



News from Diocesan Council

February to April 2015

Moratorium on all capital expenditure in excess of \$5,000 - In an effort to prepare better for future mission and ministry in the Diocese the Bishop presented a paper to the Council at its March meeting. As a result of this paper the following motion was carried unanimously: *That this Diocesan Council resolves to set a moratorium on all capital expenditure in excess of \$5,000 effective from 26 March 2015 until the Diocesan Synod of 2016.* The Bishop added that the motion has been passed in order that we can give ourselves some time to conduct a basic survey of our property and assets so that they can be seen as ways in which we can better serve the Tradition – the proclamation of the Good News of God to the present generation. Our Diocesan Regulations are clear that all changes and developments to buildings and most capital expenditure in excess of \$1,000 have to be approved by the Archdeacon and receive endorsement by the Diocesan Council on the recommendation of the Bishop. This decision means that applications for works which exceed \$5,000 are most unlikely to be approved (there are, and always will be, exceptions for emergency work and repair; however, these will be granted only by the Diocesan Council).

Council Retirements - Lay Canons Michael Bleby and Anne England made it known that they did not intend to stand for re-election to the Diocesan Council after 30 and 24 years respectively of continuous service in varying capacities within the Diocese and with the impending resignations from parish ministry of Canon Graham Cooling (Delamere) and Fr Dennis Eales (Yankalilla) it was noted they also would not be standing for re-election to the Council. Appreciation for their service was acknowledged with acclamation.

Safer Ministry Training - A training manual written for the Diocese of The Murray will be implemented during training sessions in 2015. Future training dates have been advised to all parishes. The dates are also available on the diocesan website www.murray.anglican.org

Investment Distribution Rate - Paid on all investments held with the diocese was set at 2.5% per annum for the six month period to 31 March 2015.

Minute recording equipment - Council is reviewing this for future meetings.

Integrated Accounting System (IAS) – With a view to overcoming the problem within parishes and pastoral districts of finding a treasurer it is proposed to have one bank account and one set of accounting records within the Diocese. The newest pastoral district formed in the Southern Suburbs was not able to secure a treasurer (except for payment for services) and therefore has become the first pastoral district to come under the new arrangements. Mr Bob Plummer has offered his services to the Diocese to put this arrangement in place. Each parish and pastoral district will receive individual monthly reports and a report for Vestry. An appropriately qualified person will be employed to take over these operations in due course, the role is expected to operate from the Registry.

Requests for financial contributions - The Anglican Diocese of Gippsland invited the Diocese to join with them and make a contribution to recognise and honour the life of Bishop John McIntyre following his untimely death by naming a proposed new conference and retreat facility the John McIntyre Centre Fund and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council (NATSIAC) invited Council to consider financial support. It was noted that historically the Diocese has not financially assisted NATSIAC. Council agreed not to fund these requests on this occasion.

Hosting General Synod - Council agreed not to express an interest in hosting the seventeenth session of the General Synod.

Church Land - Council agreed to a first right of refusal should Anglican Church land in Berri be proposed for sale and Council further agreed to a first right of refusal should land adjacent to the Naracoorte Church be made available for sale.

Draft Budget 2015 - Council considered the draft budget prepared and recommended by the FAI Committee and agreed to approve it for presentation to Synod.

Leigh Trust Trustees - have advised Council that Grant payments for the year ending 31st March 2016 will increase by approximately 8.2%.

2015 Synod - 29 & 30 May, Woodcroft College.