. The Board meets six times a year with an additional special meeting convened to receive and approve school budgets.

Membership of the board is as follows

The Right Reverend Dr Peter Stuart (ex-officio)
Ms Bev Birch
Mr John Cleary (CEO, ex-officio)
Mr John Deasey
Mr Matthew Guyder (appointed June 2013)
Mr Michael Hannah
Mr Colin Johnston
Mrs Lorin Livingstone (Business Manager, ex-officio)
Professor Terry Lovat
Mr Malcolm McDonald
Dr Allan Taylor (Resigned November 2012)

Under the supervision of Mrs Lorin Livingstone, the Schools Management Division (SMD) continues to assist member schools with centralised financial processing. In March 2013, the Schools Management Division began centralised assistance for Manning Valley Anglican College. This is in addition to the ongoing centralised assistance for Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College and Lakes Grammar - An Anglican School. The NASC also continues to maintain financial oversight of Scone Grammar School.

Centralised Banking

Following an extensive tender process, consultations with, and presentations to our School Boards, the NASC Board, the Diocesan audit committee and the Trustees of Church Property, the central lending facility came to fruition in May 2013, the end result bringing many benefits to the Diocese and schools alike. As part of this initiative, the number of lenders to our Diocesan schools was reduced from six (6) down to two (2). The two lenders now being the ANZ Bank and the Anglican Savings and Development Fund.

The central banking initiative is a core task of the NASC under its ordinance. This was a significant piece of work in the life of our Diocesan schools. I am grateful for all those involved with the process over the past 12 months.

Other NASC initiatives

During the year, the following have been facilitated by the NASC:

- The Combined Schools Boards Conference in July 2013.
- Schools Celebration Day at the Cathedral in November 2012.
- Induction of New Staff in NASC Schools in February 2013.
- Retreat for Schools Executive Staff in March 2013.
- Meetings, with presentations, of school Principals, school Chaplains each term.
- Christian Religious Studies Syllabus planning, progress and evaluation workshop in June with schools' staff members and Principals.

- Professional development services to support new staff in Diocesan schools, new Chaplains, newly appointed school Board members, and all schools' board members.

Guest presenters at these occasions have been Bishop Peter Stuart, Mr John Cleary, Mr Michael Hannah, Professor Terry Lovat, Dr Geoff Newcomb, Executive Director Association of Independent Schools, The Venerable Stephen Pullin, Mrs Margaret Gibbs, the Reverend Roger Zohrab and the Reverend Luke Hopkins.

Current initiatives of the NASC

- Implementation in the four member schools of a common curriculum in Christian Religious Studies that is delivering a syllabus encompassing years K to 12;
- The continued embedding and operation of the Schools Management Division;
- Investigating professional support for school staff delivering the Christian Religious Studies Syllabus;
- Opportunities for better reflecting the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in our schools' structures and extending the missional impetus of the schools.

Current challenges on the educational landscape of Australia include the Gonski Federal Funding Review, NAPLAN, MySchool website and the National Curriculum.

NASC Officers have represented the NASC at:-

- The *Anglican Schools Australia* Annual Conference
- Association of School Business Administrators and the Bursars' Association of NSW Conference and professional development days.

Retirement of NASC CEO Margaret Gibbs

At the April 2013 Board meeting, Bishop Peter Stuart acknowledged the work and contribution, to the Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation, of Margaret Gibbs. He made reference to Margaret's vocational understanding and assistance to the church and lifelong educational experience which is important to the life of the Diocese. Margaret has brought a characteristic humility, gentleness and at the same time a characteristic firmness to the role. The Board wished her well. Margaret was suitably farewelled at a morning tea hosted at the Diocesan office on the 13th May 2013.

Appointment of new NASC CEO

Following the retirement of Margaret Gibbs and a resolution of the Board of the Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation meeting April 2013, Bishop Peter Stuart formally announced the appointment of Mr John Cleary as the incoming CEO of the NASC. John will attend to these duties in addition to his duties as the Diocesan Business Manager. The NASC is recruiting a School Liaison Officer to work on current NASC initiatives.

John Cleary

Chief Executive Officer

10 July 2013