



## *Anglican Diocese of Newcastle*

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

**10 September 2014**

#### **GREAT GATHERING OF ANGLICAN BISHOPS IN NEWCASTLE**

This coming weekend (12 – 15 September) Bishop Greg Thompson will be hosting 30 bishops and archbishops and their partners from East Asia, bringing together Anglican Bishops of the Anglican Communion from the Philippines, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Myanmar (Burma) and Australia.

As part of the gathering the Diocese will welcome for the first time the new Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia, Archbishop Philip Freier. Dr Freier was elected in June and provides guidance and support to the 23 dioceses and organisations of the Anglican Church of Australia.

The gathering of Bishops is for the Annual Meeting of the Council of Churches of East Asia (CCEA). It meets each year in a different country, and this year it is Australia's turn. The CCEA is a fellowship which allows for sharing, growth and the strengthening of relationships, while also tackling some of the more challenging issues the church is confronting today.

“We are excited to host the visit of many Anglican leaders from East Asia to further our international relationships and shared concern for the wellbeing of our cities and communities,” Bishop Greg said.

The bishops and their partners will participate in a number of activities throughout the weekend, including business sessions, tour of Samaritans service facilities and visits to parishes throughout the Hunter.

They will also share a special Aussie bush BBQ on Saturday night at the Railway Sheds in Foreshore Park, and will take in the sights of the Hunter Valley on Monday with a wine tour.

The community is welcome to a special service to welcome the Primate and the Archbishops and Bishops of East Asia in the Cathedral at 7pm on Friday night.

[Ends]

#### **Media/Photo Opportunities**

- Friday 12 September, Civic Reception & Opening Remarks from Host Diocese, Town Hall 2-3pm
- Friday 12 September, Evensong and Welcome of Anglican Primate, Christ Church Cathedral 7-8.30pm
- Saturday 13 September, Aussie Bush BBQ, Railway Sheds – Foreshore Park 5.30pm
- Sunday 14 September, Parish Visits – Please contact Communications Manager for more information, 8am-12noon

**Please direct all media enquiries to:**

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