



St Mark's Reporting

September 2011

Many St Mark's graduates, friends and supporters attend Friends and Alumni Lunch



Rev'ds Mike Vercoe, David Hill, Bob James, and Bob Lindbeck gave us entertaining insights into life in the first days of St Mark's College of Ministry.

The attendance of 130 graduates and current students made the Alumni Lunch and Open Day at St Mark's National Theological Centre on 27 August a notable success, encouraging hopes of further alumni events.

"The interaction with the graduates was encouraging and inspiring," St Mark's Director, Tom Frame, said.

"Having a clearer understanding of the experiences and aspiration of both graduates and students will have a direct bearing on the decisions we are presently making about the future life of St Mark's."

"I look forward to future events for St Mark's alumni and those who have been attracted to Bishop Burgmann's founding charter of helping Christian people engage with Australian society."

The Alumni Reunion and Friends' Open Day celebrated forty years of ministry training in Barton.

Over a buffet lunch at the Barton Cafeteria, the Director 'interviewed' the four full-time students from the first intake of the Canberra College of Ministry: the Reverends Bob Lindbeck, Bob James, David Hill and Mike Vercoe. The only part-time student in the

original student cohort, the Rev'd Keith Groundwater, was also present.

The Director also drew attention to the significant contribution of the late Bishop Neville Chynoweth, and read from an email that Bishop Neville had sent him shortly before his death with his recollections of the founding of the College of Ministry.

During the day visitors purchased second-hand books and enjoyed the exhibition of historical items from St Mark's Library. Prospective students were able to talk with Charles Sturt University enrolment advisers.

The event was organised by Dr Christine Ledger, herself a St Mark's graduate and Friend.



Geoff Alves and Dr Christine Ledger ensured everyone had something to drink.

Thanks to staff and our volunteers

All St Mark's staff helped to make the Alumni Lunch and Open Day a successful and enjoyable event.

Hazel Francis and Elizabeth Palmer especially helped with practical organisation matters. Margaret Browning and Gloria Dowling helped with finding contacts for ministry students by trawling through the clergy directory.

St Mark's Library staff prepared the book displays in the foyer and the Sulman Room.

Geoff Alves looked after the second-hand books for sale, while Fran Black helped by organising the raffle and Christine Smith from CSU gave helpful advice about alumni associations.

The Alumni Lunch was not the sole source of sustenance on the day. Some visitors enjoyed sausage sandwiches, cakes and drinks from the St Mark's Students' Association barbeque and stall. Association members also helped Gloria Dowling and Jan Lindsay serve the Alumni Lunch dessert.

coming events

- 4 Nov 2011 St Mark's End-of-Year Event**
 4.30 pm Book Launch (Dr Matt Brain's book, *Engage! How the church can reconnect with young people*)
 6.00 pm EOY service & prizegiving
 7.15 pm Dinner and entertainment.

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ST MARK'S WEBSITE

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St Mark's Alumni & Friends enjoyed getting together at our OPEN DAY in AUGUST



whether waiting in a queue for lunch, sitting down to eat or just catching up with friends . . .



Archdeacon Susanna Pain and Winifred Lamb. You can just spot Norman and Julie Kelley in the background



L to R: Janet Munro, Roberta Hamilton, Michael Gladwin and Joy Harris

L-R: Jan Lindsay, Keith and Celia Groundwater



Bill and June Cashman



Clive Rodger, Adrian D'Hage and Elaine Farmer



Cyril Streatfield, Bill Wright, Margaret Streatfield

Choir lifts hymnody book launch

An ecumenical choir sang hymns at the recent launch of a groundbreaking book in Australian religious history which explores hymnody: *Sing a New Song*, by Emeritus Professor Brian H. Fletcher.

Published by Barton Books, *Sing a New Song* is dedicated to Bishop Owen Dowling and was launched by his two children – Matthew Dowling and Mary Gilmore.

Sing a New Song focuses on the work of the Australian Hymn Book Committee and the publication of the *Australian Hymn Book* and *Together in Song*, two compilations that placed Australia on the world map of hymnody for the first time. *Sing a New Song* explores how these two hymnals evolved through a complex and demanding compilation and editorial process, undergirded by the firm belief that hymns are rich cultural artefacts, to help revive parts of the Australian Church and enliven public worship.

Sing a New Song draws attention to the spirit of goodwill that marked the work of the Hymn Book Committee and its contribution to the rise and spread of ecumenism in Australia over more than four decades. It will interest anyone with an interest in the history of Australian religion and music.

Professor Fletcher, Emeritus Professor in the Department of History of the University of Sydney, was awarded the New South Wales History Council's Citation for 2007 and the Centenary of Federation Medal for services to Australian history.

The choir at the launch was composed of recent participants in the Theology and Practice of Congregational Song course, presented by Professor Michael Hawn in Canberra. They sang hymns from the *Australian Hymn Book*, *Sing Alleluia* and *Together in Song*. The choir was led by Garth Mansfield, Director of the Wesley Music Centre.

The launch of *Sing a New Song* at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture chapel in Barton was hosted by St Mark's National Theological Centre.



The combined choir led the singing



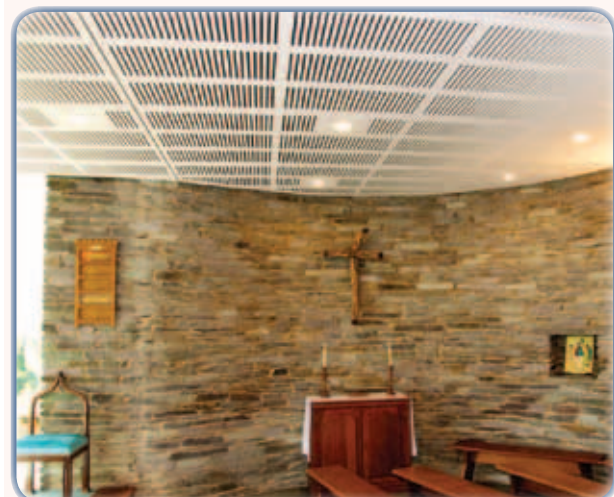
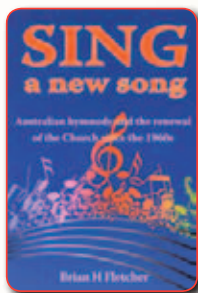
Mary Gilmore (nee Dowling) and Matthew Dowling launched Brian Fletcher's book.



Garth Mansfield, Director of Wesley Music Centre



Author, Prof. Brian Fletcher with Tom Frame, director of Barton Books.



More sound and light

Funds raised at Friends of St Mark's Dinners have been used to improve the lighting and acoustics of the Chapel and to provide an audiovisual system for the Sulman Room and the Foyer.

A new ceiling has been installed in the Chapel and services can now be amplified into the Foyer. A hearing loop is now available in the Sulman Room. St Mark's is most grateful to the Friends of St Mark's for these facilities which greatly enhance our worship, public lectures and teaching.

News from the Library

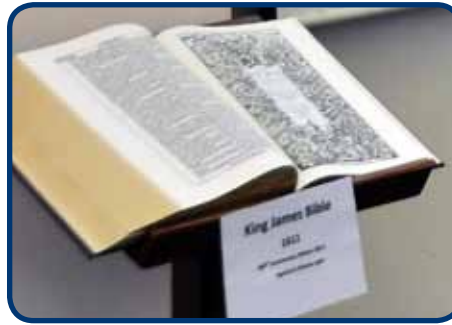


Historic books and other items on display

Rare Bibles and historic items on display from St Mark's Library attracted a lot of visitor interest at the Alumni Lunch and Open Day.

Among the books were a 1611 first edition *King James Bible*, a first edition *Bassandyne Bible* from Scotland, and a Bible used in the Prisoners Barracks in Hobart Town around 1845. The *Bassandyne Bible* has valuable provenance, including letters telling how it came to Australia.

Also on display were 19th century leg irons, found at Goulburn, and a pectoral cross and crozier which belonged to Bishop Burgmann.



Other library news - Dr John Harris



A copy of the first complete Bible in an Aboriginal language, the *Kriol Bible*, was presented to St Mark's Director Tom Frame by Dr. John Harris, after Dr Harris spoke on 'the book that changed the world' (the King James Bible) at St Mark's in July.

St Mark's Library manager Susan Phillips, ably assisted by Ross Phillips, boxed and moved Professor Hans Mol's donated theological library to St Mark's Library where it is awaiting sorting.



Dr John Harris lectured on 'The Bible that changed the World'.

Books on the move

St Mark's library now subscribes to the *Oxford Biblical Studies Online* database.

Another recent donation to the library is a set of 78 LP records of Church of England services, featuring a choir from St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, as well as a major donation of 17 boxes of books.

Bill Huff Johnston continues to shelve the Pacific region Bible Society material in the library's rare book room, but work on the *Tippett finding AID* has slowed and the library hopes a retired librarian will offer his or her services to continue this important task.



Academic recognition by CSU

Staff member the **Rev'd Dr Peter Pocock** and Academic Associate, the **Rev'd Dr Brian Douglas** (Rector of St Paul's Anglican Church at Manuka) have been appointed as Senior Lecturers in the School of Theology in Charles Sturt University in recognition of their respective contributions. We warmly congratulate them on their appointments and convey our thanks for their continuing service to St Mark's and the CSU School of Theology.

St Mark's Council

At its meeting in June, the Bishop in Council appointed **Bishop Trevor Edwards** as President of the Council to replace **Dr Bruce Kaye**, who resigned at the end of 2010. **Mr Kym Bills**, a member of the Council since 2004 was appointed to replace Bishop Edwards as Deputy President. The **Rev Rebecca Newland**, Rector of St Philips, O'Connor and a past student at St Mark's, was appointed as a member of the Council.



This issue of *St Mark's Review* covers the topic '**Bridging Gospel, Church and Youth Culture in Australia**'. The essays included are from the 2010 Theology of Youth Ministry Conference conducted on 23-24 September 2010 by Youthworks College in Sydney. The conference title was *When worlds collide: bridging Gospel, Church and culture*.

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