

Northern Regional Council Annual Report for 2010

(A report from the Northern Regional Council.)

Introduction

1. The Council met three times during the year, in February, August and November at St John's, Gordon. The usual meeting in June, when grant applications would be discussed, was cancelled owing to the lack of funding from the Synod for new grants.

Membership

2. The membership of Regional Council consisted of –

Bishop Glenn Davies (Chairman)	
The Rev Roger Bray	Ms Jane McNamara
The Rev Ernest Chau	The Rev Ian Millican
Mr Fred Chilton	Mr Jim Peet
Ms Stephanie Cole	Mrs Pru Selden
The Rev Keith Dalby	Canon Rick Smith
The Rev Andrew Graham	Mr Ian Steward
Mrs Jan Hall	Dr Andrew Tong
The Rev Michael Kellahan	Mr Stephen Tong
Dr Rob Mackay	

3. After some suggested nominees at previous meetings had declined, the November meeting decided to defer indefinitely the election of a clergyman to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Rev Richard James in August 2009.

Regional Events

Archbishop's Lectures

4. These lectures are a valued annual event in the Northern Region and we place on record our appreciation of the Archbishop's ongoing commitment to this ministry. For the past seven years, Abbotsleigh School has hosted the three consecutive Wednesday evening meetings and the region appreciates this generous assistance from the school. The theme for 2010 was 'Galatians: Walking in the Spirit'. The first evening saw around 400 people attending in the Auditorium. The lectures were well received, as was the Archbishop's sensitive responses in the question and answer time. The availability of MP3s and DVDs of the lectures was appreciated.

Regional Conference

5. The conference was held at Collaroy Conference Centre on May 17-18. There were 142 attendees of which 43 were full-time.

6. The conference focus was upon 'Godly Disciplines'. Bishop Davies led the first session upon 'Church Discipline' and a consideration of the legal issues involved was presented by Mr Steve Lucas of the SDS. Dr Trevor Hunter led a session upon 'Healthy Disciplines' emphasizing the need for self care. The final session covered the disciplines of prayer and Bible reading.

7. Dr Bill Salier of Moore College led the Bible studies each day.

8. It was a challenging, stimulating conference and the attendees appreciated the work of those responsible for its planning and administration.

General Matters

Parish Matters

9. It was encouraging to see the commencement of the construction of the new ministry facilities at Berowra parish. As well as receiving financial assistance from the Diocese members of the parish have responded to the financial challenge with a most generous spirit.

10. The parish of Waitara also commenced significant alterations to its church building. This is an example of a smaller parish growing and boldly seeking to transform a modest, traditional building into a more useful multi purpose facility.

11. The church plant in Macquarie Centre (called SOMA), under the leadership of the Rev Peter Hughes, an Assistant Minister at St John's, North Ryde decided to become an independent ministry under the aegis of Evangelism & New Churches from 1 January 2011. This was done with the goodwill of St John's.

12. Hope Anglican Church amalgamated with St Paul's Chatswood in order to solidify the Chinese work among both Cantonese and Mandarin speaking congregations in the Chatswood area.

13. In February the Provisional Recognised Church, Philadelphia Anglican Church was established under the leadership of the Rev Peter Chung who was formerly the Pastor of the Chinese congregations at St Paul's Chatswood. The church meets at St Martin's, Killara.

Church Plants

14. A new congregation has been planted at St Mark's Northbridge in order to establish a 5 pm Sunday Service. Under the leadership of the Rev Simon Flinders, over 80 members of St Thomas' North Sydney have moved to assist in establishing this new ministry.

15. The Rev Paul Dale (Church by the Bridge) and the Rev Patrick Collins (Christ Church, Lavender Bay) discussed the possibility of starting a Sunday evening service at Lavender Bay with a view to commencing in March 2011.

16. The Rev Neil Vearing commenced a new 5pm informal service at St Peter's Cremorne.

Regional Architectural Panel

17. The panel is under the chairmanship of the Rev Geoff Leader (rector, Longueville) in 2010. As is usual in the Northern Region the panel worked consistently during the year with a number of parish projects. The region owes a considerable debt to the panel members who freely give of their time and expertise.

Multicultural Ministry

18. This committee is under the chairmanship of the Rev Bruce Stanley, rector of Waitara. Mrs Trish Bell continues to train staff for ESL and encourage parishes to be active in this strategically important ministry. The committee has the vision of 'serving the ministers and parishes of the Northern Region, and the wider diocese, through the strategic development of networks and resources for multi cultural ministry'.

Regional Staff Changes

19. In February Archdeacon Terry Dein was appointed as Assistant to the Bishop for 1.25 days per week until another assistant can be found. This appointment is proving to be as elusive for the bishop to make as is retirement for the former Archdeacon to find!

Regional Grants

20. Following the financial constraints resulting from the impact of the GFC upon the Diocese the funds available for regional grants were drastically reduced. Fortunately the region had some financial reserves and was able to minimise the impact upon parishes receiving ongoing grants and fulfil their commitments to most parishes in the course of the three years' funding cycle.

21. The Regional Council adopted the following budget for 2010.

Parish	Ministry to be funded	Amount \$
Eastwood	Stipendiary Lay Worker (Mandarin)	12,500
Hope Anglican Church (Chatswood East)	Assistant Minister	23,000
Hornsby Anglican Chinese Church	Mandarin ministry	40,000
Kirribilli	Church plant	10,000
Macquarie	Lay worker	5,000
Naremburn/Cammeray	Japanese ministry	40,000
Narrabeen (Warriewood)	Church plant	20,000
North Epping	Children's/ youth worker	10,000
North Ryde	MTS worker	5,000
Putney	2 student ministers	11,000
Seaforth	Assistant Minister	7,000
Turramurra	Seniors	4,000
	MCM consultant	31,000
	PA to Bishop	35,000
	Assistant to Bishop	19,000
	Insurances. misc	4,000
Total		\$276,500

NSW Government Community Building Partnership Grants

22. Eight parishes in the region had their grant applications approved in the first round of grants for 2010 and received funding in the year under review. The grants totalled \$ 170,910 and their details are as follows:

Beecroft	\$ 40,000	Lavender Bay	\$ 30,000
Eastwood	\$ 20,000	Neutral Bay	\$ 24,985
Hunters Hill	\$ 3,408	St Ives	\$ 15,000
Lindfield	\$ 15,000	Wahroonga (St Andrew's)	\$ 22,517

23. A further nineteen parishes have had their grant applications approved for 2010. These grants totalled \$536,824 and their details are as follows:

Ermington	\$ 46,994	Nth Sydney	\$ 20,000
Freshwater	\$ 4,500	Putney	\$ 40,000
Gladesville (1)	\$ 10,380	Pymble	\$19,000
(2)	\$ 7,640	St Ives	\$ 25,000
Hornsby	\$ 79,068	Seaforth	\$ 23,150
Hunters Hill	\$ 17,871	Turrumurra	\$ 20,000
Kirribilli	\$ 60,000	Wahroonga (St Paul's)	\$ 25,970
Manly	\$ 23,000	Waitara	\$ 25,818
Nth Epping	\$ 29,333	West Ryde	\$ 40,000
Nth Ryde	\$ 14,100	Willoughby	\$ 5,000

24. It is encouraging to see these successful grant applications from about 40% of the parishes in the region, and totalling \$707,734. These initiatives will result in improved church facilities and many will have a direct beneficial impact upon ministry within the parish.

For and on behalf of the Northern Region Council

GLENN N DAVIES
Bishop of North Sydney

2 May 2011