

Georges River Regional Council Annual Report for 2005

(A report from the Georges River Regional Council.)

Introduction

1. In the year 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 the Regional Council met on six (6) occasions and held its annual One Day conference in March 2006 and went on a bus trip across Canterbury Area Deanery in February 2006.

Membership

2. During the 12 month period covered by this report, a fresh Regional Council was elected by Synod, but vacancies remain for a minister in Canterbury Area Deanery and lay persons for Canterbury, St George, Liverpool Area Deaneries and non-deanery members.

Major Matters

3. The Regional Council's major matter has been the development of a new strategy for outreach across the Canterbury Area Deanery, plus the parishes of Bankstown and Greenacre. A number of these parishes have struggled for viability in recent years and the Council is prepared to support a new strategy.

Synod Grants

4. For 2006 the Regional Council has budgeted the following grants –

Beverly Hills	\$27,500
Blakehurst	\$10,000
Cabramatta	\$65,000
Campsie	\$20,000
Fairfield	\$40,000
Hoxton Park	\$20,000
Hurstville	\$12,600
Kogarah	\$35,000
Moorebank	\$18,000
Penshurst	\$5,000
Regents Park	\$35,000
Revesby	\$10,000
Riverwood / Punchbowl	\$15,000
Sadleir	\$29,000
South Carlton	\$760
St George North	\$32,150
Yagoona	\$12,000

In addition to these, Parish Council also employed an Arabic Minister, a part-time ESL Coordinator, a full-time Refugee Support Network Coordinator (along with funding from the Archbishop's Community Care and Development Program), and made provision for a part-time Children's & Youth Task Force Coordinator.

Parish Organisation

5. Council amalgamated the Parish of Beverly Hills with the Parish of Kingsgrove to form the Parish of Beverly Hills with Kingsgrove and the Provisional Parish of Fairfield with the Provisional Parish of Bossley Park to form the Provisional Parish of Fairfield with Bossley Park. Its Parish Administration Committee also reviewed the Panania Land Sale Ordinance, Yagoona Land Sale Ordinance and the Smithfield Road Trust Ordinance. Council approved the use of the Special Administration Ordinance for the Parish of Beverly Hills with Kingsgrove and the Provisional Parish of Fairfield with Bossley Park. Council noted the delicensing and closure of St John's Rockdale and approved changes in the constitution of the Parish Council of Brighton / Rockdale and the election of Parish Nominators. Regional Council approved the recognition of Christ Church St George as a Recognised Church, and recommended to Synod that the Provisional Parish of Hoxton Park become a Parish as from 1 January 2006.

Employment of Staff

6. Mr Stuart Smith, Children's & Youth Task Force Coordinator, resigned and the Task Force is considering his replacement. The Region's ESL Coordinator, Mrs Marilyn Clerke, retired at the end of 2005. Marilyn's replacement is Mr Stephen Mansfield. The Refugee Support Network coordinated by Mr Phin Tang, has continued to expand with new arrivals and a growing number of volunteers. Mr Tang is now employed full-time. The Network's ministry continues to grow although new DIMIA contractual arrangements has resulted in less new referrals.

For and on behalf of the Georges River Regional Council

GEOFF HUARD
Regional Archdeacon

6 June 2006