

## ETERNAL VISION MARKS OUR 150TH BIRTHDAY



**Thu 14 March 2013**

St Saviours Cathedral was packed with clergy and parishioners from across the Diocese as well as citizens of Goulburn, countless politicians and other VIPs as the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn's marked its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The date marked the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Queen Victoria's promulgation of the Anglican Diocese of Goulburn along with the City of Goulburn on March 14, 1863.

Bishop Stuart Robinson **preached** on the importance of having an eternal vision, reflecting on the pioneering ministry of the Reverend Robert Cartwright and the Diocese's first Bishop Mesac Thomas.

"As Cartwright and Thomas... lived as ambassadors and citizens of that heavenly city – and in so doing loved, served, and blessed those with whom they toiled and struggled, may we - as conduits of God's love and grace similarly serve and bless the people of this great community", he said. "And may these 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations fuel our longing for that great and glorious eternal celebration; in God's presence, with God's people, through God's Son. That's the vision!"

The Bible readings were delivered by the Governor of NSW, Professor Marie Bashir and the Mayor of Goulburn, Geoff Kettle.

The church service was followed by a civic ceremony under a marquee in the Cathedral grounds. A highlight was the cutting of the city of Goulburn's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday cake by Bailey Tiyce, a St Joseph's student who turned 10 on the day (March 14), the New South Wales Governor Marie Bashir and Terry Newton, daughter of former mayor Thomas P. Manion.



*(from left to right) Minister Pru Goward, Premier Barry O'Farrell, Bishop Stuart Robinson and NSW Governor, Prof Marie Bashir.*

A-list dignitaries at the event not only included Governor Bashir, but also the NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell, NSW Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione, NSW Community Services Minister Pru Goward, former NSW Premier and head of the World Anti-Doping Agency John Fahey, other members of ACT, NSW and Federal parliament past and present and a representative from Goulburn's Japanese sister city, Shibetsu.



At the civic ceremony, Bishop Stuart delivered a speech emphasizing the shared “past, present and future of Goulburn and the Anglican Diocese that shares its name”.

“We have followed parallel paths, born in the same moment 150 years ago”, he said. “To understand the origins of our journey, you must reimagine a world very different to ours. It was the world of Queen Victoria. An Empress that ruled lands stretching around the globe. She could write law in a distant colony by her command: A City had to have an Anglican Cathedral, and that meant a bishop as well.”

Bishop Stuart said that today, the Anglican Church is committed to the future of Goulburn on many levels, not least through the decision to reopen the Bishop's office.

Goulburn, he said, is "increasingly strategic as a centre for ministry" with the wider Southern Tablelands having "some of the fastest growing rural districts in NSW".

Furthermore "Goulburn's Anglican Cathedral is in many ways our secret jewel, regarded by architectural experts as one of the most beautiful in Australia superior to those in most larger metropolitan cities. Yet, the Cathedral must be the living, spiritual heart of the city not just an historical curiosity. We want the people of Goulburn to see St Saviour's Cathedral as their Cathedral... It is important that the Cathedral, together with our parishes of North Goulburn and West Goulburn, cater for the diversity of spiritual needs within the City."

He also emphasized the importance of the Goulburn community in ensuring the vitality of Anglicare's current work right across regional NSW.

"Goulburn is the key community in the formation of a charity that now operates across two-thirds of NSW and the ACT", he said. "Today Goulburn is the regional headquarters for Anglicare for the entire southern part of NSW down to Victorian border... the local office employs 83 staff while overseeing a further 300 employees located in over 20 other NSW towns."

To express the historical link between the foundation of the city and the foundation of our Anglican Diocese and our agencies like Anglicare, the Dean of Goulburn, Phillip Saunders, gave a brass bookmark of the Cathedral tower to Goulburn Mayor Geoff Kettle. All Council staff will receive their own bookmark.



*The letters patent from Queen Victoria from March 14, 1863 on display at Goulburn's 150th birthday celebrations.*