

# Remembering the 'Martin Luther King' of Australia

A campaign is gaining momentum in Dubbo, to formally recognise the efforts of pioneer Aboriginal rights activist William Ferguson by erecting a memorial and observing a Day of Hope in mid-2017.

Driving the campaign are two Dubbo men, Paul Roe and Frank Doolan (also known as Riverside Frank).

The two men spoke at a gathering in Dubbo's Holy Trinity Church Hall on Tuesday evening, November 8, when some members of the Bishop in Council (the executive body of the diocese) joined members of Holy Trinity for a dinner. The dinner preceded a full meeting of the Bishop in Council the following day.

Bishop Ian Palmer commented afterwards that the evening had been quite inspiring.

"It was an amazing story to hear, and the projects of putting a memorial to Bill Ferguson in Church Street Dubbo, and having a Day of Hope on 27th June 2017, caught our imagination," Bishop Ian said.

Paul Roe told the gathering that Bill Ferguson had been described as "the Martin Luther King of Australia".

Bill Ferguson was born at Darlington Point, NSW on July 24, 1882, the second of seven children of William Ferguson, a Scottish shearer, and his wife Emily (née Ford), an Aboriginal domestic of Toganmain Station, William Ferguson Jr grew up in the vicinity of Warangesda Mission, where he was briefly educated by 'Mr Shropshire ... the only good teacher I ever had'.

He became a Christian as a young man, and maintained an active faith for the whole of his life. Leaving school at fourteen, he joined his father as a shearer. His father was a famed boxer, and 'Young Bill' experienced very little discrimination in the shearing sheds.

In 1911, at Narrandera Presbyterian Church, he married Margaret Gowans, a woman of similar background to himself with a Scottish father and Aboriginal mother. The Ferguson family lived in various towns in western NSW but from 1924 began spending longer periods in Dubbo. With 12 children, the family settled permanently there in 1933.

Dubbo was one of those towns where



**STANDING TOGETHER:** Paul Roe, Archdeacon Frank Hetherington, Frank Doolan and Rector of Dubbo Brett Watterson at the dinner in the Holy Trinity parish hall. Brett Watterson has pledged his support for plans to establish a memorial in Dubbo for Bill Ferguson.

discrimination was less evident, and the Fergusons became accepted members of the community. Bill was a sincere and involved Christian, an elder of the Dubbo Presbyterian Church, and 'highly respected' according to the Rev E H Vines. A later Dubbo minister, the Rev Gordon Graham, described Ferguson as 'one of those intelligent but uneducated people with a real thirst for knowledge'.

A loyal and active member of the Australian Workers Union, he joined the Labor Party in 1915 and served as branch secretary at Gulargambone. For many years, Ferguson worked hard for improved conditions for workers, both white and black.

Working in western NSW, Ferguson soon became aware of the poor treatment of Aboriginal people. He saw unfair and arbitrary control, poverty, sickness and despair. He was particularly angered in 1923 when the Aborigines' Protection Board began to remove children of a

lighter skin colour from their Aboriginal parents, knowing that he was one himself. He determined then to force an enquiry into the Board's activities, and devoted all the time, resources and energy he could to working for justice for the oppressed Aboriginal people.

When the NSW parliament increased the Board's powers in 1936, Ferguson realised that Aboriginal people's only hope was to organise themselves politically. He launched the Aborigines' Progress Association at Dubbo on 27 June 1937, and was elected organising secretary and later opened branches throughout the state.

With another NSW Aboriginal leader, John Patten, Ferguson organised a 'Day of Mourning' conference for Aboriginal people on Australia Day 1938, the 150th anniversary of white settlement.

Shortly afterwards, Ferguson and Patten wrote a pamphlet, *Aborigines Claim*

**(continued on page 2)**

# Christmas cards and incarnation

How do you like to receive your Christmas greetings? Do you like them by card, email, text message, or social media?

In a recent survey by the charity Traidcraft in England, 84 per cent of respondents said they preferred their greetings to come by card, only three per cent by text and two per cent by social media. We prefer to fill our mantelpiece rather than our inbox!

A couple of weeks ago I was talking to a mother who received a phone call from her son, in his early 20s, asking how to post a letter. She explained about putting a letter into an envelope, writing the address on it, buying a stamp, and then putting it in the post box. He replied, "If I take the letter into the Post Office will they do all that for me?"

I can't find figures for Australia but in England about £50 million was raised last year through the sale of charity Christmas Cards.

My thought about why cards are so much appreciated is this: someone has taken the trouble to choose a card, write on it and send it. In other words, there is something of the sender in it! A message by phone or computer is digitalised; there is nothing of me physically in it.

I have a friend who has a character in "second life" (a computer character) who in this virtual world goes to

church. He is doing some research and asking the question, "Since we do so much through digitalised media, what does that do to our understanding of the Incarnation – the taking human flesh – by our Lord?"

It's a real question. Think about it! What does spending hours each week killing people in computer games do to our understanding of the value of human life?

*Perhaps sending a "real" Christmas card rather than a virtual message, might more truly express the character of God's love for and commitment to our world.*

This Advent Message is completely "unreal". It is entirely digitalised; being written on my computer in England, sent to Australia, formed on Lew Hitchick's computer into a newspaper format, and then sent out to all parishes and many people. Many of you are reading it on your computer – there is nothing "real" about it. Or is there?

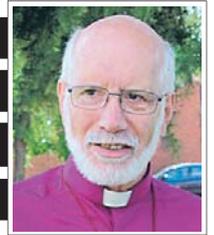
But we live in a world that is

BY

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PALMER



"real". "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory; the glory of the one and only Son who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

Jesus carries the signature of the unseen God. He really lived in a world of pain and opportunity. His encounters were with real people – there was nothing remote or "hands off" about him.

A month ago I received a letter of thanks from a colleague. In the course of work we often exchange emails and letters by computer, but this was a real card, written in his own hand; it was unexpected and very special. He had put something of himself into it.

Perhaps sending a "real" Christmas card rather than a virtual message, might more truly express the character of God's love for and commitment to our world. God put "all of himself" into Jesus (Colossians 1:15). His coming was real.

He did it out of love for us. So perhaps sending a Charity Card might be one way of sharing this in a real way with people whom we also love.

+ Ian Bathurst.

## The Martin Luther King of Australia

*(continued from page 1)*

*Citizen Rights!*, and petitioned Prime Minister J A Lyons for a national Aboriginal policy.

When the NSW government replaced the old Protection Board with a new Aborigines Welfare Board in 1940, Ferguson's APA demanded rights of participation.

The government finally agreed and Ferguson took his seat on the board in 1944, but he became frustrated that he felt unable to achieve reforms which would produce any visible improvement in the quality of Aboriginal people's lives.

In 1949, Ferguson became vice-president of a national group, the Australian Aborigines' League. In June the League sent a deputation to Canberra to seek reforms largely drafted by Ferguson, but H V Johnson, Minister for the Interior

in the Chifley Labor government, was unimpressed.

Angered, Ferguson resigned from the Labor Party, feeling that neither political party was really interested in the rightful demands of Aboriginal people.

In the December elections, Ferguson stood as an Independent for Lawson, the Dubbo seat, on a platform of civil rights for all people, based upon the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

He collapsed during his final speech, and died in the Dubbo Base Hospital on January 4, 1950. He had received only 388 votes.

*Information in this article is drawn from John Harris, **One Blood** (Sutherland, 1990); and Jack Horner, **Vote Ferguson for Freedom** (Sydney, 1974).*

Anglican

**e-News**

**A newsletter for the western NSW Anglican Diocese of Bathurst**

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**Disclaimer:**

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Anglican Diocese of Bathurst.

# Governance training for church office-bearers

## □ Seminar helps church board and council members understand their roles and responsibilities

Chris Bertinshaw, and accredited trainer with the Australian Institute of Company Directors, presented a training day for church leaders at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Orange, on Wednesday October 26.

The day was offered to members of Bishop in Council, Anglican Property Trust and other Diocesan boards as well as clergy and members of parish councils.

In presenting the training, Chris Bertinshaw was able to draw on 20 years as Chief Executive Officer of four very different organisations, as well as involvement in leadership and administration in the Anglican Church.

He had developed a course workbook specifically for the day, to cover:

1. The role of the Councillor and the Council; and
2. An introduction to council meetings and governance.

In the first part of the program he explored such topics as:

- ♦ What is the role of the councillor?
- ♦ Who is a councillor?
- ♦ Corporate governance
- ♦ Councillors' duties and responsibilities
- ♦ Rights of a councillor

- ♦ Consequences of breach of duty
- ♦ Understanding the regulatory frameworks.

Chris Bertinshaw also looked at Biblical principles of governance, and the limitations of human systems.

Outlining the duties of a councillor, he explained that these duties are owed to the organisation as a whole and not to any particular group of stakeholders.

He said councillors have fiduciary duties (including the duty to act in good faith, in the best interests of the organisation) and also Statutory duties which are set out in an ordinance of the church (such as the Parochial Administration Ordinance) or in state legislation (such as Workplace Safety laws).

He spent some time explaining conflicts of interest, and stressed the need to declare any such conflict and avoid taking part in any discussion or decision where such conflict exists. This could even mean resigning from the board or council.

As well as drawing on some well-known historic examples of corporate governance errors, Chris Bertinshaw gave the seminar a more 'hands-on' feel by presenting hypothetical case studies



**PRESENTER:** Chris Bertinshaw

which participants worked through in small groups.

Other areas covered during the day included the role of the Chairperson; the agenda; structure and procedures in meetings; council; reports; decision making; minutes; and understanding financial reports.

While the day only served as an introduction to some of the issues involved in governance, most participants agreed it did help raise awareness of the responsibilities involved in accepting a position on a church board or council.

Chris Bertinshaw said further training was available in specific areas such as understanding risk and understanding strategy in our organisations.



### ANGLICAN WOMEN OF AUSTRALIA

Diocese of Bathurst

9th Feb	Committee Meeting	Wellington
27th April	AGM	tbc
16-27 Oct	50 Year Celebration	

*ABM Aux Project for 2017 - Theological College Zambia*

#### **Celebrate**

AWA Sunday - last Sunday in July

#### **Bi-Annual Provincial Conference for Anglican Women**

*"Thanksgiving for the Ministry of Women"*

*5-8 June Argenton, Lake Macquarie, Diocese of Newcastle*

Excellent programme and speakers.

All Anglican women and their spouses welcome to attend.

## MARK YOUR DIARY -

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2017

#### MU AUSTRALIA - Diocese of Bathurst

11th Feb	Executive Meeting -	Grenfell
29th April	Dio. Council Meeting -	Orange
28th October	Dio. Annual Conference -	West Wyalong

#### *Please note special Days:*

25th March	Lady Day (Mary, Mother of our Lord)
9th August	Mary Sumner Day

#### **125 year CELEBRATION OF MOTHERS UNION IN AUSTRALIA - 5-17 September in Launceston**

\*\*Mrs Lynn Tembey, World Wide President, attending along with other staff from Mary Sumner House, London.

#### DIOCESAN WOMEN'S RETREAT

6th-9th March

# Cursillo gathering in Grenfell

A contingent from Mudgee made a round trip of almost 600 kilometres to attend the Cursillo *Ultreya* (a Spanish expression of encouragement) in Grenfell early in November.

They made the effort to support Grenfell priest Ross Craven, who presented the witness talk at the gathering.

While these talks are traditionally given by lay people, Ross used the occasion to show how significant his experience of the Cursillo Movement had been in his journey towards ordination.

Having spent more than 30 years as a school teacher, much of it the Bathurst Diocese, Ross moved to the Upper Hunter Valley area in Newcastle Diocese about 12 years ago and was ordained a few years later.

He then moved to the Diocese of Bendigo, where he was appointed to the rural parish of Elmore.

He told the gathering that

while Cursillo had been important to him as a lay person, he continued to value the movement as an ordained priest and was keen to encourage his parishioners to attend a Cursillo weekend.

In addition to the Mudgee group, visitors came from Parkes, Narromine, Orange and Bathurst (and of course, Grenfell) to join in a day of fellowship and sharing, and catching up on friendships that had begun or were deepened through shared experiences on Cursillo weekends.

The day was hosted by Grenfell parishioner Kim Whitechurch, whose relaxed, friendly manner and easy humour made the visitors feel very welcome - as did the generous spread of morning tea and lunch.

**Cursillo dates for 2017**  
**Cursillo Sunday** February 26  
**Women's 48 Cursillo** - Shalom House of Prayer Carcoar, June 9-12;



**SUPPORT:** Mudgee parishioner Ian Keys (left) prays for Ross Craven before Ross' witness talk at the Grenfell *Ultreya*. The two became close friends during Ross' time in Mudgee as a teacher some years ago.

**Men's 45** TBA.  
**Diocesan Ultreyas** - Forbes June 24; Rylstone October 21.



**HERALDING  
NEW LIFE**  
2016 CHRISTMAS APPEAL



The impending birth of a new child fills many new parents with a mixture of terror and awe. A fragile new life enters the world, heralded by cries and wails as fresh air fills lungs for the first time. Every birth offers a sense of uncertainty and hope, as new life struggles to gain a foothold in the world away from the womb.

In many developing countries the hope of new birth is mingled with fear; fear that the baby or mother won't survive, fear of some complications for the mother and child. For many this fear is part of everyday life, especially in countries with high maternal and infant mortality rates.

This Christmas, please consider the work of our partner in north Kenya, the Anglican Church of Kenya, as they work with remote Maasai communities. Your support will help them to create safe, practical, dignified and clean environments for giving birth that enable women and babies in remote communities more access to life-saving care.

**HOW TO DONATE**

- 1 **Online:** [www.anglicanoverseasaid.org.au](http://www.anglicanoverseasaid.org.au)
- 2 **By phone:** 1800 249 880
- 3 **By post:** Christmas Appeal 2016  
Anglican Overseas Aid  
PO Box 389  
Abbotsford Vic 3067

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible  
 Anglicord: ABN 39 116 072 050

Anglican Overseas Aid is a member of





# Helping hand for Georgie's Pantry

## ☐ Donations help provide emergency support in Parkes area

Georgie's Pantry; a joint initiative between Anglicare and St George's Parish in Parkes NSW, supports hundreds of people every year by providing discounted groceries and emergency assistance to those in need.

Thanks to the support of Anglicare donors, the Pantry was able to stock up with heavily subsidised food supplies and also provide training for their team of volunteers.

"The money raised by donors has enabled us to pay for six months' worth of Foodbank bills, which is 80 per cent of our total food needs" said Natalie Quince, Manager at Parkes.

"We would not be able to support so many people without the help of Anglicare. This kind of partnership works because of the encouragement, expertise and development opportunities given to the Parish by Anglicare, in particular, the Retail Development Manager Kaye Pritchard, and the General Manager, Mission and Community Development, Ian Coutts."

The money raised by Anglicare's donors has also freed up additional funds to make much needed upgrades to the facility.

"We are hopeful that with the extra funds, we may be able to replace our second hand fridges and freezers which are desperately in need of an upgrade" said Natalie.

Georgie's Pantry is part of Anglicare's Survive and Thrive services and is open on Thursdays.

## New Regional Manager for Anglicare Western NSW

We are thrilled to welcome Karen Fahy to the team as Anglicare Regional Manager of Western NSW.

Karen brings with her a wealth of experience in social work particularly in Out of Home Care.



She is based in Anglicare's Orange office, at 127 Byng Street.

One of her key goals as manager is to keep families together by supporting them through our growing Survive and Thrive program before they reach crisis point.

Karen has also communicated her heart to develop strong partnerships with the Aboriginal community to see a reduction in the number of Indigenous children in Out of Home Care.



**APPRECIATION:** Manager of Georgie's Pantry in Parkes, Natalie Quince, said the support of donors has helped meet 80% of the Pantry's food needs for the year.

### Donate here or at [www.anglicare.com.au](http://www.anglicare.com.au)

#### Donation

Please enclose completed form or cheque in reply paid envelope and post back to us.

#### Please accept my donation of:

\$20    \$50    \$100    \$200   \$.....

#### Card Details

Please debit my                       Mastercard                       Visa

Card Number

Name on Card..... CCV .....

Signature ..... Expires ...../.....

Company, group or association name if applicable  
(for receipting purposes)

.....

My cheque/money order is enclosed (made payable to Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT)

I would like to give a regular monthly gift of \$.....

Thank you for your generosity. A receipt will be sent to you shortly. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

I would like to leave a Bequest to Anglicare (NSW South, NSW West & ACT).

I would like more information about leaving a Bequest to Anglicare.

# When the jobs aren't there

## ❑ Anglicare report highlights problem of youth unemployment

Anglicare Australia last month launched its Flagship *State of the Family Report* at Parliament House in Canberra.

Tony Nicholson, CEO of the Brotherhood of St Laurence (a member of Anglicare Australia) officially launched the report.

**Positions Vacant? When the Jobs Aren't There** is the title of the 2016 report, and it is informed by Anglicare Australia's first Jobs Availability Snapshot.

The findings from the Snapshot show that only 13 percent of all advertised jobs in May 2016 were at the entry level (which assumes year 10 education or equivalent).

In May there were 21,812 entry level jobs advertised in Australia. That same month there were 138,044 people registered as disadvantaged job seekers, in a total of 732,000 people unemployed. That is about 6 people in need of an entry level job for every job advertised.

Executive Director of Anglicare Australia Kasy Chambers said that this figure shows the difficulty.

'When we look at this figure we can see that finding a job if you don't have a degree, year 12, or ample workplace experience, or just happen to live in an area with few jobs, is near on impossible.

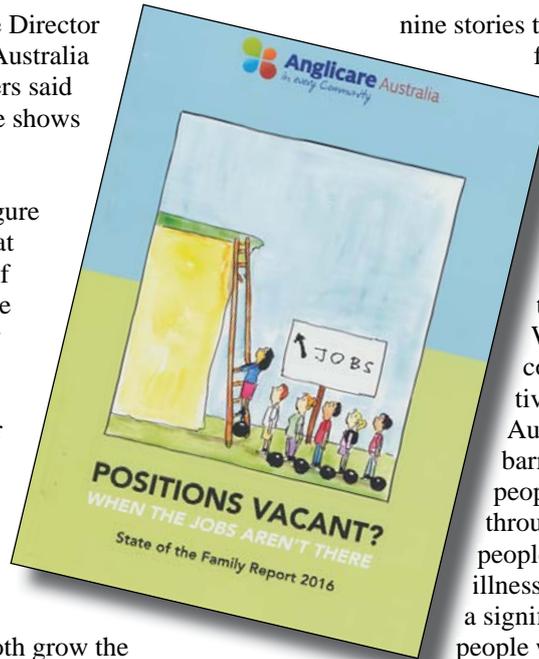
We need to both grow the jobs market and invest in people so they can develop the skills and experience they need.'

'The report shows evidence from our network agencies that people are facing barriers to employment as a result of widespread economic upheaval. We have

nine stories that make up the report from Anglicare network members in almost every state of Australia detailing a breadth of challenges to finding work', she said.

'From the end of the mining boom in Western Australia to the collapse of the automotive industry in South Australia; or from the barriers faced by young people leaving care right through to migrants and people suffering from mental illness; the report shows that a significant proportion of people who genuinely want to work are unable to find suitable employment.'

Copies of the report and the Jobs Availability Snapshot are available at the following link <http://bit.ly/2eprTNS>



# The Gift of Knowledge this Christmas

This Christmas ABM offers the chance to give the gift of education to people supported by its partners in Australia and internationally.

Throughout Australia, ABM provides grants to help the Church with initiatives which engage young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

In the Northern Territory, funds help small teams of trainers to reach remote communities in Arnhem Land and islands in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

There they provide friendship, pastoral support and training for leaders to equip churches in responding to the substantial challenges confronting Aboriginal young people in remote communities.

In ABM's partner countries, the gift of education is also being received.

In Kenya, the newly introduced Youth and Sunday School Empowerment Program encourages young people to partake in leadership training and embrace the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

With donor support, youth conferences will be organised on an annual basis where speakers will be invited to speak on particular themes of relevance. Sunday school teachers and youth leaders will take part in training and develop materials that respond to contemporary issues.

Youth and Sunday school children will also be encouraged to participate in environmental conservation issues as well as tree planting and clean up days.

Please give a gift to ABM's partners this Christmas. Donate at [www.abmission.org/christmas2016](http://www.abmission.org/christmas2016) or phone 1300 302 663.



**TRAINERS:** Children at Numbulwar Church playing musical chairs after the kids' fellowship. Christmas Appeal funds help small teams of trainers to reach remote communities. Credit: ABM, 2016.

## Free Christmas Resources

ABM has a variety of free Christmas resources available. Available at [www.abmission.org/christmas2016](http://www.abmission.org/christmas2016) is an eCard which you can send to all of your family, friends and contacts with a personalised message.

ABM's weekly readings, reflections and prayers are also available for download at [www.abmission.org/christmas2016](http://www.abmission.org/christmas2016).