

Wollongong Regional Council Annual Report for 2006

(A report from the Wollongong Regional Council.)

Introduction

1. Wollongong Regional Council meets 5 times a year on the evening of the second Tuesday of the month in Wollongong with each meeting being preceded by a meal. In 2006 the council met in February, April, June, September and November. The Executive committee also meets five times a year to consider matters delegated to it and to plan agendas for the regular meetings.

2. At our February meeting Rev. Joe Zagninski the director of Cross Cultural Ministries (CCM) Wollongong reported on his work and at the June meeting Robert Wicks and Philip Gerber gave and outline of the Discipline Ordinance being prepared for Synod in 2006 and answered questions.

Membership

3. In 2006 the membership of the Council was –

Bishop Reg Piper (Chairman)	Mr Glenn Murray
The Rev Stephen Barrett	Rev Neil Percival
Rev Dr Rob Barrie	Mr Doug Philpott
Rev Dr Michael Blake	Rev David Pratt
Rev Stefan Bull	Mr Stuart Quarmby
Mr Peter Evans	Rev Ian Rienits
Mrs Amanda Garlato	Rev Stephen Semunchuk
Rev Sandy Grant	Rev Peter Stavert
Mr Andrew Guile	Mr Roger Summerill
Mr Greg Holmes	Mr Ron Webb
Mr Geoff Kyngdon	Mr Peter White

4. The Rev David Pratt resigned at the end of 2006 in order to pursue missionary work overseas and we finished the year acknowledging that our Chairman, Bishop Reg Piper would be retiring early in 2007 and we looked forward to working with our new Bishop, Al Stewart.

Ministry Strategies

5. Three major matters of business were the focus of our consideration of ministry in the region in 2006.

6. We began the process of looking at how we do Cross Cultural Ministry across the region firstly by acknowledging the good work done in the 'English for Life' programmes and then establishing a sub-

committee to review this vital work. This committee's work is still ongoing.

7. In relation to the distribution of Synod grants we spent considerable time and effort reviewing and remodelling our process for assessing grant applications.

8. We sought to review –

- (a) The application process, including the application form and the required timeline for the process.
- (b) The principles by which allocation decisions are made and might best be made.
- (c) The best means for dealing with non-standard applications such as those which are late or do not conform to the advertised criteria.
- (d) The proper manner to handle the issue of recurrent Grant applications.
- (e) The way in which the discussion and decision making process in council itself can be facilitated.

9. We have adopted a modified policy and processes which will be applied when assessing grants in 2007 for 2008.

10. For distribution in 2007 we approved grants totalling \$442,700. Of this amount \$76,700 was approved for Regional initiatives (including cross cultural work, university chaplaincies, and Indigenous ministry) and \$25,000 was granted for regional youth advisers. The remaining grants (\$341,000) were given to parishes in the region mostly to assist with the employment of staff. Of these parish based grants \$125,000 was given to new initiatives within the region.

11. The Regional Council also grants \$125 each to students connected to the region who are in full time theological training at Moore College, Youthworks College, and SMBC.

12. Thirdly, the regional council also spent some time considering the best use of its trust monies and resolved to purchase demountable buildings and residential properties in strategic areas. These buildings to be available for use by parishes at reasonable rents.

Keeping in Touch

13. The Council makes a deliberate effort to keep informed about ministry initiatives and ministry possibilities in the Region. This involves members bringing 'local' perspectives to issues under discussion and discussion of reports both from the Bishop and his assistant.

14. The Council received reports from Bishop Piper and the Assistant to the Bishop at each meeting. Additional reports were received from –

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- (a) Cross Cultural Ministries
- (b) The Indigenous People's Committee

For and on behalf of the Wollongong Regional Council.

GREG HOLMES
Secretary

26 July 2007