

The Presbyterian

HIGHLANDER



St Andrew's – Falls Road, Wentworth Falls

Service times – Each Sunday at 8.30 a.m.

Leslie Memorial – Wentworth Street, Blackheath

Service times – 1st Sunday of the month at 11:30 a.m.



Mission Statement

A Bible-centred church family in the community and God's world, encouraging people of all ages to worship God, follow Christ and care for one another.

SEPTEMBER 2022

Minister: Rev Keith Walker

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From the Minister



"I will Sing" Exodus 15

1 "I will sing to the LORD,
for he is highly exalted.
Both horse and driver
he has hurled into the sea.

2 "The LORD is my strength and my defence;
he has become my salvation.
He is my God, and I will praise him,
my father's God, and I will exalt him."

Moses sings in Exodus 15 because of the miracle God has done. God has rescued his people from Egypt. Parting the Red Sea for them, and then destroying Egypt's army precisely where Israel walked safely (Ex 15:19)

Moses celebrates, "Both horse and driver, he has hurled into the sea."

The final act involves the sacrifice of a lamb, the doorposts marked with the blood and the angel passed over the Hebrew houses, leading to the their delivery from Egypt.

When Pharaoh, one last time, goes back on his promise and pursues God's people, the LORD delivers them through the Red Sea.

A stunning story of salvation! The LORD saving his people.

The Exodus becomes central to the Bible's thinking and imagery of salvation.

A Salvation that be for all of God's people in the nations.

An image of how God delivers his people from slavery, to the promised land.

When Christ came into the world he came into a world that was held in

(continued on page 3)

PARISH DIRECTORY

Minister: Rev Keith Walker
Phone: 0493 390 995
Email: kwal2510@gmail.com
Church web site: www.ubmpc.org.au
Session Clerk: Mr Jim Grant
Phone: 4759 1998
Email: jjgrant@bigpond.net.au

Kirk Session

Meets as required.

Elders

Mrs Robynne Aitkens	4757 1514	Dr Ward Aitkens	4757 1514
Mr James Grant	4759 1998	Mrs Judy McDougall	0408 119 165
Mr Bernie Tucker	4757 3282	Mr Martin Vaughan	4757 1854

(Emeritus)

Managers

The minister and all elders are ex-officio members of the Committee of Management.

Committee of Management

Chairman: Rev Keith Walker
Minutes Secretary: Mrs Judy McDougall 0408 119 165
Correspondence Secretary: Mr Charles Packham 4757 3324
Hon Treasurer: Mr Martin Vaughan 4757 1854

Mr Charles Packham- 4757 3324 Mr Peter Hughes 4757 1237

Mrs Robyn Smith 0407 061 030

Hall Bookings

Wentworth Falls—Dr Ward Aitkens 4757 1514
Blackheath—Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre

Musicians

Mrs Jeanette McLean — Blackheath
 Mrs Julie Cooney — Wentworth Falls

Editor "The Presbyterian Highlander"

Mr Bernie Tucker Ph: 4757 3282 E: bt068tuck@gmail.com

Webmaster

Mr Peter Hughes 4757 1237

OFFICE BEARERS OF ORGANISATIONS

St Andrew's League

President	Mr Peter Hughes	4757 1237
Vice-President	Mr Jim Grant	4759 1998
Secretary	Dr Ward Aitkens	4757 1514
Treasurer	Mr Martin Vaughan	4757 1854

Flower & Tea Rosters

It is the responsibility of each person on both the flower and tea roster to organise cover if they are unable to attend on their rostered duty day. It is suggested that either days of duty be swapped or arrangements be made with a relief volunteer to cover for them for that day.

Please ensure that the back door to the toilets is unlocked before the service and locked afterwards.

Relief Volunteers

Robynne Aitkens 4757 1514

ROSTERS – WENTWORTH FALLS



Ushers & Greeters Greeters are requested to liaise with Elder Martin Vaughan 4757 1854



Flowers Robynne Aitkens 4757 1514



Morning Tea

1st Sunday
 2nd Sunday
 3rd Sunday
 4th Sunday
 5th Sunday

Helpers Required

You are responsible for obtaining a substitute if you are not available for any reason

PARISH ORGANISATIONS

<p>St Andrew's League Contact—Ward Aitkens— Hon Secretary – 4757 1514 Meets on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 10.00 a.m. at the Grand View Hotel Wentworth Falls</p>	<p>Kirk Session Meets - As required. Contact - Session Clerk, Mr Jim Grant 4759 1998</p> <p>Committee of Management Meets – As required Contact - Correspondence Secretary Charles Packham - 4757 3324</p>	<p>Bible Study Groups <i>St Andrew's League</i> Meets on the 2nd Saturday of alternate months at 10.00 a.m. at the Grand View Hotel Wentworth Falls Study usually led by the Minister.</p> <p>Wentworth Falls KYB Meets every Tuesday during school terms in the Leura Fairways library, Fitzroy Street, Leura at 10.00 a.m. Contact - Dr Jacquie McLeod 0434 348 918</p>
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Notes from the Minister "I will Sing" Exodus 1(continued from page 1)

slavery to sin and death.

The same enemy that meant that the Promises of God remained unfulfilled till the time of Jesus.

Jesus was our lamb, that meant we could go free. The lamb that meant that our sins have been forgiven, the sacrifice who paid the price to deliver us from slavery.

The salvation that came meant that we have come from slavery into life, to the promised land in our Saviour Jesus.

Jesus, the great deliverer, who became our salvation.

We sing of His deeds, we exalt His Holy name.

"He is my God, and I will praise him"

Blessings

Keith

The Disappearance of the "Invisible Moderator" (Rev David Stone)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This is a brief letter to let you know that my work amongst you is now complete. At the July meeting of the NSW General Assembly, your minister, Rev Keith Walker, was appointed as an Assessor to the Presbytery of Central Tablelands, of which this parish is a part. What this means is that Keith is a full member of the Presbytery for the time of his appointment as your Home Missionary.

As a result of this appointment, at the Presbytery meeting on Friday 5th August, I resigned as your Moderator so that the Presbytery might appoint Keith. My resignation was accepted with thanks for my work, and Rev Keith Walker was appointed as your Moderator. This means that he is able to exercise all the authority of the minister in charge of the parish rather than doing so under my delegated authority.

Your "invisible Moderator" has now disappeared, and I believe that this is for your good.

I want to take the opportunity to thank you once again for your fellowship in Christ and for your support as we have laboured together under Christ in the life of this church. I will continue to pray for you all and your fruitfulness in the work of the Gospel. I look forward to hearing how you are going, and pray that the Lord may grant me to visit you again – though I know that I have no free Sundays now until mid-October, and none in December. (Cowra, the parish where I am a member, is currently vacant, and I am preaching in other churches as well.)

May the Lord bless, sustain, enrich, and enlarge you.

In Christian fellowship,

David Stone (ex-Moderator of the Upper Blue Mountains Parish)



St Andrew's League meeting – 10th September 2022

An invitation to ALL members of both congregations

Rev Kamal Weerakoon will be the guest speaker at the St Andrew's

League meeting on Saturday, 10th September at the Grand View Hotel,

Wentworth Falls, commencing at 10 a.m. and to be followed by morning tea.

The title of Kamal's talk is 'The good, bad and ugly of the Internet'. I'm sure we all have firmly held views about the pros and cons of the Internet and will appreciate an additional perspective from Kamal.

Kamal is working with the Cornerstone Community of churches, has been Moderator of the State Assembly of NSW, is currently finishing work on his PhD and is regularly sought out as an occasional presenter/lecturer for groups within the church.



Young people are encouraged to attend as Kamal engages very well across the age ranges.

FROM THE KIRK SESSION – SEPTEMBER 2022

Recent activities and decisions of the Kirk Session have included:

- Receiving and discussing a report on the July 2022 meeting of the General Assembly of New South Wales prepared by our Assembly Elder Martin Vaughan.
Martin's comprehensive report being reproduced elsewhere in this issue of 'The Presbyterian Highlander'
- Following receipt of a letter from the Presbytery of Aberdeen and Shetland, resolving to warmly welcome John Nelson into Communicant membership of the Home Mission Station of Upper Blue Mountains via resolution of Session, John's previous membership being with the Church of Scotland and United Reformed Church congregation in Aberdeen, Scotland.
- Receiving an update from our outgoing Moderator Rev David Stone concerning his resignation as our Moderator from Friday 5th August and the appointment of Rev Keith Walker as an Assessor to the Presbytery of Central Tablelands. David Stone's letter to the congregation is reproduced elsewhere in this issue of 'The Presbyterian Highlander'.
- Receiving a report from Elder Ward Aitkens on the most recent meetings of St Andrew's League, these being a Bible Study led by our minister in June and Dr Chris McGillion's talk on East Timor in July
- Receiving an update on re-location plans from Elder Judy McDougall, whose husband Roy is now a resident of Buckland Aged Care, Springwood, Judy having purchased a two-bedroom villa within the premises, with a view to re-locating in the near future. Session endorsed remarks made by our minister in his report concerning the wonderful contribution made to the life of our church by both Judy and Roy in so many ways.

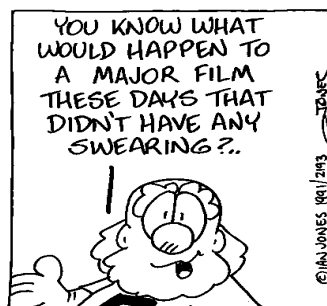
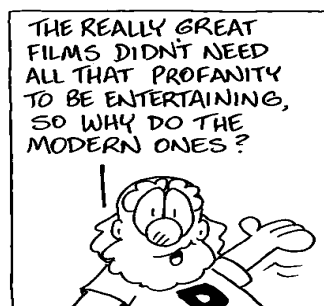
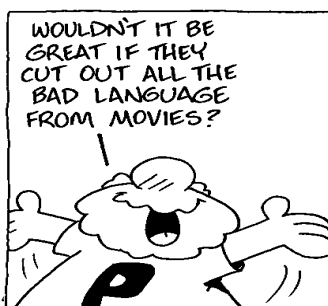
Jim Grant
Session Clerk

KYB BIBLE STUDY GROUP meets every Tuesday during school terms in the Leura Fairways library, Fitzroy Street, Leura at 10.00 a.m. If you intend coming, please phone Jacquie McLeod (0434 348 918) a few days beforehand.



Holy Communion

Blackheath
on 4th September 2022
and on the 1st Sunday of each
quarter
Wentworth Falls
on 11th September 2022
and on the 2nd Sunday of each



COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT REPORT

BOTH CENTRES

In December 2021, the Committee received a quote from DLR Building Services for remedial works to our properties at both Blackheath and Wentworth Falls, amounting to \$13,115.00 at Blackheath and \$28,782.00 at Wentworth Falls and including external painting of both churches and minor remedial works.

These works were subsequently approved by a Congregational meeting held on 9th January 2022. An early commencement on these works proved impossible due to the first five months of 2022 setting rainfall records for the area.

During winter, available hours on any day for the painting of exterior surfaces was heavily restricted by the damp and cold. July also saw heavy, record-breaking rainfall.

I have been contacted by Sebastian from DLR Building Services to advise that we are not forgotten but are being built into the works schedule for early Spring, when hopefully warmer and sunnier days will allow paint to dry. A commencement date around 6 weeks from now is envisaged.

Jim Grant

On behalf of the Committee



M A F aircraft landing in Uganda in 2014

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)

A Christian organisation that provides aviation services for people living in remote areas around the world. For 75 years, MAF has been serving isolated people by using aircraft to bring in the essentials of life as well as medical care, emergency food, and Christian hope.

THE FERGUSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Ferguson Library is the official archival repository for the records and documents of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. Funding for the Ferguson Memorial Library comes from a limited allocation of monies which falls far short of meeting the costs of running this important resource of the church.

Donations to the Ferguson Memorial Library

The Australian Taxation Office has acknowledged the Ferguson Memorial Library as a library of significance and allows the library to receive tax deductible gifts for its work for which the library can give appropriate receipts. Gifts can be of money or certain goods.

To make Tax deductible donations:

Please make your cheque payable to the Ferguson Memorial Library (ideally a separate cheque from any other payment) with a letter clearly stating that the payment is to be a Tax deductible donation and that you require a receipt for Tax purposes.

Donations should be sent to: The Ferguson Memorial Library, P O Box 2196, Strawberry Hills NSW 2196

*Never look down to test the ground
before taking the next step:
Only he who keeps his eye fixed on the far horizon
Will find the right road.*

Dag Hammarskjöld, 1905-1961 Swedish Statesman & Secretary-General of the United Nations



Report on the proceedings of the New South Wales General Assembly 2022

I take full responsibility for any mistakes or misunderstandings in my report.

The Moderator was Rev David Maher (Burwood) who did a very capable job, being supported by Rev Bruce Christian and Rev Steven Mannyx. Dr Rod Yager managed the software and technology that allowed the Assembly to function.

The 2022 Assembly was conducted as a hybrid arrangement between personal attendance at PLC Croydon or per Zoom. All voting and interventions (e.g. moving motions) were carried out electronically and as a consequence only commissioners could participate. However this had three beneficial consequences:

1. This tended to speed up proceedings.
2. Anyone could Zoom into Assembly and observe for themselves.
3. There was no "barrier" as in previous Assemblies. Thus anyone could sit anywhere, listen to debates and expositions of scripture, and participate in The Lord's Supper.

It was also decided that due to poor attendance on the Monday, the next Assembly will start on Tuesday, 11th July 2023. It was also noted that John Dunmore Lang arrived in New South Wales in 1823 and established the ***Presbyterian Church in the colony of New South Wales, and that suitable recognition of this bi-centenary event be observed at the 2023 Assembly.

As previously advised, Rev Keith Walker has been appointed as an Assessor to the Presbytery of the Central Tablelands for the duration of his current appointment to Woodford and Upper Blue Mountains Home Mission stations.

Thanks were given to God for the life of Peter Graham (died 31st July 2021) and Rev Jon Boyall (died 23rd June 2021).

Opposition was noted to the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act as being contrary to Biblical principles of the sanctity of human life. The Assembly has stated its opposition to this legislation at least since 1995.

The following churches were closed:

Narrandera, Granville, Singleton, Hill End.

St Johns Waratah/Mayfield will merge with Newcastle to become Newcastle Central. Wallsend and Grace Warabrook become Grace Presbyterian Church Newcastle, Weston Creek (ACT) merged into St Andrews Canberra.

A special committee will be set up "The Womens Engagement Working Group" to explore, discuss and bring recommendations to GA2023 concerning how the Assembly can better include women in the decision making forums of the Presbyterian Church.

It was noted that unless a significant number of men (?) are recruited into ordained ministry in the next five years a shortfall of between 24-40 ministers can be anticipated (Ministry & Mission).

The report of the Special Committee on Elders and Deacons was laid on the table, together with the Returns to Remits.

Rev Dr P Barnes moved that the word "male" be added after the word "mature" in clause 1 - The Previous Question was moved on Rev Dr Barnes amendment and seconded and disapproved. The Moderator declared these motions to be counter motions and Clause 1 having the majority of votes was then approved.

Also tabled was a list of 14 Congregations that had not submitted Form F for 2019, 2020, 2021, as at the date of the Assembly. It was estimated that an additional \$168 000 would have become available.

Scots All Saints College had a deficit of 511(\$'000) in 2021 due to COVID19 country boarders staying at home. Despite this the school's reputation has grown markedly in the Central West with 766 K-12 students currently enrolled with 800+ expected in 2023. The Scots All Saints College acknowledged the retirement of long service member Jim Grant and two others and expressed extreme gratitude for their contributions.

It was noted in reply to a written question, that the church spent \$7.651 million on insurance premiums in 2022, that 70% of all insurance premiums covered property and that this was the result of an increase of 19%, whilst other insurance rose by 12% 0 over the same period.

Another questioner asked whether TIF (Trustee Investment Fund) benefits the whole denomination apart from the services it provides to congregations. The response was: TIF owns Church Offices in Chalmers Street and does not charge any rent to any committees using church Offices. In other words TIF absorbs the cost of rent and provides a real benefit to any committees and the General Assembly. It was noted that Committees and Congregations have \$100,804,751 invested with TIF at 2.25% at call.

At 12.35pm on Thursday the Assembly ended with a bang – not a whimper! An indefinite power outage in all Croydon.

I hope that this report is of some interest as I have tried to report on matters that may be of interest to Session members.

I have further material if you are interested.

Martin

*** **Editor's comment**— The first Presbyterian Church established in Australia **was at Ebenezer in 1809**. Your editor's forebear was the first Presbyterian Elder to be ordained in Australia by Rev Dr John Dunmore Lang in 1824 in that church. Services are still being conducted there and have been conducted continuously since 1809; albeit now as a Uniting Church.

Report on Upper Blue Mountains Home Mission Station to Presbytery Meeting on 5th August, 2022

This is my second report to the Presbytery since starting as the Home Missionary at Upper Blue Mountains on 1st March 2022.

As you are aware, I am also the Home Missionary at Woodford Presbyterian Church, in Western Sydney Presbytery and I split my time between the two centres.

I have been preaching at St Andrew's Wentworth Falls and Blackheath since I started. The first Sunday of every month I preach at both, at 8.30 a.m. & 11.30 a.m. (with Woodford at 10.00 a.m.).

Every other Sunday I have preached at Wentworth Falls, except for two weeks when I was on holidays and a week in Covid isolation.

The Rt Rev Robert Benn took all three Sundays kindly, on the 10th, 17th and then 31st July. The Session and I were extremely grateful to Robert covering the 31st July on short notice when I tested positive to Covid on the 26th July. My isolation finished on 2nd August, Lord willing.

Blackheath Church numbers have fluctuated according to the weather conditions that have befallen much of the East Coast of Australia in the last while.

Since my last report, we have finished a sermon series on 1 Peter and pre about to start on the book of Exodus.

The Congregation at Wentworth Falls continues to be in good Spirits, though we are about to lose an Elder, Judy McDougall who will be leaving the congregation along with her husband Roy. Judy has been an Elder since the 1st May 2016 and served to the very best of her capabilities. Judy and Roy are moving to Springwood and will be transferring their membership to the Springwood Church. Judy has been a person who has faithfully carried out her duties as an elder, with Judy having a special gift for Pastoral Care. Her caring of people in the congregation, particularly many women in the congregation, will be seemingly irreplaceable.

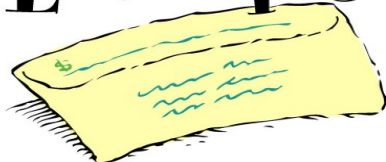
Our Session meetings have also been hosted by Judy and Roy, with Judy's catering meaning that our meetings have been enjoyed by all. Both Judy and Roy will be greatly missed and we wish them many blessings at this time.

Every two months I speak at the St Andrew's League, in the form of a Bible Study where we continue to look at the Gospel of John. The Rev Kamal Werakoon was due to speak on the 16th July, but was unable to due to sickness. Dr Chris McGillion at short notice was arranged by the Rt Rev Robert Benn. He was greatly appreciated.

Many Blessings. *Keith Walker*



Offering Envelopes



Have you taken advantage of the Weekly Offering Envelope System? By doing so, you show your readiness and willingness to share every week in the financial responsibility of our parish family.

If you would like to obtain a set of envelopes, please ask one of the church officers for a set as you leave the service.

For folk wishing to use the EFT alternative for their offering, the parish's Bank details are:

Bank: Westpac Springwood,

Account name: Presbyterian Church of the Upper Blue Mountains,

B.S.B: 032:826

Account Number: 73:0516

Allowah Presbyterian Children's Hospital Dundas Funding Update

Dear friends,

As you know, in April this year it became apparent that our internal resources would likely be depleted before we could rebuild admissions and programs at Allowah to a sustainable level. We launched a fundraising campaign with the aim of raising \$2m to keep our doors open. We have now received just over \$930,000 in donations to keep this vital ministry going. Praise God! We have also seen our programs reopen with new children attending and old ones returning, which has decreased our expected operating loss for this year. And we have received \$148,000 in government grants with another \$90,000 on the way. While we have not yet reached our \$2m mark, all this adds up and means that Allowah can keep going into 2023!

What an answer to prayer! Our God is a merciful and faithful God. And what brings great joy to our hearts is that His people in the Presbyterian Church have shown such commitment to this ministry and the children at Allowah. We have had a few large donations, but we have hundreds and hundreds of individual donors from Presbyterian Churches who have given as they can, as well as congregations, youth groups and PWAs (bless you ladies). Much of the funds raised have been from within the Presbyterian Church, with so many making it clear that it is a commitment not just for this year but for the long haul. Thank you for getting us this far. Your support means the world to the children, their families and the Allowah team. And thank you for your commitment to continuing to walk beside us into the future.

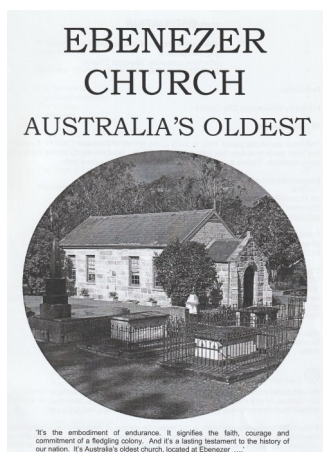
The struggle for Allowah is not over. Without your incredible support we would not have made it through 2022, and we will need your support in 2023. We are going to need you to keep supporting us; through praying, through volunteering, through sharing our social media posts, by telling your friends about Allowah, by writing to politicians when we need you to, by spreading the word however you can, through fundraising and through donations. And we will keep working to build a sustainable future for Allowah. One of our hopes is that in 2023 we will be able to establish an Allowah Foundation that will lay the groundwork for financial security long into the future. Please pray for wisdom for our leadership teams and that whatever happens God will be glorified and the children and their families will be supported.

The future viability of Allowah, and indeed of all of Jericho Road, is not possible without the active support of PCNSW through engagement with and support of Jericho Road programmes, and we are very thankful to all of you who partner with us so generously. If you haven't already, why not join us on Jericho Road, and see the Lord's justice and mercy in action?

Kind regards,

Liz

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning, great is your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23



The Historic Ebenezer Church referred to in the article in page 10

The meaning of Ebenezer

Hebrew ebhen hā-`ezer **stone of help**; from the application of this name by Samuel to the stone which he set up in commemoration of God's help to the Israelites in their victory over the Philistines at Mizpah (1 Samuel 7:12)

REMEMBERING REV DR ROBERT LAMB - ONE TIME ELDER OF ST ANDREW'S WENTWORTH FALLS



Rev Dr Robert Lamb

1997

In 1997, Laurel and I were on the Vanuatu Milk Run. Departing Vila on Tangoa Island and squashed together on our 17 seater Air Vanuatu Harbin Y-12, we dropped in on the islands of Epi, then Malakula and on to Espiritu Santo, the venue for the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu.



Each Presbytery group of Commissioners lined up at Hog Harbour close to the beach, and we all loved seeing the re-enactment of the arrival of missionary Rev Dr Frederick Bowie and the first stages of gospel communication in those far away islands of New Hebrides. The yearning of the new comers was that the New Hebrides would soon respond to the same gospel of the Lord Jesus as had transformed the old Hebrides of the coast of Scotland long, long ago.

We settled into our accommodationa thatched roof temporary dwelling, on a mat with an extra-wonderful-10mm thick foam 'mattress', and an ablution block blocked off from public view with a wrap-around sarong! We were at the Presbyterian Assembly, and that's the way it was!

However, earlier when flying over West Ambrym we gazed down on what must have been Dip-Point. There in 1893, the Rev Dr Robert Lamb had gathered together the local people and worked with them in the building of the first hospital on New Hebridean soil.



Map of the northern section of Vanuatu (previously New Hebrides)

PREPARATION FOR HIS LIFE'S CALLING

Robert Lamb had completed his medical studies in Auckland, and wishing to further his studies in theology, he made his way to Edinburgh. As he continued his studies, the story of missionary J.G.Paton of New Hebrides fame began to exercise his mind.

On his return to New Zealand with his new wife Mary, he was commissioned by the PCNZ to be one of their missionaries to the Island of Ambrym.

AMBRYM, NEW HEBRIDES (NOW VANUATU)

What an incredible change for them. Steamy weather. Local people hardly clothed. A culture so different. Slaves to the obscure world of spirits that had to be appeased. Unaware of a world beyond themselves. And now these very strange white people with their even more strange way of life and religion. Soon there were tiny white babies – twins, James and George. The locals couldn't keep their eyes off those little ones, which of course meant that privacy for the Lamb family was almost nil! They also wondered about the strange ways of dealing with sicknesses and wounds ... and wondered even more about all the talk about "Gud nyus blong Jisas Kraes, Pikinini blong God."



Missionary Team in 1892, Dr Lamb left hand front

But then it happened. A cyclone - an ever present threat in the archipelago. All the rather primitive buildings at Dip Point were wrecked, including the medical meeting rooms, their home with all their belongings. What agony. And the aftermath? The death of the two little men. Just thinking about it 130 years later still tugs at our heart strings!



Hospital helper

THE DIP POINT HOSPITAL, AMBRYM

Before too long, and following even more ever so difficult experiences, the Lambs took leave for furlough in New Zealand. But their hearts remained in Ambrym. The NZ Presbyterian church responded to their overtures and provided enough finance for Dr Lamb to preside over the erection of a new modern hospital. Trove history records, "One can hardly imagine a more lovely and restful sight. The buildings stand on level ground that slopes softly down to the beach. The bush has been cleared, with the exception of a number of gigantic fig trees that overshadow a green lawn.



Hospital and other buildings at Dip Point, Ambrym - mid 1990s

A quieter, sweeter place for convalescents does not exist!" Literally, what a God-send! Care of black and white alike. Under the care of a minister/doctor because of the "Gud nyus blong Jisas Kraes, Pikinini blong God."

Following many bouts of debilitating fevers and sicknesses, Robert and Mary returned to New Zealand. He was succeeded by Dr Frank Bowie (brother of Frederick).

TRAGEDY

A couple of days ago I rang my sister Jeanette. She had been a missionary nurse in Vila during the '70s. "Jeanette, did you ever visit Ambrym?" Her response, "No .. I visited Paarma, did a brief relief nursing visit on Epi, and spent a short time on Malakula, but most of my time by far was at Iririki hospital in Vila." "Did you ever hear much talk about the first hospital on the island of Ambrym?" "No it was long gone!" You see, in December of 1913, the hospital was destroyed by a massive volcanic eruption which engulfed most parts of the island burying 13 villages and thousands of lives were lost.

(continued from previous page) REMEMBERING REV DR ROBERT LAMB - ONE TIME ELDER OF ST ANDREWS WENTWORTH FALLS

WENTWORTH FALLS AND ST ANDREW’S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Eventually Robert and Mary moved from New Zealand to Australia and settled in Wentworth Falls, their home being just around the corner from the Grand View Hotel.

But this godly gentleman of great vision, stamina and resilience noted the measure of traffic across the mountains. So he would visit these ‘swagmen’ in their camps as they travelled to and fro in search of work, and provide for their needs.

The St Andrews Presbyterian Church building was opened for worship on 4th February 1905. After the Presbytery ministers had led the service of worship together with the preaching, one of the several original elders of the congregation expressed great thanks to the members of Presbytery and visitors. This elder was none other than Rev Dr Robert Lamb. He died two years later in 1907 when only 45 years of age, and his wife Mary soon returned to Scotland.

But Robert Lamb lived on. For he had arranged for a plot to be set aside for the ongoing declaration of the “Gud nyus blong Jisas Kraes, Pikinini blong God” on Blue Mountains soil ... as had been the case 15 years earlier on New Hebridean soil.

Seats were arranged around the memorial headstone so that the travelling ‘swagmen’ and others could read of the Good News. Among other Scripture passages around the Memorial, these appear:

- “Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow”;
- “My kindness shall not depart from thee”;
- “Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest”.

The grave site is in the Wentworth Falls cemetery over the road from the Mountain High Pies Shop. Friends, it’s worth a visit! For we are reminded that as long as we live, and way beyond our departure, those whom we so dearly love will remember that we too knew that “Gud nyus blong Jisas Kraes, Pikinini blong God” and that our most fervent desire is that they too will know, believe and live.

Robert Benn



Crown Court Church Covent Garden London - A Warm Welcome

Welcome to the Crown Court Church of Scotland – a Presbyterian congregation worshipping, and serving, in the heart of central London.

Lots of churches say ‘All are welcome’ but we honestly mean it! Whoever you are and whatever your story, you’ll find a warm welcome awaits you!

We are an inclusive church and a diverse bunch of people: seeking to learn what it means to be people of faith in a modern world.

We try to follow Christ as best we can together, whilst acknowledging that we are a work in progress.

We are people of different generations, backgrounds and cultures; most of whom are rooted in the Reformed tradition of Christianity, but by no means all.

We’d be delighted if you’d like to join us any Sunday morning for Morning Worship at 11.15 am. You’ll find us located in the heart of Covent Garden and theatreland. Founded as the “Kirk of the Crown of Scotland” we are the longest-established Presbyterian church south of the border, dating from 1711; and remain a congregation of the national Church of Scotland.

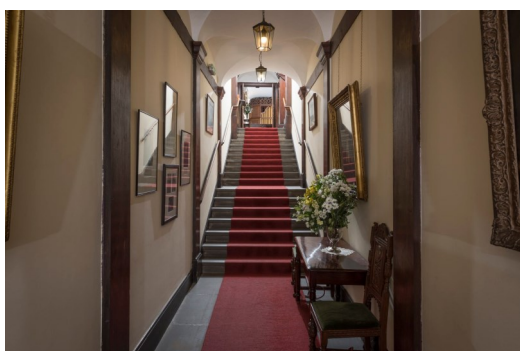
We are also unique in our location, on a site in Covent Garden in the heart of London’s theatreland.

Finally, and most importantly, we are unique in our fellowship, providing a “home away from home” for Scots, Americans, and fellow Presbyterians from all over the globe, in the heart of this world city.

We are delighted that you have found our site and hope we have conveyed something of the flavour of life at Crown Court.

We also hope that, having visited our website, you will want to visit us the next time you are in London, and experience Crown Court for yourself.

P.S. The editor’s ancestors and fellow migrants worshipped in this church before migrating to Australia in the late 18th century and founded the historic church at Ebenezer in 1809.



Allowah Presbyterian Children's Hospital Dundas
For information on how you can support Allowah, please contact
Elder Judy McDougall, Allowah Ambassador, on 0408 119 165

Allowah Presbyterian Children's Hospital Dundas—Prayer Points

- Give thanks for the children at Allowah who make us smile each day, children who are made in God's image, with unique personalities, gifts and abilities.
- Give thanks for the many people from churches and the community who have raised money in support of Allowah in the appeal to keep Allowah's doors open and praise God for the positive outcome this has produced!
- Give thanks for a Winter School Holidays without a lockdown and LGA restrictions – this meant that more children were able to stay at Allowah, providing much-needed support to their families during the school holidays.
- Give thanks for a joy-filled time at Allowah over the school holidays, when singing filled the recreation room, filling the children and staff with thankfulness to be able to sing again (rather than just listening to music like they did during the COVID-19 restrictions over the last years.
- Give thanks for the Kids Church Teams who visit Allowah to engage the children with Jesus through story, song and craft. Praise God for these compassionate individuals who give up their time to do all this whilst wearing PPE!
- Pray for wisdom and strength for the Allowah leadership team as they make decisions and navigate the financial situation, the ongoing COVID impact, and daily operational needs of the hospital.
- Pray that people in churches and the community would not experience fundraising-fatigue, and would continue to explore ways to raise funds for Allowah.
- Pray that the Government would act on the request for financial support, funding that is needed now and into the future. Pray that God would provide the funds needed for Allowah to continue to provide care for vulnerable children in the name of Jesus.
- Ask that God would provide rest and renewed energy for the staff of Allowah after the school holiday program.
- Pray for Allowah Chaplain Rochelle, as she provides pastoral care to the children, families and staff. Ask that God would fill her with His strength and wisdom so as she shows the love of Jesus in her words and actions.

Married Four Times

The local news station was interviewing an 80 year-old lady because she had just gotten married for the fourth time.

The interviewer asked her questions about her life, about what it felt like to be marrying again at 80, and then about her new husband's occupation. "He's a funeral director", she answered.

"Interesting", the reporter thought....He then asked her if she wouldn't mind telling him a little about her first three husbands and what they did for a living.

She paused for a few moments, needing time to reflect on all those years.

After a short time, a smile came to her face and she answered proudly, explaining that she had first married a banker when she was in her 20's, then a circus ringmaster when in her 40's, and a preacher when in her 60's, and now—in her 80's—a funeral director.

The reporter looked at her, quite astonished, and asked why she had married four men with such diverse careers.

She smiled and explained, "I married one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, and four to go."



**THE PRESBYTERIAN HIGHLANDER
IS THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE UPPER BLUE
MOUNTAINS**

All correspondence should be addressed to:
The Session Clerk
The Presbyterian Church of the Upper Blue Mountains
P O Box 155, Wentworth Falls. N.S.W. 2782



WHERE THERE'S A WILL . . . THERE'S A WAY

THE CHRISTIAN SHOULD MAKE A WILL



* It demonstrates awareness of God's gifts.

- * A Will is an ultimate act of stewardship whereby provision is made for dependants and thoughtful disposition of property is cared for.
- * By a Will, on-going support may be given to some causes which will go on serving humanity.

A BEQUEST TO THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Every Presbyterian should consider designating a portion of his or her Estate for the strengthening of the work of the Church. Are you prepared to make such a commitment?

Having decided on the various items you wish to include in your Will, you should request your Solicitor to draw up the Will to ensure that your intentions will be clearly expressed in accordance with all legal requirements. It may be unwise to select sample clauses and draw your Will yourself.

Should there be any doubt as to the manner in which the Presbyterian Church should be described in legal terms, please invite your Solicitor to consult the General Manager:
by writing to:

The General Manager
Presbyterian Church of Australia in NSW
P O Box 2196
STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW 2012

or by telephoning: Mr Geoff Falls, General Manager on (02) 9690 9333 or faxing on (02) 9310 2148.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH has never been faced with a shortage of things to do with its funds. The list is long but the money is not always available.

Please help now!

A LEGACY or BEQUEST will be gratefully received and faithfully administered. See panel below.

"I give to **THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (NEW SOUTH WALES) PROPERTY TRUST**
for St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Wentworth Falls (or Leslie Memorial Presbyterian Church Blackheath)

[*description of bequest* (see Note 2)]

free of testamentary charges and duties for [*desired purpose* see Note 3)]
and I declare that the receipt of

the Secretary of the Trust shall be a sufficient discharge to my Executors."

Note 2 \$ <amount > or <description of property / item>

Note 3 its general purposes, or <specific purpose desired>

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A copy of the Church's Privacy Policy is available on request.

If you do not wish to consent to being identified in this or any other Church publication, please advise an elder accordingly.

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