

## DICKSON TO HEADLINE CATHEDRAL CONVENTION



**Thu 2 May 2013**

Aiming to encourage ministry by lay people, Bishop Stuart has announced a special one day convention at St Saviour's Cathedral with Christian author, historian and TV presenter Dr John Dickson as keynote speaker.

An Anglican priest and author of 18 books, Dr Dickson is known for engaging in mainstream media dialogue about Christianity. In February, Dr Dickson debated American theoretical physicist and atheist Lawrence Krauss on [ABC TV's Q&A](#).

John lost his father in a plane crash when he was 9, an event which he freely admits has shaped his passion for life's big questions and still motivates him to be the best father, husband and man he can be.

He is Director of the [Centre for Public Christianity](#) and Senior Research Fellow of the Department of Ancient History, Macquarie University where he teaches a course on Christian origins. He has hosted two television documentaries screened nationally on the Seven Network: *The Christ Files* and *The Life of Jesus*.

No dry academic, Dickson understands how to engage with contemporary popular culture. He was lead singer in the band In the Silence in a former life and hosted the music TV show, *Swordfish* on [Network Ten](#) for two years.

As his bio puts it: "John specialises in the big ideas that have shaped our world and inspired men and women to live beyond themselves. His journey has been an eclectic one: from fulltime musician to professional speaker, author, biblical historian, TV presenter and director of a multi-media think tank."

In a pastoral letter written earlier this week, Bishop Robinson announced details of the Convention organised as part of the Diocese's 150th celebrations.

"Following on from the success of our Provincial Convention in 2011, I am pleased to announce a Bishop's Cathedral Day Convention on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 as a part of our 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations", he wrote. "The focus will be encouraging lay people in their vocation/ministry", he wrote.

Bishop Robinson said the Convention will be especially tailored to parishes in the Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn but that delegates from across regional NSW will more than welcome to attend. With elections for a new Archbishop of Sydney to be held later in the year, NSW's new Metropolitan will also be invited to participate.

"The conference is for the people of our diocese – though we will invite our Tri-Diocesan friends and colleagues. Indeed at the request of the Tri-Di Commission, I will ask our new Metropolitan to join with us on the day", Bishop Robinson wrote.