

ROCKINGHAM AND SAFETY BAY

CHURCH HISTORY

1940 - 1980

METHODIST CHURCH 1940 - 1977
UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA 1977 - 1980

ROCKINGHAM/SAFETY BAY METHODIST CHURCH 1940-1977

ROCKINGHAM/SAFETY BAY UNITING CHURCH 1977-1980

PARISH HISTORY

Introduction

When the decision was made a few months ago to compile a history of our church in Rockingham/Safety Bay, little did we realise what a monumental task that we had undertaken.

Very quickly it became apparent that insufficient time was available to search through a mountainous pile of documents, notes and other records. Also it proved quite impossible and at times impractical to talk to all those "old timers" who have been with the Church for many years and who have an enormous wealth of memories of our history to share.

Consequently, the following pages reflect only the more important salient milestones of our Church. It is our desire at some future point in time to expand this into a volume that will encompass many other notable achievements.

A sincere thankyou must go to those few people who already have contributed much to compile and record our history; without their support and dedication to the task set them even this brief report would not have been possible.

21st September, 1980

As It Happened

- * Mr. & Mrs. Morrison of Fisher Street held the first Sunday School in April, 1932
- * First Worship service led by Mr. Aldis in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Morrison in 1932
- * Services started in 1933 and were led by the Rev. Arthur Meyer.
- * Other services were held in the homes of Mr. & Mrs. J.H. Stone and later in the Agricultural Hall, now the Library Hall
- * Mr. G. Grigg donated land for the Church and Manse in 1933
- * The foundation stones of the Church was laid on June 22, 1940 by the Lt. Governor Sir James Mitchell and by Mrs. Morrison.

- ROCKINGHAM SAFETY BAY METHODIST CHURCH 1840-1956
- * The Methodist Church was the first Church in Rockingham and the first Trustees were Mr. A. Findlater: Mr. W.D. Robinson: Miss L. Saw: Mr. E. Cowdell
 - * The first service was conducted by Mr. Jules Johnstone on 22 September, 1940 using Psalm 127 as his text. Miss L. Saw played the piano.
 - * Mr. Stone's daughter, Alice and Mr. Alex Minchin were the first couple married in the Church.
 - * The Rockingham Ladies Guild was uninaugurated in 1939 with the first meeting held on 12th August, 1940. Elected were: Mrs. Morrison - President; Miss Saw - Vice President; Mrs. Mitchell - Treasurer; Mrs. Whitehead - Secretary. There were 17 original members:- Mrs. J.H. Stone; Mrs. Ward; Mrs. Parsons; Mrs. Findlater; Mrs. Larkin; Mrs. Ritchie; Mrs. Campbell; Mrs. Hale; Mrs. Bennett; Mrs. Rolins; Mrs. Collell and Misses Watts, Saw and Ward.
 - * The Manse was opened on 19 March, 1947 at a cost of £624. The Rev. A. Hawkins was the first to occupy the building.
 - * In 1949 people at Safety Bay met to organise a Ladies Guild and regular services. First services were held in the Progress Hall (now Mc Larty Hall) led by Rev. G.E. Jones.
 - * Mrs. G.E. Jones became the first Sunday School Superintendent, with others to follow in her place:- Mrs. M. Rea; Mrs. P. Shillcock and Mrs. E. Steele.
 - * In November 1954 an acre of land was purchased at the corner of Rae Road and Frederick Street for £1240. A building obtained from Woodman's Point for £425 was erected on the site.
 - * October 16, 1955 saw the first service in the Safety Bay church conducted by Rev. R.E. Bramley. The first Sunday School Supt. at the Church was Mr. Rowe, who also convened the Young Peoples Group.
 - * Annual expenditure for the Parish in 1956 was £451.10s & 9d.

- * In 1957 the Communion rail and Baptism stand were dedicated in the Rockingham Church
- * The Rockingham Church hall was lined; the front porch closed during 1960
- * In May 1964 a further quarter acre of land was donated by Mr. F.A. Payne and joined with the existing Safety Bay Land.
- * Trustees of the Safety Bay Land were:- Lucy Saw; George Thompson; Edith Cowdell; Minnie Larkin; Milton Maley; Bruce Meyer; William Cowdell; James Kelman; Arthur Pickles; George Sharp; Alexander Rowe and Kenneth Cowdell
- * In January, 1969 an organ for Rockingham was purchased and dedicated to the memory of Mr. & Mrs. Mead.
- * Also in 1969 extensions to the Church Hall and the addition of the kitchen were completed.
- * Rev. C. Lambert (a minister at Fremantle Wesley Mission) in May 1969 formed a Friendship Club in Rockingham to assist migrant people to be integrated into the community. Mrs. Pat Cadman was the first president.
- * The Opportunity Shop commenced on 29th August, 1970 with a committee comprising Mesdames: E. Stone; A. Lee; G. Reynolds; I. Weigold; E. Waddell; P. Mc Kinnon & D. Earnshaw. In ten years \$28,500 has been raised.
- * In November 1971 the Myalla Club was formed under the guidance of Mrs. Limb. This later led to the formation of the Myfella's Club and the Concert Group
- * A Craft Club under the supervision of Mrs. Nan Parker started in 1970 on Friday afternoon for school girls
- * June 1977 saw the inauguration of the Uniting Church in Australia which included both Rockingham & Safety Bay Churches
- * The first Parish Secretary was Mrs. E. Cowdell. First Parish Treasurer was Mrs. D. Earnshaw.
- * The first Council of Elder were selected in 1977:- John Whaley; George Bennalick; Peter Smith; Dorothy Hawker; Mavis Cooper and Barbara Green
- * The Australian Hymn Book was introduced in 1978 superceding the much loved Methodist Hymn Book
- * Total expenditure of the Parish in 1979 was \$26,473.94

- * During 1979 5084m² of land for a future Church was purchased. Situated in Erindoon Way, Cooloongup, the land cost \$51,400. The National Bank advanced a loan of \$40,000 payable in 7yrs.
- * A Mens' Fellowship started in August by Mr. L. Duncan

People in History

- * Rockingham Pianists/Organist have been L. Saw; E. Cowdell; and D. Sewell.
- * Pianists at Safety Bay have been Mrs. Maley; Susan Meyer; Wella Meyer and Nancy Rutherford.
- * Circuit Steward have included: Mr. Russell; Mr. E. Cowdell; Mrs. E. Cowdell; Mr. Steele; Mr. R. Lee
- * Other Trustees: K. Cowdell; W. Stone; R. Tucker; R. Lee; G. Sharpe; W. Small; F. Rutherford and I. Wells.
- * Other people who have been involved with the early church were:- Rev. E. Nye; Rev. J. Green; Mr. Wyatt; Mr. Baker; Mrs. D. Cowdell; Mrs. Small; Mrs. Thomas; Mrs. V. Alexander; Mrs. S. Whaley; Mr. J. Michelson; Mr. R. Lincoln; Miss Z. Reeves; Mr. H. Roberts; M. Steele; S. Provan; P. Cooper; P. Crosse; D. Van der Swaagh; J. Turner; A. Reeves; S. Cooper A. Cull; W. Tee; M. Moylett; Mr. Burkin; and many many others

Roll of Ministers

Sept	1940	-	Dec	1943	J. Johnstone	Home Missioner
June	1943	-	Sept	1943	F. Sampson	Home Missioner
July	1944	-	Aug	1945	S.W. Lawrence	Home Missioner
Dec	1945	-	Mar	1946	A.R. Wilbrey	Home Missioner
Apr	1946	-	Nov	1947	A. Hawkins	Home Missioner
Dec	1947	-	Mar	1948	A.R. Wilbrey	Reverend
June	1948	-	Sep	1948	H. Lindley	Reverend
Oct	1948	-	Mar	1949	Sister Edie	Mission Sister
Apr	1949	-	Apr	1950	G.E. Jones	Reverend
Apr	1950	-	Apr	1951	F.E. James	Reverend
May	1951	-	Mar	1953	T. Cook	Reverend
Apr	1953	-	Mar	1957	R.E. Bramley	Reverend
Apr	1957	-	Jan	1961	D.W. Pederick	Reverend
			1961		N. Hicks	Reverend
Jan	1962	-	Jan	1964	S.W. Croker	Reverend
Jan	1964	-	Sept	1966	E. Green	Home Missioner
Dec	1967	-	Dec	1968	H. Willis	Home Missioner
			1969		P. Daley	Home Missioner
Feb	1970	-	Apr	1972	G.R. Limb	Reverend
Apr	1972	-	Nov	1972	S. Shearn	Reverend
Nov	1972				R.W. Hawker	Reverend
	1955	-		1971	Rev. Milton Maley was a	
					(Supernumerary)	