

# MOWatching

newsletter of MOWatch Australia

June 2006

## First woman Primate!

*ECUSA elects Bp Katharine Jefferts Schori (Nevada) as Presiding Bishop for next nine years*

Nevada Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori became the first woman elected to lead a church in the global Anglican Communion when she was picked Sunday to be the presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, reports *Associated Press*.

ECUSA bishops elected Jefferts Schori on the fifth ballot, having led each previous ballot, with 95 votes, 93 votes covering the rest of the field of six candidates (all men).

Australian MOW members heard first-hand of the news via a phone call from the Revd Dr Raewynne Whiteley, an Australian priest now in ECUSA, who was present at the Convention.

Gasps could be heard throughout the vast convention hall when Jefferts Schori's name was announced. The Revd Jennifer Adams from Western Michigan, speaking from the floor, called Jefferts Schori "a woman of integrity, consistency and faith. I have no doubt her election as presiding bishop will be a gift to our church".

Standing before cheering delegates to the Episcopal Church's General Convention, AP reports that Bp Jefferts Schori said she was "awed and honored and deeply privileged to be elected". Outgoing Presiding



Bishop Frank Griswold was at her side as she was introduced after closed-door balloting.

### 'Conservative' responses

Canada and the USA have women ministering as bishops, with Bp Penny Jamieson recently retiring in New Zealand as Bishop of Dunedin. Placing a woman as bishop at the head of ECUSA may further anger conservatives overseas and among US Anglicans, *Associated Press notes*.

"I will bend over backward to build relationships with people who disagree with me," Bp Schori pledged at a news conference. Yet several delegates said they feared the global consequences.

Andrew Carey, a British-based commentator on Anglican affairs and son of the Most Revd George Carey, who served as Archbishop of Canterbury 1991-2002, called Jefferts Schori "the most liberal of the lot" of candidates, according to the AP report.

Canon Chris Sugden, a leader of *Anglican Mainstream*, a Church of England group, said Jefferts Schori's election "shows that the Episcopal leadership is going to do what they want to do regardless of what it means to the rest of the communion".



*Continued on next page*

# President's Column

The Conference programme, 'Women in the Wings ... Waiting for Purple' is close to completion. When this event was first mooted 18 months ago the perfect timing for such an occasion was not foreseen. Could we have then imagined that we would also have the opportunity to celebrate the appointment of the first woman Primate, Bishop **Katherine Jefferts Schori**, as well as the questions now before the Tribunal in Australia?

The availability of **Jane Shaw** to share her insights and experience from the UK alongside leading women from the Australian Church, including **Muriel Porter** and **Linda Kurti** on Tuesday; **Colleen O'Reilly**, **Sarah Macneil** on Wednesday and **Janet Scarfe** on Thursday, will certainly inspire and encourage all those who attend. Other speakers are still to be confirmed and we will be introducing many leading women each day and make time available for informal conversation. Our Dinner speaker on Tuesday is **Andrew McGowan**.

The Conference Committee decided to leave out the public lecture on Monday evening, stay with the dinner Tuesday evening and leave Wednesday evening free so that delegates can have more time together, or attend Jane Shaw's address at Trinity College that evening. Jane will be at the Conference from Monday evening, Tuesday, and Wednesday morning.

*Please check through the brochure again for the issues to be covered during the three days. The Early Bird Registration date is July 28th: send your form and money in now! NB: the Conference is open to women and men alike.*

Jack and I greatly enjoyed attending the 'Women Up Front' Seminar in Melbourne at the end of April, and also had the opportunity to visit 'Amberley' to finalize details for the Conference. It is a splendid venue, warm, comfortable and will meet our needs.

Members of the Executive have received some comments regarding the cost of the Conference but the Conference Committee has extensive experience in this regard and has spent a great deal of time visiting alternatives and limiting expenses wherever possible. The considerable cost for insurance has had an impact. I would encourage people to raise funds to help offset their own costs or to assist others to come, especially people who will return and make known their experience. Diocesan and parish support may be available so please make enquiries. We will gladly make use of any donations to *MOWatch* to assist with airfares from distant parts of Australia.

When planning your arrival, don't forget the pre-conference activity on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August. Transport will be available from Melbourne (Tullamarine) airport at 9.30am and 11.00am to take conferees to Eltham for early registration and lunch, after which there will be a visit to local attractions and then on to 'Amberley'. (The cost of \$32 is less than the taxi fare from the airport to Amberley.) The day will give delegates opportunity to unwind and meet others.

*See you there.....!*

Val Graydon,

*MOWatch President*

## First woman Primate!

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Bishop Katharine is a former oceanographer whose doctoral work was on squid: she claims that years spent studying squid encourage her to see the underappreciated gifts in people. She speaks Spanish as well as English, and delivered her press statement in both languages.

Dr Schori has seen a lot of the States: born in Florida, she was educated in Oregon, where she then entered pastoral ministry, and was a visiting professor. Ordained deacon and priest in 1994, she became Bishop of Nevada in 2001. She is married, has a 24-year-old daughter, and is a licenced pilot.

The Presiding Bishop (ECUSA does not use the terms 'Archbishop' or 'Primate') is a full-time job without other diocesan responsibilities. Bp Schori will be based in New York, with an extensive travelling ministry. She will represent ECUSA on the Primates' Meeting, and at Lambeth.

For a fuller story, see [www.episcopalchurch.org/3577\\_76174\\_ENG\\_HTML.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/3577_76174_ENG_HTML.htm). An extensive interview can be found at [www.livingchurch.org/publishertlc/viewarticle.asp?ID=2010](http://www.livingchurch.org/publishertlc/viewarticle.asp?ID=2010).

Bp Schori will be installed to her nine-year term at a ceremony on November 4th 2006 in Washington National Cathedral. □

# Women bishops before Appellate Tribunal

The question of women being able to be bishops in the Australian Anglican Church is now before the Appellate Tribunal, the Church's highest legal body.

Under a provision of the Church's Constitution, 28 members of General Synod have submitted a question seeking clarification of the constitutional situation. The 28 members, led by Dr Muriel Porter of Melbourne, are representative of a broad sweep of Australian Anglicans. Equally divided between clergy and laity, women and men, they come from eight dioceses – Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra and Goulburn, Gippsland, Melbourne, Newcastle, Perth, and Tasmania.

However, because they are individuals, they have no formal sources of funds to meet expenses inevitably arising out of their submission, even though their legal team is working pro bono. They are seeking donations from people who support the cause of women bishops.

## The Question

The question the 28 members have submitted is:

*Given that:*

1. the opinion of the majority of the Appellate Tribunal, expressed in its 1991 opinion, was, that it was the constraint imposed by section 71(2) of the Constitution that then prevented the ordination of a woman as a priest or the consecration of a woman as a bishop in the Anglican Church of Australia;
2. in the case of the ordination of a woman as a priest, such constraint has been removed in a diocese which has adopted by ordinance the *Law of the Church of England Clarification Canon 1992*; and
3. the definition of "canonical fitness" as it relates to a person elected bishop contained in section 74(1) of the Constitution was amended to its present form with effect from 5 June 1995;

is there anything in the Constitution which would now prevent –

1. the consecration of a woman in priests' orders as a bishop in this church in a diocese which by ordinance has adopted the *Law of the Church of England Clarification Canon 1992*; or
2. the installation of a woman so consecrated as a bishop of such a diocese?

The 28 members are being represented by a team of wonderful, generous *pro bono* lawyers, led by Dr Clyde Croft SC of Melbourne. Muriel Porter is working closely with the legal team as an advisor and research director. A group of theologians is also preparing to assist with expert advice.

The Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn has been accepted as an official party to the proceedings, supportive of the case promoted by the 28 members. Sydney Standing Committee is opposing the General Synod members'

case; its legal team is also representing 'Equal But Different', the Sydney-based group opposed to women's ordination.

The lawyers working for the 28 members have already expended a great deal of time, energy and expertise dealing with the first onslaught from the legal team briefed by Sydney. Without prior warning, they brought a submission to the Tribunal preliminary hearing, held in July 2005, that the question as asked did not constitute a valid question under the terms of the Church Constitution. The team for the '28' submitted a substantial formal response. **More than eight months later, in May 2006, the Tribunal dismissed the Sydney challenge to the 'question'.**

Sydney had already signalled that if the Tribunal accepts the question is valid, they will then submit that the Tribunal should not answer it. Originally, the Tribunal established a timetable that would have required Sydney to supply a detailed submission on this point, to which the '28' would need to submit a reply, with submissions on the substantive issue if the Tribunal once more ruled against the Sydney challenge.

However, the Tribunal is now requiring that both parties make their submissions on both the second Sydney challenge and the substantive issue by the end of July, just two and a half months after they brought down their ruling on the preliminary point. Our lawyers have understandably asked for a more reasonable timetable! We are awaiting the outcome of that request.

## Open your handbags / wallets!

Although the lawyers and theologians are most generously donating their time, there already have been, and will be in the future, some inevitable expenses related to large-scale photocopying projects, teleconferencing, couriers, etc. and eventually probably some travel costs for the lawyers to make submissions to the public hearing (for which currently no date has been set). MOWatch has generously auspiced a fund to assist with these expenses, organised by Susan Sandford.

Please send any donations to Susan Sandford at 15 Edmund Street, Clifton Hill, Vic 3068, marking the envelope 'W-BAT Fund'. Cheques and money orders should be made payable to 'MOWatch Incorporated'.

**Thank you to MOWatch members who have already given generously to this appeal.** Please continue your support through prayer, and financially as, you are able. The fund has now raised about \$4,000.00 but we are not at all certain of the extent of our expenses.

*The article above been written by Muriel Porter to bring you all up to date on the intricacies of this matter. It can be copied and given to your friends who may also be prepared to support this endeavour.*



## ‘Women Up Front’ day forges links, draws enthusiastic participation

April 29th, the feast of Catherine of Siena, Doctor of the Church, saw a day of celebration at St John’s Bentleigh, Melbourne for the 20th anniversary of the first ordination of women in St Paul’s Cathedral. The day concluded with a Eucharist presided over by Kate Prowd, one of those ordained on that first occasion, with the Revd Dr Peta Sherlock, preaching. At the end, a multitude of ordained women gathered around (*see picture*).

Keynote speaker was the Revd Dr Elizabeth Smith, vicar of St John’s, who organised the day with the Revd Cinti Joule, parish deacon. *Papers from the day are available on a CDROM available from the parish.* □

### **The Anglican Communion** - *historical perspectives on* *current issues*

The current ferment within the Anglican Communion raises the question:  
*what does it mean to be Anglican?*

The Revd Canon Dr **Jane Shaw** will discuss this and related questions at an *Insistute for Spiritual Studies* seminar, on

**Thursday 24 August, 2006**

St Peter’s, Gisborne St, East Melbourne  
7.30 - 9.30pm pm

Cost: \$15 (concession \$12)

*Bookings:*

phone: 96622170

fax: 9662 2400,

email: secretary@stpeters.org.au

### *MOWatch Inc* AGM

**Sunday 20th August 2006, 2pm**

St Margaret’s Anglican Church Hall,  
79-81 Pitt Street Eltham Vic 3095

*All MOW members and friends welcome!*

*MOWatching* is produced by MOWatch Inc. Editorial responsibility is taken by Charles Sherlock, 3 Lelant St Trentham 3458. Written contributions should be emailed to c.sherlock@mcd.edu.au.

### **Sydney MOW 2006 AGM**

**Saturday 12th August 2006, 2pm**

St Mark’s, Hurstville,  
Grosvenor Road / The Mall, South Hurstville

**Guest Speaker: Dr Susanne Glover**

*Foundation member of MOW and creator of MOW’s ‘Twelve Founding Theses’ in 1983*

# New Anglican Observer at the United Nations sought

The post of Anglican Observer at the UN will soon be vacant, with the retirement in July of Archdeacon Taimalelagi Fagamalama Tuatagaloa-Matalavea.

“Our Anglican brothers and sisters face extraordinary circumstances in many parts of the world,” said Canon Kenneth Kearon, Secretary-General of the Anglican Communion to the *Anglican Communion News Service*. “Having our Anglican observer gives us an opportunity, to be seen and heard in one of the world’s most important forums.”

Former UN Anglican Observers - Bp Sir Paul Reeves (NZ), Bp James Ottley (Panama) and Archdeacon Tai (Samoa) - have used the post to serve other programmes, such as women’s concerns over the past several years.

**Applicants are being invited for the post.** The office is located at the Episcopal Church Centre in New York and will have close links with additional work being done in Geneva, Switzerland.

Details of the post are obtainable on request from:

Mrs Deirdre Martin,  
Anglican Communion Office,  
St Andrew’s House, 16 Tavistock Crescent,  
London W11 1AH United Kingdom

email: [deirdre.martin@anglicancommunion.org](mailto:deirdre.martin@anglicancommunion.org)

Fax: +44 20 7313 3999

[www.anglicancommunion.org/un/](http://www.anglicancommunion.org/un/)

The position is open to any Anglican, lay or ordained, with appropriate experience and qualifications. □

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## ‘Forward in Faith’ - *but to what end?*

Longstanding MOW members will remember the *Association for the Apostolic Ministry* back in the 1980s. It was an international association to oppose the ordination of women, co-chaired by Sydney’s archbishop, Donald Robinson and the Bishop of London, Graham Leonard. It was the Australian branch of AAM which in January 1992 mounted the court case which blocked Bp Owen Dowling ordaining the ‘Goulburn Eleven’.

The decision of the English church to ordain women as priests in November of that year saw the creation of a new body to carry on the anti-women fight – ‘Forward in Faith’. In 1999, the Australian branch of FIF was formed in Brisbane to replace the AAM.

In March 2006 Bishop Lindsay Urwin, Melbourne-born English bishop and FIF supporter, visited Australia and was a keynote speaker at a number of church occasions, including a conference of the Australian bishops. We understand that some of our bishops were unhappy about this choice and you may have noticed our Conventor’s letter in *Market Place* on this topic. ***So what are we fussing about? What is this group saying now?***

### The background

In 1992, when the Church of England voted to accept women as priests, the compromise Measure which secured the day was a clause that said: “Nothing in this Measure shall make it lawful for a woman to be consecrated to the office of bishop.” *The CofE made specific what Australia did not.*

While we are now having an appeal to the Appellate Tribunal to see if our rules allow us to consecrate a woman as bishop, in England they will have to make a specific synodical 2/3rd majority decision to do so. The consensus seems to be that this will happen, but in the Australian situation, getting a 2/3rd majority for anything Sydney doesn’t want is increasingly unlikely.

In this context, *Forward in Faith* is looking for something very close to schism – the Free Province. PEVS (Provincial Episcopal Visitors, or ‘flying bishops’ as we have heard them called) will no longer be enough. There will be a separate ‘Third Province’ alongside Canterbury and York, a church-within-a-church with its own archbishop, bishops and training colleges operating in parallel with the remainder of the Church of England, but no female clergy.

The FiF website which provided most of the material for this article is fascinating. For years they had been hoping that the 1992 decision would be reversed and women priests could be dismissed. FIF didn’t see a great problem with that. “All those whose ministry was henceforth to be repudiated would, after all, be readily identifiable – they would all be women.”

However, once we have women bishops, then we have the horrid problem of priests who have been ordained by a woman or by a male bishop who accepts women bishops! Some of these priests will be men!!! “These men would need to be identified, their ministries brought to a close, their remuneration terminated *and their pension rights established*” (my emphasis!).

The current Chairman of FIF is John Broadhurst, Bishop of Fulham. On the website he “muses on the cuckoo ... a parasite which inhabits the nest of others and after a brief period ousts the future generation”. Who is he thinking of? You’ve guessed it – leading supporters of women as bishops. We are not only in the wrong nest, we haven’t shown enough “care or concern” for FIF members!

So people who have always been in charge are now experiencing for the first time, the pain of alienation. Whether this will make any of us wiser in the future is a matter for prayer. □

*Elaine Peterson* (MOW Sydney)

# Two 'Top End' women ordained deacon

*from Nungalinya News report, December 2005*

## First Arnhem Land woman ordained

When **Yulki Nungumajbarr** was ordained as a Deacon at Numbulwar earlier this year (*see photo at right*) she became the first woman to be put forward by the Indigenous Church of Arnhem Land as a candidate for ordained ministry.

It was the fulfilment of a dream she had had for 20 years. Yulki has been a strong leader in her community of Numbulwar for many years and her new status recognises her role as a leader and servant of her people over a number of decades.

Her minister and her parish first sent her to Nungalinya in the 1970s, while her children were still young. **In those days she was the only female student.** Yulki has completed her courses while fulfilling her many other roles and duties as an elder in her church and her community.

People came to the ordination service from Ngukurr, Groote Eylandt and Darwin.

The women of the Church of the Holy Spirit, Numbulwar, led Yulki into the church with dancing as they sang Take up your cross and follow Jesus, then formed themselves into the shape of a cross. Two younger women escorted Yulki and stood with her before the Bishop.

The ordination service was conducted in Yulki's language of Wubuy, so that all who participated in the service were clear about what was happening. □



*Nungalinya College combines the roles of a theological college and an institution for community development training for indigenous Australians. It is supported by the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Uniting Churches.*

*The Principal is Dawn Cardona.*

*Website - [www.nungalinya.edu.au](http://www.nungalinya.edu.au)*



## Student presents teacher for ordination

It was a happy occasion on June 24 when **Joy Sand-  
Lefur** was ordained deacon at Christ Church Cathedral Darwin (*see photo at left*). Joy is the Language and Literacy Coordinator at Nungalinya College.

Past and present Nungalinya students and other Indigenous friends participated in the service.

The Revd Yulki Nungumajbarr (*see story above*) Didamain Ubio were part of the group that escorted Joy into the church and presented her for ordination.

Mandy Manggurra read a scripture passage in Kriol, which Joy speaks as she was part of the Kriol Bible Translation team at Ngukurr for 13 years.

People from Numbulwar and Groote Eylandt and the St James Anglican Indigenous congregation sang the hymn 'Go and Tell the Gospel' in Wubuy.

Deaconess Betty Roberts from Ngukurr brought greetings from the Aboriginal Anglican Church at Ngukurr. Nungalinya students and other Indigenous Christians escorted Bishop Philip Freier and Joy out of the cathedral at the end of the service. □

