



No. 3 of 2002 (Number 80 in present series) July 2002

IN THIS ISSUE

Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 2 May 2002	2
Financial Report	3
A Baptist Minister and the Media	6
Are you related?	11, 12

NEXT MEETING
 Thursday 8 August 2002
 at 7.30 pm
 in the GH Morling Chapel, Morling College, Eastwood.

Speaker: Mrs Narelle Iliffee
 Topic: Early Baptists of New South Wales to *circa* 1850.

Chairman Rev I B Thornton	The Society s Officers:	Secretary Mr O C Nannelli
Treasurer Mr P E Hayward	Vice-Chairman Mrs J Prior	Editor: The Recorder Dr G Chatfield
	Archivist Mr R Robb	

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Baptist Historical Society of New South Wales

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2 May 2002

1. Welcome and opening remarks.

The Chairman Rev Bruce Thornton welcomed the 21 members and friends of the society present. A special welcome was extended to Rev John Edmonstone the key note speaker for the evening, and the recipients of prizes for the F.J. Church Essay Competition Mr Andrew Lane, on behalf of his father Rev John Lane, and Mr Ron Jarvis. It was acknowledged that the other prize winner Rev Roy Henson was unable to attend the meeting.

The Chairman then opened the meeting in prayer.

2. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Mr Peter Young, Rev Gerry Ball, Mrs Rosemary Vaughn and Rev Ted & Mrs Gwen Archer.

3. Election of Officers

The Chairman vacated the chair and Rev John Edmondstone was elected as temporary chairman to conduct the election of the Chairman. Rev Bruce Thornton was elected as Chairman of the Society.

Nominations were called for, and the following people were elected to positions as indicated:

Vice-Chair	Mrs Janine Prior
Secretary	Mr Owen Nanelli
Treasurer	Mr Phil Hayward
Honorary Archivist	Mr Ron Robb
Editor of the Recorder	Rev Dr Graeme Chatfield

4. Reports

Treasurer's Report

Mr Hayward reported that the society had lost 3 members over the last year (2 deaths, 1 resignation), while gaining 8 new members. The Society now has 84 members. Of these 15 are churches or theological colleges. The Recorder is sent to members once a quarter, with an additional 6 complimentary copies being mailed out.

This last financial year has seen an increase in the sale of Society publications mainly from two sources: the recent Parramatta Baptist Church anniversary saw a number of copies of *The Cradle City* sold; and Morling College students purchased sets of the Societies publications as reference texts for part of their Baptist Distinctives course.

The finances of the society are outlined in the Audited Financial Statement, as follows:

BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

of New South Wales

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1 March 2001 to 28 February 2002.

INCOME	\$	EXPENDITURE	\$
GENERAL FUND			
Membership subscriptions	770.00	Postages (Recorders)	150.00
Donations	35.00	Envelopes	13.95
Interest Bank 2.42		Travel etc: Visiting speakers	410.00
BIF 147.42	147.42	Membership: Royal Australian Historical Society	90.20
		Debits tax	7.93
TOTAL INCOME	952.42		
Balance Brought Forward: 1 March 2001	4120.02	Balance Carried Forward: 28 February 2002	4400.36
	5072.44		5072.44
PUBLICATION FUND			
Sale of Books	451.00		
Interest (On Call BIF added to capital)	80.94		
TOTAL INCOME	531.94		
Balance Brought Forward: 1 March 2001	3263.59	Balance Carried Forward: 28 February 2002	3795.53
	3795.53		3795.53
SPURGEON'S TRUST FUND			
Balance Brought Forward: 1 March 2001	170.00	Balance Carried Forward: 28 February 2002	170.00
	170.00		170.00
ESSAY COMPETITON FUND			
Balance Brought Forward: 1 March 2001	48.96	Balance Carried Forward: 28 February 2002	48.96
	48.96		48.96

The Recorder

4

SUMMARY OF BALANCES		BALANCES HELD AS FOLLOWS	
General Fund	4400.36	BIF Term Deposit	2000.00
Publication Fund	3795.53	BIF On Call Deposit	2294.94
Spurgeon's Trust Fund	170.00	NAB Cheque Account	4119.91
Essay Competition Fund	48.96		
	<u>8414.85</u>		<u>8414.85</u>

Audited and found correct

J. Donald
Auditor
13 March 2002

Archivist's Report

Before commencing his report the Archivist was presented with an 'historic' bottle of ink by the Chairman. The ink was purchased by Rev B. Thornton in the last days as a student at the Ashfield campus of the Baptist Theological College of NSW and has since accompanied him on his journey of ministry. There were also a number of other items donated.

The Archivist gratefully received the donation to the Archives, acknowledging he would have to resist the temptation to use the ink in his still functioning fountain pen.

The Archivist reported on some of the correspondence that he has recently responded to on behalf of the Society, ranging from an inquiry about Aboriginal dance, to a proposed Dictionary of Australian Baptist Biography. Mr John Maitland has been encouraged to undertake research into the Buckingham family, and Mr Bruce King is working on researching F.J. Church. Dr David Parker has all but concluded his work on William Higlett with the book launch being planned for our November meeting. Mrs Gwen Boston is undertaking research on her father, Mr R.E. Walker.

There have been two recent discoveries of NSW Baptist Churches not mentioned in existing literature, one at West Wyalong (the building still stands), the other at Nelligan - near Batemans Bay (where only an empty block of land marks its place). The Archivist is continuing to seek information about these churches.

The forthcoming meetings of the Society were announced as follows:

- 1 August 2002 Mrs Narelle Iliffee — Early New South Wales Baptists
- 7 November 2002 Rev Dr David Parker — Launch of the Higlett Book
- 6 February 2003 Rev Don Doull — Early Ministry in Teleformin
- 1 May 2003 Annual Meeting. Rev I.B. Thornton — General Secretaries of BUNSW
- 7 August 2003 Rev Colin Scott — History of the Burton St Baptist Church
- 6 November 2003 An Evening of Hymn Singing and Inspiration.

5. F.J. Church Essay Competition Prize Winners

After a brief outline of the essays received was given and the Chairman presented the prizes.

1st Prize — Rev John Lane for his essay 'Samuel Lane- The Formative Years of his Life and Ministry'

2nd Prize — Rev Roy Henson for his essay 'And One Was a Doctor. Aspects of the life of Rev Arthur John Waldock DD'

3rd Prize — Mr Ron Jarvis for his essay 'The Life and Ministry of Wilfred Lemuel Jarvis'

Mr Andrew Lane received the 1st Prize on behalf of his father and warmly thanked the Society for recognising the work of his father in this way. Rev Henson was unable to attend the evening. Mr Ron Jarvis also warmly responded to the Chairman's remarks.

6. Key Note Address — Rev John Edmondstone — A Baptist Minister and the Media

Rev Edmondstone presented a fascinating review of Christian Radio in New South Wales and the part played by the New South Wales Council of Churches through Radio 2CH, highlighting his involvement in 2CH over the last 30 years. He described the differences in programming that have occurred over the years, noting a particularly contentious change to an 'easy listening' format in the 1970's. This change saw the end of the long program format and the introduction of short 'message spots' throughout the whole of the day. For many supporters of the long format the challenge of using 140 words to communicate a clear gospel message applied in a relevant way to a modern situation seemed absurd. Yet those who listen to 2CH can hear on a daily basis the effectiveness of this format.

Rev Edmondstone promoted the importance of Christian involvement in radio as a medium of pre-evangelism and positive pastoral interaction. He also acknowledged the role NSW Baptists have taken in Christian radio ministry on commercial radio, a proportionately greater role than other denominations given the number of NSW Baptists.

He concluded his remarks by urging the Baptists to seek out a new generation of Baptist broadcasters who would continue in this strategic ministry. (The full transcript of his address is included in the July 2002 edition of *The Recorder*.)

7. Closing Remarks and Prayer

The Chairman invited questions from the floor, and brought the evening to a conclusion with prayer.



A BAPTIST MINISTER AND THE MEDIA

WITH A SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON 2CH

Rev J H Edmondstone, OAM



I first became interested in Radio when as a child I made my first crystal set. I graduated to a German one valve set — that was terrific — but I broke the valve and that was the end of that.

The big cabinet radio held pride of place in our lounge room — we listened to Dad and Dave, Martins Corner, Mrs. Obbs, The Search for the Golden Boomerang and many more.



When we were first married, Olive and I were sent to Inverell-Warialda. Saturday nights our entertainment was listening to the dramas on radio.

By the way, when I left school I went to work for the company making the cabinets for AWA and started on 18/6d per week. I wanted to be a French polisher. I left after discovering they were all sprayed. I didn't know then the relationship I would later have with AWA.

Television arrived in 1956. I recall being in the Baptist Theological College at Charlotte St, Ashfield. We all rushed around to watch Bruce Gyngell on Channel 9 read the news and incidentally, Rev Ron Rogers gave, if not the first, one of the first devotionals on TV. Many thought that would be the end of radio.



People ask what is the difference between Radio and TV. TV provides dramatic pictures. Radio engages more of our senses. During the war years in England (1939–1945), before television, they played on Radio, Dorothy Sayers, "The Man Born to be King". It had a huge listening audience. The sound effects like the boat drawing up on the sand was an example of the skilful use of sound effects. In radio you have to fill in the gaps.

In 1901 Guglielmo Marconie, an Italian, sent a wireless message over 350 miles. He had been experimenting since 1895 by transmitting messages from his house to a receiver in the garden. Lack of interest in his work in Italy brought him to England where

the Postmaster General and the Royal Navy took keen interest in his work. He successfully transmitted signals from Cornwall 2000 miles to Newfoundland. The feasibility of global communications by wireless was demonstrated beyond all doubt. And it continued to develop as he sent messages from ships and Canada opened a trans Atlantic wireless service from Nova Scotia to Ireland.

In December, 1909 Marconi of Italy and K F Braun of Germany won the Nobel prize for their contribution to wireless and it was the year Bakelite made its appearance — it was a good electrical insulator. 1912 was the year the Titanic went down, on 15 April. One of the survivors was Harold Bride, the wireless operator.

On 2 January 1926 "England spoke to Australia last night by wireless conversation (as opposed to telegraphy). First time so great a distance was covered." The transmissions by AWA were between Cornwall and Sydney.

On 23 July 1929, Australia entered a new era in broadcasting with the first transmission from the National Broadcasting Company from 3L0 Melbourne. It became the ABC. In June 1926, the Broadcasting Company of Australia's new high power wireless station at Braybrook was officially opened. It was Dame Nellie Melba's final performance of La Boheme — there was an estimated audience of 160,000.

Marconi died in July 1937, having given the world a remarkable method of communication. AWA ran for many years The Marconi School of Radio.

From there, radio broadcasting has developed from large cabinet sets seen as part of the furniture to mantel radios, walkmans, cars. It was further developed with the invention of the transistor and the development of stereo and the AM and then FM bands.

It is big business: the latest FM license in Sydney NOVA cost \$150,000,000. In contrast, community licenses are virtually given away.

Successive Governments have, in my view destroyed the finest radio broadcasting in the world.

But "Wherever you go — there's radio". How many sets do you have?

Its contribution to Australia's development is extensive. Such household names as the School of the Air, Alfred Tregear and John Flynn, the Royal Flying Doctor Service have since been developed all over the world. Huge Missionary Stations beam out the Gospel on radio covering large population masses, largely on short wave.

I found a quote from 1927: **Headline: Parents warned of evils of radio.** It was a warning that children would be brought up almost entirely by radio. It went on **There is a very real danger that radio will empty the Churches. The padded armchair is more comfortable than the pew. But the article did admit radio is excellent in its place a blessing to the lonely settler and swift and efficient in commercial matters.**

I began broadcasting on 2NZ Inverell in a program called Gospel Echoes, started by Rev Albert Holowell followed by Rev Bob Burton and, then for a year, I did it.

It stirred a great interest that led to further broadcasting for a period on the Voice of the Baptists, started by Ern Watson, then in Queensland on 4KQ every Sunday. While in Queensland, I was involved extensively for the ABC on the Hospital Hour, Community Hymn Singing, Divine Service and Epilogue.

When we returned to Strathfield Homebush Church, one night strolling on the tennis court at Wynola, Mr Bruce King suggested I nominate for the Council of Churches and the Broadcasting Committee. That is now nearly 32 years ago. In September 1929, the NSW Council of Churches first addressed itself to the task of obtaining a broadcasting licence. The Rev S A Eastman, who was the Secretary of the Council, was foremost in this endeavour. The Licence was eventually secured on 7

January 1931, and 2CH began to broadcast on Monday, 15 February 1932. It was a great day presided over by the President of the Council, Archdeacon D J Davies, the Principal of Moore Theological College. First, there was a United Service at 10 am in the Pitt Street Congregational Church. Then at 7 pm the opening of the Station took place in the studios at 77 York Street. At 8 pm there was a classical Concert in the Conservatorium of Music at which the Chorus of the Williamson Imperial Grand Opera Company was heard for the first time in Sydney. It was quite a day.

From 7 January 1931, the Council had the licence but the problem was how to make it go. Mr Frederick Stewart (later Sir Frederick Stewart) supplied the answer. Together with three members of his family, he formed the Council of Churches Broadcasting Company and this Company purchased the land and equipment necessary to operate the Station.

The Station operated under the *Wireless and Telegraphy Act* and later, under the *Broadcasting Act*, which came into force in 1942. It provided for statutory time for religion for one hour per week. That has now been discontinued.

Fourteen months after 2CH began transmission, the NSW Council of Churches entered into an Agreement (dated 4 April 1933) with the Stewart Company. This set out the times reserved for the Council of Churches' broadcasts and the control which the Council, as Licensee, exercised over such matters as no advertising for liquor or gambling and no advertising on Sundays.



AWA

In 1936 Amalgamated Wireless Australasia Limited took over the operation of 2CH under a lease agreement with the Stewart Company. In 1944, AWA exercised the option in the lease to purchase the land, plant and equipment of the Station. The transfer of the operations from the Stewart Company to AWA had the approval of the NSW Council of Churches as was required under Clause 15 of the 1933 Agreement. This 1933 Agreement became the basic agreement between the NSW Council of Churches and AWA.

THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN NSW BROADCASTING COMPANY PTY.LTD.

Consequent upon the 1969 amendment to the *Broadcasting and Television Act*, the Council of Churches in NSW Broadcasting Company Pty Ltd was established early in 1970. Dr E H Watson represented Baptists.

There was a lot of religion but poor ratings. The Station was languishing somewhat and a series of conferences took place to come to grips with the situation. Mr Donald Craig was put in charge of the broadcasting network of AWA stations and was later joined by Mr Bruce Rogerson. It was at this period of time that I became a member of the NSW Council of Churches and then of the Broadcasting Committee.

On 4 August 1974 the Good Music format began. This followed months of conversation between AWA and the Council of Churches.

Following considerable research both here and overseas by Mr Rogerson, it was decided that the long religious programmes and the nondescript nature of 2CH programmes had to make way for the music format. The changes brought sharp criticism and there was a campaign to try to overturn the new format, some former programmers going as far as involving the press. I sat in an office for two weeks taking telephone calls from supporters of the long segments and, I have to say, much of it was ill informed as well as ungracious.

The new format took off immediately and began to develop a strong audience, indeed, reaching number one position on the Sydney market.

It meant that we had a studio produced service at 7.30 am every Sunday morning and all through Sunday, Christian messages, quite similar to ads, an evening service, also studio produced, an hour of Christian Music and from nine to midnight talk back and interviews.

Every day of the week featured numerous sixty second spots. It was argued that you could not say much in 140 words, which proved to be incorrect and response was excellent.

A Counselling Service was commenced titled People to People. In sixty seconds, messages were broadcast and listeners invited to respond to a phone number. Sydney Rescue Work Society funded the Service for some years. It was operated by full time Baptist Ministers, first, Rev Doug ISON, followed by Rev David Kerr. At this time there was a staff of three in the Religious Department, mostly Baptists. This continued with refinements for some years.



BIG CHANGES

1989 saw big changes at AWA. Mr Craig retired and AWA took steps to dispose of its network of stations, retaining 2CH and with the Council of Churches, formed the Company known as 2CH Pty Ltd.

The next movement was to see Mr Singleton purchasing 2CH, the Council of Churches having relinquished the licence and the new contractual arrangement based on the original agreement with the amendments to programming when Good Music was introduced, maintained.

2CH remains unique in Australian Commercial Radio for the amount of time given to Christian broadcasting.

By 1995 all of this was well and truly in place with 2GB and 2CH forming the Macquarie Network.

There was a slight glitch when the new directors decided to change the format and introduced personalities largely from show business. A considerable amount of audience was lost, but fortunately the station returned to the music format. While we no longer have control over advertising content except to the point that it maintains the ethos of the original agreement we have a harmonious relationship and a strong audience.

Considerable publicity and media speculation heralded the arrival of Mr Alan Jones to sister station 2GB. Recently we celebrated the 70th Anniversary of 2CH. A Thanksgiving Service was held in St Andrews Cathedral attended by close on 1000 people. It was a reassuring time of the stations popularity and the broad acceptance of the Christian programming.

What do we achieve? Considerable response by mail and telephone and usually healthy ratings.

GENERAL COMMENTS

It was thought that radio would almost disappear with the advent of television but it has gone from strength to strength with new stations entering the market, either commercially or as community stations. Sydney is served by something like thirty radio outlets.

A recent article published in the Sydney Morning Herald Guide stated that 2.5 million people in Australia listen to radio between midnight and 5 am, 870,000 in Sydney alone. These have always been considered as the dead hours. The largest audiences are in the breakfast sessions and spread morning and afternoon and what is known as drive time.

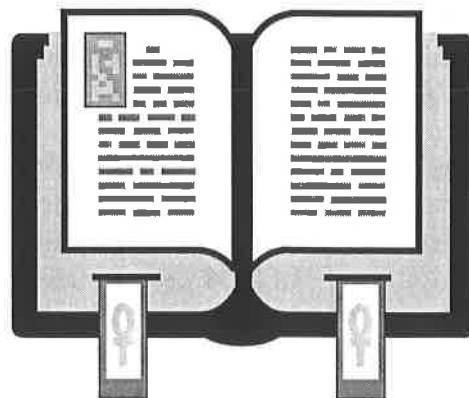
It is true that wherever you go there's radio.

Christian radio stations have arisen in the Community sector, for example Christian Broadcasting Association in Sydney and the Rheema network throughout Australia.

We should be mindful also of the powerful influence of television and the debate that rages about whether that is good or bad.

The late Marshall McLuhan proposed "the world has become a global village". What happens on the other side of the world arrives on our TV screens or over radio within a few seconds. There are yet to be experienced many new developments in media. Our need is for Christians in the media, presenters, producers, journalists, technicians, etc. Would it not be a good idea if during theological training more attention were given to the field of mass media.

In thinking about these things, I am reminded of Isaiah 55:11 "So is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it".



ARE YOU RELATED TO ANY OF THESE FAMILIES?
SELWIN WHITE
HOBBS
BRINKWORTH
CHISLETT

ASHMEAD HUDSON

WINDER

DUNSDON LANGLEY

BETTS MORGAN HAM

GLASSOP CRAIG DIXSON

BUBB BOOTS CARR

FULLER
FIDDEN
HOLDEN
WALLER

MARSDEN ETHERINGTON

RELATED?

THEN YOU MIGHT HEAR SOMETHING FASCINATING
ABOUT THEM AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO EARLY
BAPTISTS IN NEW SOUTH WALES WHEN

MRS NARELLE ILEFFE PRESENTS

EARLY BAPTISTS IN NSW TO c.1850

At the Baptist Historical Society of NSW Meeting

1 August 2002

7.30pm

G.H. Morling Chapel
Morling College
120 Herring Road
Eastwood