

THE BAPTIST RECORDER 1991 – 1995				
YEAR	VOL	ARTICLE	AUTHOR	CONTENTS
1991	1/91	Story Without End 1940 1990	Ken Palmer	Jubilee celebrations of Clempton Park church. Baptists from Campsie and Earwood churches met & held the first service on March 31, 1940 & by August, a Sunday School was meeting. Land was donated by James Castle in memory of his mother, as well as money to commence building. The church opened in 1942 & a school hall in 1954. Became Home Mission Church in 1946 Pastors who served there included Rev Bruce Langridge, John Gore, W F C Horsburgh, F Gallagher, A E Cundall, J L G Wedge, H B Suttie, (students) and G J McArthur, W F C Horsburgh, A C Le Claire, K F Evans, M Olsen, G N Chambers, G A Muller. The manse was built in 1959, a new church opened in 1962, & a Fellowship Centre in 1976. At the conclusion of the celebrations, questions were posed as to the future & what the next 50 years might bring.
1991	1/91	A Church in Acton – Chosen to Serve	Peter Kilkeary	The story of the first 40 years of the church has been told in “The First Forty Years” & when planning began in 1988, a deacon suggested that planning centred on the future (not nostalgia) & a time of spiritual thanksgiving & challenge for the future. The church decided to raise money to help a struggling new fellowship and more than \$15,000 was raised for the Nyngan fellowship. The church began in the Strathfield Council Chambers in 1937, & became a Home Mission Church in 1940, meeting in the Soldiers Memorial Hall. Due to WWII building constraints, no new church was built until 1949, a Sunday School Hall was opened in 1960. Extensions were opened in 1971. The church became independent of the Home Mission in 1953. There have been times of disillusionment and stress, but times of great joy and blessing in the past 50 years.

1991	1/91	Celebrations at Dungog 75 th Church Anniversary 1915 – 1990	H Watkin-Smith	Begins with a history of the town of Dungog. The church at Thaliba, a farming community had evangelistic preachers who conducted Open Air meetings in Dungog in the 1880's & in 1900 a fellowship was formed in Dungog. In 1915 the NSW Home Mission sent Rev W S Cowling to Thaliba-Dungog where a church was formed. A founding member, George Searle later became President of the NSW Baptist Union in 1922. Pastor G H Morling arrived in 1917 & the church building was opened in that year. During the ministry of Rev R W Dobbinson (1919-23), Dungog became responsible for Clarence Town & established preaching stations at Wangat. The 1981 Census revealed that the highest percentage of Baptists could be found in the Dungog Shire
1991	2/91	Rev W S Cowling	H Watkin-Smith	Further ministries included Tamworth, Wenoona, Orange, Goulburn, Goombargana, Grafton, Nowra, Hamilton, Dubbo, Strathfield-Homebush, Casino & Kurri Kurri
1991	2/91	G S Cox	H Watkin-Smith	The secretary of the Thalaba Church G S Cox was later ordained and pastored at Maclean, Temora, Aria Park, Leeton, Orange, Taree, Pymble and Arncliffe/Sans Souci.
1991	2/91	<i>"An Evangelistic Pastor"</i> A Biography of Rev James Worboys	Rosemarie Worboys	James Worboys was born in Orange in 1865, where he was converted & baptised & began to work in various christian and temperance activities in the town. The Orange Church invited him to pastor there in 1888. He married in 1889. In 1891 he went to Garra-Molong (later known as Pinecliffe) when the very large district was divided up, where A J Waldock came to live in his home. These two men moved to Bathurst, where one of his first converts was C J Tinsley. He moved to Parramatta in 1900, where full ministerial status was granted in 1906. He conducted very successful evangelistic rallies and the membership trebled. From 1911 to 1915 he was in Bendigo, then at Fairfield for the Victorian Home Mission, & then Brunswick in 1918, where he had a "virile evangelical ministry". He resigned in 1923 due to ill-health & went on a world tour 1923 -1925 where he preached in England and America. His last pastorate was at Newtown from 1926-33, the membership doubled & he did much relief work due to the Depression. He spent his final years in retirement travelling overseas & locally conducting very successful missions and preaching engagements. He died in 1943.

	2/91	Distinguished Award for Mrs Lorna Oliff		On February 5th, 1991, Mrs Lorna Oliff, long serving secretary of the NSW Baptist Historical Society, was awarded an Advance Australia Award for services to Arts and Literature. Lorna has published 7 books, covering biography, travel & history. Mrs Oliff was the first secretary of the Society from 1974 to 1985 & remained on the Executive until 1989. Mrs Oliff was active in the Collins Street Church in Melbourne before moving to Hornsby in 1946. She was also on the Baptist Union of NSW office staff for many years.
	2/91	A Faithful Abednego	H Watkin-Smith	The name Abednego Morgan is associated with the formation of at least 6 churches in the Newcastle area, at Newcastle, Wallsend, Lambton, Tighes Hill, Boolaroo and Kurri Kurri. He was a coal miner and shop keeper with strong Baptist convictions, dedicated to preaching the gospel wherever he resided.
	3/91	"Who is My Neighbour?"	Bruce A King	A summary of the Annual Lecture by Bruce King, National Director, Australian Baptist World Aid & Relief committee for 10 years. In 1947 Rev P J Hayes & Dr C J Tinsley were inspired to begin relief work with destitute people in Australia & Hayes was appointed Relief Officer in 1947. The Australian Baptist World Aid & Relief Committee was set up in Sydney in 1959 with A C Prior as Chairman. In January 1984 the Committee became one of three Boards of the Federal Union & two representatives from each of the constituents of the Federal Union are on the board. Mr King spoke of the beginnings of SAO, and aid given to Korea, Hong Kong, Bangladesh, Assam, PNG, Irian Jaya, Timor, Thailand, India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and also at home in Australia.

	4/91	William Buckingham 1854 -1928		<p>To the business world of Sydney, William Buckingham was known as the proprietor of a large department store, but in christian circles he was noted & respected for his strict application of christian principles to business. He was born in Yorkshire & came to Sydney aged twenty, where he began a business with Thomas Pepper, later moving to Oxford Street, where his store had 27 departments & 250 employees. He was converted at Burke Street Baptist Church & was associated with Burton Street Tabernacle. He later began the Stanmore Church near his home, where he became treasurer for 27 years. At denominational level, he was treasurer of the Foreign Mission Committee for 15 years and gave generously to purchase land, buildings etc. for many churches in NSW., refusing to be nominated as President of the Union on several occasions, due to his retiring nature. He wrote & spoke about the need for christian business to be honest & observe virtues like integrity, self-control and truth in advertising.</p>
--	------	----------------------------------	--	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

1991	4/91	Morling College 1916 – 1966 Story of the First Fifty years of the Baptist Theological College	Rev E R Rogers	In 1912 a decision was made to set up an Australian Baptist College within 3 years, but by 1915 it became clear this would not happen, so NSW set up its own College in the Harris Street Church, appointing Rev A Gordon as Principal. He resigned in 1920 & in 1922, the College moved to Petersham, led by Rev G H Morling as Acting Principal. In 1926 the College moved to Granville, where it became a residential institution & in 1928, students began preparing for the Diploma of Theology at Melbourne College of Divinity. Rev J H Deane was appointed Assistant principal & the College moved to Ashfield in 1934. The war changed much, students returning to College were often married & educational courses changed. In 1959 new courses were established for deaconesses, missionary students & Religious Education workers. The site at Eastwood was purchased in 1959 & in 1960 the first staff member was granted leave of absence to study overseas. Rev E Roberts-Thomson was appointed Principal in 1960, which was climaxed by Rev G H Morling ending 40 years of service to the College. When Roberts-Thomson resigned in 1964, Rev J C Campbell was appointed acting Principal & later that year Rev B G Wright was elected Principal. During 1965 a Board of Post-Graduate Studies was established, the first Annual Baptist Theological College Lecture was delivered & the first Summer School for Ministers occurred in 1966. The jubilee of the College's commencement was celebrated with Jubilee Celebration dinner, a Jubilee Thanksgiving Service & a College Highlights Night at the Assembly.
1991		The Men's Morning Meeting	H Watkin- Smith	A significant feature in NSW Baptist Church life in the second quarter of the twentieth century. From the mid-1920s to the mid 1950s men in many Sydney & country churches found inspiration in the Men's Morning Meetings. They gathered before the morning service (10 to 10.54 am) to sing hymns, pray & have a devotional talk. The first one was formed in Petersham by Rev G A Craike and spread to many other areas. The movement ceased due to (a) the 1939-45 War & (b) the coming of the All-Age Sunday School, but undoubtedly the MMM led to a strengthening of the morning services & the fellowship of the churches in which they operated. Hence we should honour Rev G A Craike, who started the movement.

1991	4/91	Rev George Albert Craike 1879-1929	P G Young.	Craike grew up in the Hobart Baptist tabernacle, went to study in England at Spurgeon's College from 1905-09, returned to Hobart to marry & went back to pastor the Zion Baptist Chapel in Chesham . He ministered to 3 churches in Australia, Devonport (1912-15), Clifton Hill (1915-19) & Petersham (1919-29). He had a remarkable preaching style, but also initiated the Men's Morning Meetings, encouraged sporting clubs for young people & found jobs, small or large, for everyone in his congregation.
1991	4/91	Using History in a Church Celebration Merryland's 90 th Anniversary	H Watkin-Smith	Merrylands, a branch of the Parramatta Church, celebrated its 90 th Anniversary with a gathering addressed by Hubert Watkin-Smith, who spoke about 3 personalities associated with its establishment; the Parramatta pastor, James Worboys, William Littelfield, superintendent for many years & George Hollier, who donated the site on which the church was built. He then outlined the work of William Littlefield, who came from England to join the Parramatta Church in 1884. He became secretary in 1892, but due to disagreements in the church moved to Smithfield, where he met George Hollier. When Hollier donated the land for the Merrylands Church, Littlefield became a trustee & later was preacher & Sunday School Superintendent & worked at Merrylands until his death in 1928.
1991	5/91	Baptist Pioneers on the Northern Rivers	H Watkin-Smith	The Northern Rivers area of NSW includes the Clarence, Richmond & Tweed Rivers. Settlement began in 1840 on all 3 rivers, but made much slower progress on the Tweed. The first Baptist Church was formed in 1876 at Grafton on the Clarence & a second in 1878. A work commenced at casino in 1878, but soon failed & in 1884, work began at Coraki on the Richmond, which lasted for almost 100 years. From 1905 to 1982, many churches were formed in this area & Watkin-Smith suggests the locations & dates for these new churches were determined by 3 things,: (a)the development & settlement of the river valleys (b) the arrival of Baptists with strong enough convictions to join together (c) opportunities sighted by keen pastors among the Baptist union officials & the local men. There follows a detailed description of the people who set up churches & work in the area.

1991	5/91	Religious Programmes on Radio		Mrs Archer stated that the formation of the Alstonville Church in 1960 had begun as the result of a radio broadcast from Lismore in 1955. Some listeners from Alstonville came to Rev E Archer in Lismore requesting a service be commenced. This occurred in 1956, & a building was opened in 1959.
1991	5/91	25 th Celebration for Cardiff Heights Church		A commemorative booklet was published with a copy in the Archives. Hamilton Church commenced a Sunday School in 1948, a hall was purchased in 1955 & the church was formed in 1966.
1992	1/92	The Church & Our Cultural Heritage	Roslyn Russell	This address covered a fairly unusual subject, the evaluation of church buildings, rather than the spiritual activity of churches and focussed primarily on the Kingston Church in Canberra. Baptist tradition does not normally allow for a "cathedral", but the Kingston Church could be considered to be one, as the land granted to the Baptist Union of Australia under the Church Lands Leases Ordinance in 1927 was conditional on the erection of a building within 2 years. Dr A J Waldock (Sec. Federal Home Mission Board) urged Baptist churches everywhere to donate money for a "church built for the future" & £12,000 was raised. The Baptists were the first denomination to occupy their allotted site in Canberra. The reasons for the National significance of the Canberra Baptist church, & also descriptions of its architectural & historic features are given. This should be an example for many other historical churches in Australia to preserve the historical & cultural heritage of their buildings.

1992	1/92	Centenary Celebrations at Leichhardt	H Watkin-Smith	A mission was established in Leichhardt by the Newtown church & also by the Petersham church .A Building was opened in 1880 (previously a room had been lent by Mr Bulley) & in 1882 there were 15 members & Mr Poole was pastor. A falling-out with the Baptist Union occurred & by 1888 the Union dissolved the membership. Thy carried on meeting however under Mr John Parker. In 1892 Mr John Stone joined the pastor & membership grew, by 1884 Stone was appointed pastor. The church was discontinued in 1901. In 189, however, a mission school started in Foster Street, later land & a building were donated by Petersham church & W Philllips, Revs A H Pyke, A Driver, R S Pickup, T McDougal & H S Smith were pastors. In 1919 a church was formed, Rev A T Whale was pastor. A new building was opened in 1936. In 1933 the Leichhardt Boys Brigade Company was formed (the second in Australia) by F Hart & G Graham & in 1940 the first Girls' Brigade Company in Sydney began with Miss Cramer, Mrs Foster & Mrs Giles as leaders. The Centenary was celebrated in 1991 with D Wright as pastor.
1992	2/92	How Should We Live? The Message of the Anabaptists for Today	Jeff Cayzer	Christians today could learn much from the history of the church's struggle through the ages & in particular, from the radical believers of the 16 th century, loosely termed Anabaptists. They believed that major reformers like Luther & Calvin did not go far enough & churches should consist only of believers , so that there was no compromise with the world. How can the Anabaptists help modern day christians with their quest for living a good christian life? Their main tenets included the Separation of Church & State, Liberty of the Individual Conscience, Pacifism, Persisting Through Persecution& Discipleship.

1992	2/92	State Funeral for Richard Thomas Ball was the First in Central Baptist Church	H Watkin-Smith	R T Ball had been a member of the Legislative Assembly for 35 years & his funeral was conducted by Revs C J Tinsley & W L Jarvis. His major portfolio was Public Works, Railways & State Industrial Enterprises & he had significant achievements in water supply & sewerage, grain elevators, bridge building, roads, railways, hydro electric undertakings & land subdivision He was born in Sydney in 1857 & became an engineer, owning foundries etc. before moving into Parliament in 1895 He was a member of Bathurst Street Church during the 1880's & was also at Goulburn about 1883. His family were connected to the Stanmore, Petersham & Haberfield churches.
Change of masthead for The Recorder 1992	3/92	Our Early Australian Baptist Women Missionaries.	R M Gooden	The period of the study was from 1882 to 1913, when the various states sent out missionaries to the fields, before the formation of the Australian Baptist Foreign Mission. The first Australian Baptist missionaries were Ellen Arnold & Marie Gilbert, teachers who went to work in Faridpur (now in Bangladesh). They were part of the Zenana Missionary movement, involving women going into the zenanas (apartments in an Indian house for the women), to evangelise the mothers with the hope of involving the children as well. 70 missionaries were sent out (77% were women, mostly single) & their dedication is indicated by the length of time each of them served. Some gave 36-40 years to the mission, including Ellen Arnold, Martha Plested, Ruth Wilkin, Marion Fuller & Alice Pappin, who were called the Five Barley Loaves. The Zenana mission work is described in detail, with the trends in women's work being (a) work among the town people (b) Garo work & (c) the attempt to reach the Namasundras. The work had moved to institutional activities, schools, homes & orphanages, indicating a withdrawal to safety. The strength of the christian community was the education of the women. Sadly, there was little co-ordination between the work of the men & women on the field.

1992	3/92	Henry Rotton A Benefactor at Bathurst	H Watkin-Smith	The land on which the Bathurst Baptist church was built was donated by Henry Rotton in 1862. He was a local landowner & seemed to have many connections with the church, but never was a member. His biography describes him as "a zealous supporter of the Baptists", & he is buried in the Baptist cemetery, but his interest may have begun in Somerset, or his forbears may have been Baptists. There follows some background history of Bathurst & of Henry Rotton & several members of his family.
1992	4/92	The History of Evangelicalism in Australia	Dr Stuart Piggin	Dr Piggin defined Evangelicals as those who believe the Gospel is a Divine instrument, not only for the salvation of human souls, but for the renovation of human society. This view has been ignored by historians. How has Evangelicalism influenced Australian history & been modified by the Australian context. Four aspects are discussed (a) Christianity in general & evangelical christianity in particular, has been the chief factor in social improvement in Australia. (b) Evangelicals have been the "third race" between the haves and the have-nots. (c) The role of the laity -men and particularly women, the professional & the volunteers- is critical to the development of Australian evangelicalism. (d) regionalism has shaped evangelicalism in Australia.
1992	4/92	The First Baptist Secretary in NSW	Kenneth Palmer	Ralph Mansfield was a member of the deputation to the Governor, Sir Richard Bourke in 1832, asking for land to build a Baptist Chapel. A meeting, chaired by Rev John McKaeg, with Ralph Mansfield as secretary, decided to go ahead with the building. Mansfield was editor of the Sydney Gazette and The Herald. As well, he was an auctioneer, bookseller, land agent & secretary of numerous religious societies. He was Wesleyan minister & took part in the opening services of the Bathurst Street Chapel in 1836.

1992	4/92	Rev James Greenwood Baptist Minister Educationalist Politician Original article in Volume I/4 (1978)	Kenneth Palmer	James Greenwood came from England to be the pastor of Bathurst Street Baptist Church in 1870. He had a passion for an educated Baptist ministry and later became the leader writer for the "Sydney Morning Herald". Urged expansion of Baptist churches into suburbs and country towns. He became President of the NSW Baptist Union in 1871. He entered parliament in 1877, representing the Public Schools League and framed the Public Education Bill of 1880, whereby denominationalism was excluded as a factor in public education, much to the chagrin of the Roman Catholic Church.
1992	4/92	John Selwin 1841 – 1919 Conversant with Beginners	H Watkin- Smith	John Selwin attended Bathurst Street Sunday School, later went to live in Kiama & always had a connection to the church there. He moved to Newtown & was one of five men involved in the formation of the Baptist Association in 1868 & was on the Union executive for several years. Moved to Saumarez, near Armidale & was secretary of the New England Church 1886 -88. Moved to Winton & formed the Armidale Church in 1889 & was active in establishing the Bective Union Church, where he was secretary & trustee.
1993	1/93	"WOMEN UNDERFOOT??" A Review of the History of the Role of Women among Australian Baptists	Rev Ross Clifford	Two questions were posed 1. Have we recognised the role that women have played? 2. Have women been encouraged to use their gifts in our Churches? Research in denominational journals reveal that women are mentioned only in subservient and helpmate roles & during the 1950s, 60s and 70s the role of women was seen to be in the humbler occupation & secondary to men. Theological writings of the same era show the same trend. Women outnumbered men as missionaries, but opportunities for women in leadership roles in NSW appeared to be limited. Mr Clifford emphasised that he was not discussing the question of the ordination of women in this talk. He suggested affirmative action be undertaken to rewrite our Baptist history to include the exploits of those women who gave enormously during the early days & to publicise those in leadership today.

1993		Knights Sons of Baptist Deacons Sir John See, Premier of NSW, Sir George Knibbs, Commonwealth Statistician	H Watkin-Smith	John See was born in England & arrived with his family in Australia in 1852, aged 8. His parents farmed at Hinton, then moved to the Clarence River area. He moved to Sydney in 1865, commenced trading in agriculture & eventually owned the North Coast Steam Navigation Company. He was elected to the legislative Assembly as member for Grafton in 1880, finally becoming Premier from 1901 – 04. He was knighted in 1902. George Handley Knibbs was born in Sydney in 1856, was baptised and became a member of the Harris Street Church in 1878 & resigned in 1881. He joined the NSW Public Service as a surveyor in 1877, was chosen to travel to Europe & North America in 1902 to study Primary, Secondary & Technical Education. The Knibbs-Turner Commission produced 3 reports on these topics which led to changes in the education system.
1993	1/93	The Dart Family Its Contribution to Baptist Work & Witness	Phillip Dart	The Dart family forebears came from Ireland (1837) and England & settled in Queensland. The family was always active in church & community life wherever they lived. There were 3 men who entered Baptist ministry, including Harold Dart. He trained in Victoria, Queensland and Canada. Then he returned to pastor Ipswich, Windsor Road & North Sydney Baptist Churches. He became Superintendent of the Sydney Rescue Work. He was secretary of the Prisoners' Aid Association. He was awarded an OBE & died in 1982
1993	1/93	Memoir of Isaac Brewster Testimony to a Pioneer Pastor		Isaac Brewer was born in England & came to Australia in 1850, aged 4. His family settled in Thalaba, where Brewer was converted & preached his first sermon in a paddock. When the church was formed (the third in NSW) he became the pastor. After a great revival, he continued to preach in many churches in the area, but declined the Baptist Union's request to pastor other churches. He was a mighty prayer warrior & continued preaching in the local area until just before he died. The Baptist Union of NSW granted him ministerial status.
1993	3/93	Seeking Health and Seeking Service P Russell-Huritch	H Watkin-Smith	English evangelist Mr P Russell-Hurdich came to Australia for his health. In 1904 he was sent to the mining town of Bodangara. He also conducted missions at Parramatta, Petersham, Goulburn & Balmain. In 1905 the Home Mission sent him to the Northern Rivers area.

1993	3/93	A Leaf is Never So Beautiful	H Watkin-Smith	Robert Middleton was born in England in 1849, studied at Spurgeon's College & had several pastorates in England. He came to Australia, because of his wife's ill-health in 1886 & pastored at Petersham, Marrickville, Thalaba,(see correction in the Annual Report 1994) Carlton, then moved to Blackheath & Balmain. They had 7 children, the eldest, Cissie was the first member of a NSW church to go out as a NSW Baptist Missionary Society missionary to India. Their eldest son, Robert, became the first president of the NSW Theological College Council, then later became the first secretary.
1993	4/93			No Baptist Recorder was published in November, but this volume includes minutes of the November meeting and the Baptist Historical Society Newsletter
1994	1/94	Goulburn A Centenary and a Sesqui-Centenary	H Watkin-Smith	Hubert Watkin-Smith put forward an argument for the idea that there has been an almost continuous story of Baptist effort in Goulburn since 1841, when Robert Craig settled in the area. He built a Baptist Chapel in 1843 and solely maintained the church there, except for two periods when ordained pastors led his congregation; John Walters (1842-43) and George Whiteford (1859). After his death in 1181, there was a period of uncertainty, but the church re-opened in 1883 under the leadership of William Martin. From this point on, Goulburn Church seems to be mentioned in Baptist Union minutes etc. & the church was formed in 1893. Hence the centenary in 1993 could also be a sesqui-centenary.
1994	1/94	BAPTIST PRESIDENTS (NSW) 1920-1939)	Rev Edward Archer	A comparison with Queensland Baptist Union is given and a summary of the presidents listed, all of them men. In the previous summary (Presidents 1868-1919) it was noted that the themes of the Presidential addresses had focussed on the denomination and this was true of these presidents.. A list of addresses is given. In summary "Not much has been said about Baptist involvement in the community and even less about religious, Christian and social issues. Presidential addresses are good for inspiring the faithful, not for dealing with pressing issues relating to life in the public arena."

1994	2/94	RIVERINA NURSERY OF SAINTS, BUT---	Gordon Young	Against obstacles of nature and human nature, God established Baptist churches in all the major towns in the Riverina except West Wyalong. In the early days, long distances made church attendance difficult and there was strong resistance to Baptists in the local area for many reasons. There were 3 phases of church planting. A Self-Help 1871-1912 B Aid from Sydney 1912-1956 and C Aid to New Churches from Within the Region. There is a detailed analysis of churches formed in these eras, when a total of 4000 converts were made.
1994	2/94	WHY STUDY CHURCH HISTORY?	Dr K J Cable	Cable listed 8 reasons for studying Church History. 1. Christianity is an historical religion, more than any other religion its basis is historical and the bible is the history of God's dealings with man from creation onwards. 2. This history is a straight line history, unlike the ancient Greek & Roman tradition of history being a circular tradition. 3. History has moulded Christianity. The Baptist history goes back to the Anabaptists, but their insistence on believer's baptism is a point of discussion by Tertullian in about 200. 4. History has always challenged and changed Christianity, so that social pressures have influenced Baptists in Europe differently to those in America and Australia. 5. Differences within churches are inevitable, viz. The tension between General baptists and Particular Baptists. 6. Early settlers in Australia needed to adapt to their surroundings and this is true of the Baptist Church also. 7. Religion is about life and people's experiences of life change their views on religion. 8. The early church took courage from the heroes of faith recorded in the bible and the present church needs to emphasise the saintly works of all those people who have been before them in establishing the church locally.
1994	3/94	The Pastors of Haberfield	G R Beckenham	The pastors of Haberfield were men who shaped a denomination. A brief history of these men is given: Mr F Robinson (1911-14), Rev William Higlett (1915-29), Rev Horace Jeffs (1929-35), Rev John Deane (1935-45), Dr John Drakeford (1946-49), Rev Charles Gray (1951-61), Rev Neil Adcock (1962-67), Rev H John Taylor (1968-74), Rev Bernard Moore (1976-78), Rev Geoff Whelan (1979-82) and Rev Greg Beckenham (1983 -?). Also noted were the men who had been president of the NSWBU, John Deane, F Robinson, Charlie Gray, Neville Anderson, Eric Wykes, Neil Adcock and John Edmonstone.

1994	3/94	The Elphicks of Junee	Gordon Young	Further to his address "The Riverina ---A Nursery of Saints", Gordon Young spoke of the loyalty of the Elphick family to the Junee Church. Five members of the family were founding members at its formation in 1937, and Mr Ben Elphick is the only continuous member of the church since that day. The family have given continuous service since then, in positions such as Secretary, Treasurer, Sunday School Superintendent and SS teachers, scripture teachers, organist, YP leaders, deacons and Auditor and the menfolk have filled then pulpit on many occasions.
1995	1/95	The White Family of Stanmore	Dr Clarrie Glusky	The talk concentrated on William White, who arrived with some of his family in 1874. He married Annie King, who had persuaded William to become a Baptist & join the Bathurst Street Chapel. William White established a bakery, firstly with his brother, but later alone. They moved from Refern to Petersham & became members of the Baptist Church there. In 1893, William became President of NSW BU. He provided support for the Burwood & Annandale churches and established the Stanmore church in 1901. He died in 1903. There follows a short resume on each of White's children and their families, whose contributions to Baptist work all over Australia is summarised.
1995	2/95	Burwood Church Centenary May 1995		The church commissioned Mr Hubert Watkin-Smith to write their history, which commenced in 1895 as the Burwood Baptist Mission with Rev A J Clark as pastor. The church was erected due to the generosity of Mr William Buckingham and Mr William White, businessmen from Stanmore who supported many such endeavours over the years.
1995	2/95	The Origins of Rookwood Independent Cemetery	Rev Peter Kilkeary	From its beginning in 1867, Baptists have played an important role in the administration of Rookwood Cemetery, which is administered by a number of Trusts, including Anglican, Catholic and Independent. The beginning of Rookwood is given, including the background to the Independent Trust, which originally was Congregationalist and Baptist & is now also drawn from Presbyterians, Wesleyans, Lutherans, Salvation Army, Uniting and Orthodox. The recurring themes of the early years were shortage of funds, higher charges by the Independents and the need to "borrow" a telephone line from the Anglicans or Presbyterians, both of whom declined. Baptists have played an important role in the Independent Cemetery since 1867, with one of the seven Trust members being a member of the Baptist Union of NSW. No separate register of Baptist burials exists. The finest memorial is to Sir Hugh Dixon, a prominent Baptist businessman. The Trust meetings are opened and closed in prayer & any funeral service must be conducted by an accredited minister of religion.

1995	3/95	Twenty-first Annual Report of the Baptist Historical Society	Owen Nanelli	Minutes of the Annual Meeting are given, including results of the election of office bearers. The meeting concluded with the Twenty-first Anniversary Celebrations in Story and Song, presented by Rev Rogers, Rev Archer & Dr LeClaire.
1995	3/95	History of Baptist Hymns and Tunes	Rev E R Rogers	When dissenting Baptists met for worship in the 17 th century, they met in silence, as music would have betrayed their meeting, but by 1691 pastor Benjamin Keach issued the pioneer of English hymn-books, called "Spiritual Melody". Baptists took a long while to develop any interest in Church praise & did not contribute to hymn-writing until the 18 th century. The story behind the writing of some popular hymns is given. The 1962 "Baptist Hymn Book" has 36 hymns by Charles Wesley, 26 by Isaac Watts and only 46 Baptist contributors (less than 6%). The 1992 "Baptist Praise and Worship" has 23 Wesley hymns, 19 Watts hymns and 15 Dudley-Smith hymns.
1995	3/95	History of the Bel Air Church	H Watkin-Smith	The Bel Air Church had its 25 th anniversary in 1991. The suburb was developed in the early 1960's, with the church completed in 1966 under Rev K Callan. The first fulltime pastor was Rev Doug Vaughan in 1968, then Rev D Barker (1973-77), when the new Christian Education Centre was opened, with expansion of the youth work including Boys' and Girls' Brigades, Play Group & bible study groups.. Pastor J Tuckerman (1977-85) presided over a growth period & in 1981, a youth pastor, Ross Britza was appointed. Rev P Skinner was welcomed in 1986. Several members went to the mission field during the pastorates of Doug Vaughn and Dudley Barker, both of whom were ex-missionaries.
1995	4/95	Doughty Baptist Pioneer of the St George District	H Watkin-Smith	There is a concentration of Baptist churches in the St George district, mainly due to the work of Charles Howard of Kingsgrove, who came to Australia, aged 2, in 1846. He became a timber-getter by trade and acquired a small farm in Kingsgrove. He was baptised in the Newtown church & opened a Sunday School in Kingsgrove in 1869 & donated the land for the Baptist Chapel in 1875. He also pioneered baptist work in Rocky Point, Carlton, Arncliffe and Bexley. He became one of the first alderman on the newly formed Hurstville municipality in 1887 and was mayor of Bexley in 1906, 1907 and 1911.