

# **THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2010-11**

### ***SOUNDING OUT THE WORD***

When the apostle Paul wrote to the Thessalonians he used a metaphor with which his hearers would all be familiar. “From you sounded out the word of the Lord.” (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

The literal translation of the words “sounded out” is “trumpeted” The Thessalonian people would be familiar with the sound of the trumpet on the field of battle.

In today’s society the sound of the trumpet (or bugle) is better known as part of the Anzac Celebrations when the bugler plays the last post or the Reville. But to the Thessalonians it was a call to action to move forward to engage the enemy in the fight.

As at the Anzac celebrations it was anticipated that the bugler would strike the right note at the right time. As Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 14:8) “If the trumpet give an uncertain sound who will prepare for the battle.” There was no place for hesitancy. It was expected that the sound would be clear, positive unambiguous and forthright.

This Annual Report is a record of how the New South Wales Council of Churches has sought to “sound out the word of the Lord” and, on behalf of its member churches, to advance a Christian perspective in the ever changing society in which we live.

Through word and deed, the Council seeks to advance an evangelical Christian perspective in contemporary Australia. The Council’s attitude is one of love and empathy; the Council’s actions demonstrate the power of the gospel in our society. The Council’s voice speaks to both the powerful and the powerless.

**BROADCASTING:** During 2010-11 the Council has **Sounded out the Word** through its Broadcasting activities on Radio 2CH. While not always formally identified with the Council this is the most public and consistent work which the Council undertakes. Its major objective is to reach those not already committed to any Church with a positive presentation of the Christian message.

This it does through the presentation of **religious spots and segments** on Broadcasting Station 2CH throughout each day; through “**Sunday @ 7-30am**” a worship style programme, through the Council’s **News Commentary** on current affairs, “**Nightsong**” a programme featuring both contemporary and traditional Christian music and the Sunday Night 9pm to Midnight **Programme of Concern and Help** featuring Christian commentary, interviews and the Open Line.

The programme is supported by an “off air” counselling service known as “**People to People**” to which people are invited to make contact in their hour of need.

During the year several changes took place in arrangements for the administration of and presentation of these programmes.

At the 2010 Annual General Meeting of the Council the then President, Deaconess Margaret Rodgers presented **Rev John Edmondstone** with a plaque signed by herself as Council President, Mr Ian Holland, Programme Manager of 2CH/2GB and Mr Wayne Richards, Secretary of Council of Churches Broadcasters Pty Limited. (CCB) acknowledging his 40 years service to Christian Broadcasting through Radio 2CH. The plaque expresses Council’s warm appreciation for John’s monumental service to Christian Broadcasting through 2CH which is thought to be a record in Australian Commercial Broadcasting.

In July 2010 **Roslyn Simms** who was the Religious Coordinator at Radio 2CH withdrew from that position and the Council acknowledged her service.

In August, 2010 **Rev Dr Ross Clifford** who has presented the “Concern and Help” 9 to midnight programme (latterly known as Connections) on 2CH concluded his service as the presenter. Ross is only the third person to present this programme since its inception in 1974 the previous presenters being Rev Roger Bush (1974-88), Rev Jay Bacik (1988-99) and Ross Clifford (1999-2010).

During this period Ross gathered and sustained a wide listening audience. His programmes were characterised by a positive presentation of the Christian gospel, perceptive comments on current religious issues, and a capacity to relate to a broad cross section of people many of whom were unconnected with the Christian church. He dealt sensitively with many people in their times of need providing wise counsel and direction when needed.

The Council noted with pleasure that, in the recent awards **Ross Clifford** was made a Member of the Order of Australia. (**A.M.**) The award was for services to the Baptist Union of Australia, to education, to interfaith dialogue and the Christian Media. Council noted also that Ross was recently appointed a Vice-President of the Baptist World Alliance for the Oceania Region.

In August 2010 well known Christian Broadcaster **Mr Kel Richards** a former ABC Broadcaster, Journalist and author was appointed to a new position of Executive Producer of Christian Broadcasting. The position includes work previously undertaken by the Religious Coordinator (arranging spots, segments and other programmes) as well as on-air work with the Sunday (9pm-midnight) programme of Concern and Help.

Council warmly appreciates the work of those who present its religious spots and segments during the week and its Sunday @ 7-30am programmes. Among the presenters have been: Archbishop Peter Jensen (Christmas Day) and the Dean of Sydney Phillip Jensen (Good Friday) Graham Agnew, Steve Cooper, Harry Goodhew, Margaret Hall, Warwick de Jersey, Michael Jensen, Bob Smith, David Reay and David Kerr

The Council's Research Officer Rev Rod Benson presents the Council's Christian News Commentary , Rev John Edmondstone continues with his popular Nightsong and Mr Kel Richards hosts the Sunday 9pm to 12mn programme of Concern and Help and Open Line. .

As reported in the 2009/10 report oversight of the Council's Broadcasting activities has been delegated to a Committee comprising the President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Council, the Directors of the NSW Council of Churches Broadcasters Pty Ltd (CCB) which administers the agreement with Macquarie Radio Network (MRN) and one representative of any member denomination of the NSW Council of Churches not represented by the Officers or Directors.

In February 2011 **Rev John Edmondstone** who was the Baptist Director on the Council of Churches Broadcasters Pty Ltd (CCB) withdrew from CCB and **Rev Ross Clifford** was appointed in his place. John was also Chairman and Managing Director of CCB and **Major Peter Sutcliffe** of The Salvation Army was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by John's withdrawal

The Broadcasting Committee consists of the President of the NSW Council of Churches Rev Richard Quadrio (Presbyterian), the Council Secretary Rev Bruce Thornton (Baptist), The Council Treasurer \*Mr Eric Wallis (Anglican,) \*Rev Dr. Ross Clifford (Baptist), \*Mr Wayne Richards (Presbyterian, Company Secretary CCB), \*Rev Fred Nile (Fellowship of Congregational Churches), \*Major Peter Sutcliffe (The Salvation Army – CCB Chairman), \*Churches of Christ (Vacant) and #Mr Ray Hoekzema (Christian Reformed Churches).

Members marked \*are Directors of CCB and #, a CCB Consultant. All of the member churches of the NSW Council of Churches are represented on the Committee.

This Committee continues to administer the work of the Broadcasting Committee and is proving a satisfactory vehicle for

this purpose.

For several years Council has been concerned that the relationship between the NSW Council of Churches and the Council of Churches Broadcasters Pty. Limited which holds the agreement with Macquarie Radio Network (MRN) is unclear and inadequately documented. Council is currently seeking legal advice as to how this can be rectified.

Before the next Annual General Meeting the Council will celebrate the 80th Anniversary of its Broadcasting Ministry on Radio 2CH having commenced Broadcasting on 15th February 1932. A record of that event is elsewhere in this report.

In 2014 the Council will celebrate the 40th Anniversary of changes to its religious programming on Radio 2CH. under the Good Music Format.

**THE COUNCIL:** The Council consists of the Heads of the Anglican Church (Diocese of Sydney), Baptist Churches, Christian Reformed Church of Australia (NSW Classis), Churches of Christ, Fellowship of Congregational Churches, Presbyterian Church in Australia (NSW) and The Salvation Army and representatives appointed by these churches.

The Archbishop of Sydney, **the Most Rev Peter Jensen** continues as **Honorary President of the Council.**

Continuing members of Council in their capacity as **Heads of Churches** are **the Most Rev Peter Jensen** (Anglican Church [Diocese of Sydney]), **Rev The Hon. Fred Nile** (Fellowship of Congregational Churches) **Rev. Leo Douma** (Christian Reformed Churches of Australia [NSW Classis]) and **Mr Neville Cox** (Churches of Christ).

Dr. Alan Rice was replaced by **Rev Frank Willis** as President of the Baptist Churches of NSW and ACT and Rev Chris Balzer was

replaced by **Mr Peter Graham OAM** as Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Australia (NSW).

**Commissioner Linda Bond** who was Commissioner of The Salvation Army Eastern Australia Territory since 2008 and the first woman to be appointed as Commissioner of the Eastern Australia Territory was, in February 2011, elected by the High Council of The Salvation Army as **General elect** of the Salvation Army and took up her position as **General** in April of this year.

**General Bond** was very supportive of the work of the Council during her time in the Eastern Australian Territory and the Council conveyed its greetings and good wishes upon her appointment with the assurance of its prayers.

Her place as Commissioner of The Salvation Army Eastern Australian Territory has been taken by **Commissioner James Condon** who was formerly Chief-Secretary of the Territory.

The Council noted with pleasure that **Rev Leo Douma**, Senior Pastor of the Christian Reformed Church (NSW Classis) has been awarded a Doctor of Ministry Degree and the Council offered its congratulations. His thesis was entitled “An exploration of pastoral care methods by elders in the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia relevant to the circumstances of 21<sup>st</sup> century Australia.”

**MEMBERSHIP:** The Council is made up of representatives appointed by the Executive bodies of the participating denominations, the size of representation being determined many years ago. The largest representation is the Anglican Church (Diocese of Sydney) with 17 representatives.

Given the nature of society there is considerable mobility in the Council’s membership according to employment and other responsibilities. The Council is sustained by several long serving members some of whom have served for many years. Changes in the membership of the Council are listed elsewhere in this report.

With regret we note the passing during the year of longstanding member **Rev Silas Horton**. Silas was a regular and faithful member who contributed to the Council's work since his appointment in October 1997 and who served for several terms as Chairman of Committees. An "In Memoriam" tribute is included in this report.

Council also received with regret the resignation of **Deaconess Margaret Rodgers** who has been a representative of the Anglican Church (Diocese of Sydney) on the Council since October 1995. Margaret has served the Council in several capacities including Archbishop representative on the Executive Committee, Anglican representative on the Broadcasting Committee, Chairman of the Broadcasting Committee, and Authorized Representative of the Broadcasting Committee in matters relating to 2CH.

In 1997 Margaret succeeded Rev Ross Clifford (1993-1997 who succeeded Rev Bernard Judd 1967-1993) as presenter of the Council's News Commentary and carried on this ministry on a weekly basis for the following twelve years.

From 2008-10 Margaret was President of the Council being the first woman President of the Council in its eighty-seven year history. As President Margaret brokered several changes to the Council's procedures which have enhanced its effectiveness.

In addition Margaret was the Anglican Church (Diocese of Sydney) Property Trust representative on the Board of the NSW Council of Churches Broadcasters Pty Ltd which administers the Broadcasting agreement with the Macquarie Radio Network and 2CH.

Apart from her work on the Council Margaret has a distinguished record of service within the Anglican Church and Council has greatly benefited from her close knowledge of its protocols and policies and the work of its Committees. Margaret's inputs to Council's discussions and debates have always been helpful and constructive.

Her contribution to the work of the Council and her fellowship at Council meetings will be greatly missed.

Council has also be advised of the impending departure of Presbyterian representatives Miss Fiona Perry and Mr Derek Brierley. Both of these representatives have served the Council for considerable periods and we thank them for their service.

**THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** of the Council is made up of the Officers of the Council, representatives of the Heads of Churches together with three members of Council elected by the Council at the Annual General Meeting. Council members elected at the 2010 Annual General Meeting were Rev R.Benson, Mr D. Crawford and Mrs L. Hicks.

In accordance with current protocol the Executive Committee has met bi-monthly in the alternate months to the Council and a report of its activities has been submitted to each Council meeting. Council has been advised that with the departure of Deaconess Margaret Rodgers as the Archbishops representative on the Executive Committee Rev Marshall Ballantine Jones has been appointed by the Archbishop to fill the vacancy.

**Officers** of the Council elected at the 2010 Annual General Meeting were **Rev Richard Quadrio (Presbyterian) President, Rev Bruce Thornton (Baptist) Secretary and Mr Eric Wallis (Anglican Church [Diocese of Sydney]) Treasurer.**

During the year the Council placed on record its warmest appreciation of the work of the **President, Rev Richard Quadrio** for his outstanding leadership and contribution to public debates in matters relating to Ethics in Schools and Same-Sex adoptions. His public participation in these debates helped lift the Council's profile and enhance its effectiveness toward the achievement of its objectives. The Council also appreciates time given to interviews with politicians and dialogue with interested parties while these issues were under discussion.

**CHANGES OF GOVERNMENT:** At the State Elections in April 2011 a Liberal/National Party Coalition was elected to government. Council conveyed its congratulations to the incoming Premier Mr Barry O'Farrell and to the newly elected Leader of the Opposition Mr John Robertson.

Council noted with pleasure that in the Legislative Council the Christian Democratic Party (of which member Rev the Hon. Fred Nile is leader) together with the Shooters Party hold the balance of power. This augurs well for Legislation supported by the Council which, in this new environment, will have a better chance of success than previously. Conversely it will be more difficult for legislation to which the Council is averse to achieve success.

**DEALING WITH DIVERSITY:** (DwD) Council has continued its association with the group known as Dealing with Diversity which seeks to address problems and pressures arising from the growth within the community of other religious faiths.

DwD seeks to address these problems by meeting with Government Ministers and other significant persons who are in a position to address the problems it encounters.

Toward the end of the year a very helpful meeting was held with newly appointed Minister for Immigration in the Gillard Government Hon. Chris. Bowen when issues relating to Refugees was addressed.

**FINANCE:** The Finances of the Council are administered by its very capable Treasurer **Mr Eric Wallis**.who has held that position since 1995.

In 2008 Council adopted a five year forward Budget to serve as a benchmark for its financial affairs. The Annual Financial Statements presented to the Annual General Meeting will show a small deficit for the current year and a small surplus over budget to date.

Council places on record its appreciation of its Auditors Ross Fowler and Company who have audited the accounts for a nominal fee for many years.

**ALCOHOLISM:** Following upon its discussion with the then Minister for Racing and Gaming (Hon Kevin Greene) representing the then Premier Hon Kristina Kenneally concerning Alcoholism the Council invited the Commissioner of Police, Commissioner Andrew Scipione to address it from a policing perspective. A summary of the Commissioners comments is included with this report..

Council was heartened by the very positive action being taken by Police to address this issue and looks to the incoming Government to take more positive action to combat this evil which is at the heart of so much distress within families and in community life.

The Council recently supported the Police Commissioner in his publicly expressed concern about child sex abuse

**RELATIONSHIPS REGISTER:** Despite representations by Council the former NSW (Labor) Government approved the establishment of a **Relationship Register** to be available to persons in both heterosexual or homosexual relations to formally register their relationship. Before making representations Council sought the opinions of Heads of Churches but only two replies were received. In its representations Council urged full public discussion, a conscience vote and, if the Bill proceeded, the insertion of a carer provision but the Government proceeded without acknowledgment of Council's request. The Legislation as passed does not include a carer provision as does similar legislation in other States.

**SAME-SEX ADOPTION:** By a conscience vote of 46-44 the former NSW (Labor) Government also approved **Same Sex Adoption Legislation** This was in spite of a strong campaign by the Council including a well attended public rally in opposition at Parliament House. An Upper House amendment to the Legislation

frees up adoption agencies to act on the wishes of parents regarding where their children are adopted.

The Council maintains vigilance concerning legislation on homosexual relationships both in the State and Commonwealth arenas. Council concern extends to the prospect that legislation in this area being a forerunner to more formal recognition of homosexual relationships in the approval of homosexual marriage.

**ETHICS IN SCHOOLS:** Council continued to take strong action concerning the teaching of Ethics in Schools. Council acknowledged the difficulty of providing for those children whose parents chose for them not to attend Scripture. However Council felt that the ethics programme should only be available to those children and not promoted as an alternative to Scripture thus eroding traditional Scripture in Schools classes.

Council was disappointed that despite representations, the then Minister of Education (Hon. Verity Firth) chose to have the provision of ethics classes enshrined in legislation.

Council will continue to monitor the implementation of this legislation with a view to making further representations on behalf of Scripture in Schools (known as Special Religious Education [SRE]) in the future.

**EUTHANASIA:** During the year Council **NOTED** resurgent interest in Euthanasia and potential for legislation in both State and Federal Parliaments. Council also noted that several cases which might have been considered as assisted Euthanasia were dealt with compassionately by the courts. The matter of Euthanasia was raised by the Council in correspondence with the Prime Minister in which possible legislation on Euthanasia arising from the Labor party alliance with the Greens was mentioned.

**CHAPLAINCY IN SCHOOLS:** The Council made representations to the Prime Minister Hon. Julia Gilliard seeking

continuing support for the Chaplaincy in Schools programme.

The Council has maintained an interest in the High Court challenge being mounted in Brisbane to the legitimacy of the Australian Government funding a Chaplaincy programme under the Australian Constitution which provides that the government shall not support religion.

Council has been encouraged by provision in the recent Commonwealth Budget of additional funds for the Chaplaincy programme.

**BERNARD JUDD LECTURE:** The Fourth Bernard Judd Lecture planned for earlier this year was not held due to the difficulty of obtaining a suitable speaker.

It is anticipated that the Lecture will be held later this year when a suitable speaker can be obtained.

**WEBSITE:** The Council's Website(<http://www.nswchurches.org>) continues to be a source of helpful information concerning the work of the Council.

Difficulties encountered in the previous year concerning its Domain name appear to have been overcome. The Website is accessed regularly by persons seeking transcripts of the messages broadcast on 2CH in the Sunday@7-30am programme and is a source of information concerning the Council and its various activities.

Policy statements of the Council are regularly placed on the Website and these are available to any who seek to understand the Council's perspective on the issues addressed.

**POLICY STATEMENTS/SUBMISSIONS:** In advancing a Christian Perspective the Council's Research Officer, Rev Rod Benson prepares policy statements and submissions which are regularly posted on the Website and made available to those who have an interest in them.

A list of Policy Statements and Submissions are included in this Report.

**MEDIA RELEASES:** The Council's Research Officer also issues media releases on behalf of the Council Recent releases have been issued on the following subjects -

√ NSW Churches commend COAG action on gambling (31 May 2011)

√ Churches support NSW Police warning on sex abuse (19 May 2011)

√ Revising marriage will harm children and undermine religious freedom (15 May 2011)

Requests for Press comment or Radio interview sometimes follow.

**APPRECIATION:** Appreciation is expressed to all who have assisted in and support the work of the Council.

Particular appreciation is expressed to the Research/Media Officer **Rev Rod Benson** for his continuing contribution by way of submissions and research. His professional approach to these matters enhances the image of the Council.

The work of **Mrs Lesley Hicks** in providing light refreshments for Executive and Council members for those who require them is acknowledged with appreciation.

**THE FUTURE:** The work of the Council is, for the most part, sustained by its church representatives many of whom have been members of the Council for many years with a strong commitment to its work.

With the departure of several of these members and the impending departure of others, member churches are encouraged to seek out persons with an interest in the work of the Council who can sustain their membership "for the long haul." While it is acknowledged that, due to the changing circumstances, there will always be a

certain mobility in the Council's membership and the contribution of these members is valued, it is to the longstanding members that Council looks for its continuing stability and support.

**CONCLUSION:** The Council is grateful for another year of service during which it has sought to "Sound forth the word of the Lord."

. As in the past, so in the present and into the future, the Council is committed to "sounding forth the word of the Lord" through its ministries on Radio, through representations on issues of public concern and through its relationships with people in the community "warning every man, teaching everyman in all wisdom that we may present every man perfect in Christ."

On behalf of the Council,

Rev Bruce Thornton OAM  
**Council Secretary.**

## **APPENDIX “A”**

### **CHANGES IN CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES.**

**Anglican Church (Diocese of Sydney):** Rev Silas Horton deceased and Deaconess Margaret Rodgers concluded her service.

## **APPENDIX “B”**

### **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

Rev the Hon Fred Nile (Chairman of Committees – Chairman), Rev Dr Ross Clifford, Mrs Lesley Hicks, Major Marina Randall, Mr David Crawford, and. Mr Ray Hoekzema.

**Rev Silas Horton**  
**18<sup>th</sup> April 1931 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010**

## **IN MEMORIAM**

The Reverend Silas Alfred Horton was born on 18<sup>th</sup> April 1931. His early church associations were with the Anglican Church where he was a popular member of local and district church youth groups.

Silas was educated at Canterbury Boys High School where he gained the Intermediate Certificate. His first employment was with the Rural Bank.

Feeling a call to the ministry Silas studied at night school for the Leaving Certificate which was a requirement for entrance. Silas entered Moore College in 1952, a year before the retirement as Principal of the celebrated Archdeacon T.C. Hammond. The then Vice Principal was Rev (later Sir) Marcus Loane who became Principal in 1954 during Silas' final year. Silas graduated with 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Honours and was appointed as curate to St. Clements, Mosman. In 1955 Silas married Judith Anne Hazell.

In 1956 Silas commenced as Chaplain of Norfolk Island and served there until 1958. During this time their first child Judy was born but sadly his wife died following childbirth.

Returning to Sydney Silas served successively in parishes at Regents Park, Beverley Hills and Roseville from which he retired in 1996. In retirement Silas continued to serve as a locum at a number of city parishes including Holy Trinity Concord, Glebe, St. Albans Five Dock and St Thomas Enfield where he was serving at the time of his decease.

Silas also served on several church committees. He was a member of Synod; for a time he was Director of Supply with

the Anglican Home Mission Society and acting Chaplain to the Maori Community.

Silas was a humble person who never sought the limelight. He loved the Scriptures, delighted in the Prayer Book and liked to be known as a traditional Anglican. He relished the traditional Pastoral role, had a great capacity for friendship and could be trusted to keep confidences. Where there was personal need he went out of his way to help and kept in touch with people until their needs were met or their problems resolved.

As his son Peter said in his tribute at the Thanksgiving Service, he believed that God would provide all his needs, did not worry too much, delighted in simple pleasures and, despite great personal sorrows, lived a settled and a calm life.

The large congregation which attended the service of Thanksgiving at St Andrews Cathedral on 7<sup>th</sup> September was evidence of the respect, esteem and affection in which Silas was held.

Silas is survived by his wife Corylanne and members of his family.

The NSW Council of Churches gives thanks to God for Silas Alfred Horton, a much appreciated member of Council and a warm friend of many of its members. For several recent years he served as Chairman of Committees - similar to vice-president - with a key role in seeking suitable office bearers. The Council is confident that Silas now enjoys the blessings of the life beyond in the presence of Christ whom he loved and served and is among the spirits of just men made perfect.

**Bruce Thornton**  
**Council Secretary.**

# **NSW COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

**Meeting with Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione, Tuesday, 7th December, 2010 in Church Missionary Society Conference Room, Level 5, 51 DrUITT Street, Sydney commencing at 2-00pm.**

## **SUMMARY**

In welcoming the Commissioner, the President, Rev Richard Quadrio drew attention to Council's current concerns about Alcoholism and Gambling.

In responding the Commissioner indicated that his focus for today would be on Alcoholism. He acknowledged the work of the Council in seeking to "bring back the right standards."

The Commissioner was concerned about alcohol abuse, particular that aspect which encouraged a culture of "drink till you drop". About 70% of Police street engagements are alcohol related. Contrary to public opinion latest information indicates an improvement. Of the 26,000 domestic related assaults in which police are involved 50% are alcohol related. Of the 40,000 non-domestic assaults in which police are involved alcohol is a significant factor. The two year trend of statistics collected by the Bureau of Crime Statistics indicate that for the first time (in a long time) there has been a marked reduction. For years Police could not control it but the latest information indicates an overall reduction of 10%.

Another effort to curb the effects of alcohol is through "Operation Unite" which aims to address drinking while driving. . This was originated by the Commissioner and has now been adopted by all States and NZ and will be in operation over the Christmas period. It is anticipated that this will have considerable impact on the road toll.

The impact of alcohol abuse on the family, the workplace and the community is immense. It is estimated that ten million people are affected by alcohol of which two million are affected seriously. The estimated costs is in the vicinity of \$39 million per year. .

Considerable effort has been made to curb the consumption of alcohol particularly in and around licensed premises where there is particular concern about the supply of alcohol to young people. In 2008, the then

Premier (Hon Nathan Rees) acknowledged that this was the biggest single issue facing the government. It was not uncommon to see many prostrate bodies at 5am in Oxford Street on a Sunday morning.

It was acknowledged that much more could be done by more stringent control of closing hours, by limiting the density of licensed premises and controlling the strength or volume of alcohol.

Reference was made to the “Newcastle Model” where people are not admitted to hotels after 1am and the premises close at 3am. This has resulted in a 37% reduction in alcohol related incidents.

Reference was also made about “glassing” incidents which, since the introduction of legislation on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2008 following which the top 50 hotels were “declared” and forced to comply there had been a reduction to 36 incidents with the latest report that there had been none.

The Police cannot “arrest” their way out of the alcohol problem. The answer is not in enforcement but in Education. Many of the problems arise through the wrong example in the home. The Australian Hotels Association has a goal as an advocate of Alcohol consumption

Gone are the days when the Police Commissioner owned the Police force and the Police Force owned the community. You need to tell us what you want us to do.

With the approach of the State Election the Council should seek a clear statement from each of the Political Parties concerning their policy in relation to alcohol.

In closing, the Police Commissioner acknowledged the support of the Council. As a committed Christian he valued the prayers of the Council in his work.

The President, Rev Richard Quadrio thanked the Commissioner for addressing the Council, assured him of the Council’s continuing prayers and presented him with a small gift as a token of Council’s gratitude.

The President assured the Commissioner that his helpful comments would be taken into account in formulating Council’s strategies for the immediate future.

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# NSW COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

## POLICY STATEMENTS

For full text of statement see <http://www.nswchurches.org>

### **Abortion**

Background Paper: "Should RU486 be available in Australia?" (Feb 2006)

### **Aboriginal justice**

Policy: "Protection of Aboriginal children" (NT Intervention; Jun 2007)

Policy: "Aboriginal reconciliation" (1997)

Background Paper: "Indigenous ministry and Aboriginal reconciliation" (Apr 2001)

### **Adoption**

Policy: Short statement (May 2007)

**Alcohol:** (see media releases)

### **Capital punishment**

Background Paper: "The ethics of capital punishment" (Feb 2007)

### **Climate change**

Policy: "Statement on climate change" (Nov 2006)

### **Euthanasia**

Policy: "Statement to media" (1995)

Background Paper: "Considering euthanasia" (Feb 2010)

### **Family**

Policy: "Statement on the family" (1994)

### **Film & literature**

Background Paper: "Can we trust The Golden Compass?" (Dec 2007)

Submission to Review of Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice (n.d.)

## **Gambling**

Policy: "NSW Council of Churches policy on gambling" (Mar 2008)

Background Paper: "Christian approaches to gambling" (Sep 2007)

Submission to Review of Star City Casino Licence (Jul 2003)

## **Homosexuality**

Background Paper: "Homosexuality and Christianity: A basic reading guide" (Feb 2008)

Submission to NSW Inquiry into Equal Age of Consent (2002)

Background Paper: "Evaluation of a Teaching Kit on Violence Against Homosexual Men and Women" (Oct 1992)

## **Human rights**

Submission to Australian Human Rights Commission  
Review of Freedom of religion and Belief in the 21st Century (Feb 2009)

Submission to ACT Bill of Rights Consultative Committee (2002)

Submission to Inquiry into a Statutory Bill of Rights for NSW (Apr 2000)

## **Interfaith relations**

Policy: "Guidelines for relations with other religions" (Sep 2008)

## **Islam**

Policy: "Response to establishment of Centre of Excellence" (May 2007)

## **Marriage**

Background Paper: "Revising Marriage? Why Marriage is the Union of a Man and a Woman" (for pastors, 16 May 2011)

Background Paper: "Revising marriage" (for politicians, 16 May 2011)

**Religious freedom**

Submission to Australian Human Rights Commission  
Review of Freedom of religion and Belief in the 21st Century (Feb 2009)

**Same sex adoption**

Policy on adoption (May 2007)  
Submission to NSW Inquiry into Adoption By Same Sex  
Couples (Feb 2009)

**Same sex marriage**

Submission to Inquiry into Marriage Equality Amendment  
Bill (Aug 2009) - (see also media releases)

**Smoking**

Policy: "Tobacco smoking and children" (Dec 2007)

**Stem cells & human cloning**

Policy on stem cells and human cloning (Oct 2006)  
Background Paper: "Stem cells and human cloning: An  
annotated reading guide" (Sep 2006)  
Background Paper: "Say no to human cloning" (Sep 2006)

**Taxation**

Submission to Consultation on the Definition of Charity  
(n.d.)

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**OFFICIAL OPENING**  
**2CH Wireless Station**  
**Monday, 15th February, 1932.**

The new wireless broadcasting station, the high masts of which have been conspicuous at Dundas for some time past, is now an accomplished fact, the official opening and “going on the air” having taken place on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> inst.

Through the generous cooperation of Mr F.H.Stewart, M.H.R., this station has been erected largely for the purpose of meeting the desire of the Protestant churches who wished to have a greater share in the matter broadcast than has been possible in the past.

The Council of Churches arranged for a special demonstration in connection with the opening and commenced with a united meeting in the Pitt Street Congregational Church, Sydney at 10 a.m. on the opening day, and the broadcast of this service was the first official item on the programme of the station. Ministers of the different denominations took part in the service which was largely attended.

The official opening ceremony took place at the studio at 7 p.m. the same evening when the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Alderman F. Walder gave a brief address and declared the station opened. The Lord Mayor said that he fully recognised the value of “2CH” as an addition to the influence of the churches in their endeavours to uplift humanity. What the churches have accomplished by personal contact will be increased manifold per medium of the microphone. He desired to add his personal appreciation to the work of the churches, the effect of which had been that the standard of our citizenship compares favourably with that of other places.

The history of the movement shows that the efforts in the direction of acquiring such a station extend back over 2 1/2 years, but financial considerations appear to have raised an insuperable barrier, until Mr Stewart came to the rescue and made it possible to carry out a plan which had been in his mind for several years. It has taken the whole financial responsibility, and for an almost nominal sum toward the payment of expenses the present arrangement is that the churches will have 20 hours per week including morning and evening devotions daily and the transmission of services from churches each Sunday morning and evening. The arrangements for these services will be undertaken by the Council of Churches

That the interests of the young people will receive special attention is particularly in line with Mr Stewart's desires, and the fact that he has secured the services as chief announcer of Mr Cochrane, the famous "Hello Man" formerly with 2FC station is a sufficient guarantee of the standard which will be maintained.

Those who had the privilege of listening in at their homes on the opening day have assured us that the reception from this new station was remarkably clear.

*From the Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate Tuesday, February 16, 1932.*

## **THE PRESIDENT'S BIBLE**

In 1942, Rev C. Bernard Cockett, Minister of the Pitt Street Congregational Church presented to the N.S.W. Council of Churches a Bible to be known as "The President's Bible". The names inscribed therein are as follows -

Rev C. Bernard Cockett. 1941-42  
Rev Dr H. Whitmore Dart 1942-43  
Rev J.H.G. Auld 1943-44  
Rev T. Manning Taylor 1945-46  
Rev S.A. Eastman 1946-48  
Rev S. Barton-Babbage 1948-49  
Bishop W.G. Hilliard 1949-50  
Rev F. Robinson 1950-51  
Rev S.W. McKibbin 1951-52  
Rev Dr W. Cumming Thom 1952-54  
Bishop W.G. Hilliard 1954-55  
Rev T.C. Hammond 1955-56  
Rev A.W. Stephenson 1956-59  
Rev Dr. E. H. Watson 1959-62  
Rev H. MacNeil Saunders 1962-65  
Rev Dr. D.B. Knox 1965-67  
Rev W.D. O'Reilly 1967-71  
Lieut. Colonel G. Peterson 1971-74  
Rev R. Smith 1974-77  
Rev T.J. Cardwell 1977-79  
Rev B. Ballantine-Jones 1979-84  
Rev P.K. Davis 1984-87  
Rev C. Wilson 1987-88  
Rev P.K. Davis 1988  
Rev C. Wilson 1989-93  
Rev B. George 1993-95  
Rev R. Clifford 1995-97  
Rev J. Edmondstone 1997-99  
Mr R. Hoekzema 1999-2003  
Rev C. Moroney 2003-06  
Mr D. Crawford 2006-08  
Deaconess M. Rodgers 2008-10  
Rev Richard Quadrio 2010-11

# NSW COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

## RELIGIOUS BROADCASTING TIMES

### *Seventy-Nine years of Broadcasting*

#### MONDAY TO SATURDAY

**Morning:**

1.59am, 3.59am, 4.59am, 6.59am, 10.59am, 11.59am.

**Afternoon:**

12.59pm, 1.59pm, 2.59pm, 3.59pm, 4.59pm, 5.59pm,

**Evening:**

7.59pm, 8.59pm, 10.59pm.

#### SUNDAY

**Morning:**

1.59am, 3.59am, 4.59am, 5.59am, 6.23am, 6.59am, 7.35am,  
8.13am, 9.06am, 9.45am, 10.25am, 10.59am, 11.23am,  
11.59am.

**Afternoon:**

12.10pm, 12.47pm, 12.59pm, 1.25pm, 1.44pm, 2.05pm,  
2.45pm, 2.59pm, 3.25pm, 3.45pm, 4.25pm, 4.45pm,  
5.05pm, 5.25pm, 5.45pm.

**Evening:**

6.25pm, 6.45pm, 6.59pm, 7.44pm,  
8-00pm-12midnight