

Northern Regional Council Annual Report for 2013

(A report from the Northern Regional Council.)

Introduction

1. The Council met four times during the year, in March, June, August and November at the parishes of Roseville East (at St Philip's, Castle Cove), Waitara, Artarmon and West Ryde respectively.

Membership

2. The membership of Regional Council and details of the membership is as follows –

The Rt Rev Glenn Davies (Chairman)	
The Rev Terry Bowers	Dr Rob Mackay
The Rev Ernest Chau	Ms Jane McNamara
Mr Fred Chilton	The Rev Ian Millican
Ms Stephanie Cole	Mr Jim Peet
The Rev Keith Dalby	Mr Ian Steward
The Rev Michael Kellahan	Dr Andrew Tong
The Rev Robin Kinstead	The Rev Peter Tong
Ms Jill MacLeod	The Rev Mal York

3. During the year (June) Ms Jill MacLeod resigned from Council. The Council places on record its appreciation of her contribution to Council and thanks her for her valued service to the region.

4. Archdeacon Terry Dein chaired the November meeting in place of Bishop Davies following his election as the Archbishop.

5. The Regional Council has a simple structure represented by three office holders whose details follow –

Chairman – Regional Bishop: qualifications – appointment as the regional bishop.
Treasurer – Mr I Steward: qualifications – B Com., Chartered Accountant
Secretary – The Rev M Kellahan: qualifications – articulate and intelligent volunteer

6. Significant committees – Regional Architectural Panel (appointed by the Archbishop)
– Multi-Cultural Ministry Committee
– Ordinance Review Committee

Regional Events

Archbishop's Lectures

7. The lectures continue to be a valued annual event in the Northern Region and we place on record our appreciation of Archbishop Jensen's commitment to this ministry over the past decade. The theme for 2013 was 'Resurrection'. The average attendance was around 300. It was noted that the 2013 lectures were the Archbishop's tenth in the series and would be his last due to his retirement later in the year. Bishop Davies expressed his thanks to the Archbishop for this outstanding ministry to the Northern Region and made a presentation to him on behalf of the region. The lectures were well received, as were the Archbishop's sensitive responses in question and answer times. The availability of MP3s and DVDs of the lectures was appreciated.

8. For the past ten years, Abbotsleigh School has hosted the three consecutive Wednesday evening meetings and provided staff to manage the sound and lighting. They have also arranged for senior boarding students to assist visitors to find the venue. Abbotsleigh has been of enormous assistance over the years and the region appreciates this generosity from the school.

9. The future of these lectures will be considered by the new Regional Bishop.

Regional Conference

10. The Regional Conference in 2013 was held at St Anne's, Ryde on 20-21 May. The speaker was the Rev Michael Raiter, the Director of the Centre of Biblical Preaching in Melbourne. Michael spoke about quality preaching and modelled it by preaching a sermon. It was a conference marked by interaction, discussion and an open critique session by those present. Those attending were encouraged to strive to improve their preaching skills by hard work and prayerful dependence upon God to gift them for this ministry.

11. The conference was marked by a special session at which Bishop Davies and Canon Rick Smith, both having been nominated for election as Archbishop of Sydney, openly discussed their personal perspectives upon the office and its responsibilities etc. Their transparency and warm personal relationship was refreshing and very encouraging.

Archbishop's Election

12. The Archbishop's Election Synod was scheduled from 5-9 August. It was a very short synod and as a result the Rt Rev Dr Glenn N Davies was elected. Bishop Davies' inauguration was held at St Andrew's Cathedral on Friday, 23 August. Naturally the region was delighted to have their bishop elected as the Archbishop of Sydney and he received many expressions of goodwill and prayerful support for himself and his wife Dianne in their new responsibilities.

13. Following the election of Bishop Davies as Archbishop the Northern Region was without significant episcopal oversight. Although technically Archbishop Davies was also the Bishop of North Sydney his commitment to the business of the wider diocese meant that his availability for the day-to-day matters of the Northern Region was restricted. In these circumstances his Executive Assistant, Archdeacon Terry Dein, was asked to increase his working hours until a new bishop was appointed. This appointment did not take place for some months and when the Rev Chris Edwards accepted the Archbishop's offer he could not take up his appointment until early in 2014. His consecration took place in St Andrew's Cathedral on Saturday, 29 March and he commenced duties on 5 May. During these months the region functioned well although the Archdeacon was restricted in the time he could devote to its demands.

General Matters

Regional Matters

14. The regional accounts for the year incurred a *deficit* of \$64,615. This result was substantially effected by a decision by Regional Council to make two significant grants –

- An amount of \$53,208 was paid to the Endowment of the See to support the costs of operating the office support staff of the Northern Region. These funds were originally from Synod but had accumulated over recent years as the actual expenditure was less than the allocated funding.
- At 31 December the Council had net assets of \$46,907 comprised mainly of cash balances with Glebe. Of this amount Council has allocated up to \$10,000 to continue its support of West Ryde's international ministry in 2014. Amounts are also budgeted to provide support for training of the Regional Bishop and his staff.
- A grant of \$20,000 was made to West Ryde parish (see para 29).

15. The full audited accounts for the Council are tabled at Synod.

16. The 2013 Annual Information Statement for the ACNC has been lodged.

17. During the year Mission Area Leaders were invited to address Council. The Revs Michael Kellahan, Bruce Stanley and Kerry Nagel attended a Council meeting in March, June and August respectively. At the November meeting Mr Andrew Irving (SLW) and the Rev Mal York reported upon the integration of Meadowbank International Church into West Ryde Church.

18. The cross-cultural ministry in the region continued to receive funding through Evangelism and New Churches in 2013 as was arranged in 2012.

19. The Rev Michael Kellahan resigned as Mission Area Leader (MAL) for the Lower North Shore in July. A new MAL will be sought to continue this ministry.

Parish Matters

20. The Rev Phil Wheeler (Gladesville) continued to have oversight of St Chad's, Putney but on 31 March 2013 services at St Chad's were suspended. Members of the congregation (of about 30) have joined one of the churches of Gladesville, Ryde and West Ryde.

21. At the June meeting the rector of Beecroft, the Rev Geoff Collison, addressed Council as to why the parish wished to sell the property of St Peter's, South Beecroft. Noting that the Bishop had discussed this matter with surrounding parishes and with ENC it was considered that the site had no strategic ministry value. The Sale Ordinance was later passed by Standing Committee.

22. The parish of West Ryde sought financial assistance for 2013 and 2014 to facilitate the ministry (including some staffing costs) and integration of the Meadowbank International Church into the parish. Council agreed to provide a grant of \$20,000 for 2013 and, subject to a satisfactory review, a further \$10,000 in 2014.

Regional Architectural Panel (RAP)

23. During the year Archdeacon Terry Dein became Chairman of the RAP when the Rev Geoff Leader retired. The Council places on record its appreciation for Geoff's leadership of the Panel.

24. The task of architectural panels is not an easy one. The Northern Region RAP strives to serve parishes and provide expert advice that will result in the best possible ministry outcomes. The panel also has a responsibility to take a long-term view as it represents the diocesan interest in property matters. Sometimes this involves the RAP in negotiations with parishes where there are differing points of view. This is most common where projects are large and expensive.

25. The panel has worked consistently during the year with a number of parish projects. Some larger projects require extensive consultation with the parish while others are more modest and more easily managed.

26. The region owes a great deal to the panel members who freely give of their time and expertise in assisting parishes to get the best possible ministry outcomes from their property developments.

Cross-Cultural Ministry

27. Mrs Trish Bell (the NR Cross- Cultural Consultant) attended the February and November meetings of Council and gave very encouraging reports. Many groups were conducting Bible studies after ESL classes, and some churches were working hard to welcome non-English-speaking persons into their congregational life. The Council regards this as a highly strategic ministry and appreciates Mrs Bell's deep commitment to it.

28. 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 Grants

29. As noted above (para 14) the parish of West Ryde was given a grant of \$20,000 during the year to facilitate the integration of the Meadowbank International Church into the parish.

NSW Government Community Building Partnership Grants

30. Eight parishes had their grant applications approved by the NSW Government in December 2013 for projects to be completed in 2014. These grants totalled \$110,486. The details are as follows –

Parish	\$
East Lindfield	10,465
Ermington	16,545
Frenchs Forest	8,000
Macquarie	15,000
Normanurst	8,890
North Ryde	23,000
Seaforth	13,586
West Ryde	15,000

31. It is encouraging to see these successful grant applications from the parishes in the region. These initiatives will result in improved church facilities and many will have a direct beneficial impact upon parish ministry. The Community Building Grants provide a valuable opportunity for parishes to improve facilities, especially those which serve the wider community. They are opportunities which parishes need to intentionally seize.

For and on behalf of the Northern Region Council

CHRIS EDWARDS
Bishop of North Sydney

18 June 2014