

2013

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2012 30 June 2013



russian orthodox
church of
saint panteleimon
gosford



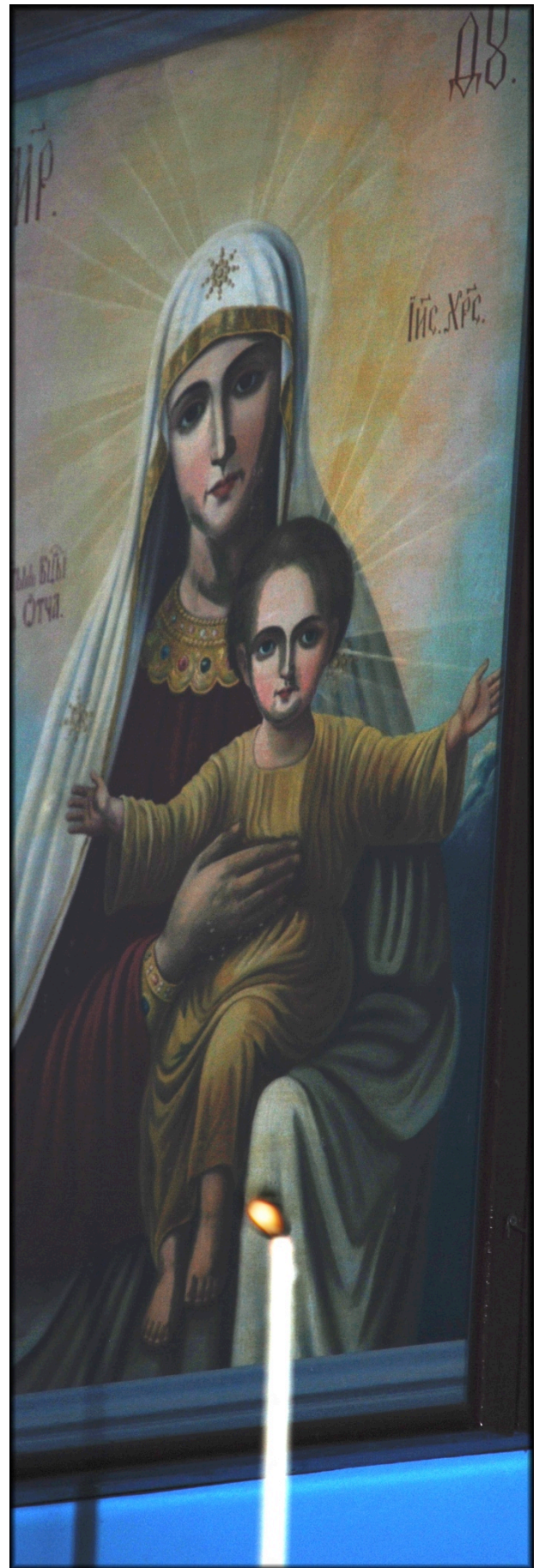
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INTRODUCTION

The Parish Council of Saint Panteleimon Church, Gosford, is pleased to present its 2013 Annual Report.

According to the *Normal Parish By-Laws* ('the By-Laws') of parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia, it is the objective of each parish to assist the faithful by making available Orthodox Christian prayers, sacraments, teaching and discipline, and by facilitating worthy activity. To this end, the aims of the parish encompass care for the church building and its material needs, provision for the clergy and support for the higher church authorities, work to help others in need, and Orthodox Christian educational work.

For the information of parish members, the Diocesan authorities, and the wider church community, this Annual Report summarises and reviews parish life and administration for the period from 1 July 2012 until 30 June 2013, considering the achievements of our parish in relation to the objective and aims set out in the By-Laws. It also provides an overview of other activities and looks at needs and challenges in the immediate future and in the years ahead.



THE PARISH COUNCIL

The By-Laws provide for a Parish Council consisting of the rector and other assigned clergy, and such lay members as are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the parish. The By-Laws indicate that five lay members of the Parish Council should be elected in addition to a Warden and Head Sister. With eight members in total, our current Parish Council is a little larger than provided for in the By-Laws.

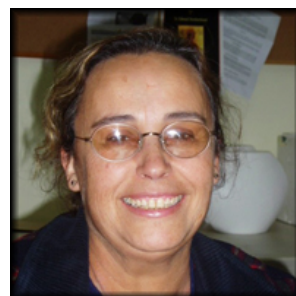
The 2012-13 financial year was the tenth full year of operation of our Parish Council.

The only clergyman assigned to our parish during the period under review was Priest James Carles, the rector. Father James was appointed to our parish in September 2001, immediately following his ordination to the priesthood. Since 2002, he has also served the parish of Saint Nicholas in Wallsend. In September 2012 he celebrated eleven years of priestly service.

The lay members of the Parish Council elected at the AGM convened in September 2012 were Rick Golovin, Kate Marcotrigiano, Bill Reid, Sophia Kfoury, Anna Kourbatov, Ivan Teliatnikov and Paul Douiaguine. At the completion of their current terms of office Rick, Kate and Bill will have served continuously on the Parish Council for ten years.

Our parish has not had a warden since 2004. The duties of the warden are shared between the members of the Parish Council, the rector included. Moreover, there is no formal Ladies' Auxiliary in our parish. The work of the Ladies' Auxiliary is undertaken informally, with a female member of the Parish Council designated Head Sister. In 2012-13, Kate Marcotrigiano has filled this role.

Two long-serving Parish Council members, Paul Pereboeff and Victor Bendeovski, did not seek re-election at the September 2012 AGM. Paul and Victor both made a significant contribution to the work of the Parish Council and, before that, the Auditing Committee.





PARISH ACTIVITIES

Making available Orthodox Christian prayers and sacraments

In 2006 we settled on a regular pattern of services, Matins on Saturday evenings and Divine Liturgy on Sunday mornings of the first, third and fifth weekends of each month. In addition, All-night Vigil and Divine Liturgy are served on a number of Great Feasts. During Great Lent, Vespers is served on the first four Sundays and Great Compline is served on Wednesday evenings. More than this has not been possible as our rector is in full-time secular employment and also has responsibility for the parish of Saint Nicholas in Wallsend (Newcastle).

From the earliest services in Gosford the community has maintained a commitment to the conduct of the divine services in both Church Slavonic and English. At evening services both languages are used, according to the capabilities and needs of those present.

At Divine Liturgy the choir sings in Church Slavonic and the litanies and readings are in both Church Slavonic and English. The parish choir has functioned under the direction of Olga Ivanovna Itsikson since 2000. Before taking up this role in our parish, Olga Ivanovna served for twenty years as choir director at Saint Vladimir's Russian Orthodox Church, Centennial Park. Her service to our parish and to the Diocese has been long and steadfast.



Sermons are given at every Divine Liturgy and delivered only in English. They generally focus on a practical theme drawn from the appointed readings from the Holy Scriptures, or relating to the particular feast.

Evening services are in general attended by very few people, with rarely more than 12 in attendance. Sunday morning services are now attended by approximately 65 worshippers. On special occasions more than 100 worshippers will be present. These include our patronal feast of Saint Panteleimon, celebrated by us each year on the Saturday closest to 9 August, Pascha and Christmas. There are frequently many communicants at Divine Liturgy, both children and adults.

Four service schedules are drawn up by the rector each year: Summer, Autumn, Winter & Spring.

During the period under review a total of 99 services were held in our church at West Gosford. Services were held on all weekends on which we would usually have a service apart from one weekend in July when the rector served in another parish before presiding at a wedding there. A service was not scheduled on one evening in late December. The rector participated in all scheduled services in our parish.

Details of our services are as follows:

	Matins or Vigil	Divine Liturgy	Other services	Total
Winter July-August 2012	4	5	1	10
Spring September-November 2012	8	8	1	17
Summer December-February 2012-13	8	9	2	19
Autumn March-May 2013	14	10	20	44
Winter June 2013	5	4	0	9
Total	39	36	24	99

Great Feasts celebrated in our parish in the course of the past year were the Transfiguration of the Lord, the Nativity of the Mother of God, the Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple, the Nativity of Christ (Christmas), the Annunciation of the Mother of God, and the Ascension of the Lord.

In 2012 the Great Feast of the Transfiguration fell on a Sunday. In addition to the customary blessing of grapes and other fruits, we had a blessing of honey. Friends of the parish donated a large number of jars of organic honey from the Wollombi area that were labeled with a design, in Russian, prepared by our

parishioner Ekaterina Korolkevich-Rubbo. These were distributed to parishioners after the service.

On the Great Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, Christmas, a great multitude of people gathered for the services, perhaps the largest number on an occasion other than our patronal feast since our church opened. After Divine Liturgy a Moleben of Thanksgiving was served, it being the 200th anniversary of the deliverance in 1812 of the Russian Church and Empire from the French and twelve other nations.

In 2013 the Great Blessing of Water was served on Sunday 20 January, the second day of the Great Feast of Theophany. In accordance with parish custom, homes were blessed that day and during the week afterwards.

Autumn was, as always, the busiest season in the life of our parish, with Great Lent falling predominantly during this time. We customarily have services on the first four evenings of the first week of Great Lent, on Sunday and Wednesday evenings thereafter, and on at least the first three evenings of Holy Week. The General Service of Anointing is served on the evening of the fifth Sunday of Great Lent.

In 2013 we had Divine Liturgy on Forgiveness Sunday, followed by Vespers with the rite of asking forgiveness. As in previous years, our Ladies' Auxiliary prepared pancakes for our parishioners and friends to enjoy prior to the commencement of Great Lent.

The Great Feast of the Annunciation fell on the third Sunday in Great Lent. After Divine Liturgy that day we had a fish BBQ.

In 2013 the midnight Paschal service was again served in our church. On the Sunday of Pascha itself we again had Vespers at 11.00am, with many young families attending the service and remaining afterwards to celebrate. This morning celebration of Paschal Vespers has become an important part of the observance of Pascha in our parish.

We were greatly blessed to have two episcopal visits this year. The first was Metropolitan Hilarion's visit on 1 July 2012, a visit that coincided with Deacon Martin Naef's final service in our parish before leaving to work abroad. The second was the visit of Archbishop Michael of Geneva and Western Europe on the occasion of the celebration of our patronal feast of Saint Panteleimon, celebrated in 2012 on Friday-Saturday 10-11 August.

Having our festal services for Saint Panteleimon on the Friday evening and Saturday morning closest to the feast makes it possible for people from other parishes, clergy in particular, to attend. In 2012, over 150 people gathered in

church, and 120 joined us for lunch. As a gift to the faithful we had icons of Saint Panteleimon printed, distributing them to those present as they came to the Cross at the end of the service.

In addition to Archbishop Michael and a large number of the faithful from Sydney and Newcastle, we were joined on our feast-day by Archpriest Nikita Chemodakov, the Dean of New South Wales; Hieromonk John (MacPherson) from Holy Trinity Monastery, Dungog; Priest Alexander Korjenewski from Saint George Church, Carlton; and Protodeacon Alexander Kotlaroff from Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral, Strathfield.

In 2012-13 we continued the practice commenced in the previous year of serving general memorial services (panikhidas) on Demetrius Saturday and, when possible, the other Saturdays on which the church appoints commemorations of the departed.

On a number of occasions during the year we served special memorial services for reposed hierarchs prominent in the life of the Russian Orthodox Church. On 5 August 2012 we remembered Patriarch Varnava (Rosic) of Serbia on the 75th anniversary of his repose; on 18 November we remembered Metropolitan Platon (Levshin) of Moscow on the 200th anniversary of his repose; and on 3 March we remembered Archbishop Simon of Peking on the 80th anniversary of his repose. We remembered Metropolitan Laurus (Skurla), beloved fifth First Hierarch of our Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia, with particular attention on the fifth anniversary of his repose, serving a panikhida on the evening of Saturday 15 March and commemorating him at the Great Entrance during Divine Liturgy the following day.



and Irina Sviridova.

There were sixteen baptisms, 13 infants and 3 others, in our church during the period under review. The infants baptized were Alexander Rowan, Feodor Douriaguine, Melanie Glazirin, Dominic (Domety) Domtchenko, Sophia Lamanova, Victoria Potalitsyna, Victoria Korotaeva, Aleksander Terjohin, Alexander Zuev-Elbacha, Vera Gerasimova, Benjamin Lo Campo, Alexander Kfoury, and Daniel Day. The adults baptised were Elena Sokolova, Tatiana Kazakova-Orel,

There were no weddings. There was one funeral, that of Tatiana Dmitrievna Venttsel, in December 2012.

After Reader Christopher Dowling's transfer from our parish to Canberra in mid-2012, the reading of the Apostol at Divine Liturgy was undertaken by Paul

Douriaguine. Arrangements were made in April 2013 for Paul's tonsure as a reader, and this occurred in July 2013. In May 2013 Reader George Karmadonoff and his family returned to the parish after a period living interstate, with George resuming his duties in June 2013.

In the course of the year we obtained the remaining hard-cover editions of the English language *Menaion*, the set of books that contains the services for each day of the year. In recognition of the fact that many find the Church Slavonic script difficult to read, two complete sets of the *Menaion* in Russian script were ordered this year.

Caring for the church building and its material needs

Together with the Diocesan authorities, we purchased our current parish centre in late 2003. In May 2014 we will celebrate 10 years of parish life in West Gosford.

The parish owns 75 per cent of the building, and the Diocese 25 per cent. As with all church property belonging to parishes of our Diocese in New South Wales, the property is held in trust by the Russian Orthodox Property Trust (NSW).

Our mortgage was paid in full in December 2008. In February 2009 the Parish Council established a 'Future Fund' to provide for the expected needs of the parish, including the eventual purchase of property for the construction of a permanent church. A regular contribution of \$850.00 per month is made to this fund, which is supplemented by occasional donations. As of the end of June 2013, this fund totaled \$53,228.02, having increased in the past twelve months by \$10,419.14.

A small number of news icons were placed in church this year. An icon of Saint Elena was donated by Ekaterina Korolkevich-Rubbo and a small icon of the Martyr Tatiana, an old icon miraculously delivered from fire, was donated by a parish family. Both icons were placed in kiots at the expense of a friend of the parish. Icons of Saint Alexander Nevsky and Saint Melania were given to the parish by the Glazirin family and an icon of the Holy Martyrs Sophia, Vera, Nadezhda and Lyubov was given to us by Anna Rowan and her mother, Nadezhda Raka.



The Parish Council's one major purchase during 2012-13 was of a new set of "XB" lights for use in church during the Paschal season. These new lights, made in stylized Slavonic form and containing LED lighting, replaced the old wooden letters fitted with light bulbs.

An order was placed for four new brass candle-stands, the plan being to replace the wooden stands. This decision was made with regard to both aesthetics and safety, the wooden stands having a flammable surface.

Regular cleaning of the church continued to be undertaken voluntarily by Katia Waters and Anna Kourbatov. General clean-up days involving parishioners and friends were held before the feasts of the Nativity and Pascha. The clean-up before the Nativity in January 2013 was the best attended in all our time at West Gosford, with over 35 people gathering to assist.

Our Ladies' Auxiliary has continued to raise funds for the furnishing and decoration of the church. In December 2012 the Ladies' Auxiliary purchased 16 beautiful red-gold altar server vestments from the Convent of Saint Elisabeth in Minsk, Belarus. A further order was placed in May 2013 with the same convent for new white vestments for our altar servers. It is intended that vestments in green, blue and black will be acquired as funds permit.

Flowers were purchased and arranged by the Ladies' Auxiliary on special occasions. Nina Golovin and Matushka Marie Carles took responsibility for the cleaning, ironing and changing of church vestments. Matushka Marie continued to bake prosphora for each service and the five loaves blessed on Great Feasts. The flour for prosphora has for some years been generously donated by Nicolas and Sophia Kfoury.

Sophia Kfoury also made arrangements this year to obtain a number of small wooden crosses from Jerusalem. These were obtained particularly for placement in the hands of our departed at burial services, the parish declining to use the plastic crosses now becoming customary in such circumstances.

Rick Golovin and his son Vlad Golovin repainted the church hall in December 2012. It is expected that similar work will be undertaken in the church in 2013-14 in preparation for our tenth anniversary celebrations.

In December 2012 Father James and Rick Golovin began the work of taking an inventory of church property. This work remains to be completed in 2013-14.



Undertaking Orthodox Christian educational work

The primary means of educational work in our parish has been preaching. Sermons are given on every Sunday and major feast-day.

Our bookstore continued to operate in 2012-13, providing parishioners and friends with a range of edifying books, compact discs and DVDs in both Russian and English, in addition to devotional items such as calendars, baptismal crosses, and icons. Anna Kourbatov manages the bookstore. Beautiful new bookcases were installed to house the bookstore in December 2012, and the bookstore was dedicated to Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk, a great hierarch and teacher of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Evening services in our church provided an opportunity for worshippers to learn more about the services and to begin to read in church. All with an interest in doing so were encouraged to help with the reading and singing.

Our parish newsletter contained a great deal of information for the instruction of the faithful about church life. These were distributed in church, by post, by email, and through our parish website and Facebook page.

Early in 2013 the Parish Council provided parish families and households with a wall calendar that included details of feasts and fasts – including the rules of fasting – and the readings for each day.

A great deal more needs to be done in this area, perhaps the weakest aspect of parish life.

In association with and under the patronage of our parish, the Saint Seraphim Russian School was established in Hornsby in 2011. During the year under review the school commenced its second year of operations, providing children with an opportunity to acquire a love of and a degree of competence in Russian language, history, geography, literature, art, music, culture, and the fundamentals of the Orthodox Christian faith. At present the school has more than 30 children of different ages and language abilities. School families come from diverse parts of Sydney – the lower North Shore, the Northern Beaches,

and Hornsby – and from the Central Coast. A team of professional teachers and a speech therapist apply their skills and experience to create a great educational environment for children full of love, games, and exciting learning experiences. The school is looking for ways to expand and always welcomes new students.

Providing for the clergy and supporting the higher church authorities

A small regular stipend is paid to our choir director to offset the expenses associated with undertaking her duties. Honoraria are paid to hierarchs, deacons and sub-deacons visiting our parish on special occasions. At the present time we lack the financial means and the administrative resources to do more than this.

Parishes of the Diocese have a responsibility to financially support the higher church authorities – the Diocesan and Synodal administrations. Such financial support is collected from parishes for the Diocese in the form of a 15 per cent levy on both candle sales and the first collection plate, and for the Synod in the form of a 4.5 per cent levy on candle sales, the first collection plate, donations, membership tithes, prosphora sales, bank interest and other revenue. The levies on candle sales are applied by the Diocese when candles are purchased from the Diocesan Candle Store.

At the initiative of the Diocesan Council, our parish was exempt from all levies – apart from those on candle sales – from the time we purchased our parish centre in 2004, allowing us to direct our financial resources towards the repayment of our mortgage. This was a great help to us, and we are grateful to the Diocesan authorities for this assistance. In 2011 we nevertheless resolved to commence paying levies.

Levies are payable at six month intervals. In February levies are paid on income collected in the period from July-December, and in August levies are paid on income collected from January-June.

In 2012 we introduced a process whereby levies were calculated month-by-month to facilitate prompt payment. In July 2012 we paid levies totaling \$4028.80 for the previous eighteen months, with a further \$37.58 paid in November 2012. In February 2013 we paid levies totaling \$1528.88 for the period from July-December 2012. \$1,413.73 is payable for the period from January-June 2013, and falls due in August 2013.

In addition, between July 2012 and June 2013 we paid levies of \$890.00 on candles purchases. We also paid a levy of \$500.00 to assist with the annual Diocesan Youth Conference.

Working to help others in need

Each year the parish is asked to take up a number of collections for organisations and causes nominated by the church authorities. In our parish it has also been customary to take up additional collections during Great Lent, the Nativity Fast and – depending on its duration in a given year – the Apostles' Fast.

In 2009 we collected \$3,104.50 for charitable causes, and in 2010 we collected \$4,533.10. The total collected in 2011 was \$2,451.65. In the first half of 2012, \$1819.69 was collected. In 2012-13, \$4334.30 was collected.

The breakdown of Diocesan and Parish collections is as follows:

Diocesan Collection Beneficiaries 2012	When taken	Amount
Synod of Bishops Fund for Assistance	November 2011	\$600.00
Orthodox Action	February 2013	\$370.00
Holy Trinity Seminary, Jordanville	Great Lent 2013	\$337.00
Russian Ecclesiastical Mission, Jerusalem	Palm Sunday 2013	\$1264.05
Total		\$2571.05

Parish Collection Beneficiaries 2012	When taken	Amount
Pakistan Mission	Apostles' Fast 2012	\$638.55
Lubyanka church project	Nativity Fast 2012-13	\$1124.70
Total		\$1763.25

The collection for the Pakistan Mission was taken up in response to Metropolitan Hilarion's appeal in mid-2012. The Lubyanka collection was an initiative of the Parish Council, a number of members being inspired by the Srentensky Monastery's plans to build a "church-on-the-blood", dedicated to the New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, at the place where so many Orthodox Christians suffered for their faith in the course of the twentieth century. The response to this collection was immensely pleasing.

By the end of July 2013, all collected funds had been paid on to the Diocese or the specific beneficiary.

As in previous years, Diocesan collections were advertised in advance and envelopes with details of the date and purpose of each collection were distributed in church and by post. For the two parish collections and for the Jerusalem collection, labeled money boxes were prepared for parishioners and friends to take home and use to set aside contributions during the course of the fasting periods.

In both 2011 and 2012 we contributed US\$1,200.00 to the Haiti Orthodox Family Relief Program, an initiative that operates in partnership with the Fund for Assistance to the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia. This money was provided directly to needy Haitian Orthodox families. We renewed this commitment in 2013, donating a further US\$1,200.00 (AU\$1,212.61).

We also made two further contributions to the charitable work in Haiti of the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia. The first was a monthly US\$10.00 contribution to reduction of the debts of two ROCOR priests in Haiti, paid as a single lump sum. The second was a one-off US\$250.00 contribution to the salaries of teachers in the schools that operate under the auspices of ROCOR's Haiti Mission. These amounts, paid together, totaled AU\$368.56.

In addition, by ordering altar-server vestments from the Convent of Saint Elisabeth in Minsk, Belarus, we provided support to the important social work of that convent.

Other activities

Parish life

Throughout the period under review, the Ladies' Auxiliary under Kate Marcotrigiano's direction ensured that refreshments were available after each Divine Liturgy, thereby providing an opportunity for people to relax and socialise informally. This has been an important part of parish life.

Steps were taken in the course of the year to improve safety and food-handling in the kitchen. A new stainless-steel preparation bench was obtained, hazardous items were stored safely, and new practices were introduced.

Our parish newsletter has been published since 2002. In 2012-13 ten issues were published, with issue number 126 prepared in June 2013. The newsletter remains an important source of information for our parishioners and friends. Since March 2010 it has been produced, edited and distributed by Kira Paznikov Barry. As Kira is unable to continue this work beyond the end of 2013, new arrangements will then be made.

Susanna Bendeviski continued to manage the content of our parish website, www.gosfordrussianchurch.org.au, and of our parish Facebook page. Arrangements were made in 2012 to redevelop the website, but these did not come to fruition. In June 2013 the Parish Council agreed to engage a US-based company, Orthodox Web Solutions (OWS), to undertake this work. An attractive aspect of the service offered by OWS was the integration of the website, social media, and bulk emailing.

In 2012 we had our customary October Long Weekend BBQ at Avoca Beach, with over 70 parishioners and friends gathering for fellowship and fun. Rick



Golovin organized this event.

A number of policies and administrative guidelines were adopted or revised in the past year to improve parish decision-making and administration. These included position guidelines for the parish warden, treasurer and secretary, and administrative guidelines on membership, privacy, keys, expenditure, parish awards and the use of parish email addresses. Further work to clarify Parish Council policy will be done in the year ahead.

We re-organized positions on the Parish Council to better ensure a sustainable range of duties for individual Parish Council members. We also took important steps to better organize and secure parish records.

In December 2012 representatives of the Parish Council met with our insurer, Catholic Church Insurances, to ensure that the parish was appropriately insured.

A general policy supporting safety, security and stability in parish life was adopted at the 2012 Annual General Meeting. Working on the assumption that our objective and aims will best be met if our people are safe, parish life is stable, and our assets and records are secure, this policy was adopted to promote these things and to provide a framework for the assessment and management of risk in parish life.

A risk assessment and treatment plan was finalized in May 2013. Due for review in June 2013, this plan will guide the Parish Council for the remainder of 2013. It is expected that a new plan will be developed in 2014.

In April 2012 our entire Parish Council took steps to register as directors of the parish with the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission.

Diocesan life

Our small parish has continued to fully engage in the life of the Diocese.

To the extent possible, Father James and - for the time that he was with us this year - Father Martin visited parishes in Sydney on the occasion of their patronal feasts. In 2012-13, this included the cathedral in Strathfield and the parishes in Fairfield, Croydon, and Centennial Park. Father James participated in the festive services at the Archbishop's Chapel in Croydon on the second day of Christmas, and at Strathfield on the second day of Pascha. Many of our parishioners also participated in these services, in addition to visiting the Wallsend parish for special occasions. Father James also participated in the Service of General Anointing at Strathfield during Great Lent in 2013.

In December 2012 Father James visited the second Annual ROCOR Teen Retreat, held at Elanora Heights in Sydney's north. One of the young people from our parish, Nick Carles, attended the 2012 retreat, and in early 2013 was asked to join the organizing committee for this year's retreat. As time goes by, it is hoped that more young people from our parish will become involved in such activities.

Father James participated in pastoral conferences in Brisbane in December 2012 and in Sydney during Great Lent. He also participated in the Divine Services held in conjunction with the Lenten conference.

Our parish continued to comply with Diocesan policy concerning Working with Children Checks and National Criminal History Checks. In September 2012 our parish, together with the Wallsend parish, took the lead in adopting a parish 'Child-safe, child-friendly' policy. We later assisted in the development of a wider Diocesan policy. In June 2013 we registered our parish with the Commission for Children and Young people and ensured that the rector undertook the new Working with Children Check. We also revised our 'Child-safe, child-friendly' policy to include a Code of Conduct for our clergy and others working with children.

At the AGM in September 2012 our parish passed a resolution of commitment to the Diocesan 'Policy and Procedure for addressing Inappropriate Behaviour'.

After finalizing our risk assessment and treatment plan in May 2013 we made resources available to the Diocesan authorities to assist other parishes in this process.

The customary Nativity and Paschal Epistles of Patriarch Kyril and Metropolitan Hilarion were read aloud in church and printed in our parish newsletter.

Metropolitan Hilarion's 2013 Lenten Epistle was also published in this way, as were his December 2012 Statement on the occasion of the tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut; the Declaration of the Assembly of Russian Bishops serving in the Diaspora; and the February 2013 Epistle of the Council of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church. In this way we have facilitated and strengthened links between the faithful and the hierarchy of our Church.

Plans and challenges

Parish administration

We have given a great deal of attention over the last two years to the development of clear and robust administrative policies and procedures. We are committed to continue on this path in the year ahead, taking care to ensure compliance with the guidelines that we already have.

We recognize the need for sound record-keeping practices and have taken a number of steps to ensure that our parish records are safe and accessible. We understand that more work needs to be done in this area. In response to feedback from our external auditors, particular attention will be given to financial record-keeping.

We plan to complete an inventory of parish property in the year ahead. This is important if we are to be certain that we are appropriately insured. It is also important that we take stock of what we have and avoid an unnecessary storage burden.

The responsibilities of the Parish Council have increased greatly over the last few years as new legal and policy obligations have emerged. We understand that we must carefully and realistically assess what needs to be done, ensuring an appropriate distribution of tasks. We do not want any individual in parish life to be overwhelmed by his or her responsibilities in serving the parish.

Parish life

The focus of parish life in 2014 will be the celebration of ten years in our church and parish centre at West Gosford. We plan to form a committee that will organize a number of activities throughout the year to observe this important milestone.

It has been observed that the undertaking of Orthodox Christian educational work is one of the weakest aspects of parish life. We hope to address this in the year ahead by forming a further committee to consider opportunities for camps, discussion groups, and short programs of study.

We understand that services every Sunday and major feast-day should be the goal of every Orthodox Christian parish. We recognize, however, that at present this is not possible in our parish. We are nevertheless committed to the building up of the life of our parish in every way that we can, looking forward to the time when the fullness of parish life becomes accessible to us.

Church building

In early 2014 we plan to re-paint our church and undertake a number of necessary maintenance tasks in preparation for our celebration of the tenth anniversary of our move to West Gosford.

Having spent ten years of parish life in West Gosford, we are mindful of the need to evaluate and look to the future. In 2003 when the premises at West Gosford were purchased it was understood by both the parish and the Diocesan authorities that the parish centre we established would be a temporary one.

The parish centre at West Gosford is conveniently located and is of a size appropriate for our needs. It is rare that the church and hall cannot accommodate everyone present for services or other activities. It nevertheless remains our desire to purchase land and build a church in traditional Russian Orthodox style.

At the moment, the cost of this is prohibitive. As a small community, we simply do not have the means to purchase a suitable property and undertake the work necessary for the construction of a church.

Our parish can, however, lay the foundations for this to be possible in the future. In two key ways we are already doing this: the property at West Gosford continues to appreciate in value, and the Parish Council sets aside in excess of \$10,000.00 each year for our Future Fund.

The Parish Council believes that a further opportunity exists. Our rector has for many years rented a home privately. If the parish were to purchase a home of a suitable size and location, he and his family could reside there, the money paid in rent contributing directly to the assets of the parish. Upon payment of any mortgage on such a property, the rent payable could be reduced, thereby making it possible for the rector to devote less time to secular employment and more time to pastoral work within our community.

For the purchase of a home to be possible, however, it will be necessary to seek assistance from the wider Russian Orthodox community. If the parish is willing to pursue this option, the 2013-14 Parish Council will seek Metropolitan Hilarion's blessing for a Diocesan-wide appeal.



COMMUNITY AUDIT SERVICE INC

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**Independent Audit Report to the Members of
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT PANTELEIMON GOSFORD**

Scope

We have audited the financial report, being a special purpose financial report of the Russian Orthodox Church of Saint Panteleimon Gosford for the year ended 30th June 2013. The Church directors/officers are responsible for the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies used and described in Note 1 to the financial statements that form part of the financial report are appropriate to meet their requirements are appropriate to meet the needs of its members. We have conducted an independent audit of this financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the needs of the members.

The financial report has been prepared for fulfilling the requirements of Russian Orthodox Church. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the Association's financial position, and performance as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows. These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia.

The Audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of the Russian Orthodox Church of Saint Panteleimon Gosford presents a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30th June 2013 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the period then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.


Andrew McDonald B.Bus (Acct) FCPA
29 August 2013

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT PANTELEIMON GOSFORD
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2013

	2013	2012
Accumulated Funds at 1 July 2012	\$49,713.31	\$34,967.49
Add:		
Balance as at 30 June 2012 Bookstore Account (not previously brought to account)	\$2,872.71	-
Balance as at 30 June 2012 Ladies Auxiliary Account (not previously brought to account)	\$12,895.26	-
Church Operating Surplus for year transferred from Statement of Comprehensive Income	\$4,684.24	\$14,745.82
Bookstore Operating (Deficit) for year transferred from Statement of Comprehensive Income	\$(81.01)	-
Ladies Auxiliary Operating Surplus for year transferred from Statement of Comprehensive Income	\$1,709.56	-
ACCUMULATED FUNDS AT 30 JUNE 2013	<u>\$71,794.07</u>	<u>\$49,713.31</u>

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT PANTELEIMON GOSFORD
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	2013	2012
INCOME		
First Plate	\$10,780.00	\$8,584.05
Second Plate	\$5,317.80	\$5,401.20
Candles	\$9,466.00	\$7,984.65
Prospora	\$2,228.00	\$2,229.00
Tithes	\$810.00	\$780.00
Bank Interest	\$235.04	\$1,931.63
Donations - money box	\$4,494.70	\$4,973.45
Donations - other	\$1,138.00	\$2,150.00
Miscellaneous	\$306.40	\$31.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$34,775.94	\$34,064.98
EXPENSES		
Clergy	\$1,250.00	\$1,000.00
Conductor	\$2,150.00	\$2,300.00
Bank Charges	\$80.00	\$12.50
Utilities	\$2,268.99	\$1,285.94
Donations	\$1,581.17	\$1,501.44
Periodicals	\$112.00	\$112.00
Candles	\$3,552.00	\$3,718.00
Strata Levies	\$2,812.70	\$2,459.60
Insurance	\$2,305.35	\$1,928.67
Special Purchases	\$1,089.37	\$3,130.00
Repairs & Maintenance	\$1,514.00	\$154.00
Admin & Stationery	\$2,692.66	\$1,039.32
Miscellaneous	\$1,174.47	\$177.69
Diocesan & Synodal Levies	\$7,508.99	\$500.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$30,091.70	\$19,319.16
OPERATING SURPLUS FOR YEAR		
TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS	\$4,684.24	\$14,745.82

**RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT PANTELEIMON GOSFORD
BOOKSTORE ACCOUNT**
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013
2013
INCOME

Sales	\$4,474.45
Bank Interest	\$7.50
Donations	\$6.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$4,487.95

EXPENSES

Purchases	\$3,767.43
Bank Charges	\$37.88
Capital Items <\$400	\$747.00
Sundry Expenses	\$16.65
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$4,568.96

OPERATING (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR

TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS	\$(81.01)
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**RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT PANTELEIMON GOSFORD
LADIES AUXILIARY**
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013
2013
INCOME

Bank Interest	\$267.99
Donations	\$962.00
Functions	\$2,943.00
Fundraising	\$4,137.00
Sundry Income	\$119.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$8,428.99

EXPENSES

Capital Items <\$400	\$316.00
Depreciation	\$125.25
Functions	\$5,969.71
Fundraising	\$73.92
Printing & Stationery	\$145.75
Repairs & Maintenance	\$63.15
Sundry Expenses	\$25.65
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$6,719.43

OPERATING SURPLUS FOR YEAR

TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS	\$1,709.56
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