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Reports to Synod 2006

TIMETABLE FOR SYNOD 2006

	Monday 8 May	Tuesday 9 May	Wednesday 10 May	Thursday 11 May
9.00am M/Tea 10.30am		<p>SESSION 2 Moderator's address. Thanks to Moderator.</p> <p>Administration Report</p> <p>Training of Ministry</p>	<p>SESSION 5 Devotions.</p> <p>Missions</p> <p>Finance</p> <p>8: 14 Foundation.</p> <p>General Treasurer</p>	<p>SESSION 7 Devotions.</p> <p>Superannuation</p> <p>Trust Corporations.</p> <p>Law & Advisory</p>
12.30pm		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
2.00pm A/Tea 3.30pm		<p>SESSION 3</p> <p>Youth & Fellowship</p> <p>Church and Nation</p> <p>Banner Editor</p> <p>Archivist's Report</p> <p>Presbytery Reports.</p>	<p>Free time for fellowship</p> <p>Opportunity for Presbyteries and Committees to meet if necessary.</p>	<p>SESSION 8</p> <p>Reports of Examiners of Records.</p> <p>Appt of Moderator-Elect for next Synod.</p> <p>Appt of Committees.</p> <p>Causes (if any).</p> <p>Time & place of next Synod.</p> <p>Close of Synod 2006</p>
6.00pm	Evening Meal	Evening Meal	Evening Meal	Evening Meal
7.00pm	<p>SESSION 1 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 2006/2007. Administration Committee business as required.</p>	<p>SESSION 4 Inter-Church Relations.</p>	<p>SESSION 6 Missions Evening. Speakers:</p> <p><u>CWI</u>: Paul Morris and his new co-worker, Kaychan Park</p> <p><u>AIM</u>: Elder Harold Dalywater, Elliott NT</p>	<p>SESSION 9 If Required</p>
9.00pm	Close	Close	Close	

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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

Ministerial Movements in 2005

The Rev. G. Kinder was deposed from the ministry of the Gospel, and from the charge of Ulverstone, by decision of Southern Presbytery on 27 July 2005.

Timetable

The timetable proposed for this Synod follows the same format as over recent years. The closure has been set down for 5.00 p.m. on Thursday 11th May.

Correspondence

	<u>Date received</u>	<u>Sender</u>	
1.	15.11.05	The Clerk, Southern Presbytery	Return of remit under Barrier Act: Re Admission of Ministers
2.	27.03.06	The Clerk, Central Presbytery	Return of remit under Barrier Act: Re Admission of Ministers
3.	27.03.06	The Clerk, Northern Presbytery	Return of remit under Barrier Act: Re Admission of Ministers
4.	24.02.06	Rev Ray Murray	Resignation as editor of youth magazine: Run for Glory.
5.	10.03.06	The Clerk, Southern Presbytery	Overture: Confession & Formula
6.	10.03.06	The Clerk, Southern Presbytery	Overture: Members out of bounds /at a distance.
7.	10.03.06	The Clerk, Southern Presbytery	Overture: South Australian property proceeds
8.	10.03.06	The Clerk, Southern Presbytery	Overture: Reception of Rev Tut Wan You

Admission of Ministers and Probationers:

Synod 2005 resolved that the overture *Act anent Admission of Ministers and Probationers form other Presbyterian and Reformed Churches*, (5.29 Minutes Synod 2005), be sent under the Barrier Act to Presbyteries for their approval or disapproval *simpliciter*. This was remitted to presbyteries and the following returns were received:

Northern Presbytery	Approved
Central Presbytery	Approved
Southern Presbytery	Disapproved

Southern Presbytery also recommended that the subject be revisited with a view to more suitable legislation, and appended without prejudice the comments noted in discussion.

Reports to Synod 2006

Congregational Statistics for 2005

Congregation	Communicant membership 31/12/2005	Gains	Losses	Number of Baptisms in 2005		Typical Attendance*				Total Community#
				Infant	Adult	Under 18	Retired	Other	Total	
N. Presbytery										
Armidale	19	0	2	0	0	15	1	22	38	43
Brisbane	37	0	0	0	0	14	5	25	44	56
Hastings	37	1	2	1	0	10	23	18	51	63
Northern Rivers	54	0	2	0	0	10	35	22	67	86
Presbytery	4								4	4
N.P. Total	151	1	6	1	0	49	64	87	204	252
						26%	31.4%	42.6%	100%	
C. Presbytery										
Hawkesbury/Nepean	30	6	4	0	1	7	2	13	22	22
Hunter/Barrington	56	0	1	1	0	19	28	30	77	91
Manning	54	2	8	0	0	5	35	12	52	65
St. George's	56	5	1	3	0	32	16	54	102	102
Sydney South	9	0	1	0	0	3	4	7	14	16
Presbytery	4								4	4
C.P. Total	209	13	15	4	1	66	85	116	271	300
						24.3%	31.4%	44.3%	100%	
S. Presbytery										
Geelong	45	5	2	0	0	22	13	19	54	68
Hamilton	7	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	5	7
Melbourne: Knox/Glen Huntly**	23	5	1	4	1	38	11	50	99	110
Melbourne: Narre Warren	30	9	7	1	0	17	8	28	53	69
Ulverstone	31	0	0	0	0	14	14	22	50	59
Presbytery	3									3
S.P. Total	139	19	10	5	1	91	50	120	261	316
						34.9%	19.1%	46%	100%	
Total	499	33	31	10	2	206	199	323	736	868

** add Nuer Outreach

110 - 90 200 250

Compared with the adjusted 2004 return, the statistics show a mixed story, with membership growth in Southern and community growth in Northern and Southern. The age split of attendees is much younger in Southern Presbytery. Typical attendance figures show some significant variations much of which may be due to misunderstanding the meaning of 'typical attendance' last year. Overall, membership is unchanged, despite 14 deaths (5 on the Manning), and the community has risen by about 20/30. Attendance, on the figures given this year, probably has risen from about 670 (corrected for 2004) to about 730. An informal survey conducted at Synod 1997 suggested attendance then, when membership was 542, was about 690, so the situation is fairly static overall with potential for more attenders to come into membership, although it would appear 2 or 3 congregations have significant inactive members. All the figures cited exclude the outreach to the Nuer people in Melbourne begun in 2005. This embraces typically 250 people, 55% of whom would be under 18 and almost all the rest between 18-60. It is proposed in future to collect communicant membership, average attendance of different people per Lord's Day, and total community, with children age 0-12, 13-19 and retirees separated out from the total community figure.

(Statistical records were prepared by Rev Rowland Ward at the request of the Clerk.)

Reports to Synod 2006

Expressions of Sympathy

Mr. Neil McPherson, long time servant of the church and this Synod, was called to his reward on 19 June 2005. It is proposed that a memorial minute, prepared by Rev Rowland Ward at the request of the Clerk, be included in the record.

Clerk and Assistant Clerk of Synod:

Rev T.I Leggott took over responsibilities of Clerk of Synod from 1st September 2005 (5.49 Synod Minutes 2005), and Rev DP Smith took over responsibilities as Assistant Clerk (5.50 Synod Minutes 2005).

Committees

Administration and Inter-Church Relations

Law and Advisory

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

Church and Nation (including Publications and Psalmody and Website)

Youth and Fellowship

D.K. Muldoon (Convener), R.S. Ward (Publications), W.P. Gadsby (Website), D. Hamilton, I. Hamilton, T. Reeve.

Finance

Provident Funds

8: 14 Foundation

A.H. Steel (Convener), R.S. Ward (Convener Superannuation), J.A. McCallum, J.B.Louden, D.E. Kerr, J. Audet.

Missions

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

Training of Ministry

G. Kinder (Convener), G.D. Ball, S.R. Tamata, D. Manly, J. Ramsay, D. Hamilton (Convener Pro Tem: G.D. Ball from August 2005.)

Proposed Deliverances

1. That the timetable for Synod as proposed by the Administration Committee be approved.
2. That Synod express its sympathy for all those connected with this church who have been bereaved since the last annual meeting of Synod, and particularly the family of the late Mr. Neil McPherson, former member of Synod, and that the following memorial minute be included in the record:

Reports to Synod 2006

Neil Alan McPherson (2/5/1921-19/6/2005) was ordained an elder at St George's in 1948 and was Treasurer of Synod 1949-53 (prior to its enlargement by the reception of the Victorian church). He convened the Provident Funds Committee 1964-71 and was responsible for the institution of the Superannuation Fund, and again acted as Synod treasurer 1971-91. Neil made a notable contribution to Synod debate, always expressing an unwavering confidence in the sovereignty of God. He last sat as a member of Synod in 2000. To his wife Beth, who typed the Synod reports and minutes for many years, and to the family our loving sympathy is expressed.

3. That Correspondence Items 1,2&3 be received and considered under Inter-Church Relations Committee business.
4. That Correspondence Item 4 be received and dealt with under Church & Nation Committee business.
5. That Correspondence Items 5 & 6 be received and referred to the Law & Advisory Committee for report to Synod 2007.
6. That Correspondence Item 7 be received and dealt with under the report from Southern Presbytery.
7. That Correspondence Item 8 be received and dealt with under Training of Ministry.
8. That Presbyteries and Committees be permitted to meet when Synod is not in session.
9. That proposals for changes to the Committee Structure be in the hands of the Clerk by midday on Wednesday.
10. That the following examiners of records be appointed: -

Northern Presbytery
Central Presbytery
Southern Presbytery

Rev. W P Gadsby and Narre Warren elder.
Rev. G. Ball and Hastings elder.
Rev. D Muldoon and St George elder.

TRAINING OF MINISTRY REPORT

Members: G.D.Ball (Acting Convener); D.Hamilton; J. Ramsay; S.R. Tamata.

The Committee lost its convener during the year.

The Committee again reports that we have no students for the ministry.

The Committee received from the Southern Presbytery the credentials of the Rev. Tut Wan Yoa, Minister of the Presbyterian Church of the Sudan, with a view to being recognised as a minister of the PCEA. The Committee is very well satisfied with Mr. Yoa's academic attainment and heartily supports his application before Synod.

Proposed Deliverances Nil

CHURCH AND NATION, YOUTH AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Members: D. K. Muldoon (convener), R.S.Ward (Publications), W.P. Gadsby (Website), I. Hamilton, T. Reeve, D. Hamilton.

This committee did not meet during the year because of logistical difficulties. All communication was by email.

YOUTH and FELLOWSHIP

Church-wide Family Camp

Almost ninety people attended the Family Camp held at Merroo in March 2005. The talks by Dr Noel Weeks were greatly appreciated, as were the sermon and missionary talk. Most enjoyed the fellowship and opportunity to catch up with folks from our scattered congregations. A full evaluation was undertaken. The total cost was \$16,080 (site \$15,470) of which \$4,570 was given as subsidy from Synod funds. The committee wishes to thank Mr Marcus Gadsby for his great help in organising this camp.

The question of a church-wide family camp in 2007 has not yet been discussed.

Other Camps

Southern Presbytery held their annual camp with over 75 people attending. The Brisbane congregation also held their annual camp at Mt Tamborine with good attendance.

The Manning congregation held a youth camp at Pappinbarra in October with over 50 attending.

Memory Work

A total of 117 certificates were presented by Sunday Schools in 2005, as notified to the convener. Three congregations requested certificates while two issued their own certificates. We thank those who are so faithfully teaching the children in our congregations. We encourage them to continue in the strength of the Lord in this strategic ministry, all the more as we seek to counter some of the corrupt the teaching of the world.

Essays

Only four children submitted essays according to the questions set out by the committee. These children we rewarded for their effort with a \$25 prize. We trust they will also be rewarded by their increased knowledge of the Lord and his Kingdom. We urge others to put pen to paper and send in essays this year.

Birthday Roll

Mrs Margaret Kinder graciously continued to send out cards to our children on their birthdays- a total of 170. The number is down as some children have gone over the age of 12 and others have left the church. We urge all parents and deacons to take advantage of this ministry to their children.

Search Work

Mrs Irene Steel continued preparing questions for publication in the church magazine and then to mark the work sent to her. We thank her for this ministry and urge more children to participate. Seven children completed the whole course of Search Work in 2005. Four started but did not complete the program. Those who completed the course were given book prizes.

Reports to Synod 2006

Run for Glory

This youth magazine has continued to appear in *The Banner* throughout 2005 through the valiant work of the editor Rev. Ray Murray and his assistant Susan Scott. Many young people (and the not so young!) have enjoyed reading the interesting articles and reports. Ray would wish to thank all those who have contributed articles and we wish to thank Ray for his expertise and devotion to this work. Ray has submitted his resignation to the Clerk of Synod.

Youth Survey

The committee conducted a brief survey of youth in the church in February 2005. Ten congregations (77%) responded and the data is summarised below. Despite some confusion in terminology, the results show that we minister to just over one hundred children of church members or adherents, and a similar number who come from non-church families. These children come more or less evenly from all ages up to 16 years of age. It is hoped that this information will not only assist us in providing for the children who are from church families but also in alerting us to the words of Jesus *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all things that I commanded you.*

Grade (age, yrs)	From church families	From non-church families
Preschool (0-4)	28	10
K-3 (5-8)	31	38
4-6 (9-12)	27	29
7-10 (13-16)	18	25
11-12 (17-18)	7	1

Youth Outreach

A number of congregations conducted Vacation Bible Schools during 2005, some for the first time. At least three now run youth clubs on a regular basis. In the Manning two youth clubs are taking the gospel to over fifty children from non-church families. Is the next generation our hope for church growth?

Finances

Family Camp (Merroo)	\$4070
Brisbane camp	\$ 400
Birthday cards	\$ 232
Search work	\$ 110
Essays	\$ 100

Proposed Deliverances

1. With thanks to God the Synod acknowledges the gracious work of Mrs Margaret Kinder and Mrs Irene Steel among the youth in our churches.
2. Synod thanks all Sunday School teachers and youth leaders for their hard work and commitment to teaching young people the precious Bible truths.
3. Synod notes the resignation of Rev Ray Murray as editor of *Run for Glory* with thanks to the Lord for his ministry in this capacity for a number of years.
4. That Synod appoint a new editor of the youth magazine *Run for Glory*.

CHURCH and NATION

The Church

Ours “is a denomination with a heritage. We do not believe this heritage is to be preserved simply as a ‘museum piece’”. So it was written in the booklet introducing the PCEA. Where did these words come from? They cut a bit close to the bone. Is this what some think about the PCEA? The booklet goes on to say that ‘it is a living heritage, which maintains that faith once delivered unto the saints’. What does that mean? Are we communicating this faith about which we speak?

Few would doubt the wonderful heritage we have in the PCEA. Our forefathers were men who discerned what was going on in the nation and took their stand upon the Scriptures. They did not stand upon tradition, for they had none. They took their stand upon the Scriptures. It was the Church of Rome that argued from their heritage and their traditions.

We are a confessional church. We hold to the Westminster Confession of Faith as our subordinate standard and we make no apology for that. We have the Scriptures, the word of God as the only rule to direct us in how we must live and worship. We have the Confession to guide us in understanding the Scriptures. How then do we have account for the differences that have arisen in our midst? We must distinguish between principles and traditions if we are to work together and bring the Gospel to people around us who are spiritually lost, especially a generation that has arisen with virtually no knowledge of the Bible. Jesus said *By this all will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another*. Sound doctrine must be accompanied by love, the love of Jesus Christ.

Some of our congregations are earnestly seeking to reach out to this lost generation of youth in our society. Some are reaching out to immigrant communities. Let us take up the challenge, indeed the command given by our Lord, to *go into all the world and preach the gospel*. The world includes our own backyard.

Psalmody

We note the increasing use of *Sing Psalms* in our congregations. This updated version was published by the Free Church of Scotland in 2003. It is available from the Free Church Bookshop in Edinburgh. Email: bookshop@freechurchofscotland.org.uk for details.

Nation

The Church, including the PCEA, has the God given responsibility to pray for the government of our nation. We are also to remind our leaders that they must seek to maintain true religion and godliness in the nation. We may only be a small church but we do this as those who depend upon the Almighty God. To this end this committee wrote to the Prime Minister on two occasions regarding moral issues in our nation. The letters are copied below. To date (March 22, 2006) no acknowledgement or reply has been received.

30 November 2005

Dear Mr Howard,

It is our custom, according to the command of the Bible, to pray for you and your ministers as you govern this land as the ones appointed by God – the authorities that exist are appointed by God (Romans 13:1). We give thanks to the Lord for the quiet and peaceful lives that we can live. Yet we have concerns also which we would like to express to you – concerns for the poor, for peace and godliness in our land.

Reports to Synod 2006

The Word of God says Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy (Exodus 20:8). Sunday, the day our Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead, is celebrated as the Christian Sabbath. We ask you to do all you can as our Prime Minister to maintain the sanctity of this day in our nation. We believe that removing penalty rates which employers currently have to pay to those who work on Sunday will be to the detriment of many individuals and families and lead to further dishonouring of God in our nation.

We also ask you to keep in mind that all people are sinners –all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Both employees and employers can be greedy and exploitative. We do not believe that market forces or competition will prevent employers from exploiting their workers. We believe the government of our land has the responsibility to administer justice for all, with a special concern for the poor and vulnerable. So we ask you to maintain the Australian Industrial Relations Commission, and the rights of employees to collective agreements in the workplace.

Sincerely yours

7 December 2005

Dear Mr Howard,

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Members of our church regularly pray for you as our Prime Minister and for your Government. We appreciate your efforts to reduce the number of abortions undertaken in our land. We give thanks to God for you and your ministers who oppose abortion, especially the horrific practice of late-term abortion.

The Word of God clearly states that life begins at conception- in sin my mother conceived me (Psalm 51:5). King David also spoke of how he was formed in his mother's womb (Psalm 139). He was not just a blob of tissue but was being wonderful made by God from the day he was conceived. When it comes to human life, we believe that the burden of proof (that a foetus is not human life) rests upon those who wish to take that life away when it is at its most defenceless.

We urge you to continue opposing the murder of unborn children and indeed to make such murder illegal. We ask you specifically to:

- *Maintain the ban on the abortion pill, RU-486.*
- *Increase funding for counselling of women seeking an abortion. After having an abortion most women regret having done such a terrible thing. Please ensure they are counselled against murdering their own unborn baby. There are many childless couples looking to adopt a child- this option should be actively encouraged by the Government.*
- *Cease Government funding of abortions.*

Thank you for hearing our concern.

Sincerely yours

Concern was also expressed over the Racial and Religious Tolerance Act in Victoria under which two pastors were convicted of vilification of Muslims on December 19, 2005. The Act itself is inherently flawed and experts say that the judgment was very poor. These pastors were simply quoting the Quran. The penalty hearing is set down for May 2, 2006. We are thankful that in NSW similar legislation has not been put forward, at least for the present.

Reports to Synod 2006

We are thankful for the recent decline in two political parties which have openly supported murder of the unborn child, homosexuality, and the legalisation of harmful drugs.

Booklet- ‘An Introduction to the PCEA’

Synod 2005 authorised this committee to ‘proceed with drafting and publication of a second edition of this booklet’. This task has been completed and copies of the booklet given to all Synod members. It is proposed to photocopy these booklets as necessary at a cost of less than \$2 each.

Website

Rev Peter Gadsby has continued to maintain the web site, updating the Church Directory and the Banner indexes. There are links to congregational web sites for Knox, Hawkesbury-Nepean and the Manning. There is plenty of scope for congregations to have web pages hosted on the main site, and access can easily be given to local webmasters to create and maintain them.

There has been little additional material added to the site since Synod 2005, but there have been reports of visitors to our city churches who have come to services after finding our web site. If anyone would like to submit material for publication on the church website, please contact the web master, or the Committee.

The cost of maintaining the site (about \$150 per year) is minimal.

Proposed Deliverances

1. That Synod thank Rev Dr Rowland Ward for his ministry in editing our church magazine *Our Banner*.
2. That Synod thank Rev Peter Gadsby for managing the church website.
3. That Synod approve the second edition of the booklet ‘the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia; an Introduction to Beliefs and Practices’ for copying and distribution by our congregations.
4. That Synod approve the action of sending letters to the Prime Minister of our nation.
5. That Synod rename the *ex officio* position ‘Publications’ on the Church and Nation Committee as the ‘editor of *Our Banner*’.
6. That Synod consider the desire of the editor of *Our Banner* to resign.

BANNER EDITOR'S REPORT

On 21/2/2006 I wrote to the Convener as follows:

“ I have previously flagged my desire to be relieved of the editorship of the church paper. By May 2006 I will have completed 6 years, during which, while there have been assistant editors, in fact theirs has been a purely nominal role.

I find the technical aspects of computers often frustrating because of my lack of expertise; also the need to be organiser of printing and distribution is an additional burden which falls mainly on my wife.

While I believe all must share such burdens, given the pastoral load and the period I have done already, I believe Synod should appoint a new editor. I am quite willing to assist a new Editor by providing material.

I would suggest the Committee should make some inquiries with a view to have a proposal for Synod.

At the present the magazine is produced on PageMaker for Mac, on equipment owned by Knox. The printing cost incl. GST is \$308 per issue (up to 400 are printed but we really only need 300 or so). It will be important to ascertain printing costs as the rate I have had for the past 6 years is very favourable and it is possible that it cannot be duplicated elsewhere. To the extent that the cost rises, a subsidy would be needed from Synod.”

During the past year excellent material was provided by Rev Ray Murray and in 2006 we can expect quality material from Rev George Ball. I thank all contributors and particularly these men, and a further thank-you to Ray Murray and his helpers for *Run for Glory*.

The increase in subscription price has not materially affected subscription numbers and has helped the bottom line. The finances compare as follows:

THE PRESBYTERIAN BANNER			
1/1/2005-31/12/2005			
INCOME		EXPENSE	2004
B/forward	1640.07	Printing 11 issues	3388.00 3388
Subs/donations	5214.83	Postage	1530.35 1480
Interest	14.05	Other - Plastic bags (5000)	<u>207.90</u> 195
			5126.25 5063
		At Westpac	<u>1742.70</u> 1640
	6868.95		6868.95

In 2004 income exceeded expense by \$399 whereas in 2005 the excess was only \$100. At the end of 2004 the net cash position was \$99.07 after deducting pre-paid subs; at the end of 2005 the corresponding figure was \$519.70. Incidental costs were covered by the Editor or the Knox Congregation.

In the past year or two a number of Christian magazines have closed – *The Protestant Review* of the PRCA, the *Australian Christian* (Churches of Christ), the *Christian Herald* (UK) among them. As a church which emphasises sound instruction in the faith, and as a scattered church that needs to work to keep up connections among ourselves, it is to be hoped that the PCEA magazine will continue to contribute to these objects.

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

Previous reports have been given in 1991, 1998 and 2004. The last Archivist's report was to Synod 2004 and listed Assembly/Synod/Presbytery records and magazines published by or on behalf of the church or part of it and held in the "McIntyre-Forbes Presbyterian Library" of the PCEA. This report updates that of 2004 and adds some pamphlet material.

Synod Minutes:

As previously reported the permanent record to 1955 is lodged in the Ferguson Library in Sydney. In 2005 the Synod Clerk, Mr Leggott, lodged the Permanent Minutes of Synod 1962-72, 1973-81, 1982-1991 with the Archivist. The Archives already held the Permanent Record for 1956-62. The scroll record 1990-95 was also lodged in 2005. The scroll is the more interesting historically as it includes handwritten motions, so identifying who moved what. It effectively ceased in 1991, as after that date the minutes were computerised on the spot. Copies of printed minutes and reports are kept and bound from time to time. Those currently bound are Synod Minutes 1976-95, Synod Reports 1983-95, and Synod Minutes, Reports and Accounts 1996-2002.

Central Presbytery:

A nicely produced photocopy of Rev W.N.Wilson's Marriage Register 1886-1909 containing 51 records was received from Mr S. Upton last year.

Missing items:

Synod of EA is complete.

Presbytery of Maitland 1846-86 (period to 1865 could be with PCNSW archives)

Presbytery of Grafton 1879-1909 (probably fragmentary because of schism)

Presbytery of Manning 1894-1909 (probably fragmentary because of schism)

FP Synod of Victoria – operated 1864-70, 1877-1902, 1939-53. Last Clerk I L Graham.

Presbytery of FPCV – 1864-1902; (inoperable 1902-08) 1908-35.

The Archives does not have Northern Presbytery minutes since 1975, Central since 1930 and Southern since 1953; these should be in the hands of Presbytery Clerks.

Church Magazines:

I am pleased to report that through the kindness of Rev A.L.Tripovich the following important items were received in 2005, and have now been rebound.

The Witness ed G. Sutherland 1877-78, 1879-80, 1881-82. This was a weekly newspaper begun under a different title and edited by the minister of St George's PCEA.

Missing items:

The Australian Witness & Presbyterian Herald 1872-74 weekly news ed. G.Sutherland

The Witness & Australian Presbyterian 1874-77 weekly news ed G.Sutherland

Copiers of above are available in Mitchell Library, Sydney

The Free Churchman 1882-93. Do not have 1890-93.

The Free Presbyterian Magazine ed W.McDonald Vol 1, 4 issues 1905-06; Vol 2, 4 issues from Dec 1906, lack 2.2, 2.34 & 2.4; Vol 4, 4 issues to Aug 1912, lack Vol 4:1.

The Free Church Quarterly 1889-1913 ed J.Sinclair – have photocopies only of 1895-97, 1898-1900; Of issues 1909-13, 7:1; 7:3 and issues after 7:11 (July 1911) are lacking.

Pamphlet material:

Pamphlet material has been collected over many years and two sets have now been bound.

Reports to Synod 2006

FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA PAMPHLETS 1863-1953

Founded in 1846, divided in 1857 by the expulsion of a Minority including Arthur Paul (the Majority joining to form the Presbyterian Church of Victoria in 1859), refused recognition by the Free Church of Scotland 1860/61, again divided over union 1864, recognised by the post 1900 Free Church of Scotland, united with the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia 1953.

1. *The Power of God seen through the weakness of his instruments*
Peter MacPherson, (Melbourne 1863, 13pp)
2. *Report of the Proceedings in the Free Presbyterian Synod at the Censure of the Rev A. Paul Jan 14, 1857 and at the Suspension of the Rev A. Paul May 24, 1864 with Preface* by Rev Peter MacPherson (Melbourne 1864 19pp)
3. *Review of the Recent Proceedings in the Free Presbyterian Synod respecting Letters of Union from the Presbyterian Church of Victoria* by Rev Andrew Maxwell (Melbourne 1864, 24pp)
4. *Address on the Present Position of the Free Presbyterian Church of Victoria delivered at the close of the Meeting of Synod on 18th April 1865, by the Moderator [Rev A. Paul]: with relative correspondence* (Melbourne 1865, 20pp)
5. *Lecture Setting forth the Corruption of Religion in the Presbyterian Church of Victoria delivered February 1st, 1866, at Lethbridge, by Rev Peter MacPherson* (Melbourne 1866, 8pp)
6. *The Free Church Principles of the Rev Allan MacVean of Brunswick with Analysis* by Rev Peter MacPherson (Melbourne 1866, 40pp)
7. *Twenty Years Ago. A Reminiscence of Presbyterianism in Victoria Review of a Recent Publication entitled "Presbyterian Apostasy"* by Rev Arthur Paul (Melbourne 1877, 26pp)
8. *Act of Reconstruction* Free Presbyterian Church of Victoria 1876 (4pp)
9. *Lecture on the Scientific Possibility of Miracles*
by Rev J.J.Stewart (Geelong 1891, 15pp)
10. *An Appeal for the Improvement of Psalmody*
by Rev J.J.Stewart (Geelong 1893, 16pp)
11. *The Disruption Conflict and its Present Commemorators*
by Rev J.J.Stewart (Geelong late 1893, 26pp)
12. *The Apostle of St Kilda; being Rev A. Paul's "Chapter of History," criticised and rewritten* by the Rev Hugh Livingstone (Geelong 1898, 55pp)
with 4 pages from FCQ Dec 1898 attached
13. *The White Robed Multitudes. A Sermon* [from 1862] by the late Rev John Kennedy, Dingwall (published by Rev John Sinclair, Geelong, July 1906, 12pp)
14. *The Widening Differences Between the Free and the United Presbyterian Churches, by Rev John Sinclair* (Geelong c.1906 8pp)
15. *The Church and Popular Amusements*
by J.D.Ramsay (Hamilton 1909, 12pp)
16. *The "Pleasant Sunday Afternoon" Craze*
by J.D.Ramsay Hamilton, 1910, 12pp)
17. *Christ and the Critics* by J.D.Ramsay (Hamilton 1911, 22pp)
18. *Melbourne's First Settled Minister* [Rev James Forbes]
by Rev J. Campbell Robinson (Melbourne c.1928, 26pp)
19. *The Rev Alexander McIntyre, evangelist*
by Rev J. Campbell Robinson (Melbourne 1929 59pp)
20. *The Free Presbyterian Heritage* by Rev J. Campbell Robinson
(Moderator of Assembly 1939) Melbourne 8pp
21. *The Exclusive Use of the Psalms in the Public Worship of God*
by J. Campbell Robinson (Moderator of Assembly 1946) Melbourne 8pp
22. *Copies of Hansard re Free Presbyterian Church Property Act 1953*
23. *Notes on the FP Church Property Act* by F.Maxwell Bradshaw (19pp)
24. *PCEA Questions and Formula* 1953
25. *Outline History of St Kilda Congregation 1855-1987*
by Rowland S. Ward

Reports to Synod 2006

PCEA NSW PAMPHLETS RE SCHISM 1884-1904

The schism was over the reception & training of students and revolved around the tutors: Rev Peter Macpherson and Rev George Sutherland. McPherson's party became an irreconcilable minority. The Expulsion occurred 6.5.1884. The Reconstituted Synod was established 20.4.1886. Expulsion Act unconditionally rescinded 10.2.1903. Reconstituted Synod broke up 1904. Minority of Brushgrove-Grafton congregation joined FPCS 1911.

1. *Facts or Fictions? Analysis of my pamphlet*
by Peter Macpherson, December 1880.
 2. *What may happen to a Free Church Presbytery at Hamilton in Victoria*
By Arthur Paul, August 1883
 3. *Contributions towards an exposition of the Genesis (and DV the extinction of a New Light called "Georgium Sidus" in the Free Presbyterian Church of Victoria*
by Arthur Paul (preface dated 15/10/12883)
 4. *Printed Synod Minutes*
1879, 1880
1.11.1881 –21.11.1881 (pr West Maitland 1882)
1882, 1884, 1885,1886,1887 (pr. Sydney 1888)
 5. *An Authentic Statement of the Equity Suit Macpherson & others v Sutherland & others* (Sydney 1886)
 6. *Report of Finance Committee*, February 1888
 7. *To the Ministers, Office-bearers and Members*
by John S. Macpherson, 25/9/1903
- RE GRAFTON/BRUSHGROVE
8. Farwell Pastoral to Brushgrove-Grafton
by Walter Scott (Edinburgh 1910, 26pp)
 9. FPCS Magazine May 1916 (Obit of W.Scott)
 10. In the Footsteps of the Flock – A Memorial to the Rev Walter Scott
by Rev W. MacLean

Proposed Deliverance

1. That Synod request any individuals who may hold old minute books and papers of church courts to return them to the relevant church court or the Archivist, and also recommend that important or rare documents be copied and the original or a copy be lodged in the Archives.

PRESBYTERY REPORTS

Northern Presbytery

Armidale: The congregation enjoyed good harmony throughout the year and were encouraged as three university students adopted the church as their spiritual home. They have moved on but we pray that their faith, knowledge and love for their Saviour grew in their time with us. Evangelistic efforts throughout the year included: A series of sermons from the book of Daniel; a Christmas in July dinner with two families and some extra university students attending; and a carols evening - with five non-church families attending through contact via the playgroup and personal invitation.

Weekly Activities: Sunday worship had an attendance of around 38 people. The Book of Daniel, a series of messages on family relationships from Ephesians 5 and the infancy narrative in Luke's Gospel were the focus throughout the year, interspersed with sermons from the Psalms, Proverbs, Isaiah and 2 Corinthians. The Sunday afternoon Bible study has fewer numbers but enjoys the Psalm singing and has appreciated studies on diverse topics such as the new Pope, pain and suffering, judgment and a series on pleasing God. Four Sunday school classes operated during school terms after morning worship. Mission meetings are also held which coincide with our monthly fellowship lunch. The meetings at the Amity Nursing Home (formally 'Hilton') at 3:00 pm on the Lord's Day continue- The numbers attending increased substantially with an average of 14. One 94 year old lady who had been attending the Sunday afternoon meetings was graciously saved by the Lord only two weeks before passing away. The Ladies Bible studies continue on Wednesday mornings as does the weekly Prayer meeting in the evening. The Play Group has brought many outsiders into contact with the Church throughout the year. The International Bible Study became more of a youth group with quizzes, Bible studies and an activity once per month.

Summary: The congregation was reduced by three in 2005. An election for deacons will occur in March 2006 but there remains a need for an additional elder. We continue to praise and thank God for His blessing, care and love shown to us during the past year. Our prayer is focused on Christ, the author and finisher of our faith, that he will build us up so that we will be active in the Armidale community to His praise and glory.

Brisbane: The congregation remains in good heart. Though the failure of its call to the Rev. Dr. Dennis Muldoon caused considerable disappointment, the congregation has accepted this as the Lord's will and continues in prayer that He will provide a minister of His choosing. It has been decided to reduce the number of services to one each Lord's Day. The weekly Bible Study continues and is led by one of the elders. Membership: The number of members has continued unchanged from 2004. Deacons' Court: The level of weekly offerings remains good. During the vacancy the congregation has been able to accumulate some funds which it may be able to use to bring a minister from overseas if one can be found. Once again we would note the outstanding contribution being made by the small group in Rockhampton. Sunday School and Youth Work: The Sunday School continues each week. We are appreciative of those who share the teaching responsibilities. Camp Tamborine: The Annual Family Camp at Mount Tamborine attracted a smaller group than in some recent years. However, those who attended had a very enjoyable weekend and the talks given by the Rev.

Reports to Synod 2006

T.I. Leggott were much appreciated. Mothers and Children: The "Playtime" Mothers' and Children's group is continuing to function and is attracting a number of local mothers.

Hastings River: Worship services continue as usual at Wauchope, Port Macquarie and Kindee. Our congregation is an ageing one with a few younger families with children. Attendance at the mid-week meeting has increased in recent months - which is encouraging. We continue in our word-studies of the Bible, and seek the Lord's blessing upon his church, with the ongoing special request for students, pastors and teachers for the ministry. Sabbath school and youth activities continue.

Deacons' Court: The Deacons Court is currently considering the possibility of selling a portion of our property so as to finance the building of a new manse which is very much needed due to the age and condition of the old weatherboard building, built in 1922, in the middle of two blocks of land.

Office Bearers: Following the resignation of one of our elders some 12 months ago, an election of office-bearers was held, providing the congregation with two additional elders.

Summary: We would like to report that people are coming into our church and that conversions are increasingly evident and attendances growing etc. But the annual Synod statistics remind us that this is not so in any of our congregations, so we go on praying that the Lord will breathe on his church the breath of life by his Spirit in these days of worldly complacency and satisfaction with shallow, charismatic style entertainment.

Northern Rivers: The services are reasonably well attended giving a combined morning attendance of 45-55 and an evening attendance of 20. The mid week Bible studies in Maclean have been enjoyable times of fellowship as well as great teaching and learning opportunities. During the year we completed a study on Acts; watched a series of videos by Professor RC Sproul on various subjects, and began a study of the Gospel of John. The telephone service has been maintained from Grafton and Maclean each Lord's Day. The morning service goes to a member on the Sunshine Coast and a member in the Maclean Retirement Village. The evening service goes to Grafton and Sydney, as well as locally. Sunday School: The Sunday school was continued in Maclean and Grafton during the year. Between 10-12 children are attending each week. Once again we pray that others may be gathered in. The children have done very well with their memory work, and a number have a good knowledge of the Psalms they have been taught. Membership: There were no new members during 2005.

Deacon Court: The giving in the congregation increased slightly for the year. General maintenance of the property has been carried out including the painting of the Grafton Manse and repairs to the Lismore property. The Court made a substantial donation to the Tsunami appeal plus the usual donations to MERF, Dumisani Theological Institute, the Gideons and the Lower Clarence Christian Association. The hall continues to serve a number of groups in the community. Bethesda: All units are occupied and there is a waiting list and funds are available to cover all foreseeable demands.

Conclusion: While there has not been much change in the congregation we look to the Lord to bless the work of our hands, and lead us forward into another year of service. We again express our thanks to God for his care and guidance during the year and for the great privilege of having the opportunity to serve Him.

Reports to Synod 2006

Central Presbytery

Manning: The most exciting news from the Manning is that the Session, with the strong support of the Congregation, has appointed elder, Mr Neil Robinson, as a full-time supported worker within the congregation. Neil and his wife Wilma have been running children's outreach work for several years, and Neil has conducted the weekly Tinonee Prayer and Bible study group for many years. During 2005 a number of members passed to their eternal reward, while there have been few additions. In November 2005 Pastor John Paterson, from Trinity Church, Tamworth, conducted a series of evangelistic meetings, including a Men's Breakfast at which John spoke about "Real men don't". This was well received, and the attendance was good, with a number of people from outside our church. Peter will be speaking again this year at Trinity's Autumn School in the week following Easter. The 2005 Congregational Picnic at Harrington was a great success, with many children from both the Lighthouse Club (Tinonee) and Kids' Club (Taree). It was a great opportunity to talk to the parents, most of whom are not church attenders. The children's work in Tinonee and Taree continues, with about 40 kids being contacted during the course of the recent Youth and Fellowship Committee survey period. We are praying for opportunities to minister to Mums and Dads as well as the children. A 'Friendship Group' was started in the church which meets for social activities once a month.

Hunter Barrington: Sunday Worship Services were conducted weekly at Raymond Terrace (am) and Cardiff (am & pm). Services were conducted fortnightly at Anna Bay and Barrington. Some of the sick and/or aged have been appreciated receiving the service by telephone. A Combined Worship Service followed by fellowship & morning tea was held on the fourth Sunday each month (excluding Communion months). These events have contributed to the fostering of harmonious Christian relationships between the folk from the various centres. Prayer Meetings/Bible Studies were conducted each week at Raymond Terrace or in the Newcastle area. A weekly ladies Bible study is held, with some non Christians attending at Raymond Terrace. Rev Tamata has recently commenced a weekly Bible study for our Korean folk. Mr Dunne faithfully conducted an adult Bible study on Sunday mornings prior to Worship. Men's Fellowship & Preaching Workshops were held monthly on a Saturday morning. We continue to pray that the Lord will equip men in the congregation to faithfully preach and teach the gospel. Sunday Schools were conducted at Raymond Terrace and Cardiff. A one day Kids' Club was held during the January school holidays with twenty five children attending. Subsequently a Kids Club has been conducted regularly on the first Saturday afternoon of each month. Youth Group meets monthly. The year 2005 marked the Centenary of the Raymond Terrace Church building. Celebrations were conducted on 26 and 27 November 2005. The preaching of Rev John Cromarty was challenging and timely. A large number of past and present members, adherents and associates attended.

Hawkesbury Nepean (Mt Druitt): Regular worship services are held at 11 am and 6 pm, with Bible class at 10am, each Lord's day. Bible study and prayer fellowships are held each week in homes or at the church. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was held four times. Seven joined as new communicant members. Sunday school was not conducted due to lack of students. But a Lighthouse Club for primary school children continues with 10-15 children coming from the local community. Four young people attended the camp conducted at Pappinbarra. A Holiday club was conducted in July. Scripture is taught in four public schools in the area. Members regularly visit nursing homes in Penrith and Kurrajong.

Reports to Synod 2006

St Georges: The congregation is in good financial status. Ministry is sound. The minister celebrated 20 years of service in the congregation. Many visitors, mostly from USA or Scotland attend worship. The Sabbath School continues in good strength.

Sydney South: The congregation continues in good spirit despite the loss of founding elder and session clerk Mr Neil McPherson. Public worship is conducted weekly in the local community hall and members are faithful in attendance. A small Sunday School continues, as does a fortnightly Bible study and prayer meeting. Outreach is conducted through tract distribution and letter box drops. Members in nursing homes are visited regularly.

Southern Presbytery

The Presbytery has had a good year so far as relationships are concerned despite the stressful circumstances in the removal of the minister of Ulverstone. Meetings generally include a paper or book review to stimulate and encourage. Given low pre-booked airfares if booked well in advance, we plan to visit Ulverstone again this year. We are below strength in ministers and elders and we continue in prayer about this. We believe the Presbytery is the key agent of the church in outreach/church planting and if we had additional men we could use them. Overseas contacts of Messrs Ball and Ward are proving very helpful in short-term supply. Overall, all centres maintained or increased attendance during the year. There is significant potential in the Sudanese work although many challenges.

Geelong: Rev M.G.Smith had advised acceptance of the call 29/9/05 subject to a 2 year visa. The visa had been granted and Mr Smith was expected by mid May. Over the past 12 months the congregation has held up well without a Pastor thanks to the efforts of our Interim Moderator. There is a feeling that an on-site Pastor is now becoming essential so matters of a confidential nature can be discussed and counselling offered if required. Also the government and practices of the church need permanent clarification particularly for new members from outside the PCEA - something they can easily understand is needed. The prayer and Bible study is held regularly on Tuesday evening, led by Jason Coghill. We average 6 to 8 attendees. The efforts of our Treasurer, Dr.Donald Ramsay have been greatly appreciated as he continues to manage the church finances at the same time helping to expedite the legal and travel arrangements of Rev. Gavin Smith and wife Janet to Geelong. The church and manse are in excellent condition in readiness for Gavin & Janet, thanks to a band of hard working members. Communion services, Session and Deacons meetings are held at the call of the Interim Moderator, Rev. George Ball.

Knox/Glen Huntly: Dr Ward advised that there had been progress during 2005 with improved attendance at both Knox and Glen Huntly, and Sunday school attendance moving up to exceed 20. The internal painting of the manse had been completed prior to the Yoa family coming in August 2005. Mr McKenzie had ceased paid employment in September, although remained and invaluable help along with his wife. Mr Yoa normally took the Glen Huntly service plus a Nuer language service which had been instituted on the Lord's Day afternoon and attracted typically 200/250. There were many issues in that community, including family, worship, cultural and financial matters, that required considerable attention. There would be a thorough review of progress shortly. Mr Yoa had made some progress translating psalms. The 2005 accounts showed a deficit of \$9,500, a little less than expected. The anticipated deficit in 2006 is \$30,000 which it is expected to come well back when the unit development is completed in 6 months or so. Even so, funding for an additional manse is needed. Mr Yoa commented on some of the difficulties including transport and givings.

Reports to Synod 2006

Narre Warren: Following the upheaval we experienced with the withdrawal of several members to the Reformed Presbyterian Church we have begun to pick up again. Our numbers have risen and we have quite an interest from visitors. Unfortunately they do not always stay. We are particularly blessed with the enthusiasm of several young people, including those with young families. The Kids' Club was very successful with growing numbers. The Camp joining Knox and Narre Warren was also successful. We have Bible studies at Frankston & Narre Warren; the Youth Group 'Outside In'; the Ladies' Study and the Pre-school children, as well as a prayer meeting after the evening service. Although each group may be small together they make quite a good number. The preaching ministry has been much appreciated as we have progressively moved through the Scriptures. This includes the Old and New Testament readings each Lord's Day.

Mr Ball has recommenced the Door-knock in the district with help from some of the younger members. All told we have much to be thankful to God for his great goodness to us.

Ulverstone: The Ulverstone Congregation has experienced one of its more difficult years in recent times, but continues to patiently wait on the Lord for his plan and purpose for us. The nature of our Pastor's departure last July brought significant upheaval for the congregation and placed considerable pressure on the local elder and deacons. We give thanks to God for the provision of ongoing supply. This has come from a mixture of local and distant sources, including the Southern Presbyterian Church plus Launceston and Scottsdale Presbyterian Churches. In November we received supply from Mr John Zylstra from Maclean, followed in mid-January by Rev Ken Macleod, also from Maclean. We are currently receiving 3 months supply from Rev Dr Dwight Zeller from the Sangre de Cristo Seminary in Colorado, United States. Our Interim Moderator, Rev Dr Rowland Ward is seeking out options for possible settlement of the charge, and we are praying for the Lord to raise up a man of His choosing for us here. Late last year the Deacon's Court obtained approval to sell the Manse and this is currently under a sale contract due for completion by the 6th April. Despite a number of tensions and occasions of ill health in the congregation our gracious God continues to maintain and preserve us. We are blessed with a spectrum of ages and backgrounds and this contributes to a lively and warm fellowship. The former minister had returned to Ulverstone late December and was living on his own in a unit in West Ulverstone. As yet repentance and reconciliation has not been effected.

Hamilton: A monthly service in the Lutheran Retirement Home is maintained although with some difficulty at times. With other residents and visitors sometimes we have up to 15 present.

INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS

Members: W.P.Gadsby (Convener), S.R.Tamata (Moderator), T.I.Leggott (Clerk) and D.P.Smith (Assistant Clerk/Moderator-elect)

A. Relations with Churches in Australasia

1. Reformed Churches of New Zealand (Sister Church)

As reported to Synod 2005, in January last year we wrote to the RCNZ asking, ‘What would be your attitude toward enacting mutual acceptance of letters of attestation for each of these categories?’ We were pleased to welcome as a delegate to Synod 2005, the Rev. Jim Klazinga, representing the RCNZ. In his presentation to Synod, Mr Klazinga referred to the RCNZ church order. As a sister-church, PCEA members would be received by transfer; elders would be installed, and not re-ordained. The matter of licentiates would require further discussion, but ordained ministers could be received subject to the ‘colloquium doctum’ that now applies to all ministers entering the RCNZ. While Mr Klazinga was hopeful that we might be able to send a delegate to the RCNZ Synod in September 2005, this did not eventuate, given that both churches were to be represented at the ICRC meeting in Pretoria in October, and the possibility of discussions there.

2. Free Reformed Churches of Australia

We reported to Synod 2005 that the FRCA were giving further consideration to matters concerning our relationship. They had indicated that they may wish to invite us to meet with them again before year’s end, and Synod authorized the Committee to send a delegate (§05.26(a).2.3). This meeting did not eventuate. Since our meeting in February 2005, we have received several items of correspondence from the FRCA deputies for contact:

12.04.05. Copy of letter to Dr R.S.Ward, responding to his reply of 19.01.05 to FRCA queries on his interpretation of Genesis.

28.10.05. Letter from the Rev. Bert Veldman, enclosing deputies’ comments on Peter Gadsby’s paper, presented at the February meeting. This was circulated to Committee members by email on 3.11.05, with a request for comment. None was received, and no reaction was provided to the FRCA.

2.01.06. Copy of FRCA deputies’ report to their Synod. In this report, the deputies conclude:

(a) They can now accept the PCEA’s practice in ‘fencing the table’ as adequate, accepting that the PCEA does make every effort to ensure that only true believers participate in the Lord’s Supper; and

(b) They have more difficulty regarding the adequacy of PCEA’s fencing of the pulpit, but acknowledge that ‘controversial’ matters will not be preached by visiting speakers. They also acknowledge that the FRCA has also had error preached from their pulpits and ‘that the test is what is done with such cases.’

With these two responses, which have yet to be endorsed by the FRCA Synod, the deputies have virtually removed the previous impediments to the FRCA’s according full and unqualified recognition of the PCEA as a true church.

(c) However, the major part of their report discusses the matter of Dr R.S.Ward’s views published in his book, *Foundations in Genesis: Genesis 1-11 Today*. They state: ‘Deputies cannot accept the teachings promoted in his book as Scriptural.’

They go on to elaborate their understanding of Dr Ward’s views. Among these were:

(i) Genesis 1-11 is not ‘factual’ but comprises a polemic against the creation myths of the time, and our concern must be the message to sinners, not scientific aspects.

(ii) The days of creation are not ‘24 hour days’ and the earth is possibly 15 billion years old.

Reports to Synod 2006

(iii) It is possible that various animal species appeared over an extended period of time; that animals lived and died before the Fall; that there may have been human-like creatures before Adam (maybe even ancestors of his).

(iv) The serpent was probably not a snake, but Satan described as a snake.

(v) The Flood was not universal; more humans than Noah and his family survived it; there was no universal language before Babel.

The FRCA deputies consider that while many (most?) PCEA ministers do not share Dr Ward's views, our toleration of them is a 'grave weakness,' and an example of erroneous doctrines being taught in the PCEA without censure. Nevertheless, they do not consider this to disqualify the PCEA as a 'true and faithful church.' However, if such recognition were to be formally made by their Synod, it should not extend to the exchange of attestations, or the mutual opening of pulpits. In other words, a sister-church relationship could not be recommended. 'We consider the differences sufficiently great to make this type of union unwise,' they write. This report was circulated to the Committee for comment on 31.12.05. At the time of writing, no comment had been received. The FRCA Synod meets again in August 2006, in W.A.

3. Christian Reformed Churches of Australia

In early September, we received a letter (dated 1.09.05) from the Stated Clerk of the CRCA, inviting us to send a delegate to their triennial Synod, meeting in Queensland from 8-12 May 2006. The Convener circulated this letter to members of the Committee by email on 13.09.05, asking them to indicate the desired response, but no response was received from any Committee member. Since the meeting coincides with our own Synod, the Convener replied with an apology for inability to attend, and conveying the fraternal greetings of the PCEA (email dated 6.03.06).

4. Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia

Synod 2005 hosted a visit from the Rev. Andrew Stewart, who addressed the Synod and spoke frankly of events that had occurred in 2004/5. Following Synod, there was further contact between our Southern Presbytery and the RPCA. Dr Ward reported that representatives of the SP and the RPCA Presbytery met at McKinnon on 20/02/06 and discussed doctrinal differences with a view to clarifying these prior to discussing more practical issues. The meeting was quite helpful and the SP responded to the RPCA as requested following the SP meeting on 9/03/06. The SP has a united view and will continue to discuss as appropriate. Copies of the SP material will be available at Synod, and questions can be asked of the men involved.

B. Relations with Churches Overseas

1. Free Church of Scotland

The Convener learned in March that the FCS had not been informed of Synod 2005's enactment of the Mutual Eligibility Act. He informed the present Clerk, who contacted the Principal Clerk of Assembly. The FCS Clerk replied indicating that the matter was not too late for consideration by the 2006 FCS Assembly, and that it would be taken up by the Committee for report to Assembly 'so that we on our side may be sure to have an arrangement for mutual eligibility with the PCEA in place.' In March we also received a letter inviting us to commission a delegate to the 2006 Assembly. The Convener replied indicating our inability to attend, and conveying the greetings of the PCEA. Also in March came the news that the Free Church (Continuing) had withdrawn their appeal from the findings of the

Reports to Synod 2006

Court of Session in their case seeking to be recognized as the 'true' Free Church of Scotland. The two churches were to continue discussions about the disposition of church property between them.

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

There is nothing further to report on relations with the RCN(L).

3. International Conference of Reformed Churches

Synod 2005 resolved (5.26(b)3.1) to appoint the Convener to represent the PCEA at ICRC2005. During the year, the Convener was absent on holiday for nearly two months, and with congregational commitments in October asked the Committee to appoint an alternative delegate. It was agreed to ask the Rev. G.D.Ball to be our representative, and he kindly agreed. Mr Ball's report appeared in November's *Presbyterian Banner*. The Committee is seeking Synod's endorsement of its action, and hope that Mr Ball will be able to report to Synod on aspects of his attendance not covered by the *Banner* report.

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 2005 continued the Committee's remit to pursue formal Fraternal Relations (in terms of our Act 93.39, Class 2) with other member churches of the ICRC. We had contacted these churches using e-mail during January 2005, enquiring whether they churches would be interested in establishing such a relationship with the PCEA. There are currently 25 member churches, including ourselves.

As reported last year, we received acknowledgements from a number of churches:

<u>Member Church</u>	<u>Replied</u>	<u>Favour</u>	<u>Member Church</u>	<u>Replied</u>	<u>Favour</u>
ARPC	Y	-	OPC	Y	
CanRC	Y	-	PCK(K)		
CGKN	Y	N	GGRI		
EPCEW	Y	-	GKN(v)		
EPCI	Y	-	RCNZ	Y	Y
FCSA			RCUS	Y	
FCCI	Y		GGRC (Timor)	Y	
FCS			RPCI		
VGKSA	Y	-	RPCNA		
FRCNA	Y	-	RPCNEI		
			URCNA		

During 2005/6 little further has been heard from the ICRC churches.

In June 2005, the **Free Churches in Southern Africa** conveyed the decision of their Synod, which met in May 2005, 'not to intensify and formalise the ties with the PCEA at this stage, but rather to remain informed about developments in these churches.' The grounds for this included their wish, as a small church federation, to focus on relations with churches in their own area, and the existing contacts they have with churches abroad through the ICRC.

Reports to Synod 2006

In February 2006, the **Canadian Reformed Churches** Committee on Relations with Churches Abroad wrote in response to our original letter, indicating that apart from our letter offering fraternal relations, ‘we have no information on file about the PCEA.’ They also indicated that in discussing the matter of fraternal relations they would ask the FRCA (a sister church of the CanRC) for input. The Convener replied on 15.02.06, pointing out our joint membership of the ICRC, our attendance at the 1989 meeting held in Langley, BC, and personal acquaintance with several of their ministers. He invited them to consider the material on the PCEA web site, and indicated that we stood ready to provide additional information as requested. Following a further query in March by the Convener, the Secretary of the CanRC Committee wrote, ‘At this point there is nothing further that I can pass on. Our next meeting is on April 22; maybe after that I will have some new correspondence for you.’ At the time of this writing, there had been no further contact from the CanRC.

2. Reformed and Presbyterian Consultative Committee *redivivus*

Most Synod members will recall that the Committee was charged several years ago with investigating the formation of an inter-church committee ‘to liaise on such matters as planned publishing projects and moral and ethical issues on which there is general agreement...’. This matter arose originally from an overture from Southern Presbytery and was remitted to the ICR Committee in 2002 (see *utes*, §02.28.3). In 2003, the Committee reported a lukewarm response from 8 churches contacted, with only three in favour, and in 2004 Synod agreed to drop the matter.

On 6.03.06, the Convener received an email from the Rev. Dr R.S.Ward, who wrote:

“From things said at the Banner Conference, I have been reinforced in my earlier view that there needs to be some kind of simple Committee between different Presbyterian & Reformed Churches in this country to make a more effective presentation of reformed Christians views on issues such as abortion and the like.

“I would therefore like the ICR Committee to review the earlier proposal which, though it did receive quite good interest was abandoned by us. I hope the Committee will see fit to revive it, failing which of course I shall be at liberty to raise the matter from the floor.”

This was circulated immediately to members of the ICR Committee for comment. From the responses received, there is some interest within the Committee for taking up this matter again.

We would point out that while the ICR Committee was originally charged with this matter, if Synod were to consider reviving it, it would more logically be remitted to the Church and Nation Committee, the body that we already have authorized to make statements on ethical issues.

Proposed Deliverances

(a) Relations with Churches in Australasia

1. Reformed Churches of New Zealand (Sister Church)

That the Clerk convey Synod's fraternal greetings to the RCNZ.

2. Free Reformed Churches of Australia

That the ICR Committee be authorized to continue discussions with the FRCA.

3. Christian Reformed Churches of Australia

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

4. Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia

That Synod encourage the Southern Presbytery and its congregations to maintain and develop contacts with the RPCA, and that Synod send fraternal greetings to the RPCA Presbytery.

(b) Relations With Churches Overseas

1. Free Church of Scotland

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

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

That the Clerk convey Synod's fraternal greetings to the RCN(L).

3. International Conference of Reformed Churches

That Synod endorse the Committee's action in appointing the Rev. G.D.Ball as our substitute delegate to ICRC 2005, and thank Mr Ball for undertaking this responsibility.

(c) Extension of Mutual Eligibility, etc.

That Synod continue the Committee's remit to pursue formal Fraternal Relations with churches which are members of the International Conference of Reformed Churches.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Members: D.P. Smith (Convener), I Conley, J Greensill, D Muldoon, N Robinson and T Leggott

Contents of Report:

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

MISSION FIELD REPORTS:

AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES – Rev Trevor Leggott reports:

During the year I have had opportunity to visit most of the congregations of the church and share about my ministry with AIM. This included speaking at the annual Brisbane congregational camp and spending time in Southern Presbytery, including a few days in Ulverstone visiting church members. I have been greatly assisted by having Brent Dawson working enthusiastically and competently full time in administration.

The mission celebrated its centenary during 2005 with a conference in Sydney in August, with people attending from all of the AIM centres around Australia, together with a number of supporters and retired missionaries.

The Aboriginal people of Australia need the Gospel of Christ now as much as ever they did. Many communities are in crisis, with local councils being expected to manage matters which are quite beyond their ability. Social and family breakdown and abuse, and lack of good role models for young people, results in a sense of hopelessness. This in turn results in poor health and education, drunkenness, drug abuse and mind destroying petrol sniffing. The words that Jesus quoted from Isaiah, as being true of himself, remain the only hope: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach the good news to the poor. He sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

The laying down of a stronger structural foundation for AIM is beginning to bare fruit. In the Northern Territory there are encouraging signs of development and growth. Whilst there still a great need for new personnel, the Regional Training Centres are working well. The implementation of foundational and systematic biblical teaching has seen the strengthening of Indigenous leaders to the point where one or two groups are ready to look after their own affairs and church life, enabling the missionaries to move on to other communities, whilst retaining supportive contact.

Recruitment of suitably gifted and qualified missionaries to take up Bible teaching ministries is the need of the moment. There are couples working through the application process, but suitable preparation with theological and language studies means there is quite a lead time before folk are ready for the field.

Mission Awareness Tours have continued to prove one of the most effective ways of exposing people to the needs and opportunities for ministry amongst our indigenous people. It was really good to be able to have Rob and Jenni Alley join as Mission Awareness Tour Facilitators. Rob and Jenni have organised their work load to enable them to conduct a number of tours each year.

A further encouraging development has been more people taking on the role of AIM TEAM Partners (Tent Makers Encouraging Aboriginal Ministry). A number of young people have associated with AIM as they take up work in communities in such areas as teaching, nursing, mental health and occupational therapy. These contacts help develop good relationships with the local people and help

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grow the local church through encouragement, participation and witness. A number of “retirees”, who have been on Mission Awareness Tours, have been moved to return to communities for a few months at a time, to “sit down” with the locals to join them in prayer, Bible teaching and practical help. Such work has proved a real strengthening of local groups of believers, as they develop their own life skills and grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As I enter into my eleventh year working with AIM on behalf of the PCEA I am beginning to see the fruit of putting down good foundations, of having long term commitment and in building good relationships. Under the mighty hand of God we might see much good done in the lives of a desperately needy people.

The Convener adds:

Synod 2005 confirmed, with none opposing, to “the secondment of the Rev. Trevor Leggott to serve as General Director of Australian Indigenous Ministries for a further three years from 1/1/06.” In other words, the PCEA has pledged to fully support this work until 31/12/08. Consequently, it is incumbent on all delegate of synod to regularly encourage members of their congregations to support this ministry both financially, as they are able, and in prayer.

CHRISTIAN WITNESS TO ISRAEL – Rev Paul Morris reports:

Outreach: The Friday book table witness in Bondi Junction has gone on regularly and unhindered. Many conversations take place, but we could wish for more who wish to pursue matters. Most of the good conversations have been with Israelis. Isaac was one who came up to talk when he saw the books in Hebrew. He meets with a small group of Jews to study the Bible and we proceeded to discuss how Jesus was the Messiah. When I showed him some passages in Psalm 110 which point to Messiah's reign from heaven he was silent. He was also aware that he has no real awareness of sins forgiven and it was a joy to tell him of the peace which comes through faith in Jesus. We have many such conversations.

More volunteer workers have joined us alongside Robert de Souza and Viken Nazikian, our regulars, so that sometimes some of us will go to another location and give out literature. We plan to continue in 2006 and may develop a similar witness in Bondi itself, near the beach, where there are more Israelis. The book table at the University of New South Wales has stopped due to the street market ceasing while building works are completed. Maybe we will restart in 2006, but if so it would be better to link up with a student group formed for the purpose.

Door to door work with John Graham has stopped so as to provide time to develop workplace evangelism. I continue to visit some met via door to door witness. Workplace witness: I have started to develop contacts for this by meeting with group called *ecom* who are working in Sydney. The group is led by a Jewish Christian. I have also met with the leader of a Christian Fellowship in the city, Patrick Phua. He completed the course on Jewish witness which I led a while ago. He has arranged for me to lead a Passover demonstration for his group in March as a first step to encouraging a sensitive witness to Jewish staff in his law firm.

The Friday night Haderek Bible Study is usually a one-to-one study with Talla, a Russian Jewish believer. Viken Nazikian frequently attends too. We get some who call in as they walk by and see the notice but only two have come back from time to time. Talla has grown well and her husband is starting to be more open.

I spent two weeks in Melbourne at the end of the year engaging in book table and door-to-door witness with a team of about six men. A public meeting was held at the end on the theme “God and the Jewish People, will there be a happy ending?” It was all good and one sensed that many we met had not been

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evangelised in such a manner before and were not hostile. Alec Witham, who is a mature student at the PTC, is doing the follow up.

In 2006 we plan a regular book table witness led by Alec as part of his practical module in his studies. Others will assist him. It will be done in the name of a local church rather than CWI due to the tensions over religious vilification legislation in Victoria.

A public meeting was held in Perth during my deputation visit but was poorly attended. Another approach is needed. I have developed good contacts with the workplace group there and hope to work together with them. The fellowship group TeBAH is growing and I hope we might have a special meeting for Jewish believers when I return to Perth for a week in May.

JEF Day: This is a time for fellowship for Jewish believers in Sydney, organised by a committee of four, three Jewish believers plus myself. It is not a CWI event. Two meetings for Jewish believers were organised in 2005 and they were by invitation only. About 35 attended and a good start was made. In 06 we plan four meetings. The first will be an outreach meeting at Purim.

IJEF: I attended the third conference of the *International Jewish Evangelical Fellowship* in the USA and gave a paper on syncretism. I enjoyed it and want to be more involved as I am deeply concerned at the number of Jewish believers in churches who are losing touch with their Jewishness and weakening their witness to their people. I was asked to edit a regular e-journal and Rob de Souza and I have produced the first issue.

In 2006 we plan 3 issues of the journal. Work is proceeding on the first for completion by the March IJEF Conference.

Conferences: I had the opportunity to speak at a seminar at the Katoomba missions conference. The conference was attended by 800 and about 30 came to the seminar. I gave three lectures in a series on *Judaism and the Gospel* at a leading Anglican Church in Sydney. A number of one-evening lectures have also been given in churches as well as Bible Colleges. I see these as very important for equipping the church for witness, especially as Jews are so assimilated here, and hence relatively easy for the average Christian to reach.

Office work: Rob de Souza has worked well to produce literature and progress the web sites here, as well as much ongoing administrative work. Robert will be pursuing studies at Bible College in 06 but wants to continue to do some work for me and has suggested his wife do the administrative tasks.

Deputation: Tours have been made to churches in Tasmania, Canberra, NSW Coast, Perth and Melbourne. In Perth I have been especially encouraged by the response of Westminster Presbyterian churches and also by the consolidation of a group which meets for fellowship and prayer. Most of them are Jewish believers who want fellowship but not in a Messianic style. Plans for 2006 are limited due to new workers coming but I will be visiting Adelaide, Perth and Brisbane and maybe further up the Queensland coast.

New Staff Developments: In August a mutual friend put me in touch with Kaychan and Sue Park from Korea. They have worked in Israel with OM and have wanted to continue such witness with a mission to Jews. They have now arrived in Sydney and are settled into accommodation. We are applying for a Temporary Resident visa first then for Permanent Resident status. We are grateful to God for this answer to prayer for someone to witness to Israelis here and rejoice at His hand on the work. In 2006 we will develop some training for him and see how God leads. I expect their second year will see some more concrete developments for his future style of ministry.

During my visit to Melbourne I was approached by a man who believes God may be calling him to Jewish ministry. We will be prayerfully pursuing the matter in 2006.

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Annual Lecture: This has not started yet but plans have been made for a lecture to be given at a high level on a theme associated with Jewish evangelism. The plan is to interest thoughtful Christians, those in ministry and students preparing for ministry, so as to build a better understanding and lead to a deeper interest in Jewish witness. In 06 there will be a lecture in Sydney in May and then the same in Melbourne in May. Paul Barnett is speaking on 'Tensions between Jew and Gentile in Empire and Church in the first three centuries'. It is my hope that it will lead people to consider that those tensions still exist today and can be more subtly expressed than often recognised; we aim to probe the 'boasting over the natural branches syndrome' which is ever with us, but is frequently unrecognised even by the best Christians.

FIJI – the Convener reports:

At this time last year the Mission Committee's primary concern was for the ongoing spiritual welfare of the small congregation in Fiji who were without a minister. However, our ability to provide appropriate pastoral care through visitation was not considered adequate. Accordingly, the Committee believed that the best option was to try and link the Presbyterian Free Church of Fiji (PFCF) with another local group, such as the PRC.

Just prior to Synod 2005 the PRC presbytery in Australia expressed its willingness to assist in ministering to the PFCF whenever possible. Rusi Tugaga, a man who had worked with, and been introduced to the gospel by Leone Tapua, was to be ordained and inducted into the PRC work on the 22nd or 29th of May at Lautoka as the teaching elder. The committee believed this was the Lord's provision. A visit to the PFCF was made some time after May, by Rusi and two elders from the Wollongong PRC. Unfortunately, since that meeting there has not been any further development. Distance is one prime issue, as Lautoka is approximately 150 kilometres from Suva.

The small group which make up the PFCF meets together every Lord's Day for worship. Eliko, who is in his eighties, faithfully leads the services. Consequently we give thanks to the Lord that their focus upon Christ continues to be strong. Occasionally, Eliko has been unable to attend worship due to family circumstances and also weather induced conditions. Eliko has no phone, and therefore on such occasions he cannot let others know he will not be there.

Contact with Nanise Tapua has been regular and she appreciates greatly the personal prayers of our people for her family and those in the church. Nanise prays for the people of the PCEA every day! Her health has been up and down throughout the year, with the recent amputation of a toe as a result of her diabetic condition. She is well spiritually, always giving thanks to God in every circumstance.

FCSA / DUMISANI – Rev Douglas Campbell reports:

Southern Presbytery: There was sad news in September 2005 when the Rev FF Mva of Burnshill District died after a short illness. His death came as a blow to his wife and young family and also among his congregations in Burnshill. By God's unfailing goodness and grace, the family and the people have been sustained and are thankful for the prayers and support of the people of God throughout the world. Doug Campbell was appointed as Interim-Moderator of the Burnshill District.

New Beginnings: There have been encouraging signs amongst some Districts that are taking seriously the Great Commission and initiating evangelism and outreach in new fields. King District opened a new church building for the church plant in Qhugqwala on the 18th of March 2006. The initial outreach began under Rev BA Mtishe, but the work has grown and now a building has been erected. Pray for Norman E Reid, Interim-Moderator of King District, and the Session.

In Knox District outreach work is beginning in Anders Mission, a little village strategically placed in the existing geographical boundary of the District. In Port Elizabeth District, the Kirk Session is looking into starting a work in Coega, a major industrial development east of the city of Port

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Elizabeth. Give thanks for this interest in reaching out with the love of Christ and please remember these works with your prayers.

Students: At present, there are only three FCSA students at Dumisani. Elder Webster Tshoni graduated with his Diploma from Dumisani and will be licensed (DV) on the 25th of March. His probationary period will be undertaken in East London District currently vacant but under the Interim-Moderatorship of Rev SR Gotywa. Although over sixty years old, Mr Tshoni has great experience and insight into the work, but also displays an enthusiasm for the work of the ministry and in theological training. Pray for Mr T Ngada and T Feni, who both come from Dewar District, and are working well at Dumisani. Pray that these men as they study may be prepared for their future service for the Lord.

Vacancies: Most ministers in the Southern Presbytery are looking after two Districts. Pray for those vacant Districts (Cape Town, Nonzwakazi, Burnshill and East London) and for safety as ministers and elders travel to fulfil their responsibilities.

Transkei Presbytery: In comparison with Southern Presbytery, Transkei Presbytery is enjoying a period of stability and filled pulpits. The Presbytery is close to combining the Districts of Kentane and Ngcingwane. Rev Nelson Mpayipeli will look after this amalgamated District.

INDIA – Rev Dennis Muldoon reports:

The population of India at 1.08 billion is second only to China. Over 80% of this population are Hindu, 12% Muslim and only 2-3 % Christian. India is the second largest Muslim country in the world. Some are seeking to take the gospel to the Muslims but most of the work continues to be among the majority Hindu population. Much of the advance of the gospel is among tribal groups, classified as Hindu but really animistic in their beliefs. The work in central India (MP state) is among such tribal people (mainly Gonds) as well as caste Hindus.

Lakhnadon

Christian Hospital: Many PCEA churches have heard Dr Sunil Gokavi and his wife share about the work of this hospital as they continue their stay in Australia. At our family camp Sunil and Joanna shared about their work at LCH and their vision for this centre of Christian witness. Dr Adarsh Benn is currently in charge of the hospital. There are three other doctors but they need a surgeon to replace Dr Sunil who will be in Sydney until mid 2006 working and training as an Emmanuel Hospital Association (EHA) doctor. The latest annual report of the 33 bed LCH is held by the missions committee.

Spandana project is the community health project operating out of LCH. Primary health care, literacy, community organisation and income generation activities are undertaken in 17 villages (pop 6000). Ashok Todasam, and his wife Aruna, are with the Indian Evangelical Mission (IEM) who have contact with LCH staff. They are taking the gospel to tribal people in interior villages. At Christmas they were able to share with over 200 people from three villages. They face persecution in the form of harassment, assault and false allegations. There are 'freedom of religion' (anti-conversion) laws in this State but the central government is no longer sympathetic to militant Hinduism.

Mission School: This school continues to grow under the leadership of Rev Shyambabu. There are 15 teachers and 400 children up to class ten. Funds sent last year were put towards the construction of a library and water facility for the school.

Chhapara

Community Health Centre: This is administered through LCH as an EHA project. The centre has rooms for 12 patients but no resident doctor. The health team works in 19 villages training mainly

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women in health and literacy. Village workers assist in forming 'self help groups' for imparting knowledge about health, including immunisation and HIV/AIDS awareness, and economic development. Gospel outreach is undertaken in association with these development activities.

Mission School: The Principal, Mr Michael John, reports that the Mission School obtained excellent results in board exams and continues to have a good reputation and witness in the community.

The Chhapara Community was shocked by the sudden death of **Rev. Prakash Kumar** on 28 Dec 2005. All who have visited this mission field will remember meeting this wonderful servant of the Lord. The PCEA was blessed to have him visit our churches in 1970. Dr Helen Ramsay has written a wonderful tribute in *The Banner*. His son Michael wrote as follows:

'On 25th December, he preached the Gospel in the morning Church and there were around 200 people including 50 Non-Christians and new believers. In his last sermon he emphasized to repent and accept the Jesus Christ as Lord and saviour today and now. On 28th December we took him to hospital at Seoni. In the hospital he was continuing complaining breathing problem, he was talking, he wanted to get a Bible in the hospital and he was continuing saying Jesus, I have tired and at the last second he told that he had a severe chest pain and his last word was-"Hey Jesus." And he slept forever.

In his funeral Service there were more than 1500 people and most of the shops and schools were closed; it was the first time in the history of Chhapara that a very large number of people of all religion, age and caste attended a funeral service with great sorrow. We are happy that Papa's life was a living testimony for the Non-Christians they were saying that we had just read the Bible verses on the Church wall about the Fruits of Spirit, but we have seen all the fruits only in Rev.Prakash; he was a real Christian.

It is not only a great, unforgettable and irreplaceable loss for our family but for the Church, school, FCCI and for whole Chhapara. Still we are happy that he is in heaven with Jesus Christ and we will meet him again. I trust that you will not leave us alone I ask your continue support, love, care and prayer for us, you have shown to our father'.

Allahabad

Agricultural Institute deemed University: Dr Paul Dickson coordinates training for rural leaders at this University. This centre was started by Presbyterian missionaries from the USA in 1910. It continues to have a bold Christian witness in an overwhelmingly Hindu region. Six women and six men enrolled in the main ten month training course. Other short courses in poultry and organic gardening were conducted. Dr Dickson is helped by Samir and some other believers in conducting Sunday Schools in five villages.

Siliguri

HIMserve: Dr Tigi Verghis worked with Dr Muldoon at Allahabad Agricultural Institute for three years before studying for his PhD in agronomy in New Zealand. He returned to India in 1997 to take up work when the Muldoon family returned home. After three years he left Allahabad to attend Bible College in the Netherlands. Upon completion of his course he returned to India with his wife Astrid and three boys in 2004. Tigi joined an organisation called HIMserve based in Siliguri in the state of West Bengal, and works among a vast (10 million) Nepali population in this part of India, as well as amongst the local people. Illiteracy is a major barrier to development in the tea garden areas and in the rural areas generally. They train rural leaders in health, literacy, agriculture, small business and community development.

Tigi writes (03/06) 'Its now back to work for me and this time with the new responsibility of looking after the community development section. That keeps me busy and a bit stressed out as sometimes I

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feel overwhelmed with the task. We have a small team of three and we get along really well. We are following up ongoing partnerships and looking out for new ones. The big task for the next few months is for us to put together a suitable adult literacy programme to train teachers and a leadership capacity building series of workshops/seminars to train grass roots level leaders’.

SOUTH AMERICA – Mr Ian Conley reports:

Peru

Colegio San Andres: Mr Donald Macaulay continues to lead the school as principal. The Macaulays had leave in the UK during 2005 and while away spoke to congregations in the UK and the North America about the work.

Rev Tim Donachie had a stroke while in Lima in 2005 from which he has more or less fully recovered. Both Rev and Mrs Donachie are currently (March 2006) in the UK where they are having leave and are doing some deputation work. They expect to return to Lima in May 2006.

Enrolments at the commencement of term in 2006 are 485 with a full first grade primary of 50 students. The ideal would be 500 but 485 is sufficient to maintain financial viability.

The academic results of San Andres students continue to be very respectable with a high percentage of final year students gaining entry to the private universities in Lima. This reflects 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 school has refurbished the kindergarten section which will improve the learning outcomes and be attractive for the parents. Major costs in 2006 are expected to be the replacement of some of the computers. Computers are now a major expense for San Andres with the licence fees alone costing in excess of US\$6000 pa.

In the Rev Donachie’s absence the principal is taking the leading role in the ‘community bible study’ held in the school. This bible study has proved popular with parents of students at the school.

Moyobamba: The Moyobamba work continues to expand with a base congregation of regular attendees of several hundred and daughter churches in outlying centres such as Arequipa, and Taraporto. Included in daughter church planting and outreach work is a Quechua language work. 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.

The Annie Soper School which was established by the Moyobamba church continues to expand with enrolments in 2006 targeted to be 300. Annie Soper runs a similar system to San Andres in that the school provides scholarship assistance to needy families often with part fees being covered by scholarships. The school, like San Andres, has a strong Biblical basis. The facilities are being improved and one project for 2006 is the construction of an assembly hall. Significant extra funding is required before this can be fully realised.

Two volunteers have been accepted to help in Annie Soper during 2006. Suitable volunteers are welcome as they are native speakers of English and often bring other skills and experience with them.

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There is also considerable benefit to the volunteer and the home church. Placement is made through the FCS Missions Board.

The last Australian volunteer (to San Andres) was Mrs Margaret Hockett who on her third trip as a volunteer was medically evacuated in 1992 at 70 years of age. That was 13 years ago and there is clearly scope for further volunteers from Australia to support the work.

Lima Evangelical Seminary: The Rev Donnie continues in the leadership post of Rector of the Seminary. He is to be the Moderator of the Free Church of Scotland General Assembly in May this year (2006).

Columbia

Bible Seminary Medellin: Dr Manuel Reaño continues to head up the Seminary as Principal. His schedule as leader of the Seminary is hectic.

Rev John MacPherson (retired principal of San Andres) was able to travel to South America in late 2005 speaking at the graduation of the Bible Seminary students. Rev MacPherson also was able to assist at both San Andres in Lima Perú and in the Moyobamba congregation also in Perú.

MALCOLM MCSWANN MISSION RELIEF FUND (MMMRF)

There was only one extra disbursement from this fund besides those budgeted by Synod 2005. The disbursement was for the Tsunami Disaster Relief. An initial \$30,000 was sent to Tear Australia early in January 2005 to be used at their discretion to provide aid to those most needy. A further contribution was made in March comprising of \$20,000 from the MMMRF and congregational contributions of \$13,199.65. Some congregations chose to send contributions directly to Tear Australia.

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 2006, which is tabled at the end of this report.

1. MMMRF funding for Rev Trevor Leggott: Mr Leggott furnished the Committee with a report indicating that 18% of his work time was spent on the relief of need amongst indigenous Australians during 2005. This is reflected in the budget for 2006, with 18% of his support coming from the MMMRF.
2. India:
 - a. The Chhapara Mission School: The Committee recommends that the Chhapara Mission School receive \$2,000, as per last year, from the MMMRF: \$1,000 for a scholarship and \$1,000 to assist in furniture and fittings 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 these much needed resources.

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- 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.
3. CWI: The Committee continues to be greatly encouraged by the work of Paul Morris and recommends that CWI Australia receive a grant of \$5,000 from Missions General Funds.
4. South America:
- a. The Committee recommends continuing the provision of funds (\$6,500 from the MMMRF) to provide scholarships for needy students at Colegio San Andres, Lima, Peru.
 - b. The Committee also recommends that the Annie Soper School in Moyobamba receive \$2,100 which will provide scholarships for two needy children.
5. 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 express its continued prayerful support and interest in the work of Rev Trevor Leggott in his ministry with Australian Indigenous Ministries.
2. That Synod delegates regularly direct their congregations attention to the financial and prayerful support needed for Rev. Trevor Leggott in his ministry with Australian Indigenous Ministries
3. That Synod encourage congregational members to consider volunteering to help as native English speakers in either San Andres or the Annie Soper School.
4. That Synod adopt the budget for 2006 and express general agreement with the estimates for 2007.

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Missions Budget 2006

	Budget		Actual		Proposed Budget 2006			Estimate 2007		
Balance at 1 Jan 2005		81929		81929	Balance 1 Jan 2006		88547	Balance 1 Jan 2007		81247
Income Investments & Asset Revaluation	23000		28765		Income Investments & Asset Revaluation	24000		Income Investments & Asset Revaluation	24000	
Giving Missions General	3500		7912		Giving Missions General	7000		Giving Missions General	7000	
Missions Support Fiji: Giving	500		150							
Missions Support AIM: Giving	7000		6658		Missions Support AIM: Giving	7000		Missions Support AIM: Giving	7000	
From the Frontiers Subscriptions	700		1179		From the Frontiers Subscriptions	1100		From the Frontiers Subscriptions	1100	
	34700	34700	44664	44664	Income	39100	39100	Income	39100	39100
Expenditure					Expenditure			Expenditure		
Fiji Expenses	5000		0		Fiji Expenses	0				
CWI	5000		5000		CWI	5000		CWI	6000	
AIM (TIL Part Salary, SAW/LSL Levy)	32000		31889		AIM (TIL Part Salary, SAW/LSL Levy)	37700		AIM (TIL Part Salary, SAW/LSL Levy)	39000	
Adjustment			65		Visiting Missionaries	1000		Visiting Missionaries	1000	
Dumisani Theol. Institute & Bible School	1000		0		Dumisani Theol. Institute & Bible School	1000		Dumisani Theol. Institute & Bible School	1500	
Admin: Postage, telephone etc	600		0		Admin: Postage, telephone etc	600		Admin: Postage, telephone etc	600	
From the Frontiers, Banners	1200		1092		From the Frontiers, Banners	1100		From the Frontiers, Banners	1300	
Total Expenditure	44800	44800	38046	38046	Total Expenditure	46400	46400	Total Expenditure	49400	49400
Closing Balance		71829		88547	Closing Balance		81247			70947
IC 19 March 2006										
Note: Account Balances 1 Jan 2006										
DAA Bequest	87762									
Missions General	144									
Missions Support Fiji	641									
Missions Support Legg/AIM	0									
Total	88547									

Malcolm McSwan Missions Relief Fund	Budget	2005	Actual	2005	Proposed 2006			Estimate 2007		
Income					Income			Income		
Balance at 1 Jan 2006		470845		470845	Balance at 1 Jan 2006		470845	Balance at 1 Jan 2007		472995
Income Investments & Revaluation	40000		64804		Income Investments & Revaluation	45000		Income Investments & Revaluation	45000	
Total Income	40000	40000	64804	64804	Total Income	45000	45000	Total Income	45000	45000
Expenditure					Expenditure			Expenditure		
Lakhnador Christian Hospital	10000		10000		Lakhnador Christian Hospital	10000		Lakhnador Christian Hospital	11000	
Lakhnador Mission School	1500		1500		Lakhnador Mission School	1500		Lakhnador Mission School	2000	
Chhapara Christian Health Centre	10000		10000		Chhapara Christian Health Centre	10000		Chhapara Christian Health Centre	11000	
Chhapara Mission School	2000		2000		Chhapara Mission School	2000		Chhapara Mission School	2500	
San Andres Scholarships	6500		6200		San Andres Scholarships	6500		San Andres Scholarships	6800	
AIM (TIL Part Salary, SA/LSL levy)	11000		11464		Annie Soper Scholarships	2100		Annie Soper Scholarships	2200	
Fees and Charges	150		140		AIM (TIL Part Salary, SA/LSL levy)	8100		AIM (TIL Part Salary, SA/LSL levy)	9000	
Dr Dickson Allahabad	2500		2500		Fees and Charges	150		Fees and Charges	200	
Tear Fund Tsunami	20000		20000		Dr Dickson Allahabad	2500		Dr Dickson Allahabad	3000	
Dumisani			1000							
Total Expenditure	63650	63650	64804	64804	Total Expenditure	42850	42850	Total Expenditure	47700	47700
Closing Balance 31 Dec 2005		447195		470845	Closing Balance 31 Dec 2006		472995	Closing Balance 31 Dec 2007		470295
IC 19 March 2006										

Giving By Congregation 2005															
Congregation/Fund	Brisbane Rocky	Northern Rivers	Armidale	Hastings	Hunter Barrington	Manning	Sydney South	St Georges	Hwkbry Nepean	Hamilton	Knox	Narre Warren	Geelong	Ulverstone	Totals
Leggott/AIM										2000	3600	1058			6658
Fiji								150							150
Missions General	7			3738	620	1013		1000				1124		410	7912
Totals	7	0	0	3738	620	1013	0	1150	0	2000	3600	2182	0	410	14720

FINANCE & 8:14 FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

(Incorporating General Treasurer's Report)

Members: AH Steel (Convener), J Audet, DE Kerr, JB Loudon, JA McCallum, RS Ward

FINANCE Business attended to by the committee included:

1. Ministers' Minimum Stipend/Benefits

Current Level and Basis of Review of Minimum Stipend – Synod 2005 resolved the adjustment of Minimum Stipend (Excluding Manse, Car and Telephone) for 2005/2006 be made on 1st January and 1st 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.

One member of the Committee wrote "I would like to see the Committee review the PCEA Stipend in the light of PCQ, PCNSW, PCV, PCT stipend and allowances to see how we are faring since the shake-up a while back" but the majority of the Committee felt there was no compelling/insufficient need/evidence to justify such. Whether there would be value in having a qualifying stipend less than the minimum was also aired in the Committee at the request of the same member.

The question of Supply Fees currently regulated by Act 12 of Synod 1982 was also raised. It appears the intention is that these fees apply to PCEA personnel and it is considered that others should be dealt with as local circumstances suggest. A recommendation to make this unambiguously the case, is proposed.

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 2005 was 63 cents per km (2004 was 62c per km). No adjustment is therefore recommended to the existing rate of 17c per km on the following basis – $63 \times 27/100 = 17.01c$

3. Church Extension and Supply

Stipend Relief : Presbyteries have sought Stipend Relief for 2006/2007, all on a strictly needs basis, on behalf of Deacons' Courts as follows:

\$19,350 - Armidale (Approximately 50% of minimum stipend)

\$18,000 – Hawkesbury/Nepean

\$ 7,000 – Narre Warren

\$? - Ulverstone

\$44,350 Total without provision for Ulverstone

In submitting their requests Southern Presbytery advised: "Given the vacancy at Ulverstone, which is not expected to be filled before next year, no request for finance is made to Synod 2006, although it would be understood that up to 50% of stipend would be available in the event of a settlement."

Reports to Synod 2006

The Committee considered it appropriate to put forward a recommendation to provide for this contingency on a pro rata basis.

4. Estimates (Major Working Fund Receipts/Payments for 2006)

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

Proposed Deliverances

1. We record our thanks to God for the adequacy of temporal blessing enjoyed during 2005. This has enabled us to meet all our needs for another year.
2. Adjustment of Minimum Stipend (Excluding Manse, Car and Telephone) for 2006/2007 be made on 1st January and 1st 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. Synod amend Act 12 Class 2, Synod 1982 to delete the words "or other supply" in Clause (2) and to add new clause 3, thus:

“3. The provisions of (2) above apply to ministers, probationers, students and missionaries of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia. In regard to supply by others, the figures stated are not obligatory but may be varied according to local circumstances as determined by Deacons' Courts.”
4. Stipend Relief for 2006/2007 be granted to the following Deacons' Courts, on a strictly needs basis:
 - \$19,350 - Armidale (Approximately 50% of minimum stipend)
 - \$18,000 - Hawkesbury/Nepean
 - \$ 7,000 - Narre Warren
5. In the event of a settlement occurring in the Ulverstone charge during 2006/2007 Stipend Relief be granted up to approximately 50% (\$19,350) of the minimum stipend on a pro rata basis for the Synodical year. Such assistance be available on a strictly needs basis.

Reports to Synod 2006

8:14 FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

Contributions: No contributions were made during 2005. Income received was Interest received \$3,876 and Rent from St Georges Deacons' Court \$50.

Funds in Hand:

Position as at	31/12/05	31/12/04
Loan - Armidale Congregation	19,501	20,501
- Hunter-Barrington Cong	0	15,253
Working Funds in hand	88,883	68,704
	-----	-----
Total Funds -	\$ 108,384	\$ 104,458
	=====	=====

Includes \$7,300 held on deposit.

Disbursements: There were no disbursements during 2005.

Loan Repayments:

Armidale: Synod 2005 resolved (Minutes 05.41.1): "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."

Only one repayment of \$1,000 was received during 2005 as they had some expensive plumbing maintenance that prevented them from making more repayments. The Deacons' Court advised (February 06) that their *Bethany Rooms* were fully let and they were hopeful of this continuing throughout 2006 which should enable them to make increased repayments.

Hunter-Barrington: This loan was drawn on 6/3/03 with repayments commencing in June 2004 when \$20,578 was applied to it as part of the \$30,000 received from the SN Ramsay bequest. The outstanding balance of \$15,253 (31/12/04) continued to be reduced by monthly/special repayments to \$12,082 (21/6/05) when the loan was fully repaid. This was made possible by a most generous donation by a member of the congregation.

Total borrowings of \$51,000 (March 03), including \$16,000 from General Funds (SN Ramsay Bequest) required in the purchase of the Cardiff church/hall/manse complex, have been fully repaid in just over two years by rents from the manse, the SN Ramsay bequest and individual donations.

Proposed Deliverance

Net rents received from the student accommodation in the Armidale Church/manse building, continue 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.

Reports to Synod 2006

GENERAL TREASURER

1. Financial Needs: The financial needs of the Synod were adequately provided for during 2005. Total funds increased by \$53,191 to \$1,481,389.

The net increase of \$53,191 resulted from:

Increases – Mainly from Share revaluations	
Capital Funds	\$ 57,094
8:14 Foundation	\$ 3,926
General Funds	\$ 13,047

	\$ 74,067
Decreases (Net) - Specified Working Funds	\$ 20,876

<u>Net Increase in Funds:</u>	<u>\$ 53,191</u>

For details of Increases/Decreases see Notes 8 to 14 in Synod's Balance.

2. Bequests: No bequests were received in 2005.

3. Congregational Contributions to Synod Funds: Contributions of \$18,974 by congregations to Synod Funds during 2005 increased by \$2,060 (12%) on 2004 (\$16,914). Refer to Congregational Contributions Summary at back of Financial Statements for full details. \$14,400 was sent through the Synod account for the Tsunami appeal by congregations. This is included in the "Other" contributions column.

4. Synod General Funds: A surplus of \$3,855 was recorded in *Synod General Working Funds* in contrast to a deficit of \$2,162 in 2004. The only extraordinary expense was air fares of \$2,310 for the ICRC delegate.

General Funds as at 31/12/05 comprised:

Library (Books & Fittings)	\$ 1,710
Working Funds: IC MacKinnon bequest of	\$ 14,161
SN Ramsay bequest	\$ 43,805
Remaining balance	<u>\$ 21,254</u>
	<u>\$ 79,220</u>
Total General Funds:	\$ 80,930

5. Banking Accounts: A *Business Optimiser* On-line account was opened with ING Bank Ltd and is being used to "park" Capital Funds and surplus Working Funds in, pending investment/disbursement. Current interest rate is 5.40% pa.

6. 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: Nil

SUPERANNUATION COMMITTEE

Members: RS Ward (Convener 1978), Messrs AH Steel, JAMcCallum, JB Louden, D.E.Kerr, J Audet

A: SUPERANNUATION FUND

Apart from the removal from the ministry on 27/7/2005 of Rev G. Kinder after just over 8 years, membership is unchanged. The average age of the 9 current members is 57.3 years.

1. Membership

<u>Name</u>	<u>Service from</u>	<u>Service to 30.6.83</u>	<u>Total service at 31.12.05</u>	<u>Year 65</u>
S.R.Tamata	16.10.1998	00.00	07.45	2006
R.W.Murray	11.12.1968	11.72	33.57	2006
J.A.McCallum	28.06.1985	00.00	21.50	2007
R.S.Ward	20.03.1976	07.28	29.78	2010
W.P.Gadsby	11.05.1977	06.14	28.64	2013
T.I.Leggott	11.03.1989	00.00	16.80	2014
D.K.Muldoon	29.11.2002	00.00	03.09	2017
G.D.Ball	01.12.1997	00.00	08.08	2020
D.P.Smith	16.11.2001	00.00	04.12	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 is 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

a) Superannuation Levy

The Synod Treasurer advises that all levies have been paid and Narre Warren is \$637 ahead as at 31/12/05. An email was issued 7/12/05 indicating the levy for 2006 would be \$5,800 or \$1,450 a quarter based on estimated stipend of \$38,708 in 2006 (assuming 2% increase 1/7/06). The concession to congregations receiving aid or that are vacant means that the levy for Armidale, Mt Druitt, and Narre Warren, reduces to \$1,300 a quarter, and for vacant congregations (Geelong, Brisbane, Ulverstone also the special case of Hastings) to \$725 a quarter.

b) Superannuation Support Fund

The old Widows and Orphans, Aged/Retired Ministers accounts have been consolidated into this account. The Capital stands at \$124,268, interest/dividend earnings were \$7,911, and accumulated working funds were \$10,493. Following the death of Hector McMillan of Hamilton in 1968, in the 1969 Synod Provident Funds Committee Report receipt of a bequest of \$500 for the Widows & Orphans fund and another \$500 for the Aged, Retired and Invalid Ministers fund were acknowledged. The interest is currently being received by the SSF but the principal sum has not been consolidated. We recommend accordingly to complete the tidying up of the accounts, as the objects of W&O, ARM funds are now fulfilled by Superannuation as Synod has previously recognized. The Synod treasurer objected to this recommendation on effectively the same grounds as those advanced last year on a similar matter but overwhelmingly rejected by Synod ie. he considers W & O and ARM funds objects are not met by Superannuation. His precise dissent is: "as these two bequests are reported and acknowledged under separate headings in the 1969 Synod minutes for the Provident Fund Committee, this must have been the wish of the deceased. So if we do not have a copy of the will/correspondence relating thereto, then we cannot positively determine whether the two bequests can be applied to different purposes viz. To superannuation of serving ministers instead of Widows/Orphans in the one case and to & Aged, Retired and Invalid Ministers in the other."

Reports to Synod 2006

3. Investment Choice

All but two of our members have chosen HESTA for their contributions. The other two retain membership of the ING Fund. Those who have moved future contributions to HESTA may also move part or all their ING accumulation to HESTA (or another Fund). There is a very small exit fee with ING. In general there is wisdom in having superannuation in one Fund since one avoids two sets of overhead charges.

4. Superannuation Performance

Results for the year to 30/6/05 are sent direct to members by the ING or HESATA, but were also circulated in an information memo to members from the Convener dated 14/9/05.

The ING return for the past five years on the default setting has been:

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Capital Guaranteed	6.00%	4.85%	3.65%	3.1%	5.45%
Managed Growth	5.87%	-3.65%	-3.85%	13.3%	13.11%
<i>Average</i>	<i>5.93%</i>	<i>0.6%</i>	<i>-0.10%</i>	<i>8.2%</i>	<i>9.28%</i>

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

Core-pool	8.3%	0.5%	1.5%	15.5%	13.4%
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5. Vesting

For entrants prior to last Synod church contributions are not fully vested until some 7 years service. As decided by last Synod, 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.

6. Government changes

As of 1/1/2006 it became possible to split superannuation contributions from that date with one's wife, and members were advised of this provision by circular 13/12/2005.

B. 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.

C. Regulations: No changes are proposed.

Proposed Deliverances

1. Synod, note the levy for 2006 of \$1,450 per quarter payable by the end of February, May, August and November with concessions as stated in the report.
2. Synod approve the consolidation of the Hector McMillan capital with the Superannuation Support Fund.
3. Synod approve the immediate addition from the Super Support income account of \$10,000 to the amount treated as capital in the SSF, and a further \$5,000 when convenient by 31/12/2006.
4. Synod remind fund members of the advisability of seeking professional advice in regard to both choice of Fund and investments within any particular fund, and splitting superannuation with a wife, so that it meets their particular needs, as this is their responsibility and not that of the church.

**QUEENSLAND TRUST CORPORATION
'PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA'**

Members: Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer

Deed Box and Common Seal: The title deeds of the Church Property at Kalinga are now held in the Locked Deed Box of the Trustees of the Synod of Eastern Australia with the National Australia Bank Ltd, 163 Rowe Street Eastwood NSW. The Common Seal is now held by the Clerk of Synod. There were no applications of the Common Seal in 2005.

Proposed Deliverances: Nil.

**N.S.W. TRUST CORPORATION
'THE TRUSTEES OF THE SYNOD OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA'**

Members: Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer of Synod

Deed Box and Common Seal: The Locked Deed Box of the Trustees of the Synod of Eastern Australia is now lodged with the National Australia Bank Ltd, 163 Rowe Street Eastwood NSW. The seal was applied to the following documents during 2005:

211	29/3/2005	Mortgage Discharge: BN & GM May
212	31/5/2005	Contract of Sale: 60 High St Taree
213	31/5/2005	Transfer of Title: 60 High St Taree

The old embossed Common Seal has been replaced by a rubber stamp. The embossed seal did not reproduce on photocopies. The old seal was forwarded on to the archivist for safekeeping, but on reflection it would be more secure if it were destroyed. A proposed deliverance follows.

Bequests: No bequests were received by the Trustees during 2005.

Investments: Review of Results as at 31/12/05:

Diversification - Specified Capital Funds

Amount Invested	Percentage of Total	Strategy Benchmark	Strategy Range	Where Invested
57,574	18%	5%	5% - 10%	Banks/Trustee Coys
33,433	10%	30%	20% - 40%	1 st Registered Mortgages
46,300	14%	15%	10% - 25%	Bonds/Debentures
184,237	57%	50%	40% - 60%	Equities (Shares/Units)
388,064	100%	100%		

Present investments are within the Strategy Ranges except for *Banks/Trustee Coys and 1st Mortgages*. Funds are held in *Banks/Trustee Coys* pending investment in suitable *1st Mortgages*.

Reports to Synod 2006

Return on Investments:

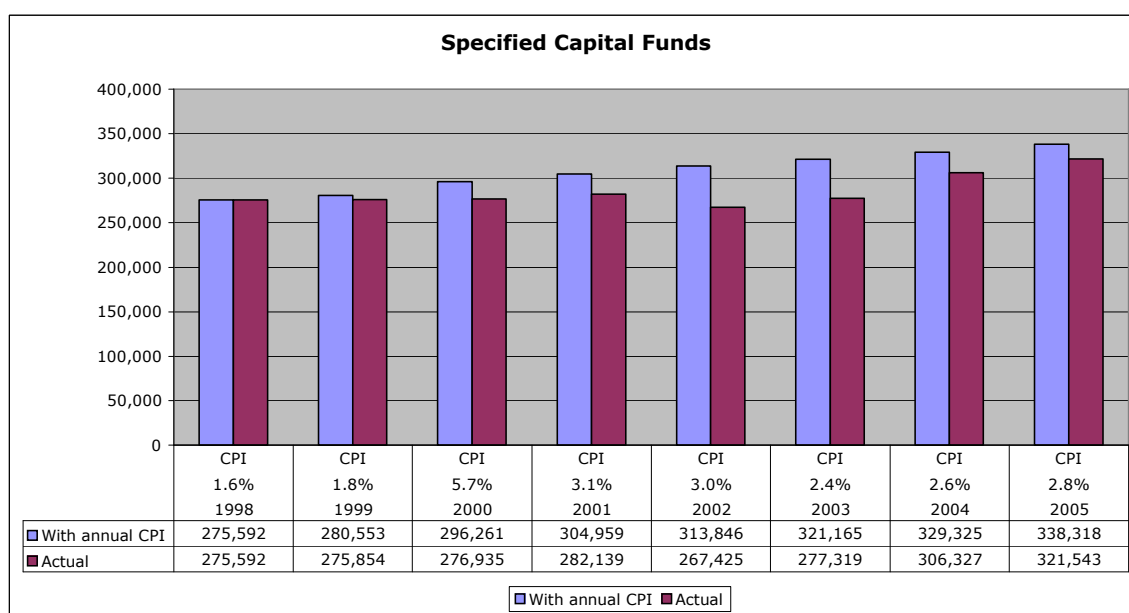
Growth: Total investments were increased by \$15,215 representing a return of 4.97% against a Target of 3.3% (CPI of 2.8% plus 0.5%)

Income: Income of \$31,966 represented a return of 10.44% against a Target of 7.21% (Average Official Cash Interest Rate of 5.46% Plus 1.75%).

Overall return: Growth of 4.97% plus Income 10.44% = 15.40% overall return on investments totalling \$321,543 as at 1/1/05

The *Growth* Target was exceeded by 50% and *Income* exceeded the Target by 45%.

Review of Growth in Specified Capital Funds (Bequests)



As at 31/12/05 the total of Capital Funds “Actual” (\$321,543) still lagged behind the total of Capital Funds “with Annual CPI” added (\$338,318) by 4.96 % (\$16,775). This is an improvement on the 2004 difference of 6.98% (\$22,998).

The “catch up” achieved since 2002 is mainly the result of moving funds from 1st mortgage loans as they mature into equities.

Summary: Investments are adequately diversified, Income and Growth have exceeded targets and “real value” of Capital Funds (Bequests) stills lags by 5%, but is catching up.

Proposed Deliverances:

That the archivist be asked to destroy the old embossed Common Seal of The Trustees of the Synod of Eastern Australia.

**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 sold a residential unit at 2 Hadlow Drive, Wantirna with the intention of applying the proceeds to the erection of three units suited for elderly persons on land owned by the congregation at 10 Bentley Street, Wantirna.

South Australian Property: The Synod of 1983 authorised Rev Rowland Ward to negotiate with the Uniting Church in South Australia and the Presbyterian Church of Australia in regard to the property of the old Free Presbyterian Church of South Australia. An agreement was made in 1987 as a result of which an Act of Parliament was obtained in 2001 and titles secured by a special body set up for the purpose by the UCA & PCSA called Free Church Negotiators Inc. Certain graveyards were vested in local municipalities, but the relevant properties at Morphett Vale, Yankalilla, Aldinga (Whites Plains) and Myponga have now been sold. The final dispersal of the proceeds is imminent, and should be achieved by Synod time. The PCEA share is estimated at \$78,000 subject to final negotiations, and the Southern Presbytery is bringing an overture to Synod regarding the application of the proceeds.

Bequests: No new bequests were received by Synod or reported to the Secretary by congregations during 2005.

Investments: Specified Capital Funds (Bequests)

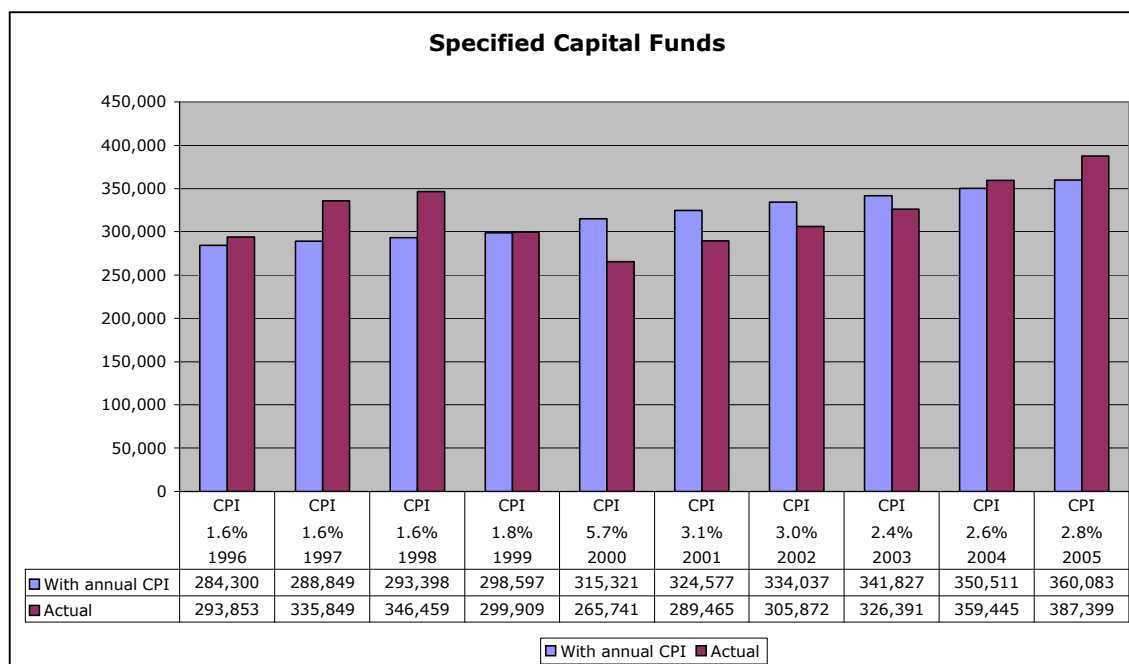
Diversification: Investment of *Specified Capital Funds* were within the Investment Strategy *Benchmark Ranges* as at 31/12/05 except for *Cash (2%)* which was slightly lower than the 5% - 10% range.

Actual as at 31/12/05		Asset Class	Investment Strategy	
Amount	Percentage		Benchmark	Range
7,066	2%	Cash	5%	5% - 10%
106,250	28%	Mortgage	30%	20% - 40%
70,000	18%	Debentures	15%	10% - 25%
202,283	52%	Shares/Units	50%	40% - 60%
-----			-----	
387,399	100%		100%	
=====			=====	

Reports to Synod 2006

Return for twelve months ending 31/12/05:

Growth: Total investments increased by \$33,054 representing growth of 10.13% against a Target of 3.3% (CPI of 2.8% plus 0.5%) The target was exceeded by 206%.



The total value of Specified Capital Funds continues to appreciate at a rate greater than annual inflation (CPI). An excess of \$8,934 existed as at 31/12/04. This was increased by \$18,382 to \$27,316 as at 31/12/05.

Income: Income of \$17,762 represented a return of 4.94% against a Target of 7.21% (Average Official Cash Interest Rate of 5.46 % Plus 1.75%). Target shortfall was 20%

Overall return: Growth 10.13% Income 4.94% = 15.07% overall return on investments totalling \$359,445 as at 1/1/05.

Summary: Investments are adequately *Diversified* and with continuing low inflation and record growth in the stock market our *Investment Strategy Objective* was comfortably achieved in *Growth*, and *Real Value* of assets maintained. However, *Income* for the twelve months ended 31/12/05 fell short of our target. This mainly being caused by our inability to find suitable 1st mortgage investments for part of the year.

Deeds/Bonds and Common Seal:

Title Deeds/Student Bonds Custody: The only change to deeds and bonds held in *Safe Custody* at the National Australia Bank, Eastwood during 2005 was the uplifting and release of the Title Deed for 2 Hadlow Drive, Wantirna which was sold. Title Deed for 10 Bentley Street, Wantira, purchased in August 2004 by Knox Deacons' Court, was still not to hand by 31/12/05. Dr RS Ward advised, at the time of writing, the deed was still held by the Solicitors pending resolution of a possible strata plan for the development of 3 elderly persons' units on the site.

Reports to Synod 2006

Common Seal Application: The Common Seal was applied to the following documents during 2005:

No.	Date Executed	Executed by	Document Executed	On behalf of
53	29.3.05	AHS/JBL	Change of Address Notice - Aust Foundation Invest Co	Ulverstone
54	29.3.05	AHS/JBL	Change of Address Notice - Commonwealth Diversified Share Fund	Ulverstone
55	29.3.05	AHS/JBL	Change of Address Notice - Commonwealth Property Trust	Ulverstone
56	29.3.05	AHS/JBL	Change of Address Notice - Gandel Property Trust	Ulverstone
57	19.4.05	AHS/JBL	Change of Address Notice - Commonwealth Diversified Share Fund	Ulverstone
58	10.5.05	AHS/JBL	Debenture Application \$25,000 - CBFC Limited	Synod
59/60	11.08.05	AHS/JBL	Authority Form - Commonwealth Securities Ltd (DJ Ramsay)	Geelong
61/62	11.08.05	AHS/JBL	Authority Form - Commonwealth Securities Ltd (JRB Webster)	Geelong
63/64	11.08.05	AHS/JBL	Authority Form - Commonwealth Securities Ltd (SJ Coles)	Ulverstone
65/66	11.08.05	AHS/JBL	Authority Form - Commonwealth Securities Ltd (RM Hingston)	Ulverstone
67	9.09.05	AHS/JBL	Application - National Bank On-Line Trading Facility	Narre Warren
68	7.12.05	AHS/JBL	Tender Form - Westpac Share Buy-Back (600 shares)	Knox

Proposed Deliverances: Nil.

LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Members: Clerk (Convener), Assistant Clerk, Moderator, Moderator-elect, Rev W.P Gadsby.

The committee did not meet face to face, but did correspond by telephone and email.

Procedures for Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Misconduct: This remit had been continued and the Committee asked to take into consideration the matters raised at Synod 2005 (05.55). There had been no further correspondence received, and the Committee was of the opinion that these Procedures need not be further modified.

Practice and Procedure: There is a need to produce an updated copy of the Practice and Procedure of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, to include changes since the last issue of 1999. It is proposed that an updated edition, including amendments from 1999 to 2006, be produced and distributed, both electronically and in print form, following Synod 2006.

Proposed Deliverances: Nil