

Ebenezer Church
Ebenezer Pitt Town Uniting Churches

Newsletter

No. 7 October 2009

Ebenezer Church (1809) – first Presbyterian Church – oldest existing church – in Australia



Ebenezer Church
1809 - 2009

What a crowd! We estimated 4,000 people on Saturday 20 June.

What an atmosphere! One person later wrote: *'The sense of friendliness, joy and community was evident throughout the day.'*

Everyone was so positive: *'No, that's not rain, (and referring to Ebenezer Church's Presbyterian background) it's Scottish mist!'*

And another person: *'The rain didn't dampen anything except the ground.'*

What a great response from our pioneer family associations with 12 out of 15 families represented. Also present were descendants of past teacher and preacher John Youl, church carpenter David Dunstan, teacher Matthew McFetridge, past minister Tom Watson, ...

A great celebration that was worthy for a bicentennial occasion. Thank you for your support!

Ted Brill
Secretary
Ebenezer Church Bicentenary Committee

Message from the Minister

It is hard to believe that the Bicentennial Celebrations have come and now gone. After so much planning and preparation, the weekend seems to have passed so quickly. For me, the celebrations have highlighted that the community of our churches is much more than we usually realise. The celebrations at Ebenezer have been an opportunity to gather our church community together and create celebrations worthy of the 200 years of the church. There was a genuinely happy fellowship that gathered, particularly on the Saturday as around 4,000 people descended on the property.

For the occasion, I was amazed at how many people were so willing to help in whatever way we needed. In a world where groups are setting up ever stronger boundaries of who is included or not, our celebrations highlight the strength of inclusiveness and encouragement like our early pioneers, without which we would not have been able to achieve what we have.

The celebrations were an opportunity to look back at the past, learn from the past, celebrate our history and look to the future. Our Pioneers came together in love, equality, mutual support and equality from diverse backgrounds that at that time would not normally have got along. They worked to build a community according to the values of God's Kingdom and share that with the early colony, in the process, building a better society.

We share in that heritage and are an example of what can be achieved when we come together in love and support. Let us now move forward into the next two hundred years and beyond as a beacon of God's light to our world so that all may ultimately come together, in our community, society, nation and world living by the values and faith of God's kingdom as shown to us by Jesus.

Thank you to everyone who helped and supported us with the celebrations!

Rev. Grant Bilbey



Bicentenary Service Max Andrews, Madeline Dunstan, Christopher Tobin, Louise Markus MP, Rev. Grant Bilbey, Malcolm Turnbull MP, Rt Rev. Robert Benn, Rev. Niall Reid, Rev. Gregor Henderson and Rt. Rev Bruce Meller.

Church Contacts

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

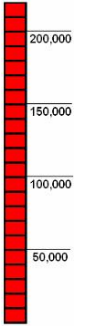
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Ebenezer Church 200 years – Celebrating the past – Focusing on the future

Ebenezer Church 'Towards 2009' Bicentennial Appeal

With further donations since our last newsletter in May 2009, we reached our goal of \$220,000!
What an achievement! Thank you for your support. Our congregation could not have done this on our own.
Projects completed since May include:

- Conservation of the bread oven
- The church porch interior
- The first floor rooms in the Schoolmaster's House.
- Removing or dead-wooding dangerous trees on church property.



Bicentenary of Ebenezer Church

Threatening rain did not deter the crowd that on the main day was estimated at 4,000 people. While it was wet under foot, and at times overhead, the program was able to proceed. The mood of the crowd was friendly, appreciative, and a feeling of celebration was evident.

There was an excellent response from pioneer family associations. Twelve of the fifteen pioneer families had marquees as focal points around which to assemble. The marquees were decorated with family memorabilia and records of ancestry.



The pipe band linked the day with our Scottish ancestry.

Re-enactment: SERVICE UNDER THE TREE – 1808



Pioneers arriving by rowing boat to Ebenezer Mount for an outdoor service under the historic tree.

Services were led by Pastor James Mein and were conducted in the open air until the church was built in 1809.



The pioneers gathering for the service.



The troops arrive and surround the settlers.

Comments from those who attended the bicentenary celebrations:

A Grono Descendant:

'You are ... to be congratulated on the wonderful Bicentennial celebrations we experienced yesterday. We had a wonderful time, despite the rain. Everything was so well organised! We also really enjoyed the service at the conclusion of the day. Thank you.'

A Descendant of John & Ann Turnbull:

'What a wonderful weekend you have had! ... It is with immense pride that I claim to be an ancestor of John Turnbull and that I have tangible evidence at Ebenezer of my Christian heritage.'

A member of the Richmond Players that conducted the re-enactment:

'The sense of friendliness, joy and community was evident throughout the day.'

A Mein descendant: The (pioneer family) marquee was an absolute blessing, as without it we would have all been wandering around, very lost, and not knowing which people in the crowd were Meins. We thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the Celebrations, and would like to congratulate you for the massive effort you put into making it the professional celebration it turned out to be.

Another Turnbull Descendant:

'Congratulations to all who organised the 200 anniversary weekend. We attended for the day on Saturday and were most impressed with all the work you people have put in to make it such a success.'

'The rain didn't dampen anything except the ground and I am sure you all must have been well pleased with the weekend.'

A descendant of Andrew & Mary Johnston:

A ... 'message of appreciation is extended to you and the organizing committee on behalf of all the Johnston descendants.'

Another Johnston descendant:

'Congratulations are in order on the great success of the 200th anniversary of the Church. My husband John, son David and myself made the journey from Brisbane and were very pleased we made the effort. ... Despite the inclement weather it was a memorable occasion for us.'

A descendant of William Jacklin:

'My great, great, great grandfather - William Jacklin probably would have been taken aback by all of the fuss over their little church ... I just wanted to say thank you ...'

SOUVENIR SALES

The souvenir Bicentenary Program which includes historical photographs, information on church heritage and the Order of the Bicentenary Service will be added at no additional cost to orders of books, CD's and DVD's. If you are not ordering these items and would like a souvenir program, please forward \$3.00 and we will send one to you.

DVD of the Bicentenary of Ebenezer Church

\$25.00 at the church shop,
\$27.50 posted

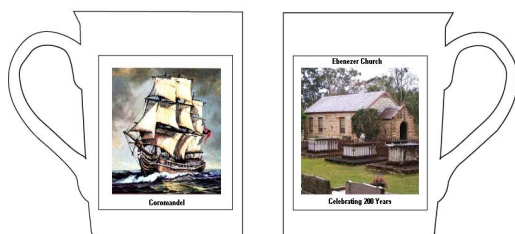
CD of the Bicentenary Service

\$6.00 at the church shop,
\$8.50 posted

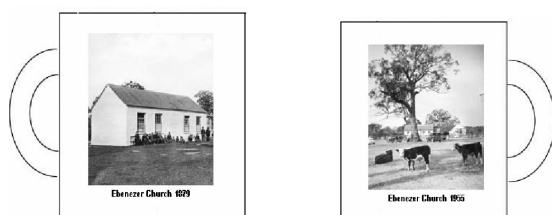


Journal This attractive publication includes information on church heritage plus verses from the Bible. A journal - not a diary - no dates.
\$12 at the church shop, \$15.00 posted

Mugs



Full colour Bone China Mug
\$12 at the church shop, \$18.40 posted



Sepia Stoneware Mug
\$10 at the church shop, \$16.40 posted

'Ebenezer Church, Australia's oldest'

A bicentenary release of a book that traces the 200-year history of Ebenezer Church through the periods of the 23 ministers.

EBENEZER CHURCH, AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST



Bicentenary Edition
Ted Brill

\$25 at the church shop or \$30 posted.

Commemorative Plate

A popular high quality product that is an excellent souvenir of the celebrations.

\$49.50 each, \$59.00 posted

Pens from Historic Tree

Pens have been turned from salvaged wood from the Historic Tree under which the pioneers first worshipped.

\$40 at the church shop, \$45 posted

Map

This poster size map shows the areas in which the pioneers settled. \$8 at the church shop, \$14.40 posted

STUBBS FAMILY 31st ANNUAL REUNION Saturday 31 October 2009

Ebenezer Church, Coromandel Road, Ebenezer, NSW.
From 9.30am

BYO picnic lunch, folding chairs, etc...

Please direct inquiries to:

Coralie Hird
(02) 8084 3808

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Lillyan MacDonald.
23B/95 Stanhope Road,
Killara NSW 2071.

Stubbs Family Website:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~stubbs1802/> Stubbs email: stubbs1802@gmail.com

CHURCH PIONEER FAMILY CONTACTS

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SOUVENIR ORDERS

Ebenezer Church Bicentenary

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please supply

<input type="checkbox"/>	Commemorate Plate \$49.50 <i>Postage \$9.50</i>	\$ _____ \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	DVD of Bicentenary \$25.00 <i>Postage \$2.50</i>	\$ _____ \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	CD of the Bicentenary Service \$6.00: <i>Postage \$2.50</i>	\$ _____ \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Journal \$12.00 <i>Postage \$3.00</i>	\$ _____ \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mug, Full colour Bone China \$12.00 <i>* Postage \$6.40</i>	\$ _____ \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mug, Sepia Stoneware \$10.00 <i>* Postage \$6.40</i>	\$ _____ \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mug, Sepia Stoneware \$10.00 <i>Postage \$6.40</i>	\$ _____ \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Book, Ebenezer Church, Australia's oldest: Bicentenary Edition \$25.00 <i>Postage \$5.00</i>	\$ _____ \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Map of Pioneer Settlement \$8.00 <i>Postage \$6.40</i>	\$ _____ \$ _____
Total:		\$ _____

** If ordering more than two mugs, please add postage for the first two only.*

Post orders to: Ebenezer Church, PO Box 7048, Wilberforce, NSW, 2756.

Please make cheques payable to 'Ebenezer Church'.

Plates can be also be purchased online by going to the church website

www.ebenezerchurch.org.au .