

Proposal to change the status of the provisional parish of Kangaroo Valley to a parish

(A report of the Wollongong Regional Council.)

Proposal

1. The proposal is to change the provisional parish of Kangaroo Valley to the parish of Kangaroo Valley.
2. The parish has seen steady growth in membership, ministry and Christian maturity.

Support of the Western Sydney Regional Council

3. On the 8th August 2017 the Wollongong Regional Council resolved to support the request that the Parish of Kangaroo Valley be classified as a parish under the *Parishes Ordinance 1979*.

Parish information

4. Anglicans have been meeting in Kangaroo Valley since the mid 1800s, with the current church building dedicated in 1872.

5. The unique enclosed geography of Kangaroo Valley has meant there is a very high value placed on community within its boundaries. That community is diverse, ranging from wealthy retired former Sydneysiders to dairy farmers and tradespeople, teachers, and those who work in Sydney but live in Kangaroo Valley. The community has its own internationally acclaimed biannual arts festival and yearly folk festival. It prides itself on its community fundraising for the local school and pre-school. KV has a pioneering community commitment to environmental preservation.

6. In 2013 the parish became provisional. Before this, the church was part of the Parish of Berry with Kangaroo Valley. In 2009 the Rev. Andrew Paterson was appointed to be assistant minister responsible for the Kangaroo Valley church under the leadership of the Rev Neil Percival, Senior Minister of Berry Anglican. After prayer, discussion and planning, it was agreed in 2013 that the church in Kangaroo Valley make an application to become a provisional parish. Kangaroo Valley has been a provisional parish now for 4.5 years, and has grown both in numbers and in offertory giving.

7. Due to the commitment of many in the church, the parish has been able to develop ministry to all ages. In a small village township, community bridge building and service is an essential ministry for our church and is actively encouraged. Ministries that have grown or been established through this approach include 'Cuppas n' Kids' for mothers and preschool children, run at the church weekly; most of the people attending are not Christians. The parish has recently established 'Retired KVer's', a community activity group for those over 55 run in our church hall each term. The parish has also established a yearly outdoor gospel service as part of the annual Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival; each year this service has attracted more and more unique visitors. Members attend training sessions in evangelism at church to give them better skills at sharing their faith with members of the KV community. Through the ministry of the parish, there has been at least one new Christian in KV each year since 2009 – praise the Lord!

8. Members of the congregation have exercised their stewardship by using their God given gifts and financial resources for his glory, and have embraced the vision of being a parish for Kangaroo Valley. This has led to a significant increase in giving - the offertory has nearly doubled since 2009.

Future Plan

9. The parish has been growing funds with the possibility of employing a part-time youth worker in the future to grow our ministry to children and youth.

10. the church will continue to build upon its 'community ministry' strategy: training members in evangelism and encouraging its members to join Kangaroo Valley community groups (e.g., arts group, garden group, school P and C, the tennis club, VIEW Club, scouts, Lions) and then be the aroma of Christ and witness in those groups.

11. To be a church especially for the KV community will be considered as a significant positive addition by a majority of KV residents. Our intention is to build upon that positive identity for the glory of God.

Size of congregations

12. Average attendances are currently –

8:30am	17 Adults
10:00am	39 Adults 14 Children

Particulars of all church trust property

13. Details of property held by the Anglican Church Property Trust upon trust for the provisional parish are as follows –

Value of the Land and Improvements	\$ 691,000
Value of Buildings:	
Church	\$1,180,000
Rectory	\$660,000
Church Hall	\$420,000
Old Rectory	\$1,480,000
Garage and Shed	28,300
Church and other contents	\$93,000

Summary of consolidated receipts and payments

14. A summary of the financial position over the past three years is set out below–

	2014	2015	2016
Receipts			
Offeratories	72,885	74,081	78,051
Rental Income (Old Rectory)	13,032	13,356	20,939
Trust Investment Income	13,735	10,286	9,949
--- Sub-Total of Primary Receipts ---	99,652	97,723	108,939
Received for other missions	1,857	2,013	1,579
Received donations	9,623	2,927	2,910
Drawdown on trust funds	7,595	10,714	17,751
Other	910	1,018	858
Total Income	119,637	114,395	132,037
Operating expenses			
Ministry staff	74,194	73,674	76,176
PCR	20,155	21,281	21,153
Resources for Ministry	2,432	1,449	1,763
Parish donations (to missions)	5,083	5,298	7,695
Parish admin/general/utilities	5,914	5,635	8,019
Parish property/equip/maint	3,157	4,574	803
Property improvements *	10,278	863	9,496
Other	289	511	439
Total Expenses	121,202	113,285	125,544

* Extra Property Improvements to Old Rectory to prepare for domestic letting

Recommendation

15. The Wollongong Regional Council recommends that the provisional parish of Kangaroo Valley be reclassified as a parish with effect from 1 January 2018.

For and on behalf of the Wollongong Regional Council.

PETER HAYWARD
Bishop of Wollongong

13 August 2017