

# ANGLICAN MEN'S SOCIETY

The National Council in Australia

## NEWSLETTER

No. 111

Thirty Ninth Year of publication  
ISSN 1836-7364

February, 2017

### FROM BISHOP JOHN STEAD – AMS National Chairman

**Part of our call as Christians is to be followers of Christ [disciples], filled with the Holy Spirit, confident in faith and sharing it boldly [discipling others].**

In writing this I looked for what others have written about disciples and discipleship, one wrote: [A disciple's] *walk will be challenging and exciting, and you will have a sense of purpose and direction.*

*A disciple [can be] defined as a learner, a pupil, one who comes to be taught. [But it is also one who follows that teaching in thought, word and deed.]*

*The relationship between the disciple and his teacher is not merely that of a student listening to a lecturer, or a passively interested listener. A disciple listens with attention and intention... with an intense desire to apply what has been learned.*

So one of the characteristics of discipleship is intentionality. In practical terms, to take the experience of worshipping together, the message of the scripture and preaching and put it into action. There is a phrase in the Daily Services (Morning and Evening Prayer), page 383-424 of A Prayer Book for Australia, which says: *May your word live in us **and bear much fruit to your glory.*** This encapsulates that intentionality and recognises that the word is alive and has power to change us, to transform us. Another characteristic of discipleship then is our willingness to make ourselves open to the Spirit working in us so that we become more able to reflect the one whom we follow, the Christ.

Discipleship also calls us to disciple others. The following words are helpful in our understanding of what it means to disciple: *God... asks us to do Discipleship. Discipleship is modelling and teaching Christians the precepts of the Bible—mainly prayer, doctrine, Christian living, and worship. Yes, we are still to evangelize, but that is not our main mission and call! When we evangelize, we must realize that it is the role of the Holy Spirit to bring people into an intimate relationship with God. This is an act of divine intervention and grace.*

Part of what we are called to do is to help others be disciples and to equip and enable them to disciple others. Being a disciple leads us toward discipling. It is a natural part of our response to what God has done in our lives that we would want to extend the sense of joy that comes through God's grace directed toward us.

Can we commit to a focus on building people up as disciples, building people up for discipleship in 2017 in the knowledge that this is the route which leads to life in abundance. Jesus, in John 10:10b says: <sup>10b</sup> *I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.* He says these words in the context of speaking of the Good Shepherd protecting the Shepherd; in the context of the sheep who will follow the voice of the Good Shepherd; of disciples.

Peace,



### News from Tasmania

AMS Longford has had a lengthy recess from December to the end of January- but members have assisted at the Parish Fair held on February 18 in the beautiful grounds of Christ Church, Longford.

We congratulate Ivan (Holt) and Warren (Cole) on receiving an OAM in the 2017 Australia Day Honours List and comment that once again this demonstrates the wider community involvement of many AMS members.

A State Council Meeting will be held at St John's Newtown from 10.30 a.m. on Friday March 3 and Longford will be represented.

**Trevor Cowell**

---

### AMS Web site

At long last I am on the cusp of settling all the arrangements to enable ready operation of the [amsnational.org.au](http://amsnational.org.au) Website. Within a matter of a few weeks-or less- the Site will have been updated with contemporary information and with the Hosting organisation being in Launceston this should make it much more convenient to keep it up-to-date even though most transfers of information are done via email.

Members are encouraged to 'log-onto' [www.amsnational.org.au](http://www.amsnational.org.au) regularly to keep up-to-date with "what's happening in AMS?" across Australia.

Any Member or Branch that wishes to have information – details of office-bearers, dates of meetings, Newsletters etc should forward these to [trevorcowell@bigpond.com](mailto:trevorcowell@bigpond.com) to be prepared for inclusion on the Website.

---

### AMS Longford



Not only is AMS at Longford into wood-chopping and manure bagging- the sort of things big men do - but we also have our artistic side- well demonstrated in this photo of our contribution to the Parish of Longford Floral Festival at Christ Church, held in conjunction with the Parish Fete/Fair on February 19 in the picturesque church grounds. **Trevor Cowell**

---

### Pilgrimage by John Brown.

Late last year John Brown and his dog Buddy made a pilgrimage from Brisbane to Hastings, Victoria by in his utility. The reason for the trip was to visit his older sister, Isa, as she was now 97 years old. His only companion was the GPS which keen to have him travel via the Newel Highway but John kept mainly to minor roads and finally switched the GPS system off.

Staying with friends and relations on the way the last day was hurried as he was advised that Isa was now in the Hastings hospital. John made it before Christmas and was able to visit Isa in hospital before returning to Brisbane. Isa died on New Year's eve and John was able to attend her funeral by flying to Melbourne. The full story can be found in the AMS Queensland Review where John is the editor. RIP Isa.

---

**Strathewen Primary School, Victoria.**

The village of Strathewen is located north of Melbourne at the foot of the Kinglake range. In January 2009 the black Saturday bushfire descended on the village from the north and largely destroyed the place including the Primary School.

This bushfire made headlines around the world and the people of Villiers-Bretonneux in France heard about the loss of the Primary School. They remembered the Australian soldiers who attacked the Germans holding their town on the 24<sup>th</sup> April, 1918 and never retreated after this victory. Artillery fire from both sides had destroyed their town and also the school. The V-B School was rebuilt after the war with money raised by Victorian Primary School children. Above each blackboard in the school rooms are the words – ‘N’oublions jamais l’Australie” or “Never forget Australia”.

When the citizens of V-B heard of the loss of the Strathewen School they raise money to contribute to the rebuilding costs. Their funds went into re-establishing the grounds, cricket nets, cubby houses, gardens and the French court yard (see below). Only one building, a small cubby house, survived the fire as it was built with mud bricks. In October, 2011 a bus load of V-B visitors arrived, lead by their mayor, Patrick Simon, to meet the staff and children and inspect the works built with the V-B funds. A great day of celebrations at the school and the connexion with V-B continues to day.





The French Courtyard with the large chess set – Strathewen Primary School

---

#### **Medal of the Order of Australia.**

Two members from Victoria were fortunate to receive this OAM in the recent Australia Day Awards. Warren Cole, Lay President of AMS Victoria and Ivan Holt, National Secretary and Editor of this Newsletter. In both cases the citation reads “ For service to the community through social welfare organisations.”

David Wait AMS member at Toowoomba received his OAM “For voluntary services to the Darling Downs Health Service”.

Well done by those members as it keeps the AMS flag flying in the community.

---

#### **Promotion on FM Radio in Sydney**

**Neil McMullen** could be heard on FM 90.1 in Sydney on 2nd February in an interview with the presenter talking about AMS in Australia. This station has a Web Site [2nbc.com.au](http://2nbc.com.au) and now has a link to the AMS Web Site. To tune into this station on your computer just google **2NBC90.1FM** and turn up the sound!

The next ‘AMS in Australia’ talks will be 4.45pm 13<sup>th</sup> March and 4.45pm 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2017. Well done Neil.

---

#### **News from Queensland**

##### **DODOMA Children’s home in Tanzania:**

AMS Qld has donated \$20,000 to build an activities building for these street children.

**Sudanese Bishop Daniel Abot** – Bishop Daniel is on a one year travel around South Sudan doing God's work with little financial help. AMS Qld has donated \$2,400 to the Bishop's Travel Fund.

**AMS Qld May State Conference:**

Last year we had a 3 day Qld AGM in Bundaberg. It was very successful with really good fellowship. As a direct result of this we have decided that future Qld AGMs shall be 3 day State Conferences. This year it will be in Toowoomba on May 5-7. To encourage high participation Qld AMS will pay all travel expenses and motel accommodation. This means the only cost to members will be food and drinks.

**AMS National Conference in September:**

QLD AMS look forward to welcome many AMS members from all states. We promise you a well-planned conference with lots of activity for both members and their partners. The conference will take place on September 8, 9 and 10 at the 4 star Watermarks Hotel in Wickham Terrace, Brisbane overlooking the Roma Street Gardens. Very central. Thanks to a generous sponsorship all hotel accommodation will be at half price, so get your planners out, and let us know as soon as possible of your intention to attend. Actual bookings can come later, we just want to be sure we have enough rooms booked. See you in Brisbane to one of the best ever conferences.

Chairman **Jim Smith** and  
General Manager **Andy Brodersen**

---

**Lay-President AMS Melbourne**

As yet Melbourne does not have a Lay-President for 2017 as Warren Cole has stepped down after ten years in this position. The Next Diocesan Council meeting will be held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February when a decision will be made on the future of the Council. There are currently four branches operating in the Melbourne area namely Cheltenham, Mitcham, Rosanna and Romsey. In regional Victoria there are branches in Maryborough and Ballarat and many Diocesan members.

One method of raising funds in Melbourne is to run a Sausage Sizzle at a Bunnings Store. Our next Sausage sizzle will be at the Box Hill store on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March in aid of our AMS Bill Brady Welfare fund.

---

**Who was Bill Brady MBE?**

William Brady was a bank manager with the State Bank of Victoria. His employment took him and his family to various towns around Victoria. He was the Lay-President of AMS in the Wangaratta diocese and also Melbourne diocese 1955 -1956. In Melbourne for many years a parishioner of All Saints', Nunawading but on many Sundays he could only be found at Pentridge Prison talking to prisoners and helping them in many ways to plan for their return to civilian life. At one stage due the lack of an Anglican Prison Chaplain he was made an honorary prison chaplain by the Archbishop.

In 1963 he and the Senior Chaplain, W.C. McSpedden, suggested that AMS sponsor a hostel for ex- prisoners. After much planning of constitutions, committees formed and a large property provided by the Mission of St. James & St. John, the hostel was opened on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 1964. Later a house next door was purchased and called McSpedden cottage.

The philosophy for the operation of "Brady House" was unique; receiving favourable recognition both here and overseas. It functioned as a hostel for released prisoners selected by the Prison Chaplain; but also as a hostel for men from the general community. The background of the released prisoners was not disclosed, so all boarders lived there in

harmony. A branch of the Society, named the AMS Brady House branch, met regularly at the hostel. Thus began the most significant programme in the history of AMS Victoria, which functioned well for sixteen years. Brady house closed in 1979 as a result of taking in pre-release prisoners as boarders and the trust between boarders was broken due to visits from prison officials to the hostel. Bill Brady died in 1978 before the closure of the hostel.

Money which came from the sale of McSpedden cottage became seed funding for "AMS Bill Brady Welfare Organisation Inc." was set up after the closure of the hostel by the management committee. Since inception in 1985 AMS Bill Brady Welfare Organisation Inc. has given \$273,500 to help the distressed, disadvantaged and disabled.

The name of Bill Brady MBE lives on.

---

### **AMS WEB SITE - [amsnational.org.au](http://amsnational.org.au)**

Our National Lay Vice Chairman, Trevor Cowell, has taken on the role of Webmaster as reported on page 2 and reports that the Web Site has been updated. If you are not sure you are looking at the latest copy please press the F5 tab on your keyboard to refresh the site. Branch Secretaries can send information to Trevor for inclusion on the Web Site. For this site to be effective in promoting AMS it must be up to date.

---

### **BOOK REVIEWS**

**Pompey Elliott** – a biography by Ross Mullen, published by Scribe 2002 – P/B at \$39.99  
The story of a charismatic, controversial and outstandingly successful military leader in WW1. In post war life a lawyer and Victorian Senator in the Federal parliament. A great Australian. This book should be in every public library in Australia.

**Victories at Villiers-Bretonneux** by Peter Fitzsimons – H/B at \$49.95. A well written and detailed account of Australian Divisions blocking the huge advances made by the Germans in France following the withdrawal of Russia from WW1. Peter Fitzsimons style is to include many soldier's stories.

---

### **DIRECTORY OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OFFICE BEARERS.**

**Chairman:** The Right Rev'd John Stead, PO Box 96, Gladstone, SA, 5473.

Tel: (08) 8662 2249 – Fax: (08) 8662 2027 –  
e-mail: [bishopsecretary@diowillochra.org.au](mailto:bishopsecretary@diowillochra.org.au)

**Clerical Vice Chairman:** vacant

**Lay Vice Chairman:** Trevor Cowell, PO Box 22, PERTH, Tasmania, 7300

Tel/Fax: 03 6398 2507 - e-mail: [trevorcowell@bigpond.com](mailto:trevorcowell@bigpond.com)

**Secretary:** Ivan Holt, 3 Scarborough Road, Vermont South, Vic, 3133.

Tel: 03 9886 8516 - e-mail: [iaholt6@bigpond.com](mailto:iaholt6@bigpond.com)

**Treasurer:** Grahame Foster, 30 Upton St, Launceston, Tas, 7250

Tel: 03 6331 8551 e-mail: [oceanic@internode.on.net](mailto:oceanic@internode.on.net)

**AMS WEB PAGE:** [www.amsnational.org.au](http://www.amsnational.org.au)

---