

## Wollongong Regional Council Annual Report 2001

### Introduction

1. Wollongong Regional Council held 5 bi-monthly meetings during year and the Executive Committee of Council met on 5 other occasions.

### Guest Speakers

2. As part of endeavours to be aware of what has been happening in the broader church community, Council invited the Rev Dr Peter O'Brien to answer questions raised by Council about training at Moore Theological College. Council members also invited Mrs Sarah Sherwood-Leisk from Youthworks to outline the work she was undertaking in the Macarthur Deanery. They were encouraged to note clear evidence of the positive effort being made to support parish ministry with young people.

### Disbursement of Synod Grants

3. A significant proportion of Region Council's time was spent considering the wide range of requests made for the \$392,000 allocated by Synod to the Wollongong Region. Council agreed to allocate funds in the following manner -

	\$
Ongoing Parish Applications	117,000
New Parish Initiatives	14,000
Deanery Applications	91,000
Regional Applications	170,000

4. The largest allocations were made to support Cross Cultural/ESL ministry (\$112,000) and Chaplaincy work at Wollongong and UWS Universities (\$68,000).

### Planning

5. Council supported Bishop Piper's endeavours to encourage individual parishes and deaneries to plan strategically for the extension of God's Kingdom. Deanery Planning days, involving both clergy and lay people, were held during the year. Our annual Regional Planning day was held in September and by the end of the year, Draft 12 of the Regional Plan was published. This plan incorporated into broad regional goals detailed planning by each of the deaneries.

### Consideration of Ordinances

6. Regional Council discussed at length several ordinances proposed for Synod. In particular, attention was given to the Recognised Churches Ordinance and the Parish Relationship Ordinance (Tenure). Pre-Synod meetings were held in the region to help Synod representatives understand issues involved and procedures used at Synod.

### **Support and Encouragement**

7. Support and encouragement for ministry at the parish level has been one of the clear goals of this Region. Council has continued to foster ministry with indigenous people and supported parishes such as Picton during difficult times. Growth in parishes is evidence in that a new provisional parish of Denham Court was created at the beginning of this year and 3 other parishes were in the process of moving from provisional parish to full parish status. (Eagle Vale, Gerringong and Narellan.)

### **Buddhist Temple**

8. In November, the Wollongong City Council approved and significantly encouraged plans to expand the Buddhist temple in Wollongong. Regional Council supported Bishop Piper's opposition to this proposal and expressed its feeling as to whether or not he should accept a subsequent invitation to attend a public function at the temple.

### **Death of Harry Lockery**

9. Council was saddened this year to hear of the death of Mr Harry Lockery, one of its foundation members. Members resolved to express their deepest sympathy to Mrs Lockery and praised God for Harry's ministry.

### **Beyond Wollongong**

10. During this year Council established a Companion Diocese Committee to assist broadening our vision for the spread of the gospel. Council accepted the recommendation of this committee that the region should be encouraged to focus our attention in 3 areas - Tanzania, Egypt and the Province of SE Asia. Early in the year, as part of this process, a delegation of 3 people from the region visited Sabah and in May Bishop Piper was delighted to represent the Archbishop at the consecration of the Bishop in Egypt. Council has also decided to allocate 50% of any interest earned on WRC funds to missionary work.

For and on behalf of the Wollongong Regional Council.

RON WEBB  
*Secretary*

12 June 2001