

*Reports to Synod 2005*

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**TIMETABLE FOR SYNOD 2005**

	Monday 2.5.2005	Tuesday 3.5.2005	Wednesday 4.5.2005	Thursday 5.5.2005
9.00 a.m.		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION 2</b></p> <p>Moderatorial address. Thanks to Moderator for his address. Administration Committee's Report. Training of Ministry Committee's Report. Reports from Presbyteries.</p> <p>(Morning Tea: 10.30 - 10.45 a.m.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION 5</b></p> <p>Devotions. Missions Report (cont.).</p> <p>(Morning Tea: 10.30 - 10.45 a.m.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION 7</b></p> <p>Devotions. Finance (Including Treasurer's and Auditor's Reports). 8: 14 Foundation. Provident Funds. Law and Advisory Committee Report. Trust Corporations. Archivist's Report</p> <p>(Morning Tea: 10.30 - 10.45 a.m.)</p>
12.30 p.m.		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
2.00 p.m.		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION 3</b></p> <p>Church and Nation (including Publications. "Presbyterian Banner" Report and Psalmody Report.). Inter-Church Relations.</p> <p>(Afternoon Tea: 3.30-3.45 p.m.)</p>	<p>It is hoped to keep the afternoon free, to enable Presbyteries and committees to meet as necessary.</p> <p>(Afternoon Tea: 3.30-3.45 p.m.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION 8</b></p> <p>Reports of Examiners of Records. Appointment of Moderator-Elect for next Synod. Appointment of Committees. Causes (if any). Time and place of next Synod.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Close of Synod 2005</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Booking out 5.00 p.m.</b></p> <p>(Afternoon Tea: 3.30-3.45 p.m.)</p>
6.00 p.m.	Evening Meal	Evening Meal	Evening Meal	
7.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION 1</b></p> <p>Constitution of Synod. Retiring Moderator's Sermon. Presbytery Rolls. Welcomes (New members, guests, associations as required). Thanks to Retiring Moderator for his sermon. Election of Moderator for 2005/2005. Administration Committee business as required.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION 4</b></p> <p>Youth and Fellowship Report. Missions Report.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION 6</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Starts 7.30 p.m. at St. Georges</b></p> <p>Missions Evening. Speakers: – The Rev. T.I. Leggott, Dr. Sunil Gokhavi</p>	

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### **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

Members: Clerk (Convener), Assistant Clerk *pro tem.*, Moderator, Moderator-elect, Convener of Law and Advisory Committee, Rev. W.P. Gadsby (Convener I.C.R.)

#### **Ministerial Movements in 2004**

The Rev. S.R. Tamata was inducted to the Hunter-Barrington Congregation on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2004. In terms of the decision of Synod 2004, he is therefore Moderator-elect for Synod 2005.

The Rev. W.J.W. Hanna retired and demitted the charge of Brisbane on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2004. Following instruction received from the Northern Presbytery, his name has been placed on the Roll of Resigned Ministers.

#### **Time and Place of Next Synod**

It will be necessary for Synod to consider a suitable time and place for the next meeting of Synod. It would be well if delegates could give some thought to this matter before it comes up for discussion, toward the close of this Synod.

#### **Timetable**

The timetable proposed for this Synod follows closely that of Synod 2004. The closure has been set down for 5.00 p.m. on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May.

#### **Correspondence Not Transmitted**

The Administration Committee has decided not to transmit an overture received from the Southern Presbytery.

#### **Correspondence Transmitted**

	<u>Date received</u>	<u>Sender</u>	
1.	9/3/2005	The Clerk – Central Presbytery	Overture regarding Relations with the Free Church of Scotland
2.	9/3/2005	The Clerk – Central Presbytery	Overture regarding admission of ministers, etc., from other Churches
3.	14/3/2005	The Clerk – Central Presbytery	Petition regarding Central Presbytery's responsibility for work in Fiji
4.	18/3/2005	The Clerk of Synod	Resignation

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**Congregational Statistics for 2004**

Congregation	Communicant membership 31/12/2004	Gains	Losses	Number of Baptisms in 2004		Attendance*				Total Community#
				Infant	Adult	Under 18	Retired	Other	Total	
<b>N. Presbytery</b>										
Armidale	21	0	3	0	0	16	3	22	41	43
Brisbane	37	0	5	0	0	14	5	25	44	46
Hastings	38	2	1	1	0	12	24	19	55	-
Northern Rivers Presbytery	56	0	0	0	0	10	0	14	24	80
<b>N.P. Total</b>	156	2	9	1	0	52	32	80	164	169
<b>C. Presbytery</b>										
Hawkesbury/Nepean	28	1	1	4	1	10	8	13	31	32
Hunter/Barrington	57	6	3	0	0	25	35	36	96	100
Manning	60	2	1	1	0	7	34	14	55	64
St. George's	52	9	12	0	0	20	11	65	96	103
Sydney South Presbytery	10	0	0	0	0	4	7	8	19	20
<b>C.P. Total</b>	212	18	17	5	1	66	95	136	297	319
<b>S. Presbytery</b>										
Geelong	42	0	11	1	0	19	19	20	58	68
Hamilton	7	0	1	0	0	0	4	1	5	7
Melbourne: Knox/Glen Huntly	19	1	4	0	1	21	12	36	69	95
Melbourne: Narre Warren	27	4	5	1	0	11	15	20	66	66
Ulverstone	31	3	1	3	0	16	15	23	54	57
Presbytery	4	0	2							
<b>S.P. Total</b>	130	8	24	5	1	67	65	100	252	293
<b>Total</b>	498	30	51	11	2	185	192	316	689	781

\* The total number of different persons (including children) present on the average Lord's Day.

# The total number of distinct persons (including children) who have regular involvement in the church by attendance at worship services at least monthly, plus the house-bound and those in care.

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### **Additional Information**

Synod 1994 authorised the collection of additional statistical information. A church-wide summary of the data obtained for 2004 is given below:

#### **Members gained**

1.	Transferred by Disjunction Cert. from another P.C.E.A. congregation	7
2.	Transferred by Disjunction Cert. from another denomination	6
3.	Received on prof. of faith, having been baptised as infants in P.C.E.A.	2
4.	Others received on profession of faith	<u>15</u>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>

#### **Members lost**

1.	Deceased	14
2.	Removed from Roll for disciplinary reasons	0
3.	Removed from Roll as no longer attending congregation	18
4.	Transferred by Disjunction Cert. to another P.C.E.A. congregation	5
5.	Granted Disjunction Certificate on leaving P.C.E.A.	10
6.	Resigned without requesting Disjunction Certificate	<u>5</u>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52</b>

#### **Expressions of Sympathy**

Mr. Graeme King, a former member of Synod as commissioned elder from the Hunter-Barrington congregation, passed away on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2004. It is proposed that our sympathy for his wife and family be recorded.

#### **Administration and Inter-Church Relations**

Clerk (Convener Administration), Moderator, Moderator-elect, Assistant Clerk, Convener of Law and Advisory, Convener of Inter-Church Relations (W.P. Gadsby).

#### **Church and Nation (including Publications and Psalmody)**

G. Ball (Convener), I. Hamilton, G. Kinder, J.Simpson, Geelong elder.

#### **Finance**

A.H. Steel (Convener), K.I. Kerr, D.J. Ramsay, D.E. Kerr.

#### **Provident Funds**

R.S. Ward (Convener), G.D. Ball, J.B. Loudon, D. Manly.

#### **8: 14 Foundation**

Treasurer (Convener), Clerk of Synod, Moderator, one representative from each Presbytery.

#### **Law and Advisory**

W.J.W. Hanna (Convener), R.W. Murray, W.P. Gadsby, Hunter elder.

#### **Missions**

D.P. Smith (Convener), I. Conley, T.I. Leggott, D.K. Muldoon, F.N. Robinson.

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### **Training of Ministry**

R.W. Murray (Convener), W.J.W. Hanna, J.A. McCallum, J. Ramsay.

### **Youth and Fellowship**

D.K. Muldoon (Convener), Robert Alley, Jonathan Murray, Marcus Gadsby, F.N. Robinson.

### **Proposed Deliverances**

1. That the Timetable proposed by the Administration Committee be approved.
2. That Synod express its sympathy for the family of the late Mr. Graeme King, former member of Synod, and for all those connected with this church who have been bereaved since the last annual meeting of Synod.
3. That Correspondence Item 1 be considered under Inter-Church Relations Committee business.
4. That Correspondence Item 2 be received and dealt with under Inter-Church Relations Committee business.
5. That Correspondence Item 3 be received and dealt with under Missions Committee business.
6. That Correspondence Item 4 be received, that the Clerk's resignation be accepted and that Synod now move to appoint a new Clerk.
7. That Presbyteries and committees be permitted to meet when Synod is not in session.
8. That proposals for changes to the Committee Structure be in the hands of the Clerk by midday on Wednesday.
9. That the following examiners of records be appointed: -

Northern Presbytery  
Central Presbytery  
Southern Presbytery

Rev. Dr. D.K. Muldoon and Geelong elder.  
Rev. G. Kinder and Brisbane elder.  
Rev. R.W. Murray and Manning elder.

## **TRAINING OF MINISTRY REPORT**

Members: R.W. Murray [Convener]; W.J.W. Hanna; J.A. McCallum; J. Ramsay.

The Committee once again has little to report for this year. Currently we have no students for the ministry, and no applications to present to the Synod. Further, there were no remits directly to the Committee from Synod 2003 for it to deal with.

The fact that we have no students for the Ministry at this particular time is, of course, a matter for concern. Undoubtedly every Congregation has been much in prayer about this matter, and we're sure that ministers and Sessions are keeping their eyes open for prospective candidates. We trust that the Lord will provide students in his time. We cannot do what He alone can do – raise up those whom He would have to minister His Word.

One thing perhaps we can do, though, is to appreciate what we do have. When the foundation of the Temple was laid by the returning Exiles, we're told that there was great celebration. But we're also reminded that *“many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy.”* Ezra 3:12. On this, Matthew Henry comments: *“It was their infirmity to mingle those tears with the common joys and so cast a damp upon them.”* It could only be discouraging to those who were keen and enthusiastic.

We need to temper our sadness with hope. We may be sad – sad, because things in the Church are not like they were 40 – 50 years ago; or sad because things aren't all that we'd like them to be. But we shouldn't let our sorrow so blind us that we fail to see and rejoice in what God is doing in the present. A spirit of appreciation, expectancy, and hope among us may be a means that the Lord uses to encourage others to take up this “good work”.

Deliverance.

Nil.

## **PRESBYTERY REPORTS**

### **NORTHERN PRESBYTERY.**

#### **MEMBERSHIP.**

**Armidale:** Membership stands at 21. The congregation was reduced in 2004 by the death of one member and the removal of two members from the roll.

**Brisbane:** Membership is 37. During 2004 the congregation suffered the loss of a deacon who had occupied the office for many years.

**Hastings:** It now stands at 38.

**Northern Rivers:** There are 56 members, 14 Hearers of the Word, and 10 under 18 years - a total Church Community of 80. During the year the Session began taking steps to remove some from the Communicant Roll who are not in the district, or who have not attended Church for some time.

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### **SERVICES.**

**Armidale:** Sunday worship attendance is about 35. The Gospel of John was the focus throughout the year, but was interspersed with sermons from the Psalms, Proverbs, the Gospels of Matthew and Luke and the Book of Acts.

**Brisbane:** Attendance at the morning services is about 40-45, with the evening services attracting an attendance of about 15.

**Hastings:** Public worship continues each Lord's Day at Wauchope, Port Macquarie and Kindee, with reasonable attendance at each. A lady from Port Macquarie has begun attending regularly and two young families are now attending more regularly at Kindee.

**Northern Rivers:** The three services - Grafton, 9.00; Maclean, 11.00; and Maclean, 4.00 pm. are reasonably well attended, giving a combined morning attendance of 40-50 and an evening attendance of 20. The Telephone service has been maintained from Grafton and Maclean each Lord's Day. There have been a number of new people [5] attending the services.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOLS.**

**Armidale:** Three Sunday school classes operated during school terms after morning worship.

**Brisbane:** The Sunday School continues each week. We are appreciative of those who share the teaching responsibilities.

**Hastings:** The Sabbath School has resumed with a good group of enthusiastic young people of various ages in regular attendance. These young people also meet twice each month for recreational activities.

**Northern Rivers:** The Sunday School was continued in Maclean throughout the year. Attendance now stands at 7. At the beginning of 2005 a Sunday School was started in Grafton, bringing the total number of students to 9.

### **PRAYER/ BIBLE STUDY.**

**Armidale:** The Sunday afternoon Bible study has fewer numbers than the Worship service. Studies have been on the Lord's Prayer, Joshua and Elisha and the book, "A Call to Spiritual Reformation - Priorities from Paul and His Prayers," by Don Carson. A weekly Prayer meeting is also held with a small attendance.

**Brisbane:** A weekly Prayer Meeting and Bible Study is maintained.

**Hastings:** A mid-week meeting at Wauchope presently reduced, due to aged members not longer able to come, and some who have been away from the district for a time. Current Study is on Biblical Words - such as Creation, Sin, Redemption, Justification, Sanctification, - Adoption, Predestination, Assurance, Perseverance, and the Trinity.

**Northern Rivers:** Two weekly Bible Studies are held in Maclean - at 10 am and 7.30 pm. The attendance at each is usually 6 and 10 plus, giving a total of 16 plus. During the year studies concentrated on the Book of Ecclesiastes, and the Book of Acts.

### **LADIES' MEETINGS**

**Armidale:** The Ladies Bible studies continue on Wednesday mornings.

**Brisbane:** Nil.

**Hastings:** The Ladies Missionary Society continues to meet four times a year to consider updated missionary news and to pack and send off good used clothing to "Mission Australia".

**Northern Rivers:** Nil.

### **OTHER REGULAR ACTIVITIES.**

**Armidale:** Mission meetings are held to coincide with the monthly fellowship lunch.

A meeting at the Amity Nursing Home at 3:00 pm on the Lord's day has continued with up to 13 residents coming - with an average attendance of 8. The playgroup has brought many outsiders into contact with the Church throughout the year. The International Bible Study also continues most Saturday nights.

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**Brisbane:** A "Playtime" mothers and children group continues to operate.

**Hastings:** Each church in our district has unrestricted access to the local press, to publish Christian articles or letters to the editor, which we gladly make use of.

**Northern Rivers:** Bethesda - All Units are occupied, and there is a waiting list.

### **SPECIAL ACTIVITIES.**

**Armidale:** In April Rev. John Cromarty delivered two talks from the gospels concerning finding and knowing Christ. Although these talks were widely and personally advertised the response was disappointing.

**Brisbane:** The Annual Family Camp at Mount Tamborine attracted a slightly smaller group than in some recent years. The talks were given by the Rev. Dr. Dennis Muldoon and much appreciated.

**Hastings:** Nil.

**Northern Rivers:** Nil.

### **GENERAL.**

**Armidale:** The fellowship, although reduced in number, has good harmony and is looking to the Lord for refreshing, a deepening faith, and vitality. We have been greatly encouraged with one of the girls from the Bethany rooms joining us for worship in the latter part of the year.

There remains a need for additional elders and deacons.

**Brisbane:** The level of weekly offerings remains good for a congregation of this size. Unfortunately, expenses continue to rise. Once again we would note the outstanding contribution being made by the small group in Rockhampton.

**Hastings:** Our aging congregation has begun losing some of our older members over recent months. We miss their joyful fellowship with us in our earthly congregation. Their service and witness has been so valuable among us over the years. We continue in much prayer to the Lord of the harvest that he would raise up labourers after his own heart by way of students for ministry and suitable ministers for our growing, vacant congregations.

**Northern Rivers:** We're deeply thankful to God for his care for us, his blessing upon us in our fellowship, meeting our needs, and the opportunities He gives us to serve him.

### **CENTRAL PRESBYTERY**

The congregational statistics show little net change during the past 12 months, with a net loss of 2 communicants.

The purging of 12 people from the St George's roll masks the addition of 9 new communicants received during the year. There are now 10 families with a total of 37 children attending regularly, and there are frequent visitors by people spending time in Sydney. There is a growing tape ministry among those who appreciate the minister's preaching.

Sydney South preaching station continues with a regular weekly service and a small Sunday School. About 8 people attend the Bible Study.

The Hawkesbury-Nepean Congregation maintains two Bible Classes and services each Lord's Day, midweek meetings in homes. Work among children continues, with Scripture teaching in schools, and Holiday Bible Club in the July school holidays, issuing in a weekly 'Lighthouse Club' for Primary children. The congregation maintains other interests as well, and hosts a web site ([www.pceasydney.org](http://www.pceasydney.org)).

The Rev. S.R.Tamata was re-inducted to the Hunter-Barrington charge on 14.12.04, having supplied the congregation since his return from Fiji earlier in the year. Services in the various centres continue, with prayer meetings and ladies' fellowship meetings in the two main centres. A Kids' Club was held during the vacation, with some 25 participants.

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Following a difficult year, the Session is making a concerted effort pastorally as they seek 'reformation' of the congregation.

The Manning Congregation continues to age, having lost many of its young people to the bigger cities. However, a number of folk continue to work with children at the weekly 'Lighthouse Club' in Tinonee, and the recently-formed 'Kids' Club' in Taree. During 2004, one service was held each week (in Taree), with less formal 'Bible Fellowship' meetings in both Wingham and Tinonee. The latter failed to attract new people, but those who attended did appreciate the format.

Fiji Preaching Station. Mr Tamata indicated that little was known, but Eliko continued to conduct the service. Despite several letters requesting information, he said that nothing had been forthcoming.

### **SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY**

The overall position within the Presbytery is quite good, despite a significant loss at Narre Warren and some reduction at Geelong. Judged by attendance our numbers are 232 on the average Lord's Day with a community of 297. Judged by membership we had 103 twenty years ago, 112, ten years ago and 130 at 31/12/2004. It is of note that there are only very few old Free Kirk families in the congregations. Almost all are from other backgrounds. The Presbytery requires and can support two additional ministers (Geelong and Knox/GH) immediately. Relations with the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia following formal recognition by Synod 2004 almost immediately were strained by actions taken by them in regard to Frankston, where a mid-week meeting had been held by Mr Ball for the past 5 years. We have written to the RPCA seeking to know what the relationship means for the future. The Presbytery is working very well. Our most recent meeting including two segments, one a talk on the *Directory of Public Worship* by Rowland Ward, and another on recognising leaders by Rev Dr Dwight Zeller. This along with a lovely meal provided by the Knox ladies made the Presbytery meeting a positive thing, despite the pressure of business.

### **HAMILTON**

Services were generally twice a month during 2004 and were held in a suitable room of the Lutheran Eventide Home where two members resided. Attendance usually included some other residents. Miss Cath Dowling died during the year; otherwise membership was unchanged. Givings had declined slightly, but investment income was good and in addition over the past two years about \$30,000 gain on cost had been achieved on the conservative share portfolio. Synod Missions had received support.

### **KNOX/GLENHUNTLY**

While membership does not yet reflect it, attendance rose over the year to average 39.2 different persons at Knox in the last quarter, despite 5 folk moving to Qatar in February 2004, and 29 at Glen Huntly including about 10 children for whom a Sunday School is provided by Mrs McKenzie and her helpers. So the total typical attendance is about 69 compared to 59 reported the year before, many of these from Africa. Givings also rose (Knox +18.4%, GH – 3.4%), and more Sudanese refugees were assisted. Investment income was up, there was a modest surplus overall, and strong capital gains on the portfolio. Nevertheless, the need for an additional minister and also a pastoral worker for the Sudanese community is pressing. Givings to causes beyond the congregation remained strong.

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### **NARRE WARREN**

The past year has been a difficult year as we have experienced significant losses in our small congregation. Three families have left to join with the Reformed Presbyterians. Another family has left to look elsewhere. Some have just left. And we lost one member through death. The losses add up to 15 adults and 4 children. Included in these figures are 2 elders. This experience has been destabilising for those remaining. On the credit side we have been encouraged by the participation of two young couples who bring spiritual gifts, and offerings have increased. All the activities have continued faithfully, including Sunday School, playgroup, the two midweek meetings (though the Frankston midweek has been reduced in number), the annual Holiday Bible Club in September, a little youth group meeting fortnightly and a ladies fellowship meeting fortnightly. We have experienced the instability of man and the faithfulness of God.

### **GEELONG**

The Geelong congregation has been without a Pastor since June 2003. During this time the fellowship has held up well. The congregation has been well catered for by students from the Reformed college in Geelong, retired ministers, members who have preaching experience and visiting preachers. Currently we are enjoying the ministry and fellowship of Rev. Dr. Dwight Zeller and his wife from the U.S.A. for about 3 months.

The Congregation has lost three members [Deceased] and eight for various reasons. The Congregation has been blessed with very capable people whose skills have seen the manse completely rejuvenated inside. The church hall and main building roofs have been cleaned [long over due] and general roster duties carried out faithfully.

The Congregation congratulates Elder David Manly on attaining his Bachelor of Theology Degree. The Session expressed appreciation to the Rev. George Ball for his care and oversight of the Congregation during the absence of a Pastor. The Congregation continues to seek a suitable Pastor of the Lord's choosing as concern is showing for the lack of a Shepherd. Your prayers will be much appreciated

### **ULVERSTONE**

Ulverstone has the privilege of being able to look back at the year that has past and know it has experienced the blessing of God upon it. Whilst numbers have not changed a great deal we have a number of people who have been regular attenders that have sought communicant membership. Our Sunday School continues to be blessed by God and the number of children attending is an encouragement. Our four mid week meetings continue to be reasonably well attended with approximately 85% of the Congregation attending. Our thanks must go to the Lord for His blessings. We have had a number of different men from the Southern Presbyterian Church taking services during the time our Minister was on sick leave. These men have been a great help to us as a Congregation and we thank the Lord for the close relationship we have with them.

Respectfully submitted, Rowland S. Ward, Clerk

## **CHURCH AND NATION REPORT**

(Incorporating the Church Principles Committee; Religion and Morals Committee; and Publications and Psalmody Committee.)

Members: G.D.Ball (Convener); Rev. G. Kinder, Mr. Ian Hamilton, Mr. Jim Simpson, Mr. D. Manly.

**THE CHURCH.** We are living in difficult days as we witness a steady decline in membership, shortage of office bearers and no men for the ministry. Malaise perhaps defines the mood of many of us. My dictionary defines malaise as, “a state in which you feel dissatisfied or unhappy but do not know exactly what is wrong.” We’re not suggesting of course that we are in any way unhappy or dissatisfied with the Lord our God who is gracious, merciful and faithful. Nor are we suggesting we have lost our hope and confidence for the future. We believe the Lord will provide (Jehovah- Jireh) for His church. Nevertheless we have a problem with the present state in our denomination and we’re not exactly sure what is wrong. This state may be exacerbated by the times in which we live. We are living in days of confusion when everyone does that which is right in his own eyes. Has there ever been a time before when there has been such a spectrum of “worship styles”, watered down doctrine and the personality cultus? All very confusing. How do we respond?

We know it is only the Lord who can make things grow and we must call upon Him to remember us in His mercy that He will grant the increase. We are persuaded that the message we preach is the gospel of saving grace as revealed in the New Testament. We believe our church principles and form of worship to be Scriptural and God honouring. We acknowledge that the Lord has preserved us in the midst of an ungodly world.

Nevertheless we must be willing to improve on what we have and how we do it. We must do what we do better. We will not change our religion but our religion must change us. Our children and young people must be taught in the Church and in the family. Perhaps we should give thought to a syllabus of instruction. Ministers and Sunday school teachers could, for example, utilise the Search Work in the Youth and Fellowship section of The Presbyterian Banner. Our children and young people must be encouraged to not only love the Lord but also to love the church. We need to encourage the development of gifts especially in our men, setting before them the challenge of the work of the elder and the deacon. We need to encourage the elders to carry out their work in the congregation, protecting the sheep and guiding them towards works of service. We need to foster holy fellowship and healthy relationships in our congregations. We need to encourage outreach in our local area as far as our resources allow.

“You will arise and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to show favour to her; the appointed time has come.”

**PSALMODY.** The Free Church of Scotland and the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland have both produced a new, complete, metrical Psalter. “Sing Psalms”, produced by the Free Church of Scotland retails at around 24 pounds sterling and 5 pounds for the words only edition. “The Psalms for Singing”, produced by the RPCI, retails for 13.50 pounds sterling.

**MORALS.** Two matters have dominated this recent past. The abortion issue has been in the headlines - largely driven by Tony Abbot. In Victoria two Pentecostal Pastors have been

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found guilty of vilification under the Racial and Religious Tolerance Act. They are appealing the finding. The editor of the Banner has written judiciously regarding this case in the Jan/Feb 2005 issue. Representation has been made to support the amendment of this Bill so that at least the religious section is removed.

**PUBLICATIONS.** The Committee received a request to revise and republish the useful little booklet produced in 1994 “An Introduction to the PCEA” (by Peter Hill). The Ulverstone Press quotes \$1299 to print 500 copies and \$1040 to print 300 copies. Such a booklet is a useful tool to introduce newcomers to the denomination. It is anticipated that a draft revision of this booklet be completed in the coming months with a view to publication before Synod 2006.

**WEBSITE.** Our webmaster, W.P.Gadsby, has maintained and kept up to date our website. The minutes of Synod are now protected by password. If any congregation would like its own space on the site this can be easily organised.

**BANNER.** The editor’s report is attached as an appendix.

**CONVENER.** Having been in this position for 5 years the convener wishes to be relieved of the task

### **Proposed Deliverances:**

1. That Synod commend the basic approach to church decline as outlined in the Committee Report to the prayerful concern of our congregations.
2. That Synod authorise the Committee to proceed with the drafting and publication of a second edition of the booklet, “Introduction to the PCEA” on the basis of the indicative costs reported. Interested parties should submit suggestions to the Convener by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2005.
3. That Synod record its thanks to the editor of the Presbyterian Banner, Dr. R.S.Ward, for another year’s work. Thanks also to the team who produce “Run for Glory”, consisting of Ray Murray, Jonathan Murray, Marcus and Shelley Gadsby, Irene Steel, Margaret Kinder and Susan Scott.
4. That Synod record its thanks to the webmaster, W.P.Gadsby, for managing the website.

Respectfully Submitted,

George D. Ball.

## **THE PRESBYTERIAN BANNER – EDITOR’S REPORT 2004**

The Presbyterian Banner was published in the same format as previously at at the same printing cost as since mid 2000 (\$308 per issue) plus postage of around \$135 per month. These two items total \$4,873 and when one adds costs of bromides, plastic bags etc., and bearing in mind subscription income is about \$5,000, it is evident that the magazine is on a knife edge financially. Excluding pre-paid subscriptions our bank balance was again under

## *Reports to Synod 2005*

\$100 at year end, and would have been in deficit if Knox had not provided equipment. We have purged non-payers to cut postage, but we have not received much in way of support by bulk subscriptions as recommended by Synod. While we have had some new subscribers, the subscription cost had to rise to \$20/\$22 for 2005. Income for 2005 is at this stage estimated at \$5,300. The total paid subscriptions are 246 compared to 273 in 2001. Paid overseas subs are up by 6, and Barrington, Narre Warren and Hawkesbury Nepean show increases in bulk subscriptions. Other congregational bulk orders are static or declining due to age and reducing membership, although the support in some congregations is very poor - St George's is only 5 (down 1 on recent years).

Endeavours to get literary contributions from within the PCEA have not been very fruitful. K Citizen, NOT a nom-de-plume for the Editor as some have thought, has assisted with much appreciated articles. Happily, overseas friends have helped, and the Banner seems to have been valued during the year. In a age when Christian magazines are closing down due to lack of people willing to edit (eg. The Protestant Review of the PRC) or financial factors, our magazine could have an important role. If there was a real team effort what a difference there would be. But perhaps that is a more general issue for us rather than just the magazine. I record my appreciation to all who have assisted during the year: the prompt submission of Run for Glory! and the sterling efforts of my wife in packing and despatch. Respectfully submitted,

Rowland S. Ward, Editor

## **INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS**

Committee: W.P.Gadsby (Convener), T.I.Leggott (Moderator 2004-05), S.R.Tamata (Moderator-elect 2005-06), W.J.W.Hanna (Clerk, and Convener of Law & Advisory), and D.P.Smith (Assistant Clerk *pro tem.*)

### **A. Relations With Churches in Australasia**

#### **1. Reformed Churches of New Zealand (Sister Church)**

The Committee recommended to Synod 2004 that it “be authorized to explore with these churches ways in which our unity of faith may be expressed in tangible ways. In particular, the Committee should be charged with discussing a move towards mutual eligibility of elders, licentiates and ministers.” This became Synod’s finding, and in January 2005 we wrote to the RCNZ conveying this decision, and asking, ‘What would be your attitude toward enacting mutual acceptance of letters of attestation for each of these categories?’ At the time of writing, no reply has been received to this letter.

Also in January, the Committee extended an invitation to the RCNZ to send a delegation to Synod 2005. We await their reply. If RCNZ delegates are present at Synod 2005, this will enable us to discuss further the matter of the practical expression of our relationship.

#### **2. Free Reformed Churches of Australia**

Synod 2004 expressed thanks for the FRCA’s explicit acknowledgment of the PCEA as a true church, and authorized the Committee to continue discussions on the FRCA’s “matters of concern.” Synod also authorized the Committee to send a delegate to meet with the FRCA deputies for contact.

This meeting took place in February 2005 in Launceston, and the Committee appointed the Convener to attend, as authorized by Synod 2004 (04.26(a)2.3). With the Committee’s acquiescence, the Convener invited the Rev. G.Kinder also to attend, and we are grateful for his contribution.

The meeting was held at the premises of the Launceston Free Reformed Church, and was conducted in a very cordial spirit.

Discussion initially centred around points 1 and 2 of the the FRCA’s concern (Lord’s Supper and Pulpit). The Convener had earlier furnished a copy of Robert Murray M’Cheyne’s 6.07.1842 letter to the *Dundee Warder*, defending his own practices in this regard on the ground of the communion of the saints. He also provided at the meeting a more detailed response to the FRCA’s

issues which was tabled, and to which the FRCA deputies plan to reply. (This response was written by the Convener, and approved by the Committee prior to the meeting.)

In addition to the two previously stated ‘matters of concern,’ the FRCA also raised questions about the published views of the Rev. Dr R.S.Ward on the interpretation of Genesis. At the Convener’s suggestion, they had earlier broached these matters with Dr Ward directly, and he had provided a written response. The FRCA explained that they would be unable to open their pulpits to a person holding Dr Ward’s views, and this would affect their attitude towards establishing sister-church relations with the PCEA. The PCEA delegation explained that, historically, our Church has tolerated a diversity of opinion on the interpretation of Gen.1-11, and that we did not expect the Church to be taking any action against Dr Ward on account of his published opinions.

The FRCA are now giving further consideration to these matters, and indicated that they may wish to invite us to meet with them again before year’s end. The FRCA Synod meets again in 2006.

#### **3. Christian Reformed Churches of Australia**

On 26.11.04, the Convener received an email from Rev. Fred Vanderbom who is looking after the Australia-New Zealand section of the Inter-Church Relations Committee. Mr Vanderbom was seeking to open up discussions between us, after a long period of inactivity.

The Convener replied on the next day, indicating that he had shared the email with others on the Committee, and would write back in the next week or so. There were no suggestions forthcoming from the Committee, but regrettably the matter was overlooked until March this year. We may have more to report at the time of Synod.

#### **4. Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia**

Synod 2004 indicated that certain RPCA interpretations of the PCEA Fraternal Relations Act 1993 were acceptable to us, and extended

## *Reports to Synod 2005*

formal relations in terms of that Act to the RPCA, with expectation that we might be able to 'deepen and strengthen still further the bond of fellowship between us, to the glory of God and the good of his people.'

This was communicated to the RPCA not long after Synod, with a formal communication being sent in January 2005. In that letter, the Convener also invited the RPCA Presbytery to indicate, from their point of view, 'how well our fraternal relations have been working out since PCEA Synod 2004.'

Meantime, the Southern Presbytery wrote to the Committee on 15.12.04, informing us of certain developments. The Clerk stated that "the mind of the Presbytery in general was that the RP action [viz. concerning Frankston—WPG] had been schismatic, the church of the Lord being butchered."

The RPCA Presbytery met in early February 2005, and the Clerk of Presbytery wrote to us on 8.02.2005. He stated that the news of formal fraternal relations having been established was 'well received in our congregations, though some were a little puzzled as they thought that fraternal relations had existed for a long time.'

The letter admitted that relations between their Presbytery and our Southern Presbytery had been 'strained' by their respective approaches to meeting the spiritual needs of the Frankston area.

The RP Presbytery extended an invitation for the PCEA to send a fraternal delegate to the Presbytery meeting of 15.04.05.

In response, the Committee indicated that it considered that such a delegate 'would have to come from outside the PCEA's Southern Presbytery on this occasion.' As mentioned above, there had already been Presbytery-to-Presbytery contact, and the development of strained relations, and we thought that it wise that if any delegate were to represent Synod at the RP Presbytery, it would better be someone from outside the Southern Presbytery. In the event, no delegate was appointed by the Committee.

Meantime, we invited the RPCA to commission a delegate to Synod 2005, and await their reply. We also asked the Southern Presbytery to give Synod an assessment of the situation with the RPCA. Instead of providing one (the Clerk writing that 'I guess we felt it was too difficult to go over everything for someone who wasn't there'), the Presbytery wrote again (23.02.05) to the RPCA asking them to indicate what our fraternal relationship might mean for future relationships. A copy of this letter was furnished to the Committee.

It may be that there will be further clarity in this matter by the time of Synod.

### **B. Relations With Churches Overseas**

#### **1. Free Church of Scotland**

Synod 2004 completed the process of rescinding the Federal Relations Act, having declined to accede to the prayer of an overture from Southern Presbytery seeking to rescind the Federal Relations Act, and replace it with a new relationship involving mutual eligibility of ministers and probationers. The decision to pass Act 1, Class 1 of Synod 2003 into permanent law was taken without dissent. Synod also adopted an explanation for its decision, from which there was one dissent with reasons (RSW) and one simple dissent (JL).

The matter of Synod's decision continued to be agitated during the year by those who believed that it was unconstitutional, having not been based upon an overture (since there were no written reasons advanced for the proposal).

Dr Ward obtained a legal opinion, which he kindly furnished to the Committee at their request, in which Mr B.D.Bayston (Law Agent of the PC of Victoria) stated his belief that an

overture should contain written reasons. The Committee considered this opinion, and noted that the citation from William Mair's book on procedure states that 'Overtures of vague indefinite proposals find no favour, are apt to be rejected, although their aim may seem to be good. It is even advisable to frame that which is desired in the very words in which it would stand if granted—especially when it is legislation: [the (sic) follows a precedent for an overture]. If reasons are to be advanced—though the more definite and complete the proposal the less will they be needed—begin with the reasons: "Whereas," &(c).' Mr Bayston also notes that the PCEA Handbook 'does say that an overture is a "proposal with reasons" so that it does not leave the inclusion of reasons as an optional matter.'

The Committee responded to Dr Ward by pointing out the ambiguity in the historical position, and reiterating the Committee's view that a PCEA regulation does not override the historical law of the Church (unless it be adopted

## *Reports to Synod 2005*

by actual Barrier Act procedure). We also reiterated our view that Barrier Act procedure may be initiated by an Assembly, without the need for a formal overture.

The Committee's comments were brought before Southern Presbytery, who unanimously agreed to write to the Committee urging that there is an arguable case that Synod's procedure was deficient, and requesting the Committee to propose an overture along the lines of the one submitted last year by that Presbytery. The Committee gave no undertaking to do so, but we understand that a very similar overture has been sent from Southern Presbytery to Synod 2005.

Clearly, several brothers continue to be dissatisfied with the Synod's procedure and decision in this matter, and it will no doubt be raised again this year, one way or another. The Committee continues to believe that the matter has been well canvassed in the Church over several years prior to the decisions of 2003 and 2004, and has nothing further to propose in respect of it.

As far as contact with the Free Church of Scotland is concerned, on 10.05.04 the Convener informed the Clerk of Assembly of our decisions. He replied that he had been advised by the Convener of the Ecumenical Relations Committee that the matter could not come to the 2004 Assembly held in May without first being considered by that Committee, which was not due to meet again until June 2004. The Convener stated that 'we are keen to begin negotiations with the Free Church to move quickly to reestablish mutual eligibility in terms suitable to our present circumstances as churches.

In an email to Committee members on 21.07.04, Dr Ward indicated that he would be present in Scotland in October, and 'would be glad to be the Committee's servant.' No Committee member supported this suggestion.

The Convener wrote again to the FCS on 21.07.04, enquiring about the June meeting of the ER Committee, and on 6.08.04 received a reply from the Clerk of Assembly relaying the Committee's decision, which was as follows:

The Committee considered a formal extract from the records of the PCEA Synod, dated 12th May 2004, giving details of the finding of Synod with regard to relations with the Free Church of Scotland. The Synod had rescinded the Federal Relations Act and the extract specified reasons. The Committee were most gratified to note that the PCEA had

specified a desire to establish formal fraternal relations with the Free Church of Scotland immediately, under the new arrangements.

Finding: The Committee, after discussion, agreed that there was still a lack of clarity over what the PCEA hoped to establish in relations with the Free Church and how they hoped to re-establish mutual eligibility. It was agreed that the Clerk contact the PCEA to ask for further clarification and to request that they send a copy of their draft legislation so that the Free Church might pass similar legislation if appropriate. The Committee further agreed that the PCEA be asked warmly to send representatives to the Committee's meeting in October so that the issues involved in these changes legislated by the PCEA could be clarified in meeting with them personally.

The Clerk of FCS Assembly also indicated that he had been contacted by Dr Ward about his forthcoming trip to Scotland, but the Committee had not requested Dr Ward to make any representations on its behalf following his letter of 21.07.04.

Through an oversight, the Convener failed to circulate the FCS email to the Committee until 18.11.04, together with a request to think about ways forward in this matter. Two members responded, suggesting a relationship which could form a template for relations with other ICRC churches.

This set us thinking about framing a generalized proposal that would cover all other Presbyterian and Reformed Churches, and not just the FCS. More on this below.

### **2. Reformed Churches of the Netherlands (Liberated) (Sister Church)**

Synod 2004 resolved to send warm fraternal greetings to the RCN(L), and charged the ICR Committee to discuss with them ways in which our unity of faith may be expressed in tangible ways. In particular, the Committee was to discuss with them how we might move towards mutual eligibility of members, elders, licentiates and ministers (2004 Minutes, 04.29.2)

This decision was formally communicated to the RCN(L) by e-mail on 20.01.05. There has not yet been a response to this letter.

On 2.02.05 we received an invitation to send delegates to the forthcoming RCN(L) Synod in

## **Reports to Synod 2005**

Amersfoort. The Convener replied, conveying greetings, and indicating that we were not able to send a delegate this year.

During the past year, there were indications in the magazine *Una Sancta* of serious problems in the RCN(L). The Convener requested more detail from the Editor, who indicated that an explanatory brochure would be published in March. During our discussions with the FRCA, the comment was made that this RCN(L) Synod will be highly significant because of certain issues to come up at it.

### **3. International Conference of Reformed Churches**

The next ICRC quadrennial meeting is due to be

held in South Africa, from 12-19 October 2005. It is to be hosted by the Free Reformed Churches in Rietfontein, Pretoria. A detailed agenda was not available at the time of writing this report.

Synod 2004 directed the Committee to provide Synod 2005 with an estimate of the cost of attending the meeting, together with the nomination of delegates.

The estimated return airfare from Sydney in March was \$2213, including travel insurance, taxes and charges. The Committee has agreed to nominate the Convener of the Inter-Church Relations Committee as our delegate to ICRC2005.

### **C. Extension of Mutual Eligibility, etc.**

We refer commissioners to the comments we made in last year's report, and to the decisions of Synod 2004 (04.29.(c) ).

#### **1. Fraternal Relations With ICRC Churches**

Synod encouraged the Committee to pursue formal Fraternal Relations (in terms of our Act 93.39, Class 2) with other member churches of the ICRC. Accordingly, we attempted to contact these churches using e-mail during January 2005, enquiring whether these churches would be interested in establishing such a relationship with the PCEA. There are currently 22 member churches, including ourselves.

We received acknowledgements from a number of churches who are members, indicated below:

Member Church	Replied	Favour
ARPC	Y	-
CanRC	Y	-
CGKN	Y	N
EPCEW	Y	-
EPCI	Y	-
FCSA		
FCCI	Y	
FCS		
VGKSA	Y	-
FRCNA	Y	-
OPC	Y	
PCK(K)		
GGRI		
GKN(v)		
RCNZ	Y	Y

RCUS Y

GGRC (Timor) Y

RPCI

RPCNA

RPCNEI

URCNA

There may be more to report by the time of Synod.

#### **2. Reception of Ministers**

Notwithstanding Synod's resolution last year (04.29 (c) 3), that the 1983 Act re Admission of Ministers from Other Churches is 'an adequate basis to enable ministers to be called from beyond our denomination,' during the year, the Committee gave consideration to a new approach to the reception of ministers from other Presbyterian and Reformed Churches. The intention was effectively to devolve the reception of a called minister upon the Presbytery of the bounds, subject to various checks and balances.

Several drafts of a proposed Act Anent Admission of Ministers and Probationers from other Presbyterian and Reformed Churches were prepared by the Committee. Copies of Draft (4) were circulated on 8.02.05 to ministers with e-mail access for comment. Several helpful comments were received, but in the end the Committee did not proceed with this matter.

## *Reports to Synod 2005*

### **D. Recommendations**

#### **(a) Relations With Churches in Australasia**

##### **1. Reformed Churches of New Zealand (Sister Church)**

- 1.1 That the Clerk convey Synod's fraternal greetings to the RCNZ
- 1.2 That ICR Committee's remit to discuss with the RCNZ ways in which our unity of faith may be expressed in tangible ways be continued.

##### **2. Free Reformed Churches of Australia**

- 2.1 That Synod thank the Committee, and the Rev. Graham Kinder for meeting with the FRCA deputies in February 2005.
- 2.2 That the ICR Committee be authorized to continue discussions with the FRCA
- 2.3 That the Committee be authorized to send one delegate to meet with the FRCA to discuss

further the matters of concern between us.

##### **3. Christian Reformed Churches of Australia**

- 3.1 That the Clerk convey the greetings of Synod to the CRCA, and encourage the Committee to maintain contact

##### **4. Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia**

- 4.1. That the Clerk convey Synod's fraternal greetings to the RPCA, and request the Committee to liaise both with the Southern Presbytery and the RPCA to monitor relations between us, with a joint Presbytery and Committee report to be presented to Synod 2006.

#### **(b) Relations With Churches Overseas**

##### **1. Free Church of Scotland**

- 1.1. That the Clerk convey Synod's fraternal greetings to the Free Church of Scotland.

##### **2. Reformed Churches of the Netherlands (Liberated) (Sister Church)**

- 2.1 That the Clerk convey Synod's fraternal greetings to the RCN(L).
- 2.2 That the ICR Committee's remit to discuss with the RCN(L) ways in which our unity of

faith may be expressed in tangible ways be continued.

##### **3. International Conference of Reformed Churches**

- 3.1 That the Convener of the Inter-Church Relations Committee be appointed to represent the PCEA at ICRC2005.

#### **(c) Extension of Mutual Eligibility, etc.**

1. That Synod continue the Committee's remit to pursue formal Fraternal Relations with

churches which are members of the International Conference of Reformed Churches.

## **YOUTH AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**

Members: D Muldoon (Convener), N Robinson, M. Gadsby, J. Murray, R. Alley.

Members: D Muldoon (Convener), N Robinson, M. Gadsby, J. Murray, R. Alley.

Moses, preaching to the children of Israel when they were about to enter Canaan, stressed the importance of teaching *your children and your grandchildren* (Deut 4:9, 6:7). It is a great responsibility the Lord has given to parents to teach their children the Scriptures. And grandparents are often called upon to help in this ministry.

All in the church must support parents and grandparents in this task. Sunday School teachers and superintendents, as well as youth group leaders, have done this faithfully in the past year. We praise the Lord for their commitment and hard work in youth ministry with the PCEA.

Often youth ministry is to children who are not from Christian homes. Tragically many children today are not taught the Scriptures in the home. The task of reaching them and teaching them is enormous but most important. We thank the Lord for leading some members to start such ministry. We give thanks for Scripture teachers who go into the schools week by week to share the good news with such needy children.

### **Memory Work**

A total of 132 certificates were awarded for learning Psalms, Psalm tunes, Catechism and Scripture portions, a slight increase on the previous year. These went to four congregations.

### **Essays**

Six young people from Ulverstone wrote excellent essays in answering the questions set. Each received a reward of \$25 to encourage them in Bible study. We pray that they will receive the ultimate reward from reading God's Word and believing in Jesus Christ- the crown of righteousness. It would be good to see more young people taking up the challenge to write an essay.

### **Search Work**

The number of children undertaking Search Work was very low at the start of the year but now there are 10 enrolled in this Scripture study program. Mrs Irene Steel continues to conduct this ministry- after 23 years of dedicated service. We thank her in the Lord and pray that she will continue. We encourage parents, who have the God given responsibility to teach the Scriptures to their children, to encourage their children to take up this valuable study program. Mrs Steel not only sends out the questions and marks the answers, but also chooses book prizes for the children. We congratulate the children who have completed their studies in 2004 and received their awards.

### **Birthday Roll**

Mrs Margaret Kinder continued the ministry of contacting our young people on their special day. She sent out **183** birthday cards to children under 12 years of age. Margaret was given a bundle of cards by a friend. But now she has turned her hand to making cards herself in which she can include Bible verses- so she manages on a low budget. Please remember to inform Margaret if children move so as to avoid returned mail.

## ***Reports to Synod 2005***

### **Camps**

A youth camp at Elim near Forster was held over the Anzac weekend in 2004. Rev Peter Gadsby led the study sessions on the topic of the Beatitudes. The setting was beautiful, the studies inspiring and the fellowship was great. We thank the sub-committee from the Hunter/Barrington congregation that took responsibility for this camp at the request of the Committee.

The Brisbane congregation held a family camp at Mount Tamborine in December with a small subsidy from the Committee. Rev. Dr. Dennis Muldoon spoke on the subject of the Yoke. The children, led by their Sunday School teachers, gave an excellent presentation.

The Southern Presbytery held a family camp near Phillip Island in September.

Another Lighthouse club camp was conducted by the Manning Congregation at Pappinbarra over the October long weekend.

Planning for the PCEA churchwide family camp at Easter 2005 is well in hand. Over 80 people plan to attend this camp at the Merroo Christian Centre, Kurrajong.

### **Publications**

Many have enjoyed reading the youth magazine *Run for Glory* in this past year- not only the youth! We thank all who have contributed items, but especially those who have faithfully put the magazine together each month.- the editor Rev. Ray Murray, assistant editor Jonathan Murray, compiler Susan Scott and 'God's Kids' writers Marcus and Shelley Gadsby. This team has done a wonderful job in producing *Run for Glory*. Such a ministry can be discouraging when there is not much feedback- they may never know the fruit that their ministry has borne. But we do encourage them to continue doing this work as unto the Lord. At the same time we encourage people to use this magazine in their ministry and to send a word or two to the editor.

### **Set work for youth in 2005**

#### **Metrical Psalms**

Infants	Psalm 23/121
(under 7)	Psalm 67/100
Junior	Psalm 37:1-7 Psalm 118:1-9
Senior	Psalm 116:1-10 Psalm 19

#### **Scripture/Prose**

Junior	Romans 3:21-26
Senior	Jeremiah 31:31-36 Revelation 21:1-8

#### **Psalm Tunes** (sol fa and staff copies of tunes available from convener)

Level 1	
Evan	(Ps. 89:1)
City of Our God	(Ps. 116:1)
Duke Street	(Ps. 145 (2):1)

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St Fulbert (Ps. 119:33)

Level 2

Petersham (Ps. 72:18-19)

Lloyd (Ps. 40:8)

Warwick (Ps. 18:10)

Hampton (Ps. 50:1)

### **Catechism**

Section 1 1-10

Section 2 11-22

Section 3 23-38

Section 4 39-62

Section 5 63-68

Section 6 89-107

Section 7 1-107 word perfect

### **Essays**

Read the book of **Ruth** in the Bible and answer the following questions.

**Section 1 (8-10).** Naomi asked her friends to call her by a different name. What was the other name? Describe the things that happened to Naomi to make her want to change her name. How do you think Naomi felt at the end of the story? Which name would she choose in the end?

**Section 2 (11-14).** Describe three features in the character of Ruth? In what ways was Ruth like Mary the mother of Jesus? In what way did she obey the commands of Jesus? What sort of person was Boaz? In what ways was Boaz like Joseph, Mary's husband?

**Section 3 (15-18).** What do we mean by the providence of God? Describe how the providence of God is illustrated in the life of Ruth. Ruth is among the few women listed in genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1- why is this?

### **Finances.**

Family camp (deposit)	<b>\$500.00</b>
Family camp Brisbane	<b>400.00</b>
Search work prizes	0.00
Birthday cards	<b>196.05</b>
Essays	<b>150.00</b>
Youth camp Elim	0.00

This committee met on 18/8/04 at Raymond Terrace. A separate committee was established for the purpose of conducting Family Camp in 2005.

### **Recommendations**

1. We praise God for the good number of family and youth camps conducted during the year. We encourage greater participation in such camps. Since we are so scattered between congregations and even within congregations we must make every effort to encourage one another by this means.
2. We pray for youth groups seeking to fulfill the great commission.
3. We thank God for the dedicated team, led by Rev Ray Murray, that has produced *Run for Glory*.

## *Reports to Synod 2005*

4. We thank God for
  - the Sunday School superintendents and the children they nurture in the Lord.
  - Mrs Irene Steel for her faithful labour in supervising the Search work.
  - Mrs Margaret Kinder for kindly sending our birthday cards to the young in our church.

### **MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

*Committee Members 2004-2005*

*D.P. Smith (Convener), I Conley, D Muldoon, N Robinson and T Leggott*

#### Contents of Report:

1. Committee Activities
2. Mission Field Reports
3. Malcolm McSwann Mission Relief Fund
4. Prayer Calender
5. Finance Aspects
6. Proposed Deliverances

#### **Committee Activities**

Members of the committee have met twice since Synod 2004 on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2004 and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2005 at Raymond Terrace. Other dialogue, discussion and decisions have been carried out by telephone and email.

#### **Mission Field Reports**

##### **FIJI** – the Convener reports:

After Rev Sam Tamata's return to Australia in early August last year the missions committee met together on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2004. At that meeting Rev Tamata furnished a final report concerning the work in Fiji. It read as follows:

#### **FIJI MISSION FINAL REPORT**

16<sup>th</sup> September 2005

On return to Fiji in May of this year with the Synod's decision to terminate my time as missionary in Fiji, my first task was to convey this decision to the congregation there. Their reaction was one of great sadness. Their desire however is to remain part of the PCEA. I tried the best I could to reassure them that we would not abandon them and that we would do all we could to support and give help whenever possible. I discussed with them at length how best the work of the gospel amongst them might be furthered taking into account the lack of facilities and limited financial resources.

Taking these things into account the first thing they desire is to have a small place of worship. This was the reason I requested that the committee might see its way to grant them \$F2500 in order to build such a simple shed in Wainibuku near Eliki's residence. This is so essential because the lack of a place of worship has been the greatest drawback to the work there.

Secondly they have requested me to supply them with study materials on various biblical themes and sermons in Fijian on cassette tapes. I have undertaken to do so but I would require suitable recording equipment in order to do this. These recordings would be used for the congregation and also for other contacts who have indicated that they would like to receive them.

## *Reports to Synod 2005*

In conclusion we would like to present these two requests from the congregation in Fiji for the Mission Committee's prayerful consideration.

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The Missions Committee resolved that F\$2500 would be allocated for the provision of a simple place of worship on Eliki's property at Wainibuku, subject to there being suitable arrangements for construction. In regard to the provision of taped study materials on various biblical themes and sermons, suitable recording equipment could be arranged through local PCEA congregations. Prior to Rev Tamata's departure from Fiji, arrangements were made to pay for the retention of the local Post Office Box for a further two years in order that such materials could be sent to the congregation. Rev Tamata expressed his willingness to be the point of contact for the small Fijian congregation and to help with pastoral visits from time to time, at the request of the missions committee.

The Presbyterian Free Church of Fiji (PFCF) became a legally registered religious body in its own right in May 1996. In 1998 the Synod resolved that the work in Fiji be recognised as a preaching station under the oversight of the Central Presbytery. The Mission Committee's responsibility was to support the missionary. Now that Rev Tamata has returned, the missions committee technically has no responsibility towards the PFCF. Despite this, the PFCF is made up of our brothers and sisters in Christ and the missions committee were very much concerned for the congregation's spiritual welfare. However, the committee was led to believe that neither Eliki nor Nanise had telephones, and so seven long months went by with no response to letters sent by Rev Tamata to the PO Box in Suva.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> March, it was brought to the Convener's attention that a member of the Central Presbytery had recently dialled Leonie Tapua's old telephone number and had spoken with Nanise. After obtaining the telephone number, Nanise was contacted that same afternoon and said that the folk were well and were continuing to meet regularly, week about, at her home and then Eliki's. Obviously, the committee was extremely dismayed that communications existed all along.

The Mission Committee's primary concern is for the ongoing spiritual welfare of the small congregation in Fiji. However, our ability to provide an appropriate level of pastoral care with perhaps two visits per year is not in any way adequate. Accordingly, the Committee believe that the best option is to try and link the PFCF congregation with another local group, such as the PRC.

The Committee has therefore budgeted for two pastoral visits to the PFCF congregation in 2005 in order to link them with a local group and will consult with the Central Presbytery in this matter. Funds for a further visit in 2006 have been proposed to develop/finalise this initiative, if that is necessary, and to provide an exit strategy for the PCEA under the mission's budget by the end of 2006.

### **AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES – Rev Trevor Leggott reports:**

I wish to express my thanks once again for the continued support of my work with AIM by the PCEA. Whilst I have had real encouragement from my ministry with AIM, I have found 2004 quite difficult carrying the responsibility of interim moderator of the Hunter Barrington congregation. There were quite stressful and time-consuming matters to deal with and I am thankful that the congregation now has a settled minister once again with Rev. Sam Tamata called back to the charge.

The close of 2004 saw the finalising of the restructure of AIM with the organisation now being an incorporated association. Part of the process was to more clearly define the roles of AIM mission personnel, including the executive officers. I have been appointed as the General Director/Administrator with responsibility for the initiative, guidance and direction of the overall ministry. Cliff Letcher has been appointed as the Field Director and takes primary responsibility for AIM appointed missionaries and for the coordination of Mission Awareness Tours to the field. Whilst my work load is currently quite high I am looking forward to having a full time administrator

## *Reports to Synod 2005*

appointed early in 2005. Brent Dawson, a member of the Hunter/Barrington congregation, and one who has been on three Mission Awareness Tours, has applied and been accepted to take up this appointment.

The regionalising of Training Centres has also begun to take shape. One very encouraging aspect of this was to have the Canteen Creek Community, some 200km from Tennant Creek, approach AIM to ask for a Bible teaching ministry to be placed in their midst. This request was accompanied by an offer to provide housing at cost to the community. We were greatly encouraged to see this initiative come from the community itself, as a practical outworking of our desire to have local leaders take more responsibility for their future. We are, early in 2005, to relocate Richard and Sue Davies from the AIM Bible College near Darwin, to undertake this ministry. A Regional Training Centre will be established at Canteen Creek, with Richard Davies having oversight of all AIM ministries in the Barkly Tablelands region. Dennis Tranter, from Borrooloola, is to oversee a Regional Training Centre focussing on the Borrooloola/Katherine areas. There is still a great need for more well-trained missionary personnel, especially someone to head up Regional Training centres at Darwin, Alice Springs and Mt Isa.

The growth and maturity of the AIM Church Council in Queensland continues to give great encouragement. The Council has been very active in overseeing the operation of the various churches under its care. There have been one or two instances where discipline has been needed, and the willingness to make hard decisions in a godly manner has been really good to see. The AIM Church Council has also agreed to a request from one of its member churches, the Palm Island Church, to commence a ministry to homeless and disadvantaged young people in Townsville, and to provide a ministry to Aboriginal Christians now living in the outskirts of this large city. Apenisa Rabai, previously at Palm Island, has moved to take up this work at Townsville and another Fijian, Solmone Radaniva, has been appointed as interim pastor of the Palm Island church.

There is still a great need to provide a Bible teaching ministry for groups scattered across North Western NSW. A number of groups at places like Walgett and Moree are asking for ministry which we cannot provide at the moment.

Recruitment of new personnel has become a priority with seven of our most senior missionaries retiring during 2005. It has been a real encouragement to see good relationships developing with churches such as the Presbyterian Reformed Church and the Korean Presbyterian Church. Early in 2005 we will be placing a PRC missionary couple at Camooweal, and it has been good to see that the denomination is committed to the full support of this couple. Jonathan Wright is to be ordained as a minister and inducted to the work of mission in April 2005. The Korean Presbyterian Church in Sydney is a rapidly growing church which, through personal contact, has expressed a desire to know more of the needs and opportunities to serve, and how they might be more involved in Gospel ministry to Australian Aborigines. Bridging these disparate cultures has been a challenging experience, but one which I believe God would have us explore for the mutual benefit of His people. There continue to be good contacts developing with the Reformed Theological College in Geelong through the efforts of AIM representative Merv Topp. Students from the college have been on a Mission Awareness Tour, and one graduate is currently working through the AIM application processes and undertaking short-term field experience.

2005 is the centenary of the AIM and a special conference and annual meeting is planned for August to celebrate this occasion. The meeting will take place at the Collaroy Centre just north of Sydney and we are expecting all of our mission personnel and a goodly number of Aboriginal church leaders to attend.

## ***Reports to Synod 2005***

**INDIA** – Rev Dennis Muldoon reports:

The past year has been very encouraging with regard to missions work in India. A colleague who recently visited India after 20 years wrote ‘my overwhelming impression is that the church is growing’. “It was wonderful to see Indians in charge of the church, schools and health work.” Highlights of the past year include

### **Lakhnadon**

#### **Christian Hospital.**

The medical superintendent, Dr Sunil Gokavi, is in Sydney with his family to work as a surgeon for one year at Westmead hospital. Sunil reported to the missions committee in September 2004 and will further share about the work at Lakhnadon Christian Hospital (LCH) at the PCEA Family camp and at Synod. He spoke of his commitment to return to LCH and continue building it up into a major district hospital, adding more beds and new departments. In the past year the number of beds has increased to 33 and an ophthalmology department was established. An average of 80 people per day receive treatment at the hospital.

Outreach from the LCH received great impetus with the arrival of a missionary couple from Indian Evangelical Mission (IEM). Dr Helen Ramsay said that this had been a matter of prayer for many years. Dr Adarsh Benn wrote in January 2005 – “This IEM missionary couple is doing really an excellent job and more than 500 people are ready to be baptized. Encouraged by this recently IEM have sent another couple. Right now they are working among Gond tribe and some other backward caste people also like Deharia, Sahu etc. We invite seekers in various spiritual meetings and programs of the hospital and also go to their place on invitation. Like on last Christmas we were with them in on of the village Kuakheda where despite cold weather more than 80% of the total village population was there (around 150). No one moved from their place till the end. Everyone enjoyed the program and they also took part in singing songs. We presented a small stage play (traditional Christmas one) and shared from the Bible about Christmas. People and kids have zeal to grow in the Lord and to do things for Him. So far five home Churches are already going on. We have heard testimonies from different people about how they came to know the Lord and are saved. Even many of them specially ladies were persecuted for accepting Jesus as their personal Saviour but none of them backslided so far with the best of my knowledge. Even women are taking bold steps for their new transformed lives which is really amazing looking at the Indian traditions, customs and literacy status.”

#### **Mission School**

Rev Shyambabu at Lakhnadon FCCI was instrumental in starting this mission school in 1994 and he continues to assist in the management of the school. There are now 339 students and 14 teachers at the school. Many of the teachers attend the church in Lakhnadon. New classrooms have to be built with the increasing size of the school; otherwise the school has to be run in two shifts each day. The manager sent a full report of the school upon request. I was able to visit the school in 2004 and see the school running well.

### **Chhapara**

#### **Christian Health Centre**

Work at this centre continues in 19 villages in the Chhapara district. The rural poor, especially women and children, are targeted with literacy, health education and other training and empowerment programs. The work has been disturbed by a local troublemaker, necessitating court action. There are plans to establish a HIV/AIDS program and ministry at this centre.

### **Mission School**

The principal, Mr Michael John, has sent regular updates and prayer requests during the year. He is pleased with the academic standards being maintained at the school. It is well regarded in the whole district. "We also thank God for the recent achievements as two students in sports have been selected in the M.P. State junior cricket team and three boys have been selected in the divisional level sports team. It's really great news that a Scout boy has been awarded President of India award and two Scouts have been awarded Governor of Madhya Pradesh award." New facilities are being provided for the training of the students. Many come from poor backgrounds but the school is able to offer some scholarships. Mr John requests prayer for the ministry of the school, "that the Lord would enable them to share the gospel with the children in the school and that many would believe in the Lord Jesus Christ."

He wrote –"We extend our hearty thanks to PCEA for sending grants for furniture to Chhapara School. We have made 17 benches with desks of sizes 5'5" from that amount. Five or six students can sit in on one bench. We need about 45 to 50 desks and benches for two more classrooms as students are sitting on the floor and it seems not good and we are praying for this. We also thank for your regular support for the poorer students, many students are being benefited due to kindness of PCEA. We give the poorer students fee concession (full & half), school uniform and books etc".

### **Allahabad**

#### **Agricultural Institute deemed University.**

Dr P. Dickson, coordinator of rural development training wrote, "I have received the gift Rs.85,970/- of PCEA forwarded by Interserve (Australia) and have deposited in my account. We give all praises to Him who takes care of all minute details. In the month of Dec 6 and 7 we had 17 rural women of Kachhwa Christian Hospital Rural Programme (Self Help Group Leaders) visiting our programme as an exposure trip. Many babies who came along with their mothers kept Heather and Samir very busy." Dr Dickson has arranged other short courses in broiler production, organic farming and rural development. He supervises the training of 12 rural leaders on campus. He also continues ministry in surrounding villages. "We had a picnic for our Village Sunday school kids to Khushro Bagh where 75 kids attended. We had representation from three villages. KBS students ministered the word."

**Note.** Dr Tigi Vergis and his family have returned to India after two years at Bible College in the Netherlands. He will work mainly among Nepalis living in NE India. He is based at Siliguri with Himalayan Ministries (HIMserve). They assist local churches in training village people in health, literacy and rural development.

### **CHRISTIAN WITNESS TO ISRAEL – Rev Paul Morris reports:**

We continue to pursue a strategy of engaging in evangelism and encouraging and equipping Christians for witness to Jewish people. In all these things we look to the LORD for His grace and blessing.

Visits have been made to other major centres of Jewish population such as Canberra, Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth with the aim of preaching the Gospel and giving teaching in churches and Theological Colleges, and also raising interest in CWI in churches. The visit to Melbourne was especially encouraging when 22 people attended a seminar and indicated a willingness to be involved in some form of volunteer outreach there. Plans are slowly developing to that end. A *Chanukah* meeting in Perth was well attended with Jewish people present, and some churches have begun to show a sincere interest.

## *Reports to Synod 2005*

The witness in Sydney has continued with the regular book table outreach, the *Haderek* Bible Study and door-to-door visitation. It has been a great blessing to have the regular help of Viken and Robert at the book table and I see this as an answer to prayer. Both are developing their own contacts through encounters at that witness. *Haderek* remains a small affair but we continue to invite people that we meet, especially at the book table. One lady who regularly attends gives good evidence of faith. A ministry among Jewish Christians has begun in a small way and we hope to hold some fellowship days in 2005.

Robert de Souza now works two days a week at the Bondi office and has been a great help as my assistant, having skills in literature and web site design which are being put to good use.

We thank you all for your faithful support and ask you to especially pray for workers and for conversions. We thank the Lord for His provision day by day.

**The Convener adds:** The Council and Field Leader of CWI Australia wrote to all CWI supporters in December conveying their greetings and best wishes for the season of joy at our Saviour's birth. In the letter they noted that the viability of CWI Australia has always been dependent on gifts from Christians in the UK. They concluded that this situation should not continue indefinitely. The Missions Committee have accordingly recommended that Synod increase the financial support to Rev Paul Morris.

**SOUTH AMERICA** – Mr Ian Conley reports:

### **PERU**

#### **Colegio San Andres**

Mr Donald Macaulay continues to lead the school as principal. He is ably assisted by Mr Tim Donachie. Mr Donachie has had some health problems during the year but these were finally diagnosed as asthma. Obviously in the Lima atmospheric conditions this is of concern.

Enrolments need to be about 500 this year (2005) to maintain financial flexibility. As at February 2005 there were only 420 enrolments. A large cohort of students graduated at the end of 2004. With the drop in student numbers four teachers were let go.

There has been a good cross fertilisation of ideas and assistance between San Andres in Lima and Annie Soper in Moyobamba with a delegate from Annie Soper attending a conference at San Andres and a review group from San Andres visiting Annie Soper.

The academic results of San Andres students are very respectable and reflect well on the leadership and staff.

The Peruvian economy remains stagnant for most of the population and the scholarship assistance provided under the McSwan Bequest has been very useful in helping to assist some of those without the resources to educate their children.

The request for books suitable for young new readers of English has been successful with over one thousand six hundred volumes being donated from both Scotland and Australia. Whilst the postage is very expensive from Australia (AUS\$28 per 1kg packet) this has still been a useful project that will provide real assistance to the school.

The Principal Mr Donald Macaulay plans to take home leave between May and July 2005 in Scotland and the UK.

## *Reports to Synod 2005*

### **Moyobamba**

The MacPherson family arrived back in Perú in early April 2004 after leave and further study in the UK. The Moyobamba work continues to expand with a base congregation of regular attendees of several hundred and daughter churches in outlying centres including a different language group. In addition the church has several assistant pastors and home missionaries in Moyobamba and surrounding centres. The church also supports two theological students and has strategy plans for expansion and outreach to other areas going out some years. The church has an active outreach program amongst young people, ladies and in two of the local prisons. Children in Scotland raised in excess of US\$20,000 to assist the Moyobamba church with their radio and TV outreach. The church runs its own radio station with a 500 watt transmitter reaching a potential audience in excess of 100,000 people. The main Sunday service is televised with the church buying time on the local TV channel.

One of the projects for 2005 is the funding and securing of land for a church in Paraporto: the airport town and commercial centre for the region.

Whilst it is not in the purview of the Missions Committee or budget, it would be a worthwhile exercise for a delegation from the Synod of the PCEA to visit the Moyobamba work.

### **Lima Evangelical Seminary**

The Rev Donnie continues in the leadership post of Rector of the Seminary. The Seminary has launched a program and office to promote the programs within Peru with the view to attracting more students. Funding for full time study remains a significant hurdle for potential seminary students.

## **COLOMBIA**

### **Bible Seminary Medellin**

Dr Manuel Reaño continues to head up the Seminary as Principal. His schedule as leader of the Seminary is hectic and in 2004 included a quick visit to Thailand for a conference. Dr Reaño hopes to take leave during 2005 and visit the UK and possibly Spain.

Dr Reaño reports that the financial situation of the Seminary is critical with a serious drop in donations from the USA. This translates to a deficit of US\$1500 – \$2000 per student pa. While the intake of students is increasing the Seminary deficit looks like being US\$120,000 for the year.

In addition there is a need for the faculty and student body to be focused on the task at hand.

Dr Reaño commenced and actively participates in a preaching group aiming to improve the skills of preachers. This work and the Seminary are training the church leaders and preachers of the future in Colombia.

### **DUMISANI / FCSA – Rev Peter Smith:**

#### **Dumisani Theological Institute (DTI)**

Rev Ronnie Christie reports that all established aspects of Dumisani's work continued in operation throughout the last year with developments in certain areas – as follows:

**Sunday School Work** As well as the normal Sunday School Teachers' Training Days held twice a year in King William's Town, a similar training day was held in Mthatha (formerly Umtata). The attendance was poor, but it was good to see the interest shown in starting Sunday Schools in that area.

## *Reports to Synod 2005*

**Publications Work** Over the years, we have been putting Dumisani's publications on disk and updating their format. The task is almost complete. Already we see a slight increase in sales. We hope that a special effort can be made to promote the material once it is all in modernized format. We have also added a couple of publications on AIDS, to our publication list.

**Admin Staff** At the beginning of 2004 we took on two and a half new members of staff to help with administration, especially in the Library. The Library is now administered more effectively and some pressure on academic staff, especially on the Principal, has been relieved by this extra administrative help. However, at the beginning of 2005 two administrative assistants left for better jobs elsewhere. One had been with us many years and was very devoted to Dumisani. We have now rationalized the distribution of admin work in the light of our experience in 2004 – but we are back at the stage of training admin staff in their duties – a task more time-consuming than actually doing these duties oneself.

**Relationship with Government Bodies** In the course of the year our Diploma was registered with the appropriate government body and we were given conditional accreditation for it. Our application for registration with the Department of Education has been submitted and a response is eagerly awaited. Meanwhile we have to meet the conditions laid down for our conditional accreditation and we have to do something similar to get our Certificate Programme duly recognized. There is no end of paperwork in this connection!

**Relationship with PUCHE** Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education, with whom we have a cooperation agreement, has been merged with North West University; however, this has made no real difference to DTI. After discussion with the University we have adjusted our Degree Programme to try and make it more attractive to those who gain our Diploma. Time will tell whether or not we have been successful.

**Academic Programmes** The Learning Programmes last year were well attended and moderately successful. In 2005 we have again had a good intake of students and our total registration will be perhaps as high as 80. Our orientation programme for new students seemed to go better than usual and they seemed to settle down together more quickly than in some years. Again, time will tell.

**Manpower** DTI continues with three full-time members of academic staff – Ronald C. Christie, Norman E. Reid and Thys Lourens. We also have the part-time assistance of Dirk Pansegrouw and Douglas Campbell. Buntu Mtishe, who helped us in 2004, is moving to the Transkei and will not be available to help this year. Despite poor health and traveling distance, uMfu Nelson Mpayipeli from Butterworth is to take a couple of classes for us this year..

**Finance** 2003 was a poor year financially, but we returned to a healthy operating profit in 2004, thanks to the generosity of our many supporters. Questions of developing in our present location or removing to a different location in town have been discussed throughout the year without any conclusion being reached – through no fault of our own. This has been a bit unsettling as we don't want to spend money on improvements in our properties if we are soon going to move elsewhere. We hope the matter will be resolved soon.

We are grateful for the financial and prayerful support and interest showing by so many people, without which the work could not be maintained or developed.

### **Free Church of South Africa**

Rev. Douglas Campbell gives us the following introduction to the Free Church of South Africa.

## *Reports to Synod 2005*

“Sometimes we take things for granted. We assume that others automatically know what we are talking about when we mention things in the prayer meeting, or in our conversations. This is especially true if our Church has been involved and interested in a particular Mission for a period of time. Or perhaps we have grown a little out of touch with the goings on in South Africa.

Welcome, therefore, to a short refresher course – The Free Church in Southern Africa.

### **Who is the FCSA?**

The FCSA is a Xhosa Presbyterian church which consists of 15 Districts arranged into two Presbyteries the Southern Presbytery and Transkei Presbytery in South Africa. Each District consists of a number of congregations (from 2-7) which meet in various locations. The FCSA has historically served the rural communities of the Eastern Cape, though there are now Districts (Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Tabase (Umtata) and East London) that serve in the townships surrounding major cities in the Eastern and Western Cape. These urban centres have seen considerable growth in the past few years as ever greater number of people move to the cities to find work. As a result, the rural congregations have seen a number of young people move from the area and so the rural churches are made up predominantly of older women and grandparents and their grandchildren.

### **How many ministers are there?**

Presently there are 8 Xhosa ministers who serve in a full-time capacity and one (Rev FF Mva) who continues to work in the Veterinary Service during the week and serve the Burnshill District during the weekend. In the past few years the FCSA has seen three of her ministers (Ledwaba, Diniso and Piyo) leave to begin serving the Lord as Chaplains in the Armed Services. Their departure, however, has seen the other ministers have to take on extra responsibilities and serve as Interim-Moderators in other Districts. We pray that the Lord would raise up more suitable men to enter the ministry in the next few years. Only three FCSA students are currently in training in Dumisani Theological Institute and they should graduate in 2006 (Tshoni), 2007 (Ngada) and 2009 (Saul).

In the past few years with the retirements of Ian and Maryanne Wylie and Ken and Joan Cameron, there is only one Missionary couple working full-time in a pastoral capacity. Doug and Julia Campbell are serving in Knox District based just outside King William’s Town. The other missionaries in South Africa (Rev Ronnie and Morag Christie, Rev Norman and Angela Reid and Rev Thys and Emilie Lourens) serve mainly in Dumisani Theological Institute.

### **What problems do we have?**

There is a danger of looking at missions with 19<sup>th</sup> Century rose coloured spectacles. While not wishing to air our dirty laundry in public, it would be irresponsible to ignore some of the real problems that the church faces. Information, both the good and the bad, should lead us to pray ever more intelligently and specifically to the One who can help in every situation.

### **Problems in the FCSA**

**Finances** – it is no over-exaggeration to say that the financial situation of the Church is very serious. The amount of money raised in the Districts does not cover the basic expenditure. Each individual member is expected to contribute a minimum sum each month. This is called the ‘Ticket-money’. This system was first introduced when the Church was not supporting its own Xhosa ministers. At the moment a member who is working is expected to pay a minimum R40 (Aus\$11) a month. A pensioner is expected to give – R20; and a scholar R10. Sadly many people assume this figure is the maximum contribution and monthly giving per person seldom rises above this level regardless of personal income. Sadly the Ticket-system is so set in stone that it is unlikely that it will be changed in the foreseeable future. As a result the FCSA continues to receive financial support from sister churches overseas. Please do not misunderstand; the ministers are not at all well paid (the number of men leaving for the Chaplaincies is, in part, a sign of this).

**Congregations** – As has been noted most ministers have several congregations in each District. Due to a variety of reasons (lack of transport, funerals, etc), several months may pass

## ***Reports to Synod 2005***

between visits by the minister of the District. In the absence of the Minister most of the elders, deacons and helpers, are expected to preach. The Minister is expected to produce and distribute a Preachers' Plan covering all the services in the District for 4 months and informing which man will preach where. Knox District has around 50 men on the plan and seven congregations meeting weekly. Other Districts have very few men who are members and so they will be expected to preach quite regularly. This raises questions as to how well these men preach, and how are the people growing spiritually instructed by God's Word?

**Keeping and Teaching** – One of the main problems is keeping and nurturing of believers. With no regular ministry, it is difficult for individuals to be properly taught the basics of the faith and grow in the knowledge of the Lord. Getting people across the door is generally not a problem; seeing come to a profession of faith is not difficult; but hanging on to them and using their gifts can be quite difficult.

### **The Problems in Society**

There are many problems in society which have a natural effect on the people of the FCSA. Unemployment is dreadful, crime is rife and the HIV/AIDS pandemic continues apace. As a minister one is continually faced with those suffering the disappointment of unemployment, the dejection and terror of victims of crime and the despair of the infected and dying. Belonging to the Church of Christ does not inoculate one from the problems of the world. Please pray, however, for the Lord's protection and help to touch all in need.

### **Is there anything positive?**

One is immediately struck by the warmth and friendliness of the Xhosa people. The idea of community and family still remain strong even as a generation is disappearing because of AIDS. There is still a considerable interest in the gospel and in spiritual things (even if it is in the evil powers, you have a way of bringing and sharing the gospel). Materialism is certainly on the rise, but not to the level as witnessed in western cultures. As a minister you are able to talk with anyone in the village and go into almost any home to share the word or preach. What a glorious situation! With the large number of children and youth in the area there are also great opportunities to share the Gospel through Kid's clubs, activities and camps. The fields are certainly white unto harvest.

### **The Australian Connection**

I hope this has given you a snapshot of life in the FCSA. But most of all, I hope it prompts you to pray for the Church here. We may seem thousands of Kilometres away, but there already exists a connection between the PCEA and the FCSA.

Over the years the FCSA has benefited from the various contributions of Australian Christians. We live in the former home of Dr and Mrs Campbell Andrews from which he ran a dispensary. As Minister of Knox District one is constantly reminded of an old Australian connection. Three of the District's congregations (Bulembu, Mamata and Bebula) have buildings erected in memory of prayerful Australian supporters of the Gospel work in this area. This interest was due to the tireless work of Mrs S A (Lex) Colville during the 1960s-70s. Even today, wherever one goes in the Knox District it is common to hear the people remember and give thanks for Mama Colville. During her time in Knox District she undoubtedly left a legacy among the people which continues to this day for the people speak of her with fondness and great love. Just recently a man called Wilson Sithetho, who was involved in the construction of the Church building in Mamata (the Robert Allen Memorial Church), professed his faith in Christ and joined the church. He worked alongside Mama Colville and now over 30 years later he has come to know the Saviour himself. The Australian connection continues, please help preserve it for the next generation.

### **Malcolm McSwann Mission Relief Fund (MMMRF)**

There were three extra disbursements from this fund besides those budgeted by Synod 2004.

## *Reports to Synod 2005*

1. The first was to Dr. P. Dickson who coordinates a training programme in the Allahabad Agricultural Institute which has now been deemed a University. The training is given within a Christian context and is a ministry to the poor.

Dr Dickson has previously received funding support from the PCEA Missions budget. However, in 2003 he undertook private studies at which time funding ceased. In July 2004 he returned to his position and the missions committee saw fit to recommence his support.

2. The second area where funds were directed was to a rehabilitation programme for displaced people in Assam, India. An ethnic clash between the Dimasa and the Hmar peoples in the North Cachar Hills of Assam started in February 2003 and lasted until July 2003. The Hindu Dimasa people burnt down 40 Hmar villages. Around 60 Hmar people lost their lives and almost 10,000 took refuge in neighbouring towns. Casualties were far greater for the Dimasa and almost 3,500 of their people fled their homes, losing most of their belongings.

Much has already been done. The peoples have been reconciled, but the Christian Hmar people are still cautious and many want to be resettled together in larger communities.

The Reformed Presbyterian Churches of North East India (RPCNEI) and De Verre Naasten (DVN) – the Institute for Mission, Ecumenical Assistance and Training of the Reformed Churches (liberated) in the Netherlands – have combined together to implement a rehabilitation programme including outreach to the peoples involved. This programme is well underway and so the missions committee contributed A\$5,000 toward the resettling of these people.

3. The third disbursement of funds was for the Tsunami Disaster Relief. An initial \$30,000 was sent to Tear Australia early in January to be used at their discretion to provide aid to those most needy. Congregational contributions will be added to a further \$20,000, again channelled through Tear Australia by the end of March.

### **Prayer Calendar**

The Convener has been compiling and distributing the prayer calendar and the information seems well received by our congregations.

### **Finance Aspects**

Following are the items reflected in the missions' budget for 2004, which is tabled at the end of this report.

1. Fiji: The Committee have allocated \$5,000 for two pastoral visits to Fiji in consultation with Central Presbytery in order to link the PFCF with a local group, such as the PRC ministry.
2. MMMRF funding for Rev Trevor Leggott: Mr Leggott furnished the Committee with a report indicating that 25% of his work time was spent on the relief of need amongst indigenous Australians during 2004. This is reflected in the budget for 2005, with 25% of his support coming from the MMMRF.
3. India:
  - a. The Chhapara Mission School continues to have a need for furniture. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the Chhapara Mission School receive \$2,000, as per last

## ***Reports to Synod 2005***

year, from the MMMRF: \$1,000 for a scholarship and \$1,000 to assist in purchasing new tables and chairs for the new class rooms.

- b. The Lakhnadon Mission School also needs new buildings and resources. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the Lakhnadon Mission School receive \$1,500 from the MMMRF to help provide much needed resources.
  - c. The Committee recommends continuing the support of the important medical work in India. Lakhnadon Christian Hospital: \$10,000, Chhapara Christian Health Centre: \$10,000 from the MMMRF.
  - d. The Committee also recommends that Dr P. Dickson receive support of \$2500 from the MMMRF.
4. CWI: The Committee continues to be greatly encouraged by the work of Paul Morris. In light of the fact that CWI Australia is now seeking to support Rev. Morris' work from within the country, the committee recommends that CWI Australia receive a grant of \$5,000 from Missions General Funds.
  5. South America: The Committee recommends continuing the provision of funds of \$6,200 from the MMMRF to provide scholarships for needy students at Colegio San Andres, Lima, Peru.
  6. Dumisani Theological Institute: The Committee recommends that \$1,000 be granted from Missions General Funds to support the vital role of reformed teaching by the Institute.

### **Proposed Deliverances**

1. That Synod ratify the disbursement of monies from the MMMRF to Dr P. Dickson, to the North East Indian Rehabilitation Programme and to Tear Australia Inc. for the Tsunami Relief.
2. That Synod affirm that the Missions Committee, in consultation with Central Presbytery, arrange two pastoral visits in 2005 to Fiji in order to link the PFCF with a local group such as the PRC ministry, thus providing an exit strategy for the PCEA under the mission's budget by the end of 2006.
3. That Synod express its continued prayerful support and interest in the work of Rev Trevor Leggott in his ministry with Australian Indigenous Ministries.
4. That Synod adopt the budget for 2005 and express general agreement with the estimates for 2006.

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MISSIONS BUDGET 2005									
2004	Budget	Actual	Proposed 2005 Budget	Estimate 2006					
Balance at 1 Jan 2004	110670	110670	Balance at 1 Jan 2005	81929					71829
Income Investments & Asset revaluation	23000	26459	Income Investments etc	23000					23000
Sale of Vehicle Fiji	0	7448	Asset revaluation	0					0
Giving Missions General	15000	3509	Giving Missions General	3500					3500
Rev S N Ramsay Bequest		5000							
Missions Support Fiji: Giving	4000	1253	Missions Support Fiji: Giving	500					500
Missions Support AIM: Giving	7000	6805	Missions Support AIM: Giving	7000					7000
From the Frontiers subscriptions	1100	685	From the Frontiers subscriptions	700					700
General Synod Funds		63	Income	34700					34700
Income	50100	51222	Income	34700					34700
<b>Expenditure</b>			<b>Expenditure</b>						
Fiji Stipend and Expenses	39000	32035	Fiji: Expenses	5000					5000
Fiji: Vehicle, airfares, sundary	10000	1460	CWM	5000					5000
Tamata House Rental	12000	8758	AIM (TIL Part Salary, SAWLSL Levy)	32000					34000
CWM	2000	2000							
AIM (TIL Part Salary, SAWLSL Levy)	29600	30397	Dumisani Theol. Institute & Bible School	1000					1000
Data Projector Missions Committee	0	2405	Admin: Postage, telephone etc	600					600
Dumisani Theol. Institute & Bible School	1000	1000	From the Frontiers, Banners	1200					1300
Admin: Postage, telephone etc	600	84							
From the Frontiers, Banners	1200	1825							
Total Expenditure	95400	79964	Total Expenditure	44800					46900
Closing Balance (31 Dec 2004) *		65370	Closing Balance	71829					59629
IC 6 March 2005									
<b>Note: Miss Gen (31 Dec 2004)</b>	\$0								
DAA Bequest (31 Dec 2004)	\$81,438								
Mission Support Fiji (31 Dec 2004)	\$491								
Total (31 Dec 2004)	\$81,929								



**FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**(Incorporating General Treasurer's Report)**

Committee members: AH Steel (Convener), DE Kerr, DJ Ramsay

Business attended to by the committee included:

**1. Ministers' Minimum Stipend/Benefits**

**Current Level and Basis of Review of Minimum Stipend** – Synod 2004 resolved the adjustment of Minimum Stipend (Excluding Manse, Car and Telephone) for 2004/2005 be made on 1<sup>st</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> July in line with the movement in the *Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (Full-time adult ordinary time earnings)* as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. In the event of a negative movement in any six monthly review period, no adjustment be made. No change is recommended by the Committee.

**2. Synod Commissioners' Motor vehicle running costs**

A review of *Motor Vehicle Running Costs* where private/church vehicles are used to travel to/from Synod was conducted vide Synod 2003 resolution (Minutes 03.32.6) viz

*"The rate to be reviewed annually and adjusted (in increments of 1c or more) to 27% of the Work Related Car Expenses deduction rate (Method 1 "Cents per Kilometre Travelled") for motor vehicles with engine capacity of 2,600 litres and over, as set by the Australian Taxation Office"*

The ATO deduction rate (Method 1) for 2004 was 62 cents per km. An increase of 1c to 17c per km is therefore recommended to the existing rate of 16c per km on the following basis –  $62 \times 27/100 = 16.74c$

**3. Church Extension and Supply**

**Stipend Relief –**

Presbyteries have sought Stipend Relief for 2005/2006, all on a strictly needs basis, on behalf of Deacons' Courts as follows:

\$18,000 - Armidale (Approximately 50% of minimum stipend)  
\$18,000 - Hawkesbury-Nepean  
**\$10,000 - Narre**  
\$18,000 - Ulverstone (Approximately 50% of minimum stipend)  
-----  
\$64,000  
=====

In submitting their requests (above) Southern Presbytery advised:

Narre Warren Accounts were not in order (as at 22/2/05) nor was a budget supplied to the Court. It was therefore resolved to approve a request for up to \$10,000 (same as 2004/5) but to advise the Synod Treasurer that some adjustment either way may be necessary when their financial position is clearer.

Ulverstone submitted annual accounts and a budget showing an anticipated deficit of \$22,410. Presbytery resolved to approve an application for Stipend Relief to Synod 2005 of 50% of minimum stipend with a note that the budget suggests a further \$3,000 may be required.

At present there is a limit on the amount of financial assistance available to fully sanctioned charges which are not fully self-supporting . This is up to 50% of minimum stipend

## ***Reports to Synod 2005***

(Decision Book – page 24.4.a). Synod will therefore need to take this into account in regard to the application of \$22,410 (62% of minimum stipend) by Ulverstone Deacons' Court.

### **Funds in Hand for Stipend Relief –**

As at 31/12/04 there was \$104,750 (31/12/03 was \$140,679) available in working funds - Church Extension \$15,236 (31/12/03 - \$14,202) and Stipend Relief – DA Anderson Bequest \$89,514 (31/12/03 - \$116,477). The \$10,000 donated in Memory of the late SN Ramsay was used during 2004 to assist with Stipend Relief.

Stipend Relief, strictly on a needs basis, approved by Synod for the past three years has been:

2002/3 - \$32,000 (three congregations)  
2003/4 - \$24,880 (three congregations)  
2004/5 - \$63,000 (four congregations).

Requests received for consideration by Synod 2005:

2005/6 - \$ 64,000 plus extra \$3,000 for Ulverstone (four congregations)

If all relief approved by Synod 2004 is taken up (approximately \$25,000 still undrawn as of 15/2/05) it is estimated the total funds of \$104,750 as at 31/12/04 will be reduced to approximately \$80,000 by Synod 2005. There will therefore be sufficient funds in hand to meet the requests totaling \$67,000 for 2005/6.

### **4. Estimates (Major Working Fund Receipts/Payments for 2004)**

Estimates have been made for the ensuing year (Appendix 1). They only include income and expenditure for the major funds.

### **5. Committee Membership**

During the year Mr KI Kerr resigned from the committee. A letter of appreciation for his contribution to the work of the committee was sent to him by the Convener.

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### **PROPOSED DELIVERANCES**

1. We record our thanks to God for temporal blessing for another year and pray for wisdom in the administration of such in 2005.
2. Adjustment of Minimum Stipend (Excluding Manse, Car and Telephone) for 2005/2006 be made on 1<sup>st</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> July in line with the movement in the *Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (Full-time adult ordinary time earnings)* as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. In the event of a negative movement in any six monthly review period, no adjustment be made.
3. Stipend Relief for 2005/2006 be granted to the following Deacons' Courts, on a strictly needs basis:
  - \$18,000 - Armidale (Approximately 50% of minimum stipend)
  - \$18,000 - Hawkesbury-Nepean
  - \$10,000 - Narre Warren with say up to 30% increase if necessary.
  - \$18,000 - Ulverstone (Approximately 50% of minimum stipend)
4. Special Financial Assistance of up to \$3,000, on a strictly needs basis, be made available to Ulverstone Deacons' Court, only if and when Stipend Relief of 50% of

**Reports to Synod 2005**

minimum stipend, has been availed of. The additional \$3,000 to come from Stipend Relief funds.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE - APPENDIX 1**

**ESTIMATES - MAJOR WORKING FUNDS  
for twelve months ending 31/12/2005**

Fund	Balance as at 31/12/2004	Estimated Income to 12/05	Estimated Expenditure to 12/05	Estimated Surplus (Deficit)	Estimated Balance #####	T'fer from Gen Funds
Church Extension	15,236	1,000	0	1,000	16,236	Nil
Chr/Extn - Stipend	0	3,000	65,000	-62,000	-62,000	Nil
Chr/Extn - Stipend (DAAB)	116,477	11,000	0	11,000	127,477	Nil
Missions - General	0	23,200	7,800	15,400	15,400	Nil
Missions - (Legg/AIM)	0	7,000	32,000	-25,000	-25,000	Nil
Missions - (PFCF - DAAB)	81,438	4,000	4,500	-500	80,938	Nil
Missions - (Fiji Support)	491	500	500	0	491	Nil
Missions Relief	470,845	40,000	63,650	-23,650	447,195	Nil
Training of Ministry	67,180	8,000	0	8,000	75,180	Nil
Youth & Fellowship	11,539	1,500	5,600	-4,100	7,439	Nil
General Funds (See below)	17,400	6,000	4,000	2,000	19,400	Nil
Total Estimated Transfers from General Funds						Nil
General Funds - Estimated balance 31/12/2005					68,174	
Less Estimated Bequest - IC McKinnor				12,756		
Less Estimated Bequest - SN Ramsay				36,018	48,774	19,400
<b>Estimated Surplus in Synod General Working Funds as at 31/12/05</b>					<b>\$</b>	<b>19,400</b>

**Notes:**

# Figures not available as at 17/3/05

1. For budgeting purposes, the IC McKinnon and SN Ramsay Bequests have been deducted from the estimated Synod General Working Funds as at 31/12/05.
2. Estimated deficit of \$62,000 in Chr/Extn - Stipend can be covered from balances in Church Extension and Chr/Extn - Stipend (DAAB).
3. Estimated deficit of \$25,000 in Missions - (Legg/AIM) can be covered from balance in Missions - (PFCF - DAAB).

.....

## GENERAL TREASURER

### 1. Financial Needs

The financial needs of the Synod were adequately provided for during 2004. Total funds decreased by \$66,367 to \$1,428,198.

The net decrease of \$66,367 resulted from:

Increases –		
Capital Funds (From Share sales/revaluations)	\$ 47,256	
Decreases (Net) -		
Specified Working Funds (Net)	40,783	
General Working funds	72,840	113,623
	.....	
<u>Net Decrease in Funds -</u>		<u>\$ 66,367</u> =====

For details of Increases/Decreases see Notes 8 to 15 in Synod’s Balance Sheet and “Synod General Funds” below.

### 2. Bequests

No bequests were received in 2004.

### 3. Congregational Contributions to Synod Funds

Contributions of \$16,914 by congregations to Synod Funds during 2004 decreased \$12,545 (43%) on 2003 (\$29,459). Refer to Congregational Contributions Summary at back of Financial Statements for full details.

The major movements in these givings were – Missions General down \$11,947 (78%), Missions Support (Fiji) down \$2,569 (67%) and an increase of \$2,421 (195%) in *General Funds*.

### 4. Synod General Funds

A deficit of \$2,162 was recorded in *Synod General Working Funds* . Whilst income was up \$6,914 an amount of \$7,310 was written off in the sale of the motor vehicle in Fiji.

\$71,640 was transferred from *General Working Funds* as part of the disbursement of the SN Ramsay Bequest (Synod minutes 04.31.5)

General Funds as at 31/12/04 comprised:

Library (Books & Fittings)	1,709
Working Funds - IC MacKinnon bequest of	\$ 12,756
- SN Ramsay bequest	\$ 36,018
- Remaining balance	\$ 17,400
	-----
Total General Funds -	<u>\$ 67,883</u> =====

## ***Reports to Synod 2005***

### **5. Disbursement of Funds**

The Synod Treasurer is to “.....take charge of, disburse and account for all the funds held by Synod as it may direct” ( Handbook 5.9)

On 27 November 2004 the Convener of Provident Funds requested that \$4,315 be paid to the Health Employees Superannuation Trust (HESTA). As Synod had not directed funds be paid to HESTA the Synod Treasurer made the payment under protest. At the time of writing (5/3/05) two more payments had been made bringing the total funds paid to HESTA without Synod’s approval to \$22,665. Confirmation for these payments is sought from Synod.

### **6. Banking Accounts**

At present, Capital Funds and surplus Working Funds are “parked” in the National Australia Trustees Ltd (NAT) A1 Common Fund pending investments/disbursement. The interest rate is calculated daily and reviewed weekly and interest credited monthly. The interest rate is currently 4.42%pa (1/3/05).

As all banks now offer “at-call” accounts with similar features to NAT but some variation in interest rate/fees etc. and term deposits with better rates, it is considered appropriate to establish an account(s) with other banks to obtain a better interest rate. At the time of writing the three highest rates paid on “at call” accounts were ING 5.25%pa, Suncorp 5.40%pa and Westpac 5.25%pa (5.35%pa over \$K100). Access to these accounts is via the internet with no/minimal fees being charged. Bank West offered 5.8%pa on a 90 term deposit of \$50,000.

### **7. Books of Account Audit**

A satisfactory audit report has been obtained from Partlett, Chave & Rowland, Chartered Accountants of Caringbah and is included in the published Financial Statements.

## **PROPOSED DELIVERANCES**

- 1 The Treasurer’s action in disbursing \$22,665 to the Health Employees Superannuation Trust without Synod’s direction be confirmed.
- 2 The Treasurer be authorised to open accounts with Banks, in addition to the National Australia Bank, so as to achieve the best return on funds held pending investment/disbursement.

## **8:14 FOUNDATION COMMITTEE**

Committee members: AH Steel (General Treasurer - Convener), TI Leggott (Moderator), WJW Hanna (Clerk ),  
JD Ramsay (Nthrn Presby), NA McPherson (Cent Presby), D Manly (Sthrn Presby)

### **Contributions -**

No contributions were made during 2004. Income received was Interest from bank Common Fund \$1,387 and Rent from St Georges Deacons' Court \$100.

### **Funds in Hand –**

Position as at -	31/12/04	31/12/03
Loan - Armidale Congregation	\$ 20,500	50,805
- Hunter-Barrington Cong	15,253	45,000
Working Funds in hand	68,705	7,165
	-----	-----
Total Funds -	\$ 104,458	\$ 102,971
	=====	=====

Includes \$7,300 held on deposit.

### **Disbursements -**

There were no disbursements during 2004.

### **Loan Repayments -**

**Armidale** – No repayments were made by the Deacons' Court during 2004. However the debt of \$ 50,805 as at 31/12/03 was reduced by \$30,305 as part of the \$40,000 received from SN Ramsay Bequest. The balance of \$9,695 was used to clear their temporary loan from "General Funds SNR Bequest". (Synod minutes 04.34.5.)  
The balance outstanding as at 31/12/04 was \$20,500

Synod also resolved (Minutes 04.36.1):

"Net rents received from the student accommodation in the Armidale Church/manse building, be used by the Deacons' Court, to assist in payment of ministerial Stipend and Superannuation contributions, if required.  
The position to be reviewed and reported to Synod annually."

Armidale Deacons' Court advise that because of full occupancy of the student accommodation during 2004 they are hopeful of being able to make some repayment on their loan. However, this will not be determined until 31/3/05 when they next meet. They may still need to use some of the net rents from the student accommodation to assist in the payment of Stipend and Superannuation contributions during 2005/6.

**Hunter-Barrington** – Repayments on their loan of \$45,000 commenced in June 2004 when \$20,578 was applied to it as part of the \$30,000 received from the SN Ramsay bequest. The balance of \$9,422 was used to clear their Loan from "General Funds SNR Bequest". (Synod minutes 04.34.5.)

They have since maintained monthly repayments of \$545 plus a special repayment of \$4,809 which have reduced the balance outstanding to \$15,253 as at 31/12/04.

## Reports to Synod 2005

### Proposed Deliverance -

Net rents received from the student accommodation in the Armidale Church/manse building, be continued to be used by the Deacons' Court, to assist in payment of ministerial Stipend and Superannuation contributions, if required.

The position to be reviewed and reported to Synod annually.

## PROVIDENT FUNDS COMMITTEE

R.S.Ward (Convener 1978), Messrs J.B.Louden, G.D.Ball and D.Manly

### A: SUPERANNUATION FUND

Rev Dr W.J.W.Hanna's resignation of Brisbane was effective 31/12/2004, completing 11.71 years of service, and payment of his benefit was duly authorized. Alan Tripovich turned 75 after 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004 (on 6.07.2004) and therefore Government rules required him to draw his superannuation, which he has done. He had completed 36.35 years but continues as the inducted minister on the Hastings meantime. Sam Tamata was inducted to the Hunter on 15/12/04.

### 1. Membership

Name	Service from	Service to 30.6.83	Total service at 31.12.04	Year 65
S.R.Tamata	16.10.1998	00.00	06.45	2006
R.W.Murray	11.12.1968	11.72	32.57	2006
J.A.McCallum	28.06.1985	00.00	20.50	2007
R.S.Ward	20.03.1976	07.28	28.78	2010
W.P.Gadsby	11.05.1977	06.14	27.64	2013
G.Kinder	11.07.1997	00.00	07.72	2013
T.I.Leggott	11.03.1989	00.00	15.80	2014
D.K.Muldoon	29.11.2002	00.00	02.09	2017
G.D.Ball	01.12.1997	00.00	07.08	2020
D.P.Smith	16.11.2001	00.00	03.12	2025

Note: Mr Murray's service excludes a 1 year absence in Scotland 1975/76. Mr Gadsby was admitted by authority of Synod 1977 but was not ordained until 18.8.1977. Other commencement dates are ordination or induction except Mr Ball whose service as an ordained minister began 1/12/97.

Benefits in respect of pre 30.6.1983 service attract different taxation provisions (see 1985 Synod Reports).

The Superannuation Guarantee levy 9% from 1/7/2002. Congregations which employ a preacher for an extended period on a supply basis are liable for this levy and should contact the Committee for advice/assistance.

### 2. Church Contributions to Superannuation

#### 3 Superannuation Levy

The correct levy in 2004 was \$5311. Allowing for credits in hand at the end of 2003 several overpaid (Armidale \$29 and Ulverstone \$29, Geelong \$14.50, Hastings \$136), and Narre Warren underpaid Narre Warren \$41. We did our best to acquaint Deacons' Courts of the adjusted amount when the stipend increase applied 1/7/04 but perhaps there were communication problems. We therefore think that we should set the levy based on the carefully estimated stipend for the calendar year and that this be paid quarterly evenly throughout the year.

## *Reports to Synod 2005*

As at 1/1/2005 the minimum stipend is \$695pw (\$36,239pa) and the 15% levy would be \$5436 plus an adjustment for the expected increase of about \$13 on 1/7/2005, thus a stipend of say \$36,600 for the calendar year and a levy of \$5,492 or \$1373 a quarter. A \$600pa concession for aid-receiving congregations is noted below.

### *4 Third Millennium Provident Fund*

This Fund includes the old Widows and Orphans, Aged/Retired Ministers accounts as well as the amount built up in earlier times from forfeited benefits used as a Supplementary Benefits Fund. In 2004 we wanted to consolidate the TMPF accounts given that the era of pensions to supplement Superannuation is over. The Synod Treasurer wished certain matters referred to the NSW Trustees and the Committee furnished full particulars of the wills etc. as requested immediately after Synod. The NSW Trustees report that by a majority they see no objection to our proposal as regards trust issues. We now recommend that all the funds be invested together, as they have the same objects, and for simplicity sake we propose to call the combined fund the **Superannuation Support Fund** dropping TMPF as a name. The practical advantage includes simplicity in maintaining the accounts, and calculating resources, and likely greater clarity about the funds in the minds of Synod members and the church at large.

The TMPF returned \$7,231 in income last year, and the capital stood at \$99,083 with an additional \$18,951 in working funds. It will have increasing importance in providing backing to the scheme and limiting the levy burden on congregations. However, its value has not kept pace with stipend and there is limited scope to add to it in future from non-vested member benefits. Ideally, an injection of new funds would be extremely helpful and could be employed in a way to relieve the levy burden on aid-receiving congregations if that was desired. In the absence of that we propose that an addition to the capital/quasi capital of the TMPF of \$15,000 be made by transfer from the TMPF Working Funds, and that a subsidy of \$600pa effective 1/1/2005 be made to charges receiving aid in excess of 20% of the minimum stipend. Currently this will benefit 4 charges, and so cost \$2,400pa.

## **2. Investment Choice**

The government has legislated to make Fund and Investment choice mandatory for certain classes of persons. Investment choice is regulated currently by Synod 2000 minute 00.20 (4), and allows choice within the management of the ING Fund. The new rules from 1/7/2005 allow choice of fund but require a default fund to be maintained by the employer. We are recommending the default fund be HESTA - Core Pool.

## **3. ING - HESTA**

Members will know we continued to have administrative problems with ING and indeed ultimately they were unable to give the insurance cover they had indicated prior to last Synod, but only two-thirds of it. This brought to a head the dissatisfaction the Convener was experiencing and the recommendation to members that an alternative Fund be made available. Details were circulated and seven members elected to go with the Health Employees Superannuation Trust Australia (HESTA), Messrs Tamata, and Muldoon being the exceptions.

The Synod Treasurer made payments from 1/10/2004 to HESTA under protest, although the Committee considered there was no great issue of principle involved and provided detailed explanation by email 30/9/2004. HESTA's member material is clear, the insurance option wider, including disability cover, and the fees lower as befits an Industry (not for profit) Fund. We propose that contributions for the exceptions will continue to go to ING unless they elect HESTA or another fund after 1/7/2005. Those choosing any funds should look carefully at the insurance provisions. Those who have moved to HESTA may elect to choose another fund. In all cases there is scope for the member to vary the investments within the fund – each fund providing explanatory material. These choices are the member's responsibility. The church has no additional liability than making the agreed contribution to a duly registered Fund.

## *Reports to Synod 2005*

Those who have moved future contributions to HESTA may also move part or all their ING accumulation to HESTA (or another Fund). We understand there is no exit fee with ING, nor is there with HESTA. In general there is wisdom in having superannuation in one Fund since one avoids two sets of overhead charges.

### **4. ING Superannuation Performance**

Managed Growth contributions began in 1997. The default investment choice is 50% Capital Guaranteed and 50% Managed Growth. CG monies are invested about 70% in cash and fixed interest and have returned between 8.7% and 7.10% pa since 1996 (av 7.14% pa 5 years to 30/6/01). The MG funds are invested about 70% in shares and property and have returned between 7.1% and 21.65% pa since 1996 (av 11.30% pa 5 years to 30/6/01).

The ING return for the past three years has been:

	<u>2000-01</u>	<u>2001-02</u>	<u>2002-03</u>	<u>2003-04</u>
Capital Guaranteed	6.00%	4.85%	3.65%	3.1%
Managed Growth	5.87%	3.65%	-3.85%	13.3%
<i>Average</i>	<i>5.93%</i>	<i>0.6%</i>	<i>-0.10%</i>	<i>8.2%</i>

In the default Core Pool of the Hesta Fund, 78% is invested in growth and 22% in defensive investments. Results have been:

Core-pool	8.3%	0.5%	1.5%	15.5%
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### **5. Vesting**

The evolution of Superannuation both in the Nation and within the Church Fund is such that the administration in the future should be much simpler. The only point that is of such practical moment is the vesting provisions. These mean that church contributions are not fully vested until some 7 years service. However, given the arrival of fund and investment choice there may be complications in calculating the amount vested for those who leave before full vesting. We therefore propose that for **new** entrants the contribution will be 10% fully vested for the first five years and thereafter the standard rate of 18% fully vested. This will further distance the Synod from the need for involvement in the individual arrangements of ministers, and shave slightly the level of the congregational levy otherwise required. The Committee's work will then be co-ordinating levy collection, and superannuation contributions, and signing off when there are resignations/retirement.

### **C. Long Service Leave**

We remind Synod members of the provision by Synod 2003 of an extra week of annual leave (5 weeks in all), which must be taken, or the provision of LSL at a week a year at the local level. Presbyteries are urged to keep a close eye on ministers' leave to ensure ministers do not suffer burn out through failure to take it.

### **D. Regulations**

With the changes in Fund and Investment Choice, the default Fund change, some tidying up of the existing regulations is needed, the general effect being a simplification. We append a copy of the Regulations tidied up and amended for the changes proposed in this Report.

### **E. Convener**

Dr Ward has convened this Committee since 1978 and considers now is a very opportune time to indicate he is not desirous of continuing to do so unless perhaps for a further year so as to oversee the changes currently in train. It is important that there be reasonably regular rotation in Committees to develop skills and give wider knowledge. Admittedly, particularly in earlier times some specialist knowledge was needed on this Committee, but even so it is high time to anticipate change.

**PROPOSED DELIVERANCE**

1. Synod approve the calculation of the levy on the basis of a careful estimation at the beginning of the year of minimum stipend payable in the calendar year.
2. Synod note the legal requirement for quarterly contributions to Superannuation and note the levy for 2005 of \$1,374 per quarter payable by the end of February, May, August and November.
3. Synod note that vacant congregations are liable for only 50% of the levy otherwise payable (pro-rated for vacancy part year).
4. Synod approve a variation in the existing rules so that Synod 2005 that contribution rates for new members will be 10% of the minimum stipend for the first five years, and thereafter the standard rate of 18% and that all such contributions to new members will be fully vested in the member.
5. Synod approve a subsidy towards Superannuation Levy of \$600pa for congregations receiving stipend relief, such subsidy to be effective 1/1/2005 and to be met from the Third Millennium Provident Fund income.
6. Noting
  - (a) the Superannuation Fund has superceded the provisions of the Widows and Orphans and Aged and Retired Ministers Funds, both General and NSW, as currently recorded in the Synod Treasurer's accounts; and
  - (b) the terms of the D.K.McIntyre Bequest, the James Ross Memorial Fund and the Susan McIntyre McDonald Bequest are such that they may be combined in the accounting records as one, and investment with other funds devoted to the same objects;Synod approve the combination of the funds in (b) with the Supplementary Benefits Fund, the combined fund to be called the Superannuation Support Fund [SSF] rather than as the Third Millennium Provident Fund, and this change be effective in the accounts from 1/1/2005.
7. Synod approve the addition of \$15,000 to the amount treated as capital in the SSF, and authorize the Committee to transfer to the fund available amounts from any surplus Committee income, gifts and bequests from time to time on the authorization of the Convener.
8. Synod ratify the action of the Committee in liasing with members and acting on the instructions of those who wished to adopt the HESTA plan.
9. Synod agree to treat the PCEA Retirement Fund members as entitled to the provision of government regulation on Fund and Investment choice with effect 1/7/2005, and recognize the Health Employees Superannuation Trust Australia [HESTA] as its default fund, the employer name being Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia (employer number 673675), with the Core Pool as the default choice within that fund.
10. Synod remind fund members of the advisability of seeking professional advice in regard to both choice of Fund and investments within any particular fund, so that it meets their particular needs, as this is their responsibility and not that of the church.
11. Synod rename the Provident Funds Committee the Superannuation Committee
12. Synod approve the revised regulations for the Committee as appended to the Report [with any changes necessitated by any variation in the proposed deliverances.]

## *Reports to Synod 2005*

### **A. SUPERANNUATION COMMITTEE** [formerly Provident Funds Committee]

#### **PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA**

REGULATIONS AS ADOPTED BY SYNOD MAY 1981  
AND AMENDED MAY 1982, MAY 1983, MAY 1985, MAY 1986, APRIL 1987, JULY 1988, MARCH 1989, APRIL  
1991, APRIL 1992, APRIL 1993, MARCH 1996, MARCH 1997, APRIL 1998, APRIL 1999, MAY 2000, MAY 2001,  
MAY 2002, MAY 2003, MAY 2004 and MAY 2005.

### **SECTION A - GENERAL RULES**

1. The Superannuation Committee is appointed by the Synod to administer specific funds in accordance with all applicable Synod regulations. Synod 1997 resolved that it is to be composed of four persons, two of whom are to be members of the Retirement Fund.
2. The Committee is to keep proper records of its proceedings. The Committee is to continue to monitor relative performance and legislative changes with a view to appropriate recommendation to Synod from time to time.
3. The Committee is to report to each ordinary Synod on the state of its funds and in such a form that the adequacy or otherwise to meet immediate and projected liabilities may be readily seen.
4. In view of the need to avoid inadequately considered alterations to the rules governing the Committee and its funds, suggested changes are to be considered by the Committee and its opinion given prior to changes being made.

### **SECTION B - THE FUNDS ADMINISTERED**

#### **1. Superannuation Levy Fund**

##### Source of Funds

##### *SANCTIONED CHARGES*

- a) As from 1/7/2003 an annual levy of 15% of the minimum stipend, such levy to apply to every vacant and settled sanctioned charge as a preference burden after stipend, and to be paid in four approximately equal quarterly installments by 28/2, 31/5, 31/8 and 30/11 in each year. Aid to aid-receiving charges is to allow for payment of the levy.
- b) Voluntary gifts and such other sources as Synod may determine including the Superannuation Support Fund.

##### *VACANT CHARGES/STATIONS*

- c) With effect from 1st January 1989, a charge that is vacant for part or all of a year shall be entitled to a 50% reduction on the amount of the levy pro-rated for the duration of the vacancy unless it is receiving extended residential supply from a minister for whom contributions are being made to the Superannuation Fund in respect of that period of supply, in which case the full levy is payable. Where a vacant charge engages a person on terms requiring Superannuation Guarantee contributions although the charge is technically still vacant, SG contributions will be payable for the period during which the SG Levy applies, and in respect of a station not a sanctioned charge a levy equal to the SG Levy shall apply.

##### How Funds Applied

## *Reports to Synod 2005*

d) In the first place to be allocated to the accounts of members of the Retirement Fund in accordance with its regulations. All allocations to be made by the General Treasurer upon the written authorisation of the Provident Funds Committee.

### **2. Superannuation Support Fund [SSF]**

(c) This fund (formerly Third Millennium Provident Fund) was established by Synod 1999 to embrace existing funds for aged or infirm ministers and/or widows and orphans of such, as well as the Supplementary Benefits Fund formed from contributions forfeited by members of the Retirement Fund under its vesting provisions. Synod 2005 approved the combining of the D.K.McIntyre Bequest, the James Ross Memorial Fund and the Susan McIntyre McDonald Bequest in the accounting records as one, and their investment with other funds devoted to the same objects (including the Supplementary Benefits Fund) naming the combined fund the Superannuation Support Fund. As at 31/12/2004 there was \$99,083 in the fund that for the time being is treated as capital, and \$18,951 accumulated income treated as working funds.

#### Source of Funds

- a. gifts whether capital or otherwise
- b. investment income
- c. other sources as Synod may determine

#### How funds applied

- d. while seeking to at least maintain the value of the Fund the fund can also be drawn on to supplement contributions made to members of the Superannuation Fund so as to reduce the levy otherwise payable by congregations, as determined by Synod from time to time on recommendation of the Provident Funds Committee.
- e. by transfer of SSF income to what for the time being is treated as SSF capital, upon the direction of the Committee to the Synod Treasurer.

## **SECTION C - THE RETIREMENT FUND**

### *HISTORICAL PREAMBLE*

1. As early as 1853 the PCEA effected an insurance scheme for ministers with the fledgling AMP Society, but after the exit of the majority in 1863 there was no organized arrangement until 1877 when the Rev D.K.McIntyre contributed £574 to commence a Widows & Orphans Fund, the interest on which was paid to ministers to enable them to pay premiums on life insurance. He left further sums on his death in 1899, but until the Superannuation Fund was established the provision for retired ministers largely depended on the capacity of the congregation involved. With Neil McPherson as Convener (1964-71), the PCEA Retirement Fund was constituted. Wales Superannuation Funds Limited (1968-85) acted as managers of funds contributed by the Committee in the name of each of the members at a percentage between 5 and 15% of stipend depending on age, the higher percentage being designed to help older ministers catch up to a reasonable benefits, shortfalls being met by small pensions. The Superannuation Fund was financed by a levy on congregations. Campbell King was Convener 1971-78, and instituted a Long Service Leave Scheme in 1974. This was wound up by Synod 2003 during Rowland Ward's period as Convener (1978 to date). From 1/7/1983 a base rate of 8% was introduced (previously 5%), and was 8.4% when the Government legislated the first Superannuation Guarantee of 3%. By the time the maximum SG contribution of 9% applied (1/7/2002) we were contributing 13.5% and this was raised to 18% from 1/7/2003 having regard to the fact that minister's super is calculated on a stipend excluding housing. Investment choice within the ING Fund was allowed by Synod 2000, but with continued changes in the Superannuation law, Synod 2005 approved as its default fund

## *Reports to Synod 2005*

the Health Employees Superannuation Trust Australia [HESTA] Core Pool, and allowed members the choice both of Fund and Investment permitted under the Government legislation effective 1/7/2005.

### *WHEN MEMBERSHIP EFFECTIVE*

2. When a minister is duly inducted to a charge, in normal circumstances his membership in the Fund will be effective from the date of induction. Licentiates will be added to the Fund upon being licensed and commencing residential supply to the extent of any Superannuation Guarantee or like, and similarly ministers supplying but not inducted for whom Superannuation Guarantee legislation is applicable.

### *BENEFIT*

5 The Retirement Fund provides a benefit in the form of a lump sum. The benefit for each member is the net sum resulting from the investment of the amounts contributed to each member's account plus any insurance benefit applicable, less relevant taxes, fees and charges. An annual statement is issued to each member by the Fund and the explanatory material indicates the Government rules on accessing benefits as they exist from time to time. In general, the benefit cannot be obtained until permanent retirement from the work force.

### *INSURANCE*

4. With both the ING Fund and the new default Fund with HESTA there are basic insurance provisions with options. Deacons' Courts are encouraged to discuss with the minister of the charge disability/income protection insurance bearing in mind that such a minister is not a worker within the meaning of "Workcover" and the like legislation (see Synod Reports 1995, p.53). There is provision for Disability cover in the HESTA Fund. The responsibility for selecting cover suited to his needs rests with the member.

### *CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS*

5. Contributions are allocated to members' accounts to the extent of 18% of the minimum stipend/non-cash benefits figure set by Synod from time to time, half of this being Superannuation Guarantee and the balance Additional Employer contribution. In respect of entrants into the fund after May 2005, the contribution for the first five years of service will be 10% of the minimum stipend/non-cash benefits figure. Except for transitional arrangements (C9), all contributions are fully vested in the member.

### *MISSIONARIES/STUDENTS*

6. Contributions for missionaries are made from Missions Funds; contributions sufficient to cover any Superannuation Guarantee Levy or the like for students employed in supply work are made from the funds of the congregation or preaching station concerned.

### *SALARY SACRIFICE & PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS*

7. Under current law it is possible for Deacons' Courts by arrangement with the minister to make additional Salary Sacrifice contributions. A member may also make Personal contributions from his after tax income. No liability shall attach to the Convener, the Committee, the Synod Treasurer or the Synod to pay additional contributions at times other than standard contributions are usually paid (currently shortly prior to the end of each quarter).

## *Reports to Synod 2005*

### *INVESTMENT CHOICE*

8. With effect 1/7/2005 the Church's default Fund is the HESTA Core Pool, and unless otherwise directed the Committee will contribute to this fund, except for the three members who as at May 2005 had not chosen the HESTA Fund. In these three cases the contributions will be made to the ING Fund as before unless instructed otherwise, and according to the default setting since 1/4/1997 of 50% Capital Guaranteed and 50% Managed Growth. An individual may choose a different Fund or investment choice but (i) he must note the Synod's strong recommendation that he should obtain competent professional advice; (ii) any decision he takes is his own responsibility; (iii) no liability is accepted by the Committee or the Church to him or his family or dependents for the investment performance of the fund or investment medium he chooses; and (iv) no request for assistance from the Committee to make up any real or perceived lack of performance can be entertained.

### *VESTING OF BENEFITS*

9. From May 2005 new entrants' contributions are fully vested. The provisions adopted by Synod 2003 [minute 03.39 (3)] apply to existing members as at May 2005 who have not completed 7.2 years of service.

### **SECTION D - ANNUAL LEAVE PROVISIONS/LONG SERVICE LEAVE**

1. Synod 2003 wound up the previous Long Service Leave Fund and ruled that with effect from 1.01.2003 the terms of ministerial settlement include a week of paid annual leave in addition to the presently required four weeks per year in respect of every minister. This additional week applies to service from the point the minister completes five years ministerial service until he reaches his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. This additional week must be taken when due or within twelve months thereafter or it is forfeited, and it cannot be cashed out except for amounts due at the time of death or retirement.

2. At the written request of a minister to his Deacons' Court the terms in D1 above shall be varied so that the Congregation assumes responsibility for providing Long Service Leave at the rate of one week per year in lieu of the extra week of annual leave in 1. If this option is taken, the Long Service Leave cannot be accumulated beyond 10 years, and cannot be cashed out except for amount due at the time of death or retirement, So long as a person completes 5 years service within the PCEA, the LSL accumulates from the beginning of his services until he reaches his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. In the event of transfer from one congregation to another the liability for LSL is to be adjusted between the congregations concerned. LSL liability (if any) is to be noted on Congregational Annual Accounts.

3. Synod 2002 further remind ministers that the four weeks annual leave provided is a valuable part of the benefit provided to ensure active and effective ministry, and should not be accumulated without extremely good cause. Presbyteries, Sessions and Deacons' Courts are reminded to keep a close eye on this matter so as to limit risk of ministerial burnout or unreasonable stress on the manse family.

**LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Members: W.J.W. Hanna (Convener), W.P. Gadsby, R.W. Murray, Hunter elder

**1. Procedures for Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Misconduct**

Synod 2004 considered an overture from the Southern Presbytery regarding the adoption of a different set of procedures for dealing with certain allegations of sexual misconduct against office-bearers. The decision of Synod 2004 was that:

*The overture be referred to the Law and Advisory Committee for consideration and report to Synod 2005: and that interested individuals and church courts be invited to submit comments to the Committee, the closing date for these submissions to be the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2004.*

No submissions were received by the due date. In view of this, and having considered the proposals carefully, the Committee has come to the opinion that the procedures which have been put in place by Synod 2003, as amended by Synod 2004, having received such wide-spread acceptance in the Church, will, with a few further amendments, prove both adequate and appropriate for dealing with such matters.

In October, the Rev. Peter Gadsby received the following communication from our insurer, EIG-Ansvar, and passed it on to the Committee:

*I understand that my colleague, Richard MacDonald provided some input in February but I have not seen an updated document since that time. I gather that the fax copy I have is part of a larger document and therefore some of my comments below may be already dealt with.*

**Scope**

*It is not clear from the faxed section of the document who [sic] the procedures apply to. Paid Employees? Voluntary workers? Members? Regular attendees who are not members? Whoever may come within the scope of the procedures should be aware of them and have the opportunity to see them.*

**Basic Principles**

*Should be a definition as to what is considered Sexual Misconduct and that the impact of the misconduct may not equate with the "degree of severity" i.e. a seemingly trivial act can have a significant impact on the victim.*

*Consider a statement that indicates that "every effort will be made to prevent the complainant experiencing the process as re-victimisation.*

*Consider a statement that warns of the distinction between remorse and repentance. Remorse is the initial expression of regret in response to being discovered whereas repentance is the acceptance of responsibility, the consequences and being committed to change.*

**Procedures**

*All interviews and investigations should be conducted by independent people who do not attend the affected church.*

## *Reports to Synod 2005*

Established misconduct must be reported to the church's insurer (EIG-Ansvar) a.s.a.p., regardless of whether a claim is considered likely or not. Often the first we hear of a potential claim is when it hits the newspapers. This places us in a difficult position and significantly reduces any chance of us being able to manage the claim. Making a report to us is unlikely to affect your insurance terms unless the report develops into a claim. Reports of this nature are handled by one of two people within EIG-Ansvar and every effort is made to ensure the confidentiality of the report.

*I trust you will find these comments helpful but please don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions*

*Kind regards*

*Lachlan Colebatch*

The Committee has the following responses to each of these points:

1. The Procedures adopted by Synod 2004 do contain a statement of those to whom they may be applied. Section A.4 states:

*Irrespective of any other action that may be taken, the Church reserves the right to exercise its own powers of discipline over adherents, members and office-bearers according to the Handbook of Practice and Procedure.*

2. The Committee has not included a definition of what may be considered to be sexual misconduct because it is difficult to arrive at a definition that will cover all circumstances and which will not require to be changed at frequent intervals as public perceptions of such matters change. In addition, there are acts which the general public might not consider to be sexual misconduct but which would be considered by the Church to be against the law of God. The procedures presented in the overture from the Southern Presbytery attempt to produce a definition and the result illustrates this point. The overture has the definition of:

*a range of unwelcome, unsolicited, manipulative and unreciprocated behaviour that constitutes deliberate or unintended verbal or physical contact.*

This definition leaves out the fact that behaviour that is welcomed and reciprocated may well also constitute sexual misconduct according to the law of God – and should be treated just as seriously by the Church as any other sexual misconduct. The member of the Corinthian Church who had taken one of his father's wives was not excused on the grounds that his approaches had not been "unwelcome", "unsolicited," or "unreciprocated" by her!

The Committee prefers to leave the matter of whether particular behaviour constitutes sexual misconduct or not to the Spirit-enlightened wisdom of courts of the Church dealing with the case. Indeed, the matter would normally come by way of a "libel" as defined in Church law. The first premise to be proven then would be that such and such conduct constituted sexual misconduct and was, therefore, censurable by the Church.

## *Reports to Synod 2005*

3. The Committee has no objection to the inclusion of a statement concerning the possible impact on a person of even a seemingly trivial incident.
4. The Committee is also happy to include a statement to ensure that genuine complainants do not experience the process as “re-victimisation”, though Section B.3 of the Procedures in force already makes this point.
5. The Committee understands what the insurer’s representative is trying to achieve here and has a proposal to accommodate it. However, the Committee felt unable to follow the same wording because it contains a completely incorrect definition of the word “remorse” – an incorrect definition which also occurs, almost verbatim, in the overture presented to Synod 2004. The Committee has been unable to find any dictionary which defines remorse in this way. All those consulted see little difference, if any, between remorse and repentance. The Committee has noted the following definitions:

### **Shorter Oxford Dictionary**

Remorse. Bitter repentance for wrong committed.

### **Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary**

Remorse. 1: a gnawing distress arising from a sense of guilt for past wrongs : SELF-REPROACH

**Synonym:** PENITENCE.

### **Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary online**

Remorse. noun, a strong feeling of guilt and regret about something you have done:

*He felt no remorse for the murders he had committed.*

### **The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition. 2000**

1) Remorse. Moral anguish arising from repentance for past misdeeds; bitter regret. See synonyms at *penitence*.

It is clear from these definitions that remorse is not “the initial expression of regret in response to being discovered.” If it differs at all from repentance it is a deeper and more bitter form of it. This understanding is borne out by the example of its use given above – “he felt no remorse for the murders he had committed.” How many murderers are there who would not regret being discovered? This is clearly not what is meant by remorse. A quotation from a recent newspaper report will underline the same point:

*“Trial judge Mr Justice Moses ordered a so-called whole-life tariff, which means he [the accused] will never be eligible for parole.*

*He told XXX he had shown ‘no remorse or understanding of the brutality’ of his crime, stating he maintained a ‘cool and detached’ approach when attempting to explain the evidence against him.”*

(“The Scotsman”, Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2004)

Taking these facts into consideration, the committee is recommending an amendment to the wording of paragraph 7.16 of the “Handbook of Practice and Procedure” to

## *Reports to Synod 2005*

remind the courts of the Church to be careful to distinguish between true and false repentance.

6. The Committee feels that it would be impossible that “all interviews should be conducted by independent people who do not attend the affected church.” It would be normal that the initial complaint (this would, surely, involve an interview) would be made to an office-bearer on the local scene and would go to the local session. However, the procedure adopted by Synod 2003, and amended by Synod 2004, requires that any complaint of abuse against a child must be referred to the Presbytery of the bounds – thus taking it completely out of the hands of the local congregation. In addition, there is the provision for the referral of any case to “the civil authorities (including the Police) if it is considered that the incident may involve criminal behaviour.” Almost certainly, this would take the investigation completely out of the hands of anyone in the Church. The Committee is, therefore, not recommending any change to our established procedures in this respect.
7. Mr. Colebatch is also asking that:

*“Established misconduct must be reported to the church's insurer (EIG-Ansvar) a.s.a.p., regardless of whether a claim is considered likely or not.”*

Synod 2005 enacted a wider provision than this – a provision that:

“Where there is a *prima facie* case that an incident involving sexual misconduct has occurred, the insurance company providing Public Liability Insurance shall also be notified.” (Procedures for Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Misconduct, Section A, paragraph 2)

Since this involves the reporting of all potential cases – not merely all established ones, the Committee feels that Colebatch’s wish has already been enacted and that no change is needed at this point.

### **2. Mandatory Reporting of Possible Child Abuse**

The “Procedures for Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Misconduct” adopted by Synod 2004 contain the provision, in connection with possible cases of sexual abuse of children, that “the Law and Advisory Committee shall provide information to Sessions and Presbyteries to ensure that they are kept up to date with the legal requirements in their state with regard to mandatory reporting in relation to offences of this nature” (Section A, paragraph 8).

The Committee can now provide the following list of those, in the various states in which the P.C.E.A. has a presence, who are legally required to report possible cases of sexual abuse of children:

#### **Queensland –**

In Queensland, the Health Act reporting of child abuse is mandatory for medical practitioners only, but nurses will be included from August, 2005.

In addition, the Child Protection Act, 1999 requires mandatory reporting from:

- (a) an authorised officer; or

## *Reports to Synod 2005*

- (b) an officer or employee of the department involved in administering this Act; or
- (c) a person employed in a licensed care service.

### **Victoria –**

In Victoria, reporting of child abuse is mandatory for primary and secondary school teachers and principals, nurses, doctors and police, as designated in the Children and Young Persons Act 1989:

### **New South Wales –**

In New South Wales the relevant legislation is Section 27 of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998. This states that reporting is mandatory for:

- (a) a person who, in the course of his or her professional work or other paid employment delivers health care, welfare, education, children's services, residential services, or law enforcement, wholly or partly, to children, and
- (b) a person who holds a management position in an organisation the duties of which include direct responsibility for, or direct supervision of, the provision of health care, welfare, education, children's services, residential services, or law enforcement, wholly or partly, to children.

### **Tasmania –**

In Tasmania, Section 14 of the Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act, 1997, requires mandatory reporting of child abuse from a range of people including medical practitioners, nurses, dentists, dental therapists and hygienists, psychologists, police officers, probation officers, teachers, child care providers, etc.

Full details of these acts may be found on the web sites of the various State Governments.

### **Proposed Deliverances**

1. That Section A.3 of the *Procedures for Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Misconduct* be amended to read:
  - A.3 *The Church is also aware of the vulnerability of its office-bearers, members and adherents to malicious accusations, and is committed to ensuring that all accusations are investigated fully and completely so that the guilty may be brought to justice and the innocent cleared. It is fully understood that even a seemingly trivial act may have a very significant impact on the victim.*
2. That Section B.3 of the *Procedures for Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Misconduct* be amended to read:
  - B.3 *The interview should be conducted in as non-threatening manner as is possible. This is especially important if a minor is involved. Genuine complainants should never be made to feel that they are being "re-victimised."*
3. That Section 7.10 of the *Handbook of Practice and Procedure* be amended to read:

## ***Reports to Synod 2005***

- 7.10 *Confession, and an apparently sincere profession of repentance, when duly weighed by the court, and found to be satisfactory as far as man's fallible judgement can reasonably go, form a sufficient ground for removing a sentence of suspension or excommunication and restoring the party to the full communion and fellowship of the church. Care should be taken to distinguish between sincere and false expressions of repentance.*

### **QUEENSLAND TRUST CORPORATION 'PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA' Members: Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer**

#### **1. Deed Box and Common Seal**

The title deeds of the Church Property at Kalinga continue to be held in the deed box lodged in the National Australia Bank, Strathpine, Queensland. There were no applications of the common seal in 2004.

#### **Proposed Deliverances**

Nil.

### **N.S.W. TRUST CORPORATION 'THE TRUSTEES OF THE SYNOD OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA' Members: Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer of Synod**

#### **1. Deed Box and Common Seal**

The Deed Box continues to be held in the Strathpine (Queensland) Branch of the National Australia Bank. The seal was applied to the following documents during 2004:

209	22/3/2004	Application Form – ESANDA Debentures
210	3/5/2004	Mortgage Discharge - Kiato Investments Pty. Ltd.

#### **2. Bequests**

No bequests were received by the Trustees during 2004.

#### **3. Proposed Changes To The Application Of Certain Bequests**

Synod 2004 resolved that:

*the proposed change in the application of the D.K. McIntyre, James Ross and Susan McIntyre McDonald bequests as outlined in the Synod Provident Funds Committee's Proposed Deliverance 2(a) be referred to the Trustees of the Synod of Eastern*

## ***Reports to Synod 2005***

*Australia for consideration and report to Synod 2005. Copies of the relevant wills to be provided by the Provident Funds Committee.*

The Trustees have considered the proposals put forward by the Provident Fund Committee and are agreed that there is no bar to these proposals insofar as they affect the James Ross and Susan M<sup>c</sup>Intyre M<sup>c</sup>Donald bequests.

However, the trustees have been unable to reach a unanimous agreement with regard to the legality of using the D.K. M<sup>c</sup>Intyre bequest in the manner proposed.

The Will (29<sup>th</sup> April, 1896) of the late D.K. M<sup>c</sup>Intyre states, *inter alia*:

*...the Synod shall have the power at any time after the lapse of ten years to abandon such scheme and to apply the whole of the said monies to the augmentation of the fund known as the Widows' and Orphans' Fund now existing in connection with the said Church – such monies to be subject to the rules and regulations in force for the time being, which are applicable to such fund.*

Two of the trustees feel that this provision gives the Synod full powers to alter the rules and regulations governing the Widows' and Orphans' Fund and, consequently, the application of the D.K. M<sup>c</sup>Intyre Bequest. On this view, there is no bar to the proposals of the Provident Fund Committee.

However, Synod 1955 resolved to alter the use of the bequest as follows:

- 20.a *That Synod continue to distribute the income from the Widows' and Orphans' Fund in strict accordance with the fund as stated in a minute of Synod in 1879.*
- 20.b *That, in agreement with the terms of the will of the late D.K. M<sup>c</sup>Intyre, the D.K. M<sup>c</sup>Intyre schemes hitherto in operation be abandoned and the whole of the monies, including present accumulated interest, applied to augment the capital of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.*
- 20.c *That Synod request all insured ministers participating in this fund to use the full amount received from it for their life insurance; and, if this cannot be conveniently done, to return the balance to the Synod to be credited to an account held for them by the Synod in accord with the spirit and purposes for which the fund was created.*
- 20.d *That the phrase "Life Insurance" in the preceding resolution be understood to mean an insurance policy which matures only at death, and which is expressed to be for the benefit of the wife of the insured or of his children, or of his wife and children, or any of them.*
- 20.e *That, in future, the Widows' and Orphans' Fund be known as the D.K. M<sup>c</sup>Intyre Widows' and Orphans' Fund.*

One trustee is of the opinion that these decisions place a responsibility on Synod to apply the income from the D.K. M<sup>c</sup>Intyre bequest "in accord with the spirit and purposes for which the fund was created", as stated in Synod Minutes 1955.20(a). The "fund" referred to is the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, which Synod 1955 renamed "the D.K. M<sup>c</sup>Intyre Widows' and Orphans' Fund. Synod 1955 took this spirit and purpose into account when framing its resolution. This trustee, therefore, is of the opinion that the D.K. M<sup>c</sup>Intyre bequest should not be used to provide a benefit for a minister, but only a benefit for a surviving wife and children. His suggestion is that the application of the income from the DK McIntyre bequest

## ***Reports to Synod 2005***

be restricted to the Life Insurance premiums which form part of the current superannuation scheme for ministers.

The final decision on this matter must come from Synod.

### **5. Investments**

#### **Review of Results as at 31/12/04 –**

#### **Diversification - Specified Capital Funds**

<u>Amount Invested</u>	<u>Percentage of Total</u>	<u>Strategy Benchmark</u>	<u>Strategy Range</u>	<u>Where Invested</u>
24,553	6%	5%	5% - 10%	Banks/Trustee Coys
89,254	23%	30%	20% - 40%	1 <sup>st</sup> Registered Mortgages
51,000	13%	15%	10% - 25%	Bonds/Debentures
<u>223,257</u>	<u>58%</u>	<u>50%</u>	<u>40% - 60%</u>	<u>Equities (Shares/Units)</u>
<u>388,064</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>		

Present investments are within the Strategy Ranges.

#### **Return on Investments**

##### **Growth –**

Total investments were increased by \$36,301 representing a return of 10.73% against a Target of 3.1% (CPI of 2.6% plus 0.5%)

##### **Income –**

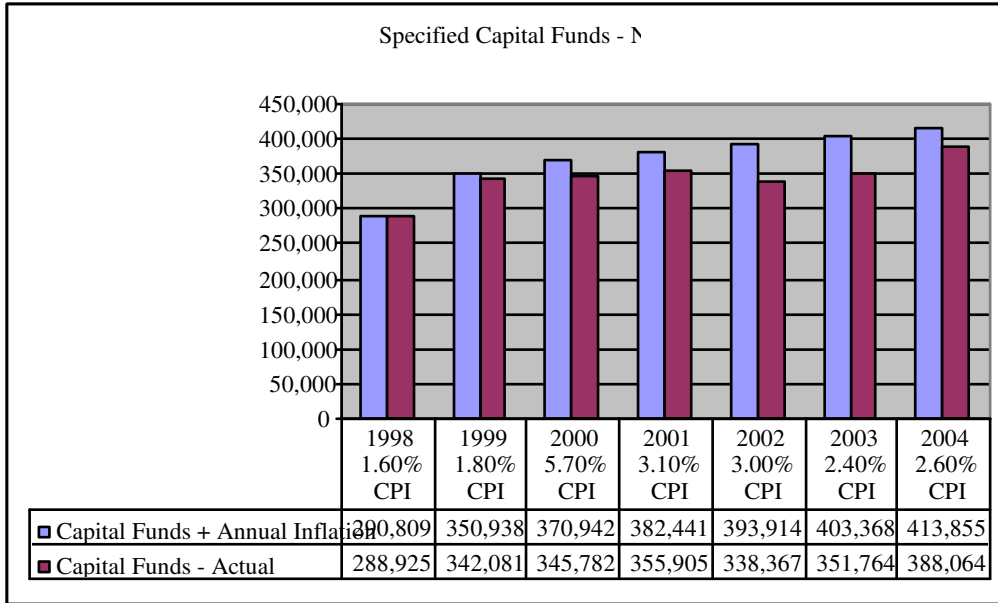
Income of \$23,533 represented a return of 6.69% against a Target of 7.00% (Average Official Cash Interest Rate of 5.25% Plus 1.75%).

##### **Overall return –**

Growth of 10.73% plus Income 6.69% = 17.42% overall return on investments totalling \$351,764 as at 1/1/04

*The Growth* Target was exceeded by 246% while *Income* just fell short of the Target by 0.3%.

**Review of Growth in Specified Capital Funds (Trusts)**



As at 31/12/04 the total of Capital Funds (\$388,064) lagged behind the total of Capital Funds with Annual Inflation (CPI) added (\$413,855) by 6.2% (\$25,791). This is a significant improvement on the 2003 difference of 12.8% (\$51,607).

**Proposed Deliverances**

1. That the report of the Trustees concerning the proposed variation in the application of the D.K. M<sup>c</sup>Intyre, James Ross and Susan M<sup>c</sup>Intyre M<sup>c</sup>Donald bequests be noted.

## THE TRUSTEES FOR VICTORIA OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA

Members: JRB Webster (1966), JB Louden (1985), WJW Hanna (1994),  
AH Steel (2001 Secretary), DJ Ramsay (2002)

### Administration

All business requiring attention was transacted via email. A quarterly report was sent to all members of the Body Corporate by the Secretary which included a record of business transacted and an update of investments made on behalf of Synod. Business requiring the Trust Corporation's attention included:

### Property Holdings

**Victorian Property** - The Knox Congregation purchased a block of residential land near the church at 10 Bentley Street Wantirna. It currently has an uninhabitable residence. on it.

**South Australian Property** – Dr R.S. Ward, who had negotiated with the Uniting Church in South Australia and the Presbyterian Church of South Australia in regard to the property of the Free Presbyterian Church of South Australia, as appointed by Synod in 1987, reported at the time of writing, that he had no fresh information regarding the progress in this matter. Last Synod he advised:

“ Subsequent to the securing of the Act of Parliament in 2001, properties at Willunga, Yankalilla and Morphett Vale had been sold for approximately \$400,000, but the acre at Aldinga with a ruined church was proving complex as encroachment by the neighbour had occurred and there was a provisional heritage control. At its optimum the property could be valued at about \$100,000. The PCEA share after expenses, which will be heavy, is 20%, but distribution will not occur for some time pending resolution of the Aldinga matter.”

**Bequests** – No bequests were reported to the Secretary during 2004.

### Investments – Specified Capital Funds (Trust Funds)

**Diversification** - Investment of *Specified Capital Funds* in First Mortgage fell outside the Investment Strategy as at 31/12/04 because of the inability to locate suitable mortgage investments. Funds (\$119,523) were held in the Common Fund account pending placement in fresh mortgage loans:

Actual as at 31/12/04		Asset Class	Investment Strategy	
Amount	Percentage		Benchmark	Range
119523	33%	Cash	5%	5% - 10%
0	0%	Mortgage	30%	20% - 40%
45,000	13%	Debentures	15%	10% - 25%
194,922	54%	Shares/Units	50%	40% - 60%
326,390	100%		100%	

**Return on Investment for twelve months ending 31/12/04 -**

**Growth –**

Total investments increased by \$33,054 representing growth of 10.13% against a Target of 3.1% (CPI of 2.6% plus 0.5%)  
Target was exceeded by 226%.

**Income –**

Income of \$18,916 represented a return of 5.80% against a Target of 7.00% (Average Official Cash Interest Rate of 5.25 % Plus 1.75%).  
Target shortfall was 17%

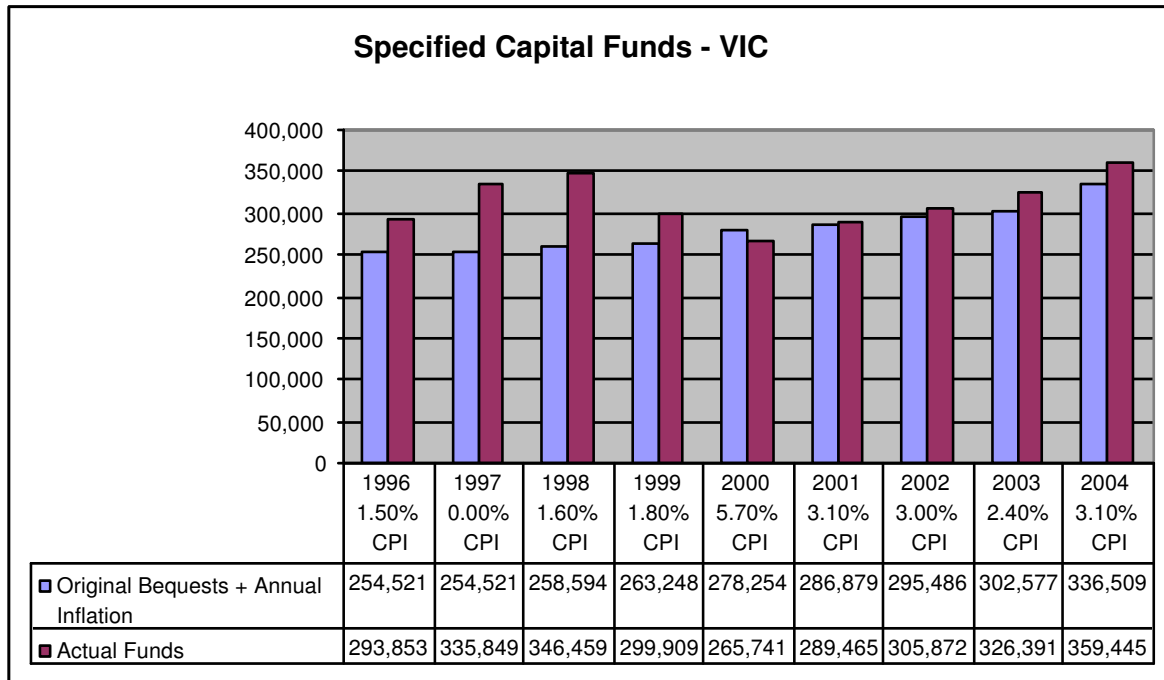
**Overall return –**

Growth 10.13% Income 5.80% = 15.93% overall return on investments totaling \$326,390 as at 1/1/04.

With low inflation and record growth in the stock market our *Investment Strategy Objective* was comfortably achieved in *Growth* however, while *Real Value* of assets has been maintained and overall return of 15.92% acceptable, *Income* for the twelve months ended 31/12/04 has suffered.

**Review of Growth of Specified Capital Funds (Trusts) -**

The total of Specified Capital Funds continues to keep ahead of inflation. An excess of \$23,814 existed as at 31/12/03. This was reduced by \$874 to \$22,940 as at 31/12/04.



**Deeds/Bonds and Common Seal**

**Title Deeds/Student Bonds Custody** – There has been no change to deeds and bonds held in *Safe Custody* at the National Australia Bank, Eastwood during 2004. Title Deeds for

## *Reports to Synod 2005*

10 Bentley Street, Wantira, purchased in August 2004 by Knox Deacons' Court, were not to hand by 31/12/04 because of delays in obtaining exemption from stamp duty and a proposed conversion to Strata Title.

**Common Seal Application** – The Common Seal was applied to the following documents during 2004:

30	18.12.03	AHS/JBL	Request for Direct Credit of Payments - ANZ Bank	Hamilton
31	18.3.04	AHS/JBL	Request for Direct Credit of Payments - NAB	Knox
32	18.3.04	AHS/JBL	Request for Direct Credit of Payments - Knox DLERRIWARRH Invests	Knox
33	25.3.04	AHS/JBL	Request for Direct Credit of Payments - Promina Group Ltd	Knox
34	3.5.04	AHS/WJWH	Discharge of Mortgage AA556937 -Kiato Investments P/L	Synod
35	31.5.04	AHS/JBL	Tender Form - Westpac Buy-Back	Knox
36	1.6.04	AHS/JBL	Request for Direct Credit of Payments - Alinta Ltd	Hamilton
37	22.6.04	DJR/JBL	Deed of Surrender - M&A Arthur	Knox
38	22.6.04	DJR/JBL	Lease - Peppercorn Investments Pty Ltd	Knox
39	12.08.04	AHS/JBL	Transfer of Land - Vol 8458 Fol 720 10 Bentley St Wantira	Knox
40	12.08.04	AHS/JBL	Request for Direct Credit of Payments - Telstra	Knox
41	24.8.04	AHS/JBL	Discharge - Mortgage AD030836C - Cornelio E&N	Synod
42	9.9.04	AHS/JBL	Unit Purchase Plan Appln - Macquarie Country Wide Trust	Knox
43	9.9.04	AHS/JBL	Unit Purchase Plan Appln - Macquarie Country Wide Trust	Knox
44	3.11.04	AHS/JBL	Request for Direct Crediting of Divns - BHP Billiton	Knox
45	3.11.04	AHS/JBL	Tender Form (Share Buy-Back) - BHP Billiton	Knox
46	3.11.04	AHS/JBL	Tender Form (Share Buy-Back) - Telstra	Knox
47	3.11.04	AHS/JBL	Request for Direct Crediting of Divns - BHP Billiton	Hamilton
48	3.11.04	AHS/JBL	Tender Form (Share Buy-Back) - BHP Billiton	Hamilton
49	3.11.04	AHS/JBL	Tender Form (Share Buy-Back) - Telstra	Hamilton
50-52	9.11.04	AHS/JBL	Assignment of Lease -Wattle Avenue Childcare Centre	Knox

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### **Proposed Deliverances –**

Nil.