

Georges River Regional Council Annual Report for 2013

(A report from the Georges River Regional Council.)

Introduction

1. The Georges River Regional Council continues to face cross cultural issues more so than any other region in the diocese of Sydney with 41% of the population having a Non-English speaking background (NESB).
2. There are over 1 million people living in the Georges River region and 41 parishes serving the people.

Membership

3. As the region is so multi cultural we have been recruiting people with a multi cultural background and interest to serve on the council.
4. The membership of the Georges River Regional Council consisted of –
 - Archdeacon Ian Cox
 - The Reverend Christian Anderson
 - Mrs Lisa Bateup
 - The Reverend Manoj Chacko
 - Mr Clive Ellis
 - Ms Norma Esler
 - Mr Richard Graves
 - The Reverend Cam Phong Huynh
 - Mr Hans Norved
 - The Reverend Dr Margaret Powell
 - Dr David Power
 - Ms Rama Salem
 - Mr Michael Toull
 - The Reverend Ray Vassallo
5. Resignations during the year were –
 - The Reverend James Lewis
 - Mr Andrew Koulyras
 - Mrs Rama Salem
 - The Reverend Cam Phong Huynh
 - Reverend Christian Anderson.
6. Archdeacon Ian Cox retired as the acting Bishop of the region in July. Archbishop Glenn Davies appointed Bishop Peter Tasker as the honorary Bishop of the region.
7. New members appointed during 2013 –
 - The Reverend Stephen Fredericks and the Reverend Jason Veitch were appointed by the Synod in 2013.

Regional Events

8. The council continued its practice of meeting in parishes of the region during the year. The council met at the following parishes in 2013 –
 - 19 February at Greenacre Anglican Church
 - 11 June at St James (St George North Parish) Carlton
 - 21 August at Greenacre Anglican Church
 - 19 November at Moorebank Anglican Church
9. A one-day regional conference was arranged at Panania Anglican Church where the former Archbishop gave a Bible study to the regional workers. Input was received from members of the region as we continued to look at how we could serve this multi cultural region.
10. Another regional conference in August provided the new Archbishop an opportunity to talk with the clergy and lay workers in the region about the future of the region.

New Initiatives

11. The council in 2008 funded an initiative to plant a new congregation at Marrickville. The council agreed to fund this proposal for a number of years. It is pleasing to report that this work is now completely funded by the years as a reducing amount each year. We are pleased to report that the parish is able to fund this work entirely and a new congregation has been formed.

12. In 2013 the council initiated a church planting program in the parish of Riverwood/Punchbowl with the appointment of Mr Siddique Paul to work as a church planter. Mr. Paul is multi-lingual and has experience in growing a church in Pakistan. This ministry is mentored by a number of people and already we have seen a growing number of people attend events, as well as regular Bible studies.

13. The parish has provided a house at reduced rent and the council provides a stipend. We are encouraging parishes within the Region to financially support this ministry as the council has limited funds.

ESL Coordinator

14. The Reverend John Bartik was appointed as the part-time Regional ESL Coordinator in co-operation with the parish of St Marks Revesby. This has provided the minister with a full time position.

15. This has worked well with ESL classes at Revesby as well as training courses within the region. ESL classes are an excellent way of contacting people with a NESB background and assisting them in language as well as hearing the Word of the Lord.

The Reverend Margaret Powell

16. We appreciate the support of Anglican Deaconess Ministries in the provision of financial support for Margaret.

17. The council supported her in attending the Christian response to Islam Conference (CRIB) in Britain and then studying Middle Eastern language and culture in a training institute in Jordan. This has enabled her to understand some of the challenges facing women who have recently arrived in Sydney.

18. Margaret's work is mainly among women in the Bankstown and Greenacre areas. ADM's funding also enables a small number of women to be mentored by Margaret in the work of reaching out to women from a different cultural and religious background.

Student Ministers

19. The council also provided two financial grants for the employment of student ministers in the region. The council thought it was a priority especially for clergy working on their own in the parishes of Lakemba and Revesby.

20. We are grateful for students from theological colleges who, at their own expense, assist parishes on Sundays in the ministry of reaching out to people from other cultures.

NSW Building Partnerships

21. The following parishes received grants from the New South Wales Government in 2013 –

| <i>Mission Area</i> | <i>Parish</i> | <i>Project</i> | <i>Grant</i> | <i>Status</i> |
|----------------------|----------------|--|--------------|---------------------------|
| Sydney City | Dulwich Hill | Upgrades to Holy Trinity community hall – disabled access/change room/toilet/kitchen | \$45,518 | Grant approved |
| Canterbury-Bankstown | Belmore | Kitchen upgrade at St Albans | \$25,000 | Grant approved |
| Canterbury-Bankstown | Campsie | Renovation of kitchen in hall – Stage 2 | \$20,000 | Grant approved |
| Canterbury-Bankstown | Revesby | Hall upgrade for community facilities at St Mark's | \$10,000 | Grant approved |
| Canterbury-Bankstown | Yagoona | Construction of duplex at Condell Park | | Plans with Property Trust |
| Liverpool | Bossley Park | Playground | \$24,000 | Grant approved |
| Liverpool | Fairfield West | Maintenance of community hall at Fairfield West (St Barnabas) | \$26,000 | Grant approved |

| <i>Mission Area</i> | <i>Parish</i> | <i>Project</i> | <i>Grant</i> | <i>Status</i> |
|---------------------|----------------|---|--------------|----------------|
| Liverpool | Hoxton Park | Community playground | \$44,748 | Grant approved |
| Liverpool | Moorebank | Child safety fencing and shade cloth at Hammondville | \$7,695 | Grant approved |
| Liverpool | St John's Park | New hall | | Started |
| St George | Arncliffe | Renovation and alteration of rectory | | Proposed |
| St George | Arncliffe | Disabled and general toilet upgrade | \$25,193 | Grant approved |
| St George | Arncliffe | Kitchen renovation of St David's church hall | \$24,250 | Grant approved |
| St George | Oatley | Address heating and cooling issues in church and hall | \$15,000 | Grant approved |
| St George | Oatley West | Provision of air-conditioning | \$25,000 | Grant approved |
| St George | Sans Souci | St Andrew's replacement of kitchen | \$30,000 | Grant approved |

Financial Statement

22. The Regional Council made the following grants to parishes and people in 2013 –

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|---|-----------|
| Cross Cultural - ESL Coordinator | \$30,000 |
| Grants to Revesby and Greenacre Parishes Student Minister positions | \$13,384 |
| Administration and Property Expenses | \$2,727 |
| Cross Cultural Women's Ministry | \$105,495 |
| MTM Staff | \$27,094 |
| Punchbowl Church Planter | \$47,823 |

23. The Georges River Regional Council gives thanks to the Lord for the ministers and congregations as they advance the work of the gospel in the region. Our prayer is that all of us will be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ.

For and on behalf of the Georges River Regional Council.

IAN COX

Honorary Archdeacon of Liverpool: Georges River Region

4 June 2014