
Subject:

Independent Planning Commission- Scots College

The discussion at the meeting was called a battle between the school and its neighbours. It's not that simple. It's between the neighbors, the owner of the school and the broader school community. The Presbyterian Church owns the school and Ian Lambert works for the church. At Scots the leadership no longer represents the school community. Let's take two examples, homosexuals and women. The school openly lobbied against gay marriage to the dismay of many and preaches against homosexuality. Also, the church and school do not support the ordination of females or equal rights for women. Gillian Heard's capital sin was trying to lead the school as a woman and no man would have been treated as she was. There are other examples but the point is not to put everyone into camps it is to recognise that the school is very very tightly controlled by the church and its leadership is overwhelmingly drawn from right-wing, male, white conservatives. The Independent Planning Commission needs to work to achieve a result where there is mutual respect by everyone for everyone. And for Woollahra Council's rules. The school can't be allowed to flout the rules on vague notions of religious freedom when it's only apparent Christian value is the pursuit of profit. The Bible tells us to live in harmony with one another.



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Thursday 26 September 2013

Dear Parents and Carers

I have promised to keep you updated on the media interest surrounding the decision of five GPS schools not to play Scots in the coming Basketball season.

Is this important?

My primary reason for keeping in contact with you in this way is that I do not want you, as a member of our community, to hear accusations and comment in the media without hearing the truth of the matter from me first. So, although I don't want to be continually disturbing your holiday time, I am committed to keeping you informed.

It's just not true ...

I want to reiterate that I utterly reject the accusation that Scots has imported talented students to win GPS sporting competitions. Each school has its own unique patterns of enrolment. At Scots, because of our emphasis on boarding and due to the significant expense involved, it is common for boys to join post Year 7. Some GPS schools perceive this as 'importing' talented players.

The independent investigator we have invited to review these allegations is currently completing his work. The final report will be delivered to me by the end of the week.

About your son ...

At The Scots College we make the safety and wellbeing of your son our highest priority. We will take no course of action that compromises this. Any inference that your son is subject to ill-considered risk is simply unfounded. This applies equally to the physical, academic, social and spiritual aspects of your son's education. The Sport Program is not an exception and never will be. Regardless of what any media report may imply, the welfare of your son is our primary concern.

Regarding Mr Tsewang ...

The media has also focused on the fact that the College employs Sport Scientist Mr Tenzing Tsewang. Let me be absolutely clear about the facts. For four months during 2008, Mr Tsewang performed unpaid work experience at the Manly Sea Eagles rugby league club learning the GPS data collection system used there. This experience then led to a position with the company who supplied the system, GPSports. Other than being at the same club at the same time, no connection can be drawn to sport consultant Stephen Dank.

About the GPS ...

A few days ago I was able to report to you that a number of the GPS Heads had made times available to meet with me to express their concerns in person. Unfortunately all have now cancelled our appointments. I remain confident that the processes put in place by our College will serve to resolve any perceived concerns and will lead to some very positive outcomes for future generations of boys.

Community concerns ...

Yesterday a local action group has unashamedly attempted to link their concerns to the current media interest. The suggestion in their media release that The Scots College ranks student safety below a sports program is quite frankly offensive.

The group announced to the media that it plans to launch an action in the Land and Environment Court. The Scots College is disappointed by the comments, given the extensive efforts we are making to work with the community.

The Scots College has employed a team of experts to provide advice on a new school master plan, which will be available for community feedback in the near future. The process of putting together a new master plan is onerous and not to be taken lightly. Rather than rush out with an incomplete or poorly considered plan, The Scots College has chosen to take a careful and considered approach that ensures the draft plan is based on best practice planning principles.

In addition, representatives of the College have met extensively with community members, to listen to their concerns, especially in relation to traffic management. It is apparent that in relation to this group of six residents, there is almost nothing the College could do that will satisfy some of their demands – perhaps short of closing down our school.

In conclusion ...

I am sure there will be more media interest over the next few days, but please be assured that The Scots College remains committed to preserving the integrity and traditions of the GPS competition. I reiterate our commitment to ensuring that we maintain ethical standards and practices consistent with our Christian foundation and values.

Over the last few days I have received many expressions of support. So many in fact, that it will be difficult to acknowledge them all personally. Thank you to you all.

Dr Ian PM Lambert
Principal

Listen: [Dr Lambert's interview with 2GB's Alan Jones](#)



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Dear Parents and Carers

This evening the Sydney Morning Herald has published yet another story. This time they have shifted focus to very personal attacks on me and some of our staff.

Since the issues were first raised, the matter has been handled by my legal advisors who have been in communication with the SMH. If you are interested, [here is a link](#) to a copy of their communication.

In the spirit of transparency and to ensure you are provided with the facts, as opposed to unsubstantiated claims, here are some of the errors, half truths and misleading statements in the article:

Fact 1: Scots has not "promoted" six staff from my former school in Perth. Three did not work with me in Perth while one worked with me at Swan Christian College for six months. These staff all applied for positions advertised, went through a recruitment process and their appointments were all independently ratified by College Council.

Fact 2: I had declared my relationship with my brother-in-law, Mr Paul Lister, and stepped down from any involvement with the recruiting process for a leader of our troubled ICT department. In my absence, the employment process for the selection of a head of ICT was overseen by Mr Phillip Mitchell, a member of the College Council at that time. He chaired the selection committee and made the recommendation to employ Mr Lister based on a unanimous decision of the Committee. Other members on the committee were the Association of Independent Schools NSW ICT Director, the College Director of Finance, a Head from another independent school, an independent recruitment consultant and the Deputy Principal. After the decision was made by the selection panel I was informed, and the appointment was ratified by the College Council.

Fact 3: Mrs Gaye Entwistle was Principal at Midland Christian School prior to her appointment as the Director of Early Learning at The Scots College. I did NOT work with her in her role as Principal of the School. Some years after I left, her primary school merged with Swan Christian College to form a K to 12 school. The fact that Mrs Entwistle is married to Mr Brad Entwistle and a director of the family company was declared during the selection process of which the former Chairman of College Council, Dr Gillian Heard, was a panel member.

Fact 4: In my previous roles as a Principal and CEO, I had many occasions to utilise the services of imageseven, of which Brad Entwistle is Managing Director. Brad and his team are acknowledged as the leading practitioners of school marketing and communication in Australia. Mr Entwistle is not an employee of the College as the article suggests. Mrs Entwistle was not employed by the College when imageseven started working with Scots in 2008. I sought imageseven's advice about how we could remedy the marketing and communications at the College. When we issued a request for proposals for contracted services in late 2010, imageseven submitted the best proposal that addressed and delivered on all criteria. This tender process and review was overseen by the College's Director of Finance at the time and senior executive staff. The superior brand position of the College today is testament to the quality and consistency of their work. The imageseven contract is reviewed quarterly and has been tabled at meetings of College Council when requested and renewed. The Director of Finance manages the College's business contracts which are audited annually.

Fact 5: The last paragraph of the story is a partial quote from the Australian Department of Education designed to promote disquiet amongst parents. The Department officials today sent the College a copy of their complete statement to the SMH which reads, "This is a matter for the school and the Presbyterian Church. It is being dealt with appropriately through internal governance controls that exist between the Church and the school. The Federal Department of Education and Training will monitor the situation." This is selective editing that our boys learn is misleading in foundational English.

The Sydney Morning Herald is through selective quoting, co-joining of unrelated facts, and inference, clearly trying to undermine the College's reputation, as well as the authority of the Presbyterian church to govern the school it owns and operates.

I am especially dismayed that former members of the school community appear to be making completely unfounded and unfair allegations that are hurtful and damaging to some of our most valued staff members.

It saddens me that our staff who go above and beyond in their roles at the College are having their reputations dragged through the mud not just by the newspaper but also by the apparent vindictive motives of people too cowardly to put their name to what are utterly unfounded allegations.

I want to reassure you that despite this latest attack on my character I remain entirely committed to moving forward and serving both the Presbyterian Church and, most importantly, the boys and families of The Scots College. I will not allow a pattern of media bullying to deter me from the task of constant improvement of what is acknowledged by educators around the world as a leading school for boys.

We will continue to communicate at appropriate times and hope that if anyone has any sincere concern that they will make an attempt to contact and meet with me.

Thank you to the scores of people from all quarters who have expressed their support for me, our staff and the College. You inspire me.

Scots to the fore!

Dr Ian PM Lambert
Principal

P.S. I thought you might be interested in how other media outlets are viewing the same issues raised by the Sydney Morning Herald.

[The Educator - 24 February 2016](#)

[Alan Jones \(2BG\) - 24 February 2016](#)

[The Australian - 24 February 2016](#) (Paywall)



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Schools warn Turnbull on same-sex marriage

EXCLUSIVE

By **SIMON BENSON**, NATIONAL AFFAIRS EDITOR

11:00PM DECEMBER 5, 2017 •  NO COMMENTS

The head of one of the country's most prestigious private schools — located in Malcolm Turnbull's electorate — has warned that unless the Prime Minister secures amendments to the same-sex-marriage bill to protect faith-based schools, they could be at risk of being defunded or even de-registered.

In an 11th-hour plea to parliament, Ian Lambert, the principal of Scots College in Sydney's eastern suburbs, said independent schools could be forced to “comply or die”, while parents would be stripped of their rights to choose the type of education they wanted for their children.

Parliament is expected to begin a heated debate today over protection amendments, which will be moved by up to a dozen senior Liberal MPs and cabinet ministers, including Treasurer Scott Morrison.

The heads of leading independent schools representing more than 200,000 students this week wrote to parliament, seeking assurances that they would be shielded from the changes to the Marriage Act. In a bid to escalate pressure on up to six moderate Liberals who are expected to cross the floor and vote with Labor to defeat the amendments, conservative backbencher Andrew Hastie will move to table the letters, addressed through him, in the parliament.

In a caution to Mr Turnbull to honour his promise of protections, Dr Lambert noted in his letter there were 10 Catholic, six Protestant and three Jewish schools representing almost 14,000 students in Mr Turnbull's electorate, all with strong religious foundations.

The Australian revealed last week that Mr Turnbull intended to support some amendments, pertaining to the protection of faith-based charities. But he has passed on other proposed amendments, that would include parental rights and protection for schools, to an inquiry to be

headed by Philip Ruddock, who was attorney-general in the Howard government. The inquiry will not report until next year.

Dr Lambert was backed by the senior ranks of the Presbyterian Church, which operates elite schools including Scots College, Scotch College and Presbyterian Ladies College in Melbourne, and private schools in Liberal and Nationals seats across the country.

“The Prime Minister, my local member, has given his assurance that religious beliefs, freedoms and expression will not be limited as a result of this new legislation,” Dr Lambert wrote. “Will the withdrawal of government funding or registration to independent schools be used as a blunt instrument to force schools with religious foundations to comply or die if they continue to uphold religious beliefs and values that have shaped Western civilisation for thousands of years?”

In a separate letter to the parliament sent through Mr Hastie, who is among a group of outspoken conservatives vehemently opposed to the Dean Smith bill in its current form, the Presbyterian Church’s moderator-general, John Wilson, and convenor John McClean said that under the proposed legislation they could be prevented from hiring teachers aligned to the school’s religious principles and forced to teach the new definition of marriage.

“The Presbyterian Church operates a number of schools and we are particularly concerned that these should be free to operate in consistency with the classic view of marriage in Christianity,” they wrote. “Parliament needs to provide clear protections for schools in relation to syllabus and employment practices.”

Education Minister Simon Birmingham wrote to independent schools in August reassuring them they would be protected in hiring of staff and that the Smith bill would not have any impact on these protections under section 38 of the Sex Discrimination Act. “The Turnbull government will always ensure that religious bodies and educational institutions are able to operate in accordance with the doctrines, tenets, beliefs or teachings of their religion, including respective views on marriage,” he wrote.

Mr Hastie said the amendments proposed by conservatives sought to protect the religious character and tradition of many of Australia’s independent schools.

“To preserve that freedom for parents, we must safeguard the religious character of our independent schools and their freedom to teach in accordance with their convictions,” he said. “We need to do this now, not in six months.”

Frontbencher Michael Sukkar said the amendments would be “the only safeguards for parents, schools, churches, individuals and charities against those who refuse to tolerate traditional or religious views on marriage”.

In his speech to the lower house last night, leader of the house Christopher Pyne — a champion for same-sex marriage — said the separation of church and state was at the foundation of Australia’s “civil order”.

“I do not support the insertion of unnecessary amendments,” Mr Pyne said. “As a matter of principle, acts of parliament should not contain superfluous clauses, especially superfluous clauses based on the opinion that Australia’s laws don’t adequately protect the religious freedoms that we have cherished since Federation. I firmly believe that they do.”

Mr Turnbull and Mr Pyne yesterday issued a stern rebuke to Tony Abbott in the joint partyroom, rejecting his push for a second reading amendment to the same-sex marriage bill in the lower house.

Additional reporting: Joe Kelly

SIMON BENSON, NATIONAL AFFAIRS EDITOR

Award-winning journalist Simon Benson is The Australian's National Affairs Editor. He was previously the Daily Telegraph's NSW political editor, and also president of the NSW Parliamentary Press Gallery. He gre... [Read more](#)

FACULTY & LECTURERS



REV PETER HASTIE
PRINCIPAL & PASTORAL DEAN

Teaching areas: Theology & Practical Theology
BJuris | BTh(Hons) | MA(Th) | LTCL | PhD candidate

Peter has spent 32 years in Pastoral Ministry as well as 14 years in Christian publishing as the editor of Australian Presbyterian. For over two decades he has been involved in Christian education, serving on the Councils of the Scots College, Bellevue Hill and PLC Sydney and Armidale, where he has been chairman.



REV DR JARED HOOD
ACADEMIC DEAN & FACULTY SECRETARY

Teaching areas: Old Testament & Historical Theology
BTh(Hons) | DipTh | MTh | GradDipIS | ThM(1st hons) | MA(Th) | PhD

Jared has spent thirteen years in pastoral ministry, and has lectured and studied in various fields. He has a PhD in Jewish Studies from the University of Melbourne, and a ThM from Westminster Seminary in historical theology. Jared is married to Cassie, who has homeschooled their five children. He is also editor of the Reformed Theological Review.



REV DR FELIX CHUNG
POSTGRADUATE DEAN & COORDINATOR OF
SUPERVISED LEARNING EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME

Teaching areas: Evangelism & Practical Theology
DipSocWork | MME | MTh | PhD

Felix, a Hong Kong born Chinese Australian, has been serving as pastor, missionary, and Bible College lecturer in different cultural settings for almost 20 years. He is also involved in different missionary ministries, both in Australia and overseas. He is married to Mei, who has also been serving with him as a missionary and church worker for over 15 years. They have one child named Joseph.

Hastie was born in Wangaratta in north east Victoria in 1983 but grew up in Sydney when his father Peter was appointed to the Ashfield Presbyterian Church in the inner west during a 32-year Pastoral Ministry.

The Reverend Hastie also served on the Scots College, Bellevue Hill, and PLC councils (where his two sons and two daughters attended) and now lectures in systematic theology and apologetics at the Presbyterian Theological College in Melbourne. He is also chair of the PLC Armidale council and in that capacity knows John Anderson. The Reverend Hastie is somewhat famous for two public moments: he is a creationist and he was the prime mover in the 1993 heresy conviction of the principal of St Andrew's College at the University of Sydney, Peter Cameron. The Reverend Hastie refuses to talk since his beliefs entered the Canning by-election.

Hastie does not take it well when questioned about his father's creationism and his wife's uploading of an article opposing homosexuality while working as receptionist at St Matthews Anglican Church, in Shenton Park near the SAS barracks. He said it was "totally unacceptable" for questions to be asked about his wife and father, adding he was not interested in "question of theology or anything else because it doesn't relate to this campaign".

Ground zero for the biggest political context this year

Labor's Keogh is pitting local credentials against razzamatazz. He will bite on Hastie's man of action dismissal of him as a paper shuffler who uses "tricky lawyer speak".

"People will vote on issues, not personality," Keogh said.

Early Wednesday morning Keogh is handing out flyers at Challis Railway station. Keogh grew up locally, attending Kelmscott high school before university. He joined Labor at 16. Armed with a law degree he worked first in his family law firm then as a policy officer for the Gallop government. A stint as a Commonwealth prosecutor followed. Now a senior associate with one of Perth's big commercial law firms Herbert Smith Freehills, he has taken leave to fight Canning. He is also president of the WA Law Society.

The Canning result will resonate nationally, but it is on the backburner as Perth dozes through an unseasonably warm 31.4 degree maximum. The wildflowers are out, there are reports of white pointers cruising offshore but all is swamped by provincial pride in West Coast and Fremantle playing Hawthorn and Sydney in AFL finals in Perth this weekend.

Still, Canning is a highly unusual place to decide the fate of a leader.

It's a big, taking some 80 minutes to drive the length. The north end, on Perth's outskirts, is heavily Labor, with housing commission estates and factories. The central part traverses dairy farms and rural acreages while the southern end boasts beach, FIFOs and senior citizens. Throw in a huge gold mine and a bauxite mine and Canning is the Everyman of electorates.

Randall won it five times in row. His parliamentary career was negligible but he wowed the folks back home - apart from whacking Abbott over the royal

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Honi Soit

Opinion //

The curse of St Andrew's College

The heresy trial of Dr Peter Cameron proves the need for critical faith



by Wilson Huang
April 4, 2019



When St Andrew's College emerged, John Dunmore Lang, a Scottish-Australian minister laid a curse on the College.

Lang had a profound desire to become the College's first Principal. When he was unsuccessful, he showed up uninvited at the inauguration and sowed pandemonium and disorder. Lang went on to proclaim the College was, "conceived in sin and brought forth in iniquity, and certain to become a notorious failure!"

To conservatives, Lang's curse may have been fulfilled after Dr Samuel Angus, a professor at the College's Theological Hall from 1915 to 1943, was accused of heresy, as was College Principal Dr Peter Cameron.

In 1977, a majority of the Presbyterian Church of Australia (PCA) joined the Uniting Church of Australia, leaving behind a higher number of fundamentalists within the rank and file of the PCA. The fundamentalist wing soon reversed a previous decision to allow women to be ordained, appointed as ministers and priests through the conferral of holy orders. In September 1991, the General Assembly of the PCA put the reversal to a vote. By a 2-1 majority, the ordination of women was barred once again.

At the time, Dr Cameron responded to the decision by preaching a sermon titled 'The Place of Women in the Church' at St Andrew's College in October 1991. In March 1992, Cameron presented the sermon to The Dorcas Society, a women's organisation, of Ashfield Presbyterian Church. In that sermon, Cameron criticised fundamentalist Christianity, supported the ordination of women and questioned fundamentalist interpretations of Paul's writings which fundamentalists asserted were 'divinely inspired' and therefore infallible.

"But in fact Paul's letters indicate first that the early Christian establishment was very reluctant to grant him any authority at all... His opponents dismissed him as a charlatan," Cameron said in the sermon.

This sermon was the first step in the process of Cameron's eventual conviction of heresy a year later in March 1993. His conviction was led by the Sydney Presbytery of the PCA. According to the Sydney Presbytery, Cameron's statements at the Dorcas Service were declared inconsistent with the first chapter of Westminster Confession of Faith, and its idea of biblical infallibility, as well as being incompatible with their non-affirming view of the Bible's teaching on homosexuality.

Yet, while Cameron's views may be unremarkable today, the principles which brought on his conviction are still alive and well when critical faith clashes with the Church.

For a start, the Westminster Confession of Faith is still used by the PCA today despite the fact that it remains decidedly anti-Catholic, calling the Pope the Antichrist in Chapter 25, which in effect rejects the entire Catholic faith as illegitimate.

Like Cameron's opponents in 1993, the Anglican Diocese of Sydney continues to promote self-centered views of Christianity.

Last November, Reverend Andrew Sempell, Rector of St. James' Church in King Street published a critique of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney's Property Use Policy. The original policy largely prohibited the expression of views contrary to those held by the Sydney Diocese and had several problems. First, it amounted to a limitation on freedom of speech, and, in turn, freedom of religion and its practice. The policy further risked fragmenting the Anglican Church of Australia by constructing specific claims on what Anglican doctrine is.

An extremely unyielding and dogmatic form of Christianity permeates all of these cases. It is a form of Christianity which acts and sounds like it is the only 'real' form of it. In relentless dogma, such a form of Christianity co-opts the whole faith, leaving it exclusive and insular. Accusing people who express disagreement as heretics or clamping down on dissent in churches is ultimately intolerant and uncritical.

During the last preliminary stage before Cameron's heresy trial, he wrote in Heretic "Are my accusers really so arrogant and so conceited as to think that they have a monopoly of Christian truth and that they are in a position to dictate what people should think and what they should believe."

Yet, in spite of all of this, Cameron fought against fundamentalism and against fundamentalists laying claims to owning Christianity.

In *Fundamentalism and Freedom*, Cameron argued that people in fundamentalist churches are given a guarantee of salvation, safety from troubling thoughts, and contentment from being in a like-minded community based on the acceptance of a Christianity formed on obedience.

However, as Cameron argues, having this security challenged is the last thing these people would want.

Yet, is that how we should think of faith? Faith as obedience based on a set of rules claimed by churches who think they have reached 'true' Christianity? Or should we take Dr Cameron's example of a faith driven by freedom, even if that freedom involves unbearable pain and uncertainty?

POLITICS FEDERAL

Getting on with the work of God

Australia's only female Presbyterian minister, Joy Bartholomew, thinks men and women should work together, GRAHAM DOWNIE writes

By Graham Downie

May 12, 2012 – 3.00am

The only remaining female Presbyterian minister in Australia, Joy Bartholomew, is reasonably confident her Church will again allow women to lead congregations.

She has been the senior minister at Canberra's Presbyterian Church of St Andrew since November 1999. As well as ministering to the congregation of about 500 who attend the Gothic landmark church in State Circle, she was a little surprised at the national emphasis of her work. This included her preaching at St Christopher's at a parliamentary church service.

The daughter of Christian missionaries, she was born in Khartoum, Sudan, where she lived until aged seven. Her parents were with the Sudan Interior Mission. They were linguists who translated the Gospel of Mark into the Mabaan language.

"One of the thrills for me is in the last 12 months we have a young man from Southern Sudan who has become a member of the congregation here," she says. "That is a link back to my childhood."

On the family's return to Australia her father became a Presbyterian minister and served in several parishes in rural NSW. After retirement he continued to serve as a minister in South Australia.

Her schooling was initially near Lismore then to St George Girls High School in Sydney. Her tertiary education was at Sydney Teachers College and Sydney University.

She then worked as a teacher for six years at Heathcote High School, then on Sydney's southern limit.

"I loved it. I was a supernumerary in the school so I got all the jobs no one else wanted but got real experience working across the ability levels of students. I ended up teaching largely geography and commerce up to matriculation level."

She then went to bible college in Melbourne. "I had always been interested in furthering my knowledge of the Bible and theology. I did three years getting a bachelor of divinity from Melbourne College of Divinity. Then decided I wouldn't be going as a missionary overseas."

Instead she went full-time into the Presbyterian Church. "Initially I was called a home missionary because there weren't any women as ministers at that time."

After three years at St Andrew's Wagga Wagga, she went to Epping where she was ordained in 1976.

At that time the Presbyterian Church was torn over whether to join the Uniting Church in Australia. Mrs Bartholomew says she was not greatly affected by this because the churches where she served were traditional Presbyterian where people did not feel a need to join the Uniting Church.

"For me it was not a particularly traumatic time but I have since realised that for a lot of people it was a very difficult time making a choice."

While in Wagga she met Arnold Bartholomew who was doing his preliminary training for the ministry. They were married in 1975 at Kyogle where her father was the minister.

After her ordination she served for a short time at West Wyalong, then to Newcastle where Mr Bartholomew was ordained in 1979.

"I worked as a chaplain to the University of Newcastle," she says.

They then served for 15 years at Corowa on the Murray River before moving to Canberra in November 1999.

She is not entirely sure why she was called but says St Andrew's has always been a bit left-field. "I think having a woman as the minister would have appealed to some of the congregation because they very much supported women in ministry in leadership in the Church which the Church as a whole was moving away from."

In 1991 the Australian Presbyterian Church reversed its decision for women to be ordained.

At St Andrew's, Mrs Bartholomew is the senior minister. "I get all the administrative and paperwork tasks as well as the normal ministry tasks."

Mr Bartholomew is the minister for pastoral care. "We always say he gets called to the hospital in the middle of the night and I can sleep in." She laughs slightly and says, "From my perspective it is a good balance."

The move to Canberra was timely for the education of their three sons; Ian, Peter and John, all of whom remain active members of St Andrew's.

Ian, a qualified lawyer in the public service, and his wife are elders.

Peter, who has Down syndrome, loves singing with the church's music group and on most Sundays is the flagraiser. He is a kitchen hand at Wagamama in Civic.

The youngest, John, is studying for a doctorate in laser physics at the Australian National University. He deals with a world which his mother says she cannot comprehend.

In a cruel twist of fate, when in Newcastle the family lived close to an early intervention centre for Down syndrome. But at Corowa, where Peter was

diagnosed with the condition, the nearest early intervention centre was in Wagga Wagga, more than two hours' drive away.

"We were quite sure the move to Corowa was the right thing to do - that this is where God wanted us to minister. But it raised more challenges."

They had believed Peter was very precious, "and we had been given the responsibility of caring for him and developing his potential."

Then there was the anxiety of not knowing whether their third son would have Down syndrome. There was a 50 per cent chance he would. "We were just hoping we could handle whatever the challenge would be with God's help.

"The fact that he was born without a disability was like a bonus that we didn't have the challenge some families have of bringing up more than one child with a disability."

As the only female minister in the Presbyterian Church in Australia, she is obviously disappointed no women can be ordained at present. Positively for St Andrew's, which Mrs Bartholomew says has many very capable women in leadership, several moves to prevent women being elders have failed. She says after the inauguration of the Uniting Church, the Presbyterian Church had a need for more ministers. "Some saw the theological stance of the Presbyterian Church as being much more conservative than it had been."

They joined and were welcomed but moved the Church to a much more conservative position. Also the training of clergy at Sydney's Anglican Moore Theological College and later at the Presbyterian college had produced clergy with a more conservative theological outlook. Some people had also joined from the Presbyterian Free Church and the Westminster Presbyterian Church.

She expects that with time, the ban on women being ministers will be reversed, though the title might be different.

The objection to female ministers is primarily based on St Paul's edict that women must not be head of men. Mrs Bartholomew says the biblical principle is that women and men should work together to honour God and to bring His will into the world.

"Largely I haven't been attacked or treated badly but I have really felt it hurtful when I have seen other women who felt a call to ministry who needed to leave and join another denomination to fulfil their God-given calling and women who were elders feeling attacked in more recent times."

One of her responsibilities is oversight of the upkeep of the magnificent sandstone St Andrew's building.

"We are very grateful to those in past generations who saw to its construction and to the beauty of the windows."

But the need for upkeep was constant. "Sandstone in Canberra was not perhaps the wisest building choice even though it looks good."

She does not know how much longer she and her husband will lead St Andrew's, though they have decided to remain in Canberra where their three sons live.

Of the inimitable Hector Harrison, St Andrew's minister from 1940-78, she says, "I don't think we will emulate Hector's 38 years."

Despite a general decline in active church membership, she says Christian faith remains relevant.

"I believe we have moved from a time when people just attended church and its activities purely for social reasons."

Those who now attend are probably more committed to expressing their faith in daily life.

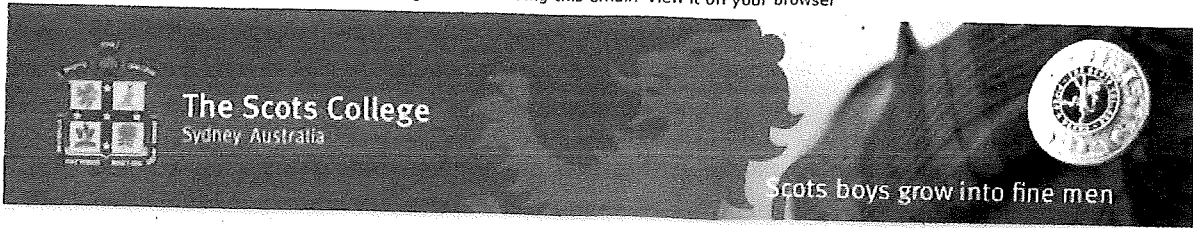
Predominantly, members are in the older age group, when thinking about life and mortality comes to the fore. "We see people coming back in their more senior years. Their faith commitment has been there right through and their worship practice is reactivated."

Of course, the Church would want people to maintain their commitment. "The challenge is to make faith practice relevant in that in-between age."

For some people their faith becomes relevant at major life events such as birth, marriage, crises and death.

Graham Downie is Religion Reporter

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General Meeting – the Women's Association

Dear Mothers and Female Carers

Please be advised that a General Meeting of The Scots College Women's Association will be held on Friday 31 May 2019.

This meeting will commence at 9:30am in Aspinall House Ballroom, Aspinall House, Victoria Road, Bellevue Hill.

Agenda items will include, Executive Committee's welcome and reports from all members, items for discussion and general business.

- [Click here](#) to view the full agenda.
- [Click here](#) to see the minutes of the Previous General meeting, full reports available upon request.

Mothers and female carers of boys currently attending the Scots College are automatically members of the Association and are invited to attend this and other General Meetings of the Association.

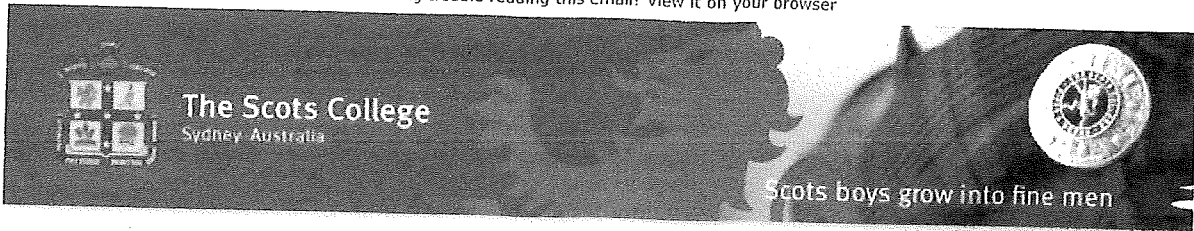
We look forward to seeing as many members as possible at this meeting. Please RSVP to me at rvass@vass.com.au for catering purposes.

Kind regards

Mrs Rebecca Vass
President – Women's Association



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The Parents' Association Annual General Meeting Notification

Dear Parents and Carers

Please be advised that the Annual General Meeting of the Parents' Association will be held on Wednesday 6 February 2019.

This meeting will commence at 6:00pm in the Founders Room (behind the dining hall) at The Scots College.

Agenda items are available on request and will include but are not limited to; a welcome from the President, review of support group guidelines and responsibilities, review of minutes and finances, an address from Guest speakers.

All committee positions are available at this meeting. Nominations are invited and welcomed for the following positions:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary

Requirements and responsibilities for these positions are set out in the Parents' Association Constitution. Details can be made available by contacting Mr Peter Homan on parentsassociation@tsc.nsw.edu.au.

We look forward to having all our support groups represented. All Parents' Association members are invited and welcome to attend.

Kind regards

Mrs Heather Wilson Dulieu
Vice President – Parents' Association

