



News from Diocesan Council

December 2013 to February 2014

“Taking the Plunge Together”

Bishop John introduced the programme ***taking the plunge together*** which is the title he has given to a period of mission for the whole diocese to take us from this coming Lent through to Pentecost 2015. He invites every parish/pastoral district to participate in what should be a time of opportunity, challenge and growth for us all. He has assured us of his prayers and that he is here to work with us as we continue our pilgrim journey. Please pray for ***taking the plunge together***, for your part in it and for Bishop John as he seeks to lead the diocese on the path of renewal and into the eternal future that God has prepared for us all.

Continuing Safer Ministry Training

A further training date will be advised soon

Reminder

Introduction of extended Safer Ministry Processes

That this Diocesan Council requires that a police check, safer ministry training and safer ministry questionnaires are completed by all wardens, those ministering to children, the elderly and the vulnerable, official hospital and home visitors and paid opshop managers; while a police check is required from volunteer opshop managers.

Please refer to your Parish Priest or Parish Secretary for the necessary documentation associated with the above mentioned roles.

Ms Linda Vinall, Quality Initiative Presenter Manager of the Safe Church Training Agreement with the National Council of Churches in Australia spoke to Diocesan Council and reported various aspects of the training provided throughout the diocese since the first delivery of their workshops. Several points were discussed including locations and venues of the training, the length of the day course, its content and the dispatch of the Certificates and the frequency of training.

Council agreed to a task group being convened by Fr Paul Devenport to identify diocesan requirements and to ensure smooth running of continuing training over the next three years.

Clara Street properties, Murray Bridge -

Diocesan Council has appointed a team to look over these diocesan properties and to report back. A lease renewal to June 2015 to coincide with the existing tenants funding period has been offered on the 4 Clara Street property.

Bishop's Office & Registry - Diocesan Council agreed that a new lease be entered into for three years with the right of renewal and noted the lessor's agreement to provide a split system, air conditioner within the tenancy.

Royal Commission - The former Administrator has continued to respond to correspondence in relation to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Sabbatical - In light of the disproportionate amount of extra responsibility that has been placed upon the former Administrator a paid three month period of sabbatical leave was granted by the Bishop and approved by Council. The leave is exceptional and unique to the circumstances.

Portrait of former Bishop - Council felt it appropriate that a portrait of the former bishop be placed in the foyer of the Registry with those of other previous bishops. This is now complete.

Bishop's Lodge Garden - A new drip watering system has been installed and replanting will commence when the weather is more suitable.

Leigh Trust Trustees: have advised Council that Grant payments for the year ending 31 March 2015 will increase by approximately 9.8%.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council (NATSIAC) Diocesan Council noted that historically the diocese has not financially assisted NATSIAC and agreed not to fund them on this occasion.

SYNOD DATE - Fri & Sat 23rd/24th May 2014.

Draft Budget 2014: Council considered the Draft Budget prepared and recommended by the FAI Committee and agreed to approve it for presentation to the 2014 Synod.