More Learning from Loss Parish Forums were held recently, one in Horsham on Wednesday, September 3 and the last in Warrnambool on Tuesday, September 9. Around nineteen interested participants joined the forum at Warrnambool from the Parishes of Warrnambool, Warrnambool East, Warrnambool West, Ballarat North, Colac, Portland, Port Fairy and Terang with a similar number attending the Horsham forum from the Parishes of Horsham, Robinvale, Stawell, Wycheproof, Nhill, St Arnaud, Ballarat, Maryborough, Swan Hill, Donald and Warracknabeal.

The order of both days was similar to the forum held in Ballarat on August 28 which began with registration and coffee followed by a welcome from Mark Bromley, Diocesan Business Manager, who then gave a general introduction on risk management within the Diocese at a parish level.

Graham Porter, Laura Hamm et and Paul Ong from CCI were introduced by Mark with Graham Porter presenting an overview of the results of the recent parish survey focusing on the outcomes of the findings. Again discussions then followed on to the areas where improvements can be made to reduce the risk of future claims which then lead onto how we can introduce effective systems into the parish environment to protect from future losses. The forum was informal and there was much interaction from the group discussing the various facets of their own parishes.

The Learning Manager Tool for parishes was introduced by Graham and Mark who once more walked through each module of the Parish Work Health and Safety Course, looking at the content of each course module, claims associated with each of them such as things that have gone wrong for parishes and a group discussion around ‘real’ examples of loss, moving onto practical measures that can be implemented to minimise risk exposures and then looking at other resources that relate to the module topic.

A light lunch followed the sessions and participants were able to talk with each other about what they had heard in a more relaxed setting. The Learning from Loss Forum were a very important mechanism for informing parishes of risk management and this opportunity was welcomed by all who attended.

Photos:
Top: Fr Eric Bryant and Gloria Pickering in deep discussion
Bottom: Bob Pritchard and Alan Fisher discuss risk management