

## Scots Church celebrates 150 years!

On the last weekend of May 2012 we celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the second church to be built in our parish, Scots Church Pitt Town.

On the evening of 25 May we will holding a Bush Dance and on Saturday 26 May there will be a Hawkesbury Historical Society Car Tour focusing on the lives of William Hall and Rev. George Macfie.

The main day, Sunday 27 May, will start with a service of celebration that will commence at 10.30am. We invite everyone to join us in these celebrations. More details are provided later in this newsletter.

## Changes Ahead

In 2012 our congregation has held frequent meetings as part of a Mission & Property Reflection. At this stage it appears that owing to a decreased membership, we cannot meet the costs of a full-time minister. A proposal being considered is that we have a minister on 50% supply.

To a visitor to the church, changes will not be evident. There will still be weekly services, baptisms, weddings and an annual pilgrimage to Ebenezer Church. The other 50% of what is normally the minister's work will be attended to by the members of the congregation and our church shop in the Schoolmaster's House will remain open for visitors.

Ted Brill, Church Secretary

## Return of Silver Tea Set

Scots Church in Bathurst Street, Pitt Town, was built in 1862. It opened as a Presbyterian Church and continued as a Uniting Church from 1977. In 1867 the minister of Scots Church, Rev. George Macfie, was presented with a silver tea set by the congregation in appreciation of his service to the parish.

In December 2011, 144 years later, two descendants of Rev. George Macfie, Jeff Macfie and his mother Doreen from Harvey Bay, Queensland, presented the tea set back to the church.

The silver tea set had been made by Hardy brothers, Sydney. In 2012 Hardy Brothers still have a store in Sydney and are the only Australian jewellers that have a Queen's Royal Warrant.



The return of the silver tea set has created much interest in Scots Church Pitt Town, especially with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Scots Church Pitt Town being celebrated on 25-27 May this year, the main day being Sunday 27th May 2012. Descendants of Rev. Macfie, many of whom reside in Sydney suburbs, were delighted to receive this news of the silver tea set. They previously did not know of its location or had any contact with Jeff and Doreen Macfie. They quickly found them in their family tree and have since made contact.

The Macfie silver tea set will be on display on Sunday 27 May - the main day of our celebrations of Scots Church sesquicentenary that are being held in church grounds, 99 Bathurst Street, Pitt Town.

### Minister

**Rev. Helenna Anderson**

### Church Contacts

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[tedbrill@ebenezerchurch.org.au](mailto:tedbrill@ebenezerchurch.org.au)

### Ebenezer Church Shop

Bookings & Inquiries: 02 4579 9350  
Ebenezer Church Shop,  
PO Box 7048, Wilberforce, 2756



## Wedding at Ebenezer Church

Our minister Rev. Helenna Anderson believes that when arriving at Ebenezer Church for a service the scene is not a 'normal' one. There is often a horse float parked out the front and occasional there is also is a caravan or motor home. So it was not surprising that Monique Micallef, for her marriage to Chris Lincoln at Ebenezer Church on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February, chose to arrive at the church on horseback.



## Finnish GSE Team visits Ebenezer Church

Group Studies Exchange (GSE) is a Rotary project that allows people from other countries to visit Australia and meet with people in the same occupation. In this way they further their knowledge of their occupation and also learn at first hand about another country.

Rotary Clubs in Australia send similar teams of Australians overseas in exchange. Two young Hawkesbury people who were part of a GSE team to go to the Philippines last year were Kylie Pitt and Rebecca Rose.

In March this year a GSE Team from Finland - Lisa, Nora, Liisa, Anniina and Johanna - were hosted by Hawkesbury Rotary Clubs. The Finnish visitors were given a talk and tour of our historic church and grounds and were served morning tea by our volunteers.



## A story from our past – Ebenezer Church Pioneer John Turnbull

John Turnbull came from Dumfries, Scotland. He was working as a tailor in London before deciding to emigrate at 54 years of age. Rev. John Lang, the first Presbyterian minister in the colony, told of Turnbull's arrival on the Coromandel:

'Governor King mustered them on the quarter-deck, shortly after their arrival, to ascertain their respective views, resources and abilities. Observing an old grey-haired man in their number, who acknowledged he had been thirty years in business in London, the Governor exclaimed in astonishment,

"One foot in the grave, and the other out of it, what brought you here, old man?"

It is interesting to note that Turnbull survived to the age of 86, outlived the facetious Governor, and as an octogenarian once beat up a bushranger who dared to accost him while Turnbull was riding from his farm to Sydney along the Parramatta Road.





## Pitt Town Car Tour Saturday 26 May 2012

This car tour is part of the sesquicentenary celebrations of Scots Church Pitt Town, and will be held on Saturday 26 May 2012. It is being organised by the Hawkesbury Historical Society.

Starting at **10.30am** at Scots Church Pitt Town, the tour focuses on the lives of William Hall, the principal donor for the building of the church in 1862, and Rev. George Macfie, the minister at the time the church was built. The areas toured are Cattai and Pitt Town.

The tour starts with talks given in Scots Church by local historians. We then drive to Riverside Oaks Golf Resort, Cattai, the original land grant given to pioneer George Hall, and inspect historical sites.

There follows a sandwich/finger food lunch at Riverside Oaks before returning to Pitt Town. After visiting various sites in the town, devonshire teas will be served back at the church.

**Bookings Essential:** Tickets \$25 per person, \$15 per child (5-16 years, under 5 years free). *Early bookings are advisable.* For bookings please contact Kath Wilkins 02 4577 3842 or [kathwilkins@exemail.com.au](mailto:kathwilkins@exemail.com.au).

After contact, payment can be sent to PO Box 293, Windsor, NSW, 2756, or left at the Hawkesbury Regional Museum in a marked envelope addressed to Kath Wilkins Hawkesbury Historical Society treasurer. Booking are not confirmed until payment is received. **Please note that bookings close on Monday 14 May.**

Car pooling is available for those without their own transport; if transport is required, please notify when booking. A map and program will be distributed on the day.



Scots Church c.1932

## Scots Church Pitt Town 150th Anniversary Celebrations

### Program

**Friday 25 May 2012 – Bush Dance** in Maraylya Hall, Maraylya – a family fun night that starts at 6.30pm and includes supper. Admission is \$5 an adult or \$10 a family. For more details: Christine or Kevin 4572 3518.

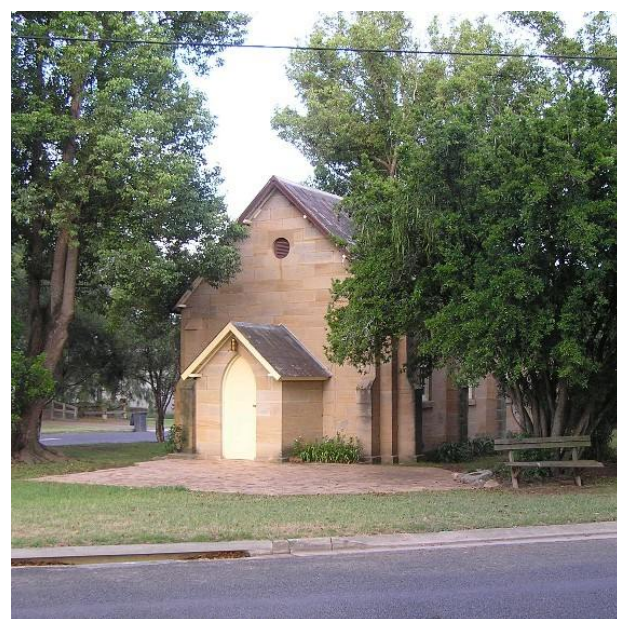
### Saturday 26 May 2012

**Pitt Town Car Tour** focusing on sites associated with pioneers George & Mary Hall, their son William Hall and the minister at the time the church was built, Rev. George Macfie. A full day's tour by cars that starts and finishes at Scots Church Pitt Town and includes lunch and afternoon tea.

### Sunday 27 May: Day of Celebration

Program starting at 10.30am:

- Service of Celebration
- Unveiling a 150th anniversary plaque
- Cutting an anniversary cake & morning tea
- Historical Talks on William Hall and George Macfie
- Entertainment
- Historical Displays by the Ferguson Library, the display including the Silver Tea Set that was presented to Rev. George Macfie in 1867 in appreciation of his service to the parish.



Scots Church 2010

## Ben Ransom - A Rising Country Rock Star

Ben Ransom is a rising country/rock musician who writes and performs his own music; his second single rose to second highest on the country music charts.

Ben is about to release his third single titled 'The Wedding Song'. The basic premise of the song 'is the story of a man getting married and he is reflecting on his feelings about his wife to-be on the day of their wedding. The song is very simple and understated and is focused on love.'

Ben was required to shoot a music video to accompany the song. Considering the nature of the song, he felt that Ebenezer Church would make an ideal setting to film some singing of the song and to get some footage of his bride-to-be in and around the church.

This took place in February 2012 and Ben and the film crew then moved on to 'Rockleigh', a house in Ebenezer that was previously the Vet's House in 'A Country Practice'.

I found Ben Ransom to be a talented young musician and a young person of whom we Aussies can be justly proud.



### STUBBS FAMILY 34th ANNUAL REUNION Saturday 27 October 2012

Ebenezer Church, 95 Coromandel Road, Ebenezer, NSW.

From 9.30am

BYO picnic lunch as well as any family details,  
photographs or items of interest.

#### Please direct inquiries to:

Coralie Hird                      Lillyan MacDonald.  
(02) 8084 3808                      Room 17, The Lodge,  
[cdhird@optusnet.com.au](mailto:cdhird@optusnet.com.au)                      95 Stanhope Road, Killara 2071

#### Stubbs Family Website:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~stubbs1802/>

Stubbs email: [stubbs1802@gmail.com](mailto:stubbs1802@gmail.com)

### GRONO FAMILY REUNION 2013

The next Grono Family Reunion will be on  
Sunday 5th May, 2013  
at Ebenezer Church, 95 Coromandel Road,  
Ebenezer, NSW.

At this reunion there will be a special focus on commemorating the 200th anniversary of John Grono's rescue of the crew of the Active who were left stranded in New Zealand for over 3 years. More details to follow in future newsletters.

Contact: Mandy Waller, Secretary

email: [gronofamily@gmail.com](mailto:gronofamily@gmail.com)

web: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gronofamily/index.htm>

### EBENEZER CHURCH PIONEER FAMILY CONTACTS

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