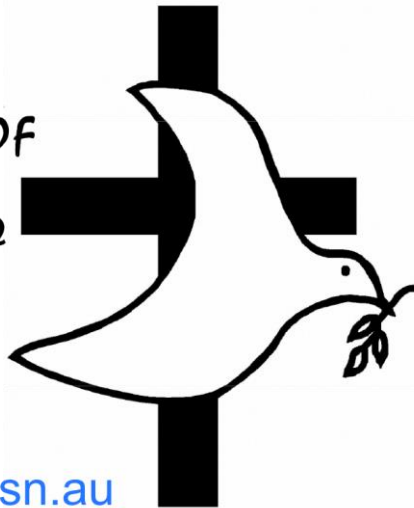


THE
ANABAPTIST
ASSOCIATION OF
AUSTRALIA AND
NEW
ZEALAND



www.anabaptist.asn.au

Operational Manual

Anabaptist Association of Australia
and New Zealand Inc.

Updated 26 April 2021

OPERATIONAL MANUAL

This manual is to provide opportunity for those working within AAANZ to have a basic knowledge of the history of the organisation, the core values and philosophy, the way the organisation works, and an understanding of how things happen in practice, at their finger tips.

It is expected that as God takes this Association forward, there will be development of ideas and practice appropriate to the times. It is recommended that this Manual come under review by the AAANZ Executive every two years, at the first meeting of the year.

It is expected that each member of the AAANZ Committee will have a copy of this Manual.

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First time to AAANZ

1.1 Basic Information

1.1a Our Name.

The Anabaptist Association of Australia and New Zealand Inc. (Usually referred to as AAANZ or the Association).

The name Anabaptist Network of Australia and New Zealand was adopted at the first Anabaptist Conference held at Sheffield in Tasmania in 1995.

The name was changed to The Anabaptist Association of Australia and New Zealand Inc. on incorporation as an association in 1998.

The Association is the legal entity and organisational structure that serves the network of people within Australia and New Zealand who share the vision, mission and values that identify Anabaptism as a movement.

1.1b Our Logo.

The logo belongs to AAANZ.

The logo is used on official letterheads and where appropriate in published

material. The logo may be changed by

the Committee.



1.1c Australian Business Number ABN - 80824037619

1.1d Business address, telephone number and email - 190 Magpie Hallow Road, South Bowenfels NSW 2790 Australia +61 2 6351 2896 General: aaanz.info@gmail.com

1.1e. Website - www.anabaptist.asn.au

1.1f Pastoral Workers to the Association - Mark and Mary

1.2 What we uphold

1.2a Our Prayer

Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in
heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin
against us. Save us from the time of trial and
deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.

English Language Liturgical Consultation Version, 1988

1.2b Our Vision

Jesus in the centre of our Faith
Community is the centre of our
Life **Reconciliation** is the centre of
our Work

1.2c Our Mission

The Anabaptist Association links people in Australia and New Zealand who share a passion for Jesus, community and reconciliation and works to promote and nurture an Anabaptist understanding of the Christian faith and bring healing and hope to others by joyfully following Jesus into the world.

1.2d Our Values

Jesus is the focal point of God's revelation. He is all of Example, Teacher, Friend, Redeemer, Lord and even more. He is the source and central reference point for faith and lifestyle, and for an understanding of church that is engaged with society. To follow Jesus is to also worship him.

Communities of faith and churches are called to be centres of discipleship and mission. They are meant to be multi-voiced worshipping communities, places of friendship and accountability, living in God's kingdom in active anticipation of it's coming in full. Young and old are valued, consultative leadership is exercised, and roles are related to gifts rather

than gender.

Reconciliation is at the heart of the gospel and God's desire for all of creation. In an often violent world, Anabaptists are committed to Jesus' way of non-violence and to learning how to make peace between individuals, within and among churches, in society and between nations. Reconciliation also includes living responsibly as caretakers of the Earth.

1.2e Our Purposes

The Anabaptist Association links people in Australia and New Zealand who share a passion for Jesus, community and reconciliation. The network finds inspiration from the life of Jesus, the earliest church and the convictions of the first Anabaptist communities to be peacemakers and people who dream about and work for a more compassionate world. Anabaptism today is not about starting a new religion or denomination but brings fresh perspectives on issues that matter and inspires people to go further and deeper in ways that make a difference.

Specifically our purposes are:

1. To nurture and support the Christian faith of individuals and groups in Australia and New Zealand who identify with the Anabaptist understanding.
2. To encourage the development and interaction of a network of individuals, groups and congregations who draw on and share contemporary Anabaptist convictions.
3. To develop creative strategies and accessible resources, including teaching, training mediation and counsel, which will enable Christians and others to learn from and draw on Anabaptist insights.
4. To convene conferences and gatherings which provide opportunity for worship, teaching, training, consultation, celebration, meditation, counsel, and prayer in Anabaptism.
5. To extend the awareness of Anabaptism in Australia and New Zealand assisting individuals, groups and congregations to discover and express their connection with Anabaptist perspectives, and develop the profile of the network.
6. To partner with groups, congregations, and other organisations in shared projects, ventures and values.
7. To provide an opportunity for affiliation for groups, congregations, and organisations, who wish to be known in Australia and New Zealand as Anabaptist.

2 Policy and Procedure

2:1 Rules and Statement of Purpose

Refer to APPENDIX A for the current version of the 'Rules and Statement of Purpose'

2:2 AAANZ Executive Committee

Taken from *Rules and Statement of Purposes of the Anabaptist Association of Australia and New Zealand Inc.*

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

- (1) The affairs of the Association shall be managed by the Committee of Management (referred to also as the **Executive Committee**)
- (2) The Committee will control and manage the business and affairs of the Association.
- (3) Subject to these rules and the Act, (*Associations Incorporations Act 1981* as amended for the State of Victoria) the Committee -
 - (a) may exercise all the powers and functions that may be exercised by the Association other than the powers and functions that must be exercised by a *General Meeting of the Members of the Association*
 - (b) has power to perform all acts and things that appear to the Committee to be essential for the proper management of the business and affairs of the Association.

CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE

- (1) The Committee will consist of
 - (a) the officers of the Association; and
 - (b) no less than one (1) and no more than four (4) ordinary members.
 - (2) Subject to sub-clause (1)(b) the Committee will determine the number of Ordinary Member Committee positions to be filled at each *Annual General Meeting*.
 - (3) Each ordinary Member of the Committee will, subject to these rules, hold office until the *Annual General Meeting* next after the date of the election of the Ordinary Member. An
-

Ordinary Member is eligible for re-election.

- (4) In the event of a casual vacancy occurring in the office of an Ordinary Member of the Committee, the Committee may appoint a Member of the Association to fill the vacancy and the Member so appointed will hold office, subject to these rules, until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting next following the date of the appointment.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

- (1) The Officers of the Association will be -
 - (a) a President;
 - (b) a Vice-President;
 - (c) a Treasurer; and
 - (d) a Secretary.
- (2) Each officer of the Association will hold office until the Annual General Meeting next after the date of the Officer's election. An Officer is eligible for re-election.
- (3) In the event of a casual vacancy in any office, the Committee may appoint one of its Members to the vacant office and the Member so appointed may continue in office up to and including the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting which follows the date of appointment.

2.2a Preamble

The role descriptions are given for guidance to assist the Officers of the Association and Executive Committee members to properly exercise their functions. The primary intention is that the role descriptions will benefit the ministry and management of the Association to achieve its purposes. The role description is not intended to limit the capacity of a person to function effectively in their given role and to fully exercise their gifts in an environment of mutual respect and encouragement. The Anabaptist values of prayerful and cooperative action, open and transparent decision-making through a process of seeking consensus whenever possible are to be generally applied as a model.

2.2b Executive Committee Members and including Officers of the Association

- role and responsibilities

- Maintain their personal membership of the Association
 - Participate in Committee meetings
-

- Promote the *Purposes of the Association*.
- Review and annually set goals, specific objectives and strategies with the Executive Committee to achieve the *Purposes of the Association*.
- Approve the annual Budget prepared by the Treasurer and President.
- Accept the annual financial reports prepared by the Treasurer.
- Review and accept applications for new membership and where necessary suspend or expel a Member as set out by the *Rules and Statement of Purposes of the Anabaptist Association of Australia and New Zealand Inc.*
- Appoint, regulate and delegate any of its powers to special purpose Sub- Committees.
- Appoint, set terms of employment and terminate staff and Pastoral Workers to the Association
- Annually review the performance of staff and Pastoral Workers and in respect of the implementation of the goals, specific objectives and strategies of the Association.
- Make, alter, amend or rescind By-laws as it sees fit which are consistent with the Rules of the Association.
- Set the date and time of the Annual General Meeting and any Special General Meetings of Members.
- Make recommendations to a General Meeting of Members of any changes required to the Rules or Purposes as set out by the *Rules and Statement of Purposes of the Anabaptist Association of Australia and New Zealand Inc.*
- Disseminate AAANZ news and information in member's local area or region.
- Organise local AAANZ events in member's local area or region.

2.2 c President - job description

- Preside over the Executive Committee.
- Set the date and time of Executive Committee meetings.
- Give notice of matters for consideration at the Executive Committee meetings.
- Chair the Executive Committee meetings and the Annual General Meeting.
- Exercise team leadership within the Association in achieving the *Purposes of the Association*.
- Review and annually set goals, specific objectives and strategies with the Executive Committee to achieve the *Purposes of the Association*.
- Liaise with the Pastoral Workers in respect of the implementation of the goals, specific objectives and strategies.
- Prepare with the Treasurer an annual budget for approval by the Executive Committee.
- Be a spokesperson for the Association in respect of public statements in accordance with the *AAANZ Policy for Public Statements*.
- Regularly report to the Members in respect of the matters of the Association.
- Liaise with other organisations relevant for AAANZ, including Mennonite World Conference.

2.2 d Vice President - job description

- Assist the President.
- Chair the Executive Committee meetings in the absence of the President.
- Carry out the role of the President on an acting basis as agreed by the Executive.

2.2 e Secretary - job description

- Take minutes of the resolutions and proceedings of each General Meeting and of each Committee meeting
- Keep a record of the names of persons present at each General Meeting and each Committee meeting.
- Circulate the draft minutes for acceptance by the Executive Committee.
- Receive and send correspondence on behalf of the Executive Committee.
- Keep the *Common Seal of the Association* if required.
- Keep a record of By-laws made by the Executive Committee.
- Keep the books, documents and any securities held by the Association.
-

2.2 f Treasurer - job description

- Collect and receive all donations and monies due to the Association and make all payments authorised by the Association.
- Keep correct accounts and books showing the financial affairs of the Association with full details of all receipts and expenditure connected with the activities of the Association.
- Arrange payment of stipends, taxes, superannuation of staff employed by AAANZ and insurances, rents and other regular outgoings when required by AAANZ.
- Keep record of payments and holiday, sick and long service entitlements of staff employed by AAANZ
- Prepare quarterly financial reports for tabling at the Executive Committee meetings and for lodgement of Business Activity Statements if required.
- Prepare annual financial reports for acceptance by the Executive Committee for tabling at the Annual General Meeting of Members.
- Where an auditor is appointed by the Association submit the annual financial reports for auditing.
- Submit other financial reports as required.
- Prepare with the President, an annual budget for approval by the Executive Committee.

2:3 Additional Roles for the Executive Committee

2.3a Public Officer - job description (See also Rules and Statement of Purposes of the Anabaptist Association of Australia and New Zealand Inc 21 (4))

Because The Anabaptist Association of Australia and New Zealand Inc. is registered in Victoria, the Public Officer must be a member of the Executive Committee over the age of 18 and duly elected to the role by the Committee.

The Public Officer is responsible for -

- Lodging the annual statement with Consumer Affairs Victoria each year as required by the Associations Incorporations Act 1981 as amended for the State of Victoria. The form is automatically sent to the Public Officer long before the AGM. The form, accompanied by a financial statement, must be lodged within one month of the AGM, with the prescribed

- fee.
- Notify of an appointment of a new public officer or a change of public officer's address within 14 days of the change by lodging a Change of Associations Details form. No fee is required.
- Notify the Registrar of Incorporated Associations of a change of the association's Registered address within 14 days of the change by lodging a Change of Associations Details form. No fee is required.
- Apply to the Registrar for approval to alter the statement of purposes or rules within 28 days after the alteration was passed by special resolution. An application for Alteration of Rules or Purpose must be lodged with the prescribed fee.
- Apply to the registrar for approval to change the name of the association within one month after passing a special resolution. An application for Change of Association Name must be lodged with the prescribed fee.
- Notify the Registrar of a special resolution relating to the winding up and distribution of assets of the association within 28 days of passing the resolution. A Notice of Special resolution for Distribution of Assets on Voluntary Winding Up must be lodged with the fee.

2.3b Membership Secretary

- Maintain an up to date register of the Members of the Association.
- Table applications for new membership for acceptance by the Executive Committee.
- Provide information about the Association to new Members.
- Call for the annual renewal of membership by Members prior 30th June.
- Accept and record annual renewals of membership.
- Regularly distribute a Membership Directory to members.

2.3c Web coordinator

2.4d Prayer coordinator

2.3 e Editor OTR

2:4 Financial Operations

2.4a Bank Accounts

There are two active operating banks account in Australia. From time to time there may be other accounts holding reserved funds, or sub-accounts held for other activities of AAANZ. Transactions in all accounts must be recorded and reports made to AAANZ and any relevant Statutory Authorities.

The Australian operating bank account can have money paid from it either by cheque (two signatures are required) or by internet banking (preferred) (username and password required).

AUSTRALIA

CHEQUES: Payable to AAANZ

DIRECT DEBIT or INTERNET:

Name: AAANZ - Business Account #7622

Bank: NAB Armidale NSW 2350

BSB: 082407

Account: 464867622

CHEQUES: Payable to AAANZ- "Christian Peacemaker Teams Australasia (CPT).

DIRECT DEBIT or INTERNET:

Name: AAANZ - Business Account #8940

Bank: NAB Engadine NSW 2350

BSB: 082268

Account: 822688940

2.4b Reporting to AAANZ

The financial year for AAANZ runs from 1 July - 30 June. All movements in each Bank account are recorded in a double-entry bookkeeping format on Excel. At the end of each month a monthly summary is producing showing totals in every category of income and expenditure. Every third month, a quarterly report is produced showing the same totals and sometimes some minor smoothing reversals are made at this point, but not often. Notes are added to explain any extraordinary items.

At the end of every year, an annual statement of income and expenditure (operating Statement) is produced, and it is at this point that all reversals and similar book entries for the whole year are completed.

As AAANZ pays no tax, this is both permissible and convenient. Credit card debt is recognised only when paid and the same applies to superannuation, insurance, subscriptions, rent and PAYG tax. Annual statements are produced with a comparison to the previous financial year, and notes are usually made with respect to items which differ substantially. This is particularly necessary for legislated items such as tax, superannuation or insurance which should only differ significantly if there has been a variation in employee hours during the year.

An annual statement of assets and liabilities (balance sheet) is also made. No depreciation on assets is made through the operating statement, and assets are stated at their current cash value. All Australia operations and assets are accounted for in the one statement; when applicable, the New Zealand operations must publish a separate set of statements in \$NZ. Separate sets of statements must be published for subsidiary project accounts of AAANZ, such as Christian Peacemaker Teams Australasia (CPT).

All annual operating statements and balance sheets must be submitted to the AAANZ executive for approval and presentation at the AGM.

2.4c Reporting to Statutory Authorities as required

2.4d Authority Limits

Pastoral workers have an authority to incur expenditure up to AU\$500. For expenditure over \$500 the purchase needs to be first referred to the President and Treasurer for approval to confirm availability of funds and budgeted allocations.

Executive committee members need to refer all non-allocated Association expenditure to the President and Treasurer for approval first.

2.4 e Association Insurances

The Treasurer is responsible for ensuring that appropriate insurance is in place and will report on these to the executive from time to time.

2:5 Committee Meetings

2.5a Frequency

The Rules of Association stipulate that the Committee is required to meet at least three times a year and may meet monthly. This may be done by teleconference.

Committee members are also expected to attend the annual General Meeting of the Association, which is generally held in November each year.

In addition to these meetings the Committee members meet every one or two years in a central location to review and plan for the following two years.

2.5b Use of Internet/Teleconferencing

The Rules of Association permit the Committee to meet by "by telephone, internet, email or other form of audio, video or digital communication." This is to enable participation from a number states and countries.

2.5c Conduct of meetings

The meetings are to be chaired by the President and in the absence of the President by the Vice-President or another delegated member of the Committee.

The chair shall prepare an Agenda for circulation at least one week prior to the meeting.

The chair may circulate prior to the meeting draft proposals for consideration by the Committee to facilitate the effective functioning of the meeting.

2.5d Consensus

The preferred manner in which the Committee makes decisions is where possible by consensus. Proposals and matters that are not accepted by consensus may be adopted by simple majority after full

consideration has been given to all the different points of view. There has been a practice of not making major decisions where there have been strong reservations on the part of individual members of the committee.

2.5 e Confidentiality

Whenever Committee members are entrusted with information of a private or sensitive nature it is expected that confidentiality will be respected and the Privacy Policy will be adhered to

2.5f Guests

The Committee from time to time may invite guests to participate at meetings but guests do not have voting rights.

2:6 Pastoral Workers relationship

From 2019, the relationship with Pastoral Workers, Mark and Mary Hurst has been encapsulated by a memorandum of understanding. For more info see APPENDIX B.

2:7 'On The Road' (OTR)

This AAANZ Journal is currently in abeyance - previous copies available on the AAANZ website.

2:8 Prayer Diary (PD)

2.8 a Purpose

- Network and link individual members of the Association for prayer, hospitality and mutual support

2.8b Frequency of publication - as required

2.8c Content shared in terms of the privacy policy

Photo (when supplied),
Details - State, City, phone number and email
address prayer points.

2.8d Editor - Job Description

i) Overall Responsibility
Publish the AAANZ Prayer Diary

ii) Specific Responsibilities

- Review objectives, content and format with AAANZ Pastoral Workers and the AAANZ Executive Committee to regularly improve PD.
- Work with oversight from the AAANZ Pastoral Workers and the AAANZ Executive Committee.
- Gather and edit prayer items from AAANZ members.
- Prepare layout and publish PD for electronic distribution.
- Maintain an up to date mailing list and address details of AAANZ members who are on the PD list.
- Distribute PD to members by electronic means to mailing list.
- Upload PD to Members secure page on AAANZ website.
- Work within guidelines of *AAANZ Privacy Policy*. (see 2.11a)
- Work within guidelines of *AAANZ Public Statements Policy*. (see 2.11b)

2.9 AAANZ Website

2.9a Purpose

- Provide resources and materials relating to the tradition, perspectives, and teaching of Anabaptists to both the Christian and general public.
- Extend the awareness of Anabaptism in Australia and New Zealand assisting individuals, churches and groups discover and express their links with the Anabaptist tradition.

2.9b Basic Content Guidelines

Where possible and relevant the content should be consistent with the values statement (Our Values) of the Association without limiting the freedom of personal and artistic expression.

2.9c Web Addresses

www.anabaptist.asn.au - for general public content

2.9d Web Hosting and Web Master

www.anabaptist.asn.au Host -

www.groupsthatclick.com.au

Contact: Andy Steele - info@groupsthatclick.com

2.9e Domain Registrar

www.anabaptist.asn.au - Connect West -

2.9f Website co-ordinator - Job Description

i) Overall Responsibility

Publish and maintain the AAANZ website at

www.anabaptist.asn.au

ii) Specific Responsibilities

- Review objectives, content and format with the AAANZ Executive Committee and AAANZ Pastoral Workers to regularly improve website.
- Work with oversight from the AAANZ Executive Committee and AAANZ Pastoral Workers.
- Gather and edit relevant items and events for inclusion on website.
- Upload relevant podcasts, movies and resources to website.
- Liaise with host web master for inclusion of html pages for conference registrations, donations and other specialised web pages.
- Liaise with editors of the *AAANZ Mailings*, and the *Prayer Diary* to upload publications to website.
- Maintain current links to associated websites.
- Work within guidelines of *AAANZ Privacy Policy*. (See 2.11a)
- Work within guidelines of *AAANZ Public Statements Policy*. (See 2.11b)

Selection Criteria

- Have editorial, layout and online publishing skills.
- Have a general appreciation of Anabaptist theology and practice as well as Christian current affairs.

2:10 Policies affecting AAANZ

2:10a AAANZ Privacy Policy

Attached in APPENDIX C

2.10b Policy for Endorsement of Public Statements

The Committee will make decisions on public statements or endorsement by consensus, following a consultation by email or telephone conference.

2.11 Other Resources

Examples and samples of material including letterheads and brochures are available on the website.

Conference hosting checklist for the most recent checklist see APPENDIX D

Draft Survival Day Covenant agreement AAANZ
signed at the 2019 conference see APPENDIX E

History of AAANZ see APPENDIX F

APPENDIX A - Rules and Statement of Purpose

The purposes for which the Association is established are:

1. To nurture and support the Christian faith of individuals and groups in Australia and New Zealand who identify with the Anabaptist understanding.
2. To encourage the development and interaction of a network of individuals, groups and congregations who draw on and share contemporary Anabaptist convictions.
3. To develop creative strategies and accessible resources, including teaching, training mediation and counsel, which will enable Christians and others to learn from and draw on Anabaptist insights.
4. To convene conferences and gatherings which provide opportunity for worship, teaching, training, consultation, celebration, meditation, counsel, and prayer in Anabaptism.
5. To extend the awareness of Anabaptism in Australia and New Zealand assisting individuals, groups and congregations to discover and express their connection with Anabaptist perspectives, and develop the profile of the network.
6. To partner with groups, congregations, and other organisations in shared projects, ventures and values.
7. To provide an opportunity for affiliation for groups, congregations, and organisations, who wish to be known in Australia and New Zealand as Anabaptist.

APPENDIX B - Memo of Understanding (MOU) with Pastoral Workers

In 2019, the first Mou was entered into covering the period to December 2020.

At the date of this document, the MoU is under discussion. A subcommittee of the executive comprising Ed Love (chair), Gary Baker, Bruce Davies and Valentine Satved (in her role as President popping in and out) are in discussion with Mary and Mark Hurst. It is hoped the MoU will be finalised by 30 April 2021 and will cover the period 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2022.

APPENDIX C - AAANZ Privacy Policy

Adopted 23 January 2021

Introduction

AAANZ is a legal entity and organisational structure that serves the network of people within Australia and New Zealand who share the vision, mission and values that identify Anabaptism as a movement.

The affairs of AAANZ are managed by a Committee of Management.

AAANZ regards privacy as an important part of our relationship with our members and the general public.

It is our desire that personal information will only be used in the way that was intended when it is supplied.

The Anabaptist Association of Australia and New Zealand Inc. knows that privacy is important to you. This privacy policy reflects our respect for your privacy rights. This policy describes how we will deal with personally identifiable information that we collect or hold.

What is Personal Information?

When we talk about personal information, we mean information or an opinion about an individual where you can tell or reasonably work out who the information or opinion is about.

Collection

We will only collect personal information about you that is relevant to our organisation. This may include general information such as your name, e-mail address, contact details and computers IP address.

You can generally visit our website without revealing who you are or other personal information. Where reasonably possible, personal information is only collected when you knowingly provide it. For example, we may need to collect such information to provide you with information or a service you have requested which may include applying for AAANZ membership, changing or renewing your membership status, purchasing another service from us, such as registering for a conference or subscribing for our newsletter.

Our purpose for collecting personal information should be clear when we collect it. If you are uncertain, please contact us at the address

below.

We may use technology to keep track of which sections of our website you visit for internal purposes, including to help us improve our website and other services.

Use and disclosure

We will only use your personal information as allowed by law. This means we may use it for the purpose it was collected, as disclosed to you at the time of collection, or as otherwise set out in this policy. If we want to use your information for any other purpose, we will first seek your consent unless law does not require us to.

We generally only use or disclose your personal information to:

- Help us to improve our website and services;
- Supply you with goods, services or information you have requested;
- Tell you about any new developments, offers or events we think may interest you;
- Other organisations that provide services to us, such as telecommunications companies, event organisers, IT contractors (such as website developers and hosts), lawyers, accountants, financiers and associated companies; and
- Meet any legal requirements.

Any information posted on bulletin boards or communicated in chat areas becomes public information. While we strive to protect and respect your privacy, we cannot guarantee the security of any information you disclose in a chat room or bulletin board and you take full responsibility for the disclosure of such material.

Access to personal information

Please contact us if you would like to access personal information we hold about you. We will give you access unless we are allowed or required by law to refuse it. We may ask you to pay our reasonable costs of providing access.

If you believe personal information we hold about you is inaccurate or incomplete, please advise us. We will generally take reasonable steps to correct your personal information where inaccuracies are identified.

In certain circumstances, we may refuse to give access to your personal information or amend it. Usually we will explain why and, in the case of an amendment, make a note that you have disputed the

accuracy or completeness of particular information.

Security and integrity

We cannot guarantee the security of information you may transmit to us. We will take reasonable steps to keep your personal information secure, accurate, complete and up to date. If we no longer require your personal information, we will take reasonable steps to destroy or de-identify it. We do not take responsibility for the security of information that is outside our control such as when it is sent by post, courier, and facsimile or over the Internet.

Service Providers

We may employ third-party companies and individuals due to the following reasons:

- To facilitate our Service;
- To provide the Service on our behalf;
- To perform Service-related services; or
- To assist us in analysing how our Service is used.

We want to inform our Service users that these third parties have access to your Personal Information. The reason is to perform the tasks assigned to them on our behalf. However, they are obligated not to disclose or use the information for any other purpose.

Links to Other Sites

Our website may contain links to other sites. If you click on a third-party link, you will be directed to that site. Note that these external sites are not operated by us. Therefore, we strongly advise you to review the Privacy Policy of these websites. We have no control over, and assume no responsibility for the content, privacy policies, or practices of any third-party sites or services.

Children's Privacy

Our Services do not address anyone under the age of 13. We do not knowingly collect personal identifiable information from children under 13. In the case we discover that a child under 13 has provided us with personal information, we immediately delete this from our servers. If you are a parent or guardian and you are aware that your child has provided us with personal information, please contact us so that we will be able to do necessary actions.

Changes to this policy

To keep up with regulatory, technical and organisational change, we may

amend this policy from time to time by publishing the updated policy on our website. Please visit our website regularly to keep up to date with any changes.

Contacting us

For further information, problems or complaints regarding our information handling practices, please contact us by email : aaanz.info@gmail.com.

APPENDIX D - Conference hosting checklist

To be updated following the next conference (expected 2022).

Introduction

This outline may be helpful to those who organise AAANZ Conferences. Every conference is different and therefore ways to organise vary according to the needs of the particular event.

Choosing a date.

Frequency: - biennially (every 2 years)

Traditionally January on a long weekend where possible - From Friday evening to Monday afternoon.

These dates may be tailored to other possibilities and durations to suit local requirements.

Choosing a venue

Choosing early - 18 months ahead is not too early. Many venues are booked from year to year by groups. Earlier the better.

Estimate numbers attending.

Choose a venue that is financially accessible for family groups and for people who are on limited income. Anabaptist ideals to be considered. However, be sensitive to those who are elderly and those who may have special needs. Some people may choose to make their own arrangements for accommodation of course.

Suitability re accessibility by public transport, or possibility for a means of transporting people to the venue, keeping in mind that some attendees will be part timers only.

Wheelchair access.

Suitable size of conference rooms.

Facilities such as data projector, white board, chairs and tables, space for bookstall and resources tables, convenient morning and afternoon facilities.

Availability of breakout rooms for small group meetings.

Child friendly type venue and possibility of activities for children. If a special children's program is to be run, then there needs to be suitable facilities available.

Catered or self-catered has be determined and advised ahead of time.

Check if linen, blankets and pillows are supplied. And if not, make sure you put that on the rego forms.

Check availability of first aid equipment/personnel.

Check that venue is adequately insured.

When a venue is chosen, AAANZ needs to be approached to forward a cheque for a deposit to the venue. The timing and means of full payment needs to be ascertained from the venue.

Choosing an organising team

Small teams work best - good organisers and thinkers.

One person on the team needs to be 'anchor person'. This team person needs to have the time and skills to have his/her finger on the pulse, make sure things are done and good accountability and communication with other team members and the AAANZ committee.

Notes need to be carefully kept from meetings so as the decisions are executed and communication maintained.

It is important for the organising team to delegate.

Relationship with AAANZ committee

It is important that the AAANZ Committee trust the local organising team.

However on the other hand, it is essential that the organising team keep good communication with the AAANZ Committee on behalf of whom they are acting.

Working out what to charge.

This can be very tricky. Firstly one has to estimate the number who might turn up and include in what each person will pay such things as -

Venue cost

Costs for speakers

Children's ministry costs (if any)

Hire transport (if any)

Costs in connection with speakers (including gifts)/special events

Printing/publishing/postage costs

Supply of goods to run the conference - from smallest items to hire of equipment (if any)

Plus anything else you know you will need for the conference.

Allow for donations or subsidies, so make a spot for them in the brochure, web site etc. In the past donations have enabled people to come to the conferences who would not have been able to afford to otherwise.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU DO NOT CUT TOO CLOSE TO THE BONE. THE RESPONSIBILITY IS TO SEE THAT THE CONFERENCE PAYS FOR ITSELF.

Use of Internet and PayPal

To have the venue details and links and the PayPal provision for registrants to register and pay online was great. Take note that 2%+ is deducted by PayPal and 4% by Visa and MasterCard

Choosing a topic/theme. What to prayerfully consider

Current 'hot topics' in Anabaptism

Take note of the suggestions from the evaluations from the last conference.

Consider what you as a local host have to offer that may give a particular 'flavour'.

Program

Saturday is usually the best attended therefore this needs to be kept in mind in program planning. Allow space for day visitors.

Balance between speakers, worship and networking times.

There needs to be a segment on 'What is Anabaptism' somewhere in the program. Also, a time for AAANZ to discuss and plan 'Where to from here?'
Note feedback from the last conference.

Full program to be published on the web site.

Speakers

Organise speakers early to make sure you have the people you want and that they have time to prepare adequately.

People who are well versed with the topic and able to communicate their knowledge.

It is important that the organising team communicate well with the speakers right up to the time of the conference.

Important to make sure that expectations on both sides are clearly articulated. Ensure that the speaker has an idea of the size and a profile of the audience. They need to know that many in the gathering will not be theologically trained, or necessarily knowledgeable about Anabaptist thought, wide ranging age groups and experience.

Make sure the speakers are conversant with what is required of them in terms of their contribution to the conference apart from their talk/lecture - to be available to run a workshop perhaps, available for questions after, stay for morning/afternoon tea or supper, live in or whatever.

Let them know your thoughts re gift/free or otherwise, accommodation, honorarium. Expectations both ways need to match!

Let them know how long they have to speak. This is hard because some of ours took much longer and questions afterwards made it difficult to put the brakes on. Decide beforehand how the reins can be pulled in to keep to a time schedule.

It is fair to say that the Anabaptist way of doing things would be to have shorter and punchier input by speakers with inclusion of small group discussion etc around tables, rather than too much 'lecturing'.

Children's Program

Determine how many children are likely to attend conference, and age groups.

These are some of the things to consider -

Suitable people with 'Working with Children' requirements up to date according to local/state legislation.

Approach possible leaders early to give plenty of time for preparation.

Different age groups needing to be catered for?

Try to have a program that encourages Anabaptist ideals and specifics.

Make sure leaders are conversant with the facilities they will have available to them.

Ascertain any materials needed and provide.

Include what the children are doing in 'spots' in the main program.
Encourage children's involvement in any 'introductory games' or other such activities, along with the adult group, and especially in any worship activities.
Possibly organise times within the program to be intergenerational or offer various ways to approach a topic i.e. listening to a speaker, some activity as a response, an art corner to respond to speakers etc. This would also be a way of including folks that learn in differing styles.

Effective advertising.

Web site

"On The Road"

Flyers to Anabaptist type contacts.

Flyers to Theological Colleges.

Email lists with brochure attached.

Reminders closer to the time.

Flyers

Flyers, brochures and posters can be made available as soon as date, venue and topic are decided.

Electronic promotion

The AAANZ website can be used as well as AAANZ Mailings, AAANZ membership email lists and other groups' email lists to keep printing costs to a minimum.

Registrations

Set up registration with web Editor for people to register on line.

Postal registrations will require a postal address.

A register is needed from the time registrations begin coming in.

A spreadsheet such as Excel can be used with the following details

CONTACT PARTICULARS

Full Name

Street address or PO Box address

City/Suburb

State

Postcode

Country

Telephone

Landline number

Mobile number

Email address

Relationship to other people with whom one is paying (very important)

OTHER PARTICULARS

Full Conference rates

Part Conference rates
Day visitor rates
Early bird registration reduced rates

Other information to collect:
Dietary needs and allergies
Transport needed
Airport pickup/drop off and flight details
Bedding and towel requirements
Other special requirements

PAID BY REGISTRANTS TO AAANZ

Total Paid

Amount nominally being charged (e.g. are they staying for 2 days? half a day?)

Amount actually charged (taking account of discounts, charitable concessions etc); includes any amount added on to pay for transaction charges, if it is decided to do this.

Payment and method - *any cost of payment which will be deducted e.g. Visa charges, Paypal, whether or not the person has paid extra for this

Date money actually transferred to AAANZ. A reconciliation must be done for transfers to the AAANZ account if they are composed of more than one single payment. It must list the net amount of each individual payment along with the name/s, and these must be added together to ensure that they total the amount transferred.

Method of payment

PayPal

Phone

Direct Debit

Cheque

Cash

Donations

PAID BY AAANZ TO THE VENUE

Payment is usually required by the venue at the close of the conference. An arrangement needs to be made to facilitate this with the AAANZ Treasurer beforehand.

Account for:

Full timers package

Accommodation

Meals

Day visitors

SUMMARY

To be sent to the Treasurer to check against bank records as soon as possible

after the event. Then sent to the Committee. Names and addresses and private details do not get sent. However, staff to be given registrants' details for future contact.

NOTES

About anything that needs explaining to the Treasurer and the Committee.

Make a cut off date for registrations such as a week before the event. At this point we sent the venue the section of the spreadsheet with names and when each will be at the venue, and dietary needs.

Very important to receipt all monies that come in.

Tax receipts must include the Association's ABN number and be signed by a member of AAANZ Committee or someone appointed by them. Copies of receipts to be sent to the Treasurer.

Video/audio recording of the sessions. Organise this well before. These are valued and sought after well beyond the conference. Work out before hand anything that is needed for this - tripod, long lead, position for filming/recording etc. A backup person and method of recording (e.g. MP3).

Visit venue close to the time to tie up ends. Make sure everything in place.

Medical person - a doctor and nurse who are attendees at the conference would probably be prepared to make themselves available as need arises if asked. It is important to tee this up beforehand rather than landing it on them in an emergency.

First Aid equipment and First Aid person need to be announced as available for the conference in some way.

Available for people upon arrival

Name tags.

A 'welcome' letter, program and map of the venue

Accommodation map for placement of people into rooms at the venue prior to the event.

Check bedding and towels are available for people flying in to the conference.

Other items needed

Bundles of butchers paper

A basket with lots of white board pens, pens, blu-tak, permanent markers, drawing pins, etc.

Earplugs for those troubled by snorers!

A street directory of the area. Maps and tourist brochures of local attractions.

It is a good idea to have a spare data projector. Be prepared for the fact that some people have Macs and some PCs. Different versions of programs can clash.

It could be helpful for someone to be delegated to look into this with the presenters before the conference.

Long electrical leads and double adapters.

Board games and had several packs of cards. 500 has become an important tradition late at night.

During the event

The organising team needed to be alert and responding to needs as they arise, delegating where possible. Members need to be able to forego being at any session if there is a need to be attended to during it.

Someone needs to be MC. Speakers need to be introduced by someone who knows them.

Important to maintain a sense of calm and a smile on our face at all times!!!!

Running a conference can have its stressful moments, so be prepared for these.

It would be good to have an understanding with Mark and Mary Hurst that they have the ok from the conference organisers, to act as peacemakers at the conference, and to be free to intervene if and when necessary. Sometimes expressed views especially on matters of faith or/theology can be controversial, and those present may well be confronted with ideas they have not met before. These can be good opportunities for Anabaptist ideals in conflict management to kick in and can be a positive experience for everyone present, but some situations need managing.

After the event

Make sure all money is deposited into the bank promptly.

Spreadsheet brought up to date with a summary sent to the Treasurer of AAANZ. After the Treasurer has checked through against the bank records, the summary is sent to the AAANZ Committee.

Evaluations after the event

It is effective to have sheets of butchers paper available on different tables with the following headings for people to jot down ideas and recommendations.

Good things

Venue and food

Organisation of time and space

Improvements

Venue and food

Schedule/programme

Suggestions for another conference

Place

Topics

Organising

Challenges

Send Evaluation Forms out via email straight after the event. Any of this feedback is valuable for those organising the next conference.

Collate both means of evaluation and add them to this document.

Write thank you letters to the main players in the week following the conference.

Debriefing

The organising team should hold a meeting soon after the event to go over the spreadsheet summary and the evaluations and to make recommendations to the Committee and a summary of how things went.

APPENDIX E -Draft Survival Day Covenant agreement

AAANZ signed at the 2019 conference

26th January 2019 - We are gathered at the 2019 conference of the Anabaptist Association of Australia and New Zealand (AAANZ) to make this statement:

Aboriginal peoples' voices and Torres Strait Islander peoples' voices have been speaking to us for over 230 years; we have heard them, yet we have failed to listen.

As part of the broad Christian faith, we acknowledge that our ancestors in faith were part of the oppression of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples and that we have not been robust in our defence of Aboriginal people's rights and Torres Strait Islander people's rights. Our voices have been too quiet with regard to the continuing oppression they suffer. We are sorry.

Creator Spirit, Lord God, and Papa Jesus have listened, and have witnessed the injustices and sought truth, justice, and relationship during that time. We say the time for listening is now. We say the time for acknowledgement, solidarity, and action is now.

We acknowledge that Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the first peoples of the sovereign Nations and Islands of these lands and waters we now call Australia, including its bays, harbours, rivers, and islands situated upon the coast. Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples possessed these lands and waters under their own laws and customs, which were passed down from ancestors since the Creation - according to the common law from "time immemorial," and according to science more than 65,000 years ago.

This sovereignty was never ceded, and has never been extinguished. We seek substantive constitutional reform and structural reform, to empower Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples to take a rightful place in their own country. We believe Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood. Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples will walk in two worlds and their cultures will be a gift to these lands and waters now called Australia and to the world.

In solidarity we echo the calls of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

- We echo the call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.
- We echo the call for a National Truth, Justice, and Conciliation Commission.
- We echo the call for Treaty and Treaties.

In solidarity, we stand with Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples and together call for:

- The implementation of all recommendations of the 1991 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody

- A royal commission into Aboriginal Incarceration Rates
- The implementation of all recommendations of the 1997 Bringing Them Home Report
- A review of all recommendations from all Coronial Inquests into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody
- A royal commission into the New Stolen Generation, the appalling, continuing high rate of child protection removal of Aboriginal children from their families.

Finally, we make the following commitments:

- We commit to ensuring Aboriginal Christian Leaders are represented at events run by the Anabaptist Association, as keynote speakers, workshops leaders, invited guests, and attendees and we will offer hospitality to those leaders wherever possible.
- We commit to acknowledging the Sunday before January 26 as Aboriginal Sunday, as declared to the Protestant Churches by William Cooper in 1940, and as re-established by Aboriginal Christian Leaders, Aunty Jean Phillips and Brooke Prentis.
- We commit to acknowledging National Reconciliation Week (27 May to 3 June), and NAIDOC Week (first Sunday of July to second Sunday of July).
- We commit to "paying the rent" by donating one-tenth of our organisation's annual surplus, as disclosed in the annual accounts presented at our Annual General Meeting, to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christian leaders and ministry in their work towards seeing God's justice embodied in this land.

All praise be to the God of all creation, in whom difference dwells in perfect relationship, and in whom love is fulfilled as holy communion. In Christ we have glimpsed reconciliation: humbling oneself, becoming nothing, laying down one's rights and life, in order to make peace. It is toward such beauty that creation pilgrimages, when it will be transfigured, and all things will finally find their place and purpose. Until then, we listen for the groaning of creation and the cry of the oppressed — the sounds of the Spirit — and seek here and now to be people of the transfiguration. Give us strength, O Lord, to be ministers of your reconciliation.

APPENDIX F - History of AAANZ

Who were the first Anabaptists?

The Anabaptists (which meant the 're-baptizers') made the most radical attempt of the Reformation era to renew the church in central Europe. Whilst Anabaptism was a grass roots movement with diverse expressions often opposed by the establishment in its early development, its enduring legacy has included:

- a view of the church in which participation is voluntary and followers look to the scriptures and to each other for guidance.
- a commitment to the way of peace and other teachings of Jesus as a rule for life.
- a separation of church from civil authority.
- baptism as a personal profession of faith.
- worshipping congregations that create authentic community and reach out in mission and service.



Engraving of Dirk Willems rescuing his enemy pursuer Asperen 1569.

Early History

This history is focussed around key dates, organisational issues and major events sponsored by the Association.

How AAANZ started

May 1995

Background to the Association

The initiative for the establishment of the Association came out of a gathering in Southland, Sheffield, Tasmania 19th - 21st May 1995 at which 18 people attended. Speakers were Chris Marshall and David Shenk. Out of this was born the Anabaptist Network of Australia and New Zealand. 'The participants [representing four Australian states, New Zealand and the USA, came from a number of denominations, including Baptist, Anglican, Seventh Day Adventist, Mennonite, Uniting and various incorporated house churches.' The report from that meeting noted that the contacts of the participants with the Anabaptist tradition were diverse.

Some of us have fellowshiped with Anabaptist congregations, other have experienced meaningful dialogue with Anabaptist missionaries, still others have been attracted to the insights of Anabaptism through theological and historical studies.

Out of these varied contacts and experiences we share a common desire to see the Anabaptist vision of discipleship and church life, nurture and resource communities, local churches house churches and individuals across Australia and New Zealand and encourage and empower Christian service in the world.

The gathering represented a network of personal relationships rather than organisational links...[Despite the difficulties of using the name 'anabaptist' in an Australian or New Zealand setting] for those present the 'Anabaptist movement' put a name and gave an historical context for the beliefs and practices that for them came through conviction and experience. Anabaptist belief and practice also provided models for joining evangelical and charismatic emphases and exploring our roles as Christians at work and witness in society'

The Sheffield gathering decided that they wanted Mark and Mary Hurst to return to Australia as pastoral workers and resource persons for the network. Those involved in the Network then moved towards the establishment of a more formal structure by way of incorporation of an Association.

This is a newspaper report published just after the event -

A conference entitled 'A Call to Gather' held in Tasmania, 19th-21st May, proved to be an historic occasion that witnessed the formation of the Anabaptist Network of Australia and New Zealand. The conference was convened with the purpose of exploring the significance of the Anabaptist vision for church life and society in these two countries.

The fiftieth anniversary of the publication of Harold S. Bender's The Anabaptist Vision provided a starting point for those who gathered from around Australia and New Zealand. Participants spoke of the ways their faith had been nurtured by the Anabaptist tradition with its emphasis on discipleship, community and peacemaking.

Two resource people provided the gathering with complementary perspectives. David Shenk, a Mennonite missions director from the United States, spoke of current trends in Anabaptist churches in North America and of churches throughout Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Anabaptist churches in North America, with long histories in the Anabaptist tradition, are rediscovering the "grace" aspect of the gospel message.

Chris Marshall, head of the Department of New Testament at the Bible College of New Zealand reflected on his personal journey to Anabaptism through evangelicalism and the charismatic movement. His story connected with many at the conference who were actively exploring Anabaptism. His clear presentation of what the Anabaptist tradition offered churches and individuals in our context and his own personal story provided a helpful perspective from which a number of the purposes of the network subsequently emerged.

Participants were from a number of denominations including Baptist, Anglican, Seventh Day Adventist, Mennonite, Brethren, Uniting and various house churches. The gathering demonstrated the existence of a network of personal relationships rather than organisational links.

The formalising of the 'network' is not the forming of a new denomination. Participants recognised the difficulty in even using the unfamiliar name 'Anabaptist' in the Australian and New Zealand setting, but for those present the 'Anabaptist movement' put a name and gave an historical context for the beliefs and practices that for them came through conviction and experience.

Anabaptist belief and practice also provided models for joining evangelical and charismatic emphases and exploring our roles as Christians at work and witness in society.

The network hopes to resource communities, churches, teaching institutions and individuals interested in the exploring the relevance of the Anabaptist vision in Australia and New Zealand. A newsletter, resource centre and book service were proposed and regional contact people were nominated. Mark and Mary Hurst are the current resource people for the network.

Here is another report from that gathering -

Is there a shared vision?

We have gathered as individuals from around Australia and New Zealand who have been nurtured in our faith by the Anabaptist tradition. Our contacts with the Anabaptist tradition are diverse. Some of us have fellowshiped with Anabaptist congregations, others have experienced meaningful dialogue with Anabaptist missionaries, still others have been attracted to the insights of Anabaptism through theological and historical studies.

Out of these varied contacts and experiences we share a common desire to see the Anabaptist vision of discipleship and church life nurture and resource communities, local churches, house churches and individuals across Australia and New Zealand, and encourage and empower Christian service in the world.

Directions:

Out of this gathering there already exists an informal network based on personal relationships rather than organisational links. We are connected by a common vision and similar concerns. Together we felt the call of God to move toward the formation of the Anabaptist Network of Australia and New Zealand. We see considerable potential for this network to be expanded organically.

We sense the need for a focal point which is identifiable as the centre from which communities, churches, teaching institutions and individuals can be resourced in their exploration of the relevance and application of the Anabaptist vision in this region. This centre would ideally embrace an Anabaptist Resource Centre and potentially a book service.

We recognise the essential role of key people as networkers to support and feed the growing network with ideas, resources, dialogue, training and personal support for individuals owning the network. Mark & Mary Hurst currently serve this role and the gathering supports

them in developing this role.

The gathering saw the need to nominate regional co-ordinators at facilitate the network, communicate with Mark and Mary and provide local ownership of the network. Those nominated are:

*Graeme Chatfield New South
Wales John Cox Australian
Capital Territory Ian Duckham
Western Australia Danny
Klopovic Victoria
Tim Dyer Tasmania*

Networks need means of communication. This gathering supports the formation a Newsletter (possibly in the form of a column or insert in an existing publication).

We also need events which celebrate and affirm the vision of the network. The Gathering we have been part of this weekend has been an event both of exploring Anabaptism and also of providing a focus for the expression of Anabaptist presence in Australia and New Zealand. Continuing these regional conferences would assist the ongoing affirmation and celebration of the vision.

The network identifies the importance of input from visiting and local Anabaptist scholars and missionaries who have had a key role in animating the links between Anabaptists and those interested in Anabaptism in this region. We would welcome continuing visits from scholars and teachers who could contribute to the development of dialogue and networking among those with an interest in Anabaptism.

Evaluation and Outcomes

Two important themes emerged from the evaluations of the gathering. 1 Everyone appreciated the opportunity to gather with other like minded people and experience a sense of community, real dialogue, worship and fellowship that was consistent with Anabaptist concerns and perspectives. It seemed the whole package was important and that it was consistent across worship, food, input and processes was valued.

- The network needs to be owned and facilitated through personal relationships which embody Anabaptist perspectives of community and discipleship.*
- Mini-gatherings around Australia could develop further the value of a whole package approach to sharing the Anabaptist vision. For this access to*

worship materials and processes is important.

2 Chris's thoughtful and informed critique of Anabaptism was appreciated by all. For some it was the first clear exposition of Anabaptist perspectives they had heard, for others the critique that Chris offered was significant.

- Both these themes of exposition of Anabaptism and its critique from our Australian and New Zealand perspective are important ongoing agenda items for the network.
- Two references to the potential for sectarianism indicated that this was recognised by participants as a possible concern. However these fears seemed to be allayed by the outcomes of the gathering in terms of the basic direction of network. Chris's comment on seeing Anabaptism not as an end in itself but as a pathway to authentic Christianity is important.

Participants welcomed the formation of the Anabaptist Network of Australia and New Zealand.

In these very early days, the purposes for which the Association was established were outlined as:

- (1) to nurture and support the Christian faith of individuals and groups in Australia and New Zealand who identify with the Anabaptist tradition.
- (2) to network and link individuals, churches and groups of Christians who share a common Anabaptist understanding of the Christian faith.
- (3) to provide religious services including teaching, training, pastoral care, mediation, and counsel to its members and others interested in the Anabaptist tradition.
- (4) to provide resources and materials relating to the tradition, perspective's, and teaching of Anabaptists to both the Christian and general public.
- (5) to convene conferences and gatherings which provide opportunity for worship, teaching, training, consultation, celebration, and prayer in the Anabaptist tradition.
- (6) to extend the awareness of Anabaptism in Australia and New Zealand assisting individuals, churches and groups discover and express their links with the Anabaptist tradition.
- (7) to provide an opportunity for affiliation for churches and groups who wish to be known in Australia and New Zealand as Anabaptists.

December 1995, Mark and Mary Hurst returned to the United States of America.

September 26th – November 2nd 1997, Mark and Mary Hurst visited Australia and New Zealand. They visited Auckland, Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Tasmania and Perth. They also attended the Australian Home Church Conference held in Canberra.

March 9, 1998

Via a telephone conference motions were passed to establish the Anabaptist Association of Australia and New Zealand and to formally incorporate the Association under the Victorian legislation. The meeting approved the statement of purposes and the rules to govern the operation of the Association. A committee was elected with representatives from several states, the ACT and New Zealand - Tim Costello (public officer), Chris Marshall (NZ), Ian Duckham (WA), Tim Dyer (Tas), John Cox (ACT), Doug Hynd (ACT), Bessie Pereira (Vic), Colin Isaac (NSW), Gary Baker (NSW), Diane Coleman (NSW).

It was agreed that the committee should probably be limited to ten people to make telephone conferences manageable with a balanced representation between the States and Territories. The final committee membership was to be determined by the persons nominated to the committee so as to achieve desired balance in representation.

History since incorporation in 1998

March 1998

AAANZ Newsletter Issue #1 published with Doug Hynd as editor.

August 1998

- **Incorporation** achieved
- 30 July 1998 AAANZ received a Certificate of Incorporation.
- Founding Committee
- Ian Duckham took on the role of President with others sharing on an interim basis the duties of Treasurer (Tim Dyer) and Secretary (Gary Baker) and minute secretary (Bessie Pereira) Doug Hynd took on the role of newsletter editor with the assistance of Gary Baker who also maintains our members and newsletter database.
- Establishment of Criteria for the Appointment of Pastoral Worker
- The first task was to establish the criteria for the appointment of a full time pastoral worker, including a job

description and selection criteria. The criteria calls for the appointment of an ordained pastor from the Anabaptist tradition as a full time pastoral worker, to be selected from a Mennonite Conference in the USA. The next steps in this process become the selection of the person and the funding of the position and the ministry as a joint venture with Eastern Mennonite Mission (EMM) Board in the USA given the limited resource and membership base. Discussion then took place with EMM on the possibility of a joint agreement for the appointment of a full time pastoral worker for the Association.

November 1998

The application was lodged with the Immigration Department for Mark & Mary Hurst to be granted permanent resident status so that Mark can accept the appointment as pastoral leader and full time worker with the Association. Agreement was reached with the Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions as to the form of partnership we will enter into with them to advance the ministry of the Association.

April 1999

The committee reported on planning the inaugural Incorporated Association Conference for the June long weekend in 1999. This meeting would provide the opportunity for us to conduct our first annual general meeting of the Association as required by law. Diane Coleman has agreed to be the Secretary and Gary Baker the Treasurer.

The committee also reported difficulties involved with the Hurst's visa application and, at the same time, their need to undertake fundraising and to plan in the medium term for their own ministry and development.

May - July 1999 - Mark and Mary Hurst visit Australia and New Zealand.

June 1999 - First national conference of AAANZ. Exploring together the pathways of reconciliation and the way forward for the church in the 21 century with a historical paper from Graeme Chatfield. Mark and Mary Hurst were able to participate in the conference as they were visiting Australia on a tourist visa.

An important part of our conference time together as an "Anabaptist community" was spent in listing goals we would like to achieve. Included amongst these goals were:

- the desire to link with other groups involved in reconciliation ministry,
- the need to link with other Anabaptists worldwide,
- the affirmation that regional representatives in Sydney, Melbourne, Sheffield, Auckland, Armidale and Perth would make attempt to make regular contact with people in their areas and build up the networking concept
- the dissemination of articles from an Anabaptist view via other Australian Christian publications
- the further development of our web site for promotion and contact.

October 1999 - Milka Rindszinski for MWC visits Sydney, speaks at Morling College.

November 1999

After nearly two years of publication the AAANZ newsletter was given a title **On the Road** - a title which contains echoes of the early church where Christians were referred to as followers of the way and also to the theme of discipleship, a key theme in the Anabaptist tradition. In 2000 - there was a move to quarterly publication. AAANZ website begun by Gary Baker.

1999 Bruderhof Community begins in Australia (Danthonia in Inverell, NSW).

Membership and other policy issues

One of the problems is that although our incorporation papers included the Statement of Purposes together with the Rules, the membership application makes no reference to the Statement of Purposes. The committee sees this as a problem that should be addressed at the next AGM so that people who join AAANZ have clarity as to what they are joining.

Another membership issue that has arisen is that of group membership. There is no facility for groups to join AAANZ, unless individuals join one by one. It was decided that this situation was acceptable as the Association is actually a network of people not a conference of churches or groups and has no intention of trying to become a denomination. We exist to encourage one another in discipleship, following Jesus "On the Road". This issue was to be revisited and a different approach taken at a later date.

A further question related to clarifying what we mean by "Anabaptism". This question emerged from discussions with a group who found agreement with most Anabaptist principles, but not the peace position. The committee took the view that while we want to

remain in dialogue with such groups, the committee felt that this tenet is foundational to Anabaptist Christianity, but saw the need to develop a clear statement of the core Anabaptist values we wish to uphold as an Association.

Melbourne Conference - The committee decided that the next conference of the Association would be held in Melbourne on the Australia Day weekend in 2001. Bessie Pereira got together a local sub-committee to plan for this event.

February 2000

In November 1999, our immigration lawyer in Melbourne advised that the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs had approved the sponsorship nomination for Mark and Mary Hurst to return to Australia as pastoral workers with a return to Australia likely in June or July 2000.

The Committee ratified Mark and Mary's choice of Sydney as their centre for ministry. Sydney, while not geographically central, offered advantages of ready access to other centres. It was agreed that it was important to have a strong Anabaptist presence in Australia's largest city.

June 2000

A Memorandum of Agreement between the Association, Eastern Mennonite Missions and Mark and Mary Hurst was finalised. The agreement formalised the relationship of AAANZ with the Hursts and their sending agency Eastern Mennonite Missions and clarified the accountabilities of each party. Mark Hurst was the designated pastoral worker while Mary would be free to seek external employment to assist with their support.

AAANZ has committed itself to raising \$5,000 of support in the first year. Under the Memorandum of Agreement AAANZ is also responsible for program costs and workers compensation. The plan was to gradually increase the level of support over time until they can be fully supported from the antipodean base. Although Mark and Mary have not at this stage raised all their North American support, Eastern Mennonite Missions has given them the green light to make their travel arrangements believing by faith that their full support will be forthcoming in the next few months. Mark and Mary are planning to arrive mid-December 2000.

Also noted was a visit of Dr. Stuart Murray of Spurgeon's College London, an Anabaptist scholar and practitioner. Stuart is editor of the British

magazine **Anabaptism Today**, and active in the British Anabaptist movement. He will be meeting AAANZ members in Perth, Canberra and Melbourne and will have teaching duties at Morling College in Sydney.

December 2000

The association registered for an ABN - 80 824 037 619, and GST (quarterly, cash method). The association was endorsed as an income tax exempt charitable entity. Our financial commitment for 2000-2001 will increase. The committee has budgeted for a minimum donation \$5,000. Mark Hurst will commence working for the AAANZ in mid December. Under a memorandum of understanding the EMM will allocate approximately \$(AUS) 50,000 per year for 3 years.

Executive member John Cox disappears while bushwalking on the NSW south coast.

January 2001

AAANZ Conference in Melbourne January 25-28, 2001. The theme of the gathering was "Peacemaking, Reconciliation and Mission" and the setting was Whitley College, the Baptist theological college connected to the University of Melbourne. This was the second national conference since the AAANZ became incorporated as an Australian religious organization.

At the AAANZ meeting in Melbourne during the conference the key theme that emerged from the reflection of the members was the potential role for the Association in networking and providing resources for a range of initiatives in peacemaking and community and church building across Australia in which the Anabaptist tradition was finding a living expression.

The Association is responsible for providing program costs for specific initiatives and the operation of the Association, including for example, workers compensation, insurance and accounting costs related to reporting to the Australian Taxation Office and the dreaded GST. In the longer term the Association is responsible for raising an increasing level of support for the Hursts from within Australia and New Zealand.

Initiatives. A number of specific initiatives have already been provisionally identified in discussions held at the conference and will be the subject of discussion by the Committee over the next few months. These initiatives could include:

- Support for regional activities, where substantial travel costs

- would be involved for the Hursts. New Zealand, Tasmania and Perth come to mind as areas where air travel would be required.
- Upgrading of the Association's web site.
 - Development of educational material on peacemaking with a specific Australian/New Zealand focus.

Mark's role as a pastoral worker was formalized this month.

March 2001 - Mark and Mary Hurst take on the role as editor of 'On The Road'. A special edition was published in response to September 11 attack in the U.S. 'AAANZ Mailings' begun by Mark and Mary Hurst.

October 2001

11th - 13th AAANZ shared an information booth with OIKOS at the Christian Resource Exhibition in Sydney.

December 2001

Issues facing the Association - comments to the Annual General Meeting (via teleconference)

*The challenge facing the Committee this year has been the need to continue dealing with some of the necessary administrative issues while gradually shifting attention to developing a shared sense of priorities for the AAANZ mission and providing support for Mark and Mary Hurst.

*The Association has to position itself as a resource for Australian Christians and church communities in helping to equip them to respond to issues of conflict, peacemaking and individual and communal transformation. This will inevitably raise issues about the form of church life which can sustain those initiatives. The challenge to reflect theologically and ecclesially on the shape of such church planting initiatives is upon us and will stretch our resources and courage.

June 2002

21st - 22nd The AAANZ Committee organized an urban church planting consultation in June. The urban church planting conference came about through the support provided by a grant from Eastern Mennonite Missions. This funding has enabled the Association to engage Stuart Murray-Williams for the seminar on his way down to Melbourne to teach at Whitley College. Stuart had extensive experience in church planting in the UK as well as a deep passion for the Anabaptist tradition and what it has to offer the church.

The Committee has taken the first steps in finding its way forward with a small group meeting in Sydney in May as a visioning Day to identify and discern short and long- term priorities. A group of association supporters in Melbourne will be meeting with Mark and Mary during their next visit to Melbourne to take this process a step further. Planning for the 2003 AAANZ Conference has moved us to reflection around the theme of Peace Church - how to sustain a peacemaking community in a time of violence. How can the community that we call church sustain its witness to God's shalom and non-violence in a time in which violence seems the endemic response to conflict? We are hoping that this will be a time of renewal and focusing of our vision. The other significant issues that the Committee is grappling with relate to the longer term vision for the Association. How can we best serve the New Zealand and Australian church? What should our operating model be for the longer term and what are the resource implications? For a small organisation with limited resources and currently dependent upon support from the Mennonite community in North America there are some real challenges.

29th AAANZ and OIKOS Melbourne event with Stuart Murray Williams.

November 2002

AAANZ "Dreaming Day" in Melbourne.

January 2003

AAANZ conference at Otford just south of Sydney. See details 3.c 'Conferences'.

February 2003

21st - Tom and Christine Sine speak at a conference co-sponsored by AAANZ and Zadok in Melbourne.

March 2003

8th - Tom and Christine Sine speak at a conference co-sponsored by AAANZ and MCSI in Sydney.

May 2003

2nd - Mark and Mary Hurst become Australian citizens.

August 2003

11th - 17th - Mark and Mary Hurst represent AAANZ at MWC Assembly in Zimbabwe.

2004

Mark and Mary Hurst visited Canberra, Adelaide, Geelong, Melbourne, Launceston, and cities on both islands of New Zealand on behalf of AAANZ.

Perth Anabaptist Fellowship formed and joins AAANZ.

January 2005

The bi-annual AAANZ conference was held in Canberra with the theme of "Christianity and Violence." January 2005 was also important because the Anabaptist movement in Australia and New Zealand is formally ten years old. From a fledgling group of people attendance topped 50 with Glenn Kauffman from EMM present to discuss the future of the agreement between AAANZ to EMM

March 2005

With this issue OTR took on the subtitle of the "Journal" of the AAANZ. We think it reflects the maturing of this publication and the Association it represents.

July 2005

Alan and Eleanor Kreider visited Melbourne and Sydney in July. A special AAANZ evening for Melbourne was held on 7 July at Truth and Liberation. The topic - "Praying in the Anabaptist Tradition," exploring both the historical scene and what Mennonites/ Anabaptists in North America are doing today.

In Sydney, AAANZ and Macquarie Christian Studies Institute (MCSI) co-sponsored a day with the Kreiders Saturday, 16 July, 10am-4pm, Trinity Chapel Macquarie, Robert Menzies College The topic was "Worship, Mission, and Peace After Christendom."

The Kreiders also spoke on Wednesday, 20 July, 7.30, Trinity Chapel Macquarie, Robert Menzies College, Their topic was "Is there life after Christendom? The relevance of the Early Church in a post-Christian world.

December 2005

AAANZ was represented by Doug Hynd at a meeting of an international group of Mennonites, Quakers and Brethren in December in December 2005 to discuss how historic peace churches could share their insights on peacemaking with Christians around the world. The group met December 5-9 in Bali, Indonesia, to consider organizing an international peace consultation in Asia 2007. The event would be the third in a series of international consultations organized by historic peace churches.

At a Special General Meeting in March 2006 members agreed to a number of changes to the association rules. Most of these changes were needed because of a slow but steady growth that is spreading the membership beyond the original network of friends that founded the association.

Change 1: Association membership nominations: Membership requirements have been simplified. The membership application only requires a signature by the person wishing to become a member. The former requirement proved impractical and limiting on membership from people who wanted to get involved but did not know an existing member. Change 2: Membership fees: A couple of changes have been made to the provisions around the membership who is supporting the Association and Change 3 - Quorum provisions: The alteration allows for greater flexibility in that it sets a maximum number for the quorum required for an AGM. This means that it will still be possible to have an AGM that meets quorum requirements no matter how big the Association grows.

Relationship with Mennonite organisations

More specifically the AAANZ has been closely connected with Mennonites and Mennonite related organisations and churches in the following ways:

- AAANZ came into existence as a result of the ministry of Mark and Mary Hurst whose work in Australia has been sponsored by Eastern Mennonite Missions (EMM) and the Mennonite Mission Network.
- AAANZ has had an MOU with EMM relating to the financial support and accountability of the Hursts since 1999.
- Members of the Mennonite church in Fennel Bay (NSW) have participated in programs of the Association.
- A number of members of the Association have come to their convictions through the ministry of Mennonite Churches and Fellowships in the United State and the UK.
- The development of the Perth Anabaptist Fellowship has had roots in the presence of Mennonite mission workers (the Stutzmans) and Mennonite scholars visiting the Baptist College in Perth on various occasions over the past twenty years.
- AAANZ has been in contact with the Anabaptist Network in the UK and has hosted Stuart Murray Williams and Alan and Eleanor Kreider in conducting a number of seminars in

Australia and has been in contact through the Hursts with the Korean Anabaptist Centre.

What are our relationships to other Mennonite groups in the world?

- As noted above there has been an ongoing relationship with EMM over the past nine years, including participation by Glenn Kauffman from EMM at the AAANZ conference in Canberra in January 2005.
- The President of AAANZ, Doug Hynd participated at the invitation of the Mennonite Central Committee Peace Committee in a consultation in Bali in December 2005 in preparation for the Asian meeting to be held in November 2007 of the Historic Peace Churches as part of the Decade to Overcome violence.
- Ray Gingerich and Vernon Jantzi from Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, USA, are conducting seminars, preaching and teaching in Australia and New Zealand during 2007 at the invitation of AAANZ, while the Hursts are studying in the USA.
- The Association has assisted in provided hosting to visitors from the Mennonite church during visits to Australia, including James Krabill and Stanley Green from Mennonite Missions Network and Jon Rudy from MCC in the Philippines.

2009

The following is part of an article written by Doug Sewell, President of the Association, entitled 'AAANZ - The Last 10 Years' and published in the December 2009 edition of OTR:

A wider circle

.....I felt there was a need for the Anabaptist Association to look beyond itself and to widen its circle. My first priority (as the new President) was to grow the membership base in order to become sustainable. Readers of the AAANZ Mailings and On the Road were invited to join as members. I reasoned that membership bestowed a sense of ownership that is vital to growth. I wanted to encourage members to develop closer bonds between individuals within the network.

To help explain Anabaptism more resources were needed and the website made more interactive to simply and clearly allow people to understand contemporary Anabaptism and how to get involved. To broaden and strengthen the network AAANZ agreed to partner more

with other groups who shared similar values. We recognised that we were not the only ones on a journey of discipleship and had a lot to learn from others who had been on that road for a lot longer than most of us had. This meant dialogue at first and shared strategies. A couple of AAANZ members attend the Historic Peace Churches - Asia Peace Conference in Solo city, Indonesia, in December 2007.

Telling our story and growing the Anabaptist network became the main focus in 2007. The Story of the Anabaptists was uploaded on YouTube. The Hursts return to the USA for one year opened the way for extended speaking tours by Professors Ray Gingerich and Vernon Jantzi from Eastern Mennonite University. Both Australia and New Zealand suffer a tyranny of distance that engenders isolation. The network forged connections between individuals but also suffered from an inherent weakness in its inability to link up people in real relationships. Gingerich and Jantzi both identified the disconnection felt by many they spoke with during their travels.

A broader dialogue

The professors' visits stimulated considerable dialogue with people from outside of the network. The increased interest resulted in several radio broadcasts in Australia. The Encounter program called The Anabaptist Vision on ABC National Radio brought the Anabaptist network and values of Christian non-violence to the attention of the listening public. ABC presenter Gary Bryson described Anabaptism as "a theological vision that informs the practice and faith of Christians of many different traditions and also a vision to redefine the church."

New connections saw AAANZ people team up with others in the Sydney Network, the Canberra based School of Discipleship, Urban Vision in Wellington and Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT). AAANZ agreed to partner with Quakers in Australia and New Zealand to form a regional Christian Peacemaker Teams Australasia. CPT enabled Christian teams to go to places of conflict to be a peacemaking presence.

Erin and Casper Adson, members of AAANZ, travelled throughout Australia in 2008 to talk about their time with CPT in Hebron, Israel. The Adsons spoke personally about how their lives had been turned upside down by the power of creative non-violence. Their alternative narrative of the Israeli and Palestinian story brought new insight to the long-standing and complex conflict. The opportunities for Christians to engage in direct action as peacemakers generated huge interest amongst a wide spread of churches including Baptist,

Catholic, Quaker and the Uniting Church of Australia.

Irene's Place was a joint venture started by AAANZ, Canberra Baptist and Mennonite Mission Network USA. A house in Canberra offers a one-year residential program for young adult interns to promote the teachings of peace and non-violence by living in community and practicing everyday faith.

Dreamings

The AAANZ executive came together in February 2008 for a weekend retreat at Bundeena south of Sydney to do some dreaming for the network and set some future directions. Bundeena House a large rambling weatherboard cottage borders the Royal National Park and looks across a long beach and the blue waters of Port Hacking. For some of the executive, it was the first time they had met face to face.

An international connectedness with a strong New Zealand representation had been a recent area of growth. Paul McMahan and Margaret Young came from Christchurch and Mark Barnard from Auckland. Jarrod McKenna came from Perth, Ed Love from Launceston, Doug Hynd from Canberra and Gary Baker from Armidale. Ian Packer, Sally Longley along with Mark and Mary Hurst and myself rounded off the team. Each had encouraging stories to tell from their regions about growing partnerships, new table fellowship groups and a home base for Mark and Mary Hurst on the north side of Sydney.

The first evening was spent giving time to some dreaming: What could the Anabaptist network look like 5 years from now? The following morning some of the dreams were unpacked. Images of complex interactive webs that resemble Anabaptist networking were drawn on paper; another picture was riding a wave when the timing is correct and how in the future our reach will not be constrained to physical place as new technologies emerge. As the weekend progressed the group moved on from dreaming to consider the realities and listed the opportunities and constraints that affect life and mission as a network. AAANZ faced major challenges of sustainability. We identified the temptation to try to do too much. Twelve achievable objectives were identified for the next two years. The objectives were grouped into three main areas with strategies and time frames developed for each. This was the list of main objectives:

- Articulating and communicating our Story*
- Growing and sustaining our Network*
- Building relationships and partnerships*

Ways of networking

A Prayer Diary and Directory was started which has been regularly sent to members. The diary enabled members daily to support others in prayer. The directory also provided opportunities for members to host and visit each other.

A new way of networking together by phone was tried by AAANZ in May 2008 when Tom and Christine Sine's visit to Australia created an opportunity to host its first international phone conversation. Tom and Christine met for a table fellowship at the Sydney home of Ian and Libby Packer with about a dozen people. AAANZ members around Australia and New Zealand could call a toll free number to join the discussion.

In August 2008 members joined a phone chat with Dave Andrews. Dave and his wife Ange, members of AAANZ, had lived and worked in intentional communities with marginalised groups of people in Australia and Asia for more than thirty years. They lived in a large joint household with their children, grandchildren and others in an inner city community in Brisbane. Dave spoke about his new book that rescues the Be-Attitudes from obscurity and uses them for Plan Be - "being the change we want to see in the world".

Tim Costello was the next speaker at the AAANZ members' phone chat at the end of the year. Tim talked about the imperatives of dealing with climate change and his personal experience of its deadly effect on the poor living in low lying coastal areas of Myanmar after the devastating cyclone in May 2008. These were followed in 2009 by stimulating phone conversations led by Moriah Hurst who presented the challenges of including youth and young adults in our community life and American peace theologian Angie O'Gorman who talked about peacemaking growing out of an understanding of God as the creator and lover of all people.

Shaping a vision

In the middle of 2009 the AAANZ executive felt the need to clarify its vision, mission and values and to produce an operational manual that could be handed on to future leaders. The core values were developed as the Association's vision statement:

- *Jesus is the centre of our Faith*
- *Community is the centre of our Life*
- *Reconciliation is the centre of our Work*

AAANZ is in the process of forging a new partnership with Mennonite Mission Network (MMN), which is the mission agency of Mennonite Church USA and supports ministry in more than 50 countries. The

Hursts will become independent workers for AAANZ. They have spent a large part of 2009 building a new Mission Support Team in North America under the guidance of MMN. The end of 2009 sees this process still very much up in the air, as funding is not yet secured.

As people who are seeking to understand and actively live out as individuals and communities what it means to be Anabaptists today we share with an increasingly global network of Anabaptists a desire to engage people and cultures with the gospel and to foster a missional identity in the church.

Doug Sewell, President AAANZ

2011

- 9 -10 February - AAANZ Conference held in NZ at Urban Vision's rural retreat in Ngatiawa; Stuart Murray-Williams from the British Anabaptist Network spoke
- Hursts travelled to New Zealand for AAANZ Conference and Passionfest in February; to Melbourne in March for the Surrender Conference, a Praxis workshop and in August to speak during the Seeds Community retreat; to Perth in April and early May for a Wellspring Community National Conference and to speak in Vose Seminary classes

2012

- January-May - Michael Hardin speaking tour in Australia and NZ
- February - Hursts in NZ for Passionfest
- 9-11 March - AAANZ Executive and Groundbreakers Weekend
- 22-25 March - Surrender 2012 in Melbourne
- 19 April - AAANZ Tele-chat with David Augsburger
- 29-30 June - EA Conference in Melbourne, Hursts did a workshop
- 6-8 July - National TEAR Conference, Sydney, display table and workshop
- July -October - Vernon and Dottie Jantzi in Australia and New Zealand covering for the Hursts while they are in North America

2013

- 2013 began for AAANZ with its conference exploring being good multifaith neighbours.
- February - Hursts in New Zealand to catch up with AAANZ members there and to attend the Passionfest gathering held at Urban Vision's Ngatiawa community. This year, as well as visiting people in and around Wellington, they also travelled to Dunedin.
- March - Surrender Conference in Melbourne
- May - Seminar in Canberra called "The Bible, Justice and Public Theology". It was held at the Australian Centre for Christianity & Culture and sponsored by the Centre for Public and Contextual Theology of Charles

Sturt University. The keynote presenter was Chris Marshall and the papers presented focussed on his latest book *Compassionate Justice* (Cascade Books, 2012). The seminar had a very Anabaptist feel. Six of the presenters either self-identified as Anabaptists or had Anabaptist leanings.

- AGM marked a transition in leadership for AAANZ. Doug Sewell finishes as president. Innovations he brought to the organisation include - a new website, AAANZ Tele-conversations, and the Groundbreakers - among others.
- December - Key executive committee member Bessie Pereira dies

2014

- February - Hursts in New Zealand for Passionfest
- March - Hursts in Melbourne for the Surrender Conference and a gathering of AAANZ members from the Melbourne area held at St. Kilda Baptist Church.
- May - June - Darrin Belousek speaking tour in New Zealand and three places in OZ - Sydney, Melbourne, and Canberra.
- July - Hursts in Perth. Nathan Hobby arranged for a meeting of AAANZ members to be held in the library at Vose Seminary. They visited AAANZ folks in Perth and Bunbury during this trip and met with former members of the Peacetree Community for a cuppa' and a chat. Mary has been Skyping with one former member and continues to keep in touch with others to provide a listening ear and advice when requested.
- August - Hursts in Tassie - spoke with people about the discussion questions raised by John McKinnon. Discussed the difficulty AAANZ is having with getting younger people to join an organising committee = same struggle with their local rugby club.
- On a visit to the Rocky Cape Christian Community, a Hutterite community of about 35 people, the Hursts saw networking in action!
- 24 August, Hursts spoke at City Baptist in Launceston on the topic of "Anabaptism As Subversion." They experienced a continued interest in Anabaptism.

2015

- February - Hursts in New Zealand for Passionfest
- March - Hursts in Melbourne for the Surrender Conference
- February - March - Sarah Thompson in Australia and New Zealand speaking about Christian Peacemaker Teams
- 19 May - Hursts participate in a Love Makes A Way sit-in in Prime Minister Turnbull's office
- July - Four AAANZ members participate in a gathering in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA, of Anabaptist Networks from around the world and then participate in the Mennonite World Conference Assembly held in Harrisburg

- August - Hursts speak during "The Art of Forgiveness" conference held in Auckland, New Zealand
- July-August - Vernon and Dottie Jantzi in Australia covering for the Hursts while they are in North America

2016

- AAANZ executive committee day in Avalon NSW on 16 January. It was the first meeting of our newly constituted AAANZ executive.
- April - Hursts and Anslow's in New Zealand for Passionfest.
- The Hurst's did a Skype call for UK Anabaptist Network's webinar series on the issue of peace. The webinar went for over an hour and was well received. During the year the Hursts participated with other AAANZ members in activities sponsored by Love Makes A Way (LMAW), trying to get the Australian government to change its policies on asylum seekers. One of these activities landed them in the Downing Centre Court in Sydney on 17 May facing charges for illegally "entering inclosed lands". They got off without penalty and remain committed to the important work of LMAW.
- 17 June - The first "On The Road" Friday night gathering at the Quaker House in Surry Hills NSW. This is a new AAANZ initiative this year. There were two more, in July and August.

2017

- The year for AAANZ began with its bi-annual conference in Sydney 27-29 January. With the help of Enten Eller from the USA, we were able to live stream much of the conference to people around the world. Many of the talks were recorded and are now on the AAANZ website.
- Throughout 2017 there were at least four AAANZ Executive Committee meetings (both in person and through computer hook-ups), one Friday night gathering in Sydney, and three Table Fellowship Webinars. The Hursts took three pastoral trips on behalf of AAANZ this year to New Zealand, Melbourne, and Tasmania.

2018

- On a weekly basis the Hursts edit and publish the AAANZ Mailing that presently goes out to 337 subscribers and they respond to emails that come into AAANZ.
- 10 March, 19 May, 21 July, 8 September - AAANZ Table Fellowship Webinars
- 21 - 25 March - Surrender Conference in Melbourne
- December - Hursts move to 190 Magpie Hollow Road

2019

- January - AAANZ Conference "Reconcile"; Mennonite Mission Network published an article about AAANZ's reconciliation service with Aboriginal

folk at the conference: Survival Day Covenant Signed In Australia.

- March - Hursts attended Passionfest in New Zealand (15-17 March); Christchurch shootings occurred during this time and affected the whole conference and time afterward that Hursts spent visiting people around the Wellington area
- June - September - Hursts in USA for a last speaking tour of Mennonite churches on behalf of Mennonite Mission Network;
- Hursts retired from MMN at the end of September
- Hursts hosted close to 20 visitors at Magpie Hollow; Thomas Fougnie, a French Mennonite working in the Lithgow area, lives with the Hursts (after house sitting for them during their USA trip)
- AAANZ Mailing list at 345 subscribers around Australia and New Zealand

2020

- January - AAANZ Executive Committee met at Magpie Hollow at the end of the month. Naomi Tice, from Mennonite Mission Network, arrived on 23 January for what was meant to be a three-month stay but lengthened to a seven-and-a-half-month sojourn due to Covid-19.
- Covid-19 led to the cancellation of most of the planned activities for the year (Passionfest, Surrender, etc.)
- Beginning in July, AAANZ began using Zoom to gather online in "First Saturday" events. During the five Zoom meetings held this year we heard about the results of an AAANZ survey of members and subscribers, had presentations from Doug Hynd, Valentina Satvedi, and Matt Clarke, and had a chance to discuss the future of AAANZ.
- The number of AAANZ Mailing subscribers over this year grew to 353.

Conferences - Dates, places and themes

1995 - 19th - 21st May. Southland, Sheffield, Tasmania. "A Call To Gather: Anabaptism in Australasia". 18 people attended.

Speakers: Chris Marshall and David Shenk. Outcome - Anabaptist Network" was born.

1999 - 11th - 14th June. Wollongong Surf Leisure Resort NSW. Speakers: Graeme Chatfield and Mark and Mary Hurst. Inaugural AGM.

2001 - 25th - 28th January. Melbourne - Whitley College, Victoria. "Peacemaking, Reconciliation and Mission - An Anabaptist Perspective for the 21st Century Church". Speakers - Marita Munro, Gordon Preece, Mark and Mary Hurst, Ross Langmead and Tim Costello. Church services with Anabaptist emphasis on the Sunday - Collins Street Baptist Church and Truth and Liberation Concern, Bayswater.

2003 - 24th - 26th January. Sydney - Otford Conference Centre, NSW. "Peace Church: Sustaining Discipleship for Building Community in a Violent Time". The Gathering focused on 'Peace with God, Peace with Yourself, Peace in the Church, Peace with Neighbours/Community, Peace in the World.

2005 - 21st - 24th January. Canberra, ACT. 'Christianity and Violence'. Dr Chris Marshall, William Oates, Christine Vertucci - East Timor.

2007 - 19th - 22nd January. Perth - Fairbridge Village Pinjarra, WA. 'Living Anabaptism - Seeking a Community of Promise'. Speakers - Nathan Hobby, Dr Ian Barnes, Dr John Olley, Ian Packer, Jarrod McKenna & Christina Gibb.

2009 - 23rd - 26th January. Melbourne - Mt Evelyn, VIC. 'Communities of the Kingdom - New Monasticism and Anabaptism' Speakers - Gordon Preece, Paul Wallis, Community of the Transfiguration, with further input by Peacetree, 'Seeds' (Urban Seed), Urban Neighbours of Hope, Jahwork,

2011 - February. To be held near Wellington, NZ. Host alongside Passionfest and with Urban Vision

2013 - Sydney 25-27 January - "From Pieces to Peace: Being Neighbours In A Multi-Faith World"

2017 - Sydney 27-29 January - "Called To Community" - With the help of Enten Eller from the USA, we were able to live stream much of the conference to people around the world. Many of the talks were recorded and are now on the AAANZ website.

2019 - Sydney 25-28 January - "Reconcile"; Mennonite Mission Network published an article about AAANZ's reconciliation service with Aboriginal folk at the conference: Survival Day Covenant Signed In Australia.

List of Presidents

1998	Colin Isaac
1999 - 2000	Ian Duckham
2001 - 2002 and 2006	Doug Hynd
2003 - 2005	Ross Coleman
2007 - 2013	Doug Sewell
2014 - 2015	John McKinnon
2016 -2019	Gary Baker
2020 - present	Valentina Satvedi

List of Committee Members

May 1995 (arising from the first gathering)

Chris Marshall (NZ) Ian Duckham (WA) Tim Dyer (Tas) John Cox (ACT) Doug Hynd (ACT) Ross Langmead (Vic) Tim Costello (Vic) Bessie Pereira (Vic) Colin Isaac (NSW) Di Coleman (NSW) Gary Baker (NSW)

August 1998 (after Incorporation)

Colin Isaac	President
Tim Dyer	Treasurer
Gary Baker	Secretary
Bessie Pereira	Minutes Secretary
Doug Hynd	Newsletter Editor
Tim Costello	Public Officer
Diane Coleman (NSW)	
John Cox (ACT)	Ian Duckham (WA)
Ross Langmead (VIC)	

November 1998 - changes to committee -

Diane Coleman	Secretary
Gary Baker	Treasurer

June 1999 14th June - at the inaugural AGM of AAANZ.

Ian Duckham	President
Doug Hynd	Vice President
Ross Coleman	Secretary
Gary Baker	Treasurer
Tim Costello	Public

Officer.

Bessie Pereira (VIC), Tim Dyer (TAS), John
Cox (ACT), Chris Marshall (NZ)

2000

Ian Duckham President
Doug Hynd Vice President
Ross Coleman Secretary
Gary Baker Treasurer
Tim Costello Public Officer Bessie Pereira(VIC)
Tim Dyer (Tas) John Cox (ACT)
Chris Marshall (NZ Wellington)

2001

Doug Hynd President
Chris Marshall Vice President
Ross Coleman Secretary
Gary Baker Treasurer
Bessie Pereira Membership Secretary
Tim Costello Public Officer
Marcus Curnow (Proxy for Tim Costello)
Ian Duckham (WA)
Ian Packer (WA)
Ed and Karlin Love (TAS)
Neil and Saralyn Horsburg (VIC)

2002

2003

2004

2005

Ross Coleman President
Doug Hynd Vice President
Harry Wykman Secretary
Ed Love Treasurer
Bessie Pereira Public Officer/Membership Secretary
Brad Schilling (WA)
Gary Baker (NSW)
Doug Sewell (NSW)

2006

Doug Hynd President
Bessie Pereira Vice President.
Nicole James Secretary.

Sue McKinnon Treasurer
Bessie Pereira Public Officer
Doug Sewell (NSW) Gary Baker (NSW) Brad Schilling (WA)

2007

Doug Sewell President
Doug Hynd Vice President
Ed Love Secretary
John McKinnon Treasurer
Sally Longley Membership Secretary (Aust)
Margaret Young Membership Secretary (NZ)
Bessie Pereira Public Officer Gary Baker (NSW)
Brad Schilling (WA)

2008

Doug Sewell President
Doug Hynd Vice President
Ed Love Secretary
John McKinnon Treasurer
Sally Longley Membership Secretary (Aust)
Margaret Young Membership Secretary (NZ)
Bessie Pereira Public Officer
Gary Baker (NSW)
Mark Barnard (NZ Auckland) Jarrod McKenna (WA)
Paul McMahon (NZ Christchurch) Ian Packer (NSW)

2009

Doug Sewell President
Doug Hynd Vice President
Ed Love Secretary
John McKinnon Treasurer
Sally Longley Membership Secretary
Bessie Pereira Public Officer
Gary Baker (NSW)
Mark Barnard (NZ Auckland) Jarrod McKenna (WA)
Ian Packer (NSW)

2010

Doug Sewell President
Bessie Pereira Vice president
Ed Love Secretary
John McKinnon Treasurer
Ben Snare Membership Secretary
Bessie Pereira Public Officer
Erin Adson (WA)
Gary Baker (NSW)

Mark Barnard (NZ Wellington) Doug Hynd (ACT)
Jarrod McKenna (WA) Ian Packer (NSW)
Andrew Shepherd (NZ Wanaka)

2011

Doug Sewell	President
Bessie Pereira	Vice president
Ed Love	Secretary
John McKinnon	Treasurer

Erin Adson (WA), Gary Baker (NSW), Doug Hynd (ACT), Jarrod McKenna (WA), Ian Packer (NSW), John and Sue McKinnon (NSW), Nathan Hobby (WA), Mark Barnard (NZ Wellington), Andrew Shepherd (NZ Wanaka)

2012

Doug Sewell	President
Gary Baker	Vice president
Ed Love	Secretary
John McKinnon	Treasurer

Bruce Hamill (NZ), Joshua Hobby (WA), Doug Hynd (ACT), Ian Packer (NSW)

2013

Doug Sewell	President
Gary Baker	Vice president
Max Wright	Secretary
John McKinnon	Treasurer

Nathan Hobby (WA)

2014

John McKinnon	President
Gary Baker	Vice president
Max Wright	Secretary
	Treasurer

Groundbreakers - Neil and Margaret Holm (QLD), Bruce Hamill (NZ), Dale Hess (Vic), Matt Stone (NSW), Ed Love (TAS)

2015

John McKinnon	President
Gary Baker	Vice president
Fiona Tito Wheatland	Secretary / Public Officer
Sue McKinnon	Treasurer

Matt Anslow (NSW)

2016

Gary Baker	President
Matt Anslow	Vice president
Fiona Tito Wheatland	Secretary / Public Officer
John McKinnon	Treasurer

Lucy Jarasius Park (NSW), Marc Pasques (NSW), Shane Fenwick (NSW)

2017

Gary Baker	President
Matt Anslow	Vice president
Fiona Tito Wheatland	Secretary / Public Officer
Marc Pasques	Treasurer

Lucy Jarasius Park (NSW), Mary Hurst (NSW), Mark Hurst (NSW), Shane Fenwick (NSW)

2018

Gary Baker	President
Matt Anslow	Vice president
Fiona Tito Wheatland	Secretary / Public Officer
Marc Pasques	Treasurer

1. Lucy Jarasius Park (NSW), Valentina Satvedi Leydon (Vic), Katherine Moloney (NSW)

2019

Gary Baker	President
Matt Anslow	Vice president
Katherine Moloney	Secretary
Marc Pasques	Treasurer
Fiona Tito Wheatland	Public Officer

Lucy Jarasius Park (NSW), Valentina Satvedi Leydon (Vic)

2020

Valentina Satvedi Leydon	President
Matt Anslow	Vice president
Fiona Tito Wheatland	Secretary / Public Officer
Bruce Davies	Treasurer

Jim Longley (NSW), Gary Baker (NSW), Lucy Jarasius Park (NSW), Ed Love (TAS)

2021

Valentina Satvedi Leydon	President
Matthew Clarke	Vice president
Kathy Cave	Secretary
Bruce Davies	Treasurer/ Public Officer

Jim Longley (NSW), Gary Baker (NSW), Lucy Jarasius Park (Qld), Ed Love (TAS)