

Georges River Regional Council Annual Report for 2008

(A report from the Georges River Regional Council.)

Introduction

1. The Georges River Region is made up of the Local Government areas of Rockdale, Kogarah, Hurstville, Canterbury, Bankstown, Fairfield and Liverpool.
2. The total number of people living in the Region is about 867,000.
3. In the 2006 Census 38% of the population of the Region were non 'English' speaking (306,467). Other Regions have about 20-25% of their populations with NES background.
4. The largest language groups in the Region are those from China speaking Mandarin or Cantonese.
5. The Georges River is undoubtedly the most diverse linguistically, with just over 60% of the population speaking a language other than English. By way of contrast, South Sydney Region has 43% of the population speaking a language other than English.

Membership

6. The members of the Regional Council as at December 2008 were as follows –

Name	Method & Term of Appointment	Attendance in 2008
Rt Rev P J Tasker	<i>Ex officio.</i>	6
Archdeacon G R Huard	<i>Ex officio to Nov 30, 2008</i>	6
The Rev P L Hayward	<i>Elected for three years</i>	5
The Rev E Brush	<i>Elected for three years</i>	4
The Rev I Cox	<i>Elected for three years, then Ex officio from 1/12/2008</i>	5
The Rev P Lin	<i>Elected for three years</i>	5
Mr R Graves	<i>Elected for three years</i>	5
The Rev K Coleman	<i>Elected for two years</i>	4
Mr C Ellis	<i>Elected for three years</i>	6
Mr G Nelson	<i>Elected for three years</i>	6
Mr I Scarfe	<i>Elected for three years</i>	6
Miss N Esler	<i>Elected for three years</i>	6

Name	Method & Term of Appointment	Attendance in 2008
Dr D Power	<i>Elected for three years</i>	6
The Rev S Young	<i>Elected for three years</i>	2
The Rev S Roberts	<i>Elected for three years</i>	4
The Rev J Rogers	<i>Elected for three years</i>	4
Mr A Koulyras	<i>Elected for three years</i>	5
The Rev M Powell	<i>Elected for three years</i>	2
Mr M Toull	<i>Elected for three years</i>	1
Ms Wei Hsien-Heng	<i>Elected for three years</i>	1

Ministry Activities

7. Initiatives in some of the major multi cultural suburbs of the Region were directed towards the Marrickville to Bankstown area.

8. The Regional Council has employed Mr Ross Ciano to develop a new ministry in Marrickville. The suburb of Marrickville has changed over the last 40 years with the arrival of various ethnic groups. Mr Ciano is building relationships with people on the street with whom the church has absolutely no link. The Regional Council had set aside money for the purpose of developing friendships among the community at Marrickville with a view to building a new congregation.

9. In the Bankstown Parish the Rev Raymond Leung was able to join the staff of the church through the financial support of the Archbishop's Curacy Fund and a Regional Council grant. Mr Leung has been working to develop friendships with Mandarin speaking people. The Council and the Bankstown Parish are encouraging him to grow a Mandarin speaking congregation.

10. Bankstown is a changing suburb with many cultural groups. One opportunity the Council hopes to pursue is to begin a Vietnamese congregation at the church. Opposite the church a new shopping mall is being built called 'Saigon Alley.'

11. The Council is hopeful that it will soon sell the church and land at Clemton Park. The proceeds of the sale will enable the Council to continue support for Cross Cultural Ministries.

12. One of the unique ministries in the Cross Cultural portfolio is the ministry to Arabic speaking people. The Rev Abdallah Bahri has grown a small congregation of Arabic speaking people. The Rev Margaret Powell continues to create opportunities to connect with Muslim women through community events. These ministries will remain financially dependent for many years and the Council remains committed to connecting with people from other religions and cultures.

Regional Grants

13. The Council distributed in 2008 grants totalling \$621,600 –
- Refugee work: \$74,000 assisted by the Archbishop's Community Care & Development Program
 - Parish Leadership: \$175,000
 - Cross Cultural Ministries: \$253,000
 - Children's & Youth Ministries: \$119,600

Retirements

14. At the end of 2008 the Region farewelled Archdeacon and Mrs Huard. We were thankful to God for their ministry in the Region. They have continued their ministry in the Region in leading the work at Bankstown.

15. Our Bishop Peter and his wife Joan have worked faithfully and with great vision in the Region for the past 7 ½ years. In 2009 we farewelled them and we thank God for Peter's leadership in this ethnically diverse Region. He has helped us pioneer many new ventures. Peter has helped a number of new clergy come into the Region who along with him have believed that under God this was the right thing to do. We thank God for his leadership and example and commend him to the Lord in his new work as Bishop for International Relations for the Archbishop of Sydney.

Risk Management

16. The Georges River Regional Council now conducts an annual risk management audit. Two major risks are:

- (a) Misappropriation of money invested for the Regional Council.
- (b) No real outcome for grant monies distributed.

17. We have placed sufficient checks and balances to minimise these risks.

For and on behalf of the Georges River Regional Council

IAN COX

Archdeacon of Liverpool: Georges River Region

28 July 2009