



Anglican Diocese of Grafton Registry Update

Edition 7 - February 2016

Dear Rectors, Churchwardens, Parish Councillors and Treasurers,

This seventh edition of the Registry Update, and the first of 2016, contains important information on a variety of topics, please ensure that your Rector/Locum, Churchwardens, Parish Councillors and Treasurer receive each Registry Update so that they can take any necessary actions. A copy of this Update will also be sent directly to chaplains, business managers of diocesan organisations and members of diocesan councils and committees.

The information contained in this Registry Update is not confidential or private, so please feel free to share it with others who would benefit from knowing.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS

At the 28 January 2016 meeting of Bishop-in-Council the Diocesan Governance Ordinance 2008 was updated to use the current terminology relating to Working With Children Checks (WWCC). With those changes, clause 77.2 relating to membership of Parish Council has also been changed. This clause now reads:

All members of the Parish Council shall hold a current 'Working with Children's Check' from the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian. Those elected to, appointed to, or ex-officio members of Parish Council who do not hold a 'Working with Children's Check' at the time of their election, appointment or becoming otherwise qualified for membership of Parish Council shall have their membership held in abeyance until a 'Working with Children's Check' is obtained. In circumstances where three months has elapsed since election, appointment or becoming otherwise qualified and the potential member of Parish Council has not obtained a 'Working with Children's Check', their election or appointment will lapse and be cancelled and in the case of an ex-officio membership of Parish Council the election or appointment that created that status will be cancelled.

So a person without a WWCC used to be able to join Parish Council and then apply for their WWCC. That practice is no longer acceptable, so a person without a WWCC can still be elected or appointed to Parish Council but cannot take up that position until they have their WWCC. This is not expected to be a difficulty because the WWCC system is usually efficient with applications processed in a timely manner.

AGM PREPARATION

As this is the 'season' for Parish AGMs, please take time to review the Diocesan Governance Ordinance 2008 as changes made in the 2015 Synod affect both the business and the elections at your AGM.

Following the AGM, parishes not only have to complete and return the Parish Return to the Registry but also there is a requirement to inform the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC) of any changes to the officer bearers of the parish.

PARISH OFFICER TRAINING

In October last year, there were five sessions of Parish Officer Training held at various centres across the Diocese. The attendance at each of those sessions was good and feedback shows that many people regardless of their experience found the sessions to be very worthwhile.

Mindful that some new parish officers will be elected in this month's AGMs, two more sessions have been organised for additional parish officer training sessions. Those sessions are at:

10am to 2.30pm Tuesday 8th March at Holy Trinity, South West Rocks

10am to 2.30pm Saturday 12th March at St Bartholomew Alstonville

Anyone wishing to attend either session should contact Kaytrina or Maree at the Registry for registration details.

IT BASICS AND SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS SESSIONS

From time to time, people have been asking for training or awareness sessions on various Information Technology topics including the use of Social Media (e.g. Facebook and Twitter). To meet that interest, 3 presentations are being prepared on IT Basics and Social Media aimed at people who see themselves as beginners or novices in this field or who lack confidence in using these tools for church purposes.

The sessions are planned for:

9.30am to 1.30pm Tuesday 19th April – St Mary's Ballina

9.30am to 1.30pm Friday 22nd April – Bishop's Registry, First Floor, 50 Victoria Street, Grafton

9.30am to 1.30pm Thursday 28th April – All Saints Kempsey

Registration forms will be sent out in the next few weeks.

There have been requests for software training beyond the beginner level. For those training requirements, interested people are encouraged to search for publicly available training courses in their region. It is not practical for the Registry to organise software training where the numbers are low and the topic is specialised.

SAFE MINISTRY TRAINING

There are three more full Safe Ministry Training workshops organised for February 2016:

Tuesday 23 February at Nambucca Heads

Thursday 25 February at Grafton

Saturday 27 February at Ballina

This is not only a good opportunity for current office bearers to complete their training but it is also an opportunity for those considering nomination or election to new roles.

For registration please contact Maree at the Registry on 6642 4122 or pa@graftondiocese.org.au

A refresher course in Safe Ministry is also being planned for Nambucca Heads. If you need to attend a refresher to keep your Safe Ministry Training current, contact Maree for details.

REIMBURSEMENT FOR USE OF PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLE

On 28 January 2016, the Bishop-in-Council approved a proposal from the Stipends and Allowances Committee for a new scale for reimbursement for use of a private motor vehicle for church purposes. The new scale does not differentiate reimbursement for vehicles of different engine size and between the circumstances of the person making the claim.

Details of the existing and new rates of reimbursement are in the following two tables.

Rates of Reimbursement for Motor Vehicle Use – Until 29 February 2016

	Engine Capacity of Motor Vehicle	
	Up to 1900cc	Over 1900cc
Clergy cars engaged on regular parish duties Standing Charge	\$5,304 per annum or \$442 per month	\$7,668 per annum or \$639 per month
Plus distance travelled rate	26.25c per km	31.25c per km
Casual use of car – Non-stipendiary relieving clergy⁵	75c per km	75c per km
Casual use of car – Locum⁶ Standing Charge	\$102.00 per week or \$17.00 per day	\$147.46 per week or \$24.58 per day
Plus distance travelled rate	26.25c per km	31.25c per km
Casual use of car for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occasional services • Authorised Parish purposes • Approved Diocesan purposes 	31.25c per km	31.25c per km

(Notes: ⁵ suitable for retired clergy who were previously in fulltime stipendiary ministry who now provide occasional Sunday service ministry; ⁶ suitable for relieving clergy who take on ministry over several days as well as Sunday services although not as Locum.)

Rates of Reimbursement for Motor Vehicle Use - Effective from 1 March 2016

	Reimbursement Rate
Engaged in regular church duties Standing Charge	\$8,000 per annum or \$666.67 per month
Plus distance travelled rate	26c per km
Approved casual use of car	66c per km

The Stipends and Allowances Committee also presented to the Bishop-in-Council a procedure that puts reimbursement for ministry travel in context and provides more detail on options and expectations. The Bishop-in-Council while welcoming the procedure has requested the Stipends and Allowances Committee to embellish certain points prior to approving and communicating the new procedure.

SHADE SAILS

The Bishop-in-Council has accepted a recommendation from the Property Board based on the experience of some other Dioceses, to limit exposure to the Diocesan insurance fund for claims from shade sails for circumstances that are not genuine insurance claims. These are circumstances where:

- The shade sail is beyond its usual life and is therefore weakened by exposure;
- The choice of shade sail means that it has a shorter expected life;

- The construction of the shade sail is not up to standard (It is noted that poor construction of shade sails not only makes them more prone to failure in storms but can also lead to damage to other nearby structures.)

The Bishop-in-Council made the following resolution:

That Bishop-in-Council supports the recommendation of the Property Board and instructs the Registrar, from 1 March 2016, to exclude claims for damage by wind, storm or hail from the ISR insurance policy for shade sails older than 10 years or those installed after 31 December 2010 and not meeting the minimum requirements of 95% UVB and, if over 10 square metres, having a building approval.

If any parish needs advice about a shade sail installation, the Property Board will be able to assist.

ELECTRICAL SURGES AND TECHNOLOGY

As more and more places have technology that is sensitive to electrical surges (e.g. computers, projectors, televisions, sound systems) the use of surge protection power boards should be the minimum protection used. Surge protection power boards are relatively cheap and if they prevent even just one loss of equipment (remember parishes have an insurance excess of \$500) they will have paid for themselves many times over.

However, electrical surge protection is not quite that straightforward. The attached ABC Science article "Should I turn my computer off during a lightning storm?" provides more information.

Each parish and ministry is encouraged to review their exposure to equipment damage from electrical surges.

VALUATIONS FOR INSURANCE PURPOSES

In Registry Updates last year, it was indicated that there will be a program of independent professional valuations of properties to determine the building replacement values for insurance purposes. Bishop-in-Council and The Corporate Trustees have approved this approach to avoid situations where:

- buildings are seriously damaged and the insurance payment is insufficient to allow repair or rebuilding;
- the diocese and the insurer dispute valuations that are not by an independent professional; or
- excessive premiums are paid because of unnecessarily high valuations.

Humby Property Consultants have been contracted to conduct valuations in the parishes of The Bellinger, Nambucca Heads, Macksville, Kempsey, Lower Macleay, Wauchope and Port Macquarie before the end of March.

Quotations are being received from professional valuers interested in conducting valuations in the parishes of Maclean, Grafton, South Grafton, Dorrigo, Orara Valley, Northern Beaches (Woolgoolga), Coffs Harbour and Sawtell Bonville in April to June this year.

Other areas will be included in valuation programs in 2017 or 2018.

IMPORTANT DATES

Bishop-in-Council

3rd March 2016

4th May 2016

18th August 2016

13th October 2016

8th December 2016

Corporate Trustees

17th March 2016

19th May 2016

14th July 2016

15th September 2016

24th November 2016

Property Board

17th February 2016

16th March 2016

20th April 2016

18th May 2016

20th July 2016

24th August 2016

21st September 2016

19th October 2016

16th November 2016

14th December 2016

If you have any submission to a meeting of Bishop-in-Council, the Corporate Trustees or the Property Board, please provide these to the Registrar at least 10 days prior to a meeting to ensure that your submission can be included in the business of that meeting.

Synod

The next Synod of the Diocese of Grafton will be held on 17th, 18th and 19th June 2016 in Grafton. The opening session of synod on Friday 17th June will be held in Christ Church Cathedral Grafton with Saturday and Sunday sessions held at the South Grafton Ex-Servicemen's Club in Wharf Street, South Grafton.

The first mailing to synod representatives will be made shortly. If a synod representative has not received any material by 19 February, please contact Kaytrina in the Registry.

Synod representatives may wish to start making accommodation bookings to avoid the inconvenience and disappointment of having their desired accommodation booked out.

Pre-synod Meetings

In the lead up to the 2016 Synod, three pre-synod meetings are scheduled. At those meetings which can be attended by any interested member of the Anglican Church as we will not only be previewing the expected synod business but also a chance to share and hear views on some of the more sensitive issues. At this stage, the Bishop, Ministry Development Officer and Registrar are expected to be in attendance and presenting to each pre-synod meeting.

9am to 12 noon Saturday 28th May 2016 – St Thomas' Port Macquarie

9am to 12 noon Saturday 4th June 2016 – St Mary's Ballina

9am to 12 noon Saturday 11th June 2016 – St John's Coffs Harbour

(Please note that the meetings in the north and south of the diocese were originally advertised on different dates. Due to coordination with other events the order of pre-synod meetings was changed. Apologies to anyone inconvenienced by this change.)

Yours in Christ's service,



Chris Nelson
Registrar/General Manager
Anglican Diocese of Grafton

[Ask an Expert \(/science/askanexpert/?site=science\)](http://science.askanexpert/?site=science)

Should I turn my computer off during a lightning storm?

Should I turn my desktop computer off during a lightning storm or is it okay to leave it on standby? Do surge protectors always work?

Should I turn my desktop computer off during a lightning storm? I've heard stories about lightning striking a house and ruining thousands of dollars of computer equipment. These people had all the anti-surge stuff and it didn't help. They even had the computer off; the on switch was still sending mains power to it from a wall.

—Andrew



A power surge is an abrupt, large increase in voltage or current in the power supply that typically lasts a fraction of a second.

It can be caused by faulty wiring, downed power lines or the sudden and heavy use of high power electrical devices such as air conditioners during a heat wave, which can upset the steady supply voltage from the electricity network.

"But these surges produce nowhere near the same amount of voltage and current as that caused by lightning, a giant discharge of electricity produced during a thunderstorm," says Dr Toan Phung, a senior lecturer at the School of Electrical Engineering and Telecommunications, [University of New South Wales](http://www.unsw.edu.au) (<http://www.unsw.edu.au>).

"In a thunderstorm, wind turbulence in clouds causes ice crystals and water droplets to collide. As a result, clouds becomes positively charged on top and negatively charged at the bottom," explains Phung.

"The negative charges at the cloud's base then attract positive charges that accumulate on the ground's high points such as hills, tall buildings and trees.

"When the attraction between these charges is strong enough, the air becomes ionised and breaks down to create a path for the current to flow and that's when we see lightning."

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Zap, crackle and pop

The current in a lightning bolt can produce tens of thousands of amps and exceed 100,000 volts, says Phung, explaining that voltage is the electric potential (pressure) difference between two points in a circuit and current is a flow of electric charges.

"Even an indirect lightning strike near a power line is enough to induce a surge and substantially boost electrical pressure beyond the 230 volts most households receive from their mains supply inflicting serious damage on electrical devices," he says.

"Either the conductor (wires) heat up and burn, effectively frying your device. Or the excessive voltage causes the insulation that separates the conductors to break down resulting in a short-circuit fault."

If your computer is plugged into a wall socket that's switched on, even when it's in standby or sleep mode, it's vulnerable. That's because the lightning current can travel through the power cord or any other cable connected to your computer, says Phung.

"So if you think a storm is coming, you should physically disconnect your computer from the mains

High voltage: The current in a lightning bolt can produce tens of thousands of amps and exceed 100,000 volts (Source: *Altera/iStockphoto*)

Related Stories

Mystery of ball lightning solved? ([/science/articles/2012/10/12/3609694.htm](http://science/articles/2012/10/12/3609694.htm)) , Science Online, 12 Oct 2012

How electricity makes things work ([/science/articles/2010/07/07/2946773.htm](http://science/articles/2010/07/07/2946773.htm)) , Science Online, 07 Jul 2010

socket to protect it from a lightning surge," he says.

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Power surge

You can't always predict when a storm is going to break, or when an incoming surge through another path such as your telephone line, so surge protection devices (SPDs) "are a good investment," he advises.

Instead of connecting directly to the mains power socket, you can buy a power board with built-in surge protection and plug your computer and other devices such as your printer and modem into this, he says.

"Whatever its design, the primary function of an SPD is to block or mitigate the surges by limiting (clamping) the overvoltage or diverting (shunting) the overcurrent through another route.

"A multi-service surge protection device is even better because it blocks surges entering the house via potential conductors other than your power lines such as telecommunication lines, even water pipes."

Unfortunately, however, no surge protector is completely effective, says Phung.

"Although the response time of a SPD is very fast, some initial portion of the surge can sneak through. Furthermore, a large surge could exceed the SPD's capacity.

"That's bad enough if it means you have to replace your computer. But it's far worse if you lose all your data too because you haven't backed it up. That's why you should regularly save everything to a data storage device and put it away, just in case."

Dr Toan Phung from the University of New South Wales was interviewed by Kathy Graham.

Tags:

[computers-and-technology](/science/tag/browse.htm?site=science&topic=latest&tag=computers-and-technology) (/science/tag/browse.htm?site=science&topic=latest&tag=computers-and-technology)

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