



“I dream of an ecumenical movement as a movement of people who are messengers of God’s grace, a people open to each other and discovering the presence of Christ and of God’s grace in the other. To see Christ in the other is so much stronger than all that separates us...”

Rev'd Dr Samel Kobia, former General Secretary of the World Council of Churches

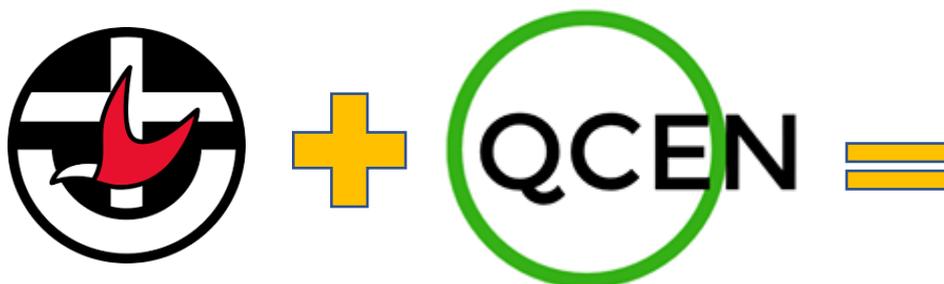


From **The General Secretary**

In our second edition of the QCT Newsletter you will see that we have been very active in a variety of activities. The Queensland Churches Environmental Network is fully engaged during the Season of Creation that runs through the month of September while the Joint Churches Domestic Violence Prevention Project organised and ran a very successful seminar on preventing Domestic and Family Violence at the Churches of Christ centre, Kenmore. As well we are preparing for the QCT Assembly on 20th October with the theme “Making Safer Churches”. Please continue to send news of your ecumenical activities to Jackie at admin@qct.org.au. Check out our Facebook page for all the latest news on ecumenism around the world.

Rev'd Canon Richard Tatin

QCEN



Queensland Churches Environment Network (QCEN) regularly visits member churches as an opportunity to see what the Churches are doing in terms of the environment, and how the Churches and QCEN can be of help to one another. In July QCEN visited the Uniting Church headquarters and heard presentations from Judene Andrews, Sustainability Manager of Uniting Care; Rev Dr Peter Hobson of Wesley Missions Qld and representatives from the Bulimba Uniting Parish.

Judene talked of Uniting Care's goal to reduce carbon emissions and to minimise their environmental footprint. By the efficient and effective management of energy, waste, water and fleet they have realised savings of over \$600,000 pa (1,200 tonnes of CO₂) since 2014. Their future strategy is to reduce their carbon footprint by 5% by 2020 and increase their recycling to 15%.

Peter Hobson talked of new builds and how Wesley Mission Qld ensure that new builds are constructed with sustainability at the fore.

Finally, Bulimba Parish reported on their Green Church journey. Bulimba have set the target of being a zero CO₂ emitting Church by 2020. They plan to reach the target by reducing how much energy they use; buying/generating renewable energy and buying offset carbon credit. Over the past few years they have been replacing inefficient white goods; insulated the roof; replaced lightbulbs; installed a 1.5kW Solar PV system; installed water efficient devices and a water tank; held a garage sale to reuse goods and reduce landfill. In the future they plan to switch their electricity provider to Energy Locals.

Resulting from the visit, QCEN will be organising a half day workshop on sustainability and the Church.



Season of Creation

Runs from September 1st (the day of prayer for Creation)
to October 4th (feast day of St Francis)

Faith leaders' invitation to join the Season of Creation June 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you; or the bushes of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?” (Job 12:7-9, NRSV)

Once every year, from September 1 to October 4, we as members of the Christian family set aside time to deepen our relationship with the Creator, each other, and all of creation. This is the Season of Creation, which began in 1989 with the first recognition of the day of prayer for creation by the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the Orthodox Church, and which is now embraced by the wider ecumenical family.

During the Season of Creation, we join together to rejoice in the good gift of creation and reflect on how we care for it. This season offers a precious opportunity to pause in the midst of our day-to-day lives and contemplate the fabric of life into which we are woven.

As the environmental crisis deepens, we Christians are urgently called to witness to our faith by taking bold action to preserve the gift we share. As the psalmist sings, “The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein” (Psalm 24:1-2). During the Season of Creation, we ask ourselves: Do our actions honor the Lord as Creator? Are there ways to deepen our faith by protecting “the least of these,” who are most vulnerable to the consequences of environmental degradation?

We invite you to join us on a journey of faith that challenges and rewards us with fresh perspective and deeper bonds of love. United in our sincere wish to protect creation and all those who share it, we join hands across denominations as sisters and brothers in Christ. During this season, we walk together towards greater stewardship of our place in creation.

“O Lord my God, you are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent” (Psalm 104:1-2).

In God's grace,

Archbishop Job of Telmessos, Permanent Representative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to the WCC, on behalf of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

Most Rev. & Rt. Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

Cardinal Peter K.A. Turkson, Prefect, Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary, World Council of Churches

Rev. Dr. Chris Ferguson, General Secretary, World Communion of Reformed Churches

Bishop Efraim Tendero, Secretary-General, World Evangelical Alliance

Rev. Dr. Martin Junge, General Secretary, Lutheran World Federation

Mr. Rudelmar Bueno de Faria, General Secretary, ACT Alliance

Fr. Heikki Huttunen, General Secretary, Conference of European Churches

What QCEN are doing to celebrate Season of Creation



Photo submitted by Linda Carrington

Many of you will have seen a flyer inviting all to share photographs and artworks celebrating Creation. All submitted photos have been posted on QCEN's facebook page, and a selection have been printed and are on display at St John's Anglican Cathedral, Brisbane, throughout the Season.

Check out www.seasonofcreation.org for resources that can be used by parishes to celebrate Creation

On the 4th October, at the close of the Season, there will be a screening of the documentary "Living the Change" at Chermside Uniting Church (corner Gympie Rd and Rode Rd) from 7.00pm. All are welcome.

LIVING THE CHANGE

INSPIRING STORIES FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



FREE SCREENING 4TH OCTOBER

CHERMSIDE KEDRON UNITING CHURCH 7.00pm

Corner Gympie Rd and Rode Rd

As part of the Season of Creation,
Queensland Churches Environmental Network (QCEN) will be screening
Living the Change, a documentary that explores solutions to the
Global Crisis we face today.

Living the Change uses inspiring stories to show how we can live
in a sustainable and regenerative way.

ALL WELCOME!

Enquiries: Tel. 3369 6792 or email admin@qct.org.au

**"You've probably had those moments of despair when you think it's just
hopeless and the world is always going to be this way,
but there's also -maybe more of a heart knowing that understands that a
more beautiful world is possible." Charles Eisenstein**



The Joint Churches Domestic Violence Project JCDVPP

On the 1st September the JCDVPP team held their first half day training on Domestic Violence prevention. Almost 50 participants joined the team for the training seminar which combined personal stories with education, resources and theology. Feedback was very positive from the seminar and the team hope to back up the training with further seminars down the track. It would be nice to be able to take the training seminar further afield, this may mean applying for funding grants to cover the costs of travel. In the mean time JCDVPP are working on the revised Train the Trainer Manual which should hopefully be complete by the end of the year.



From **The QCT Exec..**

Assembly Preparations are under way for the Assembly meeting on 20th October. This year the theme will be **Creating Safer Churches** and will be open to a wider audience than the normal Assembly meetings. The programme should include presentations from the State Govt, three Churches and a representative from the NCCA Safe Churches. At this point in time we are looking at the feasibility of filming the proceedings, or even live streaming, so that those who are unable to get to Brisbane will not miss out.

Michael Putney Memorial Lecture This years lecture will take the form of a service at St John's Cathedral on 18th November. We can confirm that Rev David Gill will be speaker/preacher at this special service.

Multi Faith



On 23rd August around 200 people enjoyed the One G_d, Many Voices concert organised by The Qld Forum for Jews, Christians and Muslims. It was wonderful to see people of different faiths enjoying music together from the Jewish Christian and Muslim faiths, and afterwards a Kosher-Halal supper. A highlight was children from the Wisdom College Choir, the Australian International Islamic College Choir and children from the Beit Or Sunday school joining together to sing the National Anthem.

At the beginning of September approximately 70 people came together to share food and launch the Faith Food guide produced by Queensland Faith Communities Council. The guide outlines the dietary requirements of different cultural and religious groups. Check out <https://qfcc.org.au/food-guide/> to view the guide.

From **The NCCA..**

The NCCA secretariat have published the following prayer, from Rev. Simon Hansford, Moderator of the Uniting Church NSW/ACT for the continued drought in NSW and QLD:

*We pray for the land
we hear the promise you have spoken in Isaiah
of the refreshment of the creation;
of water in the desert,
of renewal for the land,
of hope, of life.*

*We name our simple need – rain for our thirsty land.
Our tanks and dams are nearly empty,
like our hopes for this season.*

*Please, loving God, bring us rain
to renew the ground, to replenish our dams,
to bring some chance of feed,
to bring the possibility of some reward
to those who have toiled so hard.
We turn to you in faith and hope.*

*We pray for our community
We pray for all those whose lives
are under the shadow of drought.
We think first of those who work with the land,
for farmers and their families,
for those who rely upon the land for their life and relationships.*

*We pray for contractors, merchants and truck drivers,
for rural counsellors and support workers,
for all our rural community.*

*May the refreshment of your Spirit,
present in miraculous and truly human ways,
be with all of us as we move forward into the days ahead.*

*We pray, too, for justice;
for fair prices for our stock and our wool and our crops.
We pray for governments, banks and corporations –
to be driven by the wisdom
of community, justice and compassion
not simply the folly of the dollar and the bottom line.*

*We pray for each other,
keep us aware of the needs of those around us:
for those who are struggling,
who are grieving,
who are ill, who are dying.*

*Restore those who are far from you
with the knowledge that they are loved and valued.*

*Give them not just a sense of renewal,
but a sense of hope and purpose for lives
that are finding the journey hard.*

*Let us see the miracle of healing
in relationships,
in lives,
in communities,
where there is illness
and hope is far away.*

*Keep us always conscious of the task we have
in ministry and mission in your world.*

We offer all these prayers in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce (ACRT)

ACRT have produced a pamphlet called “Dignity Not Destitution”, highlighting the plight of around 12,000 people seeking asylum who are at risk of losing core services and financial support. To download the pamphlet, and details of how you can make a difference go to:

<http://www.acrt.com.au/wp-content/uploads/ACRT-DignityNotDestitution-04.pdf>

From **The WCC..**

- WCC celebrated their 70th anniversary on August 23rd, in the very spot it was first founded - Nieuwe Kerk- a 15th Century Church in Amsterdam. The celebrations included a Youth Pilgrimage; Symposium: “Hospitality on a Pilgrim’s way to peace and justice”; a walk of peace and anniversary service.
- World Week of Peace in Palestine and Israel 16th – 23rd September (including International Day of Prayer for Peace on 21st September). During the week, Church organisations, congregations and people of faith are encouraged to bear a common witness by participating in worship services, educational events and acts of support in favour of a just peace for Palestinians and Israelis.
- WCC -Catholic Joint Working Group (JWG): A group of 18 Theologians and Church Leaders from different denominations have been meeting in Ausburg, Germany to work together on two documents, one calling for closer collaboration on Peace Building and the other looking at the care of migrants and refugees.

In an interview at the meeting Metropolitan Nifon of Targoviste asserted, “We believe it is our duty to debate these two issues, first of all theologically and spiritually because this is our platform. We are not a United Nations organisation to pretend to be analysts, politically, economically, socially and so on. The churches should get involved in world affairs , but on the basis of our Christian convictions and dynamics.”

Catholic Archbishop Dairmund Martin from Dublin said of the working group, “We share many problems , so we have to find new forms of ecumenical collaboration, not just of theological questions, but on the way in which, together, we witness to Jesus Christ in a complex world.