

OIKOUMENE

TASMANIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

163 Macquarie Street, Hobart (GPO Box 1130 Hobart 7001)

October 2003

The 'Lund' Principle

Should not the churches act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel them to act separately?

Christmas Bowl Appeal 2003-2004

*Whenever a community is enabled to feel or
glimpse life or hope anew,*



Emele Duituturaga

Give a little HOPE this Christmas

The main focus of this Newsletter is the Christmas Bowl Appeal, a major part of the Council's role in support of Christian World Service programs. It is pleasing to have been able to secure both the Hobart Mall and Launceston's Civic Square for public launches this year at which our visitor Emele Duituturaga from Fiji will speak.

The appearance of Christmas messages invariably triggers a response about how quickly time passes. This is particularly appropriate for me at present, as October marks the mid point of my 3 year term with the Council. In November I will present a report to the Executive as part of a 'Review' evening and I am hopeful that we will be able to look forward with a renewed vision and some identified goals in 2004. Please pray for this meeting which will be facilitated by Mr. Paul Cavanough.

Pray also for the work of the Christian Religious Education in State Schools Commission. An update on their work has also been included - what an absolute gift this ministry is to Tasmania and how fast it is growing.

I trust you will enjoy this edition, it's a pity we are not able to bring you this Newsletter in colour, it looks splendid, especially the photographs! As you prepare for Advent and the great celebration of the birth of the Christ-child, may *life, hope, joy, peace, love, thanks, freedom and blessing* be yours.

Val Graydon

"A God Who Simply Loves"
An opportunity for Worship and Prayer in the Taizé tradition—led by Brother Ghislain from the ecumenical Taizé Community in France—Tuesday 21 October

Afternoon program— St. Mark's Anglican Church, Pontville

12.00-5.00 pm: Lunch, then gather in the Spirituality Centre for Prayer, Reflection and worship led by Brother Ghislain.

There will be opportunity for meditation and reflection in the quietness of the gardens.

Evening program—All Saints Anglican Church, South Hobart

7.15 pm "Bring & Share" light refreshments, followed at 8.00 pm by a service in the church.

Cost and registration details on enclosed flyer

Please publicise as widely as possible through your networks



1800 025 101
www.ncca.org.au

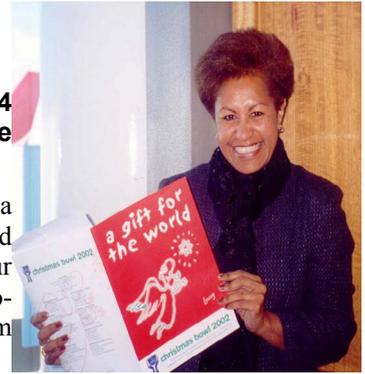
The Christmas Bowl is a program of Christian World Service,
a Commission of the National Council of Churches in Australia.
Locked Bag 199, Sydney NSW 1230

CHRISTMAS BOWL VISITOR

Emele Duituturaga

Emele will be in Tasmania from Wednesday 19 November until Monday 24 November. If your congregation/school/community group would like her to come and speak during this time, please contact the TCC Office as soon as possible.

Emele Duituturaga is a development specialist, consultant and trainer with a background as a social scientist and social economist. She has had considerable regional inter-governmental and non-government experience working in the Pacific Islands development sector. For the past four years Emele Duituturaga has been working as an independent consultant in the Pacific with projects in public sector reform and institutional strengthening, donor funded project and program evaluation and facilitation and technical assistance to non-government organisations (NGOs).



She is a Board Member of the Fiji Development Bank (the only woman).

Emele is a founding member of the Pacific Island Women's Health Project. She has had experience as a community development specialist and NGO adviser in PNG with the Asian Development Bank; Regional Project Manager for the UNFPA-funded Pacific Regional Adolescent Health Project; Head of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

In addition, she has worked as an international consultant on development projects in the Pacific region including work on the New Zealand Overseas Development Assistance program. She also worked as a Senior Policy Adviser with the NZ Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs.

She is chair of the Social Empowerment Education Program (SEEP) with the Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy (ECCREA) and has worked closely with Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO) and the Fiji Council of Social Service.

Although a Fijian and currently residing in Suva, Emele has lived most of her life in other parts of the Pacific, including 12 years in the Solomon Islands, 15 years in New Zealand, three years in Papua New Guinea and three years in New Caledonia.

The website <http://www.ecrea.org.fj/webpages/seep.htm> gives details of the SEEP program of ECCREA.

CHRISTMAS BOWL PUBLIC LAUNCHES

YOU ARE INVITED

to the
Public Christmas Bowl Launches

LAUNCESTON
Thursday 20 November
12.30 pm in Civic Square

HOBART
Friday 21 November
12.30 pm in the Elizabeth Mall

Emele Duituturaga will be the guest speaker at both Launches.

As well, a number of church and community leaders will be present.

Items of music and dance from local schools will be featured.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are appealing for Christmas Bowl volunteers to assist with collecting in shopping centres throughout the state. Additional collection points have been arranged this year (complete list below). You will appreciate that, because of the present world situation, the need for support has never been greater.

Please advertise widely within your networks and advise the TCC Office (6234 2543) if you can assist. The shifts are not long, and this is your opportunity to help make a difference in the world! What a wonderful opportunity for churches to work together!

We are grateful to the following shopping centres who have agreed to support Collections on their premises:

South:

Centrepoint	3-24 December
Shoreline	12-24 December
Woolworths, Lindisfarne	19, 20 & 22 December
Northgate	9-13 December
Claremont	15-19 December

North

Launceston Mall	17-19 December
Meadow Mews	28 November
Riverside	2-6 December
Prospect Vale	1-4 & 6 December
Mowbray Markets	10, 12 & 13 December

North West

Burnie Plaza	8-24 December
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(We are hopeful that Devonport and Wynyard will also be involved).

CHRISTMAS BOWL MATERIALS



The theme for the 2003-2004 Christmas Bowl Appeal is "Give a little HOPE this Christmas".

Kits will be distributed to congregations/corps/schools/groups over the next few weeks.

The worship resources and all age activities cover the period from the Reign of Christ to Epiphany - 23 November to 4 January - with eight themes (give a little life, hope, joy, peace, love, thanks, freedom and blessing). The kit also includes clipart for pew sheets, posters, bookmarks, a sample donation envelope and a free copy of the NCCA's Youth Network CD "Over this violence thing... Peace—the still small voice".

Extra kits, envelopes and bookmarks are available from the TCC Office.

Think about setting a Christmas Bowl target for your congregation this year. Together we can make a difference in the world!

A Christmas Bowl Prayer

Lord, when I am hungry, give me someone to feed; when I am thirsty, give me someone whose thirst I may assuage. And when I am cold, someone to clothe.

When I am sad, give me someone to cheer; when my burden is heavy give me also those of others; and when I need love, may others ask for mine.

May your will be my food; your grace my strength and your love my rest.

May my whole life be a gift perpetually offered to you, O Father, until the day when you are pleased to receive it back again."



GIVE TO THE
CHRISTMAS BOWL

Freecall 1800 025 101 www.ncca.org.au

ORDER A FREE CORFLUTE SIGN FOR DISPLAY OUTSIDE YOUR CHURCH

Corflute signs are light-weight, firm, corrugated plastic—size is 90 x 60 centimeters.

Our goal is to have signs outside as many churches as possible throughout Tasmania.

Order your sign NOW from the TCC Office (phone 6234 2543 or e-mail us at tcc@trump.net.au)

Christmas is on the way at forgeten!

Buy a beautiful card which will give the gift of clean water. The cards cost \$10 each—not too expensive when you consider that the money will provide clean water for someone in Africa. See enclosed order form for more details.

THE COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN STATE SCHOOLS

The Commission on Christian Religious Education in State Schools meets three or four times a year under the capable and enthusiastic convenership of the Rev'd Alan Bulmer. The Commission fosters, in conjunction with Heads of Churches, ecumenical religious education activity in Tasmanian state schools.

Christian Religious Education:

- is for all, regardless of family religious background
- uses educational principles and relates to children's interests and abilities
- complements other areas of learning

The CRESS Liaison Officer, Sr. Barbara Hateley MSS, does an enormous amount of work organising training sessions for volunteer teachers throughout the state. In addition to the training days, Sr. Barbara provides pastoral support and assistance to the RE teachers. She attends meetings of groups such as Ministers' Associations, as well as visiting schools and liaising with Principals.

Approximately 300 volunteer teachers go to almost 75% of the total state primary schools on a weekly basis.

An exciting area of the Commission's work has been the phenomenal growth in the number of chaplaincies in High Schools and Colleges. Chaplains are now working in 13 Schools/Colleges under the Chaplaincy Guidelines approved by the Heads of Churches and subsequently by the Education Department. It is expected that by the beginning of 2004 there could be a further five Chaplaincies.

This year Matt Durose took on the role of Convener of the CRESS Secondary Working Group. Matt works for Scripture Union as a "Chaplain to the Chaplains" and is a great support. Regular meetings are held when Chaplains and Chaplaincy Committees learn together and encourage each other.

Please continue to pray for the vital work of this Commission. Financial donations can be sent to the TCC office.



Commission Convener,
The Rev'd Alan Bulmer



CRESS Liaison Officer
Sr. Barbara Hateley MSS

Opportunities for Churches to Gather and Work Together

Decade to Overcome Violence New Resources Available



Turn to the Sun, a new resource kit produced by the National Council of Churches' Decade to Overcome Violence Unit, is now available. The kit can be downloaded from the NCCA's website at ncca.org.au/dov/resources or photocopies can be ordered from the TCC Office (a small charge for photocopying and postage). The kit will assist congregations and small groups to engage with the *Decade to Overcome Violence*. It includes activities for children and youth, Biblical reflections, worship and prayer and conflict resolution resources. It is a follow up to the *Give Peace a Hand* kit produced last year.

TWO NEW ECUMENICAL STUDIES AVAILABLE

Order your copies from the TCC Office now

AUTHORITY AND THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Five Ecumenical Studies produced by the Faith & Order Commission of the Victorian Council of Churches. Study topics: *The Place of Scripture as Authority for Christian Living, Authority in and of the Early Church, Authority as Expressed through Leadership and Organisation in our Churches, Church, Secular Authority and Conscience, Authority and Power in Pastoral Relationships.*

Cost \$5.00 (plus postage).

RENEWING CREATION *Listening for the groans and hopes of the Earth*

An ecumenical five-part Bible study for Lent 2004, *Renewing Creation* is a reflection on the passion of our Lord in the context of the environmental crisis of our planet. Each part of the study focuses on a specific ecological crisis in the Australian context and concludes with indications of renewal.

STUDY AT TABOR COLLEGE IN 2004

Open Night

7.30 pm Tuesday November 11

There are opportunities to study in Ministry, Youth, Chaplaincy, Leadership and Christian Counselling at Diploma level through Tabor College, 45 Melville Street, Hobart.

The aim of the college is to help equip church members to serve Jesus. Any questions to John Morse (mobile 0407 972 912 or e-mail to jmorse@computerclarity.com.au)

Discounts in 2004: If you enrol in any class with a friend you each receive 10% discount on the cost of that class-15% each for 3 or more people.

PEOPLE NEEDED

An exciting opportunity for outreach at the Royal Hobart Show 22-25 October.

Fusion is looking for volunteers (16 years of age or older) to help run the Fusion Family Fun area at the Show. Anyone who can volunteer for 4 hours on any day please call Fusion on 6229 1939.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE TERRY O'CONNELL Visiting Tasmania 4, 5 & 6 November 2003

Terry is Australian Director of "Real Justice" and is involved in facilitating conferences between offenders and victims. He also trains teachers/school communities, workplaces, churches and other community organizations to develop anti-bullying and other healthier interpersonal processes.

He has featured on the ABC's "Australian Story" and his "conferencing model" is the benchmark for victim-offender conferences around the world.

The ethos of restorative justice has some very helpful guidance for faith communities and will be of interest to TCC member churches.

See enclosed flyer/registration form for details of his program in Hobart and Launceston.

More details from Grant Finlay
6272 9234 or e-mail
uaicctas@netspace.net.au

REFUGEES

The response to Refugee Week and the Kit has been very encouraging with a more than 50% increase of requests for the material. We are looking more closely at our role in relation to refugees for 2004 and in the meantime draw your attention to the following informative speakers on refugee issues:

Dr. Eileen Pittaway – 7 pm on Tuesday 28 October at the Centenary Lecture Theatre University of Tasmania. Subject: *Double Jeopardy; Sexual and gender-based violence in refugee camps?*

Professor Lowitja O'Donoghue – 7.30 pm Thursday 30 October at the Collegiate Performing Arts Centre. Anglican Social Justice Lecture: *Refugees, Reconciliation and Ruthless Policy: A Struggle for the Australian Soul?*

7.30-8.30 am Friday 31 October at Corus Hotel, Bathurst Street – Lowitja will be in conversation with Pete Hay at the Anglicare Social Justice Breakfast.

SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB

Monday 20 October

Brendan McKeague will ask 'In the midst of strife, how can I keep from singing?'. Brendan will examine ways of moving from violence to wholeness.

Venue: Moonah Café, Bar, Bistro. Meals from 6.30, talk 7.30, finish by 9.00 pm

SIP FORWARD NOTICE

Monday 10 December

An evening discussing ecumenism with Rev. Val Graydon and Bishop Michael Putney.

Other opportunities to meet with

Brendan McKeague:

Tues 21 October 9am-4pm Public Workshop

Wed 22 October 7.30-9.30pm Tasmanian Peace Trust Lecture (both the above in Quaker Meeting House, Boa Vista Rd. New Town)

Fri. 24 at 6.30 pm & **Sun. 26 October** at 4pm Public Workshop, Clemes Foyer, Friends School.

More details from Peter Wilde
6229 5017 (e-mail
P.D.Wilde@utas.edu.au)

