



## Library Update

Hello and welcome to the June issue of the Mathew Hale Public Library newsletter, informing you as to what is happening in the Library.

On 20 May 2011 we had the Annual Dinner for the Mathew Hale Public Library. The speaker was the Honourable John Anderson, Former Deputy Prime Minister, who gave a very inspiring, thoughtful and relevant address concerning Australia's history, public policy and future and also warmly commended support for the activities of the Mathew Hale Public Library. We are most grateful to him for taking the time and giving so generously in speaking at the annual dinner. The dinner was very well attended and a very successful evening. You can now download his talk from the website.

The Rev'd Adrian Lane also gave a short talk at the dinner informing everyone about his vision for the Library and gave some insights as to the various activities proposed by him for the balance of the year. Adrian's enthusiasm and commitment to the Library and its activities was obvious to all and much appreciated.

As mentioned previously, Adrian is returning to be the full time warden for the Library for the second half of this year. We look forward to his return with great thanks to God and with much anticipation. The fact that he is coming back for a second secondment from Ridley Melbourne is a great affirmation of the work that he did at the Library and his general work among the churches of Queensland last year.

We are very grateful to the board of Ridley Melbourne in allowing Adrian to return to work as the full time Warden.

A very important development in the work of the Library has been the publication this year of the book "Better be a Good Sermon - Preaching for Special Occasions and Contexts". Adrian and I co-edited the book and we hope and pray that it will be a really useful contribution to the work of ministry for many people, both lay and ordained. The book contains thirty very fine contributions from people all over Australia indicating how they have preached at a variety of occasions and in different situations with different audiences. We really do hope it will become a resource book for people both training in ministry and for people involved in ministry.

You are most welcome to consider purchasing a copy of

the book online via our website.

Finally, please come along on Thursday June 9 at 7:30pm at the Library to hear Dr. Michael Gourlay speak about "The Good Bishop Hale Comes to Brisbane".

Michael has done a lot of research about Bishop Mathew Hale and his talk should prove to be both interesting and informative.

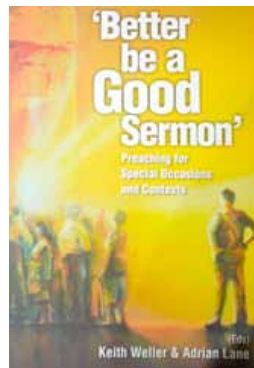
Thank you for your interest in the Mathew Hale Public Library. I look forward to your continued support and seeing you at the events for this year. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to support the work of the library, please use the form included on this newsletter.

With best wishes.  
Dr Keith Weller  
*Honorary Warden*

## 'Better be a Good Sermon' - Preaching for Special Occasions and Contexts

*Editors Keith Weller and Adrian Lane*

*Published by Acorn Press Ltd ISBN 9780908284870 (pbk.)*



Preachers often face the prospect of preaching at a variety of occasions that can be deemed 'special' in some way, perhaps because of the occasion itself or the make-up of the particular audience. The regular Christian festivals of Christmas, Easter and Pentecost are examples of these, as are the pastoral services of baptism, weddings and funerals that arise

irregularly, sometimes frequently and with little warning. Then there are the 'one-off' special occasions such as a time of national tragedy or an Annual General Meeting of an organisation. Each occasion has its particular challenges and the preacher must be attuned to the subtleties that need to be attended to in each.

Audiences may be in rural, school, multicultural or secular settings with varying demographics such as age, socio-economic status and ethnicity. And especially on these occasions, preachers' words and their lives are very much open to public scrutiny. Therefore how preachers live out their everyday lives in their communities will also deliver a powerful sermon to those who watch and listen.

This book provides practical advice as to how to tackle sermons on these occasions and samples of actual sermons preached on a variety of occasions in recent times in an Australian context. (From the foreward by Bishop Keith Rayner).

Price: \$35 plus \$12 postage and handling.  
All prices are in the Australian Dollar.  
Please email [info@mathewhalepubliclibrary.com](mailto:info@mathewhalepubliclibrary.com) for overseas postage and handing costs.

## Comments from a lay person about 'Better be a Good Sermon'

By Geoff Dutton

As a layman I think this book is a valuable resource both for lay people and clergy.

In order to live this life to its full God-given potential we should seek the guidance of wise and inspired Christian leaders. This resource provides a practical insight into how Christians are called to respond to the challenges of life. In difficult situations such as the death of a young child or the results of war we are provided with how some of Australia's best preachers have provided appropriate words and pastoral support through those words.

Our clergy are called upon in some of life's most difficult as well as joyous situations. This book provides a tremendous encouragement to those in ministry providing the words of comfort that make an eternal difference.

I congratulate the many contributors and editors on a highly relevant and insightful publication. I encourage you to purchase a copy for yourself and another for your Priest/ Pastor or Christian leader.

## Collection Growing Pains!

A big thank you to all of those who have donated books to the collection. We have currently got more than our shelves can hold and we've also a significant cataloguing backlog. The Committee, with help from Adrian Lane, has recently spent considerable time developing an Accessions Policy, a copy of which can be found on the website. Given all of this, we are therefore asking that no more donations be made to the Library without prior consultation with the Warden. We do need volunteers who can assist the Committee with various collection management tasks. Alternatively, financial donations would be most welcome to help

defray collection management costs, or to purchase recent texts and journals.

## Upcoming Events

**June 9: "The Good Bishop Hale Comes to Brisbane" By Dr Michael Gourlay**

7:30pm. Entry fee by donation.

Further events will be mentioned from time to time during the year.

*\*All events are at the Mathew Hale Public Library unless otherwise mentioned.*

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### Support the Library The Mathew Hale Public Library relies completely on gifted financial support

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