



Wollongong Regional Council

Annual Report for 1998

(A report from the Wollongong Regional Council.)

Introduction

1. During 1998, Wollongong Regional Council held 5 bi-monthly meetings. Below is a summary of the major issues dealt with by the Council during the year.

Disbursement of Regional Grants

2. Regional Council spent a significant proportion of time during the year considering applications for regional grants. A total of \$343,000 was distributed.

- 29% for parish based ministries;
- 28% for deanery based ministries;
- 43% for regional based ministries.
- Encouraging Specialised Ministries

3. Regional council has actively supported a number of specialised ministries during the year. These ministries have included the Cross-Cultural Ministry in Wollongong, the Chinese Ministry at Minto and the Mission to Seamen at Port Kembla. Council has continued to support University Chaplaincies at Wollongong, Campbelltown and has encouraged initiatives at the Bomaderry campus. In 1998, Council financially supported preparations for an Aboriginal People's Ministry Conference at the University of Western Sydney in July 1999 and the development of contemporary music within the region.

4. Regional Council has also considered ways that additional sources of funds could be found to support ministry opportunities.

Planning for Growth

5. Early in 1998, Council discussed the biblical basis of the Archbishop's goals for the diocese and in the second half of the year strongly supported the Bishop's Regional Planning Day. The Bishop invited a broader group of people from the region to be involved in the planning process and it is encouraging to note that many parishes and deaneries are setting definite goals for future ministry opportunities.

6. Regional Council also again sponsored Pre-Synod briefing meetings during the year so that representatives would be better informed of issues to be discussed and procedures used at Synod.

Supporting Administration

7. Regional Council has also supported ministry within the Wollongong Region by attending to various administrative matters delegated to it by Synod. Applications from several parishes to modify the constitution of Parish Councils (as provided for under the Church Administration Ordinance) have been approved. Vacancies on the councils of 2 Anglican Schools within the region have been filled and the creation of 2 new parochial units at South Creek and Wollondilly has been supported. Negotiations also took place during the year with the Church Property Trust concerning loans to assisted provisional parishes. Towards the end of the year responsibility for accounting for Cross Cultural Ministries was transferred from St Michael's Cathedral to Regional Council.

Advancing the Kingdom

8. Members of the Regional Council have been encouraged to see that people of the Wollongong Region continue to be challenged to respond to the gospel through the various ministry initiatives they have been associated with. They praise God that he has graciously blessed the endeavours of many individuals in the region as they seek to reach out to a community hungry for the "word of life".

For and on behalf of the Wollongong Regional Council.

RON WEBB

Secretary

12 August 1999