



NCCD NEWS —JUNE 2014

Special points of interest and upcoming dates



Date Claimer

Wednesday, 15th Oct.

The next meeting of the Association will be an e-conference and will be held on Wednesday 15th October.

Time and format yet to be confirmed.

Other dates:

24th-25th July—

Religious Education Conference,
Melbourne CEO, Melbourne

21st-23rd August -

Proclaim 2014 Conference,
Chatswood NSW.

29th September-1st October—

AARE (Australian Association
for Religious Education),
Melbourne

Resource websites:

<http://www.resourcemelb.catholic.edu.au/>

Australian based website with variety of contemporary resources for Catholic RE including video clips, powerpoint prayers, etc.

<http://sermons4kids.com>

Includes links to colouring pages and worksheets (wordsearches, crosswords etc) linked to Sunday Scriptures

WELCOME TO NCCD NEWS

Welcome everyone to NCCD News– hope you enjoy this first attempt at a re-vamped newsletter.

It was great meeting face to face again in Baulkham Hills. This gathering of the 17th meeting of the network which has become known as the National Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (NCCD). Many may be surprised to know that next year marks the 25th anniversary of the first meeting of those involved in leading and coordinating State School RE in the dioceses across Australia. Over the years the name of the group has changed, however from the very beginning the purpose of the group was to provide a network of professional support for diocesan directors/leaders involved in forming and supporting catechists in the provision of religious education to Catholic students outside the Catholic school system. Over its history the group has continually tried to get official recognition and national support for this sector of Catholic education. There is a potted history of the NCCD on page 4.

A major achievement of the gathering at Baulkham Hills was the completion of the Constitution—a process which initially began in 2002 at Launceston. There is a report of the conference on page 2.

On page 3 there is a subsequent report from the NCCD Management Committee which met via teleconference on the 15th May. One of the next major tasks is to finalise and establish the NCCD website.

Hopefully as many as possible will be able to be part of the virtual meeting proposed for the 15th October. 'See' you all then. God's blessings with you all.

Rickie Withers



Prayer: O Lord God, who called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with a good courage, not knowing where we are going, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us; to the glory and praise of your name. Amen.

(Eric Milner-White and GW Briggs, taken from 'The Book of A Thousand Prayers', pg 49)

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REPORT: NCCD CONFERENCE —'Strengthening Unity and Diversity'

April 2014—Baulkham Hills, Diocese of Parramatta



The National Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (NCCD) gathering took place from 30th March-2nd April 2014 at St. Joseph's Centre for Reflective Living, Baulkham Hills in the Diocese of Parramatta

This gathering saw Diocesan leaders and representatives in the CCD ministry across Australia come together to reflect, discern and plan for the continued building up of the NCCD across Australia. Conference participants came from the following Dioceses—Armidale, Bathurst, Brisbane, Broken Bay, Cairns, Canberra-Goulburn, Lismore, Maitland-Newcastle, Melbourne, Parramatta, Rockhampton, Sale, Sandhurst, Sydney, and Wollongong.

The Conference began with a prayer/reflection day led by Sr Patty Andrew OSU from Catholic Education Parramatta, on the theme 'Strengthening Unity and Celebrating Diversity', capturing the spirit of the CCD ministry which takes place in various forms throughout Australia. Due to differing local State Government legislation, geographic constraints or local Diocesan policy and resources, some dioceses are able to provide Catholic religious education to children outside the Catholic school system during school hours within the State School classroom, while others provide religious education through 'Scripture of the Air', family catechesis or parish based religious education on Sundays or weekdays after school. Through the reflection day, participants were able to connect with each other and were reminded that while the mode or format of the ministry may differ the underlying task and mission is the same—evangelisation and faith formation of children and the support and formation of catechists. The diversity across Australia calls for a strong sense of faith and unity of mission.

Bishop Anthony Fisher OP, (Diocese of Parramatta) celebrated Mass and his homily reflected the history of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine from its inception in Milan in 1558. He affirmed the ministry for working within the demands of today's society and responding to the ongoing call of the gospel to take the message to the community.



On the second and third day of the Conference attention was given to finalising and ratifying the NCCD Constitution. The contributions of those present enabled the fine details to be decided bringing a long but necessary exercise to completion.

A special guest at the conference was David Hutton, a representative from the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC). David acknowledged the work of the NCCD and the CCD throughout Australia as well as the issues of profile and resourcing at parish and diocesan levels. He noted that the CCD has always been part of the brief of the NCEC, and currently sits within the Bishops Commission for Catholic Education (BCCE). David led discussions on where the NCCD may stand in the future and how it may benefit from relationship with the NCEC and the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

A management committee for the Association was elected at this gathering under the terms of the Constitution:

- Chairperson—Dr. Pina Ford (Perth)
- Vice-Chairperson—Mr Paul Worthington (Parramatta)
- Secretary—Mr Rickie Withers (Armidale)
- Treasurer—Ms Patricia McDevitt (Rockhampton)
- Liaison Officer—Mrs Lorraine Wynne, (Brisbane)

Paul Worthington thanked Sharon Freeman for her tireless work over the last 3 years as Convenor of the 'Scrum' Group. After initiating the Melbourne gathering in 2011, Sharon maintained the energy, focus and vision of the NCCD bringing the association to its current position.

Matters noted by the Conference that require further attention:

- Location of the next NCCD conference (during the second half of 2015)
- The website of the NCCD
- National partnerships especially with the NCEC and the BCCE
- State and Territory legislation that may affect provision of RE in Government Schools for some NCCD members.

The Association offers a vote of thanks to Paul Worthington and his team for hosting the Conference in the Diocese of Parramatta.



Report from Management Committee Meeting

Teleconference 15th May 2014

Present: *Pina Ford, Paul Worthington, Rickie Withers, Patricia McDevitt, Lorraine Wynne*

Constitution:

The Constitution ratified at Baulkham Hills was perused and discussed with regard to formatting and verbal consistency; corrections were made.

Current advice has been that ratification of the Constitution only needs to be internal to the association. Further clarification will be sought from David Hutton who has offered to act as a critical friend to the Association.

Website:

Information about the preparation of the NCCD website was reviewed: 'School Site Solutions' have provided a set up cost of \$800.00; a quote of \$250 / year for hosting the site was provided by Catholic Communications Hosting services.

It was decided to invite the 'Website task committee' established at the Brisbane conference to continue with the task of developing the website.

Next Conference:

The next face to face conference of the association is scheduled to be held in September/October 2015. Discussion was held as to where this would be held and who would host and organise the conference. It was decided that consideration should be given to the east coast given the issue of access for the majority of members. Paul offered to approach NSW Dioceses through CCRESS and Pina to contact Victorian representatives.

When and how the management committee meets and communicates:

The committee will communicate via email as required. Given that all members of the Management Committee were attending the 'Proclaim Conference 2014' in August, it was decided to schedule a face to face meeting on the 20th August, in Chatswood NSW. Paul to finalise the details.

Partnerships and patronage

Recent communication from David Hutton indicated that the NCCD has been retained within the mandate of the Bishops Commission for Catholic Education. Pina will continue to communicate with David to explore and develop avenues for ongoing connection with both the BCCE and the National Catholic Education Commission.

Gathering and updating National CCD statistics and information

The need for current data and information that gives a clear picture of the nature and scope of the CCD ministry across Australia was discussed. Paul and Rickie will collaborate on creating a template for data collection. Paul and Rickie to meet in June in Sydney.

Minutes taken by Rickie Withers and summarised by Pina Ford; available unabbreviated on request.

An encouraging word from Pope Francis

Pope Francis, Address to Catechists, September 2013



Saint Paul says that "the love of Christ compels us", but this "compels us" can also be translated as "possesses us". And so it is: love attracts us and sends us; it draws us in and gives us to others. This tension marks the beating of the heart of the Christian, especially the heart of the catechist.

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2013/september/documents/papa-francesco_20130927_pellegrinaggio-catechisti.html

DEAR God

Teach me that
change only happens
now,
too soon for the future,
too late for the past.

Amen



Where have we come from—NCCD - ‘A POTTED HISTORY’

The Beginning

The National CCD had its genesis in the NCEC sponsored consultation and subsequent gathering in Sydney in 1992. This gathering was attended by two representatives from twenty-seven of the twenty-eight Australian Catholic Dioceses. The preceding consultation gathered statistical data from around Australia. This was analysed and presented to the gathering along with some input around some of the issues the consultation raised.

The coming together of so many people engaged in this ministry was an opportunity to set up very worthwhile networking systems. While no formal attempt was made to do this as part of the gathering outcomes, a few diocesan directors expressed their desire to continue the contact made at the gathering. A few informal meetings took place within the gathering itself. These meetings and subsequent phone contacts resulted in the first meeting of what has become the Australian CCD Association.

December, 1992—Sydney. The first official meeting took place in Sydney and was attended by Diocesan Directors/Coordinators from Brisbane (Don Siebert), Canberra-Goulburn (Jan Cooney), Sydney (Richard Dixon), Parramatta (Terence O’Loughlin), Perth (Liz Devine) and Adelaide (Patricia Brady)

December, 1993—Ballarat. The same people met again with the addition of Kevin Murphy and Kevin Maloney. Following this gathering Patricia Brady reported to the NCEC RE Committee and asked that the network be recognised as a significant group to be involved in any future consultation. There was no move on the part of the committee to formally recognise the network at that stage but encouragement was given by the committee to continue networking.

May, 1994– Adelaide. The network met in Adelaide, Sharyn Byrne had replaced Terence O’Loughlin from Parramatta. Presentation were given by Dr. Thomas Groome and Fr. Tom Gleeson-a local priest who presented on local aboriginal history and culture.

1995-Brisbane. The Brisbane office hosted the gathering at Tugun. The network was expanded with the inclusion of Cairns (Sr. Irene Harrison), Toowoomba (Phillip Fitzgerald) and Bunbury (Mel Stillman) dioceses.

1997– Shell Harbour (Wollongong Diocese).

Parramatta CCD office hosted this gathering at Shell Harbour in the Wollongong Diocese. New members included Sr. Libbey Byrne (Parramatta), Sr. Martina Sarkis (Wollongong), Tricia Gimple and Carole Danby (Brisbane), Peter Ivers (Sydney) and Sr. Barbara Hallam (Canberra Goulburn). Presentations were given by Sr. Maureen Heffernan on story telling and holistic spirituality.

1998-Sydney. This gathering was back to back with the National Adult Education Conference . New members included Sr. Margaret beech (Perth) and Sabina van Rooy (Canberra-Goulburn)

1999-Adelaide. This gathering was entitled ‘Mindful Companions—Skills for Catechesis in a Multicultural Church and Society with local priest Fr. Anthony Kain as the keynote speaker. It was at this gathering that the decision was made to formalise the existing network and to form the Australian CCD Association (ACCDa) and to seek recognition with the National Catholic Education Commission. An executive was formed was formed with Sharyn Byrne (President), Trish Gimple (Vice President), Sabina VanRooy (Secretary-Treasurer), Patricia Brady (ex officio member to facilitate communication with the NCEC).

This gathering was the 7th such gathering of State School RE. Coordinators.

2000-Perth Diocese (Freemantle) From this gathering a document was prepared title ‘*The Changing Face of Special Religious Education across our Great Land*’ - Wendy Hord, 19th April, 2001.

2001-Brisbane—The title ‘ Religious Education and Catechesis Ministry Network’ was adopted.

2002-Launceston (Diocese of Hobart) It was at this gathering that the name of the association was formally changed to the National Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (NCCD).

2003—Canberra. This gathering was hosted by the Dioceses of NSW.

2004– Brisbane

2005-Kincumber (Diocese of Broken Bay)

2007--Perth

2011-Melbourne

2012-Brisbane

2014-Baulkham Hills (Diocese of Parramatta)

(taken from excerpts of the document ‘A Brief History of the RE State Schools’ Network, by Patricia Brady, 26th July, 2000.