

Baptist The Recorder

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Baptist Historical Society
of New South Wales

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July 1998

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NEXT MEETING:

The Annual General Meeting

When: Thursday, 6 August 1998 at 7.30 pm
Where: G H Morling Chapel, Morling College, Eastwood
Topic: "The Baptist tradition of hymn singing: Hymns from Alexander's"
(If you have your own copy of Alexander's Hymn Book, please bring it with you. We will have some copies available on the night)

The Society's Officers:

Chairman
Rev E R Rogers
119 Midson Road
Epping 2121
Telephone 9876 2277

Secretary
Mr O C Nannelli
9a Werona Street
Pennant Hills 2120
Telephone 9481 0477

Treasurer
Mr P E Hayward
143 Epping Road
Marsfield 2122
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Archivist
(vacant)

Editor: The Recorder
Rev P B Kilkeary
PO Box 586
Strathfield 2135
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Baptist Historical Society
Minutes of Annual Meeting
Held 7 May 1998

Prayer: The Chairman opened the meeting with prayer and then extended a welcome to all present.

Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Rev G Ball, Mrs Bosanquet, Mrs J Burton, Mr Owen Nannelli and Rev P Kilkeary.

Minutes: The Minutes of the general meeting of 5 February 1998 were confirmed.

Announcements:

1. Future Meetings
 - 6 August — Popular hymns of yesteryear and their stories
 - 5 November — Rev John Lane 'Story of Dungog and Surrounding'
 - 6 May 1999 (Annual Meeting) Rev Dr J A Thompson 'Aspects of his life and ministry presented by Peter Young
 - 5 August 1999 'The Centenary of the Mortdale Baptist Church'
2. Membership subscriptions to the Society now due.

Financial Report: The audited Annual Report of the Treasurer was adopted and thanks expressed to the Treasurer.

Motion of Appreciation to retiring Archivist, Rev E A Archer.

Tribute was paid to Rev Ted Archer for his splendid work as Archivist for the Society for most of its existence. Mr Archer had indicated that he would not be accepting nomination as Archivist but was willing to assist the Society until the end of the calendar year. A motion of appreciation was moved, seconded and carried by acclamation.

Election of Officers

Rev I B Thornton, General Secretary, Baptist Union of NSW, brought a greeting from the Union and conducted the election of the chairman of the Society who then chaired the election of the other officers.

Nominations received were:

Chairman	Rev E R Rogers
Vice-Chairman	Mr P G Young
Secretary	Mr O C Nannelli
Treasurer	Mr P E Hayward
Archivist	
Editor of <i>The Recorder</i>	Rev P B Kilkeary
Secretary of Essay Competition	Mr P G Young
Auditor	Mr J Donald

All were elected unopposed

Guest Speaker: The Chairman introduced Dr W E C Andersen who spoke on the subject 'This is My Story'.

The Chairman expressed the appreciation of all for what was an enthralling and deeply moving presentation.

Close: The meeting concluded with the benediction.

Baptist Historical Society of NSW
Financial Statement for the Period 1 March to 10 July 1998

Income	General Fund		Expenditure
Membership Subscriptions	530.00	Postages Recorders	74.35
Donation	50.00	500 Envelopes	13.95
Interest		Bank Tax	4.14
Bank	\$40.07	Gift Voucher Robertsons	100.00
BIF Term Deposit	\$49.60		
	89.67		
Total Income	<u>669.67</u>	Total Expenses	<u>192.44</u>
Balance b/fwd 1 March 1998	<u>3531.24</u>	Balance c/fwd 10 July 1998	<u>3998.47</u>
	\$4109.91		\$4109.91

Publications Fund			
Balance b/fwd 1 March 1998	<u>\$2600.02</u>	Balance c/fwd 10 July 1998	<u>\$2600.02</u>

Essay Competition Fund			
Balance b/fwd 1 March 1998	<u>\$48.96</u>	Balance c/fwd 10 July 1998	<u>\$48.96</u>

Summary of Balances

General Fund	3998.47
Publications Fund	2600.02
Essay Competition Fund	48.96
	<u>\$6647.45</u>

Held as follows

Nat Aust Bank—Current A/c	3215.60
Nat Aust Bank—Term Deposit	1431.85
Nat Aust Bank—Term Deposit	2000.00
	<u>\$6647.45</u>



Notices

✿ *Our Chairman: Principal-Emeritus Ron Rogers recently had heart surgery, and is slowly convalescing. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and Nancy at this time.*

✿ *Rockwood Open Day: Rookwood Cemetery holds an Open Day each year. The date this year is Sunday 19 September. Many interesting displays will be presented; memorabilia will be on sale; and there will be opportunity to check details of belated relatives.*

Bunch can be purchased at a reasonable price. Why not come straight from your morning service?

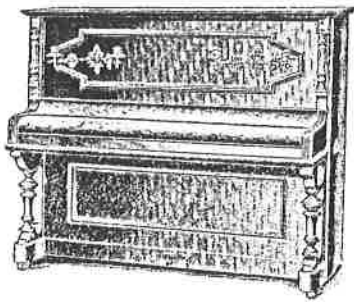
✿ *Back to Mays Hill Day will be held on Sunday 15 November to mark the sesqui-centenary of this cemetery. Times are 10 am-4 pm.*

This is My Story— Dr Bill Andersen

(A summary of a paper delivered at the Baptist Historical Society on 7 May 1998)

1. Boyhood 0-17

I was born in Concord, the third son of Bill and Isabel. As a boy, I attended St Mary's Anglican Church, Mortlake. My father was an accountant employed at the Government Printing Office. The highlight of my boyhood days was learning the piano — from 7 years of age.



I attended Fort Street High School, and loved English lessons which were rich in drama and public speaking. Wilfred Porter was Classics Master. He was not Anglican, but was licensed to teach Anglican Scripture. He took first year boys through John's Gospel, with me providing piano accompaniment for singing. One day he made an appeal for a faith response while our eyes were shut. I put my hand up and was encouraged by Wilfred to attend ISCF.

David Stewart was a rebellious student whose life was transformed by a remarkable conversion. David became leader of the ISCF, was later a missionary, and finished as Principal of the Bible College of New Zealand.

Under David's leadership, ISCF at Fort Street flourished. There was a weekly Bible Study, and numerous personal evangelism groups were formed. I followed David as ISCF leader and found myself involved in planning, organising, and giving talks.



2. University and army days 17-30

At Sydney University, I found delight in my studies, the Evangelical Union, and learning to play the Carillon. My subjects were English, History and Geography and I took Psychology as a fourth subject, despite warning from an evangelical leader that it could destroy my faith.

The EU challenged Professor John Anderson, Professor of Philosophy to debate with Archdeacon T C Hammond on Christian faith and credibility. Anderson told the audience he couldn't see how Christians could put their faith in a person who was half man and half God. Hammond retorted that Christian faith was in a person who was fully God and fully man. There was no winner, but certainly a great interaction of ideas.

When war broke out I registered and was accepted, as a conscientious objector to bearing arms. I was drafted into the Ambulance Corps. After early

training, we moved to the Atherton tablelands, and then set sail for New Guinea. I completed my BA examinations on a small Indonesian troopship.

In New Guinea, we set up a field hospital under the command of Colonel Selby. He believed that part of his responsibility was to prepare young soldiers for the post-war world by helping them to gain the Intermediate Certificate, and I was appointed Geography teacher.

Under the pressure of hospital work and teaching I developed hypomania, and was transferred to the Goulburn Psychiatric Hospital. Within a few weeks I had recovered and I have not had a relapse despite later pressure of work.

I graduated BA from Sydney University in uniform. I was also baptised at Haberfield by Rev John Deane — again in uniform.

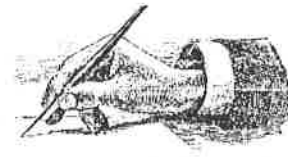
In 1946 I worked in Brisbane with Scripture Union and IVF — camps, children's missions, and the experience of working with committees. I returned to NSW and spent three months with the Crusader Union.

In 1947 I became a half-time staff worker with IVF and the youngest member of NSW Scripture Union Council. I also resumed university studies with Psychology III honours and Hebrew.

1948 was my honours year in Psychology. I was President of EU. In 1949 I took the Dip.Ed. at Sydney University and came into contact with Dr Anna Hogg. 1950-1 I was a junior lecturer at Sydney Teachers' College.

1951 was the 21st birthday of Sydney University EU and to mark the occasion a mission was organised with Dr Howard Guinness as missionary. I was one of 130 assistant missionaries. There were five time slots for meetings each day. The mission produced 100 serious commitments from students and staff.

Following that experience, I worked closely with Howard Guinness in evangelistic services, often serving as 'devils advocate' by interrupting with difficult questions. One elderly member of a congregation expressed the hope that I might be converted!



3. Marriage, Family, Thesis, Travel **30-50**

Paul White had a secretary named Ruth Steer. Ruth had come to Sydney from Adelaide, where she had worked with the Crusader Union. She worked as Paul's secretary in both his medical work and Christian activities.

I met Ruth in 1946. We had meals together before and after committee meetings and I dutifully escorted her home. We were married in 1953 at Manly Baptist Church, with Principal Morling officiating, and Principal Marcus Loane giving the address.

We set out for our honeymoon on the P&O liner 'Strathaven', which took us to Perth where we had a house for a week. There followed a boys' camp, a girls' camp, and the first beach mission in WA.

Then came children, writing theses, and participating in Scripture Union as Chairman of the Schools and Camps Committee. In 1957 I was teaching at Punchbowl Boys' High where I started an ISCF group.



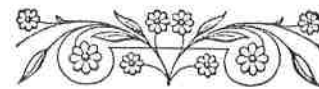
In 1958 Tim arrived. I was lecturing in education at Balmain Teachers' College and completing an MA thesis on 'Health of Personality'. From there I moved to lecturing at what was then the University of Technology, now the University of NSW.

In 1959 I was awarded the MA with first class honours. I also enrolled in M.Ed. classes at Sydney University with an emphasis on philosophy rather than psychology. Dr Anna Hogg had founded the *Journal of Christian Education* and I became an assistant editor.

In 1960 I spent January speaking at conferences in Adelaide and Melbourne on 'Toward Christian Maturity'. Daughter Wendy arrived. In 1961 I was appointed a lecturer in Education at Sydney University and later became a senior lecturer. In 1962 daughter Jenny arrived. At Easter 1965 I learned that M.Ed. thesis 'Ideological Education' had been awarded first class honours and the University Medal.

In January 1966, I gave a talk at the AFES Conference on 'Christian Perspectives'. Later in the year I was awarded a scholarship which enabled me to enrol for a Ph.D. at London. We left on the 'Canberra' in November 1966 and settled into a terrace house in London.

In November 1967 I attended the SU Conference in Switzerland, and then travelled to Germany and Denmark after the conference. Through that year and in 1968 I studied in the fields of education, philosophy and theology and worked on my thesis 'Persons in Education'. Despite some problems with supervision and disagreement among the examiners, the doctoral degree was finally awarded.



4. Local Church and International SU Tasks 50-65

When I returned to Sydney, my local church had relocated from East Chatswood to East Lindfield. Our Pastors of the period were Norris Brook and Bob Bawden. We had great music, with gifted choir leaders and Cliff Bingham on the organ. Don Solomon, who was with the Australian Opera at the time, was a fine bass singer.

In 1979 I had a full year of sabbatical leave and spent it in residence at the University of Illinois, a great learning centre for philosophy of education. I developed close fellowship with IVF student leaders, and at their request prepared group studies on Romans and an expository preaching series on Romans. There was keen response.

Students were keen to ask questions about the message and its application. Prayer meetings and discipling were features of these meetings.

In 1985 I attended the Scripture Union International Conference in Harare; this coincided with my sabbatical leave. Dr John Laird, pioneer of the International Scripture Union movement, was present. The International Council met following the Conference and I was instrumental in having a study group set up to draft a more complete statement of belief. In due course this was accepted worldwide.

In May 1988 I attended the International SU Council in Bangkok.



5. Moore and Morling: International Travel

In 1970 I began a weekly lecture on psychology at Moore College.

In 1971 I began teaching Religious Education at Morling College following the departure of Neville Andersen. I later lectured in the subjects Pastoral Psychology, pastoral Ministry, Christian Ethics, Philosophy of Religion, Theological Ethics, New Testament Introduction, Interpersonal Relationships and 20th Century Theology.

I rejoined the College Council in 1981 and became Vice-Chairman. It was a troubled time, following the adoption of a more comprehensive statement of beliefs by the 1979 Assembly.

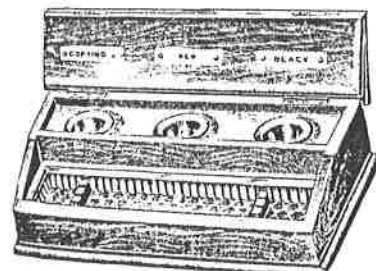
When Morling College joined the Syd-

ney College of Divinity, discontent re-appeared. Paranoia gripped sections of our denomination. A special assembly was held in 1986. I moved on behalf of Morling College that it remain in the SCD. The motion was eventually carried, but with only a small majority. To avoid a split in the denomination, I moved that a committee be set up to examine alternatives. Some time later it was agreed that Morling College would work through the Anglican-based Australian College of Theology.

In 1987 there were new difficulties, with Principal Rogers due to retire at the end of the year, having already extended his term by one year. Three nominations for Principal were brought to the Assembly: one from the College and two others. The Assembly agreed to my motion that if none of the candidates gained 50% of the first vote, none would be appointed. This, in fact, happened!

The Assembly directed the College Council to appoint the Pastor-Administrator pending appointment of a Principal. The College Council invited me to accept the position, and I agreed. I spent 1988 and 1989 at Morling. The two years were highly pressured but very fulfilling.

During my time at Morling I produced a document on the future direction of the College. This was endorsed by Assembly.



I accepted nomination and was elected as President-elect in 1989, and served as President of the Union 1990-1. Ruth and I travelled throughout the state during the year. I attempted to develop a vision for the future of the denomination, but the climate was not right then. Key elements of my vision were later picked up by the Way Forward Committee.



East Lindfield Church was in decline, with an ageing congregation, and it was resolved to close the church. Most of us moved to Gordon, and have enjoyed happy years there.



The last years as Chairman of the International SU Council were filled with great experiences. The last Conference was in Lima, Peru. After the Council meeting we visited the SU ministry to street kids on the banks of the Amazon.

My last trip in that office was in 1993. We travelled to a European Conference Centre in Germany. From there we went to Uppsala to join a group of Christian academics from the USA. I was asked to give a paper at Kiev.

At short notice I found myself involved in an overnight trip of 12 hours to meet pastors who wanted a seminar on children's work. I quickly mapped out six introductions for sessions. My colleague Sasha translated

into Russian for these sessions. There was great interaction in the seminars. We also organised an impromptu demonstration lesson and improvised a syllabus over lunch.

We travelled to Prague for our last session where my successor was anointed.



Since 1993 I have been counselling, lecturing, writing, and enjoying my seven grandsons.

This is my story, and I'm sticking to it!

