

## Northern Regional Council Annual Report for 2014

(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 Willoughby, Waitara, West Ryde and Artarmon respectively.

### Membership

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

The Rt Rev Chris Edwards (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	The Rev Mal York
The Rev Robin Kinstead	The Rev Peter Tong

3. The Regional Council has a simple structure represented by three office holders –

Chairman – Regional Bishop
Treasurer – Mr I Steward: qualifications – B Com., Chartered Accountant
Secretary – the Rev M Kellahan

4. Significant committees – Regional Architectural Panel  
Multi-Cultural Ministry Committee  
Ordinance Review Committee

### Regional Events 2014

5. Chris Edwards' consecration as Bishop of the Northern Region: the Rev Chris Edwards was consecrated as Bishop on 29 March and began this ministry on 5 May. We welcome his leadership which he is exercising with energy, pastoral concern and godly wisdom and experience.

6. A big thanks also to the Ven Terry Dein who increased his working hours during the interim and enabled the region to continue to function effectively.

7. In October Terry Dein retired and the Rev Chris Burgess took up the position of Executive Assistant to Bishop Edwards.

8. Regional Conference – The Regional Conference in 2014 was held at St Anne's, Ryde on 19 May. The speaker was Dr Alan Craddock. Because the date of the conference was so close to the two-day Faithfulness in Service conference it was decided to run a shortened regional conference. Although well attended, the shortened timeframe did limit the value of the conference. Thankfully Alan's input lifted our time together and made the day very worthwhile.

9. Faithfulness in Service Training Update – A day conference was held at St. Anne's, Ryde on 3 June for clergy and lay people in Christian leadership within the Northern Region.

10. Archbishop's Lectures – For the past ten years, Abbotsleigh School has hosted the three consecutive Wednesday evening meetings. The school has been of enormous assistance over the years and the region has very much appreciated its ready generosity. However, it was decided at Council that these lectures would not be held in 2015. The Lectures may be resumed in the future and the NRC are considering alternatives including a symposium at a suitable, convenient location (Robert Menzies College?) with a variety of luminaries as panelists in a Q&A format.

### Regional Council Matters

11. Meetings in 2015 – In considering the four priorities of the Mission, the Northern Regional Council decided to hold its four 2015 meetings with the following themes –

February	Reach the Lost
May	Deepen Spiritual Foundation
August	Equip Our People
November	Respond to Changing Faces of Society.

12. The Bishop encouraged Council (and individual parishes) to think about how the Mission might be implemented on a parish by parish basis.
13. Regions Ordinance 1995 – The question of a review of NRC membership was raised in order to comply with changes following the formation of Mission Areas. This was referred to the Bishop for his consideration and the changes required to meet compliance were made.
14. The regional accounts for the year incurred a *deficit* of \$5,155. This result was effected by a decision by Regional Council to make the \$10,000 grant to West Ryde to continue support of the church's international ministry in 2014.
15. At 31 December 2014 the Council had net assets of \$41,752 comprised mainly of cash balances with Glebe. The full audited accounts for the Council are tabled at Synod. The 2014 Annual Information Statement for the ACNC has been lodged.

#### **Reports to Council**

16. Philadelphia Chinese Anglican Church (PCAC) – Philadelphia Chinese Anglican Church meets at St Martin's, Killara, pastored by the Rev Carson Wu, under provisional parish oversight of the Rev Matt Heazlewood, Senior Minister of Killara. Existing arrangements with St Martin's were affirmed. There is the possibility of PCAC becoming an independent church in the next 3-5 years.
17. Cross-Cultural Ministry – Mrs Trish Bell is the Northern Region Cross-Cultural Consultant. The Council regards this as a highly strategic ministry and appreciates Mrs Bell's deep commitment to it. Many groups are now conducting Bible studies after ESL classes, and other churches are working hard to welcome non-English-speaking persons into their congregational life.
18. Northern Region Multicultural Ministry Committee – This group works hand in hand with the ESL ministry. It exists to serve the ministers and parishes of the Northern Region, through the strategic development of networks and resources for multicultural ministry. Its three aims are –
  - to inform of needs, opportunities and challenges for multicultural ministry
  - to encourage ministers and parishes to engage in multicultural ministries
  - to facilitate multicultural ministry through networking, resourcing and training.
19. The committee met during 2014 under the chairmanship of the Rev Chris Burgess. They had decided in 2013 to prepare and run a multicultural ministry seminar for each of the four Northern Region Mission Areas. The first seminar was held with Ryde Mission Area in November 2013. Two further seminars were planned with Upper North Shore Mission Area (held March 2015) and Warringah Mission Area in 2015.
20. The Rev Mike Kellahan reported on the partnership bond East Roseville has formed with the Rev Alby Lam and his church, Grace Anglican. This group functions as an "approved" congregation.

#### **Other Matters**

21. Regional Architectural Panel (NRAP) – During the year the Rev Chris Burgess became Chairman when Archdeacon Terry Dein retired in October. The Council places on record its great appreciation for Terry's chairmanship of the panel.
22. Current membership of NRAP is Mrs Jenny MacDonnell; Mr Geoff Deane; Mr Dugald MacKenzie; Mr Graham Watt (new in 2015); and the Rev Chris Burgess. The panel still has a vacancy for a clergyman.
23. The task of architectural panels is not an easy one. The NRAP 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 NRAP in negotiations with parishes where there are differing points of view. This is most common where projects are large and expensive.
24. 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.
25. Regional Grants – As noted above the parish of West Ryde was given a grant of \$20,000 during the year 2013 to facilitate the integration of the Meadowbank International Church into the parish. Council also agreed to provide a further grant of \$10,000 for 2014, subject to a satisfactory review.
26. NSW Government Community Building Partnership Grants – 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
Normanhurst	8,890
North Ryde	23,000
Seaforth	13,586
West Ryde	15,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>110,486</b>

27. 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*

14 July 2015