RCA Newsletter, 1950s

The collection of this newsletter is incomplete. Missing from this collection are newsletters #1-4, 8 - 11, 20, 24, 31, 35, 37, 40, 42, 52, 54, 55, 57, 62 - 67, 69, 74, 78, 84, 88.

It is written almost entirely in the Dutch language. Most English articles are published to meet statutory requirements. My thanks to Emeritus Rev. Bill Wiersma (Hobart 1965 +), and to Ali Stam, for assistance in translation.

The notes below are selected to portray, in their own words, the matters important to the RCA (Reformed Churches of Australia). The documents record in real time why the church was established, the what and how of putting down roots, and the extent of their growth in Tasmania. The record shows sacrifice, organisational skills, commitment, and hard work in equal measure. Most of all, the documents show a deep urge to be faithful children of God, expressed as a thankful response to the message of the Gospel tempered by a Calvinistic understanding.

KERKELIJK ORGAAN

Van THE REFORMED CHURCHES OF AUSTRALIA IN TASMANIA
Adres: Rev J.A.Schep, Bass Highway East, Penguin, Tas.

(*CHURCH BULLETIN*
Of THE REFORMED CHURCHES OF AUSTRALIA IN TASMANIA
Address: Rev J.A. Schep, Bass Highway East, Penguin, Tasmania)

The front page of every edition lists the scheduled church services for the coming Sundays:-

date and time
location (initially 3 - Penguin, Ulverstone and Kingston-Hobart),
type of service
(reading, minister, Heidelberg Catechism Q & A number if applicable)

Every congregation meets twice every Sunday, usually at 10.00 and 4.30.

Hobart address details are vague - readers are advised to contact Mr A.F. van Neutegem, 10 Winkleigh Place, Bellerive, near Hobart. [*personal visit or postal enquiry*]

Every edition carries small display advertisements for the services of various Dutch migrants. - tailors, grocers, butchers, insurance agents etc.

<u>Nr 5. 7 Juni 1952</u>
250 hymn books [English language], ordered from America, arrived several weeks ago in Launceston. The Customs and Excise Department is processing this import now.

<u>Nr 6. 28 Juni1952</u>
The hymn books are still held by the Customs authorities. The Launceston office is waiting on advice from the Sydney office.
A service was conducted in English on Sunday 15 June. There was a good attendance. Naturally, not everybody understood everything, but the fact that people attend every month and try to understand is very encouraging. We can only fulfil our calling to reach the local folk if we have regular services in English. The fact that 10 Australians participated in this service , and later spoke warmly about it, says enough. Also with an

eye on the children, who quickly know English better than Dutch, it is increasingly important. The Session of the Ulverstone congregation agreed that I lead an English language service every two months.

NOTE:- *In 1951 it was intended to hold one Dutch and one English service each Sunday in co-operation with the Methodist Church in Penguin, and as soon as possible at Ulverstone and Burnie. (Advocate, Tuesday 12 June 1951, p.4)*
Two weeks later the target was changed to once a month in the evening service of the Methodist in Penguin, in co-operation with Rev. C.J. Dodd, minister of that church. (Advocate Saturday 23 June 1951, p.15)
The change of plan, and the attitude of the Ulverstone leadership, could be described as "The elders sensed theology too deep for them to touch, so deep it couldn't be explained unless one spoke Dutch" (Mike Vanden Bosch, professor of English at Dordt College, Sioux Centre, Iowa).ed.

Article - The use of lipstick. Lipstick is an un-natural product made to highlight, usually with an un-natural colour, the lips. It draws attention where no attention should be given. See 1 Timothy 2:9,10; 1 Peter 3:3 and Isaiah 3:16-24.

Nr 7. 12 Juli 1952
A 2.5 foolscap page report on the first Synod of the Reformed Churches of Australia (Melbourne, 25-27 June). An historic event, extremely encouraging, in a sphere of unanimity. Schep was asked to produce a Press Release for the newspapers in the Netherlands.
Prior to the Synod, an evening of prayer for blessings on the Synod was held in Penguin. The evening was poorly attended, Schep was quite disappointed.

One of the Synod decisions (#4) concerned correspondence with a limited list of other Reformed Churches in the world. Schep, Vanderbom and elder Bakker were instructed by Synod to proceed this matter for the following Synod to consider. [*This decision later caused some grief in Launceston by splitting Reformed unity and message*.]
It was decided that the official name of the church would be:
"The Reformed Churches of Australia" (RCA)

In Tasmania
Disappointment was expressed with a Tasmanian government decision, re employment layoffs aimed at migrants, because it lacked justice. The unemployment benefit compounded the injustice, because the payment was a maximum of £2.10.0 per family per week!

Reports were made on collections for the car fund, contribution towards cost of news bulletin, and other collection results. In the month of June almost £80 was collected, including £17.10.08 for diaconal work, from 225 members.

Six advertisements in this issue, the first in this church newsletter:-
Geert Groenewoud, tailor (pens geprobeerd, altijd near Geert!)
Reminder for the Bazar on July 23
S Petrusma - The Grocer for Penguin and Environs
Burnie Duplicating and Typing Service - always at your service
Johs Koetsier, Dutch Butcher - only the best quality for our clients
A van der Schoor for placing adverts in the newsletter - 5/- per inch, 1 column

Nr 12. 20 Sept 1952
In news from the Penguin congregation, it was noted that the Youthclub had presented an evening of entertainment. It was a wonderful evening, although not all items were judged to have been chosen wisely, especially "*het peerd van ome Loeks*". The fund raising committee (church building) reported on the 'Bazar' they were organising.
A short report on the sad state of affairs re the influence of the freemasons in the C of E in Penguin.
Ulverstone reported the birth of the fifth child of br. & sr. de Jonge. Also the imminent wedding of Kees Pieterse and Diet van Voorthuyzen. (Editor comments 'so our church will grow').

Report on the most recent visit to Kingston. Members resident in Hobart came by bus to join in celebration of the Lord's Supper. Sadly, many of them skipped the afternoon service. Were they not thankful for the celebration in the morning? Was the habit of a "nabetrachtingspreek" something that could be abandoned in their new country?

"nabetrachtingspreek",
I have heard of 'nabetrachtingspreek', a long time ago. I understand it to be a sermon of reflexion, or pondering, on what has been said or experienced.
Sometimes it was a kind of a summary at the end of the main sermon, more usually a sermon in the evening service after the morning celebration of the Lord's supper. (Bill Wiersma)

Er zijn diverse tradities in de protestantse kerken rondom de viering van het Heilig Avondmaal. Het begint met de zondag vooraf de bediening H.A. In het oude formulier staat "opdat wij nu tot onze troost het Avondmaal houden moeten wij ons voor alle dingen beproeven of wij op recht voor de Heere wandelen en een ernstig voornemen hebben voortaan in zijn wegen te wandelen. Allen die zoo gezind zijn wil God in zijn genade aannemen. Als nu blijkt dat u in onmin leeft met broeders/ zusters kan u in de week van Voorbereiding daarover met elkaar spreken. Ook bij twijfel of je wel goed gelovig bent kan je in deze week van voor bereiding je op Gods genade richten. Dit alles wordt ons niet voorgehouden om verslagen harten kleinmoedig te houden maar juist onze toevlucht naar Jezus zoeken. HIJ is getrouw. Na de viering van het sacrament op zondag morgen wordt in de avonddienst de dankzegging gehouden of ook wel Nabetrachtings preek gehouden. Veel van deze tradities zijn bij ons in onbruik geraakt. Jan van Leeuwen c/o Cees Boer, 11/03/2025

Schep continued his report - Visited long term patient, brother Laning, in the Chest Hospital, New Town, on Monday. Stopped in Mona Vale on the home journey [*via Tasman Limited*] to baptise Johannes Kamphuis, and share the Word with that little family.
Combination train and bus to return to Penguin on Tuesday at 10 p.m.
Report on the car fund, and the organ fund.
Greetings from the Reformed Church of Ceylon, who note they were once flourishing, but are now fading, especially as the young emigrate "as best as we can", chiefly to Australia.

Article - Why infant baptism?, and the errors of the Baptist Church, the Church of Christ and the Gospel Hall in this matter. (2pp)

Nr 13. 4 Oct. 1952
Church Council report. The building committee collected from the congregation (cash & promises) £373.5.6 to purchase land for own church building. They will now prepare plans for presentation to the congregation. The church bulletin will remain free, although the diaspora will be asked for a contribution. Resolved that there be four elders, one

elder to retire each year, alphabetically. Thus br. van Betlehem to retire first. [*Dutch sorting convention ignores surname prefix(es). KW, ed.*]
Thank you letter from the Youthclub for the support given to the entertainment evening they presented.
Ulverstone reported new migrant arrivals, and encouraging them to join the Reformed church. They insist on making clear that they don't want to be a Dutch church, but an Australian one, that is true to Scripture and the Confessions of the Fathers. [*by Dutch church they mean not every variation of Reformed church as in Holland, but, leaving the differences in the past, creating one united reformed church. KW, ed.*]

Editorial - Decline of the church in Australia. Preachers are giving homilies, nice stories and diluted teaching, indistinguishable from the message of other religions. Their message has become a Babel. The Presbyterian Board of Religious Education promotes 'Jesus and me' theology. The gospel message - salvation through the atoning work of Jesus Christ, is absent.
Article - (part 2) on infant baptism and faith.

Nr 14. 18 Oct.1952
Wedding bann - Johanna de Vries and Gerard van Ommen. Service will be in Dutch, in the Methodist church building. Fund raising Bazar will be in the C of E Parish Hall.
A son was born to br. & sr. van der Woude-Jager.
Launceston - it appears there are many Dutch migrants here, all worshipping in, and members of, Australian churches. Sadly, a group of Free Reformed have advised me, after much correspondence, that they object to the decision of Synod to correspond with the GKN (Gereformeerde kerken in Nederland), and it is thus not possible to join with the RCA. This means that there could soon be two Reformed Churches in Launceston, with the same Basis - the Three Forms only. The only difference will be that one church corresponds only with the Free Reformed in the Netherlands. This is very sad and shameful.
Article - Circumcision. This seems to be normal in Australia, for sanitary reasons. It is understandable that Dutch migrants, with their high sanitary standards, do not see the necessity of this operation.
Article - Discussion on best practise of collections during the service. "As Dutch people we don't have much reverence. Every church service, with loud voices before the service and many late-comers, demonstrates that in abundance".
Article - Discussion re standing during congregational prayer. Pros and cons, decision to remain seated as a display of unity.
Article - Discussion re standing during singing. Decided to try 50/50 standing and sitting.

Mens' Society - correspondence from the first group in the Narrabean (Sydney) RCA. Expresses wish to have contact with similar groups, to support each other in defence of the Gospel, and strengthen the bonds between the brothers in Christ.
Article - Dancing - a great evil in the world, and a very great evil in this country. To save our marriages from degenerating, we need to resist. Our children, dancing as boys and girls together, should be banned from school dancing lessons. "Oh that we had Christian schools".

Nr 15. 1 Nov.1952
The Bazar was a great success, there were lots of happy people, and approx. £80 was raised. Thanks to all the organisers, also the supporters.

Youthclub discussion topics - 1/11 Gre van Betlehem - Daniel and the dreams; Cora Schep - Adventists; 8/11 Hanna Schep - the Fall of the Babylonian Empire; Jan van Herwijnen - free topic.
Wedding - the wedding ceremony for van Ommen-de Vries will not be in Dutch but in English.
Kingston - the Hobart members attended the service on 19/10. Br. Van Neutegem was installed as elder by Schep. A record attendance at this service.
Article - Report, in long detail, of rumours in Launceston especially concerning the call answered by Schep. Noted that the call was made by the Dutch Protestant Association in Penguin (J de Vries, P vd Heijden, P Jager) and not by a church, as should have been done. Noted that once in Tasmania, this situation was reversed. Complications regarding correspondence decisions by Synod. The author of the rumours is challenged to discuss them with Schep and the Church Council.

Nr.16. 15 Nov. 1952
Penguin Church Council and Building Committee unable to choose which land to purchase for church building.
Decided to schedule a Public Profession of Faith (PoF) and Lord's Supper for 28 December, D.V.
Ulverstone Church Council discussed the disappointing events in Launceston. It seems many [members] have adopted a materialistic [evil] lifestyle.
Kingston has grown to 90 members. The attempts to attract a minister have been disappointing, "we are no further than we were in May". A youth group (13+ y.o.) meets every Friday at 7p.m. in Little Groningen.
Article - discussion re circumcision. Recommendation that partial circumcision is OK if medically necessary.
Article - Discussion re baptism - sprinkling or full immersion? Claims for the latter ignore other instructions in the Bible, e.g. greeting each other with a holy kiss.
Disappointment in the Tasmanian government decision not to fund private schools in any fashion.
This edition is the first to include an article (7 lines) in the English language.

Nr.17. 29 Nov. 1952
Rumours circulating re the minister (Schep), re some members, re some congregations, claiming poor treatment by them of Australian churches. Truth is, Rev.Dodd (Methodist) was involved in discussion re establishing a Reformed Church prior to the event. Penguin has a good relationship and understanding with the Methodists. In Ulverstone, none of the Dutch migrants were ever members of the Presbyterian church. Also, when we use their buildings, we always offer to pay.
Article - Discussion re use of English. - "we migrated to an English speaking country, so we must strive to learn the language as soon as possible. How else can you discuss spiritual matters with your neighbours? Attending English language services will help you learn the language".
Catchments - Penguin: - from the West Coast to "Lonah" plus the diaspora south of Launceston. Ulverstone: - from "Lonah" to the East Coast plus the diaspora north of Launceston plus Launceston. Kingston: - the southern part of Tasmania.

Article - 'attestations' - documents attesting to church membership and introduction to new congregation.
New Zealand news - establishment of a Reformed Church in that country is happening
Article - Discussion of Matt.12:30 used to encourage establishment of one Reformed Church in Australia, and not to import 'church differences' from the old country.

Nr.18. 13 Dec. 1952
List of new members in Penguin, and attestations from their church of origin, and their current address. Incl. Aart Zwaal; Fokelina Johanna van der Kooy; Sybren Veenstra and Grietje Veenstra-Kooistra + 2 children; Ernest Cornelis van der Vlist and Kitty Clazina van der Vlist-Muit. [*note the use of maiden names, KW ed*.]
Penguin is organising a special Christmas service, including an interval during which they "hope to use something" *(hopen we iets te gebruiken)* meaning to have supper.
Ulverstone names 5 successful PoF candidates. One named family has withdrawn membership, one un-named family in Ross has declined membership due to the correspondence question.
Disappointing attendance at the evening service last Sunday, especially considering it was a Lord's Supper preparation service. Half-Sunday-Christians can be challenged - is that real Christianity?
Article - Gambling - contrary to the 8th and 10th commandment, and comes at the cost of the losers.
Article - report on Australian Churches, with focus on available teaching materials for children (misleading). From an original article in "Evangelical Action" by Rev. McEwan, Reformed Presbyterian Church, Melbourne.
Article - Discussion re use of Dutch language - for the time being, most sermons will be in Dutch, so children should learn Dutch. Also, if they know Dutch, they have access to an enormous treasure of christian literature. Holland is the world leader in the production of material, especially Calvinistic, for people of all ages.

Nr.19. 27 Dec. 1952
Church service schedule includes, for Kingston & Hobart, Sunday 18 Jan. - listed as 'maybe Rev. Schep'.
Permission to use Australian church buildings is becoming increasingly difficult. The Methodists (Penguin) have already declined once, because, in their circles, they have become uncomfortable that we began our own church, and that we don't want to have combined services with Australian churches. Renting a building is not an Australian concept - usage by others is only done as a favour. This position is contrary to the Word, e.g. Luke 6:33. On the other hand, we can imagine that it hurts the locals when we do our own thing. We see that Australian churches often have visiting preachers, but that's not amazing because Australian churches are very tolerant and liberal in doctrine. Which is why they cannot understand our strong Calvinistic stance. Let's not blame them for that, but see an opportunity. It's not because we are Dutch, but because we want to serve our Lord according to His Word. It will take years for this position to be understood. In the meantime, we need not ask the local churches for use of premises anymore, and have to make do with the local town hall.

Two Ulverstone elders and Rev. Schep had some meetings in Launceston to gauge the need there.
Kingston reports that collections for the first half of the year totalled £716.15.1½. Outgoings totalled £82.4.5. This will allow us to build reserves for major expected expenses. Membership is now 120, which is double since we instituted six months ago.
Attestation was received from the GK in Semarang for Oepke Jelke Hofman and Jannigje Hofman-Fyan + 4 baptised children.

The talk I (Schep) recorded for Dutch Radio has been twisted, taken out of context and spread among Australians as a bad rumour. Someone in the audience, when the recording was made, has told his Australian neighbours that I claimed that Australians

drink 18 glasses of beer every day, whereas I said thousands behave as if dancing, beer drinking (sometimes 18 glasses in one sitting) gambling and sporting competitions were the purpose of life. Australians have reacted with “it is a shame, the lies that Dutch Reverend is sending to Holland”.

Mother tongue - because some of the older migrants in our group will never master the English language, all our children must learn Dutch so that they are not spiritually deprived. It is incumbent on the parents to give appropriate lessons. Working for their material welfare is fine, but their spiritual welfare is more important.

Nr.21. 7 Feb. 1953
Penguin decides to print 240 copies of a pamphlet in English promoting the Gospel.
Maarten Prins is appointed to caretaker, Gerrit van Betlehem and Pieter Petrusma appointed to youth work. Catechism classes to resume - children 12 to 15 on Friday at 4.30, 16 yr & older on Saturday at 7.15. [*probably p.m. - KW, ed.*]
A painful happening last Sunday evening - only one sister stepped forward to the Lord’s table. It was suggested that the youth be rostered for babysitting on Lord’s Supper Sundays so that the parents can celebrate together.
Sadly, Hielke van der Wal has had to leave our community to find employment.
Ulverstone requests the members to remain silent during the collection.
Kingston notes the arrival of seven new members plus 13 children, 2 baptisms and one marriage.
Flood disaster in the Netherlands. A committee has been formed to collect funds for flood relief, and the Commercial Bank has opened a fee free account for deposits.

Nr.22. 21 Feb. 1953
First service scheduled for Launceston - incl.baptism at 11 a.m. and Lord’s Supper at 2.30 p.m. Officially it will be a Reformed Church of Ulverstone service. The large room of the “Kings Chambers”, 127 Charles St, has been hired from 10.30 - 4.00. for a low price.
Ulverstone Church Council has formed a committee to assist new migrants. Penguin will be asked to join this committee.

Nr. 23. 7 Mar. 1953
Service roster: - 15/03 - Kingston @ 10.15 Lord’s Supper service, No Hobart service
22/03 - Penguin @10.00 Harvest & Labour thanksgiving service
28/03 - Penguin @4.00 wedding service in the Baptist Church building.

Penguin - Church Council response to home visit reports generates concern re the spiritual health of the congregation. A special service will be organised, with a call to repentance from certain sins which are currently entertained by the members.
Penguin agrees with Ulverstone to join a committee to assist new migrants. Brothers Koetsier (Penguin), Rook (Burnie) and Sypkes (Smithton) nominated.
One married couple attended the Ulverstone Church Council meeting to confess transgression of the seventh commandment.
Due to absence of reverent peace during the collection, singing of hymns will resume. Also, singing of a hymn before the service, in preparation for meeting God, will be introduced.
The Session discussed the question of the work of a session member, who is a baker, on Sunday evenings. It is with regret that the Session noted that so many in the congregation talk to others about this matter and make a rash judgement, without expressing their objection to the elder in question. After this brother had explained this rather involved matter from all sides, the session decided to announce that, in view of the

very unusual situation, it does not have the confidence/freedom to condemn this Sunday evening labour as unnecessary and therefore unlawful.
[*In other words, it decided to take no action against the elder and left it to his own conscience. Bill Wiersma*]

The matter was not raised during the *censure mora* stage of the meeting. Unruly living by some members was discussed, also some instances of disagreement between members. It was resolved that the persons in question would be visited before the next Lord's Supper.
A car has been purchased - a Ford Prefect, only one year old and only 6000 miles on the odometer. It will now be possible to schedule many more tasks into the week, including RE in the Ulverstone primary and high schools, an extra service on Sundays in places like Wynyard, all without the worry of matching activities with bus schedules.
Reminder to the members - if the baptism of your child is scheduled, please advise the brothers nominated below, because they keep the font(s) at their home(s).

The first service in Launceston attracted 30 people. Cornelis Nieuwenhuizen from Bridport was the first to be baptised. Bi-monthly services will be scheduled until Kingston succeeds in calling a minister, after which monthly services.
Discussion based on Ephesians 4:14 occasioned by the Burnie Methodist Church hosting a Masonic service - effectively blowing with every wind of doctrine, this church is no longer a foundation and pillar of the truth.
A book about the catastrophic floods in the Netherlands is being produced to raise funds for the recovery. An English language version will be available. See list of nominated brothers at the end of this newsletter to place your order.

Nr. 25. 4 April 1953
Hobart has a new place of worship - St David's Cathedral Parish Room, for services at 2.30 p.m.
On the request of the Embassy of the Netherlands, a public viewing of a film about the catastrophic flood will be shown in the Town Hall of Penguin on Tuesday, in Burnie on Wednesday and Devonport on Thursday. The technical director of the Adult Education Department will take care of the projection. Two additional films about the Netherlands will be shown to make an hour of viewing. Annie van Ommen-de Vries has offered to perform music and song to fill the evening. Entry of 3/- requested to raise funds.

The Prime Minister, Mr Menzies, visited the Penguin community last Monday. An official asked me [Schep], after the official function, if I was the Dutch minister of religion. I was then introduced to the PM, who asked me various questions about how we were faring. I advised that we were "quite happy, and our church is NOT a Dutch Reformed Church but the Reformed Church of AUSTRALIA". He wished us "good luck".
Ulverstone reported an AGM. Growth from 62 to 162 members.
Kingston has bought a parcel of land on the Margate Road for £300. It is big enough for a church and a manse. Considering the number of members in the building trade, it was proposed at the congregational meeting that these members be asked to contribute 6 days per year to the construction of a church building. The meeting agreed.

Nr 26. 18 Apr. 1953
Penguin presented their first financial report (14/10/1951 - 31/12/1952). Income £689.11.10, expenses £574.6.5. Membership = 123.
Br. Petrusma appointed as representative on the Good Neighbour Council.

The members are advised not to have milk delivered on Sundays, so that we don't employ anybody and the milkman can have a day of rest too. Milk can be boiled on Saturdays, or bottled milk can be stored under the house in warm weather.
The Church Council met with a real estate agent for information about building blocks.
The minister was told that he must check the water and oil of the car **every** day.
The purchase of the car has made possible a service in Sheffield for the three families there. This will be once a month, after the Penguin service and before the Ulverstone service. Bible lessons in the Ulverstone schools is done 50/50 Dutch and English. We need to increase the English content, also in our church services.
Kingston reports that because most members do not live in Little Groningen, the afternoon services will also be held in the Youth [*Scout*] Hall. At a congregational meeting it was proposed to discontinue standing for singing, then agreed to no change.
Attestations for 5 more members were received, plus 13 children

Nr.27. 2 May 1953
The first church service scheduled for Wynyard is Sunday 17 May, Odd Fellows Hall.
Advice received re language use in this newsletter. Government regulations specify a minimum of 25% English content, to allow authorities to be informed of migrant lives and aspirations. This is probably a blessing in disguise. For those who have trouble reading English, the editor will include the Dutch word for difficult English words.
Meditation in English on John 17:17a - unity in the church must be subject to truth, cannot permit false doctrines.

Ulverstone reports that the baker (discussed previously) now has additional Dutch workers, so the Sunday evening work could be discontinued. Work now begins in the early hours of Monday. This is too late for one large country shop, and the contract is lost. A brother in Devonport had to give up a milk bar because he wouldn't trade on Sundays.
Attestations for six new members received, plus four children.
A service in Launceston attracted people from Bridport, Gravelly Beach and Scottsdale.

News item in English re the lot of Protestant Churches in Spain, and the active suppression of them by Roman Catholics.

Nr. 28. 16 May 1953
Coronation Day service, in English. Sunday 31 May - 10a.m. in Penguin, 4.30p.m. in Ulverstone. Details to be advertised in The Advocate.

A presentation of the protocol of our institution, artfully prepared and framed by br.IJskes, was made and thankfully received. Resolved to schedule several collections each year for Mission work, in particular the work of the church in Makassar on the Celebes.
An invitation to join a combined service for the coronation was declined because "we have no assurance this will be a fully orthodox, Scriptural event. The preacher will be a gentleman appointed by the Municipal Council. We cannot assume responsibility for an address from a gentleman we don't know at all. There are other objections. We are sorry to do this, but we must keep the character of the church of Christ pure".

Resolved that Ulverstone would call a minister to work in Launceston with the aim of establishing a congregation there. Penguin and Kingston to help with the costs.
Kingston has begun foundation work for their church building, although not yet successful in calling a minister.

Nr. 29. May 30, 1953
Invitation to the female members of Penguin to a meeting on Monday 1 June, at the residence of Mrs Petrusma, to discuss the concerns of the church, and what the women can do about this.
Twenty people turned up for the first service in Wynyard (17/5). The Odd Fellows Hall is booked every fortnight by the Presbyterians, so we have to build our roster around that.
Twelve people showed up at the home of the family Branderhorst in Georgetown to discuss church matters. Most of them originally came from Steenwijk.

"It inspires us to gratitude that H.M. the Queen feels prompted to ask the prayers of all for performing Her royal task. Let us all comply with Her request".

Article - Why was the Reformed Church of New Zealand established? A detailed article in English refers to the deviation of the Presbyterian Church - they agree with Socinus, not Calvin and Knox, with Erasmus and not Luther, with Arminianism and not Westminster, to deny the Scripture in favour of Universalism. (Just like in Australia).

Nr.30 June 13, 1953
The sister circle will meet again at the home of Mrs Petrusma on Thursday evening, 18 June. Bring your handwork. All married ladies welcome.
The building committee is urged to make progress because the Penguin Town Hall is too big to be heated to a reasonable level.
Ulverstone and Kingston have both begun to collect books for a study library - for group study leaders to resource.
Poor Jan (a Dutch migrant living in Penguin) 'won' £6000 in the lottery, but this will not be blessed by God. Happiness cannot be found in money.

Nr.32. July 18, 1953
Reading services scheduled for every location and every time slot for 26/7 and 2/8.
The (federal) minister of Social Services, Mr Athol Townsley, claims that Australians spend more on gambling, alcohol and tobacco together than the government spends on social services.

Nr. 33. August 1, 1953
Reading services scheduled for every location and every time slot for 9/8 and 16/8.
Rev Schep may not do his work, on doctor's orders.
Consistory report in English.
Rev. and Mrs Schep celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary very quietly. Thanks to the congregation for the bronze standard lamp.

Nr. 34. Aug. 15, 1953
Reading services scheduled for every location and every time slot for 23/8 and 30/8.
Penguin has made a start for a library. This will allow leaders of meetings to make better presentations.
Article - Church Life in Australia - a report by the Bible Union of Australia. Notes liberal thinking and subtle modernism.
Article (in Dutch, 3.5 pp) concerning the Anglican Church - similarities and contrasts to the Reformed Church, structure, political status.

Nr. 36. Sept.19, 1953
Sept.27 - 11a.m & 2p.m. by Rev Schep in Launceston

Oct.4 - 10a.m. in Penguin, 4.45p.m in Ulverstone by Schep. All other services, all other locations, reading services.
Kingston youth leaders and Bible Study group report collection of £19.0.0 for the central study library.
Wollongong requests Synod to stipulate a minimum stipend. (Synod to meet 27 - 30 October in Sydney).

Nr. 38. October 17, 1953
2 services by Rev,Schep, all other (12) services will be reading services due to Synod demands.
Combined church council meeting (Penguin & Ulverstone) re the situation in Launceston.
Ulverstone report given in English. Notes that the lecture to be given by br. Kapinga will be "Jehova's Getuigen".
To assist members' understanding of the hymns, a translation will be presented here as space permits. This issue - Nearer Still Nearer (each line immediately followed by the Dutch)
The overtures to Synod include a proposal that women be allowed to vote for church officeholders.

Nr. 39. October 31st, 1953
Saturday November 14
- wedding service in Ulverstone @ 10a.m. by Rev.Schep (Harm Venema & Henny Hut)
- wedding service in Kingston @ 6.30 p.m. by Rev.Schep. In English. (Fokko Bolt and Anneke Bakker)
Two weddings in one day, possible because a plane service Devonport to Hobart is available at 12 noon.

The Dutch journalists Hagoort (de Rotterdammer) and Hendriksen (Trouw) were given a tour of Penguin and Ulverstone, introduced to many, and attended various meetings, also with the Orthodox Protestants. A vicious witch hunt was aimed at our church in the Penguin Town Hall, but fortunately all the false rumours could be exposed to the light and the truth be told. The meeting with the journalists in Ulverstone was a beautiful evening, with 60 people present, including non-church members.

A combined all day event for Penguin & Ulverstone on Christmas Day, including events at Turners Beach, is being planned. The diaspora is also invited - hosts and lodgings for them are needed. See Mrs Ketel, [*her address is*] Ulverstone West!

News - Candidate de Graaf from Zeist has accepted the call from Sydney, to work with Vanderbom. In New Zealand, Rev.Scarrow and three elders moved from the Presbyterian Church to the Reformed Church because the standards have slipped so much. This encourages us to remain true to our calling.
The text of the hymn "*Fill Thou My Life*" is printed in English and Dutch.

Nr.41. 12th December, 1953
Sister-circle Christmas evening in Penguin on 22/12 @ 7.30 in the hall of the Public Library. Ladies from Ulverstone and Devonport are urged to join in. Can those with access to a car please help those without, so everybody can join in?

Ulverstone has everything ready for the members & guests to enjoy a Christmas "Land-day" [*literal translation of 'Land Dag' - KW, ed.*] The idea is to spend the afternoon outside, otherwise we are inside too long. It is intended that we spend much time

singing outside, Dutch and English songs, as an evangelical force. The programme begins with a combined service (Penguin & Ulverstone) @ 10.30in the RSL hall. 11.45 - 12.15 is for lunch preparation (byo food). 12.15 - 1 lunch. 1 - 2 to Turners Beach, and find a spot with shade to allow a peaceful meeting. 2 - 4 open air meeting, community singing, bible quiz, short story telling. 4 - 5 return to hall. 5 - 7 Christmas celebration, focus on children. Lodgings will be found for diaspora members on request - contact Mrs Ketel. Teenagers with bicycles are urged to use them, and those with cars are asked to provide a shuttle service to and from Turners Beach.

On Boxing Day the youth of our church, including members from Launceston, Kingston and the mainland, intend to hold a 'congress' with a view to establish a national Society.
Three elders from Kingston attended a meeting in Launceston with a view to assist in establishing a church there.
Rev van der Woude, Andijk, N.H. is considering a call from Kingston. The need for a minister is urgent and large.
Classis Tasmania has been formed, with the first meeting in Launceston on 28 November.
The Launceston group needs to meet more often than once every two months. At the last meeting, one family paid £10.0.0 for taxi fares to be at the services.
Two English articles, from American periodicals, to satisfy the 25% regulation.

Nr. 43. 24th January, 1954
Penguin consistory met on Jan 4. Considered reports, dealt with the budget, scheduled a congregational meeting for Jan.13. Two brothers who had been at variance for a long time attended the meeting and were reconciled to each other, to the joy of the consistory.
A budget shortfall of £59.18.6 needs to be covered.

Service schedule for the next 6 weeks will be Launceston at 10a.m., Ulverstone at 4.45p.m. and Penguin at 7p.m.
Ulverstone read the Lord's Supper form in English.
The take home message from a presentation and discussion about the Jehovah's Witnesses was to not get into discussion but to invoke 2 John :10.
The weekly schedule for services in Launceston include travel there on Saturday mornings to allow [home] visits in the afternoon and evening. To leave Launceston immediately after the Sunday morning service. This schedule for 3 months.

In Kingston more than 120 people attended the morning service. The growth in Kingston is mostly explained by the many job opportunities there.

The installation of Rev Pellicaan in the churches of Melbourne, Dandenong and Mt Evelyn has been met with the same legal objections as happened in Tasmania. Some people think it is more important that the Church rules be maintained - in this instance that a minister must be called by a church, not by a group of people wishing to establish a church. Their criticism is draining the energy we need to invest in establishing the [Reformed] church in Australia. May God have mercy on us.

The Rev WF Betts, Superintendent of the Fitzroy Methodist Mission, has resigned his position after 24 years service. He claims the increasing modernism in the church is contrary to the message of the Gospel. Reformed church members are reminded - if a preacher in the Methodist church leaves, how can there be a place with them for us?

The Type & Duplicating service of A van der Schoor, producer, inter alia, of this newsletter, is re-locating from Penguin to 4 Windsor St Kingston Beach.

Nr.44. 7th February, 1954
A wedding service, to be led by Rev.Schep, is scheduled for Wednesday, 17 February, at 7.30 p.m. In the Methodist Church in Kingston Beach.
Rev.Schep requests a meeting after the Launceston service on 14 February with a view to forming a church.

Kingston members were told, at a congregational meeting on 16 January, that work on their building was postponed twice due to a shortage of bricks. The committee believes it has found a way forward with an offer from br.Klap and Mr Slot. This will also allow more volunteers to be involved. Slower progress on the building is deemed desirable, so that more effort can be put into establishing the manse. The Sunday school has become so large that the group needs to be divided into two, and two extra leaders are needed.

News has been received from the Reformed churches in Melbourne, Sydney, Wollongong, Brisbane, Perth and New Zealand (where Rev.Scarrow has joined the Reformed church). Rev Vanderbom urges (in Dutch) members to read the English Bible, especially in the family circle.

Nr. 45 7th March, 1954
Kingston has purchased a manse in readiness for Rev. van der Woude, expected to depart the Netherlands early April. It seems everything is possible in Kingston.
Article - re Boy Scouts movement and their goals, to prepare boys for a world without a church.
Article - re attendance at evening services on the JOV [*migrant ship*] - only 30 of hundreds of Protestant passengers, all with time on their hands. This means that our evangelisation work should be among the immigrants!
Article - concerning compulsory unionism. We believe the Bible clearly teaches that no government has the authority to enforce membership of any organisation.
Review - of the film 'Salome' - a gruesome, godless corruption of the Bible. Christians should protest and then boycott the cinemas.

Nr.46. 27th March 1954
Services twice every Sunday in 5 locations - Penguin, Ulverstone, Kingston, Hobart and Launceston.
All services led by Rev. Schep or local elders.

Obituary for brother Meinard Rook, 41 y.o., after a short and intense illness [*leukemia*]. He leaves a wife and four children [*the youngest yet to be born 13/7/54*]. A great loss to the community also. Thought to be the first Dutch migrant to be buried in Tasmania [n*ot correct, ed.*].

Kingston received from Penguin attestation papers for Gerrit (Gerald) Betlehem, Jan van Herwijnen (John Herweynen), Arie van Betlehem and Andries van der Schoor, with wives and children (the latter being the father of Andrew van der Schoor). *See also South Eastern Builders*.

The Launceston congregants were instituted as an independent Reformed Church on March 7th. There are about 50 members, who chose J Boer (St Leonards) and D van Wijk (Gravelly Beach) as elders and WF Schoenmaker as deacon.

Nr.47 17th April 1954

KIngston advised that Rev van der Woude boarded his ship on April 1. Membership has grown to 190. A Total of £1787 was collected in the past year, with expenses of £237. The sum of £2016 has been expended on the church building, and a deposit of £1000 was placed on the manse. A mortgage will be taken out to complete the church building and the balance of the manse purchase. The congregation elected to complete the church building with a tile roof instead of corrugated iron [*two consequences:- 1/ quieter in a rain storm, 2/ needed to be installed on a Sunday by 7 Day Adventists - they had the skill, and the congregation of builders did not*] and all the male members promised to donate 6 days of work on the building.
Br. O.J. Hofman addressed the congregation on the importance of Christian education. Only our faith can achieve this objective - the difficulties to surmount are like mountains that need to be crossed. Members agreed to commission a committee to discover ways and means. [*the beginning of the parent controlled Calvin Christian School, 27 March 1954*]
The youth club reported (in Dutch) a very successful year.
The Synod held in Sydney established formal connections with the Reformed Churches in New Zealand, the Free Church of Scotland, the R.E.S., the GKN and others. A decision was also made to consider training Ministers in Australia.
NewZealand reported that because of the defection of Rev. Scarrow and most of his congregation from the Presbyterian Church to the Reformed Church, the church is now mostly young people. Resistance to using English is consequently much lower.

Nr. 48. 1st May 1954
The Ulverstone congregational meeting finished at 11.15 p.m.! "*De stemming was buitengewoon goed*". The mood of the meeting was exceptional. Possibilities re own building, own minister and teaching material for the youth dominated discussion.
Launceston reported that circulars concerning church contributions were already "at sea" [distributed] several weeks ago. The response will indicate whether an own minister can be called.
Sunday 16 May has been set aside for the installation of Rev van der Woude in Kingston. It may be that JoV will dock on schedule, and that there may be seats available to fly to Hobart, in which case a welcome evening will be held on Saturday 8 May, and the reverend will fill the pulpit as a guest preacher on 9 May. The afternoon service on the 16th of May will be at 3 p.m. so that the members resident in Hobart, who come to the morning service by bus, can be hosted in Kingston and then attend the service before the last bus leaves for Hobart.
The youth clubs of the Tasmanian congregations met in Launceston and created a formal network for mutual benefit - in line with other states. This allows, inter alia, the publication of a periodical (the Calvinist Youth Herald) aimed at the youth.

Nr 49 22nd May 1954
Ten services in 5 locations every Sunday - now the work of two ministers. The installation of Rev van der Woude in Kingston was a true blessing for the Tasmanian churches.

In Penguin several members have pledged to reduce their smoking habit and donate their savings to a fund to establish a Christian school. Some families have pledged to live more thriftily in order to have money to give to the school fund.
Some Ulverstone members have chosen to emulate their fellows in Penguin, for the same goal. Some of the brothers formed a Bible study group, to meet fortnightly in the small room behind the shop owned by de Regt. A roster to make presentations and lead discussions has been made.

The Synod in Sydney discussed voting rights of women. Not all churches have the same understanding of this matter. Synod decided that current practice should not determine their decision on this matter, and to form a committee to study the subject.
The Synod also decided to form a committee to study the subject of trade unions.
Elders chosen to represent their Classes to be reimbursed the sum of £2.10.0 per day.
The Synod formed a sub-committee to examine and recommend a minimum stipend and reimbursement rate for ministers. Synod also elected to put a proposal to the [Free] Reformed Church of Armadale W.A. and the "Huisgemeente te Launceston".

Nr.50 5th June 1954
Three of the ten Sunday services (5 locations) are now in English.
In Penguin a meeting called a committee together to examine the possibilities of establishing Christian schools. They were also charged with working together with Ulverstone, where similar discussions are being held. This group also discussed the possibility of combing church and school in one building.
Kingston reported that the twenty rafters had been constructed - their building now had a real shape. After the church service on 27 May, there was singing practise from the new hymnal. After various verses had been translated and thus understood, the congregation sang with joy. There are so many beautiful songs and melodies in this book, it will be well worthwhile to get a better grip on English so that they can be appreciated.
A 5 page article by Mr O.J.Hofman on the subject of Christian Education in Australia is printed in this edition. He discusses - our responsibility, the state school, consequences, possibility, character of the School, what now?, He finishes by arguing that delay in implementation is a waste of time - a decision should be made and work should start immediately.

Nr 51. 26th June 1954
Kingston report includes the following note:- 5 attestations received from Penguin, 2 from GKN Andijk (with 5 children), 2 from GKN Oosterbeek (with 4 children) and 1 from GKN Haarlem-Zuid, with all the names, including maiden names of the married women.
The Session decided to set aside 15 minutes before the service for learning to understand and sing hymns from the new Psalter Hymnal.
2.5 page article concerning the English language and mothers at home. Two lengthy paragraphs discussing the deleterious effect failure to learn English will have on relationships with children and with understanding English language services. An exhortation to take the bull by the horns ("*de koe bij de horens pakken"*).
Options include joining with four others and receive "a free teacher from the government ("*Als er 5 immigranten bij elkaar zijn te krijgen kan men als regel gratis een teacher van het government krijgen"*)sic. These are provided by the Good Neighbour Council, who complain the biggest problem is that students have their attention diverted too easily, and skip lessons. A commitment must be made!
Other possibilities include correspondence courses which are very easy, and befriending a neighbour. Finally, there are radio lessons, with booklets supplied by the Education Department.
Learning English means you can enjoy social company where English is spoken, and feel less isolated. One can grow with the children. And they can grow with the church. These things will grow, so it's best to grow with them. If necessary, pray about it!

Attention is drawn to a chain letter, white quotes Matt. 14 v.20. The contents is described, and denounced as the work of Satan!

Nr 53 7th August 1954

Penguin is depopulating. Due to work opportunities there, more and more members are heading south. [*Schep, the original Jan de Vries (letters from Penguin) and others, would also leave, in this instance for Melbourne, within 2 years*] ed.
Ulverstone decided it was time to have their own minister, and Schep agree. There were many good reasons in favour.
Kingston advised that the first 'Association for Christian Parent-controlled Schools" in Tasmania had been established on 23 July 1954. Chairman of the committee is Eerie van der Laan. 41 people signed up as members. The provisional committee would now invite Australians to join before voting for a full committee. The meeting endorsed EJ van der Laan, AF van Neutegem, E Pinkster, A van der Schoor and Rev van der Woude to a provisional committee.
Report from Sydney that the church there had grown from nothing to three congregations in three years under the leading of Rev Vanderbom.

Nr 56 25th September 1954
Correction. The article about the Reformed Church in Tasmania, written by the journalist HM Koemans, and published in the Verenigde Noordhollandse Dagbladen, contained some misinformation. After some correspondence, it was agreed that this newspaper would publish a correction ("… *deze beschuldingenen zijn unjuist en niet overeenkomstig de feiten* … "). Tasmania might be on the far side of the world, but the world is now small enough to keep tabs on both sides.

Nr. 58 30 October 1954
Kingston reports hat another £2300 is needed to complete the church building. In addition, £1000 is needed to buy a car for the new minister. It was decided to borrow money from the members at 4% interest, redeemable in 5 years.
Rev. van der Bom (Sydney) and Rev. van Wilgenburg (Perth) have been invited to speak at a congregational meeting on Sunday 31 October at 8 p.m. [*possible because these two men are delegates at the Synod being held in Ulverstone*] ed.
Trowel and Sword has been launched as the publication for all the Reformed Church members in Australia. Besides being useful for the members, it will also serve as the official voice of the Church. It has been designed to be read by Australians, with most articles in English.
"Why Reformed Churches" is a book designed to be given away to interested parties. It describes, in English, why the Reformed Church was established. People who want to give away multiple copies are asked to make a small contribution to cover the cost.
The next Synod will be held in Ulverstone, beginning on 2 November. All members of the Reformed Church are welcome to attend, although only dutifully appointed delegates will have a voice. Topics for discussion include the Ecumenical Movement, Theological training, women's right to vote, besides housekeeping matters such as minimum stipend for ministers.
The combined youth clubs of Tasmania will hold a special weekend camp to take advantage of the fact that Rev Arend de Graaf will be at Synod during the week. He is also the Chairman of the Federation of Reformed Youth Clubs in Australia. Spiritual exercise will be the order of the day - in lectures, discussions, song, sport, walks and chores.

Nr. 59. 27 November 1954
The Penguin Session called a special meeting to discuss the imminent emeritus status of Rev Schep. The recent Synod had appointed him to a teaching role at the Theology School to be established in Geelong on 1 January 1955.

From one end of Tasmania to the other - fam. OJ Hofman was transferred from the school at Geeveston to the school at Preolenna, and the nearest Reformed Church was still an hours drive.
The Ulverstone Session decided to join with Penguin in calling a new minister to replace Rev Schep - they were not yet ready to call their own minister. At the congregational meeting it was decided that donations to the church needed to be doubled.
Launceston advised that their services would now be held in the YMCA Building. This did not have enough chairs, so the Session decided to purchase 12, plus a suitable harmonium because there was no musical instrument there. An examination of the books showed a good credit balance, although it was also noted that donations would have to increase by a factor of 2.5 if a minister was called.
Finally, it was noted that a condition of use of the YMCA building was a no smoking rule. Members were asked not to smoke outside the building either, especially so that Australian Christians be not offended.
Kingston reported at length about the congregational meeting with the revs van der Bom and van Wilgenburg, who described the situation in Sydney and Perth respectively, such that the audience became well aware that the local situation was quite unique.
The youth clubs reported that their weekend with Rev de Graaf was FANTASTIC!
A large advertisement on the back page of this edition alerted the writer of these notes that his father was the distributor of Christian novels and children's books, also agent for the Dutch-Australian book shop in Melbourne and for advertisements in the Dutch-Australian Weekly and subscriptions to Dutch, English and American periodicals.

Nr.60 18 December 1954
Penguin reported a meeting to establish a Christian school Association. The draft Articles of Association were presented in English, then interpreted and elaborated by Rev Schep, before being adopted by the meeting.
Ulverstone reported on a congregational meeting which discussed the finances and a possible church building. Draft plans were shown, noting that no seating was provided in the plan or budget - the people would have to improvise. The necessary funds would come if all members contributed an extra 3 shillings per week, and made a one of £10 donation per family on top of their normal giving.
A deputation from Devonport approached the Ulverstone congregation with a request for assistance in setting up a preaching centre in Devonport (mostly because of transport difficulties between the two towns).
Br. OJ Hofman was invited to speak to combined meeting of Penguin and Ulverstone members on the need and possibility of Christian Education in Australia [*the same address he gave in Kingston in April*] ed.
Kingston advised that Rev van der Woude was registered by the Registrar General's Department be an Authorised Celebrant for weddings. [*A misunderstanding of the legal obligations was discovered many years later, and many married couples discovered that their marriage was only recorded in the church books,* ed.]
Articles in the new periodical, Trowel and Sword, include a summary in Dutch to aid in understanding.
Rev van der Woude and Rev Zuijderduin (Pres.) will lead an evening of evangelical songs in the Church of England building in Kingston on December 24th.

Nr 61 1 januari 1955
Last issue written by Rev Schep. It was simply contact and new bulletin for the Tasmanian churches. The odometer in my car stood at 5000 miles in February last year, and now reads 41,000 miles - 36,000 miles in two years! (58,000km).
Many reports thanking Rev Schep for all his work.

Nr 68 21 Mei 1955
Rev van der Woude is the only Reformed minister on the island, and there are 11 church services every Sunday. No English services are rostered for the time being.
Rev van Wilgenburg is expected to arrive shortly to serve the Penguin and Ulverstone congregations. Ulverstone notes the desire in the congregation for English hymns and sermons and the difficulty of finding suitable worship service leaders to satisfy the demand.
Kingston held a bazar in the town hall. Organised mostly by the 'sister-committee', £188.0.8 was raised.
Emigration officials in the Netherlands advise that an increasing number of aspirant migrants are choosing Australia. The Australian government is expecting 20,000 migrants from the Netherlands this year. This means lots of work for Migrant Sponsoring Committees in the Reformed Churches.

Nr 70. 16 Juli 1955
Article 36 of the Belgic Confession is discussed at length by Rev van der Woude.
Trowel and Sword production in NZ is suffering from a lack of subscribers, and thus a cash flow problem.
Penguin advises the departure of the fam. Herweynen for Kingston.
Kingston reported, inter alia, that the Session had resolved to grant women members the right to vote. A sister-help group has been started. It aims to care for the households of sick women so that they can rest, knowing that everything in the house is getting done.
Rev van der Woude offers his services as a matchmaker for bachelor's wanting to begin corresponding with Dutch girls. His fee is payable on the 25th anniversary of any eventual wedding.
Kingston now counts 228 members. There were two deaths in the past year, both of very young children.
The inaugural oration by Rev Schep , on taking up his teaching post, is printed. In this edition is part 2. The subject is "The importance and the danger of Theology for the church of Jesus Christ." The oration is given in English, but here translated to Dutch. Part 3 in the next edition.
Dutch-English New Testaments, published by the British and Foreign Bible Society, are available from A van der Schoor. A handy way to learn your way around the English version. 8/6 each, add 6d for postage.

Nr.71 13 Aug. 1955
Editor - Rev Y van der Woude, Main Road, Kingston

Rev van der Woude is the only minister in Tasmania. All service information is listed in English - of the 44 scheduled services for the next two Sundays, 3 are noted (English) - [*presumably the other 41 are still in Dutch - KW, ed.*]

Article - A 2.5pp explanation (continued from a previous issue) of Article 36 of the Belgic Confession (the government must remove all obstacles that prevent the preaching of the Gospel - Passively? Actively?), discussion and conclusion of the Reformed Ecumenical Synod (RES) 1949, discussion by GKN Synod and consequent overture to the RES 1953. The alternate argument is that government must protect and promote the preaching of the Gospel.

Launceston is in the process of calling a minister. This will include provision of accommodation - rental is not advised, so building or buying a house are the options.

What will that cost? Financial position is not strong, yet congregation decides not to postpone decision. Rev van der Woude, present as consultant at the meeting, closed the meeting in prayer.

An article in the Mercury reported on talks between the Methodist, Congregationalist and Presbyterian churches in Australia to assess the possibilities of organic unity. vdW comments - 'it would be good if these talks were the fruit of a unity of the true faith, regulated by and based on God's Word. Then the Reformed Churches of Australia would heartily join the the talks.

Inaugural Oration, by Professor JA Schep [*formerly the Reverend Schep of Penguin, now teaching at the Reformed Theological College in Geelong*] part III. Parts I and II were printed in this paper on 18 June and 16 July respectively.

Nr.72. 10 Sept. 1955
On Sunday 11/09, Rev van der Woude will lead the morning service in Kingston at 9.30 a.m.; the Hobart service at 2.30 p.m.; and the Launceston service at 7 p.m.
Rev. G van Wilgenburg to be inducted into the Ulverstone congregation by Rev. van der Woude, meeting in the RSL Hall 15/09 @ 10 a.m.
All service information is listed in English - of the 44 scheduled services, 2 are noted (English) - [*presumably the other 42 are still in Dutch*]

Editorial challenges the reader to compare his portrait with that described in the Bible.
Rev. van Wilgenburg advised of delay in departure for Ulverstone due to an outbreak of measles in his family. The manse is ready.
Launceston is busy calling a minister, and establishing a library, and organising a Bazar to raise funds.
The family Langerak, with 6 children, moved their membership from Launceston to Kingston, and their residence from Launceston to Bronte Park.

Report of the Association for Christian Parent-Controlled Schools AGM was printed. The meeting on 24/08 was held in the supper room of the Town Hall [*not a church building*].
The government has been advised of the establishment of the Association.
Inaugural Oration, by Professor JA Schep [*formerly the Reverend Schep of Penguin, now teaching at the Reformed Theological College in Geelong*] part IV.

Nr.73. 8 October 1955
Penguin notes the arrival of a family with 6 children. Their new address is: Riana.
Kingston reports 260 members. Baptised on 2/10 was Tonique Auguste, daughter of br. and sr. D Bolt-van der Laan.

Nr. 75. 12 November 1955
Editorial argues for including the Westminster Confession as a doctrinal standard of the RCA so that we are accepted by the Australian churches, and not seen as fringe dwellers. This is not to say that we agree with everything in this Confession, esp. articles 3, 4 and 23.
JA Schep finally reports from the College in Geelong (RTC), where he has now been for 10 months.
Schep also reports on the youth camp in Mt Evelyn, Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. An excellent time together. With regret, people had to return home by public transport. Far better to have a camp reasonably close to home, so that campers can travel early on

Monday morning to home or direct to work. The alternate to Sunday transport is to conduct camps over a long weekend.

Nr. 76. 26 November 1955
Sunday service schedule - 27 November. Rev van Wilgenburg in Devonport at 10 a.m.; Penguin at 3 p.m. and Ulverstone at 7 p.m.
The routine for van der Woude is now: Kingston 9.30 a.m.; Hobart 2.30 p.m. and Kingston 5.15 p.m.

Meditation on "Blessed are the pure in heart" by van Wilgenburg.

Penguin had a congregational meeting. Sr. Talen led the evening with a study on the book of Job - it was encouraging and well researched.
Launceston reported that Rev.Kramer had accepted their call.
[*the new editor seems unaware of the need for 25% English content KW, ed.*]

Nr. 77. 10 December 1955
Meditation - celebrating Christmas keeps the Church young. Rev v W.
Launceston advised that Mrs Kramer was not yet fit enough (after an operation) to plan to travel. Resolved to purchase a manse without delay.
Kingston resolved, after intense discussion, to have one in every four services in English. The reason for not having more was because a steady stream of migrants was still arriving, and there were still so many people still learning the language.
New Year's Eve services will be at 7 p.m. in Kingston, and at 8.30 in Hobart. New Year's Day services will be at 9.30 in Kingston, and 2.30 in Hobart. All services will be led by Rev. van der Woude.
The Kingston church building is practically completed, and now has to be 'dressed'. Chairs, pews, pulpit and cleaning up etc will still take a couple of months of work.

Migrant Sponsoring Committee Report:-

> Surprisingly, 1/5th of the members of the RCA lives in Tasmania.
> The RCA sponsored 337 migrants (on the last 5 boats), of which only 32 came to Tasmania. Most migrants go to NSW, Vic., and W.A., where they have family and or friends. For Tasmania to receive more, we must write letters to our family and friends still in the Netherlands. This will help our church grow.

The first yearbook of the RCA is now available. 24 pp, 4/9 incl.postage.

Nr. 79. 14 January, 1956
At 2.30 on Boxing Day, Rev van der Woude officiated a wedding ceremony in Launceston for JB van Tuyl and AG van Cappelleveen.
On the 50th anniversary of the Methodist Church in Kingston, br. de Vries attended, congratulated them, and thanked them for assisting us.

Christian parent-controlled Schools

A meeting was organised in Launceston for all the committee members of all the Christian parent-controlled school associations for the purpose of sharing and encouraging. Present: EJ van der Laan, AF van Neutegem, E Pinkster, Rev van der Woude, A van der Schoor (Kingston), J Boer, Joh.Hartog, G Schoenmaker, T Verhey (Launceston), H Hoogenhout, J Kapinga, A Neut (Ulverstone).

There was a long and thorough discussion on the topic of working with Australian Christians. It was agreed that article 2 of the constitution should stand - the basis of the

association, and the relationship with ecclesiastical bodies. Concern was expressed regarding the focus on the Three Forms of Unity in comparison to the Westminster Confession, and that this might keep Australian Christians away, or distract them from the Calvinistic understanding we have.

Resolved to make article 2 read "The basis of the ACS is the Word of God, as interpreted by the Belgic Confession or the Westminster Confession. It is not an ecclesiastical body nor is it subject to any ecclesiastical organisation".

Resolved to request Mr OJ Hofman, head of Preolenna school, and member of the Association of Christian Schools, Penguin; Mr P Tillema, teacher at Sandford school; and Mr P Bruinsma, teacher at the Snug Area School, and both members of the Association of C.P-C.S Tas, for advice and possible curriculum specifications for the planned schools.

Resolved to work with the Migrant Sponsoring Committees to encourage teachers with good command of English to migrate. A shortage of teachers in the State system virtually guaranteed immediate employment. Suitable teachers would thus be in place for the Christian schools when these were ready to open.

Resolved to postpone the formation of a Federation of Christian schools because there was too much to do solving local issues. However, copies of the minutes of this meeting to be sent to all known addresses of school associations in Australia and New Zealand.

Radio Lessons in English
Readers are advised that a third course in English will be broadcast on all ABC stations on Saturdays from 14/01/1956. The second course will be repeated at 8.15 a.m. The exercise book is free of charge - write to Sydney GPO Box 3879.

New Zealand report that Rev Scarrow and his people of the Howick Presbyterian-Reformed Church have decided to remain within the fellowship of the RCNZ. The issue of smoking and drinking caused them a great deal of concern. However, their session has decided that this should not be the cause of the grave step of separating.

Nr. 80. 4 Februari 1956
Meditation, in English, on 1 Pet 2:9 - 'A Royal Priesthood' by Dr A Murray.

Launceston reports that Rev.Kramer intends to depart the Netherlands in early April.
Kingston Senior youth club meeting 11/02 will be all English. 18/02 in Dutch.
Rev.Vanderbom, for the Sydney RCA, the calling church for the next Synod, wrote to advise of a delay in holding Synod due to financial considerations - the burden was very heavy for the smaller congregations.
Members of the RCA in Adelaide were given a brochure regarding the establishment of Reformed Churches in Australia. The author notes, inter alia, that a deliberate choice was made to establish an Australian Church with English as its language. This is necessary so that the church can fulfil its task of reaching the lost, of being a salt for, and a light to, a dark world.
NSW reports that Dutch services there are only a dutch psalm or hymn after the sermon - the service is otherwise all English.

The Commonwealth Government advises that "It has been decided that as a gesture of confidence and trust in the integrity of new Australians generally, to abolish altogether the existing control by the C'wealth Gov't over the publication of foreign newspapers and periodicals in Australia".

Nr. 81. 18 Februari 1956

Schep reports on the accommodation of the RTC - currently very stressful. But an opportunity has presented. The price (£8000+) is a stumbling block, so it is now in God's hands.
Rev. A Barkly, teacher at the RTC, is visiting Tasmania. Will lead church services and give mid-week talks on Calvinism in Australia. In Hobart he will speak at the Town Hall - the meeting is open to the public. (25/02)
The congregation of Kingston-Hobart is advised that a Session decision now allows sisters in full communion to vote for office bearers.
Kingston-Hobart m/ship is now 300.
The youth club will discuss, inter alia, the book by Okke Jager 'The Humour of the Bible'.

Nr. 82. 3 Maart, 1956
Report on the possibility of recruiting Dr Runia as Professor of Dogmatics at the RTC.

Nr. 83. 17 Maart 1956
Rev Barkly noted, in his talks, that there were many Reformed Presbyterian churches in Australia, but many folded due to lack of preachers. The arrival of the Dutch Calvinists was a blessing to his church, and, he hoped, would be a blessing on Australia.

The Bazaar in Ulverstone raised more than £115 - the final figure is not yet known.
Hobart has secured the use of the Protestant Hall in Bathurst Street for 2 regular Sunday services. Considering bus and train schedules, these services will be at 11.30 a.m. and 6.45 p.m. This will also allow Rev van der Woude to lead 3 of every 4 services (Kingston-Hobart).

Nr.85. 14 April 1956
Ulverstone opened their Church Hall on Saturday 10 March. Although this 'temple' was made of "timber and asbestos" the purpose of the Hall was the same as that of the Temple in Jerusalem, to praise the Name of the Lord. It was noted that the simplicity and sharp lines of the building suited the liturgy.
Ulverstone decided that at least one service per month would be in English. It is also decided that the office bearers will occupy the back pew. At the end of the service the congregation will remain seated while the office bearers walk to the front, the elder of service shakes hands with the minister, and the Church Council retreats to the consistory room.
Launceston agreed with a proposal to appoint Dr Runia to the RTC as Professor of Dogmatics, Ethics, Apologetics and Symbolism.

Nr.86. 28 April 1956
The Senior youth club in Kingston is still meeting in the Methodist Church. Topics for study and discussion this month include Jonah 1 & 2; 'Chamberlain of Moorland'; Religious poetry; personal contact with the Bible; Tongues and Prophets. Games will be scheduled regularly..
One of the four advertisements in this issue is to announce the birth of Adrian, son of M.H.Prins and G. Prins-Mus at Moonah, 21 April 1956 .13 Forth Avenue. [*this is possibly the first birth advertised in this church newsletter - KW, ed.*]

Nr. 87. 12 Mei 1956
Rev. K Kramer is scheduled to be installed in Launceston on Sunday May 27 at 11 a.m.
[*this will bring the number of Tasmanian ministers to 3, for 7 congregations - KW, ed.*]

This issue lists, [*for the first time*] the names and addresses of the Minister, Session Clerk and Treasurer of each of the congregations of Penguin, Ulverstone, Launceston and Kingston-Hobart.

RTC report notes five students this year.
The request from the Junior youth club, Kingston, for financial assistance was withdrawn. Session was advised that they had bought and sold apples to generate the necessary funds. Kingston is planning a harvest thanksgiving service.
The name of the church will be changed from 'The Reformed Church of Kingston' to 'The Reformed Church of Kingston-Hobart'. A committee has been formed to organise the opening of our new church building.
The Kingston Session resolved to send congratulations to Rev Vanderbom in Sydney on the occasion of him being made a *Ridder in de Orde van Oranje-Nassau* [*a Dutch knighthood*].
Br. & sr. Langerak and 6 children have returned to Launceston [*there is a reference in a letter from A de Graaf re a child with polio - KW, ed.*]

Nr. 89. 9 Juni 1956
Of the scheduled services each Sunday, 8 are led by a minister, 5 are reading services
Ulverstone reported a budget shortfall of £200. The members are asked to re-consider their giving.
The Launceston congregation had an evening together to meet the minister and his wife on Saturday 19 May. Speeches, funny rhymes and games were presented. Rev. Kramer was installed on Sunday 27 May, 1956, in a service that began at 11 a.m. It was beautiful summer weather, and people came from all over Tasmania to attend. After the service, the people were asked to stroll through City Park, while tables and sandwiches were prepared for a share-lunch. Rev Kramer then led his first service at 3 p.m.
Kingston held their AGM in the meeting room of their new building. The building will be officially opened on Friday 6 July.

Nr. 90. 23 Juni 1956
Editorial - English language.
It seems everybody agrees that we should aim to speak English. We are agreed on this principle, but the timing is open for discussion. There are many factors involved in the changeover process. Rev van der Woude believes that he will not see, in his lifetime, English used exclusively.
Dr Runia has accepted his appointment to the RTC.
The time of the afternoon service in Kingston has been changed to allow members in Blackman's Bay to use the bus. The bus service will be asked to modify the time of the morning run to allow members to use this service.
Classis set up a committee to explore the possibility of a community day for all the Reformed churches in Tasmania so that all the members can get to know each other.
A summary of an address by Rev Bouma (Blacktown) was printed. He argues for adopting English as soon as possible. We should not make the same mistake as in the USA, where English was seen as the gateway to letting alien ideas into the church. Becoming aware of the call to the church to evangelise was the turning point for their policy.

Nr.91. 7 Juli 1956
Rev Scarrow and congregation made a donation of £120 to the RTC.
Discussion concerning funding for the third professor at the RTC - is it good to ask the churches in the Netherlands for help? Considering the financial demands on the

congregations in Australia, and the growing accommodation needs of the RTC, it was thought best to proceed with a request to our sister churches.

The annual report of the Kingston church confirms the return to Launceston of one of the member families was due to an incident of polio.
The Kingston Migrant Sponsoring Committee reported assisting 27 migrants in Kingston and 5 in Hobart. Help given included rental and bond payments for house rentals (to be repaid after settling in), and providing household items such as pots and pans and curtains. Questions were raised regarding religious instruction in State schools - these need further consideration.
Ulverstone resolved to have a thanksgiving service on the same day as Australian churches.
Vanderbom thanks one and all for their support and congratulations on being made a Knight. He is looking forward to continuing his work.

Nr. 92. 21 Juli 1956
Editorial by van der Woude argues against separate children's talks during worship services. What next? Separate talks for intellectuals and peasants, for rich and for poor, for singles and married people? NO - the church is ONE!
The churches resolve to hold a special collection for the brothers and sisters in Michigan after the natural disaster there.

The British and Foreign Bible Society donated the pulpit Bible for the new Kingston building.
Cornelis Lamprecht and his wife Joyce Lamprecht-Taylor, and Wiecher van der Laan and his wife April van der Laan-Ayres will publicly profess their faith in the Kingston church on 22 July. The son (Eerke Jeffrey) of the last named will be baptised on the same day.
The opening ceremony of the new Kingston church building attracted guests and visitors from far and wide. It was estimated 50 Australians attended.
This issue includes a 2.5pp report on the tornado in Michigan, in which so many died, many more were injured, and structures demolished.

Nr. 93. 5 August 1956
Ulverstone reports that the Devonport congregation is searching for a suitable property for their services.
Launceston reports that br. Geskus has acquired a set of 9 study books in the Netherlands, which he will place in the library of the youth club.

Nr 94. 19 August 1956
After an extensive exchange of ideas regarding the provision of religious education on behalf of the Reformed Church at the State School, the Kingston Session came to the following conclusion: the Session announces that it is not its responsibility to provide (religious) education at the State School. Although the minister indicated that he was personally willing to provide such education, the session considered itself not able to grant the request if for the sake of this activity exemption from other official duties would have to be granted (to the minister).
[In other words the session wanted the minister to concentrate on the duties of his office in the church.]
On the other hand the Session reminds the parents of the promises they made at the baptism of their children and encourages them to faithfully keep them. Finally the Session is of the opinion that the Association for Christian Parent-Controlled Schools, in which the

parents of the relevant children are involved, could investigate (consider) in what way the said education at the State School could (might be) given (provided). [*tr.Bill Wiersma*]

(Nadat uitvoerig van gedachten is gewisseld over het geven van godsdienstonderwijs namens de Reformed Church op de State School, komt de kerkeraad tot de volgende uitspraak: De kerkeraad spreekt uit dat het niet op zijn weg ligt om onderwijs op de State School doen geven. Hoewel de predikant zich persoonlijk bereid verklaarde het betrokken onderwijs te geven, meende de kerkenraad niet in te kunnen gaan op het verzoek om ten behoeve van deze arbeid ontheffing van andere ambtelijke arbeid te verlenen. Anderzijds wekt de kerkenraad de ouders op de beloften die zij bij de Doop hunner kinderen hebben afgelegd, getrouw na te komen, en is ten slotte van oordeel dat de Association for Christian Parent Controlled Schools, waarin de ouders der betrokken kinderen zijn bijeengebracht, zich zou kunnen bezinnen op welke wijze het bedoelde onderwijs aan de State School zou kunnen worden gegeven.)

Kingston reports that their youth club now has 40 members.
Discussion paper by Rev den Brave re the name 'Reformed Churches of Australia'. This is simply a translation from the Dutch, especially the main two churches from which most of our members come. (Hervormd & Gereformeerd Kerk - the first is a dutch word, the second means the same and is derived from Latin). These names mean something for Dutchies, but nothing for Australians. We need to consider another name, perhaps using the term 'presbyterian'.
Prof.Schep has proposed that Synod consider a name change to 'Orthodox Presbyterian Churches of Australia'.

Nr. 95. 2 September 1956

NOTICE TO THE READERS

Because the next edition of the 'Trowel and Sword' is not due until 16 September, and so much copy has been submitted for this Newsletter, it was decided to put together one more edition. Editor.

A combined Penguin & Ulverstone Session meeting was advised that Rev van Wilgenburg had accepted the call to Uithoorn, the Netherlands. He gave confidential information to the meeting for his decision. The Sessions decided to advise their congregations of the decision made by their minister, and advised that he gave confidential reasons which the Sessions accepted.

7 Juli 1957

Because there is a delay in issuing the next 'Trowel and Sword', it was decided to print this extra edition of the Church Newsletter so that you would have the necessary information in a timely manner.

Prof. Runia visited Tasmania with his wife to introduce himself to the Tasmanian congregations. Over two Sundays he led six worship services in the north and south of the island. During the weekdays he also attended congregational meetings, at which he spoke, and answered questions from the members.
Irregular attendance at scheduled services in Penguin has become the despair of the elders. Members are urged to attend more regularly.
In Memoriam for br. Boer, who died on 12 June. He leaves a wife and children. (Launceston)
KIngston-Hobart Session resolved to hold three English language services per month.
In Memoriam for Ad van Neutegem, 13 y.o. He attended church on Sunday, fell ill on Monday night with pneumonia, died on Tuesday at 5 p.m. and was buried on Friday.