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# ASCM JANUARY NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING

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<b>ASCM JANUARY NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1 ATTENDANCE .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2 APOLOGIES .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3 WELCOME .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4 ASCM REVIEW.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5 REPORTS .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6 MOVEMENT BUILDING.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>7 ASCM BUSINESS.....</b>	<b>7</b>
7.1 NATIONAL COORDINATOR ROLE.....	7
7.2 TREASURER .....	8
7.3 JG.....	8
7.4 WSCF LIAISON OFFICER .....	9
7.5 WOMEN’S OFFICERS .....	9
7.6 MINUTES SECRETARY.....	9
7.7 PASTORAL CARE COORDINATOR .....	10
7.8 MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM TERMS FOR NATIONAL POSITIONS .....	10
7.9 CARBON NEUTRAL .....	10
7.10 ASCM-NCCA CONSULTATION.....	11
7.11 JULY 2008 NATIONAL CONFERENCE.....	12
7.12 HISTORY BOOK.....	12
7.13 MERCHANDISE.....	12
7.14 JANUARY MEETINGS.....	13
<b>8 MONEY MATTERS .....</b>	<b>13</b>
8.1 ASCM BUDGET .....	13
8.2 FUNDING FOR LOCAL STAFF .....	14
8.3 BANK ACCOUNTS .....	14
8.4 ASCM ENDOWMENT ASSOCIATION (TRUST FUND).....	14
<b>9 WSCF .....</b>	<b>15</b>
9.1 GREETINGS FROM WSCF.....	15
9.2 2008 EVENTS .....	15
9.3 SCMA –ASCM RELATIONSHIP.....	16
9.4 WSCF EAP FUNDING.....	16
<b>10 CLOSING.....</b>	<b>17</b>

<b>11</b>	<b>APPENDICES .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>A1.</b>	<b>ASCM REVIEW NOTES .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>A2.</b>	<b>WA REPORT .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>A3.</b>	<b>QLD REPORT .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>A4.</b>	<b>ACT REPORT .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>A5.</b>	<b>VIC REPORT .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>A6.</b>	<b>NSW REPORT.....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>A7.</b>	<b>TREASURER’S REPORT.....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>A8.</b>	<b>WSCF LIAISON OFFICER REPORT.....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>A9.</b>	<b>WEBWEAVER REPORT .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>A10.</b>	<b>DATABASE COORDINATOR REPORT .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>A11.</b>	<b>MOVEMENT BUILDING DISCUSSION NOTES .....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>A12.</b>	<b>CARBON NEUTRAL DISCUSSION PAPER .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>A13.</b>	<b>ASCM HISTORY BOOK UPDATE .....</b>	<b>37</b>

## 1 ATTENDANCE

Diane Hatwell, George Hatwell, Clare Menck, Annabel Dulhunty, Tiffany Hammer, Anastasia Dalziell, Claudine Chionh, Tim Ngui, Bronislava Chappie Lee, Nikki Coleman, Andrew Bowyer.

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Annabel Dulhunty (National Coordinator)	Claudine Chionh (Vic rep)
Anastasia Dalziell (Women's Officer & ACT rep)	PARTIAL ATTENDANCE:
Tiffany Hammer (QLD Staff Worker & Area Council rep)	Tim Ngui (WSCF Officer, NSW rep) Friday from 5pm, Sat-Sun
Diane Hatwell (Treasurer)	Bronislava Lee (NSW rep & Women's Officer) Sun
George Hatwell (WA rep)	Andrew Bowyer (facilitator) Friday afternoon
Clare Schulz (WA staff worker, Acting Minutes Secretary)	Nikki Coleman (ANU Staff Worker) Sat afternoon

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## 2 APOLOGIES

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Bronislava Lee (for Friday & Saturday)	Caroline Loader (Qld Staff Worker)
Tim Ngui (for Friday)	

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## 3 WELCOME

Every one present was welcomed and Andrew opened the gathering with prayer. Clare and Anastasia gave an explanation of decision making by consensus and the structure of ASCM. All participants shared what they were hoping for from the meetings.

## 4 ASCM REVIEW

Andrew Bowyer facilitated a visioning session to review and discuss the vision and purpose of ASCM, to enable all present to make wise decisions through the meetings, especially with regards to the future of ASCM. In addition to the delegates present, the discussion took into account 32 responses to an online review survey that was posted on 31 December 2007. Notes from the review are included at Attachment A11.

The review showed that those involved with ASCM generally understand the vision and purpose of ASCM, which remains to be open, active, ecumenical and critical. However, the movement clearly struggles to effectively convey this vision and purpose to others. It was agreed that ASCM needs to work together to promote our identity. This is to include clear Orientation Day (O-day) promotions, and delegates agreed that branches would attempt to work together around the country towards this goal.

Resolutions arising from the review:

*Resolutions: That delegates commit to specific goals in response to the review, and report back to JGC. [Action: All present]*

*Resolution: That outcomes of the review be forwarded to students and supporters of ASCM, by means of the email lists, website and letter to Area Councils, as an encouragement to all those involved, and with an invitation for those not present at the Executive Meetings to also commit to actions in response. [Action: Annabel & Diane]*

*Resolution: That monitoring of actions to address our organisational challenges be a regular agenda item for national meetings. [Action: Annabel]*

*Resolution: That resources developed by local SCM branches be shared between branches using the Policy List. [Action: all staff workers and volunteer leaders]*

*Resolution: That O-week planning be a regular agenda item for January Executive Meetings. [Action: National Coordinator]*

*Resolution: That an ASCM 'frequently asked questions' leaflet be produced for use at O-days and linking to the website. [Action: Clare]*

*Resolution: That a general ASCM promotional poster be produced, including space to write on details of specific events. [Action: Clare & Policy List]*

*Resolution: That an article about ASCM's recent involvement with WSCF events be written for the NSW UCA magazine, and also distributed to SCM networks for potential promotional use as applicable. [Action: Bronislava]*

*Resolution: That an article and/or letter for church newsletters outlining who ASCM is and how to contact us be produced and distributed to all states for adaptation and use in local publications. [Action: Anastasia]*

*Resolution: That an article be developed suitable for inclusion in student newspapers under ASCM's name. [Action: Tim]*

A suggested topic for this article was 'Kevin Rudd and the Church'. However, Tim was given discretion to select his topic.

*Resolution: That ASCM at a national and local level seek out like-minded networks and groups, and share events where possible. [Action: all present]*

Two like-minded groups suggested were Oaktree and Roots & Shoots.

## **5 REPORTS**

The following reports were accepted as presented:

- Western Australia [Appendix A2]
- Queensland [Appendix A3]
- ACT [Appendix A4]
- Victoria [Appendix A5]
- NSW [Appendix A6]
- Treasurer [Appendix A7]
- WSCF Liaison [Appendix A8]
- Webweaver [Appendix A9]
- Database Coordinator [Appendix A10]

Resolutions arising from reports:

*Resolution: That the National Executive formally thank Peter Bailey (retiring ACT Area Council Chair) for his active involvement with ASCM for over 60 years. [Action: Annabel]*

*Resolution: That ACT Area Council send materials relating to advertising for and employing a new staff worker to WA Area Council to assist with the search for a staff worker to replace Clare. [Action: Anastasia]*

*Resolution: That the National Executive affirm Queensland's new venture employing staff workers for promotion in schools, monitor how this pans out, and consider promoting this approach in other states if it appears successful. [Action: Annabel]*

*Resolution: That Queensland Area Council be requested to report to the July General Committee meeting [JGC] about how this venture is going, with particular*

*attention to whether the paid staff hours are sufficient to achieve the goals of the venture. [Action: Tiffany]*

*Resolution: That the National Executive approach Wes Campbell, chaplain at Melbourne University, to see if there is any way we can support and/or partner with his work with students. [Action: Claudine]*

*Resolution: That the National Executive take action to facilitate raising awareness of WSCF events with Wes Campbell's group and/or the theology student gatherings that Claudine is involved with by:*

- Offering to send the next WSCF officer to Melbourne to meet with students; [Action: Claudine] and,*
- Committing funds to enable this to happen should Melbourne accept the invitation. [Action: Diane]*

*Resolution: That both the small Melbourne groups mentioned above and Christian Students Uniting at Sydney Uni be formally invited to attend ASCM 2008 national conference in Sydney. [Action: NSW Area Council]*

*Resolution: That Claudine and the Victorian Area Council be affirmed in their work rebuilding ASCM in Melbourne, and offered any support available. [Action: Annabel]*

*Resolution: That a discussion regarding SCM's ongoing relationship with CSU be on the agenda for JGC in Sydney, and that a member of CSU be invited to attend that meeting. [Action: Annabel]*

*Resolution: That information regarding the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission be forwarded to the policy list, together with information about other appropriate groups that may have been investigated for this purpose previously, for a decision as to who to forward the annual 'Pay the Rent' budget line payment to. [Action: Tim & Bronislava]*

*Resolution: That the National Executive acknowledge the significant work that Diane Hatwell has undertaken to bring ASCM's financial books back into order. [Action: all present]*

*Resolution: That the WSCF Liaison Officer be responsible for submitting brief reports to WSCF-AP and IRO, preferably at least twice a year, updating them on what is happening in ASCM. [Action: WSCF Officer]*

*Resolution: That the ASCM website include a page with information and images from our involvement in WSCF events. [Action: WSCF Officer & Chris Jeffery]*

*Resolution: That the ASCM actively explore ways to connect local branches with WSCF, in particular the Western Australian branches, including but not limited to the following:*

- *Sending ASCM delegates to WSCF events to Perth, possibly as part of their return journey from an event.*
- *Circulating stories from delegates that raise awareness of personal links with SCMerS in other countries.*
- *Considering including WA in the itinerary for regional officers visiting Australia.*
- *Investigating the option of hosting a regional women's event in Perth.*
- *Investigating ways to invite and fund delegates from regional countries to ASCM events.*

*[Action: WSCF Officer, Annabel & Clare]*

*Resolution: That local branches be encouraged to work with the Web Weaver regarding the possibilities for further coordination and integration of ASCM national and branch websites, and those without webpages be invited to provide information for at least a simple page. [Action: Area Council delegates to the meeting & Diane]*

*Resolution: That the National Executive move a vote of thanks to Chris Jeffery for his excellent IT support for ASCM. [Action: Annabel]*

*Resolution: That a proposal regarding the issue of migrating ASCM chat lists to commercial group-hosting schemes be presented to JGC, including a variety of options, for a decision at that time. [Action: Chris Jeffery]*

## **6 MOVEMENT BUILDING**

Time was set aside on Saturday afternoon for sharing between branches of ideas for local events, programs and promotion. An energetic and optimistic discussion ensued. Notes from this discussion are attached at Appendix A11.

## **7 ASCM BUSINESS**

### ***7.1 National Coordinator role***

There was some discussion regarding what the difficulties were regarding finding someone to fill the role of National Coordinator, and whether a paid position would be more appropriate.

Annabel Dulhunty has come forward since the July General Committee meetings [JGC] in 2007 to take on the role of National Coordinator. She was appointed by the Executive, through email discussions, to act in the role until this Executive meeting. She also represented ASCM at the National Coordinators meeting in Bangkok on December.

*Resolution: That Annabel Dulhunty be appointed to the role of National Coordinator for a term of three years, with an understanding that her circumstances may change such that she is not able to complete this term. [Action: all present]*

*Resolution: That Annabel be requested to notify ASCM if she is unable to continue in the role as soon as she is aware of this, and that ASCM act promptly after this to begin the process of finding the next National Coordinator. [Action: Annabel & National Executive Committee]*

*Resolution: That ASCM actively facilitate new delegates to national events. [Action: Area Councils]*

*Resolution: That the current role description for the National Coordinator be maintained, but included on the agendas for at least the next two national meetings to ensure it is reviewed and amended as appropriate in response to Annabel's experiences in attempting to fulfil it. [Action: Annabel]*

*Resolution: That at this stage the National Coordinator role continue as an honorarium rather than waged position, but that this also be reviewed at future meetings and when the time comes to find the next National Coordinator. [Action: Annabel]*

## **7.2 Treasurer**

Diane will be travelling overseas for much of the next year with an uncertain return date.

Bronwyn Crowe has offered to maintain the books while Diane is away, including attending JGC as treasurer, on the proviso that the books are up to date when Diane leaves.

*Resolution: That the National Executive approve a job-share arrangement between Diane and Bronwyn for the treasurer role in 2008, to be negotiated between them to suit their needs. [Action: Diane & Bronwyn]*

*Resolution: That this arrangement be reviewed in July 2008 to determine whether the position of treasurer should be advertised for a new appointment in January 2009. [Action: Annabel]*

## **7.3 JG**

It was acknowledged that Clare has resigned from the role and it has not been possible to find a replacement editor or editorial team.

It was acknowledged that no JG would be produced until a suitable editor or team could be located, which would include having no current JG for Orientation Days in 2008.

It was noted that subscribers had been informed that, due to the lack of editor, production of JG was suspended until further notice. Subscribers were given the opportunity to request their money back, but none have taken up this offer.

*Resolution: That Kerensa McElroy be approached to see whether she is willing to take on the JG Editor's role when she returns to Australia in mid-2008. [Action: Clare]*

*Resolution: That Barrie Baker be formally asked to take on the production and mailing aspects of JG once it is restarted, as he has offered to do.. [Action: Clare]*

*Resolution: That should either of these people decline to take on these roles, the position be readvertised, including a mail-out to the JG subscriber list. [Action: Annabel]*

#### **7.4 WSCF Liaison Officer**

Tim Ngui has completed his term in the position and is not applying to continue. Eloise Wright (ACT) has applied for the position.

*Resolution: That Eloise Wright be appointed to the position of WSCF Liaison Officer for a period of two years. [Action: all present]*

#### **7.5 Women's Officers**

Bronislava Lee and Anastasia have been sharing the role for two years. Both are happy to continue, although Anastasia has little time to give to it between meetings and is willing to hand over the role if someone with more available time is interested.

The intention of having two women's officers was that the two-year terms overlapped, rather than finishing at the same time.

*Resolution: That Bronislava be appointed to the role of Women's Officer for a term of one year. [Action: all present]*

*Resolution: That the second women's officer position be advertised for a term of two years. [Action: Anastasia and Bronislava]*

#### **7.6 Minutes Secretary**

Rachel Anderson has formally resigned from the role of Minutes Secretary.

*Resolution: That the role of Minutes Secretary be advertised, for an appointment via email prior to JGC if possible. [Action: Annabel]*

*Resolution: That Clare Menck continue as Acting Minutes Secretary until someone is appointed to the position, on the understanding that she cannot commit to attending all national meetings. [Action: Clare]*

### **7.7 Pastoral Care Coordinator**

*Resolution: That Barrie Baker, the current Pastoral Care Coordinator, be asked to liaise with Annabel to find her appropriate pastoral support while she is the ASCM National Coordinator. [Action: Clare]*

*Resolution: That the functioning of the Pastoral Care Coordinator be reviewed at JGC. [Action: Annabel]*

*Resolution: That Barrie Baker be invited and funded to attend JGC for this discussion. [Action: Annabel]*

### **7.8 Minimum and Maximum terms for National Positions**

It has been noted as a concern that there are no maximum terms set for national positions.

*Resolution: That a maximum term of three years be set for all national positions, such that at the conclusion of three continuous years service in any role the position must be readvertised. [Action: Annabel]*

*Resolution: That should a serving office bearer wish to reapply for their position, they are free to be re-elected, and can then serve for another three years. [Action: Annabel]*

*Resolution: That at the time of appointing someone to any national position they be asked to commit to a minimum term of appointment, to be determined in discussion with the National Executive, and that an expected term of appointment be specified. [Action: Annabel & Minutes Secretary]*

### **7.9 Carbon Neutral**

Anastasia submitted a report into options to address our carbon output as a movement. [Appendix A12]

It was acknowledged that as a small organisation with few material resources we have few opportunities to make real differences to carbon output through changing practice or offsetting carbon output.

ASCM's greatest source of carbon outputs is our travel. It was agreed that reducing ASCM's travel would significantly threaten the viability of the national movement in its current state.

It was noted that advocacy was the most effective means of addressing carbon output available to ASCM.

*Resolution: That the Carbon policy developed at January Executive Meeting 2007 be brought to JGC for review, especially to include policy relating to delegate travel and involvement in WSCF events. [Action: Annabel]*

*Resolution: That ASCM advertise for an Environmental Project Officer, for a recommended two year term, to resource the movement to effectively advocate for measures to address climate change, and to suggest practical ways to reduce ASCM's carbon emissions. [Action: Anastasia]*

*Resolution: That branches and individual ASCMers be encouraged to reduce carbon output and to build cultures of environmental awareness into the practice of the movement. [Action: all present, and Diane in Area Council letter]*

*Resolution: That ASCM fund a revegetation project, beginning in the 2008-09 financial year, to build organisational awareness of environmental issues and address some of the impacts of climate change on native species. [Action: Treasurer]*

*Resolution: That the specific project to be supported be decided at JGC, after the presentation of information about a number of options. [Action: Tiffany & Treasurer]*

### **7.10 ASCM-NCCA Consultation**

There has been some discussion about the possibility of a more formal association with the NCCA (National Council of Churches).

*Resolution: That Sandy Yule, of the World Council of Churches, be approached regarding possible relationships with ASCM. [Action: Claudine]*

WSCF has asked ASCM to hold a consultation with the NCCA. Resolutions made regarding this matter at JGC 2007 have not been pursued.

There was discussion of the outcomes of the ASCM review survey, which indicated that many respondents felt little connection with institutional church or the NCCA. It was noted that NCCA provides significant support to ASCM in the form of financial management, and may be a resources in other ways that have not yet been explored.

*Resolution: That Annabel meet with the NCCA Sydney office. [Action: Annabel]*

*Resolution: That options for involving NCCA in the Sydney National Conference be investigated and pursued if feasible. [Action: NSW Area Council]*

### **7.11 July 2008 National Conference**

Planning is on track for National Conference 2008 to be in Sydney. It was agreed to aim for dates in the first week of July for Conference. It was noted that a venue needs to be booked soon, as there is pressure on Sydney accommodation mid-year due to World Youth Day (14-20 July). Some theme ideas were discussed, but it was agreed that NSW should be free to find their own theme. There was some discussion of how much formal content was required. It was agreed to allow NSW organisers discretion in planning an event that suits their available organising time and resources.

### **7.12 History Book**

An update on the progress of producing the Centennial History Book was received from the History Book Committee. [Appendix A13]. The Committee has requested a grant of \$10,000 to enable the publication of the book, which has been written.

*Resolution: That the request for \$10,000 be granted to the History Book Committee from the Trust Fund. [Action: Diane]*

*Resolution: That the History Book Committee be requested to provide a report to all national meetings until the book project is completed; and in particular, that they provide clarification for JGC about:*

- *the outcome of contract negotiations with UNSW Press; and,*
- *how profits and/or losses from the production of the book will be managed in the long term.*

*[Action: Diane]*

### **7.13 Merchandise**

*Resolution: That an audit be undertaken of existing merchandise, so that it can be redistributed to where it is currently needed and reprinted if necessary. [Diane]*

*Resolution: That a reprint of the green ASCM 'Is God...?' T-shirts be undertaken, including an amended design to include 'Queer?' as one of the questions. [Action: Merchandise Officer & Diane]*

*Resolution: That a new ASCM promotional poster be developed and printed. [Action: Clare in conjunction with Policy List]*

### **7.14 January Meetings**

There was discussion about whether a model of billeting/ travel to meeting venue or shared accommodation at meeting venue works better. It was agreed that sharing accommodation is a preferred model at the moment.

There was some discussion about whether to include professional development for staff workers and volunteer SCM leaders in the January meetings.

*Resolution: That staff workers and volunteer leaders prepare a list of possible topics/ workshops that would be useful professional development, to inform a decision at JGC about what if any professional development to include in the January 2009 meetings. [Action: Clare]*

*Resolution: That external options for professional development be investigated. [Action: Clare]*

It was noted that the timetabling of professional development within January meetings may be arranged so that staff workers and/or delegates to the meetings do not need to attend the entire program.

Queensland Area Council has offered to host the January 2009 National Executive Meetings.

*Resolution: That the January 2009 National Executive Meetings be held in Queensland, and that the Queensland Area Council be thanked for their offer. [Action: Tiffany & Annabel]*

## **8 MONEY MATTERS**

### **8.1 ASCM Budget**

Diane presented an update on the status of the ASCM Budget for 2007/08. *[See Treasurer's Report, A7]*

It was noted that ASCM were working with our funds conservatively, with the main spending areas being funding for local staff workers and travel expenses.

Diane proposed that a regular budget line be introduced for donations to SCMs in the Asia Pacific region.

*Resolution: That the deficit be covered by the UCA account. [Action: Diane]*

*Resolution: That the budget be accepted as presented. [Action: Diane]*

## **8.2 Funding for Local Staff**

Area Councils in Queensland and the ACT have submitted requests for grants of \$4000 each to support local staff workers.

*Resolution: That both Queensland and ACT Area Councils be granted \$4000 to support staff workers for 2008. [Action: Diane]*

*Resolution: That a letter be written to Area Councils informing them that major budget decisions are made at the July General Committee meetings [JGC], and to invite all Area Councils to submit requests to JGC for funding staff workers in 2009. [Action: Diane]*

*Resolution: That the JGC Agenda include a seminar on employment of staff workers, led by an external specialist, incorporating discussion of the relative value of casual vs permanent part time employment or contracting; relevant award wages and other standards; and practical issues of managing employment. [Action: Annabel & NSW Area Council]*

*Resolution: That as a result of this seminar a 'handbook' to guide the employment of ASCM staff workers begin to be developed. [Action: JGC]*

## **8.3 Bank Accounts**

*Resolution: That the signatories for the Conference Account should be Bronislava Lee, Tim Ngui, Annabel Dulhunty, and Diane Hatwell. [Action: Diane]*

*Resolution: That the signatories for the General Account should be Annabel Dulhunty, Barrie Baker, Bronislava Lee and Bronwyn Crowe. [Action: Diane]*

*Resolution: That the signatories for the UCA Account should be Annabel Dulhunty, Barrie Baker, Bronislava Lee and Bronwyn Crowe. [Action: Diane]*

It was noted that at JGC 2007 Diane was authorised to investigate changing bank accounts if suitable. Investigation showed that the best option would be to retain the existing accounts.

## **8.4 ASCM Endowment Association (Trust Fund)**

Two positions on the Endowment Association, which manages the Trust Fund, are becoming vacant, as Rachel Palmer and John Ball are stepping down. Barrie Baker and Robert Tulip have expressed willingness to serve on the ASCM Endowment Association Inc.

*Resolution: That Barrie Baker and Robert Tulip be approved to serve on the ASCM Endowment Association Inc. [Action: Diane]*

## 9 WSCF

### 9.1 Greetings from WSCF

Annabel has recently been in Geneva and visited WSCF head office. Michael Wallace, the General Secretary of WSCF, sent greetings to ASCM and encouraged ASCM to keep up communication with the regional and international movements.

*Resolution: That the outcomes of the review process be sent to Michael Wallace.[Action: Annabel]*

### 9.2 2008 Events

The following WSCF events are coming up in 2008. ASCM is eligible to send a delegate to those marked with an asterisk.

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Human Rights Working Group (PWG) Meeting**, 4 – 8 January, Hong Kong
- **EASYNET Coordinating Team Meeting**, 7 – 9 January, Manila, Philippines
- **WSCF AP Human Rights Committee Meeting**, 10 – 12 or 21 - 23 February, Bangkok, Thailand
- **WSCF Global Staff and Officers Meeting**, 13 – 20 February, Geneva, Switzerland
- **WSCF – SCM Pakistan Joint Women’s Program**, 6- 8 March, Lahore, Pakistan
- **CCA - WSCF Joint Program (CWP) Committee Meeting**, March, Chiangmai, Thailand (*tentative*)
- **WSCF Sub-regional Women’s Program on the theme ‘Women in war & Conflict situation, HIV/AIDS and Poverty’**, May, South Asia
- **\*WSCF Global Program on Students and Higher Education**, 7-13 May, Finland
- **\*WSCF AP Regional Human Rights Program: Student Conference on the theme ‘Internally Displaced, Migration and Trafficking’**, June, Thailand (*details to be announced later*)
- **\*Human Rights Internship Program on Trafficking, Migration in 2008**, June (*details to be announced later*)
- **\*Regional Women’s Internship Programme**, June, Bangkok, Thailand
- **\*WSCF RCM Pre-women’s Meeting**, 23 – 25, July, Hong Kong (*tentative*)
- **\*WSCF AP 18<sup>th</sup> Regional Committee Meeting**, 26 – 29, July, Hong Kong (*tentative*)
- **\*WSCF 34<sup>th</sup> General Assembly on the theme ‘Your Sons and Daughters Shall Prophecy’**, 31 July – 10 August, Montreal, Canada

- **WSCF Women's Sub-regional Program on the theme Women, Migration and Trafficking** August, Southeast Asia
- **\*Student Empowerment for Transformation (SET) Program on the theme 'Young People Becoming Stewards of the Environment'**, August 28 - 2 September, Seoul, Korea (*tentative*)
- **\*3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Student and Youth Gathering (ASYG) on the theme "Youth Across Boundaries...Redefining a Culture of Peace"**, 3-9 September, Seoul, Korea
- **WSCF Sub-regional Women's Program on the theme 'Gender Sensitivity workshop and women's sexuality'**, October, Northeast Asia
- **\*Bossey Ecumenical Institute, Switzerland, 2008** (applications open for Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies)

Tim encouraged all present to seek delegates for events. It was noted that Jazz Dron has already been selected to be ASCM's representative to the 34<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

### **9.3 SCMA –ASCM relationship**

Annabel met with Ed Franks, the National Coordinator of SCMA, at the National Coordinators' meeting in December. SCMA is in a similar situation to ASCM, and would like to increase interaction and sharing of resources where possible.

*Resolution: That the ASCM National Coordinator maintain regular contact with SCMA.  
[Action: Annabel]*

*Resolution: That the summary of our review and actions from the review be forwarded to SCMA. [Action: Annabel]*

*Resolution: That both National Coordinators be on the appropriate email lists for each organisation (in Australia, the Policy List). [Action: Annabel & Chris]*

*Resolution: That SCMA be formally invited to send delegates to ASCM 2008 national conference. [Action: Annabel & NSW Area Council]*

It was noted that SCMA delegates would need to meet their own conference costs.

### **9.4 WSCF EAP Funding**

Many WSCF movements in the Asia Pacific region are significantly dependant on EAP (Ecumenical Assistance Program) funding, especially the Philippines, Sri Lanka & Cambodia. It is likely that EAP will cease funding WSCF in the near future, which will significantly impact the ability of these SCMs to continue operating. Annabel understands that Sri Lanka

and Cambodia appear that to have plans for alternate funding underway. The Philippines have approached ASCM requesting financial assistance.

*Resolution: That ASCM commit to financially supporting the Philippines SCM (SCMP) AU\$1500 per year for three years, beginning with the 2008-09 financial year. [Action: Treasurer]*

*Resolution: That six months prior to the conclusion of these three years (January 2011), ongoing payment to the Philippines be reviewed, and continued if appropriate. [Action: National Coordinator & Treasurer]*

*Resolution: That ASCM explore ways to build stronger links with the SCMP, including promoting their work in ASCM fundraising appeals and offering ASCM Friends the chance to directly support SCMP. [Action: Annabel & Treasurer]*

*Resolution: That ASCM promotion and activities (especially O-days) include our support of SCMP. [Action: Annabel & Human Rights Officers]*

*Resolution: That Area Councils be informed of ASCM's commitment to connection with SCMP and encouraged to facilitate the relationship. [Action: Diane]*

*Resolution: That the Human Rights Officers be requested to assist local branches with action plans and information regarding human rights issues in the Philippines. [Action: Annabel & Human Rights Officers]*

*Resolution: That Annabel investigate the possibility of arranging for Filipino SCMPers who visit Sydney for World Youth Day to also meet with ASCMPers in Sydney, and also Canberra if possible. [Action: Annabel]*

## **10 CLOSING**

All present thanked Anastasia and the ACT Area Council for their hospitality.

Bronislava led a closing prayer.

## **11 APPENDICES**

### **A1. ASCM REVIEW NOTES**

#### **ASCM Strengths:**

- Vision statements reflect what people in surveys are saying are the strengths/ characteristics of ASCM, but less clarity in the way this is manifested.
- Nurturing
- Sharing knowledge/ intellectual stuff
- Engaging with issues/ action for social justice
- Being an alternative to AFES
- Flexibility to be yourself/ find yourself
- Space to use analytical skills learned at uni to apply to faith
- Events (eg. Qld relationship seminars) that connect with students outside Christian culture
- Offer an alternative that appeals to older/ more mature students also (ie not willing to dumb down/ not too simple)
- WSCF connections are great, and are wonderful opportunities to enrich local groups
- Supportive network of Friends (Senior and Young)
- Intimacy of gatherings/ community/ friendships built; pastoral care between each other
- National resources eg brochures/ T-shirts/ website/ JG
- Prophetic voice – something of ASCM’s charism/ call/ vocation (inc. being critical of church stuff and critical of our culture)
- JG has been a great strength
- Space for liberal/ leftist Christians to have a voice and be included
- An ‘alternate church’ for those without allegiance to an institutional church esp those who have been burnt/ are transitioning out of other churches
- Space to actively explore ideas of and act out implications of faith
- History of our small numbers nurturing people of great value to church/ wider society - creating amazing leaders and changers
- Gives students contact with students from other disciplines (a secular form of ‘ecumenism’) which is hard to get at uni in many courses.
- Those who have been involved have a really good sense of what ASCM is/ has been, and despite variance there are general themes that line up with open/active/ecumenical/critical

**ASCM Weaknesses/ Challenges:**

- Flexibility can mean fuzziness – unclear what to give to people – needing people to tell us who they want us to be but then nothing definite to promote.
- Small numbers – struggling to meet critical mass
- Lack of critical mass means few workers for much work; few workers to do the work of finding others; no way to be a little bit involved – either REALLY involved (asked to be national coordinator!) or nothing
- Appeal to older students means we can lose them fairly quickly as they are close to graduating when they find us
- Defining ourselves in the negative only ‘we are not AFES’
- How to find the people who would enjoy SCM without scaring them away? How to convey that we don’t want to grab/ convert/ brainwash/ con? How to convey that we are not interested in telling people they are wrong?
- Are we for people exploring faith for the first time or for those who grew up in church and are now at uni?
- We can be out of touch with the younger students, as we are mostly not young/ undergraduates/ newbies.
- Coming up against nasty experiences people have had with Christian groups that make them wary of anything ‘Christian’
- Advertising events with an ‘institutional label’ can scare people away (fears in Vic re existing groups and labels)
- Working against apathy/ culture of religious life having to be private.
- Complacent – happy with each other’s company so not working to gather others
- Small numbers can be intimidating for new people
- ‘In language’ can be daunting (esp theological language)
- Lack of support between branches/ staff workers between national meetings (would be good to share ideas together/ work on things like O-day promo together)
- People don’t know we exist
- Effective PR takes a huge effort and we are under-resourced for it
- People who brush against us don’t know who we are/ what we do/be and we have a communication problem in conveying ourselves well
- We are known in some circles as a reactionary body (even dangerous)
- Liberal fundamentalism can be an issue; leftist assumptions not necessarily inclusive
- Are we for *young students* or for *students*? If for students of all ages then need to work on ways to include/ attract/ pastor mature age students; If for young students that’s OK but needs to be clear in our PR etc.
- Are we an ‘alternate church’ or are we working with/in institutional churches?

- ASCM's identity struggles may come out of the number of people within ASCM who don't have any other 'church' so seek this in ASCM – but can we really provide what a church is? Is this beyond us?
- Not sure what it is we are meant to provide – are we trying to do/be everything, beyond what we are meant to provide?
- People come to events but don't identify as part of SCM
- Changes to student life and pressures of timetabling make traditional models difficult; also impact how much volunteer time is available
- Challenge of student disconnection from WSCF (or even ASCM)

## **A2. WA REPORT**

### *When I feel good:*

We are a vibrant, active small group with strong friendships, who enable each other to journey faith with integrity and take on the challenges of living out Christ's call to be good news to the marginalised and oppressed. Our email updates keep us in touch with over 100 people, many of whom express their appreciation of this service as they are otherwise unable to be involved in SCM. We maintain a presence at two universities, Murdoch and UWA, and also gather off-campus for relatively regular movie/ discussion nights and other events. National Conference in June-July was an excellent inspiring week, and we have had very positive response to other events we have run through the year, particularly the Federal Election Information Forum in October. Our on-campus events have connected with a handful of new people in the past year and we are hopeful of continuing these connections. A supportive network of Friends maintains an active Area Council and provides social and prayer support for me as Development Worker. We maintain a positive relationship with the Council of Churches WA.

### *When I don't feel good:*

We are a tiny ad hoc collection of people, struggling to gather critical mass at either university. It is a huge turnout if we have five people, and numerous meetings through the year have had no-one show up. Much of the time I find working for SCM stressful and difficult, and feel we are somehow failing to 'market' ourselves as an available on-campus resource for students who do not fit within the large evangelical Christian groups. Our WA students, with the exception of some who have been involved for a long time, have no particular interest in connecting with ASCM or WSCF, and I have not been able to foster such an interest, even when National Conference was in Perth. New contacts remain on the edges of SCM and as a result we do not have the numbers we need to affiliate with Guild, particularly as Guild requires us to identify Office Bearers. Almost all our new contacts from the last year, and some of our core members, are either graduating, shifting to a university where we are not active, or spending time out of the state this year.

### *Which is true?*

Both. There is great life, potential and hope in ASCM WA. It is also hanging by a thread and fraught with difficulties. Particular hi-lights of the year have been:

- National Conference: a small attendance did not dim spirits, and the input from guest speakers and ASCM presenters was excellent and inspiring.
- World Day of Prayer for Students, held at Mt Hawthorn Community Church, including prayers and readings from WSCF and ASCM WA, and a panel interview with tertiary students talking about what life is like as a Christian at uni.
- Federal Election Information Forum, held at Murdoch at the end of October, presenting information about justice issues and facilitating a discussion with Federal candidates about these issues. The on-line information produced as a result was also an exciting resource to pass on beyond the forum itself.

Other events have been: movie & discussion nights, weekly lunchtime gatherings at UWA and Murdoch (mostly discussing issues from the newspaper), weekly prayers for peace and justice space at Murdoch, end of year review time & thanksgiving worship & celebration BBQ, lunch guests especially Neville Watson (on Iraq) and Young Christian Workers (on young people and work).

*Clare Menck – ASCM WA Development Worker*

### **A3. QLD REPORT**

We in the *Queensland SCM* are trying to raise awareness of *SCM* in various ways.

For example, making use of email contact, I email a regular *SCM Newsletter* to around forty students and graduates who have links with *SCM*.

In order to make contact with senior secondary students, in second semester I visited another Anglican school to encourage students to link up with *SCM*. That venture had good support from the school chaplain. Consequent to the visit, six Grade 12 students expressed a desire to be kept in touch with *SCM*. I subsequently posted off a copy of *JG* to them and added them to the *SCM Newsletter* email list.

The *SCM Dinner Party* scheduled to be held at Caroline Loader's home on 30<sup>th</sup> June was cancelled because of the small number who responded. For the last couple of years we have held two each year. This event enables students from various campuses, as well as recent graduates, to keep in touch with *SCM* activity. This time, however, there looked like being only 4 of us around the table, whereas numbers in the past have ranged from 9 to 14. (There were no current students in that 4 either.)

Later in the year we arranged for a *SCM Luncheon* to enable Grade 12 students hoping to study at university to meet current undergraduates and graduates. Again numbers were small (only 5 of us were present and no secondary or undergraduate students).

The most significant recent development has been the decision by the *Qld Area Council* to appoint three (3) *part-time SCM Development Workers* for 2008. The working briefs envisaged are as follows:

- Caroline Loader to continue as a part-time *SCM Staff Worker* with a particular brief to make contact with senior students at Catholic schools to seek to link interested students to the *SCM* network and relevant *SCM* events as well as being a fellow-team member liaising with Tiffany Hammer at the *ACU* campus.
- Tiffany Hammer\* was appointed to be a *part-time SCM Development Worker* based at the *ACU* campus. As well, Tiffany will be the *Qld SCM Area Council* delegate to the *National ASCM Committee* meeting in Canberra from the 18-20 January, 2008.

[\* Tiffany is doing a *Master of Theology* at the *Australian Catholic University* and has been accepted by the Brisbane Anglican diocese to enter the Formation Program to test her vocation for ordination. Tiffany is specializing in her study on the apostle Junia (*Romans 16:7*). Tiffany also resonates with the ecumenical and progressive dimensions of *SCM*.]

- A third person be employed as a part-time *SCM Staff Worker* with a particular brief to make contact with senior students at Anglican, Uniting Church and other church schools to seek to link interested students to the *SCM* network and relevant *SCM* events.

Unfortunately the possibility of a nucleus of students studying at a *Griffith University* campus becoming linked to *SCM* did not eventuate. Despite repeated efforts Ray needs to try again to make contact with Heather Cetrangolo as regards any future possibilities.

One other positive development this year has been the expansion of membership of the *SCM Area Council*. Six new members have joined the *Area Council (AC)*. They bring to the *AC* not only their experience of working with students and also a wider ecumenical vision.

The response to the 2007 appeal for funds for the *Qld SCM Area Council* amounted to a little over \$3,000. Currently we have around \$5,000 in the *Area Council's* account.

There are two (2) items that the *Qld SCM Area Council* wishes to bring to the forthcoming *National ASCM Committee* meeting.

1. A request for funding for \$4,000 to assist the *Qld SCM Area Council* to pay for the additional *part-time SCM Development Workers*
2. To suggest that the venture the *Qld SCM Area Council* is launching as regards encouraging senior secondary school students to be linked to the *SCM* network be considered as a strategy worth emulating in other states in Australia.

*Ray Barraclough – Convenor of the Qld SCM Area Council*

#### **A4. ACT REPORT**

##### *ACT Area Council*

In June the ANU area council appointed a new development worker: Nikki Coleman. Despite the difficulties of reviving ANUSCM during the Canberra winter she has done extremely well!!

Late last year Peter Bailey decided to be a little less involved in SCM after 60 years of active service. I have replaced him as area council chair and would like to thank him for his many years of productive work!

*Anastasia Dalziell*

##### *ACT SCM – June to December 2007*

After a relatively positive first half of the year, the second half of the year was disappointing. There were a number of students who finished their degrees in the middle of the year or were away doing field work in the second half of the year, and so numbers of people attending events were down.

Activities included :

- a fun dinner where we were able to get to know each other better and share our passions and faith stories
- a fortnightly get together to discuss issues – which included a free lunch or cake to entice members to come along
- regular email updates about what was happening on campus, in the local community, and across Australia (especially in regard to the election & the war in Iraq etc)
- joining in the world day of prayer for students with a local congregation

We are hoping that we will be able to pick up some more active members in 2008.

*Nikki Coleman*

## **A5. VIC REPORT**

### *Victorian Area Council*

A group of Friends met a few times in 2007 to reflect on the recent history of SCM in Victoria and consider activities and strategies for the future.

Claire Vincent went overseas in October and Claudine took her place as Victorian rep.

### *University of Melbourne*

Wes Campbell took up the position of Uniting Church chaplain in mid-2007 and has been involved in Area Council discussions. He has also gathered a group of students who have met for midweek prayer and other events. This group may become part of an SCM-like presence on campus.

Claudine has completed her degree at Melbourne and is now studying at the United Faculty of Theology. She has remained in contact with Wes and will try to get other theological students involved this year.

### *Victoria University*

A group has continued to meet under the direction of Helen Hill. Liz Baptista attended the national conference in July 2007.

*Claudine Chionh  
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia*

## **A6. NSW REPORT**

There have been several meetings of NSW SCMerS through the year. Bron and Tim met with CSU (Christian Students Uniting) to talk about the possible affiliation. The process is slow but ongoing. Area Council meets semi regularly. Tim's house has been a base for NSW SCM and this is appreciated. There is a lot of energy for SCM amongst the group, despite heavy workloads. Bron has energy for planning National Conference in June/ July 2008, and Annabel has recently taken on the National Coordinator role.

*Verbal report from Bron, Tim and Annabel*

Chappie and I also met with Andrew Goodwin and another member of Christian Students Uniting after the July exec meeting to communicate the resolutions passed. The affiliation process is in train but is occurring slowly which I think is a good thing. CSU will need to meet to consider our resolutions and will get back to us once they have. Andrew Goodwin is overseas on exchange presently and I haven't spoken to anyone else from CSU since our last meeting.

*Written report from Tim*

**A7. TREASURER'S REPORT**

**National Treasurer's Report  
 January General Committee Meeting 2008**

Diane Hatwell

Introduction

Since my last report in July 2007 I have made considerable progress in finalising the books from 2005 onwards, and thanks must go to the people who have coped with my persistent questions regarding how the finances of ASCM work. While I am disappointed that I cannot report the books to have been audited, I am waiting for some final copies of paperwork from various financial institutions and hope to have everything sorted shortly. There are still a few outstanding payments, but I do not believe them to be large.

The budget below was drawn up in July 2007. We were uncertain how far behind we were with paying some obligations, hence the amount for honorariums was high, and we were keen for the national movement to support staff workers, on the theory that a movement with money but no members seems pointless. The budget for June 2007 - May 2008 is compared with expenditure for June to December 2007 and projections for January to May 2008, to give an idea of how the previous year's expenditure fits with the budget.

**Balance sheet: 1/1/07 to 31/12/07**

**Assets:**

General Account	\$14,376.19
UCA Account	\$66,000.00
Conference Account	\$1,108.97
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$81,485.16</b>

**Liabilities**

Moneys held	
WSCF	\$50.00
Centenary Trust	\$550.00
Bronwyn Crowe	\$800.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,400.00</b>
<b><u>Net Worth ASCM</u></b>	<b><u>\$80,085.16</u></b>

**Profit and Loss Statement: 1/6/07 to 31/12/07**

The table below shows the income and expenditure of ASCM compared to our budget. The first column indicates the budget for the year, and the second column shows our actual income and expenditure for the past 7 months. The Projected column is the money that is available for the next 5 months until the end of the financial year. Any anomalies are noted under "Comments"

<b>Category Description</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Comments</b>
	<b>Jun-May</b>	<b>Jun-Dec</b>	<b>Jan-May</b>		
<b>Receipts</b>					
National Conference	4,500	1,916	1,000	-1,584	
Donations Received	18,000	11,324	1,000	-5,676	
Interest Received	3,600	2,000	2,000	400	Actual is approximate
Subscriptions - JG	800	396	45	-359	
Trust Request	0		10,000	10,000	

<b>Category Description</b>	<b>Budget Jun-May</b>	<b>Actual Jun-Dec</b>	<b>Projected Jan-May</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Fund transfer	0	5,000		5,000	UCA funds, not sustainable long term.
				0	
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>26,900</b>	<b>20,636</b>	<b>14,045</b>	<b>7,781</b>	
<b>Payments</b>					
Travel Expenses				0	
Jan Exec Meeting	5,500	0	2,098	3,402	
July Exec Meeting	2,500	2,314	0	186	
National Coordinator	500	0	500	0	
WSCF Delegate	1,200	0	1,200	0	
NCCA Delegate	100	0	100	0	
WSCF Conferences	2,100	863	1,237	0	Hannah, Bron L, plus expenses for Annabel to be added
Sponsorship	0	1,100	1,100	-2,200	
Unbudget Travel	750	0	750	0	
National Conf Subsidy	800	200	600	0	
Office Bearer Expenses	500	407	93	0	
Telephone	100	0	100	0	
Honorariums	10,000	3,800	0	6,200	
Production Expenses - JG	3,200	231	1,200	1,769	JG in March 2007
Mailouts - Appeal	1,000	575	0	425	
Promotional Materials	500	300	200	0	
Accounting Fees	1,550	3	1,500	47	books still to be audited
Bank Charges	50	104	50	-104	
Form Lodgement	40	38	0	2	
PO Box	100	0	0	100	
National Conference	4,500	970		3,530	
Hosting Meetings	600	190	400	10	
Donations				0	
WSCF	600	0	600	0	This still needs to be paid.
WSCF-AP	300	5,332	0	-5,032	to SCM Indonesia + Bangladesh and WSCF
Pay the Rent	300		300	0	
NCCA	70	66	0	4	
Staff Worker Funding	10,000	4,500	5,500	0	Includes \$1200 for organisation of Nat Conf.
Other Expenses	0			0	
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>46,860</b>	<b>20,993</b>	<b>17,528</b>	<b>8,339</b>	
				0	
<b>NET</b>	<b>-19,960</b>	<b>-357</b>	<b>-3,483</b>	<b>-16,120</b>	

## **A8. WSCF LIAISON OFFICER REPORT**

The main regional programs attended by the ASCM this year include the Human Rights Defender's workshop and International Solidarity Mission in Manila which Hannah attended on our behalf, the Women Doing Theology Workshop in Seoul attended by Chappie and the General Secretary and the National Coordinator's Meeting in Bangkok attended by Annabel. Participants to these programs were fully briefed prior to their attendance and debriefed on their return. Thanks to Clare Menck for debriefing Hannah in Perth.

The Inter Regional Women's Program in Cairo and the Inter Regional program on Migration was advertised on the 2007 WSCF Program and Activities Announcement. However we did not receive an invitation to these events from the Inter Regional Office and thus were unable to send anybody. I asked Annabel to follow this up at the National Coordinator's Meeting and it appears the oversight was due to an outdated IRO contact list. An updated contact list was compiled at the National Coordinator's Meeting so hopefully this should not happen again.

I also had some correspondence with Jazz Dron who had expressed interest in attending the Bossey Ecumenical Institute however after some thought she decided against applying. I also received an email from Eloise Wright who intends to apply for the WSCF Liaison position. I will be able to induct her once she returns from China on 21 January 2008.

Other correspondence received includes the request for funds from Bangladesh SCM on account of the recent cyclone and flooding which devastated large tracts of land in Bangladesh. Thanks to the executive for being able to make a reasonably quick decision and also Diane Hatwell for transferring the funds. I received an email today from Martin Gomes who said he received the funds and transferred them to the Bangladesh SCM bank account. The payment has greatly strengthened the solidarity between our movements and they are extremely grateful that we could assist.

This is my last report as WSCF Liaison. Thank you to everyone I have had the pleasure of working with over the last two years. It has truly been a privilege and an honour to serve you and the WSCF.

*Tim Ngui  
Sydney  
13 January 2008*

## **A9. WEBWEAVER REPORT**

### *Webweaver's Report January 2008*

As discussed in my last report, the technical issues, which we experienced with Uniting Communications/Silogen have stabilised, however this is due to our successful transition of our website and email aliases being hosted by on our new server hosted at Ilisys earlier in the year. The email lists are currently still being hosted by Silogen, and will continue to be so until we evaluate a supported product. As listed in my previous report, I am currently working on a number of projects. In this report, I would like to provide updates on these:

#### *Increasing website content and updates*

I have continued to receive content and updates for the website, with some regular contributors providing useful information which has formed the regularly updated "news and events" section on the home page. Thank you to Clare and Tim who have provided regular content and updates for inclusion on the website. I would like to encourage anyone and

everyone who has an item you feel should be added to please email me. I am also still looking for a number of photos for our committee members. It would be greatly appreciated if you could please send a photo of yourself to me for inclusion on this page.

*Merging of state and branch websites and lists*

In liaising with Clare, we have successfully redesigned and updated all of the content from the previous WA website to be presented in the same design as the National website. This has enabled increased consistency in the presentation between the websites. I am still working with contacts from QLD, ACT, Victoria University and perhaps SCM Friends, to merge their websites and email lists in the same way.

*Integrating of database and email lists*

I have developed the structure for the integration of database and email lists into the National Database, however this has not been populated yet until further testing takes place. It is anticipated that this will take place as soon as the new email lists are set up.

This is a rather short update, however there has been much happening behind the scenes for the Webweaver, in particular with email lists and the provisioning of content and updates. In addition, I will be having a teleconference shortly with Bronwyn and Annabel, who will be able to provide you with the updates from this meeting.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance. My resolutions and actions from the July meeting follow.

*Chris Jeffery  
ASCM Webweaver*

*Resolutions and Actions from the July General Committee meeting*

*Resolution: That the ASCM website be moved from Uniting Communications to Iisys, and the annual cost of this be absorbed by the National budget. [Action: Chris]*

On 16 August, I moved the ASCM website and email aliases to Iisys from Uniting Communications (Silogen). Whilst the ASCM website and email aliases are now “live” and being hosted by on our new server hosted at Iisys. The email lists are currently still being hosted by Silogen as unfortunately Iisys do not support mailing list servers. Whilst the email lists are stable at this stage, I would like to propose that in the future, we move the lists either to a free hosting provider such as Yahoo! Groups or Google Groups (Yahoo! Groups is what the SCM Friends use and appears to be fairly reliable, familiar and universal standard for managing e-groups) or change them to become online bulletin boards or mailing lists.

## **A10. DATABASE COORDINATOR REPORT**

How time flies between meetings! Whilst development of the new structure of the National Database has not commenced yet, a range of enhancements have been performed on the database since my last update:

- Some people receive bulk copies of JG and were being printed labels that were not necessary. I’ve enabling the “excluding” of labels if they are being sent multiple student copies of JG.

- I've added a new table to show the ASCM email lists that a person subscribes to. This will enable us to easily identify who subscribes to an email list, for confirmation and audit purposes.

I am most appreciative of the updates I have received from some states, particularly Queensland and Victoria. However, it appears the database is still rather outdated and requires substantial work to get it to up-to-date.

Following the national appeal, I became quite concerned about the large number of the number of 'return to sender' addresses, and even after considerable updating in recent times it is particularly concerning how outdated our database is.

As an organisation, we need to continually ensure members and friends to keep their details up to date should they wish to be informed of our activities, else we will not be able to keep in touch with them.

I would like encourage all area councils and branches, and any interested parties, to assist us in getting the database at a level of confidence that the database can be used as a useful tool to keep in contact with our members and friends.

I have enclosed updates to these directories for your review. If you have any additions or changes, please let me know.

Thank you for your continuing support. If I can be of any assistance or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. My resolutions and actions from the July meeting follow.

*Chris Jeffery*

*ASCM Database Application Developer/Database Coordinator*

*Resolutions and Actions from the July General Committee meeting*

*Resolution: That all office bearers are provided a complimentary subscription of JG while they are in office and for up to two years after they complete their formal service to the movement. [Action: Chris]*

As the database does not support this functionality, once office bearers complete their formal service to the movement I will manually update the database with a two year complementary subscription to JG.

*Resolution: That email and postal address contacts from the national database be available to ASCM's state organising bodies for limited use in promoting SCM activities. [Action: Chris & Bronwyn]*

Bronwyn and I are still working on this, however we have provided the state contact lists to Queensland, Western Australia and Melbourne to be used as reference and updating but not to contact people directly.

## **A11. MOVEMENT BUILDING DISCUSSION NOTES**

### ACT

Past success at O-day with COLOURFUL display; Program for the year ahead available (or at least for Semester 1); Leunig cartoon - 'code' for a certain brand of faith; Poster of 'Is God...?' T-shirt slogan inc. is God Queer?; Homemade food with drinks; Something to DO at the stall – light a candle for peace (esp the year before Iraq War); National pamphlets & local pamphlets; Trudi's boxes for tealight candles. Two people on stall is MUCH better than one.

Shared Space model has been good – inc. guests such as Tim in Queer Officer role for ASCM. Important to have set program for at least first semester, including a Welcome Dinner – invite guests to Welcome Dinner inc. Queer Officer/ Muslim Students Association/ other. Interfaith BBQ one year was successful (within rain/ Ramadan limits) - organised by the Bahais. Had a successful retreat – using the bread-making liturgy went well. Successful way of being active was to have a retreat around one issue, with guest speakers on aspects of the topic (eg legal/ language/ social) and then had a specific action committed to out of the retreat. Go to protests etc TOGETHER with banner & T-shirts.

### Queensland

Series of seminars on Relationships was successful but a service of SCM rather than a way to gather a group as SCM. No 'competitor group' on campus. Movie nights with theologian guest in the discussion afterwards. Looking to utilise the pub at the bottom of the hill to give students a reason to stay on campus, as few currently do. Have not had a presence at O-days in the past. Consider getting materials into the 'goodies bag' that gets handed out. Considering post-grads presenting discussion nights on what they're working on.

### WA

Passive promotion – simple big posters not too much info; handouts with program info and invite to welcome event. Consider other festival days besides O-day (eg. Social Justice Week; Faith Fair). Discussion lunches have worked – this semester planning to advertise discussion topics in advance, prob. for every second week. Considering using Dave Andrews 'Not Religion but Love' as framework. Wombat mascot on table and at events is an unexpected hit. Also movie nights with discussion after the movie have been successful. Shared space has been good in the past but lapsed – considering re-starting for this year if enough interest and discussion topics. Will probably do a winter retreat again this year. Out of discussions at SCm

events, provide staff worker with actions to take up on behalf of the group (eg. Letter writing)  
– consider campaign to uni re sweat-free uni merchandise?

*Victoria*

Piggyback with Wes' O-day ideas/ plans. Weekly prayer meetings are good and will continue. Forum on Richard Dawkins book with theologian was good. Forum on nuclear issues & silent vigil on Hiroshima Day also successful. Considering a camp or retreat.

*NSW*

Happy to be operating as an off-campus group at the moment. Connected with campus through CSU (esp. Bron's involvement there)

*General*

Consider providing prayer/ reflection time during exams.

## A12. CARBON NEUTRAL DISCUSSION PAPER

### What can ASCM do about climate change?

Discussion paper prepared for 2008 January National Executive meeting

Anastasia Dalziell

Anastasia.dalziell@gmail.com

#### INTRODUCTION

Human activity is causing a substantial increase in global temperatures.<sup>1</sup> Many climatologists predict this change will cause catastrophic humanitarian and environmental crises unless we dramatically modify our behaviour.<sup>2</sup>

The ASCM is very concerned about the effects of climate change and seeks ways to reduce the impact of climate change on future generations. This paper aims to provide some background to the problem and suggest ways in which the ASCM might contribute to a solution. However, these issues are complex and need further investigation.

#### BACKGROUND

Human induced global warming is primarily caused by the production of CO<sub>2</sub> as a by-product of a number of industrial processes, particularly burning fossil fuels. CO<sub>2</sub> is released into the atmosphere where it creates a barrier between the sun and the earth. While this barrier lets the sun's rays reach the earth, it prevents heat from leaving, creating the *greenhouse effect*.

There are two additional sources of greenhouse gasses which could be major contributors to the greenhouse effect. First, vast tracts of peat bogs in Siberia are predicted to release enormous amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> and/or methane, (a more potent greenhouse gas), if global temperatures rise sufficiently to defrost the peat and cause the rapid decomposition of frozen biomatter which has accumulated over thousands of years.<sup>3</sup> A report in 2005 suggests this thaw is starting to occur.<sup>4</sup>

A second major source of potential greenhouse gases are found in the peat contained in tropical rainforests, particularly in Borneo, Sumatra and West Papua. These forests are wet enough to dramatically slow down the rate of decomposition leading to an accumulation of biomatter. However, the peat wetlands are being drained for agricultural use and greatly increasing the rate of decomposition of peat. Once dried, these peatlands are highly flammable. In 1997 millions of hectares of dried peatlands caught fire and in a short time released the same amount of CO<sub>2</sub> produced by Europe per year from burning fossil fuels.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> L Bernstein et al. 2007 *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment Report: 2007 Summary for Policymakers*.

<sup>2</sup> *Stern Review Executive Summary*.

<sup>3</sup> The bogs are likely to and are starting to release carbon but scientists disagree as to the exact cause and the form in which the carbon will be released.

<sup>4</sup> *New Scientist*, 2005: 187:2512, p 12.

<sup>5</sup> *Nature*, 2004: 432:131, p 1.

## **WHAT CAN ASCM DO?**

Some of the more severe effects of global warming can be avoided if humans reduce their production of CO<sub>2</sub>.<sup>6</sup> Our organisation has two methods at our disposal to help achieve this outcome.

We can contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions through either advocacy or addressing our own emissions.

### **Advocacy**

I argue that most constructive way ASCM can contribute to a reduction of global emissions of greenhouse gases is through advocacy. This is because the most promising measures proposed to combat climate change involve decisive action from governments.

60-80% of the reduction required to avoid the worst effects of climate change can be achieved by radical changes in the way electricity is produced and consumed, and used in other industrial processes<sup>7</sup>. Governments can make a substantial impact by intervening in the electricity market by developing carbon trading schemes, increasing taxes on fossil fuels, increasing funding for research into clean technologies, etc, all of which act to make greener options more economically viable. An additional advantage of increasing fuel taxes is that the revenue generated can be used to mitigate the disproportionate effect on the poor who are likely to most feel the impact of rising fuel prices. It is impossible to achieve sufficient global reductions in emissions in the absence of governmental action.

### **Action: putting our own house in order**

#### *Reducing the Carbon Footprint of SCM*

The ASCM 2006 January Executive meeting expressed an interest in reducing ASCM's carbon footprint. The carbon footprint concept allows individuals or organisations to become more aware of how their activities generate greenhouse gases (or simply "carbon") and take measures to reduce their impact. An organisation's net carbon emissions (or "carbon footprint") are calculated by summing the carbon produced by the organisation's activities and subtracting activities which "offset" carbon emissions.

ASCM therefore has two options to reduce our carbon footprint:

- 1) To reduce our CO<sub>2</sub> generating activities
- 2) To offset our emissions.

### **Reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> generation**

The ASCM's primary source of carbon emissions is generated through interstate travel. I strongly advise against reducing our flights because this is likely to:

- a) severely impede our ability to advocate for major energy reform

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<sup>6</sup> *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment Report: 2007 Summary for Policymakers*

<sup>7</sup> IGCC report. Pg 22.

b) have an almost negligible effect on global emissions of greenhouse gases.

This option is far less likely than advocacy to achieve any reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions.

Moreover, this option may lead to the demise of the Student Christian Movement as it impedes our ability to form community and function as a national organisation.

### **Offsets**

I have found it very difficult to evaluate the scientific literature on the carbon sequestration ability of forests, grasslands and agricultural crops within this paper. Some of the criticisms of carbon offset programs have been outlined below. I remain unconvinced of the usefulness of engaging in these programs on a microlevel.

However, we are faced with the difficulty of making decisions now, in the absence of full information and a poorly regulated market.

### **RECOMENDATIONS**

ASCM has a strong history of effective political advocacy. This paper recommends further investigation into how ASCM can most successfully advocate for major changes. I have one suggestion but there are many more options.

We could investigate whether there was a way we could advocate for a reduction of deforestation, particularly of the peat forests of Indonesia and Malaysia. This will be difficult to implement but I think is worth investigating, particularly in conjunction with the Indonesian SCMerS. While successfully reducing or halting deforestation is not likely to provide any net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, it may help avoid the worst case scenarios envisioned if dried peatlands catch fire.

### **Are carbon footprints a waste of time?**

There appears to be no effective way for ASCM to reduce its carbon footprint. We already generate little greenhouse gasses and I cannot see a viable way to reduce it any further.

If ASCM decides to implement a carbon offset program, I suggest we follow the lead of the UK bank HSBC<sup>8</sup> and the Vatican, by avoiding the highly problematic carbon market. Both these organisations have directly funded a “carbon reduction” program.

The Vatican recently received a donation from a group called Klimafa which offered to use the donation to restore an ancient forest. This offset the Vatican’s carbon emissions and will make it the first carbon-neutral state.<sup>9</sup>

Funding a revegetation project in Australia is attractive for ASCM for the following reasons. First, revegetation initiatives avoid the substantial water flow and soil fertility reductions which can occur in plantation forests, particularly in dry regions.<sup>10</sup> Second, even if future

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<sup>8</sup> Industry caught in carbon “smokescreen”, *Financial Times* 25 April 2007

<sup>9</sup> *The Age* 18<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

<sup>10</sup> R Jackson et al “Trading water for carbon with biological carbon sequestration” *Science* 310:1944-1947.

work shows that revegetation has little effect on global temperatures, increasing native habitat is likely to assist species to survive climate induced increases in temperature and fire intensity. Third, it is easier to monitor the results of the project in Australia than overseas.

However, while this project may have environmental value it is unlikely to have a significant impact on climate change.

### **Project officer**

Human induced climate change is a complex issue and how to respond effectively is not clear. ASCM may want to appoint a climate change officer to explore these issues more deeply and investigate how we as a group may effectively respond to one of the most challenging issues of our generation.

## **APENNDIX**

### **Carbon offset programs**

In recent years, carbon offset schemes developed for individuals and organisations, have proved to be surprisingly popular. Carbon offset initiatives aim to reduce the net output of greenhouse gases, of individuals, or organisations by “buying” processes which reduce the levels of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted into the atmosphere. While some projects involve investing in “green” technology or “clean up” ventures most utilise the fact that CO<sub>2</sub> is used by plants during photosynthesis, of which one of the by-products is oxygen. Thus, it is argued, human CO<sub>2</sub> production can be mitigated by producing more plants to “sequester” carbon.

In theory, individuals or organisations could plant their own trees but in practice organisations have preferred to fund businesses developed solely for this purpose creating an unregulated, “goodwill” market of offset trading schemes. Carbon trading schemes are practical and operate by a simple equation making them easy to fit into budgets.

Despite these advantages, carbon offset programs have received considerable criticism on scientific, economic and sometimes humanitarian grounds.

First, various studies have suggested that the global cooling effects of planting flora have been overstated for several different reasons. One study argued that the ability of forests to retain heat means that forest planting trees may in fact have no net effect on global temperatures, unless the plants are planted in tropical regions.<sup>11</sup> However, at least in some cases the controversy has been generated by sensational and inaccurate reporting<sup>12</sup> making evaluation difficult. The main objection to mitigation by planting trees is that the solution is temporary at best. Plants only sequester carbon for a finite period of time before becoming saturated. In addition, once the plants die, the carbon is re-released back into the system through decomposition.

An apparently overwhelming concern is that global deforestation is likely to far exceed the rate of commercial plantations. Moreover, natural forests are thought to be far better at sequestering carbon than commercial tree or crop plantations.

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<sup>11</sup> Seran Gibbard et al. “Climate effects of global land cover change”, *Geophysical Research Letters*, 2005.

<sup>12</sup> Lydia Olander *Do recent scientific findings undermine the climate benefits of carbon sequestration in forests?* Duke University 2006 .

Second, mass plantations programs in South America have been accused of human rights abuses, particularly forced relocations of indigenous people.<sup>13 14</sup>

Third, a recent review conducted by the *Financial Times* found little evidence that projects designed to offset carbon emissions were generating any environmental benefits despite the millions of dollars spent.<sup>15</sup> The review found that many companies were generating profits for services that a) were going to occur anyway, b) were cheaper than had been implied, c) which did not lead or were unlikely to lead to any reductions in carbon emissions. Moreover, industrial companies were making large profits from very little action.

Fourth, a number commentators have argued that carbon offsets are a dangerous distraction from the need to reduce overall emissions as opposed rather than investing in questionable carbon absorption schemes.<sup>16</sup> I regard the uncertainty surrounding the environmental value of carbon offset programs too great to be of use in calculations of carbon footprints.

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<sup>13</sup> Human rights watchdog report, 2004 <http://hrw.org/reports/2004/chile1004/3.htm>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.fern.org/pubs/media/plantarpr.htm>

<sup>15</sup> Industry caught in carbon “smokescreen”, *Financial Times* 25 April 2007

<sup>16</sup> George Monbiot “Selling Indulgences” *Guardian* 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 2006

### **A13. ASCM HISTORY BOOK UPDATE**

#### **Centennial History of the Australian Student Christian Movement Progress report 10 January 2008**

Members of the current generation of the ASCM are unlikely to be familiar with the background of the preparation of the Centennial History. This brief outline has been prepared for the forthcoming ASCM General-Committee Meeting to be held in Canberra from 17 to 19 January 2008.

#### *Background*

In November 1992, the late Rev John Alexander and Mrs Margaret Brown initiated a meeting with the Rev Dr Davis and Jean McCaughey and the Rev Frank Engel to gather interest and support in the writing of a history of the Movement.

The National Conference and the Associated General-Committee meetings held in the following January enthusiastically endorsed the concept and requested John Alexander to assemble a Working Group in Melbourne with correspondents in each State.

Early the following year a large gathering of SCM *Friends* in Victoria met and endorsed the project. A Working Group was formed and began to investigate the writing of a history. In addition, it was decided to launch an Appeal for funds to enable its publication. The Working Group further initiated the holding of the *Centennial Gathering* which was held in Canberra in 1996, attended by over three hundred SCMerS of all generations from the 1920's.

Associate Professor Renate Howe, of the Centre for Australian Studies at Deakin University was invited to become its author. Renate and her husband Brian had a long and active association with the SCM in the University of Melbourne. Professionally, Renate was already established as an historian of note in recording various aspects of Australian church history. As a project of the Centre for Australian studies, the project has attracted Australian Research Grants and support from the Centre. Renate has researched widely, particularly with the ASCM archive in the National Archive Canberra, at Princeton where early Federation material is located, and in New York, London and Geneva. Academic and other pressures have delayed finalisation of the manuscript, however it is with pleasure that we announce that the manuscript of this long awaited history of the ASCM is in final stages of preparation for publication. It is expected that details of price and publication date will be made shortly.

An important resource was a widespread questionnaire, which was well supported by members and friends of the ASCM. Further, an *Oral History* project involved seventy-three members of the Movement from all States, ranging over eight decades.

The Appeal for funds was 'mothballed' when the Centennial Trust Fund was launched. The Appeal, restricted to subscribers to Newsletters, was briefly revived in 2002.

A publication contract was established with Melbourne University Press (MUP) in 1998. However in the light of research and writing delays and the re-organisation of MUP, that contract has lapsed. Currently negotiations are in train with the University of New South Wales Press.

Working Group Reorganisation

Failing eyesight necessitated John Alexander's resignation from Convenership of the Working Group but he remained its Senior Consultant until his death. Jim Martin became Convener, handing over to Peter Fensham who served in the role until his transfer to Brisbane. Since that time, Brian Howe and Jim Martin have shared that responsibility.

The original working group has dwindled through death and transfer leaving Peter Fensham in Queensland, Frances Ford in Sale, and Helen Hill, Liz Kertesz, John Neilson and Jim Martin in Melbourne.

It has been agreed that Brian's role is to represent the author's interests in publishing matters while Jim, representing the ASCM, resumed the Convenership of the Working Group. Jim is now in the process of handing the convenership to Alan Wilkinson.

The membership of the Working Group was augmented in 2007 and the Author and Member list currently comprises:

Author and Author's Agent

Assoc Prof Renate Howe  
The Rev Brian Howe

Consultants

Ms Frances Ford

Working Group

The Rev Jim Martin  
Dr Peter Fensham  
The Rev Dr Avril Hannah-Jones  
Ms Helen Hill  
Mr David Hooke  
Ms Elizabeth Kertesz  
Mr Matthew Klugman  
Mr John Neilson  
Mr Alan Wilkinson

Working Group Member Biographies

(with years of association with the Working Group in brackets)

**Renate and Brian Howe**

Renate Howe and her husband Brian have had a long and active association with the SCM in the University of Melbourne, the National Movement and the WSCF.

**Author:** Renate, while Senior Lecturer and later Associate Professor of the Centre for Australian Studies at Deakin University, was invited to become author of the ASCM Centennial History in 1993. Professionally, Renate was already established as an historian of note in recording various aspects of Australian Church History. As a project of the Centre for Australian Studies, the project has attracted Australian Research Grants and support from the Centre. Renate has researched widely for the History, particularly with the ASCM archive in the National Archive, Canberra, at Princeton where early Federation material is located, and in New York, London and Geneva.

**Author's Agent:** Brian, a Professorial Associate in the Centre of Public Policy in the University of Melbourne [from 1996], was ordained into the Methodist ministry in 1962 following which he served parishes in Eltham, Morwell and at the Church of All Nations in Fitzroy. During this latter period Brian was, for a term, National Chairman of the ASCM. Known for his concern for social justice issues, Brian was elected to the House of Representatives [1977 - 96] He was Minister in the portfolios of 'Housing', 'Local Government and Human Services', 'Health, Housing and Social Services' and 'Defence Support' and Deputy Prime Minister [1991-95].

**Frances Ford [2000- ]**

**Jim Martin [1993- ]**

Jim first met the SCM in his School's Branch and again, on arriving at the University of Melbourne to study Science in 1947. Study and work on and off campus, led to a continuing involvement with the ASCM for the next thirteen years. During this time Jim fulfilled many roles including State Treasurer, Coordinator in the rebuilding of the Chum Creek Campsite and representative of the Movement in the formation of the Australian Christian Youth Council, the youth arm of the Australian Council of Churches. Within the SCM, Jim met and married Helen Dallimore.

Ordination and appointment as a Presbyterian Minister in first a rural parish at Apollo Bay and then a Regional City Parish, East Geelong, followed. During this time Helen and Jim's family of four children were born. Jim's next role returned him to the educational field as school chaplain for the next five years at The Geelong College, a Presbyterian boy's boarding school. This was followed by a twenty year term as Principal of The John Flynn College within James Cook University of North Queensland.

On retirement in 1992, Jim joined and later chaired the inaugural Working Group preparing the Centennial History of the ASCM.

**Peter Fensham [1993- ]**

1946-50 ASCM - Melbourne

1950-52 Bristol Univ. SCM including Swanwick attendance

1962-68 Chair of WUSA (cosponsored by ASCM and NUAUS)

1958-1965 Senior Friends group meeting in Mitcham monthly

1972 -75 National Chair ASCM

post 1975 Senior Friends involvement in various ways including

Victorian 100 years celebration and ASCM History Working Group [Inaugural member]

From 2005 Area Council member Brisbane ASCM

Professionally, Peter is Professor Emeritus in Science Education in Monash University, having spent his career teaching in universities. He and his wife Christine now live in Brisbane with deep involvement in issues of justice and peace, particularly through *Wellspring*.

**Avril Hannah Jones [2007- ]**

Avril Hannah-Jones was a student at the University of Melbourne from 1991 to 2006. During her long, long university life she studied history, law and theology. Her PhD was in history, on the topic of "The Sexuality Debate in the Uniting Church 1977-2000". After completing the PhD, Avril candidated for ministry in the Uniting Church in Australia and is now a Ministry Intern ministering with four congregations in the Macedon Ranges.

Avril was a member of the ASCM from the early nineties onwards. In 1996 she was the National Women's Project Coordinator. She became a *Friend* of the ASCM in the early 2000s, and was part of the group that re-established the Victorian Area Council in 2006. Since

moving to the Macedon Ranges she has become more of a "corresponding member" but is still extremely enthusiastic about the ASCM and all it can offer.

In 2006-7 Avril was a student at the WCC's Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, Switzerland, which reinforced her enthusiasm for ecumenism.

**Helen Hill [1993- ]**

Helen Hill re-discovered the SCM toward the end of her first year Science in the early 1960's (she had attended a School's SCM Camp a few years earlier). The "Honest to God" debate was raging when Helen, dissatisfied with the local church youth scene, found the SCM's mix of science, theology and social justice stimulating and challenging. The questioning attitude of the SCM was exciting, being critical while not being oppositional 'without being negative'. Becoming more aware of the Social Sciences, Helen switched from science of University of Melbourne to Teacher Training then finally plunging into an honours degree in Politics at Monash while helping to reform the SCM Branch.

Subsequently Helen has gained broad experience and knowledge of the WSCF and of the Ecumenical movement. In more recent times Helen, now Senior Lecturer Sociology (Asia-Pacific) at Victoria University, a respected scholar on a broad range of Timorese issues having first visited East Timor in 1975, began researching decolonisation for her Master's. Following the Indonesian invasion she assisted Jose Ramos Horta, then lobbying the UN General Assembly. Having become interested in small countries' struggles for self-determination, Helen studied non-formal education in Fiji, New Caledonia and the then US Territories of Micronesia for her PhD at ANU. She has taught at Victoria University since 1991, pioneering a unique course in Asia-Pacific Community Development. Helen returned to Timor Leste in August 2000 for a new book on East Timor's transition to independence. In August 2001, and again in 2007, she led a delegation from VU to observe the elections to the Timorese Constituent Assembly.

**David Hooke [2007- ]**

I first discovered the SCM in my early teens – my father helped Ron Bruton and others make the beds for the Chum Creek huts.

In 1961 I was the inaugural secretary of the Monash SCM group. After one year of exciting personal development but not so much academic success, I left Monash and completed a Diploma in Civil Engineering at the then Swinburne Technical College.

My contact with SCM (national conferences) and Chum Creek continued. At Chum Creek in late 1966 I met Jill Dabourne. We married at the end of 1968, after I returned from two years as an "Australian Volunteer Abroad" building a mountain road in Sabah, Malaysia.

We then moved around Victoria where I managed various irrigation and water supply systems. We also produced two sons who are now married themselves.

We are both almost retired in Bendigo, where our main activities involve the Uniting Church, Amnesty International and solar energy.

**Liz Kertesz [1995- ]**

Membership of the SCM helped me find a community at university and shaped my faith journey. Having joined early in my undergraduate degree in the late 1980s, I took on leadership and administrative positions in the Melbourne University branch and Victorian Area Council for a few years in the early 1990s. I have retained informal contact with Senior Friends through my membership of the congregation of Fitzroy Uniting, and have served brief terms on the Centennial History Working Group and as a Trustee of the ASCM Centennial Trust Fund.

I completed my PhD in musicology at the University of Melbourne in 2001. Since then I have worked as a Project Manager at the Australian Music Examinations Board Federal Office and

as a Research Administrator at the University of Melbourne (currently in the School of Culture and Communication). Alongside this part-time salaried work I have maintained my activity as a researcher in music history, specialising in opera, music theatre and women composers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Apart from occasional sessional teaching and postgraduate supervision at the Faculty of Music, University of Melbourne, I am currently involved in a collaborative project with Michael Christoforidis, preparing a jointly-authored book entitled “Authenticating Carmen: Bizet’s opera, Spain and the shaping of a global icon (1875–1939)”.

**Matthew Klugman [2007- ]**

Matthew is a post graduate scholar within the History Department of MU Arts Faculty. He is actively involved in community affairs, particularly through the "Greens". Michael's interests are wide ranging, from contributing to *Eureka St*, to the social and philosophical study of Australian Rules and other Codes.

**John Neilson [1993- ]**

John commenced his Science degree in Geology in 1949 in the University of Melbourne. He found, in the SCM, a community with openness to matters of Science and Faith and participation in National Conferences provided challenge from leaders of thought such as Professor Charles Birch, which could be found nowhere else in the University.

On graduation John joined the Victorian Government Geological Service culminating on his retirement in his being the recipient of accolade of the Selwyn Medal for his contribution to Engineering Geology in the State of Victoria, which service he headed for many years. Since his retirement he has continued in his profession with consultancies

In the early 1960's John travelled overseas following his passion for the music of Bach and in East Germany where he met and later wed Karen.

**Alan Wilkinson [2007- ]**

Alan was a member of the SCM at the University of Western Australia from 1957 to 1962 and was co-president (with Elizabeth Banks) of the UWA branch in 1961. He graduated in engineering and joined the Postmaster General’s department in 1963, paving the way for his speedy marriage to Victorian Ann Howden (another SCMer) and the arrival from 1965 of their four children. Before long Alan decided he was really more interested in history and politics so enrolled at UWA again - this time in arts. His completion of that honours degree in 1970 paved the way for postgraduate studies in international relations at ANU, culminating in his PhD on Australian Foreign Aid Policy in 1976. Since then Alan has worked on foreign aid with the Papua New Guinea Government, with the Australian Development Assistance Bureau in Canberra, and most recently with the UN World Food Programme in China, Bangladesh and their headquarters in Italy. Alan and Ann are now living in Melbourne and are members of Mark the Evangelist (UCA) at North Melbourne. Alan is chair of that parish’s Hotham Mission and has recently been appointed as Chair of the Board of Uniting Aged Care Victoria and Tasmania.