**President’s Report**

**ANZATFE AGM 7 December, 2017**

On November 25, 2016 we held our annual Research Day and AGM. This took place at Trinity College in Melbourne with about fifteen participants. Those who gave papers were:

Sean Gilbert, Uniting College, SA on the topic of *‘Why the Art of Christian Ministry?’*

Peter Francis, Malyon College, Qld – who spoke on ‘*Developing Genuinely Reflective Practitioners’*

Cecilia Francis, Trinity College Theological School, Vic whose topic was - *‘Formation for Leadership in a ‘Missional’ Context’*

The AGM ran smoothly although we did make one change and that was in the position of Treasurer. We elected Sean Gilbert to this role and thanked David Burke for his services in 2016. The other office bearers were re-elected without contest.

In 2017, we have been able to move our accounts to electronic access so that payments can move on from the cheque book era to online payments. In this we have the security of two signatures both electronic. As Treasurer Sean makes the payment, and notifies me of the payment. I am then able to approve the payment online. This form of security has also seen us move from the external device to generate an access code to SMS notification.

The website was a major issue for quite some time in mid-year as it suddenly disappeared and despite the strenuous efforts of our Treasurer, Sean Gilbert, and our web manager, Sivonne Binks we were not able to resolve the matter. The company who had hosted our site seemed to have been taken over and we were unable to contact them. They were also invoicing us for monies that we believed we did not owe. The upshot was that we had to create a new website: [www.anzatfeassoc.com.au](http://www.anzatfeassoc.com.au) and transfer the material from our old site when we finally got access to it. We apologise to all members for what turned out to be a lengthy outage. However, once the new site was populated and some initial problems with trybooking sorted things have proceeded reasonably smoothly.

Murray House from Avondale did a fine job finding a Sydney site for our Conference and the choice was Morling which I believe has worked well for what has been our largest Conference since the inception of ANZATFE. Naturally, there are issues at any Conference, but the tireless work of Cecilia Francis, and Lynda Crossley who was our Melbourne assistant worked through the issues of costing when new function management took over at Morling. In the end all worked out well, but there were some challenging moments, so I want to congratulate, Richard, Cecilia and Lynda for all their work. I also want to congratulate the Committee for their willingness to participate in our early morning meetings which took place by telephone linkup. We are in different time zones, but the staff at Trinity in Melbourne helped us with their IT skills.

The major work of the year has been the preparation for the Conference and the management of the logistics. I have heard nothing but positive comments about the presentations and workshop of our speakers: Perry Shaw, James Dalziel and Geoff Broughton. I also want to thank Karina Kreminski for her stimulating dinner talk. Karina and James must both be in the zone for Karina is speaking at a Conference this morning and James this afternoon.

I wish to thank our Conference workshop presenters, and Sue Withers, Sean Gilbert and Christine Sorensen for our morning worship. In closing, I would also like to thank the staff of Morling College and I am glad that some of their faculty have been able to join us for the Conference.

‘Pedagogical Practices for Formation’ been a challenging and fruitful topic so we look forward to suggestions about a theme and a location for our 2019 Conference.

Finally, it is my pleasure to be able to thank both the Executive and the Committee for their commitment to ANZATFE in 2017. Most especially, I would like to thank Richard Trist our Vice President, Cecilia Francis our Secretary and Sean Gilbert our Treasurer. It has been a pleasure to work and serve with them.

This will be my last AGM as President, so I would like to thank you all for your patience with some of challenges in 2017, and to congratulate you on your participation in our Conference. Please spread the word to both your Colleges and your colleagues and we look forward to seeing you in 2019.

Rev. Associate Professor Michael A. Kelly, CSsR

President ANZATFE

7 December 2017