



MINUTES OF THE CEBS NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Held at Blakehurst / Hurstville Grove Anglican Churches, Sydney on the weekend of
APRIL 27th -29th 2007.

Attendance list

National Officers	Ven. Conrad Patterson (Chairman) Rev. Warren Rumble (Treasurer) Chris Oliver (Secretary) Graeme Nicholls (Leader development Officer)	Adelaide	Ken Pidgeon
Melbourne	Ray McGahy Dennis Wright	Sydney	Ken Harkness Robyn Slater.
Queensland	Pam Wedgwood Alan Victor	Gippsland	Garry Prosser
Western Australia	Stephen Day Brad Young	Rockhampton	
Newcastle		Visitors	Peter Wedgwood Ian Jamieson Rev. Barry Costello Tony Willis (Acting CE Sydney Anglican Youthworks)

Session 1 Fri 27/4/2007 7:45pm to 9:35pm

Chairman welcomed delegates and (after brief introductions) opened the meeting with prayer, the CEBS prayer and Rule of Life.

Chairman invited Tony Willis to address the delegates. Tony observed that boys' ministry has suffered, not just in Sydney. Sydney has employed Rev. Barry Costello as a full-time Boys Ministry Advisor with CEBS support. Getting new ministries started. In the last 5-6 years Youthworks used the CEBS' Wanawong site for training college - now with 60 full-time students doing Diploma in Youth and Children's Ministry.

Rev. Barry Costello reported he is in the last year of a 3 year contract to re-build boys' ministry. 38 boys' clubs in Sydney. Has visited most. Has started to write boy-friendly bible-teaching material, also planning new groups with churches. It is slow, difficult work. Difficult because most churches are already heavily committed and very busy in existing ministries. He is trying to make it as easy to start groups as possible.

The Secretary welcomed the delegates to and outlined some administrative issues for the weekend.

Tasmania is in recess

APOLOGIES: Peter Victor (Brisbane). Beth Berry (Rockhampton). Phillip Cornwell (Tasmania).

Moved that apologies be accepted. Moved Allan Victor, Seconded Ken Pidgeon. Agreed.

Items to be added to Agenda:

Registration and Affiliation to CEBS

Establishment of a national boys' ministry network.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

No written report.

Remarks to be saved to later in the meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF 2006 MINUTES

Minutes of the 2006 National Meeting have been circulated and were moved as a true and accurate record of the meeting by Graeme Nicholls. Seconded by Pam Wedgewood. Carried.

Business Arising:

1. Chris Oliver attended the C Net meeting at Morpeth, NSW. Minutes of C Net have been circulated. No formal agenda. Mainly just networking. Only 9 dioceses represented. Established by General Synod. It is a worthwhile gathering that should be supported. Led to formation of a new "canon" proposed. Last year Bishop Glenn Davies of Sydney has given direction on this issue and given strong personal support. It has yet to go through the process of General Synod. The Secretary of General Synod also attended and gave great support. Briefly the canon has to do with introducing children to communion after baptism. Although it does happen, the proposed canon is to have this practice officially recognized.

2. CEBS National Website. Allan Victor reported higher usage in recent months. Thanks to Tony Winter and his group for hosting at no fee. Sydney branches have updated their information. Other branches too. Welcome any other links. National Camp website has been linked. Other email addresses have been removed to avoid spamming. Question: Chris Oliver asked should there be a password controlled site for use by the dioceses. He will put material on the website if sent to him.
Allan advised it can be done and will report back to the secretary of how.
3. Chairman noted his previous request for the circulation of National Minutes. All dioceses have done so.
All delegates asked to circulate the minutes widely.
4. Badges for 2005 National Camp. Graeme Nicholls said that they are now available and will be sent out with information about the 2008 National Camp. They will be sent out through dioceses.
5. Treasurer reported that second investment account has been closed.
6. Treasurer report that no action has been taken on recovering unclaimed monies from institutions.
Alan Victor volunteered to further investigate.
7. Joint GFS/CEBS national conference. Graeme Nicholls reported that there has been some positive communications but no specific decisions.
Graeme to further investigate.
8. Circulation of material through National Secretary. Secretary reported that he has done where it has received (not much has). He suggested that the website is the best avenue.
9. 2008 National Camp. Ken Harkness reported that it is well underway. Thanks especially to Ken Pigeon for his contribution in reviewing draft camp brochures.
10. Draft strategy for 2010 - incorporated in Secretary's report.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Chris Oliver tabled and spoke to his report which includes his proposal for new directions in CEBS ministry. He said he thinks we should put "boys' ministry" ahead of the name of CEBS. It seems to work in Sydney. He proposes that CEBS support a national network on boys' ministry. We are well placed to do this as we are already set up to do this. This strategy has also been tried in Perth and been well received.

Chairman thanked Chris for his report.

As to the first part (proposals) this will be discussed in tomorrow's session and delegates invited to consider their response.

Rockhampton council is in recess but there is a branch (with 8 children and 3 leaders).
Mackay seems to have a branch.

Secretary to investigate and contact the leaders.

Moved be received. Seconded Alan Victor

Chairman thanked Secretary for his dedicated discharge of his role over the year.

STATE REPORTS

Deferred

14TH NATIONAL CAMP SYDNEY

Barry Costello advised he wants to review the pricing of the camp and discussed this issue. He wants to make more expensive programmes optional which would make it \$390.00. Quizworks bible teaching leaders will be supported by a separate teaching programme for teenagers.

Child protection issues discussed. If leaders meet their own diocesan requirements then it is expected that Sydney will accept those leaders. This will need to be formally confirmed. Barry Costello will discuss this with the Professional Standards unit of the diocese and issue a statement on the topic in the near future.

Allan Victor queried the proposal for separation of campers due to the lowering of the fees. This may lead to disappointment between those that can not attend more exciting, more expensive activities. Ken Pigeon also opposed such separation. These comments were noted.

Dennis Wright expressed concern at the high cost of the camp.

Ken Pigeon suggested promoting camp in Anglican schools.

Chris Oliver advised that there are already 12 boys coming from Perth and that the diocese is subsidizing them the whole camp registration fee.

Pam Wedgwood asked about the age range for the camp. Barry explained that there may be a separate programme for older boys.

Alan Victor expressed his being very impressed with the quality of the camp brochure.

Barry Costello acknowledged Youthworks support in the camp, especially Mark Boyd.

NATIONAL TRADING ACCOUNTS

National Accounts were tab led and Treasurer spoke to his report.

Net asset position \$ 25,092.00 as at 31 December, 2007.

Net liquid assets \$ 12,935.00.

Report moved by Treasurer, Rev. Warren Rumble, Seconded by Pam Wedgwood.

Carried.

Stock catalogue to be added to national website. (Alan Victor)

Ken Pigeon moved a vote of thanks to National Trading Officer, Mr. Alan Thomas seconded Chris Oliver. Carried.

Vote of thanks to Treasurer, Moved Chris, Seconded Alan Victor. Carried by acclamation.

Adjourned at 9:40pm to reconvene at 9:00am tomorrow at St Aidan's Hurstville Grove.

Meeting resumed at St Aidan's Hurstville Grove at 9:15am on 28 April, 2007, the Chairman leading the meeting in Prayer

STATE REPORTS

Perth Diocese

Chris Oliver tabled and spoke to the report.

New initiatives on "Boys' Ministry Focus". Brad Young is now the Boys' Ministry Facilitator. Considering website for AYCAN with pages for each of the four ministries. Sudanese community has approached the Church to establish a boys' ministry - possibly 2 new CEBS branches. However the focus is on setting up boys' groups rather than CEBS branches. New camera and printer to modernize publicity and promote beyond the diocese. Continuing focus on outreach. New shirts and caps - more modern, T shirt style with a clearer identification with the parish.

Brad Young added a report about AYCAN (children's and youth network). Joint publications and activities, leadership and single office. AYCAN allows easier access to schools.

Discussion of opportunities (and difficulties) for development of youth and children's ministry through schools.

South Australia

Ken Pigeon tabled and spoke to his report. Only one (small) branch left. Very little activity outside of that branch. In "maintenance/survival" mode but some potential for new branch members. Diocese is not supportive, rather antagonistic. Archbishop has declined to be President of the Society. Considering working with GFS in ministry to Sudanese people but this has not yet been started. 2 lone CEBS from Modbury.

Melbourne

Dennis Wright tabled and spoke to his report. Grants have been given to a wide range of groups. New initiative: Encouraging ex-CEBS members to meet. Future goals continue as previously. Three possible new branches.

Ray McGahey briefly added some remarks. CEBS give money to generously subsidise branches and other groups which meet the funding criteria. Not limited to CEBS or even to Anglican programmes. Grants are limited to \$ 1,000 per project per year.

As well as making grants they are trying to rebuild their capital base. Half of income is given in grants and half is re-invested.

The Chairman made the observation that National CEBS itself lacks a significant capital base and this limits its potential to operate as a national body.

Gippsland

Graeme Nicholls tabled and spoke to his report. CEBS are providing children and youth activities in partnership with GFS. Continuing to present leadership development on behalf of the diocese. Has developed a "resources trailer" vehicle with resources for children's ministry. Used to conduct projects or lent or hired out to groups to use. This has proved very successful and groups are donating back to this resource. Melbourne funds have helped to establish this. Only one CEBS branch but other activity going on. There are 11 affiliate parishes in the diocese and one branch.

Sydney Report

Ken Harkness tabled and spoke to his report. There are major structural changes proposed by Youthworks and the CEBS Executive Committee.

The Chairman asked about the contribution of Sydney towards national council. Ken Harkness explained that we do not keep close records of membership but contribute what we judge to be a fair and proper responsible stewardship

There was a full discussion of the implications of this for CEBS and comments were noted, in particular the implications of giving another organization power to remove committee members for other than misconduct.

Moved: That this National Council encourages CEBS Sydney to maintain its affiliation and in its contribution to the National Finances to attempt to fit in with the agreed structure.

Moved: Ken Pigeon Seconded Chris Oliver.

Robyn Slater indicated that Sydney could consider contributing \$ 20 per branch over 5 leaders and \$ 10 per branch with 5 or less.

Brisbane

Alan Victor tabled and spoke to his report. There are some limited diocesan events. Pointro campsite still brings in \$10-15,000 per annum. It has the only dam still open for water sports.

Chermside and Toowoomba branches are still going but small. There is a Kids Plus group at North Pine. GFS has opened two "mixed" Kids Plus groups. It is proposed to dissolve the CEBS Society for the Diocese of Brisbane from 30 March, 2008. This has not yet been decided and ratified. It is a difficult and painful decision but it will give resources to children's ministry, probably under GFS. The CEBS Branches will need to decide individually what they want to do. Ken Harkness indicated that any Lone CEBS or branches would be welcome to affiliate with Sydney.

Concern expressed at the proposed course and alternative strategies suggested.

Moved that Brisbane be congratulated on the content of the report. Moved Ken Pigeon. Seconded Chris Oliver.

Rockhampton

Chris reported that they are still functioning. Rev. Chris Whittal is moving to England. Beth Berry is the delegate there.

Tasmanian Report

Chris Oliver has been in touch with Philip Cornwall. There are two other council members. They have some funds. Expected to send 4-5 boys to National Camp with subsidies.

GFS Report

Graeme Nicholls reported that GFS are looking carefully at their future. There are a variety of strategies to respond in different places. They are struggling with the number of branches across Australia.

Moved that the state reports be accepted: Moved Graham, Seconded Warren. Carried.

NATIONAL AWARDS

Alan Victor presented and spoke to the nomination from Brisbane Diocesan Council of Ashley Newton for a National Cross award. He tabled the summary of background in support of the nomination. Moved Chris Oliver, Seconded Pam Wedgwood. Carried (with acclamation).

Dennis Wright presented a motion of revocation of awards to Rev. Leslie Wiggins. Moved Dennis Wright, Seconded Ray McGahey. Carried.

NATIONAL LEADERS CONVENTION

Chris Oliver reported that the suggestion has been made and committee appointed. It has not met. Proposal is in abeyance through lack of resources to organize.

Discussion of matter took place. ~~Bradley to circulate information on an interdenominational gathering that may facilitate such a gathering.~~

CEBS "TOWARDS 2010" REPORT

Chairman invited further discussion of the report and the proposed 3 priorities.

Chairman noted that this is a proposal for a local diocese to operate. Chris Oliver agreed, but observed that there are implications for the national body. He noted that some dioceses are already moving in this direction.

Ken Harkness indicated his opinion that it is not possible to discuss the strategies of the movement without knowledge of our resources and in particular as to whether there is a prospect of Brisbane selling Pointro (worth \$ 1-2 million) and applying this resource to boys' ministry

The Chairman directed that Brisbane need to be allowed time to consider their intentions and should not be asked to precipitately respond on this issue.

Chris Oliver reported on relations between CEBS and diocese. He advised that by diocesan youth and children's ministry groups started working together there has been a much greater acceptance by the diocese which has translated into a much better effectiveness of ministry. Brad added that this happened because the diocese saw that CEBS was not just interested in supporting CEBS as an organization but promoting Christian ministry.

Dennis Wright reported that strategy of issuing grants has improved their relations with the diocese and groups in the diocese. A staff member of the diocese has joined the CEBS Executive Committee and has made suggestions for further improving relations with diocese. Ray McGahey pointed out that Melbourne diocese does not have a strategy for children's ministry.

It was noted that a common theme is the need for developing of positive attitudes towards CEBS through closer links with diocesan youth and children's ministries.

Graeme Nicholls reported on the strategy for Gippsland CEBS which is based on a generous sharing of resources with affiliated (but not registered groups) being even more generous with registered groups. They have 14 of the 27 parishes associated with CEBS in this way.

Ken Harkness said that he thought the strategy of CEBS should be to encourage and help the diocese to take responsibility for youth and children's ministry of which CEBS is a resource.

Brad Young pointed out that there is a lot of interest in boys needs in society.

Chairman closed with remarks - There is a way forward for CEBS. He can recognize promising developments in the ministry. We may have "hit the bottom". This would be resurrection. If there is a "resurrection", then what we come back as is not what we were. There are signs of the potential to change and we need to consider if we have will to do it. We need to ask if there are others who can do the ministry. But we can see that there is a future. It is up to us to see if we can take up the grace that God offers us.

IN MEMORIUM

Margaret McPherson of Newcastle

Ernie Bennett of Sydney

NATIONAL BOYS' MINISTRY NETWORK PROPOSAL

Moved that Chris Oliver be authorized as National Secretary to establish a network link of those involved in boys' ministry, including inviting observers from non-CEBS boys groups to our next National Council meeting. Moved by Chris Oliver, seconded by Graeme Nicholls. Carried

NEXT VENUE

Melbourne Diocese invited the National Council meeting in 2008. Agreed to set dates at 2-4 May, 2008 (subject to availability of campsites). (Alternative is 18-20 April, 2008)

Chairman expressed the thanks of the council for hosting this year's meeting. Thanked the National Secretary and National Treasurer for their kind services and thanked all for the good humor and grace with which we met. Graeme Nicholls expressed the thanks of the delegates for Rev. Conrad Paterson chairing the meeting.

Rev. Warren Rumble drew attention to the extent of resources that are available but are not coordinated. The Chairman asked members to ensure that resources are forwarded to the website.

Treasurer to pay expenses of the weekend and will email diocese for their accounts.

Agreed to pay for Chris Oliver to attend CNET. Moved Ken Pigeon seconded Alan Victor.

Summary of Actions:

~~Chris Oliver will prepare action list within 7 days.~~

Thanked Ken Harkness for acting as minute secretary.

Thanked Ian Jamieson for his assistance towards the organization of the meeting.

Meeting concluded at 12:50pm

Confirmed as a true and correct record:

Date:

Signed:

National Chairman