

**THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA**

**THE DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE**

**The Minutes of the Second Session of the Forty-ninth Synod**

The Synod Eucharist was held at Christ Church Cathedral Newcastle on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 pm at which the Bishop presided and preached.

**MINUTES – FIRST DAY**

**Saturday 17 October 2009**

**Synod assembled at 8.30am at the Conservatorium of the University of Newcastle,  
Laman Street, Newcastle**

The Synod was addressed prior to the lunch adjournment by Professor John MacDowell,  
the Morpeth Professor Theology at the University of Newcastle.

The Synod was addressed following the dinner adjournment by Professor Norman Habel,  
Professor Emeritus at Flinders University, South Australia.

1. **PRAYERS DURING THE SYNOD WERE LED** by the Synod Chaplain, the Reverend Ann Watson.
2. **ROLL OF CLERGY AND LAY REPRESENTATIVES**

Clergy and Lay Representatives notified attendance.

The following clergy and lay representatives were granted Leave of Absence:

The Reverend Allan Bate, Bulahdelah Tea Gardens (Saturday)  
The Reverend Canon Paul Robertson, New Lambton  
The Reverend Matt Shorten, Lakes Anglican (Friday)  
The Reverend Ramsay Nuthall, Chaplain Juvenile Justice  
The Reverend Kim Miller, Corrective Services  
Mr John Price, Trustee of Church Property  
Mrs Elizabeth Price, Gresford Paterson  
Mrs Janella Leotta, Harrington Coopernook  
Mrs Helen Holiday, Taree  
Mr Wally Jarvis, Taree  
Mr Clive Hughes, Windale  
Mrs Karen Marshall, Muswellbrook  
Mr Walter Jackson, Kotara South  
Mrs Janice Jamieson, Swansea  
Mr Barrie Lawn, Scone  
Mr John Dalby, Islington-Carrington (Saturday)

Mr Greg Flint, Anglican Care  
 Mrs Rosalie Drew, Islington-Carrington  
 Mr Howard Whitelaw, Storm Retirement Village  
 Mr Kevin Short, East Maitland  
 Mr Terry Rowe, Terrigal  
 Mr Doug Shannon, St Albans  
 Mrs Gay Shannon, St Albans  
 Mr Keith Allen, Chairman of Committees  
 Mrs Carrol Hale, The Camden Haven

### 3. THE PRESIDENT DECLARED SYNOD CONSTITUTED

#### 4. 4.1 PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The Bishop of Newcastle delivered the Presidential Address.

#### 4.2 FORMAL RESPONSE TO PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

**Mrs Sue Williams moved; seconded by the Reverend David Battrick**

*“The Synod thanks the Bishop for his Pastoral Report to the Synod, and asks that the Report be printed and distributed to its members.”*

### 5. MOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS OF A PROCEDURAL NATURE AFFECTING THE FUNCTIONING OF SYNOD

#### 5.1 The Venerable Arthur Copeman moved; seconded by the Venerable Stephen Pullin:

*“That Mr Geoff Spring be appointed Acting Deputy Chairman of Committees for this session of Synod, due to the absence of Mr John Price.”*

#### 5.2 The Venerable Stephen Pullin moved; seconded by the Venerable Arthur Copeman:

*“That Standing Order No.19 be suspended to allow certain motions of a procedural nature affecting the functioning of this Synod.”* **CARRIED**

#### 5.3 The Venerable Stephen Pullin moved; seconded by the Venerable Arthur Copeman:

*“That so much of Standing Orders be suspended as would allow changes in the order of proceedings for this Session of Synod.”* **CARRIED**

**5.4 The Venerable Stephen Pullin moved; seconded by the Venerable Arthur Copeman:**

*“That the times of sitting be as printed in the Business Paper.”* **CARRIED**

**5.5 Mr Geoff Spring moved; seconded by the Diocesan Business Manager:**

*“That so much of Standing Orders be suspended as would allow a total of 20 minutes for the Samaritans Foundation to make a small presentation to Synod and speak to their report.”* **CARRIED**

**5.6 The Venerable Stephen Pullin moved; seconded by the Venerable Arthur Copeman:**

*“That this Synod permits the presence of the members of the media to report its proceedings except at such times as the Synod is in Committee or at other times as directed.”* **CARRIED**

**5.7 The Venerable Arthur Copeman moved; seconded by Mrs Sue Williams:**

*“That a Steering Committee be appointed, comprising the Archdeacon of Newcastle, the Diocesan Business Manager and the Chairman of Committees with power to co-opt.”* **CARRIED**

**5.8 The Venerable Arthur Copeman moved; seconded by the Diocesan Business Manager:**

*“That a Synod Minute Reading Committee comprising the Archdeacon of Newcastle the Chairman of Committees and Mr Alan Green with power to delegate be appointed.”* **CARRIED**

**5.9 Mrs Sue Sneddon moved; seconded by Mrs Gail Orchard:**

*“That this Synod approves of the distribution of materials and information by the CEY Ministries Commission, pertaining to the CEY Ministries related areas of Ministry with Children, Young People and Families in the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle; the distribution of information by GFS – An Anglican Ministry and the distribution of a brochure by the Anglican Cursillo Movement, Diocese of Newcastle.”* **CARRIED**

**5.10 Dr Geoff Rigby moved; seconded Mrs Judith Walsh:**

*“That members of Synod recognize the significance and value of the Diocesan Environment Commission initiative (endorsed by previous synod sessions) to set aside a one hour session at synod for an Environment Guest Lecture and presentation related to environmental issues and agrees to continue this practice at future synod sessions.”* **CARRIED**

**5.11 The Reverend David Battrick moved; seconded by the Reverend Canon Stephen Williams:**

*“That this Synod approves the distribution of materials produced by the Newcastle School of Theology for Ministry.”* **CARRIED**

**5.12 The Reverend Canon Dr Julia Perry moved; seconded by the Reverend Terry Frewin:**

*“That this Synod approves the distribution of materials and information from Anglican Care.”* **CARRIED**

**6. QUESTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAD BEEN GIVEN ANSWERED**

**Q: The Reverend Les Forester Parish of Nelson Bay asked the following questions:**

**Financial Plan in the event of a Call on Funds**

*On page 529 of the Business the Diocesan Audit Committee expresses major concern at the level of debt secured by Episcopal Certificates. The Audit Committee also expresses pleasure at the efforts of the Diocesan Council and the Business Manger to draft a plan to make assets available in the event of financiers calling in loans.*

**Mr Malcolm McDonald answered the following questions from The Rev’d Les Forester in respect of the Financial Plan in the event of a Call on Funds**

**Q: *What is the nature of this plan?***

**A:** The matter of Episcopal Certificates (ECs) and their impact on the financial well-being of the Diocese has been under constant consideration and review by Diocesan Council and the Trustees.

The plan is, and has been designed to mitigate the possibility of a call on funds. This is achieved by involving several layers of management control and review as between Diocesan entities and agents (the borrowers), and

- In the case of schools, Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation
- Trustees of Church Property
- Diocesan Council
- Diocesan Audit Committee, and
- External Auditors

The review ensures an early warning of any possible problems, enabling swift appropriate action to avoid such a call.

The plan also calls for regular communication between the Diocesan entities and the Lenders.

A re-examination of the plan was recently initiated by an expression of concern by the Diocesan Audit Committee. This concern arose out of the size of total quantum of ECs outstanding and the potential effects of the Global Financial Crisis. It was not initiated because of concern over any particular EC or borrower although it is acknowledged that because of their funding models, the schools present the greatest challenge in this area.

The re-examination was conducted by a Committee formed by the Bishop and comprising representatives from Trustees, Diocesan Audit Committee and Schools Corporation.

The Committee has produced a new standard procedure for entities seeking ECs. This procedure will ensure timely notification of an application and full supporting information to enable assessment of the viability of proposed borrowing.

**Q:** *When will it be in place?*

**A:** Much of the plan is already in place. The new procedures relating to the application for ECs will apply for all future applications.

**Q:** *What level of finance is necessary to avoid a fire sale of fixed assets, in the event of a Diocesan entity being unable to repay a loan secured by Episcopal Certificate?*

**A:** In response I advise that the use of the term “fire sale” in the Diocesan Audit Committee report is inappropriate. The plan above has been designed to clearly identify any potential financial problem at an early stage, enabling prompt remedial action, and thus avoiding a fire sale.

**Q:** *What level of finance will be available in the plan?*

**A:** The Trustees and the Diocesan Business Manager are currently considering the questions of whether reserve funds will be required as part of the plan and if so, how much and how they might be established.

No Episcopal Certificates have been issued at this stage that may cause concern. The plan if this does arise will involve an overview by the various people responsible for the issuing of the Certificate. Because of those people in responsibility there should be no risk of a ‘fire sale’ and the Trustees and the Diocesan Manager will act quickly enough that this situation will not arise.

## **7. REPORTS PRESENTED AND LAID UPON THE TABLE:**

- 7.1 Report of the Ecumenical Commission
- 7.2 Report of the Diocesan Environment Commission
- 7.3 Report of the Anglican Cursillo Movement

- 7.4 Report of the Property Approvals Board and the Accounts of the Property Approvals Board Interest & Development Fund as at 31 December 2008
- 7.5 Report of Theological Education and Priestly Formation in the Diocese of Newcastle
- 7.6 Accounts of St John's Ministry Centre as at 31 December 2008
- 7.7 Report of the Diocesan Ministry Development Officer
- 7.8 Report of the Newcastle School of Theology for Ministry
- 7.9 Report of the Samaritans Foundation, Accounts of the Samaritans Foundation and Accounts of the Recycling Division as at 30 June, 2008
- 7.10 Report of the Social Responsibilities Committee
- 7.11 Report of the Anglican Care-Aged Care Ministry and Accounts of Anglican Care as at 30 June, 2008
- 7.12 Report of the Storm Retirement Village and the Accounts of the Village as at 30 June, 2008
- 7.13 Report of Communications Ministry - Anglican Encounter and Media Liaison
- 7.14 Report of the Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation
- 7.15 Report of Scone Grammar School and Accounts as at 31 December 2008
- 7.16 Report of Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College and Accounts as at 31 December 2008
- 7.17 Report of Manning Valley Anglican College and Accounts 3333as at 31 December 2008
- 7.18 Report of Lakes Grammar – An Anglican School and Accounts as at 31 December 2008
- 7.19 Accounts of Lakes Anglican Grammar School as at 31 December 2008
- 7.20 Report of CEY Ministries
- 7.21 Report of the G.F.S. - An Anglican Ministry
- 7.22 Report of the Canon in Charge of Missionary Affairs and the 2008 Mission Giving Statement of Receipts and Payments
- 7.23 Report of the Mission to Seafarers Newcastle
- 7.24 Report of the Diocesan Hospital Chaplain - John Hunter Hospital
- 7.25 Report of the Diocesan Hospital Chaplain – Calvary Retirement Community Cessnock and Northern Coalfields Community Care
- 7.26 Report on Cessnock Correctional Centre Chaplaincy
- 7.27 Report on St Heliers Correctional Centre Chaplaincy
- 7.28 Report of the Chaplain, Department of Juvenile Justice
- 7.29 Report of the University Chaplaincy – Ourimbah Campus
- 7.30 Report of the University Chaplaincy – Callaghan Campus
- 7.31 Report of the Sudanese Chaplain
- 7.32 Report of Anglican Women of Australia – Diocese of Newcastle
- 7.33 Report of Mother's Union Australia
- 7.34 Report of Anglican Men's Society
- 7.35 Report of the Chaplain to the Lay Liturgical and Chalice Assistants' Association
- 7.36 Report of the Diocesan Council and Accounts of the Diocesan General Fund as at 31 December 2008
- 7.37 Report of the Trustees of Church Property and Accounts of the Trustees of Church Property as at 31 December 2008
- 7.38 Report of the Anglican Savings and Development Fund with Parish Investor

- List as at 30 June, 2009 and Accounts of the Fund as at 30 June, 2008
- 7.39 Report of the Cathedral Chapter
- 7.40 Report of the Central Coast Missional Council
- 7.41 Report of the Audit Committee

## 8. ORDERS OF THE DAY

### 8.1 AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS

The Synod moved into Committee to consider the each clause in turn.

**The Chancellor moved; seconded by Mr Richard Turnbull:**

Amendment to Standing Order 38 – Mode of voting

1. a) Delete all words after ‘simultaneously’ and ending after ‘affirmative’ to the end of the sentence.
- b) Insert the following words after the word ‘simultaneously’:

‘If forty members desire it voting shall be by secret ballot in both houses and a majority of the House of Clergy and House of Laity shall be required to resolve the matter in the affirmative’.

**CARRIED**

**The Chancellor moved; seconded by Mr Richard Turnbull:**

2. That a new clause be inserted at 24:
  - 24(A) ‘no more than 2 successive speeches upon the same side of a question shall be made without leave of the President or Chairman of Committees as the case may be or by permission of two thirds of assembled members of Synod.

**The Venerable Arthur Copeman moved; seconded Mr Barry Sommer:**

That the words “After the mover and seconder have spoken” before the words “no more”

**THE AMENDMENT WAS CARRIED**

The amended clause was put and **CARRIED.**

**The Chancellor moved; seconded by Mr Richard Turnbull:**

3. That a new clause be inserted at 33:
  - 33A (1) No amendment (other than an amendment of grammar or minor detail) to a motion or a proposed amendment

of a motion shall be considered by Synod unless:

- (a) notice in writing of the terms of the proposed amendment has been given to the President prior to the commencement of debate upon the motion; or
  - (b) the mover of the motion consents to the amendment; or
  - (c) Synod grants leave to move the amendment
- (2) No amendment shall be considered by Synod unless the President is of the opinion that, in all the circumstances and having regard to the nature and extent of the amendment, Synod has had a reasonable opportunity to consider the form and effect of the amendment.

**LOST**

**The Chancellor moved; seconded by Mr Richard Turnbull:**

4. That a clause be inserted at 50:

50A. (1) No amendment of substance to a provision of a Bill nor an amendment to such a proposed amendment shall be moved unless:

- (a) notice in writing of the terms of the proposed amendment has been given to the Synod Secretaries prior to the commencement of business on the day upon which it is moved that the Bill be agreed in principle; or
  - (b) the mover of the Bill consents to the amendment; or
  - (c) not less than two-thirds of the members of Synod present and voting grant leave to move the amendment.
- (2) An ‘amendment of substance’ is a proposed amendment which, in the opinion of the Chairman of Committees, is of substance and not merely of form.
- (3) No amendment shall be considered by Synod unless the Chairman of Committees is of the opinion, in all the circumstances and having regard to the nature and extent of the proposed amendment, Synod has had a



reasonable opportunity to consider the form and effect of the proposed amendment.

**LOST**

5. That clause 58 be amended as follows:

Delete the number '24' and substitute '27'." **CARRIED**

## **8.2 Synod Administration Ordinance 1998-2005 Amending Ordinance 2009**

**The Chancellor moved; seconded by the Venerable Stephen Pullin**

*"That 'An Ordinance to amend the Synod Administration Ordinance 1998-2005' be approved in principle."* **CARRIED**

The Synod moved into Committee to consider the Bill in detail.

The Acting Deputy Chair of Committees reported to the President that the Bill had passed through committee with amendment.

**The Chancellor moved; seconded by the Venerable Stephen Pullin**

"That the Bill as amended do now pass." **CARRIED**

The President gave his **Assent** to the Bill.

## **9. GENERAL SYNOD CANONS FOR ASSENT**

### **9.1 The General Synod Long Service Leave Canon 2007 Assenting Ordinance 2009 (Canon No. 09, 2007)**

**The Right Reverend Peter Stuart moved; seconded by Mr Geoff Spring:**

"That 'An Ordinance to assent to Canon No. 09, 2007 passed by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia' be approved in principle."

**CARRIED**

**The Right Reverend Peter Stuart moved; seconded by Mr Geoff Spring:**

"That the Bill do now pass." **CARRIED**

The President gave his **Assent** to the Bill.

**9.2 The General Synod Constitution Alteration (Chapter IX) Canon Amendment Canon 2007 Assenting Ordinance 2009 (Canon No. 06, 2007)**

**The Venerable Arthur Copeman moved; seconded by Mr Geoff Spring:**

*“That ‘An Ordinance to assent to Canon No. 06, 2007 passed by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia’ be approved in principle.”*

**The Venerable Arthur Copeman moved; seconded by Mr Geoff Spring:**

“That the Bill do now pass.”

**CARRIED**

The President gave his **Assent** to the Bill.

**9.3 The General Synod Constitution Amendment (Section 10) Canon 2007 Assenting Ordinance 2009 (Canon No. 08, 2007)**

**The Venerable Arthur Copeman moved; seconded by Mr Geoff Spring:**

*“That ‘An Ordinance to assent to Canon No. 08, 2007 passed by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia’ be approved in principle.”*

**The Venerable Arthur Copeman moved; seconded by Mr Geoff Spring:**

“That the Bill do now pass.”

**CARRIED**

The President gave his **Assent** to the Bill.

**9.4 The General Synod Constitution Amendment (Section 54A) Canon 2007 Assenting Ordinance 2009 (Canon No. 16, 2007)**

**The Venerable Arthur Copeman moved; seconded by Mr Geoff Spring:**

*“That ‘An Ordinance to assent to Canon No. 16, 2007 passed by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia’ be approved in principle.”*

**Mr Geoff Spring moved; seconded by the Venerable Arthur Copeman:**

“That the Bill do now pass.”

**CARRIED**

The President gave his **Assent** to the Bill.

**9.5 The General Synod Constitution Amendment (Suspension of Bishops) Canon 2007 Assenting Ordinance 2009 (Canon No. 18, 2007)**

**The Venerable Arthur Copeman moved; seconded by Mr Geoff Spring:**

*“That ‘An Ordinance to assent to Canon No. 18, 2007 passed by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia’ be approved in principle.*

**CARRIED**

**The Venerable Arthur Copeman moved; seconded by Mr Geoff Spring:**

“That the Bill do now pass.”

**CARRIED**

The President gave his **Assent** to the Bill.

**9.6 The General Synod Constitution Amendment (Provinces and Dioceses) Canon 2007 Assenting Ordinance 2009 (Canon No. 19, 2007)**

**The Venerable Arthur Copeman moved; seconded by Mr Geoff Spring:**

*“That ‘An Ordinance to assent to Canon No. 19, 2007 passed by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia’ be approved in principle.”*

**Mr Geoff Spring moved; seconded by the Venerable Arthur Copeman:**

“That the Bill do now pass.”

**CARRIED**

The President gave his **Assent** to the Bill.

**GENERAL SYNOD CANONS FOR *ADOPTION***

**9.7 The General Synod Canon Holy Orders (Reception into Ministry) Canon 2004 Adopting Ordinance 2009 (Canon No. 17, 2004)**

**The Venerable Arthur Copeman moved; seconded by Ms Bev Birch:**

*“That ‘An Ordinance to adopt Canon No. 17, 2004 passed by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia’ be approved in principle.”*

**CARRIED**

**The Venerable Arthur Copeman moved; seconded by Ms Bev Birch:**

“That the Bill do now pass.”

**CARRIED**

The President gave his **Assent** to the Bill.

## 10. ORDER OF THE DAY - DIOCESAN ORDINANCES

### 10.1 The Capital Needs Financing Ordinance 2009

**Mr Malcolm MacDonald moved; seconded by the Chancellor:**

*“That ‘An Ordinance to amend the Capital Needs Financing Ordinance 2009’ be approved in principle.”* **CARRIED**

Synod did not move into Committee to consider the Bill in detail.

**Mr Malcolm MacDonald moved; seconded by the Chancellor:**

“That the Bill do now pass.” **CARRIED**

The President gave his **Assent** to the Bill.

### 10.2 The Newcastle School of Theology for Ministry Ordinance 2009

**The Right Reverend Peter Stuart moved; seconded by the Reverend David Battrick:**

*“That ‘The Newcastle School of Theology for Ministry Ordinance 2009’ be approved in Principle.”* **CARRIED**

Synod did not move into Committee to consider the Bill in detail.

**The Right Reverend Peter Stuart moved; seconded by the Reverend David Battrick:**

“That the Bill do now pass.” **CARRIED**

The President gave his **Assent** to the Bill.

### 10.3 The Synod (Delegation of Powers) Ordinance 2009

**The Chancellor moved; seconded by Professor Peter Ravenscroft:**

*“That ‘The Synod (Delegation of Powers) Ordinance 2009’ be approved in principle.”* **CARRIED**

Synod did not move into Committee to consider the Bill in detail.

**The Chancellor moved; seconded by Professor Peter Ravenscroft:**

“That the Bill do now pass.” **CARRIED**

The President gave his **Assent** to the Bill.

#### 10.4 The Clerical Ministry Ordinance 2009

**The Chancellor moved; seconded by the Right Reverend Peter Stuart**

*“That ‘The Clerical Ministry Ordinance 2009’ be approved in principle.”*

**The Chancellor moved; seconded, the Right Reverend Peter Stuart that this be an order of business for Day 2. CARRIED.**

### 11. DIOCESAN MINISTRY BUDGET 2010, PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS 2010 AND MISSIONARY TARGETS 2010

#### 11.1 2010 Diocesan Ministry Budget and 2010 Parish Contributions

**The Reverend Hugh Bright moved, seconded by the Venerable Stephen Pullin:**

*“That the Diocesan Ministry Budget estimates and Parish Contributions for 2010 tabled before this Synod on pages 531-563 of the business paper, be approved.”*

**CARRIED**

#### 11.2 2010 Missionary Targets

**The Reverend Canon Gary Harman moved; seconded by the Reverend Katherine Bowyer:**

*“That the proposed Missionary Targets for 2010 as tabled before this Synod on pages 564-565 of the business paper be approved.”*

**CARRIED**

### 12. GENERAL MOTIONS

#### 12.1 The Right Reverend Peter Stuart moved; seconded by Mr Malcolm McDonald:

*“That this Synod encourages all diocesan entities to use the Anglican Savings and Development Fund for their cash investments thereby supporting the Mission of the Diocese.”*

**CARRIED**

#### 12.2 Mr Malcolm McDonald moved; seconded by the Reverend Stewart Perry:

*“That this Synod approves of the distribution of promotional items and information relating to the Anglican Savings and Development Fund for the Diocese of Newcastle.”*

**CARRIED**

**12.3 The Venerable Stephen Pullin moved; seconded by Professor Peter Ravenscroft:**

*“That this Synod affirms, accepts and endorses the Strategic Plan of the Diocese of Newcastle and authorises Diocesan Council to implement the plan as soon as possible.”*

**CARRIED**

**12.4 Dr Geoff Rigby moved; seconded by Mrs Judith Walsh: (on behalf of the Diocesan Environment Commission)**

*“Given*

- *Our previous synod endorsement of the General Synod Environment Protection Canon*
- *increasing demands for mandatory environmental reporting obligations*
- *opportunities to access government environmental grants and*
- *recognition in our new Strategic plan that our actions must be rooted in the five marks of the mission of Christ as expressed in the Anglican Communion (including safeguarding the integrity of creation, seeking to transform unjust structures of society and responding to human need by loving service) the Diocesan Environment Commission requests Diocesan Council to put plans in place for the appointment of a Diocesan Environment Officer (initially on a part time basis). The duties of this Officer will be to assist the Bishop, Diocesan Manager and Environment Commission in undertaking these above commitments, to promote a greater awareness of our environmental responsibilities (both within and outside our diocese), develop community partnerships, investigate and implement possible opportunities for access to environmental grants and to assist in the organisation and running of diocesan based workshops and events.*

It was moved and seconded from the floor that *all the words after ‘loving service)’ be deleted.*

**CARRIED**

The amended motion was put and

**CARRIED**

**12.5 The Venerable Arthur Copeman moved; seconded by Mr Mark Holmes:**

*“With the forthcoming retirement of The Reverend Canon Paul Robertson in April 2010, this Synod gives thanks to Almighty God for his distinguished ministry in the Diocese for over 35 years.*

*Canon Robertson served curacies at Hamilton and Cessnock, before becoming Rector of Scone, where he initiated the re-establishment of Scone Grammar School. He has now served for nearly 22 years, as Rector of New Lambton, where during that time, All Saints’ Close, 11 retirement units were built. He has served as Area Dean of Newcastle West since 1996. He also*

*lectured in Church History at St John's College Morpeth and in 2001, was elected to the Tyrrell Canonry of Christ Church Cathedral. He was elected a member of Diocesan Council, and has served on a number of its committees. He has for many years been a member of the Diocesan Missions Committee, and was elected to both the General and Provincial Synods.*

*An acknowledged historian of the Diocese, Canon Robertson's 'Proclaiming Unsearchable Riches', added to the published works on the history of the Diocese.*

*Synod wishes Canon and Mrs Noreen Robertson God's blessing as they enter into a new phase of their Christian journey.* **CARRIED**

**12.6 Mr Richard Turnbull moved; Seconded by Mrs Samantha Richardson:**

*"That this Synod requests Diocesan Council to amend the Parish Administration Ordinance to require that Parishes make every effort to elect at least one Synod representative under the age of 50 years at the time of election, if there is no one under 50 the representative should be as young as possible, i.e. then under 55, under 60 etc, the parish retains the right to elect three synod representatives."* **CARRIED**

**12.7 The Reverend Hugh Bright moved; seconded by the Reverend Ruth Brand:**

*"That this Synod give thanks to Almighty God for the faithful and inspired ministry of women at all levels of the life of the Diocese of Newcastle. It particularly notes with thanksgiving the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the appointment of Miss Doreen Elizabeth Herron as the first female Lay Reader in the Diocese in 1979. We give thanks for Doreen's commitment to proclaiming Christ and caring for God's people within the parishes of Terrigal, Blue Gum Hills and Lambton over this period and for her faithful service in the wider life of the Diocese. This includes serving as one of the first women on the Diocesan Council. This Synod prays God's continued blessings upon Doreen and her ministry.* **CARRIED**

**12.8 Revd L T Forester moved; seconded by Dr Grahame Feletti**

*"This Synod thanks those involved in the production of the Strategic Directions 2010 –2015 plan for their great effort, commitment and vision, and for their efforts at consultation so far.*

*Asks those charged with oversight of the implementation of "Strategic Directions" to undertake ongoing consultation with all members of the Diocese.*

*Respectfully requests that careful attention be paid to the practicality of the timetable for implementation, with a view to reassessing the proposed timetable, and trusts that those charged with completing tasks will monitor the work load proposed for leaders and participants.*

*Asks Parish Councils of Parishes with clergy who are Area Deans to make a close study of the role of Area Deans in "Strategic Directions" and make written responses to the Bishop by November 30th 2009.*

*Undertakes to prepare for Strategic Directions by lay and clergy members engaging in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting and giving. As a sign of our reliance on the Holy Spirit we will pray, submitting ourselves to the direction of the Lord of the Church, and praise Christ our Lord for all He has done in us so far. As a sign of our repentance for all that we have not been in the past, we will fast and cry out for God's mercy and grace. As a sign of our thankfulness for God's faithfulness in the past and our willingness to be effective stewards we will give generously in the present and the future.*

**CARRIED**

### **13. REPORTS AND FINANCE**

#### **13.1 The Reverend Canon Sally Gero moved; seconded by the Reverend Ian Howarth:**

*"That the Report of the Ecumenical Commission be received."*

**CARRIED**

#### **13.2 Dr Geoff Rigby moved; seconded by Mrs Judith Walsh:**

*"That the Report of the Diocesan Environment Commission be received."*

**CARRIED**

#### **13.3 Mrs Denise Brown moved; seconded by the Reverend Michael Davies:**

*"That the Report of the Anglican Cursillo Movement be received."*

**CARRIED**

#### **13.4 The Venerable Stephen Pullin moved; seconded by the Venerable Arthur Copeman:**

*"That the Report of the Property Approvals Board and the Accounts of the Property Approvals Board Interest and Development Fund be received."*

**CARRIED**



- 13.5 The Reverend David Battrick moved; seconded by the Reverend Canon Stephen Williams:**

*"That the Report of the Theological Education and Priestly Formation in the Diocese of Newcastle and the accounts of the St John's Ministry Centre be received."*  
**CARRIED**

- 13.6 The Reverend David Battrick moved; seconded by the Reverend Canon Stephen Williams:**

*"That the Report of the Diocesan Ministry Development Officer and the Report of the Newcastle School of Theology for Ministry be received."*

**CARRIED**

- 13.7 The Right Reverend Peter Stuart moved; seconded by Mr Cec Shevels:**

*"That the Report of the Samaritans Foundation and Accounts of the Samaritans Foundation with the Accounts of the Recycling Division be received."*  
**CARRIED**

- 13.8 The Reverend Janet Killen moved; seconded by Mrs Sue Williams:**

*"That the report of the Social Responsibilities Committee be received."*

**CARRIED**

- 13.9 Mr John Kilpatrick moved; Seconded by the Reverend Canon Dr Julia Perry:**

*"That the report of Anglican Care – Aged Care Ministry and Accounts be received."*  
**CARRIED**

- 13.10 Canon Keith Dean-Jones moved; seconded by the Reverend Kate Macneil**

*"That the Report of the Storm Retirement Village and Accounts of the Village be received."*  
**CARRIED**

- 13.11 The Reverend Canon Stephen Williams moved; seconded by the Reverend David Battrick:**

*"That the Report concerning Communications Ministry comprising the Report of Anglican Encounter and Media Liaison be received."*

**CARRIED**

**13.12 Mr Malcolm McDonald moved; seconded by the Right Reverend Peter Stuart:**

*"That the Report of the Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation be received."*

**CARRIED**

**13.13 Mr Malcolm McDonald moved; seconded by the Diocesan Business Manager:**

*"That the Report of Scone Grammar School and accounts; the Report of Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College and accounts; the Report of Manning Valley Anglican College and accounts; and the Report of Lakes Grammar – An Anglican School and accounts and the accounts of Lakes Anglican Grammar School be received."*

**CARRIED**

**13.14 Mr Richard Turnbull moved; seconded by the Reverend Canon Sonia Roulston:**

*"That the Report of CEY Ministries be received."*

**CARRIED**

**13.15 The Reverend Canon Sonia Roulston moved; seconded by Mrs Gail Orchard:**

*"That the Report of G.F.S. - An Anglican Ministry be received."*

**CARRIED**

**13.16 The Reverend Canon Gary Harman moved; seconded by the Reverend Katherine Bowyer:**

*"That the Report of the Canon in Charge of Missionary Affairs with the 2008 Mission Giving financial statement be received."*

**CARRIED**

**13.17 The Reverend Chris Bird moved; seconded by Canon Stephen Williams:**

*"That the Report of the Missions to Seafarers, Newcastle be received."*

**CARRIED**

**13.18 The Reverend John Dring moved; seconded by the Reverend Canon Sonia Roulston:**

*"That the Report of the Diocesan Hospital Chaplain to the John Hunter Hospital and the Report of the Diocesan Hospital Chaplain to the Calvary Retirement Community Cessnock and Northern Coalfields Community Care be received."*

**CARRIED**

**13.19 The Reverend Rod Moore moved; seconded by the Reverend Ken Foley:**

*"That the Report of the Prison Chaplaincy; the Report of St Heliers Correctional Centre Chaplaincy and the Report of the Chaplaincy, Department of Juvenile Justice be received."*

**CARRIED****13.20 The Reverend Bruce Perry moved; seconded by the Venerable Stephen Pullin:**

*"That the Report of the University Chaplaincy Ourimbah Campus and the Report of the University Chaplaincy Callaghan Campus be received."*

**CARRIED****13.21 The Reverend Andrew Akol moved; seconded by the Reverend Canon Stephen Williams:**

*"That the report of the Sudanese Chaplain be received."*

**CARRIED****13.22 Mrs Carole Harvey moved; seconded by the Reverend Katherine Bowyer:**

*"That the Report of the Anglican Women of Australia-Diocese of Newcastle; the Report of Mother's Union Australia and the Report of Anglican Men's Society be received."*

**CARRIED****13.23 The Reverend Maree Armstrong moved; seconded by the Reverend Canon Sonia Roulston:**

*"That the Report of the Chaplain to Lay Liturgical and Chalice Assistants' Association be received."*

**CARRIED****13.24 The Very Reverend James Rigney moved; seconded by Mrs Margaret Flannery:**

*"That the Report of the Diocesan Council and Accounts of the Diocesan General Fund be received."*

**CARRIED****13.25 Mr John Kilpatrick moved; seconded by Mr Malcolm McDonald:**

*"That the Report of the Trustees of Church Property with Accounts of the Trustees of Church Property be received."*

**CARRIED**

- 13.26 Mr Malcolm McDonald moved; seconded by the Reverend Stewart Perry:**

*"That the Report of the Anglican Savings and Development Fund and Accounts of the Fund with Parish Investor List be received."*

**CARRIED**

- 13.27 The Very Reverend James Rigney moved; seconded by the Reverend Canon Stephen Williams:**

*"That the Report of the Cathedral Chapter Clerk be received."*

**CARRIED**

- 13.28 The Venerable Arthur Copeman moved; seconded by the Reverend Hugh Bright:**

*"That the Report of the Central Coast Missional Council be received."*

**CARRIED**

- 13.29 Mr Malcolm McDonald moved; seconded by Mr Alan Green:**

*"That the Report of the Audit Committee be received."*

**CARRIED**

- 14. PRAYERS** were led by the Synod Chaplain at 9:25pm.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Synod adjourned to resume at 1:00pm on Sunday 18 October 2009.

**Diocese of Newcastle**  
**Second Session of the**  
**FORTY- NINTH SYNOD**  
**MINUTES – SECOND DAY**  
**Sunday 18 October 2009**  
**Synod assembled at 1.00pm**

1. **PRAYERS** were led by the Synod Chaplain (the Reverend Anne Watson).
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS DAY**

The Minutes were not available to be read due to a technical problem. The President put the question that *The Diocesan Council be authorised to confirm the Synod minutes.*

**CARRIED**

3. **QUESTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAD BEEN GIVEN ANSWERED**

**Question on Notice to the Chancellor:**

**Moved by Mr Richard Turnbull; seconded by Mr Geoff Spring**

**Q: 1.** Is the consequence of the amendments to the Synod Administration Ordinance 1998-2005 Amending Ordinance 2009 in the course of debate that the Diocesan Business Manager is precluded from moving or seconding a motion or Ordinance?

**A:** Yes. Neither the Diocesan Business Manager nor any other persons summoned to Synod who is not a communicant member of the Anglican Church may move a motion or an ordinance.

**Q: 2.** Was this intended?

**A:** I have no idea whether this was intended by the mover of the amendment or the Synod.

**Q: 3.** Is this an example of problems that may arise where amendments are offered on the run?

**A:** As I say, I have no idea whether this was an intended consequence. To the extent that it was unintended it provides a good example of problems that may arise through amendments ‘on the run’.

**Q: 4.** Should this be remedied and if so, how?

**A:** It would be entirely impertinent of me to express an opinion.

Synod yesterday, rejected any change to its practice with respect to amendments. Acting in accordance with its traditional practices, Synod entertained an amendment raised in the course of debate and passed it.

The form of the amended Ordinance and the consequences that flow from it must be taken to reflect the considered will of Synod.

I decline to comment of whether it should be remedied.

If it is desired to change the situation or is possible to do so.

The final form of the amending Ordinance has not yet been certified by the Chairman of Committees and while the Bishop has indicated an intention to assent, he has not yet formally done so.

A two-thirds majority would be necessary to re-commit the amending bill to Committee.

If that happens, I have prepared an alternate subsection (3) which may be preferred by members of Synod.

**Mr Richard Turnbull moved; seconded by Mr Geoff Spring;**

*“That The Synod Administration Ordinance 1998-2005 Amending Ordinance 2009 be recommitted to Committee stage for the purpose of deleting the wording relating to voting.”*

**CARRIED BY TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY**

Synod moved into Committee to consider amendments.

The Acting Deputy Chair of Committees reported to the President that the Bill had passed through committee with amendment.

**The Chancellor moved; seconded by the Venerable Stephen Pullin:**

“That the Bill as amended do now pass.”

**CARRIED**

The President gave his **Assent** to the Bill.

**Q: The Reverend Les Forester Parish of Nelson Bay asked the following question regarding the Clerical Ministry Ordinance 2009:**

**Clerical Incapacity**

*On page 116 of the Synod Business paper the proposed Clerical Ministry Ordinance gives a number of reasons why a clerical office becomes vacant, and includes as a reason the holder of the office being "declared incapable".*

- a) What is the legal definition of incapacity?*
- b) Who would make any declaration of incapacity?*
- c) On what grounds can an office holder be held to be incapable?*
- d) Is there a generally accepted definition of incapacity?*

**A: The Chancellor, Mr Paul Rosser replied:**

- a) It is not defined. By virtue of subsection (2) a person is taken to have been declared incapable if relevant orders are made by a court or tribunal under the Mental Health Act 2007.
- b) No-one. Subsection (2) applies following a relevant order by a court or tribunal.
- c) If a court or tribunal had made a relevant order under the Mental Health Act.
- d) No. It is deemed where a court or tribunal has made relevant orders.

**Q: The Reverend Ray Manuel asked the following question:**

In support, care and encouragement of Synod Members who have children or close connections whether pastoral or family with students who are doing the Higher School Certificate, could future Synods be scheduled so that they avoid the weekend before and the duration of the H.S.C.?

The H.S.C. usually commences during the first week of Term 4 and continue through until the middle of November. The current H.S.C. is from Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November.

**A: The President advised that he would take this matter into consideration when determining the dates of Synod.**

#### 4. MOTIONS:

Dr Geoff Rigby sought leave of Synod to bring an amendment to a motion already passed by the Synod. The President put the motion that leave be granted.

**LEAVE WAS GRANTED.**

**Dr Geoff Rigby moved; seconded by Mrs Judith Walsh:**

That motion 12.4 be amended by adding the following words after the words “Loving service)” *the Diocesan Environment Commission requests the Diocesan Bishop and Diocesan Council to support the Commission in developing strategies and actions to ensure that our responsibilities and accountability in these areas can be achieved.*” **CARRIED**

#### 5. ORDER OF THE DAY

**The Chancellor moved; seconded by the Right Reverend Peter Stuart:**

*“This Synod notes that*

1. *By virtue of the **ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA [BODIES CORPORATE] CONSTITUTION AND ADMINISTRATION ORDINANCE 1994** it has given the Diocesan Council power, by ordinance, to exercise during the recess of the Synod all the powers, authorities, duties and functions of the Synod as relate to acts, matters and things arising under the Anglican Church of Australia [Bodies Corporate] Act 1938 including but not limited to the power to fix the number of members of such body corporate, prescribe the method of election or appointment and of retirement of such members and prescribe the circumstances in which a vacancy in the office of any such member shall occur*
2. *Each of the Diocesan Schools is a Body Corporate covered by the Act and Ordinance*
3. *In 2007 consequent upon the passing of the Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation Ordinance 2007, the Synod authorised Diocesan Council, sitting as Synod following consultation with individual schools boards, to pass such further consequential amendments to the ordinances of the schools established in this Diocese as will permit the Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation ordinance to function efficiently and economically.*
4. *During 2009 there has been consultation with the Diocesan Council, the Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation and each of the School Principals and Boards about the Ordinances*



5. *The Diocesan Council will exercise its delegated power to amend the Ordinances such amendments shall include –*

- a. making the Bishop the President of each School Board*
- b. empowering the Bishop to appoint a person to serve as Bishop's delegate with the Bishop's power in the absence of the Bishop from the meeting*
- c. enabling the Bishop to appoint a Chairperson from the members of the Board*
- d. that in addition to the Bishop there shall be seven other members of the Board*
  - i. 2 appointed by the Diocesan Council*
  - ii 2 appointed by the Bishop*
  - iii. 3 appointed by the Board but subject to approval by the Diocesan Council*
- e. Stating that a current parent of a student at the school is eligible for appointment to the Board*
- f. Providing for a quorum of 5 people*
- g. That the School Principal be in attendance at all meetings but with no voting rights and can be asked to leave by the Board if required*
- h. That the School Business Manager be in attendance by invitation only, with no voting rights and can be asked to leave by the Board if required*
- i. That a person will be elected for a term of three years and be limited to a maximum of three terms unless the Board and Diocesan Council agree to an additional term. Limited terms do not apply to the Bishop*
- j. Appointments should be staggered where possible so as not to have all Board Members completing service and due for re-election at any one time*
- k. That the approval of the Bishop is required for the appointment or reappointment of the Principal*
- l. That any School Chaplain (ordained or lay) shall be appointed by the Bishop after consultation with the School Principal*

- m. Postal and electronic means of communication and voting will be acceptable for Board purposes*
- n. The school and its Board will be required to comply with all policies established by the Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation*
- o. The Diocesan Council with the concurrence of the Bishop will have the power to appoint an administrator to manage the affairs of the School*
- p. The Diocesan Council with the concurrence of the Bishop may remove any or all members of the Board.”*

**The Venerable Arthur Copeman moved; seconded by the Reverend Hugh Bright.**

*That the motion be amended by the inclusion of a new point 6 to read “That the amendments proposed to the Synod by Mr Paul Smart be considered by Diocesan Council. These amendments are presented to the Diocesan Council without the endorsement of Synod.”*

**THE AMENDMENT WAS CARRIED**

The amended motion was put and

**CARRIED**

#### **10.4 The Clerical Ministry Ordinance 2009**

Synod resumed consideration of the Bill.

The Synod moved into Committee to consider the Bill in detail.

The Acting Deputy Chair of Committees reported to the President that the Bill had passed through committee with amendment.

**The Chancellor moved; seconded by the Right Reverend Peter Stuart:**

“That the Bill as amended do now pass.”

**CARRIED**

The President withheld his **Assent** to the Bill.

The Synod noted that the President may assent to the Bill within one calendar month of the Synod and the provisions of the Bill allow the Bishop to determine the date on which the Bill will take effect.

**17.8 The Reverend David Battrick moved; seconded by Mrs Sue Williams:**

*“That this Synod gives thanks to God for the developing ministry and witness of Deacons and Priests in Local Ministry in the life of the Diocese and, noting that currently holders of a licence for Ordained Local Ministry are not, by summons called to the Synod of the Diocese, requests the Diocesan Council to bring to the next session of this Synod such legislation as it may deem necessary to ensure that Deacons and Priests in Local Ministry are represented in the house of Clergy of the first session of the Fiftieth Synod of the Diocese.”*

It was proposed from the floor that the word “ensure” be replaced with the words “open the possibility”. This proposal was accepted by the mover and the seconder.

The President put the motion in the amended form

*That this Synod gives thanks to God for the developing ministry and witness of Deacons and Priests in Local Ministry in the life of the Diocese and, noting that currently holders of a licence for Ordained Local Ministry are not, by summons called to the Synod of the Diocese, requests the Diocesan Council to bring to the next session of this Synod such legislation as it may deem necessary to ensure that Deacons and Priests in Local Ministry are represented in the house of Clergy of the first session of the Fiftieth Synod of the Diocese.”*

**CARRIED.**

**6. GENERAL SYNOD CANON FOR ASSENT**

**The General Synod Provisional Canon Solemnization of Matrimony  
Canon Amendment Canon 2007 [Provisional Canon No. P01, 2007]**

**The Venerable Arthur Copeman moved; seconded by Ms Gaye  
Mercier:**

*“That ‘An Ordinance to assent to Provisional Canon No. P01, 2007 passed by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia’ be approved in principle.”*

**The Right Reverend Peter Stuart moved; seconded by the Venerable  
Arthur Copeman**

“That the Synod move to the next item of business”

**CARRIED**

**7. VALEDICTORY MOTIONS****7.1 The Chancellor moved; seconded by the Reverend Canon Sonia**

**Roulston:**

*“This Synod gives thanks to Almighty God for the ministry to Bishops of this Diocese and to the Synods of the Diocese from 1978 to 2009 by Doctor John Lincoln as Diocesan Chancellor.*

*We thank you for the way in which you have been willing to give advice, not only to the Bishops, but to Synods in general. Your experience, your knowledge and your wise counsel has always been available individually to members of Synod and to the Synod in general. For that the Synod owes a deep debt of gratitude for your openness and concern for this Diocese.*

*When you were appointed as Chancellor of the Diocese, Bishop Alfred Holland, the tenth Bishop of Newcastle, said to the Synod ‘...He brings these gifts with the offer of complete commitment to our Diocese and we are glad to have him in our Diocesan family’.*

*We have truly embraced you within the Diocesan family and thank you for your unfailing commitment to this Diocese.*

*You have a distinguished record of service with the Diocese of Newcastle having been Chancellor of this Diocese from 1978 to 2009 – a period of 31 years, equalling the number of years service that your predecessor the Late A.B. Kerrigan was Chancellor. He too was Chancellor of the Diocese for 31 years from 1946 to 1977. I think that it is not important to look at comparing the number of days service in excess of 31 years, but to look to the successes, of which there are many, that have come to the Diocese under your guidance and stewardship.*

*When I was looking back in time there have been serious and significant events in the life of this Diocese in which your advice given impartially to Bishops and Synods. It has been much appreciated and of great benefit to the Diocese.*

*The Synod would wish you a long and restful retirement although; it is not complete retirement because of your ongoing commitment to the Macquarie University.”*

**CARRIED by acclamation**

**7.2 Mr Greg Colby moved; seconded by the Venerable Arthur Copeman:**

*“That this Synod thanks Mrs. Sue Sneddon & Mr. Mark Pullin for their years of dedicated ministry to this Diocese in the area of Youth, Children and Family Ministry.”*

**CARRIED by Acclamation**

**8. MOTIONS OF APPRECIATION**

**8.1 The Venerable Stephen Pullin moved; seconded by the Rev'd Hugh Bright:**

*“That this Synod expresses its thanks and appreciation to the Chancellor, Mr Paul Rosser; Chairman of Committees, Mr Geoff Spring; the Diocesan Business Manager, Mr John Cleary; the Diocesan Office staff; the Synod Secretaries, The Rev'd Stephen Moore and Mrs Judy Walsh; and Elizabeth Keever, for their care and attention to detail in and about the running and reporting of this Synod.”*

**CARRIED by acclamation**

**8.2 The Venerable Arthur Copeman moved; seconded by Mr Rod Berry:**

*“That this Synod expresses its thanks to the President for the patient and understanding manner in which he has chaired this Second Session of the 49th Synod of the Diocese.”*

**CARRIED by acclamation**

**The Synod Chaplain led Closing Prayers and the Bishop pronounced the Blessing.**

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 48<sup>th</sup> Synod of the Diocese of Newcastle concluded at 5:50pm on Sunday 18 October 2009.**

**Confirmed as a correct record,**

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**President**

**22 December 2009**