**Anglican Diocese of Gippsland**

**Third Session of the Fortieth Synod - 2024**

**(24-26 May 2024)**

**RESOLUTIONS, ELECTION RESULTS AND QUESTIONS**

**Sale, Vic**

**RESOLUTIONS**

**260/24 Bishop in Council Report**

That this Synod receives the report of the Bishop-in-Council covering the work of the Council since the last ordinary session of Synod.

Moved: The Registrar

Seconded: The Very Rev’d Keren Terpstra

**261/24 2022/23 Annual Accounts of the Diocese**

That this Synod adopts the audited Diocesan Accounts for 2022/23.

Moved: Mr Robert Fordham AM

Seconded: The Registrar

**262/24 2024/25 Diocesan Budget**

That this Synod confirms the budget for October 2024 – September 2025 adopted by Bishop-in-Council on 20 April 2024.

Moved: The Registrar

Seconded: Mrs Jaan Enden

**263/24 ABM 175th Anniversary**

That this synod:

1. Notes with gratitude that the Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) will celebrate its 175th Anniversary on 29 October 2025 and

* + - 1. Encourages the organisations of this Diocese to both participate in events organised by ABM and to consider organising their own events in 2025 or 2026 to mark this achievement, highlighting particularly the involvement of members of this Diocese over that time.
      2. Explores with ABM where God is calling this Diocese to participate in God’s ongoing mission through ABM.
      3. Asks the Bishop to write to ABM to convey the interest of this diocese in celebrating this significant anniversary with ABM.

2. Gives thanks for the almost $18,000 donated by parishes to the work of ABM and Anglicans in Development (AID) in 2023 and more recently to the Good Friday Gift which aims to support work on the ground via local mission partners in Palestine, urging prayer for the peace of Jerusalem, Israel, Gaza and the Middle East;

3. Encourages parishes to support ABM Church to Church and Reconciliation Programs that work with First Nations peoples throughout Australia and partner churches overseas.

Mover: The Very Reverend Keren Terpstra

Seconder: Rev’d Susan Liersch

**264/24 Safe Ministry**

That Bishop in Council reviews the ‘Safe Ministry Check’ screening questionnaire and provides feedback, making any recommendations for amendment to the Safe Ministry Commission of General Synod giving consideration to:

* The relevance of the questions asked in the questionnaire to the work for which the clearance is requested.
* The process for application ensures pastoral support for the applicant.

Moved: Tammy Austin

Seconded: Francesca Lamond

**265/24 Governance Training**

That this Synod encourages Bishop in Council to prepare and introduce governance training for diocesan and parish office holders.

Mover: Marion Dewar

Seconder: Lacy Biggs

**266/24 Concerning a review of the legislation of the Diocese**

That this synod requests Bishop in Council to initiate a review of the legislation governing the Diocese of Gippsland with a view to:

* 1. Updating it,
  2. Systematising it in order to create consistency and synergy across its breadth, and
  3. Ensuring that legislation reflects current circumstances;

and requests a report and suggested schedule for the work to be carried out to achieve this to be delivered to the 2025 session of synod.

Mover: The Very Reverend Keren Terpstra

Seconder: The Venerable Graham Knott

**267/24 McNeilly Estate Advisory Committee**

That Bishop in Council reviews the governance arrangements for the McNeilly Estate Advisory Committee and make such changes as it considers necessary giving special consideration to:

* Updating any Memorandum of Understanding regulating the role and function of the McNeilly Estate Advisory Committee;
* The appointment of Committee members; and
* Processes and policies for the distribution of funds held by the McNeilly Estate.

Mover: The Rev’d John Webster

Seconder: Wendy Shiels

**268/24 Hope25 ‘Hope in an Uncertain World’**

That this Synod wholeheartedly supports the Anglican Church of Australia's project Hope25 –*'Hope in an Uncertain World'* – sharing the hope we have in Jesus Christ, and encourages every Parish and Ministry Centre to participate.

Mover: The Rev’d Susan Liersch

Seconder: The Ven Graham Knott

**269/24 A Policy For The Management And Best Practice Of Locum Ministry**

That this synod requests that the Bishop and Bishop-in-council further the findings of the Locum Ministry Review 2023-2024 by:

* creating a policy, for the management and the guidance of locum ministry within the Diocese, guided by the findings of the report; and
* implementing such of the other recommendations in the report as appropriate.

Mover: Revd Liam Matthews

Seconded: Revd John Webster

**270/24 Youth Ministry**

That Bishop-in-Council be requested to convene a working group to canvas, and report to the 2025 Synod on the following issues associated with youth and families ministries across the Diocese:

* The current unmet need for youth and families ministry in parishes;
* The capacity of parishes to meet such needs via stipendiary or volunteer workers;
* The feasibility of the Diocese providing resources to enhance the capacity of parishes to address the unmet need.

Moved: Tara Andrews

Seconded: David Chambers

**ELECTION RESULTS**

**Bishop in Council Election Results**

**Clerical:** The Rev’d David Perryman *(Term expires 2027)*

**Lay:** Mr David Miller *(Term expires 2027)*

**Bishop’s appointments to Bishop in Council**

**Clerical:** The Rev’d Lyndon Phillips

The Rev’d Gradwell Fredrick**s**

**QUESTIONS**

**Question: A question on the Finance Report re: the costs of The Gippsland Anglican**

Hi Grace mentioned “waking together” at Synod, so my question is on process and outcome rather than focussed on individuals:

TGA: Income: $27,823 Expenditure: $121.506

1. What financial measures have been put in place to mitigate the losses in this cost centre
2. Bearing in mind His Grace’s mentioned “open arms to people different from us” – is a paper based, full colour production, all in English requiring a high literacy the best use of very limited financial resources for communication. Meg Knight, Corner Inlet

**Response to Question:**

I thank Meg for both the spirit and the content of her question yesterday morning regarding the cost of producing *The Gippsland Anglican* as reported in the Consolidated Accounts for 2022/23. An operating deficit of $94,000 is certainly a figure that warrants our attention, and – as was mentioned by the Registrar and Robert Fordham yesterday in presenting those accounts – has been a focus of discussion at Bishop-in-Council post audit.

I refer members of Synod to the commentary in the Bishop-in-Council Report on pages 6-7 and page 11 of Book 2 of your papers, where *TGA*’s unique role in the wider news ministry of the Diocese across a range of communication platforms is discussed in some detail, along with the drivers of increasing production and distribution costs.

In response to Meg’s two specific questions:

1. What financial measures have been put in place to mitigate the losses in the cost centre?

The current deficit represents a subsidy by the Diocese of around $90 per reader, per year. Whilst one might argue that this is not an unreasonable figure on a *per capita* basis, the aggregated cost is significant.

With this in view, the Editorial Committee has sought to encourage individual subscriptions to *TGA.* For each subscription at $65, the diocesan subsidy reduces to $25 per reader. Although we cannot expect to attract 1000 subscribers, the goal of 120 subscribers in *TGA*’s 120th anniversary year is attainable. Indeed, if every member of Synod filled out the form in their folders we would exceed this level of subscription today. For those who can afford it, we believe $65 per year (the price of a cup of take away coffee per month) represents tremendous value for *TGA* and – quarterly – for *TMA.*

1. Bearing in mind the Archbishop’s encouragement to connect across different cultures, is a paper-based, full colour, high literacy publication the best use of our limited financial resources for publication?

If *TGA* were the only plank in our communication strategy, the answer to this may well be ‘no’. However, its role in the overall news ministry of the Diocese is quite distinct, catering for a readership that our surveys tell us largely still prefers print media and, as *TGA*’s Mission Statement[[1]](#footnote-2) reflects, connecting ministry centres within the Diocese, and connecting the Diocese with the wider church. In her reflections at last night’s dinner, Mrs Freier referred to a story in *The Gippsland Anglican*, and I hear from readers around the country on a regular basis. It is both a missional resource in the present, and a permanent archival record of our life and work.

*TGA* cannot be all things to all people, but our overall news ministry must aspire to be, for the reasons we’ve been reflecting on this weekend. Like any ministry, news ministry will cost us something. Bishop-in-Council welcomes the encouragement extended by the question to review this cost in light of other pressing ministry needs.

**Next Synod**

**41st Synod – First Session**

**May 16-18, Sale.**

1. - connecting communities across Gippsland through the sharing of news and views

   - building a sense of shared mission between parishes, Anglican schools, and other ministry centres of the Diocese

   - celebrating and learning from the diversity of service and outreach offered by local clergy and lay people

   - strengthening links between the Diocese, the wider Anglican Communion, and ecumenical partners

   - encouraging faith and discipleship through a breadth of resources on spirituality, theology, and Christian living

   - examining current social issues through the lens of the gospel [↑](#footnote-ref-2)