

## Regional Councils' Annual Reports for 2015

(A compilation of the annual report from the Regional Councils.)

### Key Points

- Under clause 9(2) of the *Regions Ordinance 1995* each Regional Council must present an annual report of its proceedings and the exercise of its general functions for inclusion in the Standing Committee's report to Synod for that year
- These reports are in addition to the annual reports prepared by the Regional Councils and tabled at the Synod under the *Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995*

### Background

1. Under clause 9(2) of the *Regions Ordinance 1995*, each Regional Council must present to the Standing Committee an annual report of its proceedings and the exercise of its general functions under clause 6 in sufficient time each year to enable the Standing Committee to include the report in the report for that year of the Standing Committee to Synod.

2. The general functions of the Regional Councils under clause 6 are –

- (a) to carry out or assist in carrying out any resolutions passed by the Synod or the Standing Committee and referred to it for implementation;
- (b) to develop ministry strategies in the Region;
- (c) to assess applications for grants in the Region made or referred to it;
- (d) to make grants or loans from money (consistent with any trusts on which that money may be held) available to it for distribution or for lending;
- (e) to accept gifts and grants;
- (f) to raise and expend money for any purpose connected with ministry in the Region;
- (g) to employ persons for any purpose connected with ministry within the Region, and to dismiss any person so employed;
- (h) to manage and control any endowment held for the Region as a whole;
- (i) to discuss matters affecting the Region and to disseminate information in the Region;
- (j) to make recommendations to the Archbishop about alterations to regional boundaries; and
- (k) to exercise such other functions as the Synod or the Standing Committee may from time to time prescribe.

3. The following are the reports from the Regional Councils for 2015 for the purposes of clause 9(2). These reports are in addition to the annual reports prepared by the Regional Councils and tabled at the Synod under the *Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995*.

### Georges River Regional Council

4. The Regional Council had four meetings in 2015 and all were held in parishes within the Region. At the meetings, the Rector of the parish was invited to give a Bible study and then report on the activities within the parish. This gave the Council a good indication of the challenges facing the parish and highlighted that different strategies had to be implemented to face some of the challenges of a changing society.

5. The Region continued to support the vital and unique ministry of the Rev. Margaret Powell amongst women. We are thankful to God for the financial and prayer support given to Margaret Powell from Anglican Deaconess Ministries, parishes in the diocese and individual donors that support this work.

6. The church planter at Punchbowl, Mr Siddique Paul, has continued to reach out to people in the community especially new settlers from the sub-continent.

7. The ESL Coordinator, the Rev John Bartik continues to grow and support the highly strategic work of ESL.

8. The new Bishop of the region began in July 2015, and the Council looks forward to working together to see the work of the gospel grow in the region.

### **Northern Regional Council**

9. The Council met formerly three times during the year. A scheduled meeting in May 2015 was deferred to the August meeting.
10. Each of the regions meetings were held in different church of the region – on each occasion we sought to meet in a church that had recently undergone major building works so that the Council could inspect what can be achieved through major upgrades of church facilities.
11. Our meetings enabled discussion of a range of matters relating to ministry strategies in the region, including consideration of ways the Council might assist parish ministry in line with the Diocesan Mission. As a result of our deliberations planning has commenced to hold further public forums including an event focussed on developing parish properties to support modern ministry. The Council also worked on developing a questionnaire to parishes to aid its consideration of how it can assist parishes and develop regional strategies. These additional events and the survey will take place in 2016.
12. In May, the Council hosted the Northern Region conference at St Anne's Ryde. Over 150 people attended, mostly region clergy. The conference was themed Building Bridges and sessions were led by Simon Manchester, Rick Lewers and Chris Edwards.
13. We noted the passing of Dr Jane Mathieson, assistant to the North Sydney Bishop with regret but delighted in knowing she is with the Lord.

### **South Sydney Regional Council**

14. The Council met formally once during the year.
15. 2015 was the final year in which our chairman, Bishop Robert Forsyth, served as the Bishop of South Sydney, after fifteen and a half years in this role. Bishop Forsyth led the region through a period of significant structural and personnel change, with parish restructure/revitalisation/'repotting' occurring in more than a third of the parishes in the region. These included Annandale, Ashfield/Five Dock/Haberfield, (Christ Church Inner West), Ashbury, Broadway (re Pymont), Bondi/Bondi Beach, Clovelly, Concord North, Church Hill (St Philips York Street and Holy Trinity Millers Point), St Thomas' Enfield and St Andrew's Strathfield, Pymont (Peninsula Community Church), Lord Howe Island, Malabar and South Sydney. His contribution through Sauerkraut, in equipping pastors to continue to be both faithful and effective in ministry, will have a lasting effect on the region.
16. In 2015, SSRC provided financial support for ministries at Norfolk Island, Living Waters (Indigenous Ministry), and the Green Square church plant from South Sydney (One1Seven).
17. After discussion in Council, and consultations with the churches in the region, a process was agreed for 'repotting' Holy Trinity Kingsford with the appointment of The Rev Dave Doran from Wild Street to eventually become the licensed minister. This culminated in his Ordination as a presbyter on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 at Kingsford.

### **Western Sydney Regional Council**

18. The main committees are the Executive Committee, the Ordinance Review Panel and the Architectural Panel.
19. The Council met on 3 occasions during 2015 at St Stephen's, Penrith and one occasion via teleconference. The main areas of consideration included *Mission 2020*, the reclassification of Glenmore Park as a full parish, the regional ministry conference, mission area updates, ESL and ethnic ministry in the region, parish vacancies, building projects and parish consultancies.
20. A loan of \$50,000 was granted to the parish of Dundas-Telopea to help with the relocation of the Dundas church site, to be paid back on sale of the site.

### **Wollongong Regional Council**

21. The Wollongong Regional Council met 4 times during 2015 on the evenings of 17 February, 11 May, 18 August and 17 November. The meetings are held in Wollongong with each meeting preceded by a meal. The Executive sub-committee also met four times during 2015 to consider matters delegated to it and to plan agendas for the regular Council meetings.
22. Bishop Peter Hayward and the Regional Council worked closely to further support ministry across the Region. This included –
  - financial support for the ministry at Oran Park
  - financial support with subsidised rectories at Sussex Inlet and Harrington Park
  - financial support with subsidised demountable at Helensburgh and Denham Court
  - planning with MPC for the new ministries at Leppington

- meeting with and support of Mission Area leaders
- support for Rectors
- specific regional training for Rectors and Wardens
- 3 day Regional Ministry conference with retired Archbishop Harry Goodhew and Rev Mike Raiter
- Support of the Gong Men's Day and SWITCH Women's Conference
- ongoing support for ESL English classes
  - ESL classes were delivered in 15 Parishes across the Region
  - because Cross Cultural Ministry funds were not allocated to the Wollongong Region, ESL classes were coordinated by Tony Willis
- ongoing support for Indigenous Ministries
  - Pastor Michael Duckett linked with St Peter's Campbelltown in partnership with the SAIPMC
  - Mr Phil Miles linked with All Saints Nowra in partnership with the SAIPMC.

23. During 2015 funding from the Region's assets was allocated to the specific ministry in Oran Park.

Ministry	Purpose	Allocation	Total
Oran Park	Housing and salary support	\$37,768	
Gregory Hills	Church Plant	\$30,000	\$67,768

24. The three day Wollongong Regional Ministry Conference continues to be a "high point" in the life of the Region. This enables clergy and lay parish staff to meet together for mutual fellowship and teaching. Various guest speakers and Diocesan organisations join in the conference.

25. The Council received reports from Bishop Hayward and the Assistant to the Bishop at each meeting.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee.

ROBERT WICKS  
*Diocesan Secretary*

24 August 2016