

QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

# Quest

Autumn 2009

**The newsletter of the Australia New Zealand  
Unitarian Universalist Association**

## **Our Mission Statement**

The Australia New Zealand Unitarian Universalist Association will support and encourage all member groups in their continued development of Unitarian ideals of freedom reason and tolerance and their interaction with local communities in an ethical, responsible and committed way

As Unitarians we affirm principles of justice, tolerance of difference, respect and equality for all people. With resolve and preparedness to struggle in an atmosphere of interdependent relationship and inclusivity, we search for greater understanding and wisdom, we reach out to each other and with wider community with love and compassion.

Through our sharing, may we gain a sense of our place in the complex web of creation and, as we radiate the joy of creative life, may we feel the spirit of freedom, peace and harmony

## **Contents**

<b>Page</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Sydney Conference Programme</b>
	<b>3</b>	<b>BGM Agenda and Resolutions</b>
	<b>4</b>	<b>Auckland Report</b>
	<b>6</b>	<b>Meditations</b>
	<b>7</b>	<b>Brisbane Report</b>
	<b>8</b>	<b>Flaming Chalice</b>
	<b>9</b>	<b>History Corner</b>

***“Think Truly, Speak Bravely, Act Justly”***

**ANZUUA CONFERENCE 2009**

**Friday October 2 to Monday October 5**

**Venue: The Centre, Randwick ([www.thecentre.com.au](http://www.thecentre.com.au))**

**Friday October 2**

3pm - 6pm      **Arrival & Registration... “Settling in”**  
6pm              **Meeting of ANZUUA Executive**  
7pm              **DINNER smorgasbord...followed by free time**

**Saturday October 3**

8am-9am:        **Breakfast (provided by The Centre)**

9.45am            **Greeting/Welcome “Connection to the land”**  
                      **Convenor: Peter Crawford**

10am-:            **Bob Carr- Official Opening**  
                      **“Challenge to the conventional wisdoms”**  
                      **Question Session**

10.35am          **Rev. Bill Crews**  
                      **“Media and Charity work in a big city”**  
                      **Question Session**

11.10am          **Morning Tea**

11.45am          **Diane Kynaston**  
                      **“Men and Women in Religion”**  
                      **Question Session**

12.30pm-2pm:    **LUNCH- BBQ**

2.15pm            **Mark O’Connor**  
                      **“Poetry, People & Spirituality”**  
                      **Question Session**

3pm                **Afternoon Tea**

3.45pm            **ANZUUA Biennial General Meeting**  
                      **Session one.**  
                      **See Page 3 for details**

7pm                **DINNER/ Chinese Banquet + music/entertainment**

## **Sunday October 4**

- 8am**                      **Breakfast**
- 10am**                      **Church Service conducted by Ian Ellis-Jones**  
**Flower Communion held in the Chapel**
- 11.30am**                      **Lunch**
- 12.30pm**                      **ANZUUA Biennial General Meeting**  
**Session Two**  
**See Page 3 for details**
- 2.15pm**                      **Peter Ferguson “Unitarianism...where to now?”**  
**Question Time**
- 3pm-6pm:**                      **WORKSHOPS**  
**You can choose 2 from the following:**
- **The Power of Music- Chad Vinden & Megan Woods**
  - **Post Modern Prayer & Meditation- Walter Mason**
  - **Release your inner-world through writing- Mark O’Connor**
  - **Charity work- practical tips- Li & Alan Clarke**
  - **Effective communication- Nadia Repin**
- Each workshop will run for 90 minutes and then will be repeated.**
- 6pm**                      **free time**
- 7pm-**                      **DINNER**      **Italian cuisine- Pasta & Pizza**

## **Monday October 5**

- 8am**                      **Breakfast**
- 10am**                      **ANZUUA Biennial General Meeting**  
**Session Three**  
**See Page 3 for details**
- 12.30pm**                      **LUNCH**
- 2.00pm**                      **FAREWELL**

## **Biennial General Meeting**

### Session 1                      Saturday 3.45pm – 6.30pm

Recognition of Delegates  
Recognition of deceased members  
Minutes BGM 2007  
Group Reports  
Treasurers Report  
Presidents Report

### Session 2                      Sunday 12.30pm – 2.00pm

Approval of Constitution  
Approval of website Protocol  
Member's Resolutions

### Session 3                      Monday 10.00am – 12.00pm

Member's resolutions continued  
Election of Officers  
Selection of Management committee  
Election of Quest Editor  
Flaming Chalice Award

## **Resolutions**

In addition to the three resolutions submitted by the executive (approval of the constitution, rules of membership and website protocol), there have been two other resolutions submitted for discussion. These are:

1. Submitted by Perth

**“That the office of Editor of QUEST become an elected position and that nominations be received at each biennial meeting.”**

2. Submitted by Christchurch

### **Introduction**

We believe that an important task facing all ANZUUA groups in the next few years is finding and articulating our distinctive “down-under” voice. Central to that process is the availability of a local service manual to supplement Singing The Living Tradition and Hymns for Living, which are currently the most widely used. Therefore we propose

**“That ANZUUA commit resources and energy to the production of an anthology of our own music and writings. “**

## Auckland Report

by Rev. Dr. Max Moss  
A fully accredited UUA Minister

1.  $e \times e$  = “Life will go on, but not as we know it.”
2. Auckland’s year in review: interim ministers, renovations, membership.

$e \times e$  = “Life will go on, but not as we know it.”

I begin with the two challenges on the minds of Auckland Unitarians: the economy and the environment. Environmental degradation accelerates, exceeding even the worst predictions of only five years ago. The manic credit spending spree of the past two decades has only begun to implode. Taken together, I cannot foresee what life will be like in a decade. Some environmental consequences will worsen: draught, famine, destructive tropical storms, population upheavals, wars for water, etc. Some economic consequences have just begun to take their toll: unemployment, bank failures, nations going bankrupt, currencies becoming worthless (sometimes overnight), etc. But what new forces will impact us? How will environmental and economic changes interact? I do not know. The best economic advice I have read says keep your job, pay off debt, downsize wherever possible, economize, save. If you don’t need it, sell it. Cash is king.

From the perspective of ANZUUA, economic downturns are bad for churches. Many churches and denominations did not survive the Great Depression. Church is a leisure activity. People who cannot keep a roof over their heads and food on the table do not have the time or money to participate in church. What to do? Value every member. Be a supportive community, a place where people can find help. Be a compassionate listener. As anger and extremism increase, be a voice for understanding and tolerance. Be attuned to racial minorities in your city. Racism increases in a bad economy. Build bridges. Share. Share meals (pot lucks). Share your space. Share your time.

I do not have a “quick fix.” I know it is better to anticipate change than to ignore its likelihood and then curse it. Life will go on, but not as we know it.

2. Auckland’s year in review: interim ministers, renovations, membership.

Twelve months ago we were part way through the interim ministry of Rev. Vann Knight, a dual citizen (Canadian/USA) on sabbatical from his church near Boston. Vann was a Baptist by birth and ministerial training. He became a UU because religious wisdom is found in all the great religions, not just the Bible and life of Jesus. Theologically and liturgically, Vann was very different from any of our previous interim ministers. His services were much more meditative with readings from many religions East and West.

During Vann’s ministry we vacated our building for several months while it underwent its first major renovation in a century, including a new wood floor, refinishing the walls and ceiling of our main room, correction of a long

standing design flaw in our roof, repairs to the front entrance, new upstairs carpeting, and a host of minor repairs. The overall result is an uplifting feeling of being in a smart building.

In February 2009 we welcomed Rev. Dr. Gretchen Woods, a very dynamic “church builder” minister from Oregon. Her church in Corvallis is one of the fastest growing in the UUA. A former music teacher, Gretchen has lifted our music program as she focuses on her main area of expertise: churches as social systems.

The “dark years” (2002-04) are mostly behind us. We are delighted to have younger new members attending regularly and a small but regular group of children every Sunday morning. Two legacies of the 2002-04 debacle linger: some of our long standing members who quit in disgust have never returned. These were some of our core leaders upon whom every organization depends. They cannot be replaced quickly. We have also yet to recoup the decline in pledges which began in 2002 and accelerated through 2004. But the building, which was badly abused during that era, has been renovated. That is a major step towards improving how we feel on Sunday mornings.



Members of the Auckland Unitarian church enjoying their ANZAC day pot-luck supper

**MEDITATIONS** (A continuation of the previous Meditations )  
By Robert Halsey

4.

What is my pain?  
What is my fear?  
- it is but your mechanism to come into Be-ing.  
-It is only in my silence  
that I shall find my faith  
to grope my way to the unfolding shekinah  
and know that it is you  
who grows out of all  
that is lost along the way,  
who grows out of our pains and fears  
to a future where we shall find you waiting

5.

You are "creation" where there's been no creation  
You are you, have always been;  
Been coming anew and into Be-ing,  
And me in and with you.

6.

Death is my deliverer,  
when I shed my ego  
and am transformed  
into my coming self  
that is formless, nameless,  
released into endlessness  
of my new unknowing,  
in the one and only,  
and into the Only One,  
in a sacred Unity

## **Brisbane Report**

### **Brisbane Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (BUUF)**

The one constant in the experience of our Brisbane fellowship is change, as our small and plucky group continues to meet regularly with lay-led services miraculously coming together on the first and third Sunday of each month. Our meeting place is now at the Brisbane Bridge Club, Frederick St, Annerley, an air-conditioned, carpeted space with a modern kitchen and an adjoining room we can use for a children's program when needed. The building is located in a park and is close to bus and train transport. After recent less-than-ideal venues, we hope to call this space our home for some time to come. There certainly is room for growth.

The new venue was preceded by the construction of a new website. It went live in October 2008, is updated regularly and continues to attract interest with some people admitting to regular observation before actually joining us in a service. Thanks to Management Committee president James Hills for his creativity and persistence in building this very professional space – the address is [www.brisbaneuu.org.au](http://www.brisbaneuu.org.au). The new venue and new web page represent the achievement of two major goals set by the Management Committee, itself a new initiative from 2008.

A third recent major achievement for BUUF was our inaugural celebration of All Heretics' Day on 28<sup>th</sup> March, the Saturday before April Fool's Day. This took the form of a public forum chaired by our own Kathryn Crissman and featuring Brisbane feminist and sociology lecturer Susan Kentlyn and artist and environmentalist Kim Peart (also a congregation member). Both spoke of their experiences of heresy (holding ideas and opinions that conflicted with conventional beliefs and practices) and stimulated thoughtful discussion in the small yet enthusiastic audience. Susan Kentlyn will long be remembered for her forthright description of her evolution from Pentecostal minister's wife to lesbian, feminist while Kim Peart's vision of compassion as a way of life now and in the future resounded with many. This was BUUF's first public event of this type and a valuable learning experience. Although we found it difficult to promote the concept of All Heretics' Day in Brisbane we plan to celebrate it again next year hopefully with guest presenter Fr Peter Kennedy who was recently sacked by the Catholic Church for his inclusive interpretation of church rituals and Christian theology.

Our first service for 2009 was on Ephraim and the Gift of Instinct and was held in mid January, the first in our new venue. We followed this with a Water Service, symbolising our coming together again after the summer holidays, in what is becoming an annual tradition. Services have continued to be varied and thought provoking: living in the present moment as per Eckhardt Tolle; ethical eating; thanksgiving; the environment; one Unitarian's exploration of death; counter child-trafficking; and the three-stranded rope of UU – classical humanism, rationalism and Christianity.



At almost every service we welcome new faces, ranging from visitors from USA travelling through to others who are in Brisbane for short or longer-term work commitments. A small number of new local people have also joined this year, happy to be with a group expressing Unitarian principles. We socialise over tea and coffee and a share a light snack after each service with the new venue being very conducive to extended conversations over coffee and food. Another social occasion is the monthly book-club meetings where wide ranging book topics have been discussed during the year.

Our much anticipated Annual Retreat on Springbrook Mountain in the Gold Coast hinterland in mid-July will see us plan for the future and enjoy the natural peace and restorative energy of this beautiful environment, not to mention the delicious home-made vegetarian meals!

Several members also plan to attend the ANZUUA Conference in Sydney in October, valuing the opportunity to connect with Unitarian Universalists in our part of the world.

Renee Hills

## **Flaming Chalice**

**ANZUUA**



**To all whom these Letters shall come Greeting  
The Australia New Zealand Unitarian Universalist Association  
on recommendation of their Executive Board has conferred upon**

**the Order of the Flaming Chalice  
with all the Rights Privileges and Honours thereunto appertaining**

**Given at the 2009 ANZUUA Biennial Conference, Sydney,  
Australia this            day of October, two-thousand nine**

President

Secretary

Treasurer

**This is a suggestion from Leo Leriche, of Perth, for the Order of the Flaming Chalice. What do you think?**

## History Corner

### UNITARIAN MINISTERS IN 19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY NEW ZEALAND – Part 2.

By Wayne Facer

#### **Franklin Bradley (1834-1909)**

Born at Saintfield, County Down and educated at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution and the Remonstrant Synod of Ulster, Non Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland. Minister at Bowden Hill Chapel, at Credition in Devon and Ravara, County Down. The Bradley family arrived in Auckland in 1863 to take up land under the Auckland Provincial Council Albertland land grant scheme. They stayed in Auckland because of the Waikato War and Franklin became minister to the Auckland Unitarian congregation 1863-65. The congregation opened a fund to build a chapel and asked the British & foreign Unitarian Association to send out a minister to replace Franklin, guaranteeing 150 pounds per annum towards the salary. A year after Franklin left to farm the congregation had faded away. Franklin went on to become a JP, farmer and community leader in Arapohue, Northern Wairoa, contesting the Marsden seat in the general election of 1876. He is buried at the Arapohue cemetery with his wife Georgina who died in 1922.

#### **John Gammell (1836-1913)**

Born in London, educated at New College, St John's Wood and London University, where he completed a BA with distinction in Classics and Hebrew. He preached in several Unitarian chapels as an occasional supply and taught at Hove House Unitarian School. The brothers Christopher and James, sons of Christopher Richmond, third President of the British & Foreign Unitarian Association, attended this school. Gammell arrived in New Zealand in 1871. He was a school master at Wellington College, and then became School Inspector in Southland. He opposed the introduction of religion in state schools. He was a friend of Sir Robert Stout. Gammell was the first President of the Unitarian Free Church of Wellington, 1906-08, and one of the original five trustees. At his memorial address in the Church Stout told of his forty years of friendship with Gammell and said: "truth, wisdom, freedom, love of friends – all these were his" he said, "I do not think we can set before our youths a nobler example of a good citizen than John Gammell."

#### **Joseph Taylor (1858-1942)**

Attended Owens College and the (Methodist) Manchester Theological Institute. Left the Methodist church and became Unitarian in 1882. Minister at the Free Christian (Unitarian) Church at Barnard Castle, Durham 1883-84, and St Mungo Street Unitarian Church, Glasgow 1885-86 and while there published a collection of his sermons *What has Unitarianism done for the People?* He left the ministry and wrote for the *Secular Review*, gave free thought lectures and became an admirer of Herbert Spencer. He wrote *Why I am an Agnostic* with 'Saladin' the pen name of William Ross Stewart, editor of the *Secular Review*. In 1891 Joseph resumed studying mining engineering and then decided to emigrate to New Zealand. The family of Joseph, Annie and three children arrived on the *Ruapehu* in 1894 and settled in Collingwood, near Nelson, where for a time Joseph was Anglican lay reader. He established a coal mine at Puponga which was opposed by competitors. This led to him using company money to reimburse himself, and his critics ensured he was charged over this. At trial he was convicted and sentenced to two years hard labour. Upon release from Wellington jail he returned to Nelson and his family. In his later years he developed his own philosophy of 'Absolutism' which viewed body and spirit as one.