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**Guest Editor  
Bruce Thornton**

# *The Baptist Recorder*

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## **NEXT MEETING**

**Thursday, 2nd August, 2012  
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**Edwina Murphy  
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**This is My Story ....**

## ***"Led Through Life's Journey"***

**Rev Albert Holowell**

**Baptist Historical Society, May 3, 2012.**

During World War 1 my father, "Albert James Ernest Holowell", was a stoker on the Battlecruiser, H.M.A.S. Australia 1, the Flagship of the Australian Navy. In December, 1914 the ship was ordered to proceed to the United Kingdom for service with the Home Fleet. It was at that time that "Ern" (as he was always known) met "Annie North", from Yorkshire and they were married in January, 1919.



*Rev Albert Holowell*

In April that year the "Australia" left Portsmouth to return to her home country. Then in July, 1919 my mother boarded the ship "Zealandic" to travel to Melbourne as a First World War Bride. My two older sisters were born in 1920 and 1922 but it was not until 10<sup>th</sup> November, 1929 that I was born - being given the name of Albert Richard Holowell..

Sadly my father died when I was only five years old - in September, 1935. After his death life was particularly difficult for my mother and the family. However, we did have our home in the Melbourne suburb of Coburg and I attended various schools in the area. After Coburg Primary School I went to West Brunswick Boys School. I always enjoyed SPORT and it was at the Boys School that that I played in the Aussie Rules Football Team - the Premiers - and the great love of A.F.L. - especially for "Collingwood" - has remained with me till this day. I did the final two years of my schooling

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at Coburg High School – to the Intermediate Level - and there I played a lot of tennis.

The younger of my two older sisters, Stella, was converted as a teenager and I believe it was mostly through her godly influence that gradually we all came to faith in Christ. I was converted at the Children's Mission connected to the Upwey Keswick Convention (later held in Belgrave Heights). I remained behind after the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 1941, to accept Jesus as my Saviour. My father's relatives used to often say that I'd make a good "jockey" – obviously because of my small stature – and, strangely, the person who counselled me that day was a man widely known as "ex-jockey Alf Reid". Alf had a tremendous testimony and he often spoke of the change in his life as "From the Race Track to the Grace Track" !!

Because the West Coburg Baptist Church was not too far from our home we decided to attend there. We were greatly blessed in having a series of wonderful Pastors. I remember well Rev. Norman Draper, a preacher with a really beautiful speaking voice, who had a great impact upon our lives. He was, of course, the father of our veteran Missionary in New Guinea – also Norman Draper. I always went to Christian Endeavour followed by the Morning Service, to Sunday School in the afternoon, and finally to the Evening Service. A regular Sunday routine!

Of the years when World War 2 took place I vividly recall going to Newsreels – and hearing of things like the Fall of Singapore and the Battle of Normandy. I remember the blackouts - and how exceptionally dark the streets all were at night. But I can never forget the COUPONS! You see – one day I rode my bicycle around to the corner grocer's shop. I gave "Mr. McAdam" the necessary coupons in exchange for some butter. It was a very hot day and, when I was riding home, I dropped the butter, and it went round and round the spokes of the front wheel of my bike. My mother was very distressed and sent me straight back to the shop. The grocer kindly took pity on me and replaced the butter !!

I left school at the end of 1946 and in 1947 I worked for some time in the Myer Emporium. During my lunch hour I was sometimes able to go to The Scots' Presbyterian Church, Melbourne and hear Dr. F.W. Boreham – a stately man – a literary man - and a brilliant orator.

During this year I also worked very hard at my music especially the piano and the pipe organ. I



*Young Albert at Piano*

wanted to study for the "Diploma of Music" so I applied for entry to the Melbourne Conservatorium.

My thought was that "MUSIC" would be my life's career.

Another important decision took place in 1947. The young people at West Coburg Baptist were all good friends, but I had my eye on one special young lady – Enid Moulynox. I knew that, although she regularly attended everything at the Church, she had not actually made a personal decision for Christ, and I was praying most earnestly for her conversion. When the Evangelist, Rev. Lionel B. Fletcher came to preach in the Town Hall in a nearby suburb, I invited Enid to come to hear him. As the Invitation Hymn, "Almost Persuaded", was being sung, I was thrilled to see Enid go forward. That was on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 1947 – and from that night on a relationship developed between us.

I studied at the Melbourne Conservatorium from 1948 till 1950. I was pressing toward my goal – but the Lord had other plans for my life. I had become a member of a Men's Quartet – formed by young men from the West Coburg Church. We travelled around and sang and spoke at various Churches on Sunday Evenings. I was becoming challenged about the ministry – but I wasn't sure of exactly how the Lord was leading me.

I negotiated with regard to ministry in Victoria, but the door seemed to be closed. Then, unexpectedly, I had a phone call from Rev. J.G. (Jack) Manning, the Baptist Home Mission Superintendent of Victoria, asking me if I'd be willing to become the Pastor of the South Hobart Baptist Church in Tasmania. He warned me that this would be a challenging task, but encouraged me by assuring me that he was confident I could handle it. Following prayerful consideration it wasn't long before I was setting off on the "Taroon", to travel across Bass Strait to Tasmania.

The ship had no stabilizers and, with quite a bad storm that evening, I was sent sprawling on the deck of the ship. I literally crawled inside and went to my cabin. Next morning as the ship entered the Tamar River, the sun was shining, sea gulls were

flying overhead, and everything was so calm. I got off the ship at Beauty Point, travelled into Launceston, and then boarded a train for a very long, slow journey to Hobart. At the station a group were waiting to greet me. The lady Secretary of the Church eventually approached me and asked, "Are you our new Pastor, Albert Holowell?" I must have looked so young !! Later my Moderator, Rev. Merlyn Holly, Minister of the Hobart Baptist Tabernacle welcomed me very warmly and arranged a barbecue on Mount Romney with a number of others from the Tabernacle.

### **SOUTH HOBART**

I commenced my ministry officially at South Hobart on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 1951. I discovered the Church had no diaconate – instead there was a committee of ladies and one man, Owen Williams. I lived with Owen, his father and brother, and the housekeeper "Jean". The cutest member of the household was "Paddy" – a Scottish Terrier – who always brought me my mail from the Postman ! Not so long ago I met the highly esteemed former A.B.M.S. General Secretary, Rev.J.D. Williams at the Retirement Village where he lived. I was amazed to hear that he was related to Owen Williams and family, and also, more importantly, that he was the very first Pastor of the South Hobart Baptist Church. He didn't know I had been at South Hobart, so we had lots to share.



*South Hobart Baptist Church  
1951*

In South Hobart I visited constantly – riding my bicycle up hill and down dale. There were just a few young people and four of these faithfully gathered with me every Sunday evening for prayer before the Service. One of those young people, Judy Street, later became the Sister in Charge of the Children's Ward at the Hobart Hospital and she was such a fine Christian woman.

I remember a group of young pastors (including myself) speaking with elderly Rev. Arthur Barnard after an Assembly Meeting in Hobart. He said – "If you want to be used of God there are three things you must remember.

- (1) Be a profound student of the Word of God.
- (2) Be men of prayer.
- (3) Have a real compassion for the souls of men."

I had been accepted to study at the Theological College of Victoria in Melbourne, but more and more I was becoming convinced that the Lord was leading me to do my training in the N.S.W. Baptist College under Principal G.H.Morling – whom I had heard speaking at the Victorian Keswick Convention. After much waiting upon the Lord, and believing it to be His will, I concluded at South Hobart Baptist Church early in 1952 and moved up to Sydney. A real move of faith – since I didn't know anyone in Sydney or N.S.W. !!

### **SYDNEY**

Stanmore Men's Hostel was where I lived, and Enid came up to live in Norlands Girls' Hostel in Ashfield. We both became Members of Stanmore Baptist Church. Our first Pastor was Rev. Norman Reeve and, after he moved, we were privileged to have Rev. Neville Horn as our Pastor. It was thought that Enid and I should get married before I applied for the ministry in N.S.W. So – we travelled home to Melbourne and were married in the West Coburg Baptist Church on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 1952 by Rev. T.G. (Grenville) Hinton.



*Wedding - 1952*

Back in Sydney I continued working in the G.P.O. in the Air Mail Branch. On Sundays I often had the privilege of preaching in one of the smaller Baptist Churches, and Enid was my soloist. We lived in a very small flat situated over the road from the Stanmore Church. However, as 1952 drew to a close, we were facing a move from Sydney and the commencement of a whole new phase in our life together.

## WARIALDA, BINGARA, INVERELL

A farmer named Alec Dick had donated property in Warialda to the Baptists, with a view to a work being commenced in the North West of N.S.W. It was suggested to Rev. E.F.Heather that perhaps "Albert and Enid Holowell" would be prepared to take on this pioneering work. The result was that we arrived in Warialda on "Show Day", 1953. "Ted" Heather and Rev. J. Allan Reid were already there because they had been painting the interior of the old house which was on the property. The house had no electricity, no bathroom and no laundry when we first arrived. The kitchen wasn't lined and there was just a push out wooden shutter for a window. The stove was quite ancient, and there was a 1,000 gallon tank which was our water supply. We had to boil water on the stove so that we could have a bath in a tub in the front lounge room, but we had to make absolutely certain that the front door of the house was locked at bath-time. The toilet was way down the back yard and I remember Ted Heather asking Allan Reid if he could drive him down there !!

The first Church Service was held in our home on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1953. We later moved to the hired "Masonic Hall" where a Sunday School and Morning Service were conducted regularly every Sunday morning. We were encouraged to also commence a work in nearby Bingara, and so an afternoon Sunday School and Service were soon held there – in the hired "Oddfellows Hall". Inverell was the major town in the area and it was important that a work be opened there as well. The locals we gathered together conducted a morning Sunday School and Church Service and Enid and I travelled from Bingara to Inverell so that I could conduct an Evening Service. The Inverell work was begun in 1954 and was held in the hired "Girl Guides Hall".

One of our Warialda men, Vin Lockrey, drove us around at first, frequently on unsealed roads. Then we were given a Morris 10 Panel Van – which Enid affectionately called "The Pie Cart"! Later on the folk purchased a new Holden - the second model produced - and how greatly that vehicle assisted in all the travelling required to minister in the three centres. Our first daughter, "JOY IRENE HOLOWELL", who was born on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 1955, certainly travelled many miles with us in that car.



*Albert with Joy - 1955*

A highlight of the ministry was the conducting of a Radio Session entitled "Gospel Echoes", which was broadcast every Sunday Morning from 2NZ Inverell from 7.45 to 8 a.m. As well as musical recordings we used local talent, and the session was extremely popular.

A very great challenge was to get a Church Building erected on the Warialda Property. The Lord provided in an amazing way. The Lockrey Family donated the timber. We hired two builders from the Tamworth Baptist Church to build the framework - then Enid's Brother, Bruce Moulynox, and Vin Lockrey, gave at least three months consistently working very hard on the building. Numbers of others also assisted with voluntary work. The building was opened on 4<sup>th</sup> February, 1956. Of interest is the fact that, later on, Bruce's Wedding and Vin's Funeral were both conducted in the Warialda Church Building.

A number of very fine men subsequently ministered in the towns of the North West, but eventually the Warialda and Bingara Fellowships were unable to be continued. The Inverell Church has passed through times of difficulty, but has also experienced great blessing. As the folk battle on there we pray much for our continuing Baptist witness in that great city.

## BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

I'd studied and passed the necessary Entrance Exams for the Theological College, and early in 1956 I left Warialda with a view to studying in the College – at that time situated in Ashfield. Being a married student, I was to serve in a Church as well. The Toongabbie Church, where I had ministered for just one month before going to Warialda, had applied to have us there, and the Home Mission had granted their request. So it was to Toongabbie that Enid and I were heading. Accommodation had been promised but, unfortunately, it was no longer available. We arrived in Toongabbie, with our baby daughter, and all our belongings, one day before College was due to commence, and there was nowhere for us to live. An "S.O.S." went out to the Home Mission and we were directed to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hayward in Lidcombe. This dedicated, elderly couple had gone for a six month trip to England and they had offered their home to the Home Mission to be rented out at their discretion. Because we were in such desperate need of accommodation we were able to rent the Hayward home for the next five months.

It was from Lidcombe, then, that I first travelled day by day to Ashfield for College lectures. Enid and I also travelled from Lidcombe to Toongabbie every Sunday, and often on week days as well. It was all by train, because we didn't have a car in those days. We rode our bicycles all round both Toongabbie and Seven Hills to visit our people and other contacts.



*Toongabbie Baptist Church  
1956-59*

Enid's father and her stepmother had a general store in Katoomba and they were considering retiring. When we'd been in Lidcombe for five months they purchased a home in Pennant Hills. They weren't quite ready to retire, so they offered us the use of this home, rent free, if we'd take care of it until they were ready to move. We knew that the Haywards were due back in just a few weeks and this seemed a great provision of the Lord for us – so we accepted the offer. The men from Toongabbie, who had already moved us from Warialda to Lidcombe, then moved us to Pennant Hills. Travelling took longer and it was more difficult, but the Lord gave the added strength needed and we were able to cope.

John Thornley, the Church Treasurer, also a Milk Vendor, was most anxious that the Pastor should have a home in the area. He had a new home built on part of his property – facing Fuller Street – which was actually in the Postal Area of Seven Hills. So – about the middle of 1957 we moved once again, and what a wonderful provision that home was – both for the Church and especially for us.

It was on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 1957 that our second daughter, “ELIZABETH ANNE HOLOWELL” was born in the Parramatta Hospital.

The men in my year at College were – 3 married men – myself - Michael Dennis and Alan Patino; and 7 single men – Brian Beaver, Garth Manning, Bruce Macready, Noel Melzer, David Nicholas, Richard Owen and Bruce Thornton. I will always be thankful to the Lord for the godly life and influence, and the inspiring lecturing of our highly revered **College Principal, Rev. G.H. Morling**. And we certainly had a great team of supporting college lecturers.



*Rev. G.H. Morling.*

During my College years I studied for, and gained, the L.Th. and the Dip.R.E. I also spent a couple of years practising the piano so that I could sit for my A.Mus.A. (Performers) - which I succeeded in gaining. It wasn't easy to fit everything in, but with lots of hard work and the constant help of my wife, Enid – and certainly by the grace of God – I graduated at the end of 1959.

Because of the need of more space for all the youth work at Toongabbie, we embarked on building a New Hall. The “Carl Clarke Memorial Hall” was opened by the President of the Baptist Union of N.S.W., Mr. F.E. Pepper on 7<sup>th</sup> February, 1959. It was in April-May, 1959 that the first Billy Graham Crusade was held in Sydney. A number of folk were greatly blessed at that time.

Enid and I were privileged to remain at Toongabbie for all four years of my college studies – 1956 – 1959. During those years the membership grew considerably and, with the aid of good leaders, the Sunday School, Christian Endeavour and Girls and Boys Brigades all flourished. It was, however, at the end of January, 1960, that we concluded our ministry at Toongabbie. In those days men who had finished their College Training were usually sent by the Home Mission to serve in the country for two years.

### **EAST ARMIDALE**

The East Armidale Baptist Church had applied for us to be sent there and the Home Mission gladly complied with their request. So we moved to Armidale. We were provided with a very nice home in Markham Street, and the people warmly welcomed us and our two little girls. Because we still didn't have a car of our own, the Church provided us with a Ford Prefect. That little car took us all around

Armidale, and way out into the country in many directions, as we visited in the district.

Rev. Keith Watson and his wife, Una came to serve at the Armidale Central Church mid-way through 1960. Keith and I worked together in every way possible in the whole area. The two Churches joined for a mid-week lunchtime service. Keith did most of the preaching and I looked after the music. Those meetings were greatly successful in the city of Armidale. The Ministers' Fraternal joined together, whenever possible, for Church Rallies. Miss Gladys Aylward – known as “The Small Woman” – a British Missionary from China – was the dynamic speaker at one of those rallies.

An exciting event in 1960 was when, on the final evening of the N.S.W. Baptist Assembly in Sydney on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, I was ordained. In my ordination statement I quoted part of a daily reading which had meant a very great deal to me. It began “Friend, you can trust the Man that died for you” and it concluded “You can trust Him to lead you in the path which is the very best in this world for you.”

How true that had been already in my life – and how true it was to prove in all the years that followed !!

An equally exciting event took place on 4<sup>th</sup> November, 1961, when our only son, “JOHN ALBERT HOLOWELL” was born.

Things had progressed well in East Armidale. We had a strong Sunday School and equally strong Girls and Boys Brigade Companies. There had been conversions, baptisms and folks added to the Membership.



*Brigade Parades - East Armidale*

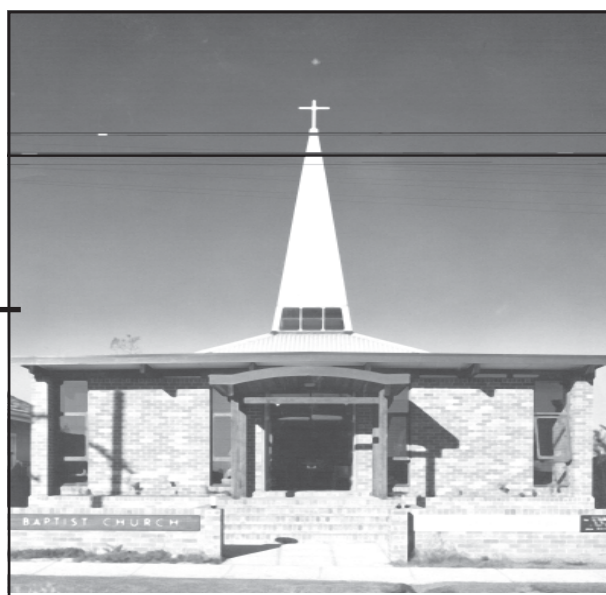
However, towards the end of 1961, I had received a couple of calls from other churches, and I was compelled to earnestly seek the Lord's will regarding our future. Finally I was led to accept a call to Chester Hill in Sydney. My final message was preached at East Armidale on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 1962

and I officially commenced my ministry at Chester Hill Baptist Church on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1962.

## **CHESTER HILL**

The history of the Church began on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1929, and it's interesting to note that on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 1939 RON ROBERTSON – much loved in N.S.W. Baptist circles – preached his very first sermon in the Chester Hill Church. In 1957 the Manse was completed and the first resident, full-time Pastor, Rev. G.N.Chambers was called to the Church. His ministry was one of great blessing and considerable growth. The Church Membership increased, and all the organisations of the Fellowship were functioning very well. And this was what I inherited when Norm and Gladys left Chester Hill in December 1961, and Enid and I – with our three little children – arrived at the beginning of 1962. I was very conscious of the fact that it was now our responsibility to take the Church forward in its history.

It was immediately obvious that the GREAT need at Chester Hill was a new Church Building. The existing facilities were desperately inadequate and couldn't cater for all the activities of the Fellowship. We talked about it – we engaged in many ways of raising funds – then, at a special Church Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 1964 it was officially passed that a new Church Building – to include a Sanctuary and a Hall as large as possible at the rear – should be erected. Mr. Ridley Smith was engaged as the Architect and Mr. Colin Lawless as the Builder. The foundations were poured on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 1965 and on Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> August, 1966 the Official Opening was held. A number of important guests participated and the speaker was Rev. G.S. Parish – President of the Baptist Union of N.S.W.



*New Church Building - Chester Hill 1966*

That new building certainly made a tremendous difference to the effectiveness of all the Church activities.

Enid and I thanked the Lord for the provision of the new building, but we also thanked Him for the added strength He gave us to keep up all the other aspects of our ministry and the care of our family while we were involved in the building program, which was such a B-I-G task. Visitation - both of our own Church Members and of other contacts - kept me busy and I regularly visited the Villawood Migrant Hostel, which was close to where some of our people lived.

Scripture in Schools was a high priority - at both Chester Hill and Chester Hill North Primary Schools - and also at Sefton High School. Enid and I also assisted in the running of Youth Camps. In 1962 we had two camps at "Riverview Lodge" and in 1963 we held a camp at Mona Vale. We had Youth Teas once a month and also Men's Teas. I joined the Cricket Club - with both younger and older men. One of our best players was Ron Jarvis - son of Dr. Wilfred Jarvis - and the Secretary of the Church.

In 1966 I was invited to join the "Rotary Club of North Bankstown". I counted it an honour to become a member of Rotary and during my short time in this club I was attached to "Community Service" as Chairman of the work amongst "Youth and Crippled Children".

I always greatly admired and appreciated the ministry of those pastors and lay people who took on responsibilities in the various Committees of the Baptist Union, but I never felt that I was a really gifted "Committee" person! However, it was while I was at Chester Hill that I accepted nomination to the "Council for Evangelism" and I attended the Meetings held at that time in Balmain. Interestingly - many years later - when we were in Tasmania - I became a member of a similar Union Committee and travelled each month from Ulverstone to Launceston for their Meetings.

We spent five action-packed years at Chester Hill - then the time came when I was being challenged again as to whether the Lord would have me move to another ministry. The result was that, having accepted a call to be the Pastor of the Padstow Baptist Church, at the beginning of 1967 I moved with my wife, Enid and our family from Chester Hill to the Padstow Manse in Haddon Crescent, Revesby. Joy commenced at East Hills Girls High School, Elizabeth went into 4<sup>th</sup> Grade at Padstow Park

Primary School and John began in Kindergarten Class at the same Primary School.

## **PADSTOW**

Padstow was, at that time, a growing area with wonderful opportunities for ministry of many kinds and the people at the Church were a great TEAM - ready - with their new Pastor - to faithfully meet the challenges. The Sunday Services were considered, as they always are, to be of vital importance. While I did most of the preaching, from time to time we had visiting speakers whose messages were both a blessing and very challenging. The Church was blessed with fine musicians and the services were always bright and meaningful.

The Sunday School Anniversaries were always a very B-I-G thing at Padstow. There was a special theme and a colourful banner was placed behind the large platform on which the children sat to sing their specially chosen songs. Girls and Boys Brigades were very active at Padstow Baptist and I was the Chaplain of both companies. There were regular Church Parades and, on these occasions, the Church was full to overflowing, with young people, parents and many others.

The Padstow Baptist Soccer Football Club was formed in February, 1967. Clive Hitchen - a Member of the Church - was the competent Club Secretary and Manager. One team played the first year and the objective was to add at least one new team each year to the Club playing schedule. Eventually there were 13 teams playing - each with a manager and a coach. The boys were expected to attend a monthly Church Parade and the Church was absolutely packed to capacity when these parades were held.

Girls were invited to join the "Basket Ball" Teams (now called "Netball"). Six teams were playing in 1968 - the matches being held at Narwee. If transport was a problem help was available. The girls usually had their parades on the same night as the soccer parades.

It was in 1968 that the second Australian Billy Graham Crusade was held in Sydney. The people from Padstow Baptist worked hard to encourage both younger and older folks to attend the meetings at the Showground. Visitation was done, buses were organised, and who could ever forget the fantastic meeting on the final Sunday.

When the Church celebrated its 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, cards were printed inviting people to attend the services on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> August, 1969, to hear an “internationally known and loved preacher – Rev. John G. Ridley, M.C. Distinguished Soldier and Author”.

Visitation was a constant challenge – with church members and adherents – Sunday School children’s parents – families of the girls and boys in the Brigades – contacts from the sporting groups – and other contacts in the community. I placed a great deal of importance on Hospital Visitation. Becoming well known at the Bankstown Hospital I was invited to speak at the “Australian Nurses Christian Movement”. One memorable Sunday evening the nurses came in their uniforms and took a special Service at Padstow. That service was very impressive, with a number of lovely items and other highlights.

When I was at Padstow I became an Industrial Chaplain with ITIM (Inter-Trade and Industry Mission). I did some training first and then commenced as a Chaplain at “British Paints Ltd.”, Gow Street, Padstow. There were approximately 800 employees and I contacted about 350 of them each week. With the support of the Church I gave each Wednesday morning. I commenced on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1970 and continued there for three and a half years. I had many opportunities with the employees I met, and once I was asked to take the funeral of a young woman, just 39 years of age, a worker in the office, who had suddenly died. I was able to present the message of comfort and hope which can be found in our Lord Jesus Christ to a wide group of people from the family, the community, the factory, the office and the company.

On 10<sup>th</sup> August 1967 I was inducted into the Rotary Club of Padstow and I remained a Member of the Club until 11<sup>th</sup> December, 1973. One Padstow Rotary Club Community Service Project was the organising of the “Carols by Candlelight” each year. These were held in Playford Park, a large park across the road from the Baptist Church and the church folk were able to assist in a very major way year after year.

With the steadily growing congregation at our regular services, and the crowds attending Parades and other special services, the necessity for a new building became abundantly clear. Of course, finance was – as it often is – a very important factor. There was considerable direct giving, but we also put into action a “Talent Scheme” and it was simply

amazing what various ones did to help raise funds towards our goal. Eventually the church engaged the architectural draftsman, Mr. S.G. (Stan) Leary who came from Earlwood Baptist. The plan was to build a new Church Sanctuary and to up-grade all the existing buildings. When the plans were drawn up and approved, the builder, Mr.J.Monahan was employed.



*New Church Building  
Padstow 1971*

The Official Opening and Dedication Ceremony was held on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> October 1971 at 3 p.m. I welcomed the assembled guests and introduced the Guest Speaker, Rev. Norman Reeve, O.B.E. and the Superintendent of the Baptist Home Work Council, Rev. A.C. le Claire – whose privilege it was to open the door of the building. That building was much needed and it was a tremendous blessing when it was completed and in use. In fact, we often wondered how we could have accommodated everyone attending the Church in the days that followed had the new building not been a reality.

Padstow was a really “GO AHEAD” church – with something for everybody – and our family were always very happy during the seven years we spent there. However, once again the time came for us to move. At the end of 1973 Enid and I had our first overseas trip – to South East Asia – and it was not long after we returned that we moved from Padstow because I had accepted a call to Auburn.

I recall once having a conversation with Dr. Geoffrey Blackburn – a very highly regarded Victorian Baptist Pastor. He said, “Albert, every church has a different ethos.” And there were no two churches where there was a more “different ethos” than Padstow and Auburn. And the districts



were also totally different. Auburn would have been classified as “inner suburban” and, over a period of time it had become more and more “ethnic”.

## AUBURN

We moved into a very lovely Manse – and my Induction took place on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 1974. I was inducted by my good friend, Rev. Michael Dennis. Then, on the Sunday, I was the preacher at both the morning and evening services. I remember standing in the Pastor’s Vestry and looking at the photos of the previous pastors of the Church. I couldn’t help thinking what mighty men of God they all were, and I prayed that the Lord would enable me to worthily fulfil my calling at the Auburn Baptist Church.

The A.B.C. Pre-School first started in February, 1952, and it was a great ministry in the community. It had been conducted in the halls at the back of the church, but these became inadequate and didn’t comply with the current Community Services regulations. In 1975, the Church received a grant, through the Red Scheme from the Federal Government, when Gough Whitlam was Prime Minister, to be used to construct new pre-school facilities over the road behind what had once been the Church Manse. The new Pre-school was opened in September, 1976 and what a joy it was to see this lovely new complex used during the week by the Pre-school and on Sundays by the Church. The first qualified Director of the pre-School was Maryanne Frisken – wife of Rev. Bob Frisken – and Enid worked in the Pre-school until the end of 1981.

The support of missionary work had a very high priority at Auburn Baptist and the people gave most generously to A.B.M.S. They also followed with keen interest and practical support the work of Peter and Jean Nightingale with O.M.F. in Thailand. Prayer was also a very vital part of our life at Auburn. The Prayer and Bible Study Meetings continued on Wednesday evenings and on Monday mornings a very faithful group of elderly ladies gathered for prayer. There was always a real sense of the Lord’s presence week by week at those meetings.

For many years there was an Office Secretary at Auburn and I found that extremely helpful. It was also great to have Phyllis Woodhouse, a full-time Deaconess, for some time to help with the visitation. The difficult trend – which began before we arrived in Auburn – was the moving of so many people from the district to other places. For example, we had

two very accomplished organists during our time at Auburn but, unfortunately, they both moved away and I played the organ when we were without an organist.



*Auburn Baptist Church  
1974-1982*

“Auburn Baptist Drama Group” every year performed one of the Gilbert and Sullivan Operettas. They were a source of enjoyment to those who worked so hard to produce them, and they were a great outreach amongst audiences in Auburn and elsewhere. There was also a very good CHOIR at Auburn who ministered regularly in the morning services. When the Church’s 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was celebrated on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 1978 they sang two items. On that special occasion we welcomed a number of civic and denominational leaders, but we were especially honoured to have the N.S.W. Governor, Sir Roden Cutler with us.

We tried to face the challenge of the ever growing number of ethnic people in the Auburn Community. We had a most significant ministry amongst South East Asian refugees – especially from Vietnam. I worked closely with a Spanish speaking Pastor, and the Pastor from the “Evangelical Church of the Middle East”. Nada Mikaiel, who was Egyptian by birth and had Arabic as his first language, was at one time our Youth Leader and he could minister amongst our English speaking young people as well as to others in the area. We had Indian folk in our Fellowship and Jyotirmoy Hazra – who was a student in the Baptist Theological College – had a ministry with Indian people. There were many

Turkish people in Auburn and I attended classes to learn some Turkish so that I could communicate with them. Our neighbours – who became great friends – came from Turkey, and we're still occasionally in contact with them.

“Turning Point” was a project of Inter-State Meetings organised by the Baptist Churches of Australia in 1981. At first I went to Geelong in Victoria, and then I went to Ulverstone in Tasmania. Enid joined me in Ulverstone and we had a marvellous time with the Fellowship. Ulverstone was without a Pastor when we were there and later I was invited to become their Pastor. I hesitated at first, and Enid and I prayed together most earnestly about the call before I finally accepted it. We were delighted to hear that our close friend, Rev. Keith Watson was to minister for awhile at Auburn after we moved.

Joy had married Allen Mayfield in the Auburn Church in 1978 and they were living and teaching in Nowra. Elizabeth was working really hard at the Sydney Conservatorium, having almost completed her Bachelor of Music on the Violin – and John was studying at College. So, when we left Auburn to go to Tasmania, this time none of our children went with us.

### ULVERSTONE TAS.

It was not until Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> May, 1982 that the Official Welcome and Induction to the Ministry of the Ulverstone Baptist Church took place. Then I took the two services on Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. And so began our ministry in the beautiful North West of Tasmania.



*Ulverstone Tas. Baptist Church  
1982-1990*

A significant event in 1982 was the commencement of the Playgroup in September. This proved very

popular from the start and it catered for the needs of mothers and children both from within the Church Fellowship and also from the Community. Enid was the leader of the Playgroup and, because it was so successful, the numbers of children in the Kindergarten Department of the Sunday School grew considerably.

Our family had often been involved in musical evenings in Churches around Sydney and, when all our children were coming to Ulverstone to visit us on our first Christmas there, we decided to have a “Holowell Family Concert” on the evening of Thursday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, 1982. Joy was the accompanist and she also played piano solos. Elizabeth played a number of violin items. John contributed by playing both the piano and trumpet. Enid sang a solo and I played the organ. The church ladies provided supper and altogether it was a most enjoyable evening.

In July, 1983 Rev. Joe Spain from North Peachtree Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A. came to conduct meetings not only at Ulverstone but also in Hobart. Then, from Monday August 15<sup>th</sup> to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> we had a special series of meetings for children with Rev. Paul and Mrs. Margaret de Plater. Of course life was not all “specials” – there was all the day by day ministry, including Scripture in three Primary Schools which involved a very great deal of work for both Enid and myself.

When we first arrived in Ulverstone we lived in a quite comfortable, but small Manse. A new Manse was being built and it was opened on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 1983. It was a beautiful home, but without any garden. Enid – being the gardener in our family – spent a lot of time in establishing the Manse garden.



*New Manse - Ulverstone 1982*

In 1984 I was invited to go with a group of Australian Pastors to U.S.A. to participate in the Bible Study Week in Southern Baptist Churches.

I ministered in three churches – a Spanish-speaking Church in San Francisco - South Shore Baptist Church in Kentucky – and finally Thomas Memorial Church in Bennetsville, South Carolina. The book for study that year was 1 Corinthians and I had prepared very thoroughly – and had given a good number of the studies in Ulverstone before I left. On my way home I was able to visit Atlanta, where I stayed with Joe Spain and his wife, Eleanor. Enid persuaded me to also have a few days in Hawaii – which was GREAT.

On 14<sup>th</sup> April, 1984, my Mother passed away and I flew to Melbourne so that I could be with family members and attend the Funeral Service. Later that same month, Rev. Neville Horn and his wife, Bessie were with us in Ulverstone for a “Deeper Life” Teaching Mission. The weekend from 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> April was EASTER and the Somerset Church ran an Easter Convention at which Neville and Bessie were the Guest Speakers.

From July 27<sup>th</sup> to August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1986 the “Texas-Tasmania Partnership” was held in Baptist Churches throughout Tasmania and a great team came to Ulverstone. The leader was Dr. Jim Eaves and another member of the team was “Sandy Hatch”. Sandy returned to Ulverstone in August, 1987 and became the Youth Leader of the Ulverstone Church. She later married and settled in Devonport and we’re still in touch with her there.

With 15 previous years as a Rotarian, it was a real pleasure when, on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1982, I became a member of the Ulverstone Rotary Club. I’m sure that I was more active in the Ulverstone Club than I had been in any other - being asked to speak on quite a number of occasions. I was also the Weekly Bulletin Editor for quite a long period of time – a fairly B-I-G job. A Rotary Service was held in one of the local churches each year. On the morning of Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 1987 that service was held in the Ulverstone Baptist Church and all who attended greatly appreciated the whole service.

Ulverstone had a marvellous “Municipal Band” and a number of our people were members of the band. In 1985 when the Church celebrated their 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary the special guests were Rev. Albert Roberts and his wife Rachel who travelled from Hillcrest in South Australia to be with us for the

Anniversary Weekend. At the Sunday Morning Service we had the privilege of having as our musicians the Municipal Band and Rev. Roberts was the Preacher. It was a memorable weekend!

Sadly, during 1986, the health of Enid’s father deteriorated considerably. He was suffering from cancer and fighting a losing battle. He died on November 11<sup>th</sup> and Enid flew to Sydney so that she could attend his funeral.

On a happier note, it was while we were in Tasmania that I was privileged to do many wonderful bush walks – some with the Church Young People, which were just Day Walks – others with my Rotary Friend, John Pickford, which were usually Three Day Walks. In 1985 I walked with three younger men in the Cradle Mountain National Park. We had great weather and it was fantastic to be able to walk right through to Lake St. Clair. In 1988 a group of six – myself, Joy’s husband, Allen, and four of the Ulverstone men – walked in the “Walls of Jerusalem” National Park. Another experience never to be forgotten !!

It was in 1988 that Enid and I had a wonderful holiday back on the mainland. We were delighted, while we were in Sydney, to be able to attend the Centenary Celebrations of our previous Church, Auburn Baptist. We were also able to spend time with family in both Melbourne and Sydney. We had a three day pass to the fabulous “EXPO” in Brisbane, and we attended the very first “Floriade” in Canberra.

In May 1989 the ship MV DOULOS visited Devonport and we joined many people who lined the shores of the Mersey River to welcome the ship to Tasmania. We had a group from the ship in our Morning Service at Ulverstone on Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> and it was an inspiration to hear of the ministry of the ship and those on board.

### **DECEPTION BAY QLD**

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1989 I had a most unexpected enquiry from the Secretary of the Deception Bay Baptist Church in Queensland asking me what my situation was at that time. Was I open for a call? We had never heard of this place with the strange name “Deception Bay” – however I felt that I must indicate that I was always open to the Lord’s will regarding our future, and Enid and I would certainly pray about their enquiry. Things seemed to move swiftly after that, and eventually I received

a unanimous call from Deception Bay. I accepted and the announcement was made at both churches on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> that Enid and I would conclude at Ulverstone on the last Sunday in April, 1990 and would be moving up to Deception Bay in Queensland.

So much happened at Ulverstone that I feel I've hardly begun to mention what I should have. Our Deacons and Deaconesses were such supportive teams. We had a wonderful group of young people and I conducted a great number of weddings while we were in Ulverstone. We had a fine Youth Choir and Church Choir. There were many social events for younger and older members of the Fellowship. We loved being in Ulverstone – and it was extremely hard to say “Goodbye” – but we finally left Tasmania at the beginning of May, 1990 – believing it was once again according to the Lord's leading.

We travelled all the way to Deception Bay, situated on the Redcliffe Peninsula, north of Brisbane in Queensland. The furniture van arrived safely on May 9<sup>th</sup> and the unpacking was undertaken. We felt refreshed after a time away and then, on the evening of Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> the Welcome was held in the Church. The Induction took place the following day in the Morning Service.

The Deception Bay Church reached a significant milestone in July, 1990 – The Silver Jubilee – 25 years from 1965 to 1990. Of the 36 foundation members 10 were still active in the Fellowship. It was noted how, during those 25 years, Deception Bay had developed incredibly.

The men's work was strong at The Bay. The men always supported the Annual Baptist Men's Dinners which were held in the Brisbane City Tabernacle. They also regularly took a very appropriate Sunday afternoon service at a nursing home called “Sunsetholme”. Enid was very involved with the ladies' work and she was the President of the Women's Guild. Ladies' Anniversary Programs were presented each year at Deception Bay, and the ladies often visited other Churches where they provided excellent programs.

In 1991 we had a student from the Baptist College – Arthur Robinson – as our “Field Worker”. He was appointed our “Youth Worker” and he made a great contribution to our youth work until July, 1994 when he left to go elsewhere. I was Chaplain of the Boys and Girls Brigades and Enid often helped me prepare visual aids for the Brigades' Church Parades.



*Albert and Enid - Deception Bay*

The Deception Bay Church was involved in the “Crossover Australia” Meetings in 1991. The Bay was paired off with the Church in Peake, South Australia. From March 16<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> a talented group under the leadership of Pastor Arthur McKay came to Deception Bay. Their ministry was greatly appreciated. Of course, a B-I-G project for our Church during the months which followed was the getting together of a team to make the return visit to Peake. Much preparation was needed and it was a challenge trying to keep all the regular things going while helping with this project.

Enid and I went with the group to Peake and took part in the ministry not only at Peake, but also at Sherlock and Jabuk. Since we were overdue for Annual Holidays we stayed on after the meetings and enjoyed a great holiday in South Australia. While we were away, The Bay was well served by other preachers.

In May 1991 we had a visit from Rev. Neville Horn who took a number of messages on “The Ministry of the Holy Spirit”. We were also fortunate to have Dr. Ted Gibson, ex-principal of the Baptist College of Queensland as our Guest Preacher at the morning and evening services on Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1991. His messages were truly inspirational, and I understand that they were the last Dr. Gibson ever preached, since very soon afterwards he was called home to glory!

The Church at the Bay had a vital missionary interest and the support they gave to many over the years was really admirable. There was a flourishing

Junior Christian Endeavour Society and this organisation provided a fine training ground for young people. It was in the C.E. they learned to be concerned for others and to be supportive, as well, of the missionaries.

On Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1992 Enid and I celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary, and we shared the celebration with all the Fellowship. In preaching that day I testified to the leading of the Lord every step of the way through our ministry, and, we all sang together Fanny Crosby's well known hymn -

*"All the way my Saviour leads me;  
What have I to ask beside?  
Can I doubt His tender mercy,  
Who through life has been my Guide?"*

In September, 1992 we had a most memorable Bible School Anniversary. Then, in December, 1992 our Church Choir sang the Cantata, "Everlasting Lord" – a delightful prelude to the Christmas messages.

Sadly, in 1993, it was discovered that Enid had breast cancer and, on 1<sup>st</sup> October, she had a mastectomy. She recovered well and we were grateful that the cancer had not spread and she required no further treatment. The Deacons suggested to me that I should take my long service leave so that Enid and I could get away and have a restful, happy time together. It was arranged for our good friend, Rev. Alan Neate and his wife Lillian to come up to The Bay and take an "interim" while we were away. We had a lovely time visiting family and we also spent six weeks in New Zealand with friends who showed us so much scenic beauty there.

Over a period of time it had been possible for the Church at Deception Bay to purchase a fantastic block of land – suitable for future development. Two Christian Developers had, in return for a portion of the land, connected water and electricity to the block, they had built sound barriers and also a good entrance road. With the assistance of the "Mobile Mission Maintenance" a large shed had been built, which provided an excellent place for our Boys Brigade to meet. Furthermore – at the Annual Church Meeting held in 1994 – ALL the positions in the Fellowship were filled – including one of our own young men, Duncan Moody, being appointed to replace Arthur Robinson as our Youth Worker. It was clear to me that Deception Bay Baptist Church was really poised for advancement and future blessing.

## RETIREMENT

I also realised that I would be 65 years of age and ready for retirement in November, 1994, and I was feeling very strongly that I should step down, a bit earlier than the end of the five years for which I had been called, so that a YOUNGER Pastor could come, at the beginning of 1995, and lead the Church on into the future. I discussed this with the Church Leadership, and eventually a special meeting was called for Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, at which the Members were informed that I would retire at the end of November. I did, however, promise that Enid and I would serve to the very utmost of our ability for the remaining months of our time at The Bay.

Those months did prove to be very busy. I had hospital visitation to do, people in great need to be assisted, regular services, including a wonderful baptism service, to be conducted, meetings to attend and other activities to join in. But, finally, on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> November our Public Farewell was held. Martin Henry – our Honorary Associate Pastor – went to a very great deal of trouble to contact all our previous Churches and they sent most moving greetings. My sister, Stella and her husband, Martin Gawler – and Enid's long time friend, Ethel Lawrence – all came up from Melbourne to share this time with us. November 27<sup>th</sup>, 1994 was our final Sunday at Deception Bay Baptist Church.

Having been given excellent advice by a Deacon from the Padstow Church years before, we fortunately had a home in Rankin Park, a suburb of Newcastle, N.S.W. into which we could move for our retirement. It was going to be a NEW experience to actually live in a home of our own!

There were a number of Churches in Newcastle to which Enid and I could go, but the Lord led us to Islington Baptist, and we made this Church our spiritual home. We became Members of the Church in 1995 – then, in 1997, I was elected as an Elder of the Church.

At the end of October, 1997 Islington's much loved Pastor, Rev. Paul de Plater died suddenly and unexpectedly. I had decided when I retired that I wouldn't accept Interim ministries in a number of Churches. I wanted to settle in ONE Church and endeavour to be of help in that place. So – when it became clear that Islington was going to be some time before a suitable Senior Pastor could be found to replace Paul, I accepted the position of Honorary Interim Senior Pastor – a position I held from 1998 until 2000.



*Enid and Albert - Rankin Park 2010*

I must say that the Elders at Islington worked together as a wonderful team during that period – keeping everything going well. And I was exceptionally grateful for others who assisted with the preaching – even though I did have responsibility for a good percentage of it. Rev. Allan Johnston and his wife, Carol came to Islington late in 2000 and remained with us until 2005.

It was in 2001 that I twice had major surgery and months of chemo-therapy and ray treatment for bowel cancer. It was an extremely difficult period from January until September, but the Lord graciously restored me. I continued as an elder at Islington until October, 2011, when I felt it was time to retire from this position. I am still, however, very much involved in the Pastoral Care Ministry of the Fellowship and regularly attend the Worship Services, a mid-week Prayer and Bible Study Meeting and Senior Activities. I guess that, for two eighty year olds, Enid and I are still very busy in the Lord's work - but, of course, our future is in His hands.

If the Lord spares us, we'll celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary this year, 2012, on 2<sup>nd</sup> August. So what could be more appropriate to conclude this story of our lives tonight than with the final verse of the hymn which was sung on our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

*“All the way my Saviour leads me;  
Oh, the fullness of His love!  
Perfect rest to me is promised  
In my Father's house above.  
When my spirit, clothed, immortal,  
Wings its flight to realms of day,  
This my song through endless ages,  
Jesus led me all the way’.”*

## BAPTIST HISTORICAL STUDIES.

Over the years the Baptist Historical Society (B.H.S.) has published various Historical Studies. The titles are

**Harold E. Evans**, *Soldier and Evangelist: The Story of Rev. John G. Ridley, MC* (1980)

**Ken R. Manley & Michael Petras**, *The First Australian Baptists* (1981)

**Michael Petras**, *Extension or Extinction: Baptist Growth in New South Wales 1900-1939* (1983)

**Hubert Watkin-Smith**, *Baptists in the Cradle City: The Story of Parramatta Baptist Church 1838-1986* (1986)

**Michael Petras (Editor)**, *Australian Baptists Past and Present* (1988)

**Kenneth J. Cable**, *Religion in Colonial New South Wales* (1993)

**Roy B. Henson**, *And One was a Doctor: A Life of Rev. Dr. A.J. Waldo* (2003)

**Michael Petras (Editor)**, *Australian Baptists and World War I* (2009),

**Jean Kelshaw and Bruce Thornton (Ed's)** *Born to be a Soldier, War Diary of Lieutenant John Gotch Ridley, M.C. A survivor of Fromelles.* (2010).

## MORLING BOOKS

The Society has also published several books by or about Rev G.H. Morling, Principal of the Baptist Theological College of NSW (now Morling College) 1923-1960. These are- **George Henry Morling, The Man and His Message for Today** (Greenwood Press, 1995)

**The Quest for Serenity** (Young and Morling 1951, Second Edition Morling Press, 2002)

**Living with the Holy Spirit** (Morling Press 2004).

**The Franciscan Spirit and other Writings** (Baptist Historical Society of NSW, 2008).

**The Upper Room Discourses** (B.H.S. 2010)

**The Incomparable Christ** (B.H.S. 2010)

**Journeys with God.** (B.H.S. 2010)

**The Romance of the Soul.** (B.H.S. 2010)

**Jesus and the Life of Prayer** (B.H.S. 2010)

**Faith and Works,** (B.H.S. 2010)

**Living in the Will of God,** (B.H.S. 2010.)

**The Acts of the Holy Spirit** (B.H.S. 2011)

**Amos/Hosea** (B.H.S. 2011)

Copies are available through BHS, Care Morling College, 120 Herring Road, Macquarie Park, 2113, Telephone 9878 0201 or [www.baptisthistory.org.au](http://www.baptisthistory.org.au). click on Shop

**BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW  
SOUTH WALES**

**PRESIDENTS REPORT 2012**

The Baptist Historical Society of New South Wales was commenced in 1974 to preserve and record the history of Baptist Churches and the Baptist Union of New South Wales and to encourage interest in it. .

Prime mover in the establishment of the Society and first President was Dr Ken Manley who was the President from 1975-1988. Ken was succeeded by Mr A.E. Watkin Smith (1988-1992) and Rev Ron Rogers (1992-2001). The current President, Rev Bruce Thornton was elected in 2002.

**ACTIVITIES:** The Society has continued to advance its objectives namely –

- (a) To encourage research into the history of Baptists especially those in New South Wales;
- (b) To seek to obtain custody of important Baptist records and to provide for their careful preservation;
- (c) To encourage the collating and recording of Baptist history;
- (d) To foster interest in Baptist history at the local church level;
- (e) To assist research students at schools, colleges and universities;
- (f) To publish articles and historical information;
- (g) To be alert to church jubilees, centenaries, and other significant anniversaries of Baptists and where possible assist in the provision of relevant historical details;
- (h) To promote care of buildings and sites of historical interest to Baptists.

**MEETINGS:** The Society has continued to meet four times each year on the first Thursday of the months of August, November, February and May. Speakers this year have been Barbara Coe (Early Baptist Churches in Sydney), Rev Stephen Harris (Stroud Baptist Church Centenary), Dr John Stanhope (Baptist and Churches of Christ Dialogue) and Rev Albert Holowell (This is my life).

**MEMBERS:** With regret we record the passing of two members of the Society Mr Bruce King and Mr Frank Oliff. Bruce assisted the Society greatly by indexing many of the early issues of The Australian Baptist. Frank was the husband of the first Secretary of the Society Mrs Lorna Oliff who was a noted historian and writer. .

**INCORPORATION:** At the last Annual General Meeting the Society decided to become an incorporated organization and adopted a new Constitution. This has been lodged with the Department of Fair Trading and advice of approval is awaited. (See page 18)

**VOLUNTEERS:** The Society has been assisted in these activities by the work of volunteers. Leadership of volunteer activities has been facilitated by the Archivists – until recently Mr Ron Robb and more recently Dr John Stanhope. Active volunteers during the year have been Joy Dick, Wayne Hollins, Betty Moore, Arthur Pickersgill, Jan Plasto and Ernie Windschutel. These volunteers provide basic processing of material including sorting, filing and cataloguing of material and ensuring its preservation and accessibility.

**ARCHIVES:** The archives provides basic storage for records and historical material. As more material has been lodged with the Society these facilities have become overtaxed. The Society appreciates the additional storage made available at the Iliff Centre by Baptist Community Services NSW and ACT. Current policy is to retain regularly used material at the Archives while that less regularly accessed is stored at the Iliffe Centre.

**PUBLICATIONS:** The Society has continued to encourage the publication of historical material. Recent publications have included additions to the Morling Books and “Making their Mark, NSW/ACT Baptist Biographies.” Writings currently in progress are the biographies of Rev Albert Dube and Rev Albert Leonard Leeder. Dr John Stanhope is working on the production of an extensive biography of G.H. Morling written by Rev Ron Rogers. It is anticipated that this, together with a volume entitled G.H. Morling – Biblical and Topical Studies will be produced for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of G.H. Morling’s passing in April 2014. The History of Morling College is being written by Dr Victor Eldridge for its centenary in 1916 and will be published by the Society.

During the year the Society has acquired the “Greenwood Press” publishing title which was formerly the property of the Australian Baptist Publishing House.

A selection of the Society’s publications are available for purchase at <http://www.baptisthistory.org.au> – click on shop.

**THE RECORDER:** The Society publishes “The Recorder” four times each year containing a summary of presentations made at its meetings and other historical material and this is circulated to members of the Society. We greatly appreciate the work of Dr Graeme Chatfield as Editor.

**WEBSITE:** During the year Ernie Windschuttel has worked to develop the Society’s website <http://www.baptisthistory.org>. and his work in this regard is greatly appreciated.

**APPRECIATION:** Officers of the Society during the year have been Rev Bruce Thornton, President, Janine Prior Vice-President, Michael Petras Treasurer, Dr John Stanhope Archivist. and Graeme Chatfield Bulletin

Editor. In the absence of a Society Secretary, Mr Ron Robb has acted in this capacity.

The Society continues to receive encouragement and support from the Principal and Staff of Morling College which is greatly appreciated.

With the conclusion of Mr Ron Robb as Archivist during the last year and the appointment of Dr John Stanhope as his successor the Society acknowledges this long and dedicated service.

Ron was appointed as Archivist in May 1999 in succession to Rev E.A. Archer who retired. His appointment coincided with the building and opening of a new annexe for the Archives made possible by an anonymous donor in a defined and dedicated area at Morling College. Previously books, records, brochures and the like had been housed in cupboards in the Gow Room, one of the lecture rooms of the College.

This new facility has enabled the various historical documents of the Baptist Union and the churches (Minutes, Financial Statements, Promotional literature and the like) which had accumulated over the years to be appropriately stored in climate controlled premises, catalogued and accessible to any who might require their use.

Since his appointment Ron has given himself relentlessly to the work of the Archives for at least three days each week at no charge to the Society so that, as a result of his efforts, the Archives have now become a repository for a considerable volume of significant historical material and a valuable resource for people – academia, students of Morling College, members of the Baptist family and members of the public – engaged in historical research.

To facilitate this work Ron recruited a group of volunteers who have become skilled in dealing with historical material and who are able to assist people when needed.

Additionally Ron established liaison with the Archivists and Historical Societies of other denominations, has taken several short courses in Archives management and become a source of information on Baptist History answering many phone calls and emails (mostly late at night) from people seeking information .

As the establishment and development of the Archives became more widely known among the churches many have taken the opportunity to use them for safe storage for records and material - some of considerable historical value. Many of these records were previously stored unsatisfactorily on church premises where they were vulnerable and likely to be unthinkingly destroyed. This has resulted in an accumulation of material and additional space has been acquired.

In October 2011, with encouragement from the Principal of Morling College Dr Ross Clifford Ron wrote a history of the Archives detailing their establishment, growth and development with a projection of needs for the future. This was published in the Recorder.

The Society is most grateful for this service and records its gratitude and appreciation.

The Society is pleased that Ron is not severing his connection with the Society and will continue to be involved and make his accumulated experience available as and when required.

**CONCLUSION:** The Society places very high value on the preservation of historical records and the recording and documenting of Baptist history and looks forward to continuing this work during the coming year.

**Rev Bruce Thornton**  
**President 2011-12.**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012**

The Annual General meeting of the Baptist Historicxal Society was held on May 3, 2012.

**Received** the Presidents Report for the year 2011-2012.

**Elected** the following Officers for the year 2012-2013 -

President, Rev Bruce Thornton, OAM,

Vice President Mrs Janine Prior AM

Secretary - no nomination,

Treasurer, Mr Michael Petras.

Archivist, Dr John Stanhope OAM,

Website Manager: Mr Ernie Windschuttel

Recorder Editor Rev Dr Graeme Chatfield,

Honorary Auditor Mr Philip Hopkin.

**Accepted** an offer of Mr Ron Robb to continue to act as Secretary until another appointment is made.

**Noted** that approval of the Society as an Incorporated Association by the Department of Fair Trading was still pending. (see p.18)

**Recorded** its continuing appreciation to all who have supported the work of the Society especially the volunteers who assist in the work of the Archives.





## MR BRUCE A. KING OAM.

**At the Annual General Meeting of the Society reference was made to the passing of longstanding member Mr Bruce Ashby King who, for over fifty years, was deeply involved in the work of the Baptist Union and, since its inception, the Historical Society. Bruce died after a short illness on November 5, 2011.**

**A Thanksgiving service was held in the Forster Baptist Church at which many fine tributes were paid to his service.**

Bruce was born at Moree NSW in 1926. His early Christian association was with the St Lukes Anglican Church Clovelly. He came to faith in Christ at a CSSM Childrens Mission at Mt. Victoria led by Mr H. Alec Brown. Later he was confirmed at St. Andrews Cathedral by Bishop C. Venn Pilcher and became a Licensed Lay Reader of the Anglican Church (Diocese of Sydney).

He was educated at Clovelly Public School, Randwick High School and Sydney Technical High School. Following school he commenced work as a Trainee Accountant and qualified after six years of study.

In April 1949, Bruce married Lucelle Skinner daughter of a prominent Baptist family in the North Sydney Church. In 1951, Bruce was baptised as a believer and became a Baptist church member. In 1952 the family moved to Cowra where Bruce was the Company Secretary of a Hardware business. In 1955 he became a foundation member and the first Secretary of the Cowra Baptist Church. He also became Secretary of the Western District Baptist Association where his unique administrative gifts came under the notice of the then President of the Baptist Union, Rev Eric Walsham.

He was encouraged to apply for the newly created position of Secretary of the Baptist Union and, following his appointment, commenced work in that position in January 1958 .

As Secretary of the Union Bruce was extensively involved in every facet of Union activity serving on almost every committee which was established during his long and eventful period of service. He was particularly passionate that everything be done decently and in order and went to great lengths to ensure that this was so.

In 1978 he became the longest serving Secretary of the Union exceeding both Rev William Higlett and

Rev Frederick Hibberd who both served in excess of twenty years.

Bruce concluded his service with the Baptist Union at the end of 1980 and became the first full time National Director of Australian Baptist World Aid serving until his retirement in 1990.

In 1986-87 he was President of the Baptist Union and in 1990 was accorded the title Secretary-Emeritus.

In retirement he served as Administrator of Central Baptist Church, first General Manager of Baptist Investments and Finance (now Baptist Financial Services) and pastor of the Campsie Baptist Church.

In 1999, Bruce was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) *for services to the Australian and International Communities as an Administrator in the Baptist Church.*

Also in 1999, Bruce and Lucelle relocated to Forster where Bruce remained active in the local church and the community until the time of his passing. His wife Lucelle predeceased him.

**Following his passing the Baptist Historical Society published "Making their Mark - NSW/ACT Baptist Biographies" in honour of Bruce Ashby King OAM, Secretary of the Union 1958-80, Secretary Emeritus. The book contains an extended memoir.**

### **MAKING THEIR MARK NSW/ACT BAPTIST BIOGRAPHIES**

**in honour of  
Bruce Ashby King OAM**

Available from  
**Baptist Historical Society of NSW Inc.**  
Care Morling College, 120 Herring Road  
Macquarie Park NSW 2113. 9878 0201  
or [baptisthistory.org.au](http://baptisthistory.org.au) - click on Shop

## BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NSW INCORPORATED.

In July 2012 the Baptist Historical Society of NSW was advised that its application for registration as an Incorporated Association had been approved by the NSW Department of Fair Trading which administers the Associations Incorporation Act in NSW.

This marks a further step in the Society's development. For many years the Society was listed in the Baptist Union Handbook under the heading of Miscellaneous. Later it was listed under Other Associated Organisations. This new development provides opportunity for recognition as an Agency, with formal acknowledgment that it is carrying out work on behalf of the Baptist Union.

Associations are incorporated under state and territory associations incorporation legislation administered by the various state and territory authorities. An incorporated association is a legal entity separate from its individual members and can hold property, sue and be sued. An incorporated association in a state or territory is restricted to operating in its home jurisdiction. For example, an association incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 of New South Wales may only carry on business in New South Wales. Incorporated Associations legislation imposes less onerous conditions than the Corporations Act which governs the activities of companies.

Incorporated Association legislation differs from state to state but generally an Incorporated Association needs to: (a) have a committee, responsible for managing the association (b) have a public officer and notify any changes in that position (c) have a registered office in its state of incorporation (d) act in accordance with its objects and rules (e) hold an annual general meeting once every calendar year (f) lodge an annual statement every year (g) keep proper accounting records and lodge financial statements (h) keep minutes of all committee and general meetings and (i) keep registers of members and all committee members..

Further information about incorporated Associations is available from the NSW Department of Fair Trading website.

### Financial Statement of the Baptist Historical Society of NSW for the period 1 March 2012 to 30 June 2012

Receipts		Payments	
1 March 2012 Balance b/f	12,434-90		
Membership Fees	655-00	Book Binding	1,850-00
Donations	140-00	Accommodation	94-00
Term Deposit interest	595-61	Book Purchase	25-00
Bank Interest	9-54		
<b>Sub- total</b>	<b>13,835.05</b>	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1,969-00</b>
		Balance c/d	11,866-05
	<b>Total \$13,835-05</b>		<b>Total \$13,835-05</b>
1 July 2012 Balance c/f	\$11,866-05		

The Society's funds are made up of the following:

General Fund -	\$2,226-05
Term Deposit No 11704	\$3,640-00
Term Deposit No 2219 -	\$4,000-00
Term Deposit No 3168 -	\$2,000-00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$11,866-05</b>

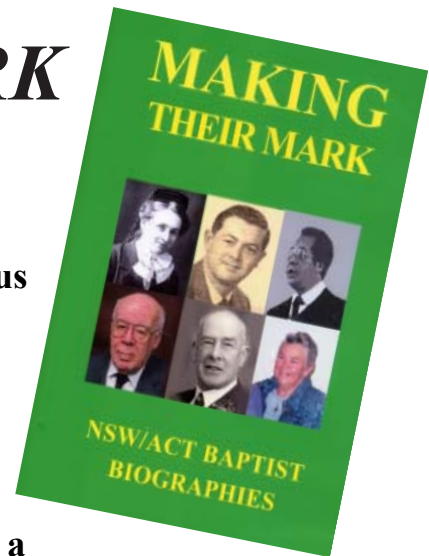
**Michael Petras - Treasurer.**

## Book Review ...

# MAKING THEIR MARK

**MAKING THEIR MARK- NSW/ACT BAPTIST BIOGRAPHIES; I.B. Thornton (ed) , 374 pp, hard and soft cover, illustrated. \$40 (hard), \$30 (soft), plus \$8.00 p&p.**

**Greenwood Press (the publishing arm of the NSW Baptist Historical Society) latest publication meets a long standing need to begin the long task of recording a brief, but comprehensive, biography of a host of NSW Baptists.**



These Baptists have picked-up John McKaeg's faltering baton in 1831 and gradually built up his heritage to one of NSW's smaller but nevertheless significant Christian denominations that punches well above its weight in evangelism, social issues, missionary outreach and theological education. The Baptist Archives holds over 1,000 NSW Baptist biographies but many are sketchy at best, or, are so comprehensive that they are not readily accessible to everybody. This work falls neatly between – enough detail to paint a clear picture but compact enough to be obtained by anybody with an interest in this field of research.

The danger of writing a history of people is that some must perforce be left-out. Even so, nearly 90 people are included in this work – most with accompanying photos - the first of more to come. At 374 pages it would be stretching the physical capability to make the work larger. Following books on this topic are planned but obviously the amount of research consumes an enormous amount of time and

requires laborious 'trawling' through Baptist Archives records, early editions of 19thC Baptist journals and following *Australian Baptists*, over 110 NSW Baptist Year Books, 150 years of Assembly records, National Library 'Trove' internet scanning, NSW Government Registrar General records, inputs from families (some no longer associated with the Baptist denomination) and other miscellaneous sources. Obviously, it will be at least a couple of years before volume 2 is published. The Australian Dictionary of Evangelical Biography lists a few significant names but this is the first work to identify and honour the many ordinary (and not so ordinary!) NSW Baptists who have been the lifeblood of the present Church.

These books are available direct from the Society President, Rev. Bruce Thornton, on 02 0438603255, [ibthornton@pnc.com.au](mailto:ibthornton@pnc.com.au) or 24 Tahlee St, Burwood, NSW 2135 or can be ordered through <http://www.baptisthistory.org.au> click on Shop. .

**R.K.Robb**



## CYPRIAN AND THE PILGRIMS PROGRESS

At first glance there does not seem to be much in common between the Church Father Cyprian, champion of the unity of the Church, and the Baptist John Bunyan, author of *The Pilgrim's Progress*. However, both were part of gathered churches which were persecuted by the state. Using images of battle and of pilgrimage, they display a remarkably similar view of the Christian life: the hope of eternal life enables the follower of Christ to persevere in the midst of trials and temptations. Whilst we may not be subject to the oppression under which Cyprian and Bunyan wrote, (still a reality for many of our brothers and sisters elsewhere in the world), their exhortation to throw off all worldly encumbrances and follow the narrow way which leads to life retains its challenge.

**Note:** This paper was originally presented at the Vose Seminary Beyond 400 conference in 2009 and published as Edwina Murphy, "Cyprian and *The Pilgrim's Progress*" in David J. Cohen and Michael Parsons (eds), *Beyond 400: Exploring Baptist Futures* (Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2011).

**Edwina Murphy** joined Morling College faculty in 2008 as the lecturer in Church History. Her research interests include the Church Fathers, particularly Cyprian, and Baptist history and practice. During her recent sabbatical, she presented a paper at the North American Patristics Society Annual Conference in Chicago entitled 'Clothed with Christ: Galatians in the Writings of Cyprian' and visited the first Baptist Church in America in Providence, Rhode Island.



*Edwina Murphy*

Visit the  
**Baptist Historical Society of NSW Inc,**  
**WEBSITE**

<http://www.baptisthistory.org.au>  
and the bookshop  
click on "Shop"

## COMING EVENTS

### HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

**1st November, 2012.**

#### **Morling College Faculty Lounge**

The speaker is Gareth Rowland. Gareth is a Welsh-born member of the Sydney Welsh Choir who will speak about his Welsh Baptist heritage. Michael Petras will speak about Welsh Baptists in Australia. More details next issue.

### **PROGRAMME FOR 2012.**

*(dates and order to be finalised)*

#### **Rev Ron Hansard -**

will present "This is My Story". Ron was in the Air Force before entering the ministry and serving in several significant pastorates. He is a direct descendant of the British Parliamentary Printer whose son was the original "Hansard" Reporter.

#### **Dr John Macky Hercus**

Mr Robert Hercus will present insights into the life of his father Dr John Macky Hercus who was not only a specialist eye surgeon but also a prominent lay theologian.

#### **The Stewards Company**

Dr John Stanhope will present a history of the NSW Stewards Company Limited which operated the Strathfield Bible Training Institute. The SBTI property became the venue for the NSW Baptist Bible College which is now incorporated into Morling College.

#### **Australian Baptists in Tekin.**

Rev Keith Bennett will give a history of Baptist work at Tekin PNG with information about significant persons and events

### **A FRIENDLY REMINDER**

**Membership Fees for 2012-13 are now due and payable. Please forward to Treasurer, Michael Petras, 31 Oakleigh Avenue, Thornleigh 2120.**

### **CORRECTION**

In the paper by Dr John Stanhope printed in the last issue of *The Recorder* the following corrections need to be made. On Page 1 'American revival' should read 'Arminian Revival'; on page 8 the clause 'as...book' before the Conclusion should be deleted. We apologise for these transcription errors.