

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

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The Evangelical Alliances of Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea

(Bonn, 03.02.2020) As representatives of the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA), Thomas and Christine Schirmacher visited the national Evangelical Alliances of Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

“Again and again in the media, even in academic reference books, there is generalizing talk of ‘the Evangelicals’. These three alliances alone could not be more diverse”, says Thomas Schirmacher. Their history, their ecclesiastical composition, their political positioning and other areas had run quite independently of each other.

Discussions with the Board of the Australian Evangelical Alliance (AEA) & Evangelical Foundation of Australia were organised by its Secretary responsible for conjunction with the WEA, Dr Richard Dickins, who also heads the EA Foundation and the Association of Evangelical Mission Societies, Missions Interlink. Also attending were: John Peberby, EA Insurance Services, Denise Cooper-Clark, Chair of the Ethos Centre for Christianity and Society, Rev Dr John Yates, Anglican priest working with the Gospel Coalition, Jude Simion from the Refugee Highway Partnership, Jim Rawson, Christian Ministry Advancement, and Barbara Deutschmann, TEAR Australia.



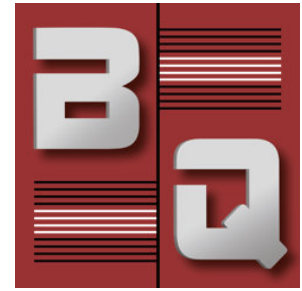
Thomas Schirmacher and the Executive Board of the Evangelical Alliance of Papua New Guinea in conversation with the country's Prime Minister, James Marape (second from right) © BQ/Martin Warnecke

Christine Schirmacher had an additional talk concerning the cooperation of the International Institute for Islamic Studies with Dr Gordon Preece, the CEO of the Ethos Centre for Christianity and Society, the socio-political think tank of AEA.

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A joint platform for the following Bonn organizations on the basis of the Evangelical Alliance:

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Commission for Religious Freedom of the German and the Austrian Evangelical Alliance
www.ead.de/akref

Culture and Science Publ. (VKW)
www.vkwonline.com

Department of Theological Concerns of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.worldevangelicals.org/pdf/TN-47-1-Jan-2018.pdf

Giving Hands – International Charity
www.gebende-haende.de

International Institute for Islamic Studies (IIIS) of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.islaminstitut.net

International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF) of the World Evangelical Alliance (International Headquarter, EU-Office Brüssel)
www.iirf.eu

International Information Centre for Religious Freedom Germany e.V. (IIRF-D) (Tübingen)
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missiotop – Evangelical Forum for Missions, Cultures and Religions (German Evangelical Alliance)
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Office of Intrafaith and Interfaith Relations of the World Evangelical Alliance

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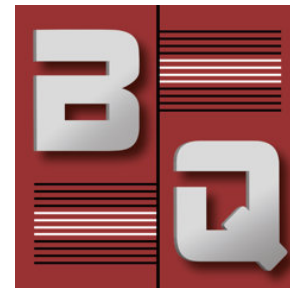
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www.wea-sc.org

World Evangelical Alliance – Office Bonn

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The meeting with the New Zealand Christian Network was attended by the Board and other leading Evangelicals. Christine Schirmacher reported on the situation of the Evangelical Alliances in the Near and Middle East and the international dialogues of the World Evangelical Alliance with Muslim leaders.

The visit was organized by the former Secretary General of the South Pacific Evangelical Alliance, Glyn Carpenter, and the General Manager of the New Zealand Alliance, Gayann Phillips.

The discussions were attended by the new National Director of the New Zealand Alliance, Dr Stuart Lange, the new Secretary General of the South Pacific Evangelical Alliance (SPEA), Dr Rachel Afeaki-Taumoepeau, and the new Director of the WEA Mission Commission, Dr Jay Matenga.

Thomas and Christine Schirmacher also paid a courtesy visit to Prof Dr Bruce Nicholls, who is actively retired in Auckland. Among other things, Nicholls four decades ago founded the journal 'Evangelical Review of Theology' of the Theological Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance, which is currently published by Thomas Schirmacher.

In Papua New Guinea, Thomas and Christine Schirmacher had a meeting with the Executive Board of the Evangelical Alliance of Papua New Guinea, led by the President, Pastor Mathias Hamaga, and the General Secretary, Pastor Bosuk Anaisep.

In addition, a half-day working meeting with Evangelical leaders and



Melbourne: Thomas and Christine Schirmacher with Dr Gordon Preece (far left) and Dr Richard Dickins in front of the venue, the First Baptist Church in Melbourne © BQ/Martin Warnecke



Papua New Guinea: Pick up at the airport by the President and the General Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance © BQ/Martin Warnecke

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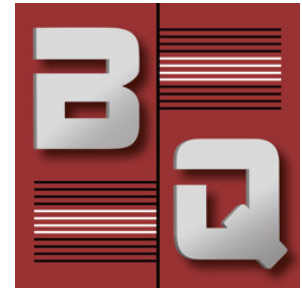
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leaders of church associations took place, in which the main topic was the reorganization of the political representation of the Alliance in the capital. This was subsequently agreed upon with the Prime Minister of the country, James Marape.

In all three countries Thomas and Christine Schirmmacher also visited government representatives as well as non-Evangelical churches and held talks with leaders of non-Christian religions.

Downloads and Links:

- **Photo 1:** Thomas Schirmmacher and the Executive Board of the Evangelical Alliance of Papua New Guinea in conversation with the country's Prime Minister, James Marape (second from right) © BQ/Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 2** and **photo 3:** Melbourne: Thomas and Christine Schirmmacher with Dr Gordon Preece (far left) and Dr Richard Dickins in front of the venue, the First Baptist Church in Melbourne © BQ/Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 4:** Papua New Guinea: Pick up at the airport by the President and the General Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance © BQ/Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 5:** In conversation with the Executive Committee of the Evangelical Alliance of Papua New Guinea © BQ/Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 6:** Thomas and Christine Schirmmacher visit Bruce Nicholls in his retirement home © BQ/Martin Warnecke
- Website of the EA Foundation: <http://www.ea.org.au>
- Website of the Ethos Centre: <http://www.ethos.org.au>
- Website of Missions Interlink: <http://www.missionsinterlink.org.au>
- Website of the New Zealand Christian Network: <https://nzchristiannetwork.org.nz>
- Website of Jay Matenga: <https://jaymatenga.com>
- Website of the Evangelical Alliance in Papua New Guinea: <https://www.tokpisin.info/evangelical-alliance-papua-new-guinea/>

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