

Wollongong Regional Council Annual Report for 2007

(A report from the Wollongong Regional Council.)

Introduction

1. Wollongong Regional Council normally 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 2007 the council met in February, June, September and November. The April 2007 meeting was cancelled due to a number of unavoidable circumstances. 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 September meeting Tim Scheuer, Wayne Pickford and Dave Cunningham from the Church Army reported on the commencement and progress of the "adopt a block" outreach and church plant in Berkeley.

Membership

3. In 2007 the membership of the Council was –

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

4. Early in the year Bishop Al Stewart took up his role as chairman of the Regional Council. The Rev Stephen Barrett resigned from the council in September and the Rev Sandy Grant resigned from the council at the end of 2007. Council acknowledges the very positive contributions both of them made during their time with us.

Ministry Strategies

5. In 2007 we began to look at ways we could raise funds, in addition to our Synod grants to assist with major ministry initiatives in the region. A fund was established and a Fund Executive was appointed to oversee this initiative.

6. In relation to the distribution of Synod grants we were able to apply the policy developed in 2006 to our grant application and

approval process. While this resulted in considerable discussion the grant process in general has been made both more efficient and more accountable.

7. For distribution in 2008 we approved grants totalling \$431,750. Of this amount \$110,000 was approved for Regional initiatives (including cross cultural work, university chaplaincies, and Indigenous ministry) and \$25,000 was granted for AYW regional youth advisers. The remaining grants (\$296,750) were given to parishes in the region mostly to assist with the employment of staff. Of these parish based grants \$97,000 was given to new initiatives within the region.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. Thirdly, the regional council moved to purchase residential properties in the Sussex Inlet and Harrington Park areas. These buildings will be available for use by the appropriate parishes at reasonable rents.

Keeping in Touch

12. 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.

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

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

For and on behalf of the Wollongong Regional Council.

GREG HOLMES
Secretary

11 June 2008