



**Ebenezer Church**  
**Ebenezer Pitt Town Uniting Churches**

# *Newsletter*

No. 6 May 2009

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



**Ebenezer Church 200 years**

### ***It's time to celebrate!***

In 2005 the congregation of Ebenezer Pitt Town Uniting Church agreed to focus on restoring all Ebenezer Church property by the bicentennial year of 2009. To do this \$220,000 was needed. For such a small congregation with limited financial resources, no matter how dedicated, this seemed to be a dream.

But through reaching out to the descendants of the fifteen pioneer families, to descendants of past ministers and members now living across our entire nation, through our present congregation's donations and fund raising, and through heritage grants from the State and Federal governments, the dream has become real.

To everyone who has made a financial donation, we thank you. To those who have made donations in kind or of time and energy towards restoration projects and planning the bicentenary celebrations, we thank you.

It has been a long and at times exhausting project but on the way we have received much encouragement and support.

It's time to celebrate! We hope you can join us on the main day of celebration – Saturday 20 June 2009.

Ted Brill  
Secretary  
Ebenezer Church Bicentenary Committee

### **Message from the Minister**

The bicentennial celebrations for the Ebenezer Church are almost upon us. It has been a long journey preparing for the celebrations with some preliminary planning going back into 2005. There has been a lot to do, firstly with the restoration work and the improvements to the grounds. Then with the organisation of the celebrations and events that will happen over the weekend.

At the start it seemed that only a miracle could bring it all together given the limited financial and people resources of the regular worshipping congregation. I have been aware throughout my time here as the minister of the Ebenezer and Pitt Town Uniting Churches, that the community of the Ebenezer church has always been much greater than just the regular worshipping congregation.

People are connected to the church community in many ways. Some people live locally to the church and see it as their church. There are others who are connected to the church as a place where they were married and/or had their children baptised. There are some who have come to Ebenezer as a wonderful place to be.

The largest and broadest group, are those descended from the early settlers at Ebenezer for whom the family heritage connection means that Ebenezer is home. The Ebenezer Church then symbolises the place where they have come from and a focal point that brings their family together. This is a group that is spread throughout Australia and beyond.

As we have worked towards our celebrations, what seemed to need a miracle has become real through contributions of time, energy and money from all of these groups of people that make up the community of the Ebenezer Church. Thank you to everyone that has given so much.

As we come together to celebrate in June it is a time of remembering the past and looking to the future and celebrating the unique and important place in Australia's history and heritage we have together as the community of the Ebenezer Church.

Come and share as a community at Ebenezer from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> June, especially the 20<sup>th</sup> June where we will have entertainment, re-enactments, displays and a service of celebration. I look forward to seeing you then.

Rev. Grant Bilbey

### **Church Contacts**

#### **Bicentenary & this Newsletter**

Ted Brill,  
Ebenezer Pitt Town Uniting Church  
PO Box 7048, Wilberforce, 2756  
02 4579 9235  
tedbrill@ebenezerchurch.org.au

#### **Minister**

Rev Grant Bilbey  
Ebenezer Pitt Town Uniting Church,  
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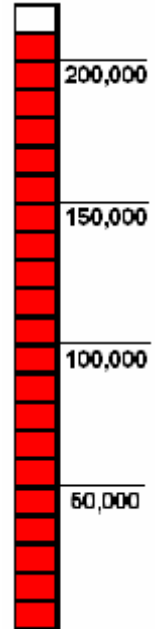
#### **Ebenezer Church Shop**

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

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

# Ebenezer Church

## ‘Towards 2009’ Bicentennial Appeal



*What a story! We're almost there!*

With further donations since our last newsletter in October 2008, we now have only \$10,000 reach our goal of \$220,000.

### Completed projects include:

- Repairs to the slate roofs of the church and vestry including the replacement of lead flashing and capping
- Replacement of the roof of the passageway between church and vestry
- Removal and replacement of tuck pointing on the external walls of the church, vestry and schoolmaster's house
- Renewal of all guttering and downpipes on the church, vestry and schoolmaster's house and the replacement of two galvanised water tanks
- External painting of the church, vestry and adjoining passageway
- New toilet facilities and a storeroom have been constructed.
- Replacement of all underground water pipes that supply river water to the church property and the installation of a new pump
- Paving has been taken up and repositioned so that we now have a level area for the serving of devonshire teas
- The fence across the middle of the property has been removed, fill has been brought in and levelled and the whole area has been turfed.
- Replacement of the roof of the pavilion (church hall)
- Access to the pavilion has been improved, for people using walkers and wheelchairs and for people entering church property through the gate near the pavilion.
- The pavilion kitchen has been renovated.
- The river bank has been cleaned up and a safety fence has been erected around power boxes.

### Projects in progress include:

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

### Donations for the 'Towards 2009' Bicentennial Appeal may be ...

- Handed to our volunteers in the Ebenezer Church Shop
- Posted to:                      The Secretary,  
Ebenezer Pitt Town Uniting Church,  
PO Box 7048,  
Wilberforce, NSW, 2756.

*Please make cheques payable to Ebenezer Pitt Town UCA*

### Family Ribbons

The wearing of ribbons of colours as indicated below is suggested as a way for descendants of Ebenezer Church pioneers to indicate their pioneer family.

<b>Arndell</b>	Red	<b>Johnston</b>	Purple
<b>Bushell</b>	Orange	<b>Johnstone</b>	Grey
<b>Cavanough</b>	Bottle green	<b>Jones</b>	Lilac
<b>Davison</b>	Yellow	<b>Mein</b>	Maroon
<b>Grono</b>	Dark blue	<b>Stubbs</b>	Light green
<b>Hall</b>	Light blue	<b>Suddis</b>	Black
<b>Howe</b>	Brown	<b>Turnbull</b>	Pink
<b>Jacklin</b>	White		

# Bicentenary of Ebenezer Church

**Friday 19 June 2009**

From 10.00am:  
Historical display open in the pavilion.  
Devonshire teas available

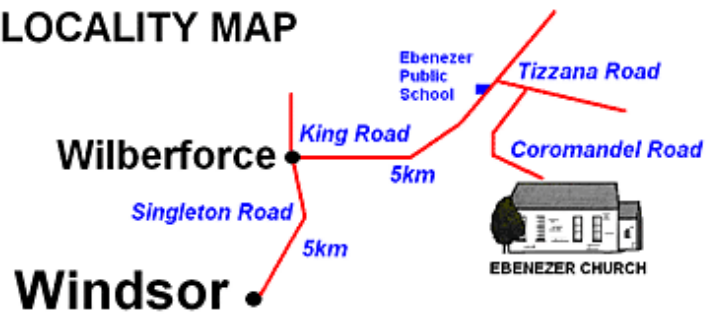
**Saturday 20 June 2009– Main Day**

From 10.00am:  
Historical display open in the pavilion  
Barbecue & Sandwich & Drink Stalls  
Souvenirs  
Static Antique Engine Display  
Entertainment  
Re-enactment – prior to outdoor service  
Outdoor Service starting at 2.00pm

**Sunday 21 June 2009- Family Picnic Day**

From 10.30am:  
Displays open  
Hawkesbury Antique Engine Club  
Musical Entertainment:  
Balladeer Darryl Bowen  
Waterlines Presentation by David Reichardt  
Barbecue, Devonshire teas  
Historical walk-and-talks in church grounds  
and to the nearby landing beach and quarry.

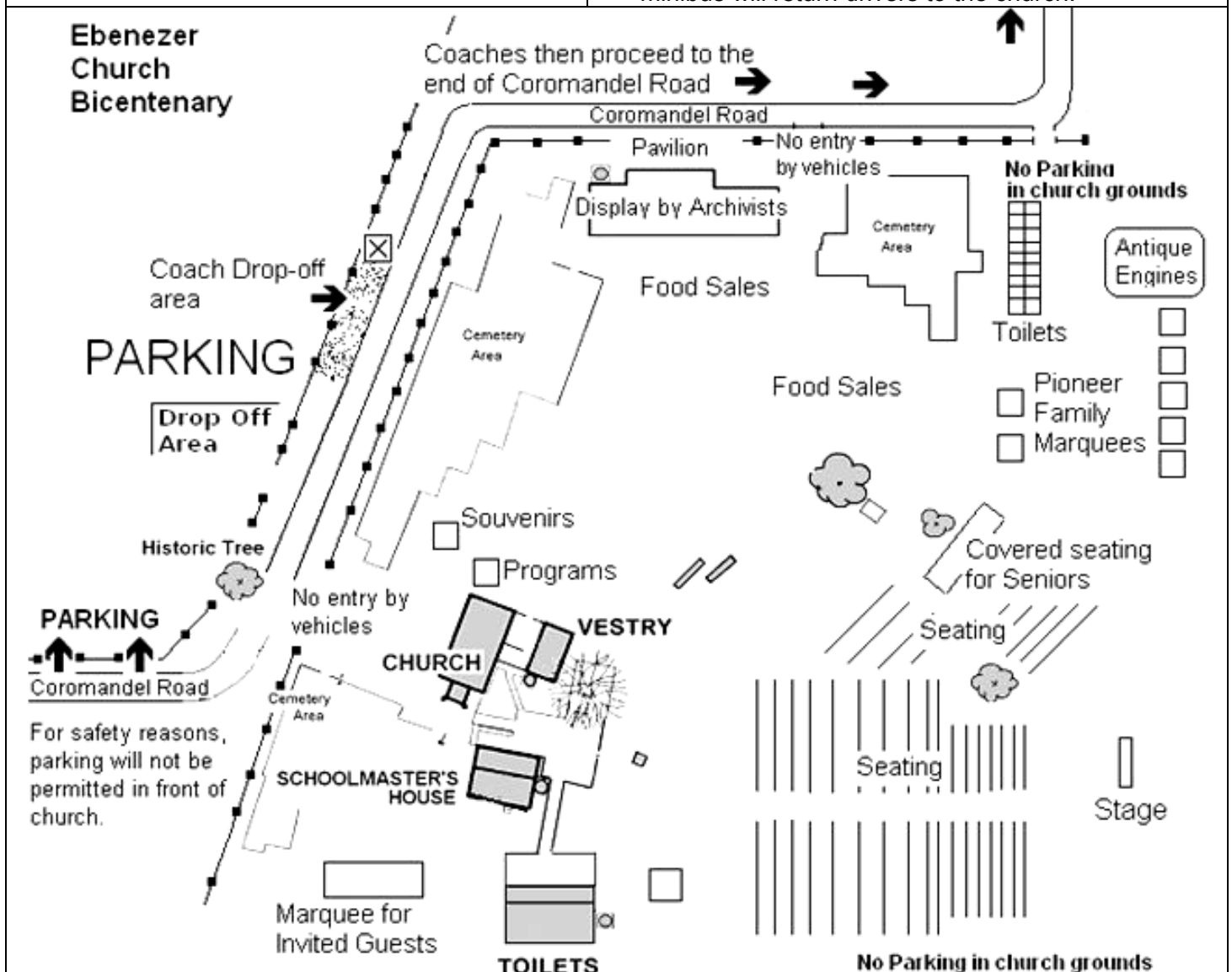
## LOCALITY MAP



*Cross Hawkesbury River at Windsor, continue along Singleton Road to Wilberforce, turn right into King Road (Later becomes Sackville Road but same road), turn right into Tizzana Road, turn first right into Coromandel Road.*

Please note ...

- **All parking** will be opposite the church and will be conducted by the Ebenezer Rural Fire Brigade. Brigade members have requested that people with **Disabled Parking Permits** to display the permits on the dashboard of the car so that they can be seen as they approach the parking area.
- **No parking** can be permitted in church grounds
- Parking is available for **coaches** in Kallawatta Caravan Park at the end of Coromandel Road. A minibus will return drivers to the church.



## SOUVENIR SALES

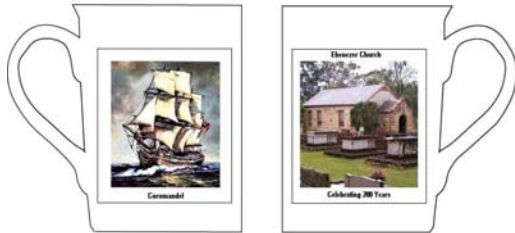
Souvenir sales will commence on Friday 19 June and will continue over the weekend. They include....

**Souvenir Program** which includes historical photographs, information on church heritage and the Order of Service.

### Journal

This attractive publication includes information on church heritage plus verses from the Bible.

### Mugs



Full colour Bone China Mug



Sepia Stoneware Mug

### Pens from Historic Tree

Pens have been turned from wood from the Historic Tree under which the pioneers first worshipped. *No*, we haven't cut branches off this historic icon; the wood was salvaged when the tree was damaged by a storm in 2005.



### '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. It includes photographs of each period and information on the beginning of Ebenezer Church, the church school and the contribution made to the colony by the pioneering families.

## EBENEZER CHURCH, AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST



'It's the embodiment of endurance. It signifies the faith, courage and commitment of a fledgling colony. And it's a lasting testament to the history of our nation. It's Australia's oldest church, located at Ebenezer ....'

Bicentenary Edition  
Ted Brill

### STUBBS FAMILY 31st ANNUAL REUNION

**Saturday 31 October 2009**

Ebenezer Church, Coromandel Road, Ebenezer, NSW.  
From 9.30a.m.

BYO picnic lunch, folding chairs, etc...

*Please direct inquiries to:*

Coralie Hird  
(02) 8084 3808

[cdhird@optusnet.com.au](mailto:cdhird@optusnet.com.au)

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

Stubbs Family Website:

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

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

## CHURCH PIONEER FAMILY CONTACTS

### Arndell

The Secretary  
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### Mein

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### Bushell

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### Turnbull

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### Cavanough

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# SOUVENIRS

While souvenir sales will commence on Friday 19 June and will continue over the weekend, the souvenir below can be purchased now.



## Commemorative Plate

This attractive full-colour plate is now on sale and can be obtained by forwarding an order and cheque to the address below.

Cost: \$49.50 plus \$9.50 Postage & Shipping Australia wide

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please supply  commemorate plate(s) at \$49.50 each. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Plus postage \$9.50: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please make cheques payable to 'Ebenezer Church'.

Purchases can also be made online by going to the church website [www.ebenezerchurch.org.au](http://www.ebenezerchurch.org.au).