

Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn

Launch of the Pelican Foundation – Tuesday, 30 September 2008

Andrew Blyth, Chair, Pelican Foundation

Introduction

Good afternoon everyone.

My name is Andrew Blyth, Chair, Pelican Foundation.

I begin by honouring the Ngunnawal people, their wisdom and culture, and pay my respects to their elders past and present.

I would also like to acknowledge our special guests:

- Senator Ursula Stephens, Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector and Parliamentary Secretary Assisting the Prime Minister for Social Inclusion
- Ms Karin Macdonald, MLA representing the Chief Minister
- Mr Brendan Smyth MLA, Deputy Leader of the ACT Liberal Party
- Bishop Allan Ewing, Vicar General Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn; and
- a special mention to Radford College for the Musical entertainment.

Friends, today is a celebration of all that is possible through the endeavours of human spirit, and embracing all that might be. We are here to re-launch the Foundation of the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn to support the work of the Diocese and to provide a fresh energy and focus to the work undertaken by a great number of people throughout the region.

We will be hearing from Bishop Allan Ewing, Reverend Neil Millar and of course, our special guest Senator Ursula Stephens. Tracey Matthews, Registrar, Anglican Diocese will then announce the successful inaugural projects.

To get our event underway I would ask Bishop Alan Ewing to now come to the microphone and speak to us. Bishop Ewing.

Thank you, Alan.

Ladies and Gentlemen, our next speaker is Reverend Neil Millar, Lecturer, Ministry Studies and Coordinator Clergy Formation, St Marks National Theological Centre, ACT. Neil will be speaking to us about engaging Church and community. Neil.

Friends, we now move to the official launch of the Pelican Foundation and it is my pleasure to introduce Senator Ursula Stephens, who has been most kind in agreeing to be with us today – particularly given this is a non-sitting week!

Senator Stephens was elected to the Senate in November 2001 as a Country Labor Senator for New South Wales, and was re-elected in the 2007 federal election. Born in Ireland, Senator Stephens and her large and loving family came to Australia in 1961 and settled in Grafton. In her first speech to the Senate, Senator Stephens spoke of belonging to a large Irish Catholic clan – that's ok Senator, you might be addressing an Anglican event but we are all God's children in this room.

A trained primary teacher, Senator Stephens has devoted her life to a number of key causes and is determined to use her position as a Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector to ensure that Australia's prosperity extends to all. In her words, "no matter where you live, or who you are all Australians should be able to participate in the social and economic life of the nation."

Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome Senator Stephens.

Thank you Senator Stephens.

Pelican Foundation – An Overview

I would now like to just spend a couple of minutes providing you with an overview of the Pelican Foundation.

The Pelican Foundation has been operating since 1983 and in 2008 is being re-launched. The Foundation provides a means to give expression to the vision of the Diocese and is a mechanism for “embracing all that might be, new communities of faith...within existing structures and beyond them.”

The primary objective of the Pelican Foundation is to fund projects that engage the wider community in order to respond to human need through loving service. Preference for funding is given to projects that expand the Church’s ministry by expanding existing ministries; and establish new ministries that grow new communities in faith; develop partnerships between the Church and the community; are innovative and engage new models of thinking; and importantly, facilitate education and training.

The Foundation is a charitable trust and the assets of the Foundation are managed by the Board of the Foundation.

I would now like to call on Tracey Matthews to announce the successful inaugural project applicants.

Tracey.

Before we conclude I would like to acknowledge the work Tracey has undertaken in getting us to where we are today. It was through a chance meeting here at a work related event when I first met Tracey and since then I have been impressed, and indeed the beneficiary, of her desire and drive to achieve practical outcome for the Anglican Diocese. I wish to also acknowledge David Rainey, Emily Lambert and Libby Davies for their active participation.

Should you wish to support the Foundation please take the time to speak to one of us; and we are also keen to hear from people who would be interested in working with us on the Foundation as we move forward.

Senator Stephens, thank you again for your support.

Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for your attendance. Good evening.