

Proposal to reclassify the provisional parish of Helensburgh and Stanwell Park as a parish

(A report of the Wollongong Regional Council.)

Initiation of proposal

1. A proposal was made to the Archbishop by the Minister and Churchwardens of the Provisional Parish of Helensburgh and Stanwell Park under clause 4 (1)(b) of the Parishes Ordinance 1979.

Details of Meeting

2. A meeting of the WRC was held on 8 June 2004 to consider among other things the proposal under clause 5 of the Ordinance.

3. The WRC has certified all procedural requirements under clauses 4 and 6 have been complied with.

Proposal

4. The proposal is to change the Provisional Parish to a Parish.

Parish Information

5. The Helensburgh area has a distinct identity and notwithstanding the restrictions placed on growth by the surrounding National Parks it has shown some steady increase in population in recent years.

6. **The Church in Helensburgh** was first established in 1881 as part of the pastoral oversight of the Rev Walker Taylor B.A.. The "Mission" Parish extended from Sutherland to Bulli. The Rev Taylor conducted the first Church Service in Helensburgh in the open under a gum tree on a clear moonlight night in the Colliery paddock just down from the present Church site. With the help of Lay catechists services were held in the open air and in homes until a rough demountable building was used as a meeting place and called "St. Anne's". In 1890 the church met in the School of Arts Building where the present Community Centre is now situated. The following year the present Church hall, minus the stage and kitchen area, was moved up from Otford by bullock train to its present site as a more permanent location to meet. In 1891 Archbishop Saumarez Smith moved to create the mission district of Helensburgh and appointed the Rev Joseph Bosworth to the Provisional District of Helensburgh in 1891 supported by the then Church Society (forerunner to Home Mission Society, etc). A new Church building was built in 1892 and called "The Church of the Holy Redeemer".

7. **The Branch Church at Stanwell Park** traces its commencement back to around 1908. As an outreach activity of the Helensburgh Church, land was obtained in Stanwell Park. A foundation stone was laid by the Rev Newmarch on December the 20th 1913 and the building (the present Church hall) was finished and opened on the 14th February 1914. Prior to the building of the Church, the Church met in private homes. One such home was the Rev Begbie then Rector of All Souls Leichhardt who preached the first sermon. His text was "Till He Come".

8. Today, the total population of the area is approximately 7,500. Around 1,883 people still claim affiliation with the Anglican Church.

9. Helensburgh particularly is a residential suburb of both Wollongong and Sydney and prides itself on its individual identity. It is a distinct Community made up of a number of smaller villages. In earlier days it was known as a mining town and while the mine still operates and plays an important part in the community the passage of time has seen the nature of the town change dramatically. There are an increasing number of people of NESB background but the numbers still remain low in comparison to some nearby areas.

10. The Provisional Parish employs a Curate in Charge, the Rev Trevor Young, a student Minister, a part time Assistant Minister who looks after the evening service at Helensburgh and an Office Secretary. The Parish, at both centres, seeks to reach the local areas and under the Rev Young's leadership there have been very strong and effective links established with the community, with other Bible based churches and with local community leaders.

11. There are three Public Primary Schools in the Parish and no High Schools. SRE is taught in all the schools and all classes are covered. Pastoral Care is extended to the staff, carers and residents of Garrawarra Centre for Aged Care, Hillcrest and Kennet homes. It boasts two large playgroups of 50 adults and 60 preschoolers both with waiting lists and plans to commence another in Stanwell Park in 2005. Work needs to be done on present Church buildings in Helensburgh to prepare for growth and thinking has begun already to meet this need.

12. The Provisional Parish currently has 112 regular worshippers with average attendance as follows -

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Church	Service time	No. of adults	No. of children
Helensburgh	8:00 am	18	-
	10:00 am	41	17
	7:00 pm	29	1
Stanwell Park	8:30 am	24	5

13. Details of property held by the Property Trust upon trust for the Provisional Parish are as follows -

	Value of Land & Improvements 31.12.03.	Condition of Building
Helensburgh		
Church Building	443,000	Fair/Good
Rectory	257,000	Fair
Rectory Garage	31,000	Good
Church Hall	154,000	Fair
Church Cottage	130,000	Very Good
Stanwell Park		
Church Building	196,000	Fair/Good
Church Hall	230,000	Fair
Totals	1,441,000	

14. A summary of the financial position over the last 3 years and the budget for 2004 is set out below. As at July 31 for the 2004 year we are tracking a net positive result of \$8,000 ahead of budget.

	2001	2002	2003	Budget 2004
Receipts	\$	\$	\$	\$
Offerories	62,200	62,006	73,868	83,700
Missions	9,665	10,151	10,506	10,000
Rent/Interest	15,109	11,443	4,534	12,000
Donations	3,531	3,788	2,085	1,500
Redemption	5,000		1,000	
Investments				610
Grants	4,750	5,489	15,541	12,000
Other	10,857	10,570	7,957	7,490
Totals	111,112	103,447	115,491	127,300

	2001	2002	2003	Budget 2004
Expenditure	\$	\$	\$	\$
Stipends, Salaries	69,928	59,287	55,552	71,378
Cost Recovery	4,897	10,993	13,113	9,592
Ministry Expenses	208	3,184	2,242	1,970
Printing/Stationery	3,883	3,881	4,888	2,300
Repairs & Maintenance	12,554	6,871	6,839	18,500
Insurance	110	149	107	200
Electricity, Gas etc	3,239	3,163	3,916	5,845
Missions	10,656	6,058	10,172	10,000
Glebe Admin Board	928			
Professional Services		178	692	50
Other	6,673	2,613	4,478	4,500
Totals	113,076	96,337	101,999	124,335

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15. A summary of the assets and liabilities of the provisional parish as at 31 December 2003 is as follows-

Assets	
Bank Accounts & Investments	48,582
Building Contents & Furniture (estimate)	235,000
Building (Replacement)	1,121,000
Land (Valuer General)	684,000
Total	2,088,582
Liabilities	
PAYG	1,173
Other	119
Total	1,292
Net Assets	2,087,290

16. The Bishop of Wollongong and his Assistant strongly support the application.

Recommendation

17. The Wollongong Regional Council recommends that the Provisional Parish of Helensburgh and Stanwell Park be reclassified as a Parish effective from 1 November 2004.

For and on behalf of the Wollongong Regional Council.

GEOFF KYNGDON

Assistant to the Bishop of Wollongong

30 August 2004