

## **'Being Church' in the Rural Community**

**There are distinct geographic, demographic and climactic areas of NSW.**

**Metropolitan/Rural/Coastal Areas**

**In these areas the population, concentration, lifestyle, historical nationality and work situation of the peoples indicate a different approach to church structure and activity is needed**

**There are developing to be 5 general structural ways churches are operating:**

**Regional congregations,**

**Towns and Villages with a resourcing minister,**

**New forms of church and faith communities,**

**Traditional church congregation ministry,**

**Western areas, Chaplaincy, Church plant, Multicultural**

**These forms of church all have or are evolving new ways of Organising, Doing and Being.**

***Mission Activities that the rural ministry staff have been and are involved in:***

**Camps/conferences: Farmers, Climate change, Desert Journeys, Coastal city, regional rural, Resource ministers, RMU conferences**

**Drought opportunities: Twinning/drought support, gatherings called 'Precipitation Parties, Roadside Bar B Q's, Community Christmas parties**

**Continued linking of Resources, activities and ideas: Rural, rural and urban, Interstate linking, government and community organisations**

***Planning activities:***

**Congregational Discernment programs for Mission Planning or Strategic planning, using tools such as SHAPE, NCLS, DNA, Visioning ABCD, Scenario planning, Appreciative Enquiry, 40 Days of Purpose**

***Evangelism activities***

**Share Jesus (teams visiting congregations),**

**Jesus Conversations, U Turn, Discipleship training, Adult faith formation Studies,**

**Lay training**

***Networking Visiting***

**ER direct, Insights, Ruminations, In A State of Prayer, Living is Giving + prayer network, RMU, RSS, IRCA, National Rural**