

Parramatta-Nepean Presbytery

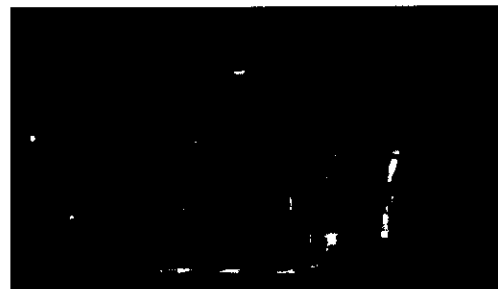
Vision 2055

The presbytery strategy group has met twice this year. The presbytery self help fund has now been set up.

People, groups and congregations are invited to contribute to it to assist the development of ministry across the presbytery, especially in the priority areas. Each of these initiatives is engaged in new and challenging ministry. They require the encouragement, prayers and support of the wider church to enable them to continue to grow and move forward.



The three initial priority areas are: the NorthWest Uniting Church, the South West Sector initiative and the Peteli Tongan congregation.



The **NorthWest Uniting Church** continues to develop its ministry. John Thornton is holding leadership sessions to increase the leadership base for the congregation. The children's activities led by Kath Illidge are expanding and have a good reputation in the community. While the Rouse Hill community centre is where most activities, including worship, are held, the congregation is looking at how to utilize a land bank property at Rouse Hill that has been leased.

The **South West Sector initiative** had difficulties getting underway last year due to Brett Furner's health problems leading to his resignation near the end of the year. Julie Furner continues in her role and is seeking to develop the Sunday night worship group at Austral and a mid week home group. Marion Gledhill, who has recently commenced intentional interim ministry at Ingleburn, will be using a small portion of her time to assist the South West Sector initiative. Given her diaconal skills, this will be helpful as she ministers with Julie who is an experienced youth worker.

The **Peteli Tongan congregation** led by Filimone Olivetti is doing excellent ministry with its young people in particular. They have an outstanding young musical group that won their section of the large Choir Day competition last year. This competition organized by the Alan Walker College has groups from right across Sydney from a range of ethnic congregations. The congregation is also looking to relocate to a site at Cecil Park on Walgrove Road and near the new M7 motorway. An option on a block of land has been taken out and plans for a large building to be built in stages have been prepared.

Other Priority Areas

The presbytery strategy group has now also identified **Penrith** and the **Guildford/Granville/Merrylands** areas as priorities. Both areas have had their previous ministers conclude their ministries at the end of last year. **Penrith** is a significant regional centre that the presbytery would like to see grow and function as a regional congregation. The Joint Nominating Committee is seeking to find a person with the gifts that will assist the congregation to move towards its goals.



Guildford/Granville/Merrylands has some important ethnic ministry with Melaneseans, Niueans and the Hindi Fellowship faith community connected to these congregations. Greystanes congregation is nearby as is McCredie Guildford. Presbytery will be looking at how best to assist ministry in this region to progress in the future.

March 2006

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