

Northern Regional Council Annual Report for 2005

(A report from the Northern Regional Council.)

Introduction

1. The Council met five times during the year, four times at St Andrew's, Roseville and once at St Luke's, Mosman.

Membership

2. The membership of Regional Council consisted of –

Bishop Glenn Davies (Chairman)	Archdeacon Terry Dein
Mrs Samantha Biggs	Dr Rob Mackay
The Rev Roger Bray	Mr Andrew Mitchell
The Rev Ernest Chau	Mr Jim Peet
Mr Fred Chilton	Mrs Pru Selden
Ms Stephanie Cole	The Rev Adam Street
The Rev Neil Flower	Mr Ian Steward
The Rev Andrew Graham	The Rev Rick Smith
Mrs Jan Hall	The Rev Lyndon Sulzberger
The Rev Richard James	Mr Andrew Tong

3. During the year the following council members chose not to seek re-election at Synod –

Mr Kevin Alexander	The Rev Ross Nicholson
The Rev Geoff Collison	Mrs Claire Smith
The Rev Brian Heath	Mr Deryck Woutersz
Mr Dugald Mackenzie	

4. New members elected by Synod –

Mrs Samantha Biggs	The Rev Adam Street
The Rev Roger Bray	Mr Ian Steward
Dr Rob Mackay	The Rev Rick Smith
Mrs Pru Selden	

5. Council places on record its appreciation of the services of those members who retired and warmly welcomes its new members.

Regional Events

Archbishop's Lectures

6. These have been conducted in February for the last three years at Abbotsleigh School, Wahroonga. They are held over three weeks and consistently attract about 250 people, mostly from the region. The 2005 lectures were on the Ten Commandments.

Regional Dinner

7. This was held on 8th March at Christ Church, St Ives. It was

well supported by 144 parish representatives. This is a valued opportunity for sharing and fellowship.

Regional Conference

8. Merroo Christian Centre was again the venue for this conference held 16-17th May. There were 50 parishes represented by 95 full time delegates and 41 who attended part time. The conference addressed the issue of wealth and financial strategies within parish life. Dr Brian Rosner led the Bible studies. The conference was a valuable time of learning together, sharing and interacting upon practical issues arising from the theme.

Ministry Recruitment Dinner

9. This new initiative was designed to encourage young people to consider ministry as a life vocation, to inform them of the various ministry opportunities that exist and how they could proceed to obtain more information about training. The dinner was attended by a handful of ministers and a number of young people. It was very encouraging to see 75 in attendance.

Regional Seminars

10. Seminars were held throughout the region for both the New Capital Project and the Faithfulness in Service (code of conduct) briefings. These were well attended. The NCP resulted in an approach being made to six parishes. One of these is proceeding with a significant realignment of capital.

General Matters

Evangelism & Church Growth

11. As a means of encouraging and stimulating churches within the region, the Rev Stuart Robinson was engaged (part time) in 2003 to be available for parish consultations relating to evangelism and church growth. This arrangement continued through 2005. Stuart's special gifts have been greatly appreciated by a number of parishes and the partnership with Evangelism Ministries has proved to be most valuable. The program will cease this year as Stuart returns to parish ministry. The region has benefited greatly from his ministry and thanks him for his partnership in the gospel.

Ministry Initiatives

12. It is encouraging to note the new ministries that are being undertaken across the region. There appears to be a fresh entrepreneurial spirit as parishes explore new means of evangelistic outreach and church growth. The commencement of new church plants in the region is significant. Some new ministries seek financial assistance, while others are self-supporting from inception. Most of the church plants become established congregations but regrettably a few fail. There are always lessons to be learnt from such difficult experiences.

English Second Language Ministry

13. Mrs Rosemary Anderson worked 2.5 days per week encouraging 17 parishes in the region in their ESL ministry. She was also engaged in the production of 'Simply Christianity' for ESL students. During the year a CD was produced for parishes with comprehensive data upon the demography of the region.

Regional Grants

14. Funds from Synod to be applied in 2006 are as follows –

Parish/Organisation	Ministry to be Funded	GRANT 2006
Artamon	ESL	12,000
Avalon	Reinvent 6.30pm	30,000
Beacon Hill	Children/Youth Ministry	10,000
Berowra	Family Worker	9,000
Eastwood	Chinese Ministry	7,500
Harbord	MTS Worker	15,000
Hornsby Heights	Youth Worker	25,000
Killara	Chinese Ministry*	5,000
Macquarie University/Mars Hill	Chaplain/Mars Hill	20,000
Manly Vale	Youth worker	20,000
Naremburn	Assistant Minister accomm	25,000
Narrabeen	Warriewood church plant	60,000
North Epping	Youth Ministry	15,000
Putney	Minister Stipend support	5,000
Turramurra	Church plant – Nth Turramurra	25,000
Waitara	ESL/catechist/AM	8,000
CCM Consultant	Rosemary Anderson	30,000
Hornsby Mandarin	Hooi Wan Cheng	70,000
TAFE		15,000
Insurances, misc		3,000
Bishop's Discretionary Fund		5,000
	TOTAL	414,500

Notes * Previously paid through Thornleigh

For and on behalf of the Northern Regional Council

TERRY DEIN
Archdeacon of North Sydney

24 July 2006