

## Georges River Regional Council Annual Report for 2012

(A report from the Georges River Regional Council.)

### Introduction

1. The Council met on four (4) occasions during the year and continued to meet at local churches and hear reports on the ministry conducted at those churches.
2. Parishes where meetings were held were Bossley Park, South Carlton, Beverly Hills, and Liverpool. The Council moved around the region in order to better understand the challenges for ministry in the region.

### Membership

3. The membership of the Georges River Regional Council consisted of –

Archdeacon I Cox  
Mrs Lisa Bateup  
The Rev Manoj Chacko  
The Rev Stephen Christoforidis  
Mr Richard Graves  
Mr Clive Ellis  
Ms Norma Esler  
Ms Wein Hsien-Heng  
Mr Andrew Koulyras  
The Rev Dr Margaret Powell  
Dr David Power  
Mr Michael Toull  
The Rev Ray Vassallo  
Ms Lisa Bateup

4. Resignations during the year were Ms Wei-Hsien Heng, the Rev Stephen Christoforidis.
5. New members: Ms Rama Salem and the Rev Cam Phong Huynh.

### Regional Conference 2012

6. In May we held the annual Regional Conference for Ministry Workers in the region at the Anglican Church at Panania. The members of the congregation excelled in their care and ministry to the Conference attendees. The Archbishop led a Bible study followed by a brief talk about the Anglican Communion. The Rev Dr David Peterson led a discussion on the proposed Common Prayer Services produced by the Archbishop's Liturgical Committee.

### Regional English Second Language Coordinator

7. Stephen Mansfield resigned as the Coordinator of this ministry in April 2012. Stephen had worked in the region for six years. We appreciated his work developing ESL lessons and classes in the region, and teachers and helpers appreciated the training and ongoing ministry that he exercised. ESL classes continue to meet at local churches and the Council is regularly updated on the ESL ministry.
8. The Regional Council formed a committee to replace the ESL Coordinator and interviewed candidates. The Rev John Bartik from the Parish of Randwick was appointed. He began this ministry in February 2013.

### Women's Ministry

9. The Region has, for some time, invested in a paid worker among women in the region, especially working with the churches at Lakemba and Greenacre. This is a missionary situation where the missionaries need to understand the culture before they can minister to people in a significant way. The Rev Margaret Powell, with some student ministers, has been developing this ministry.
10. During the year the Council supported the Rev Margaret Powell in a four month language study at the Komensky Centre for Intercultural Development in Amman, Jordan. This provided her with opportunities to learn Arabic conversation and to be immersed in an Arabic culture. The Council believed this to be a worthwhile training experience as well as assisting in understanding the cultural challenges in these suburbs and in greater Sydney.

### Provisional Parishes

11. There are a number of provisional parishes in the region for a variety of reasons and the Council investigated the possibility with these parishes of progressing them to full parishes. This will be a continuing process as there are important challenges in these parishes.

12. The Regional Council received regular updates on these parishes encouraging them to connect with the residents of the suburb. Some of these parishes require innovative thinking and different styles of ministry.

13. We are pleased to inform the Synod that the ministry at **Marrickville**, where the Regional Council supported the Rev Ross Ciano for a number of years, has now reached the stage of being self-supporting. A new congregation has been started and another congregation has been revived. Similar new initiatives have been started at Canterbury and Fairfield. Although not financially supported by the Council, these new ministries have had the prayer support and encouragement of the Council.

14. Another new venture with a parish occurred at **Lakemba**. The council supported the appointment of the Rev Ben Bathgate as an Assistant Minister in the parish and in 2012 a new congregation was planted in the church hall. This congregation met in the late afternoon and began with a meal followed by an informal church service where the Bible was read in Farsi, Arabic and English. From a small beginning this congregation has grown to a regular group of people mainly from Middle Eastern countries.

15. **Punchbowl:** The Georges River Regional Council has agreed to work with the Parish of Riverwood and Evangelism and New Churches in the establishment of a church plant at Punchbowl for a period of three (3) years from February 2013. The site has a church, hall and residence on Canterbury Road.

### Oversight Groups

16. The Regional Council Members were involved in the following Oversight Groups:

Marrickville	Mr Ross Ciano
Women's Ministry	The Rev Dr Margaret Powell
Canterbury	The Rev Seti Latu
Lakemba	The Rev Ben Bathgate
Revesby	The Rev Daniel Webster
Arncliffe	Mr Paul Tait

### Finance

17. The Regional Council received grants from Anglican Deaconess Ministries for the partial support of the Rev Margaret Powell and for one female student ministers (who she mentors) and one part-time cross-cultural women's worker.

18. A number of parishes in the region received grants from the New South Wales Government Buildings Program and were able to make significant improvements to their properties.

19. The Regional Council made the following grants to parishes and people in 2012:

Marrickville (The Rev R. Ciano)	\$18,624
ESL Coordinator (Mr S. Mansfield)	\$7,170
Women's Ministry (The Rev Dr M Powell)	\$101,007
P/T Women's Ministry Worker (Miss M Gold)	\$10,000
S P/T Women's Ministry Worker (Miss L Peters)	\$10,000

For and on behalf of the Georges River Regional Council.

IAN COX

*Archdeacon of Liverpool: Georges River Region*

12 June 2013