

McKENZIE STREET

METHODIST

CHURCH

CENTENARY

1866 - 1966

# Centenary of Mackenzie Street Methodist Church

BENDIGO

1866 ————— 1966

In 1866, Rev. John Orchard, a fine genial minister of the Bible Christian Church was stationed at White Hills, which at the time appeared to be the main church.

Wishing to extend the work of his circuit and obtain new congregations, he went to the corner of Lily and Rowan Streets, Bendigo, and preached to the neighbours who gathered. He also visited the homes and gained the affection of the people the most of whom were originally from Cornwall.

It was decided after two meetings, to start a church, and finally, (after a couple of moves), a wooden church, purchased from the White Hills Bible Christians, was placed on the present site of our church at the corner of Lily and Mackenzie Streets, Bendigo.

It was called the Bible Christian Chapel, New Chum. In 1902, it became known as the Mackenzie Street Methodist Church.

In 1874, the congregation had grown so large that the wooden church was replaced by the brick building, and the wooden chapel became the Sunday School.

The pipe organ came into use in 1900 and ever since, our church has been noted for its fine organ music and the choir.

In 1963, another classroom for the Primary Department was added to the Sunday School.

The Trustees with faith in the future, have just completed the building of a delightful new kitchen and "George Eisfelder" meeting room.

We have been served continually by a fine body of ministers, local preachers and officers of the church and school, and other societies connected with our church.

# Mackenzie Street Methodist Church and Sunday School

BENDIGO



## *Centenary Celebrations*

1866 ~ 1966

24th September - 2nd October, 1966

Mackenzie Street,  
Bendigo,  
1st August, 1966

Dear Friends,

On September 30th of this year, the Methodist Church and Sunday School in Mackenzie Street, Bendigo, will attain their Centenary, and it is our purpose to mark the event by the following gatherings :-

**Saturday, 24-9-66**

Welcome Tea 5 p.m. then  
Social Get-together evening  
Reminiscences - Telegrams - Letters  
"Looking back - 100 years - Looking forward"

**Sunday, 25-9-66**

8.00 a.m. Sacrament  
9.45 a.m. Recognition Service (Cr. Lily and Rowan Streets)

**CHURCH CENTENARY**

11.00 a.m. Rev. G. W. J. Wilson  
3.00 p.m. President of Conference  
Rev. R. J. Philp, L.Th.  
5.00 p.m. Convenience Tea  
Milk, Hot Water, etc. provided  
7.00 p.m. Rev. R. Fisher, L.Th.  
(Special singing at all services by augmented choir,  
under Mr. A. Moon)

**Tuesday, 27-9-66**

8.00 p.m. Centenary Concert

**Thursday, 29-9-66**

2.30 p.m. Ladies' Social Gathering

**Saturday, 1-10-66**

4.00 p.m. Bar'b'q' Picnic — Marong Recreation Reserve. (If inclement weather, Sunday School Hall)  
B.Y.O. Food. Milk and Hot Water provided.

**Sunday, 2-10-66**

8.00 a.m. Sacrament

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CENTENARY**

11.00 a.m. Rev. R. W. Ward, L.Th.  
3.00 p.m. Rev. R. H. Bennetts, L.Th.  
5.00 p.m. Convenience Tea  
Milk, Hot Water, etc. provided.  
7.00 p.m. Rev. C. J. Dodd, L.Th.  
(Special singing at all services of Anniversary Hymns  
by scholars under Messrs. J. Richards, A. Moon)



We extend a hearty and cordial invitation to all former and present adherents of the Mackenzie Street Methodist Church and Sunday School.

Be one of the Happy Family—Come to all the meetings—Wear a Centenary Badge.

Rev. CYRIL DODD, Minister  
NOEL WEATHERITT, Secretary,  
36 Marong Road, Bendigo  
JACK THEODORE, Trust Treasurer  
61 Honeysuckle Street, Bendigo

# COLORFUL HISTORY OF MACKENZIE STREET METHODIST CHURCH

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## CENTENARY SEPT. 24 TO OCT. 2

In 1886, a group — mainly Cornish migrants who had quit Cornwall's waning tin mines to seek Australia's gold — gathered in the open around a preacher at the corner of Lily and Rowan Streets, Bendigo.

They were probably nostalgic, for the preacher was a minister of the Bible Christians — a sect founded in Cornwall in 1815.

The minister at that meeting was the Rev. John Orchard, of the White Hills Bible Christian Church.

Wishing to extend the work of his circuit and obtain new congregations, Rev. Orchard preached twice in the open at the street corner.

He also visited the homes and gained the affection of the people, most of whom were originally from Cornwall.

The first meeting was 100 years ago. From it came the Mackenzie Street Methodist Church which is celebrating its centenary from September 24 to October 2 this year.

Many hundreds of people are expected to visit the Church during the centenary celebrations, including some of the ministers who served the Church.

### First Church

Some time after the first meeting, a wooden church was bought from the White Hills Bible Christians for \$130, and was moved to the site of the present church in a locality then known as New Chum, now Golden Square.

The small wooden church was known as the Bible Christians' Chapel, New Chum.

In 1902, after the amalgamation of the Bible Christians, Wesleyans and Primitives, the chapel became the Mackenzie Street Methodist Church.

An officer of the Mackenzie Street Church, Mr. George Eisfelder, said the chapel started without an organ, but according to the minute books, the problem was solved in a matter-of-fact way.

An entry records: "The pubs were noted for some fine singers, so our ministers did their best to win

But the saddest moment came on April 6, 1888 when this letter was sent to the minister:

"We, the trustees, do hereby give 12 months' notice to the Pastor of this Church, to be released of all financial responsibility in connection therewith, otherwise we shall take legal proceedings to sell the Church, and that a copy of these proceedings be sent to the president of the Conference."

But, the Church was not sold. It has survived 100-years and now celebrates its centenary.

And despite all the alterations and improvements to the building, it was free of debt by 1924.

The introduction of the budget envelope system of church finance in 1959 has placed the Church in a satisfactory financial position.

"Before then," Mr. Eisfelder said, "the trustees and officers had often to battle with many problems in meeting their obligations and maintaining the high standards of the services.

"But our people gave generously over the years," he added.

Mr. Eisfelder said: "A long line of local ministers and preachers has served the Church, and the Sunday School has been blessed too by many devoted and faithful men and women as superintendents, officers and teachers."

### Ministers

money gone into keeping this place of worship worthy of its wonderful past century," Mr. Eisfelder said.

### Fine Service

One man who gave much of his life to the Church was the late Mr. Richard Francis Gray, who served the Church without a break from 1886 to 1923.

But the men who served in those days had similar incidents to put up with to those of today.

On March 17, 1874, Trustees Lockwood and Gray (mentioned in the previous paragraph) were "deputed to see the parents of the boy who broke the window last Sunday," the minute book of the Church records.

It adds: "If the parents of the boy do not repair the window, the boy is to be summoned."

Evidently the promise of being confronted by the stern faces of the minister and officers of the Church was too much for the boy and the window was repaired.

This did not appear to be a deterrent. A similar incident involving four boys was recorded the following year.

But even though small boys threw stones, and the finances of the Church were often meagre, the Mackenzie Street Methodist Church has survived 100 years, and now celebrates its centenary.

Mr. Eisfelder said: "It was founded on the faith

## The Old—And The Older



One hundred years ago this year, the Rev. John Orchard, minister of the White Hills Bible Christians' Church, preached in the open close to where the church now stands.

The people he preached to on the corner of Lily and Rowan Streets, Golden Square, were mainly Cornish migrants who had come to Australia to seek gold.

From that meeting came the Mackenzie Street Methodist Church (pictured).

The wooden Sunday School on the right, which was the forerunner of the brick church, was bought for \$130 from the White Hills Bible Christians.

It was known as the Bible Christian Chapel, New Chum, a locality known now as Golden Square.

The brick church was built in 1878 and cost \$1400. It became the Mackenzie Street Methodist Church in 1902 after the amalgamation of the Bible Christians, Wesleyans and Primitives.

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An entry records: "The pubs were noted for some fine singers, so our ministers did their best to win them over."

"They were persuaded to sign the pledge, and being converted, gave their fine singing voices to our choirs and congregations."

As the congregation grew it became obvious that the small chapel would have to be replaced with a larger building.

In 1874 — just six years after the first meeting—a brick church was built on the site for \$1400 and the wooden chapel became the Sunday School.

## Organ

The Church was still without an organ, but used a borrowed harmonium which was replaced by a pipe organ in 1900.

Mr. Eisfelder said the Church has been noted throughout for its good choir and "this reputation is still maintained, with Mr. Arthur Moon as conductor."

In 1882 the finances of the Church hit a rocky patch.

On March 7 of that year, the choir appealed for song books, but were told by the trustees that the Church was so heavily burdened that only \$5 could be given.

The introduction of the budget envelope system of church finance in 1959 has placed the Church in a satisfactory financial position.

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"But our people gave generously over the years," he added.

Mr. Eisfelder said: "A long line of local ministers and preachers has served the Church, and the Sunday School has been blessed too by many devoted and faithful men and women as superintendents, officers and teachers."

## Ministers

Ministers who have served the Church during the past 100-years are: Reverends Orchard, Teague, Ludwough, Webber, Uglow, Bettiss, Cory, Freeman, Trebilcock, Pattison, Rankin, Groves, Clemens, Thomas, Roberts, Wellard, Watsford, Catterall, Trigge, McIlroy, Smith, Doherty, Harris, Shears-Saunders, Wilson, Ivory, Ward, Fisher, Adam thwaite, Pastor Tarran and the present minister, Rev. C. J. Dodd. Rev. H. Walsh served for three months as relieving minister.

The history of illumination can almost be traced back through the records of the lighting of the Church.

At first, it was the flickering, gentle light of candles which lit prayer books held by the gnarled hands of pioneer congregations.

Then came kerosene, and in 1887 gas lights were fitted, to be replaced years later by electric lighting and heating.

Worshippers at the Church will probably be interested to learn that the words painted on the rear wall of the Church "Love never faileth, God is Love," were placed there in 1906 as a gift from a member, Mrs. Lelean.

The existing vestry was due to the energy and wishes of Rev. R. H. Fisher who served the Church from 1952 to 1957, and is one of the ministers who will return to assist during the centenary.

"Visitors, former members and adherents who care to look over the building and grounds will appreciate the labor and

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Mr. Eisfelder said: "It was founded on the faith, prayer and sacrifice of the pioneers, and we believe that the same qualities prevail today."

"It was founded in order that the message of the Gospel would be proclaimed and lived here."

"The Church was needed to nurture the spiritual lives of the people in this community, and it is our belief that it will continue long to lead and sustain all those who come within the walls of this grand, old Church and Sunday School"

## PROGRAM

**Saturday, September 24—** Welcome Tea 5 p.m. then social get-together evening, reminiscence, telegrams, letters, "Looking back—100 years—looking forward."

**Sunday, September 25—** 8 a.m., Sacrament; 9.45 a.m., Recognition Service (Cr. Lily and Rowan Sts.); 11 a.m., Rev. G. W. J. Wilson; 3 p.m., President of Conference, Rev. R. J. Philp, L.Th.; 5 p.m., Convenience Tea, milk, hot water, etc. provided; 7 p.m. Rev. R. Fisher, L.Th.

**Tuesday, September 27—** 8 p.m., Centenary Concert.

**Thursday, September 29:** 2.30 p.m., Ladies' Social Gathering.

**Saturday, October 1—4** p.m., Barbecue Picnic — Marong Recreation Reserve (if inclement weather, Sunday School Hall). B.Y.O. Food. Milk and hot water provided.

**Sunday, October 2—3** a.m., Sacrament, 11 a.m., Rev. R. W. Ward, L.Th.; 3 p.m., Rev. R. H. Bennetts, L.Th.; 5 p.m., Convenience Tea (milk, hot water, etc. provided); 7 p.m., Rev. C.

28.9.66

# *This Was History...*



This newspaper is a subscriber to the Australian Associated Press which provides the overseas news in this issue.

One hundred years ago on this same spot at the corner of Lily and Rowan Streets, the Rev. John Orchard of the White Hills Bible Christian Church preached to a group of Cornish miners. This was the birth of the Mackenzie Street Methodist Church. Last weekend the Rev. C. J. Dodd, of the Mackenzie Street church, conducted a service at the kerbside to commemorate that foundation event 100 years ago. The service was held in connection with the church's centenary celebrations.