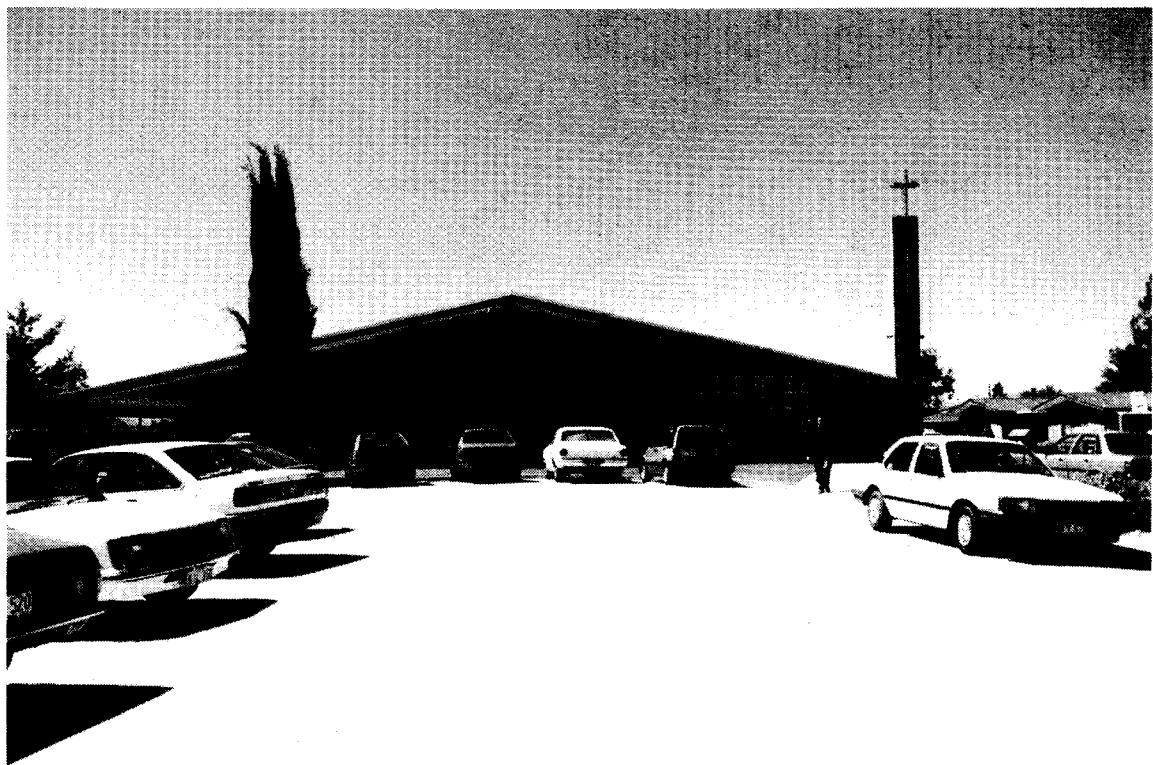
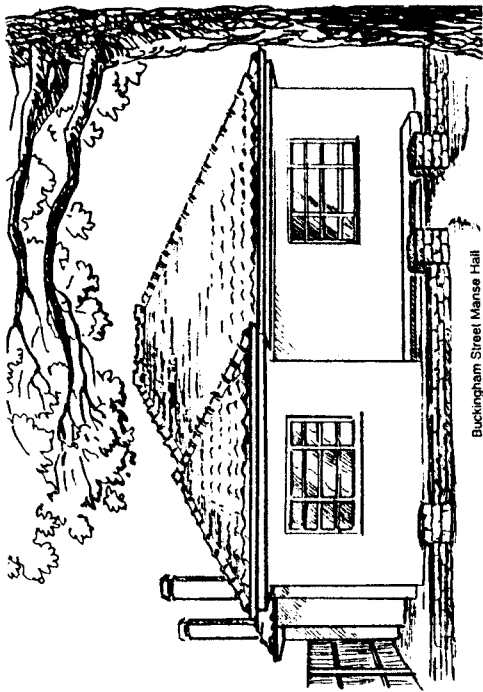


ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ALBURY

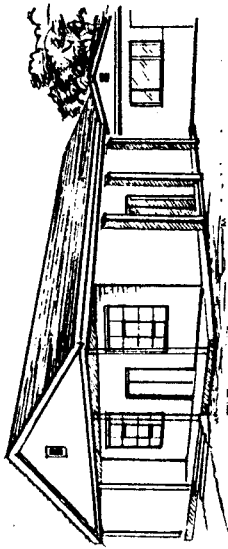


1947 - 1997

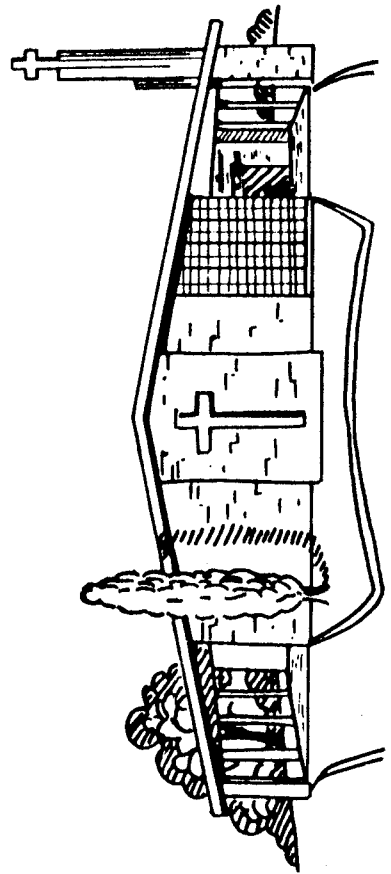
*Psalm 122:1 I rejoiced with those who said
to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."*



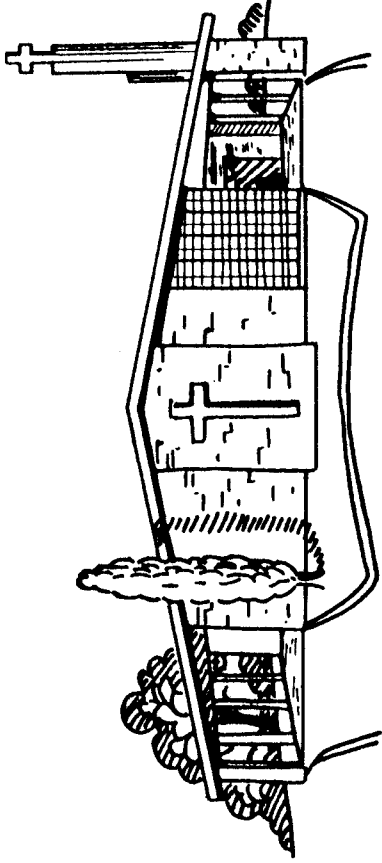
Buckingham Street Manse Hall



Wewak Street Church



*St. Andrew's
Presbyterian Church
Albury*



A Service of Praise
to Give Thanks to God for Our

JUBILEE

Fifty Years of Blessings

SUNDAY 16th NOVEMBER 1997

Guest Preacher:

Rt. Rev. Bruce Christian M.E., B.D

Moderator General of the Presbyterian Church in Australia

St. Andrew's Albany HIGHLIGHTS OF 50 YEARS HISTORY

- 1947 First Service in the Buckingham St. Youth Hall conducted by Rev. John Armour
- 1949 Land purchased in Buckingham St.
- 1950 Kindergarten Room built and dedicated
- 1952 Manse-Hall built in Buckingham St and officially opened and Deaconess Wyn. Hilliard appointed
- 1955 Mr Alan Mortimer appointed Home Missionary
- 1956 North Albany made a Home Mission Station
- 1960 Wewak St. Hall opened and North Albany raised to Sanctioned Charge status
- 1961 Rev Les Martin appointed as the first ordained Minister of the charge
- 1966 Rev. C.E. Bowles inducted
- 1970 Rev Ian Davidson accepted the Call to North Albany. The Op Shop was opened.
- 1971 Land purchased in Wagga Rd. Lavington
- 1974 November 9th Official Opening of present Church Complex and Manse
- 1977 As a result of Church Union and the formation of the Uniting Church, St. Andrew's became Albany Presbyterian Church.
- 1978 Mr Bill Porter-Young appointed to minister
- 1980 Rev Garry Fintleman ordained and inducted
- 1987 Rev Donald Geddes inducted
- 1991 Miss Tanya Whitbourn appointed as Youth Worker
- 1995 Mr Steven North appointed Assistant to the Minister
- 1997 Jubilee Celebrations

To God be the glory, great things He has done!



Order of Service

- Announcements and Welcome
- Doxology Rejoice 2 (Verse 1)
- Call to Worship
- Prayer
- Hymn 56
- Scripture: Psalm 24:1-10 (P. 539 Pew Bible)
Read by Deaconess W. Hilliard
- Prayer of Adoration and Confession
- Childrens' Address
Rt. Rev. B. Christian
- Hymn 586
- Scripture: Acts 17:24-34 (Page 1076 Pew Bible)
Read By Alec Phillips - Session Clerk
- Item by St. Andrew's Singers: "Hail Glorious King"
- Offering
- Chorus 46 arrangement by Peter Kirkwood
Dedication of Offering
- Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession
- Hymn 563
- Sermon: "A Time for Trusting"
Rt. Rev. Bruce Christian
- Hymn 163
- Benediction

JUBILEE

The year of the Jubilee was very special in Old Testament times. It began with joyous blowing of the ram's horn which signalled a time when debts were cancelled, when land reverted to the original owners and those sold into slavery were released. (Lev. 25)

It was a time of great thanksgiving and a renewal of faith in the God who would provide every need for those who trusted in Him.

When Jesus came, He began His ministry by proclaiming a Jubilee in the words of Isaiah 61 "The Spirit of the Lord .. has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners ... to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." (Luke 4: 18-19)

This was the Jubilee of Jubilees when the debt of sin was cancelled and those under its slavery released!

Our Jubilee is likewise a time of great rejoicing for we look back on fifty years of God's wonderful provision and blessing. While our debts on the church building have been paid off, our greatest rejoicing is in the fact that Jesus through His death paid the debt of our sin and guilt. We have seen lives liberated from the slavery of sin and set free to serve the Lord.

Let us give heartfelt thanks and praise to our wonderful God for all his past blessings as we "proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

Let us renew our faith in the Lord to bring even more blessing in the years ahead as we step out in the strength of "the Spirit of the Lord."

Donald Geddes



Rev Donald and Mrs Noela Geddes

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ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 1947 - 1997

INTRODUCTION

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Wagga Road, North Albury Lavington has a history of fifty years. This booklet is an attempt to document the main steps taken by a group of dedicated folk who, like the servants in Jesus' Parable of the Wedding Banquet, (Matthew chapter 22) stepped out in faith and invited their friends and neighbours to North Albury Presbyterian Church.

"Go out and bring in" was the commission given to the North Albury members of St David's church back in the 1940s. Today we celebrate the Jubilee of our church. We worship God and share fellowship with His children and bring neighbours and friends to learn about Him because of their dedication.

It is the story of God's challenge to a group of people to stand for Him in their neighbourhood and to share their faith by actions.

The Jubilee History book committee would like to thank all members of St Andrew's Congregation who have helped us compile this record of God's work in Albury. Thank you to every one who shared their memories with us, recorded minutes and wrote annual reports. It made our task easy.



Interior of St Andrew's

BEGINNINGS

Back in the days when Albury was only a few huts on the Murray River a young Gaelic Minister rode up to a small slab hut on a tired horse. The rider was Rev Peter Gunn of the Gaelic Church Melbourne. His work was to lay the foundations for our Presbyterian churches today.

On 11th November 1842 the Presbytery of Melbourne resolved that missionary visits be made to outlying country districts. The task was given to Rev Peter Gunn, of the Gaelic Church Melbourne. On 3rd March 1843 he reported "that he had visited and baptised at Kilmore, Seymour, Longwood, Benalla, Wangaratta and Albury." Rev Peter Gunn made regular visits to the border area until 1851.

In 1851 Rev David Ballantyne, ordained by the Synod of Port Phillip, was "appointed to labour in the important town and district of Albury." This was the commencement of St David's Presbyterian Church in Albury and the foundations of our church St Andrew's.

The first mention of the North Albury - Lavington area is made in St David's Kirk Chronicle September 1936 where it says, " Our experiment in bringing children from North Albury and Lavington has proved successful." A request was made to commence services at Lavington. Rev H.J. Hillman conducted a service on the 4th Sunday of the month in 1937 with a small congregation.

By 1941 Albury had grown in size with the population spreading to the North. Rev H.J. Hillman and the Session and Board of Management of St David's Presbyterian Church Albury considered the advisability of opening a centre of worship at North Albury. The Kirk Chronicle November 1941 asked the North Albury folk to give careful and earnest thought to this matter "as it is believed a strong centre can be established."

A service was held in the Albury Grammar School Assembly Hall on Sunday 8th March 1942 at 9.30am. This congregation, though not large, formed the nucleus on which our church was established. Unfortunately plans were interrupted by World War Two.

By December 1945 the North Albury congregation had grown to a considerable size and as there were a large number of Presbyterians in the area it was considered essential that there should be a place of worship as soon as possible.

ST ANDREW'S MINISTRY

16-11-1952 to May 1954	Miss Winifred Hilliard	Deaconess
19-3-1955 to April 1956	Mr Alan Mortimer	Student Assistant
April 1956 to 3-3-1957	Mr M. McBride	Home Missionary
3-3-1957 to 1-5-1959	Mr James C. Cox	Home Missionary
1-5-1959 to 15-1-1961	Mr Gerald Parker-Wood	Home Missionary
6-7-1961 to 14-4-1965	Rev Lesley Martin	Minister
1-2-1966 to June 1969	Rev C.E. Bowles	Minister
29-1-1970 to 19-2-1978	Rev Ian Davidson	Minister
13-12-1978 to 4-12-1979	Mr W. Porter-Young	Home Missionary
3-2-1980 to July 1986	Rev Gary Fintelman	Minister
27-4-1987	Rev Donald Geddes	Minister

APPOINTMENTS TO ST ANDREW'S

28-7-1991 to Dec 1994	Miss Tanya Whitbourn	Youth Worker
Jan 1995 to Dec 1995	Mr Steve North	Assistant to Minister

CHURCH OFFICE

1996 Merilyn Thring
1997 Donna Irwin

BUCKINGHAM STREET 1947 - 1961

16TH NOVEMBER 1947

The first service in the Buckingham Street Youth Hall was conducted by Rev John Armour. Sixty people attended and a Sunday School of fourteen children commenced with Mr D. McKay as acting superintendent. The Youth Hall was used for parties on Saturday evenings so for several years the men had to get there early on Sunday mornings to clean up for the service.

Mr D. McKay officiated at the services with Rev Armour conducting Communion Services quarterly. Later Mr McKay moved to Chiltern to live and rode his motor bike, rain, hail or shine, to take the services.

Under the leadership of Messrs Cross and D. McKay, and with approval of Rev John Armour plans were formulated and money raised for the purchase of land and to erect a building in Buckingham Street.

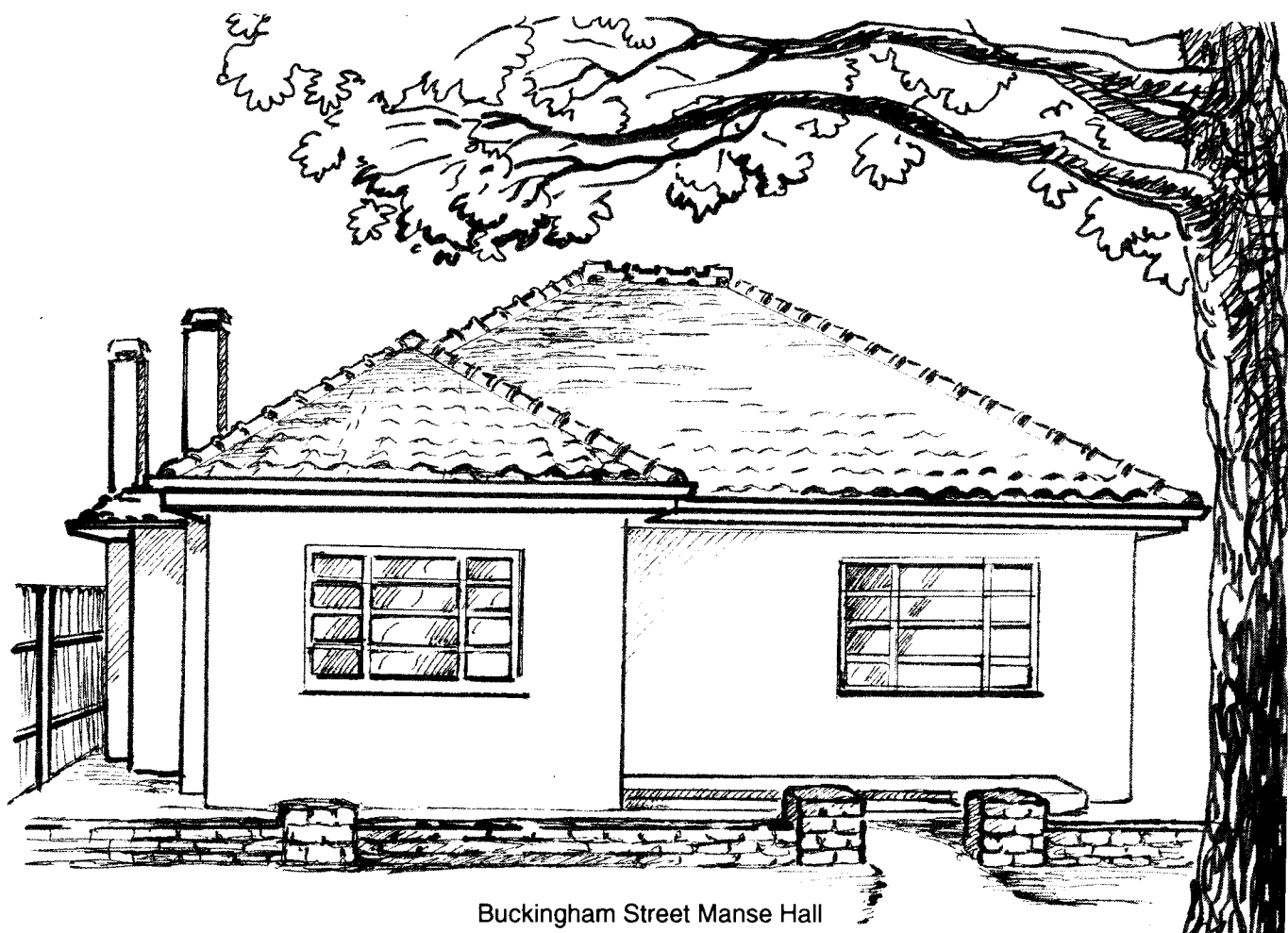
The ladies had been meeting together at the McKay home in North Street for some time before services were commenced in the Youth Hall.

24th February 1948 marked the affiliation of the Ladies Committee. Those present on this occasion were Mrs James who was elected President, Mrs F. Abbott Secretary and Mesdames Henderson, Lee, Doland, E. Hunter, Cross and Wickham. These ladies originated a scheme to obtain promises of monthly subscriptions toward a Building Fund and, with the help of later members, this money was raised for four years.

By 1949 eight hundred pounds had been raised and a block of land purchased in Buckingham Street. Another block of land was donated by anonymous friends.

Early 1949 saw the commencement of North Albury's Board of Mangement with Mr J.K. Hunter as secretary and Mr D. Debyer as treasurer.

A Kindergarten Room was built and it was dedicated by Rev John Armour on 3rd April 1950. It was intended to use this room as a garage in later years. The room was made comfortable with carpet, curtains, a table and a few chairs for meetings and the kindergarten furniture and equipment. This was actually our first home and there, many happy hours were spent planning for the future.



Buckingham Street Manse Hall

DEDICATION SERVICE FOR BUCKINGHAM STREET MANSE HALL

The Manse-Hall was commenced and by 11th November 1951 the front portion was used for Services, Sunday School and special meetings. This work proceeded largely due to the singleness of mind and the steadfast leadership of Mr W.S. Carnie.

THE LADIES COMMITTEE now under the Presidency of Mrs E. Hunter and with Mrs F. Abbott as Secretary met to plan and continue their labour of love, achieving great things in the raising of funds.

15TH NOVEMBER 1952

The Manse-Hall was dedicated and officially opened with a high tea followed by a musical programme in the Youth Hall Buckingham Street.

Deaconess Hilliard was appointed as assistant to Rev J. Smith, at St David's and North Albury on 16th November 1952. She lived in the residence section of the Manse-Hall in Buckingham Street. The front section was used for Church services, Sunday School and meetings. Miss Hilliard was popular with old and young alike. She used a push bike to make many pastoral visits and this, together with her enthusiastic faith and organizing skills helped to establish a Church with deep roots. Miss Hilliard was farewelled in May 1954.

The 1953 Annual Report indicates that the average attendance for communion was 29 and the Sunday School average attendance was 75 children. By 1955 the Sunday School average attendance was 120. Mr Gordon McDonald was now superintendent.

Mr Alan Mortimer became the Home Missioner 17th March 1955 to April 1956. He was followed by Mr A. McBride April 1956 to 3rd March 1957; Mr Jim Cox 3rd March 1957 to 1st May 1959; and Mr Gerald Parker-Wood 1st May 1959 to 15th January 1961.

During this period the congregation continued to grow.

Application was made to Presbytery to have North Albury designated a Home Mission Station. This was approved in 1956.

The 1958 Session report "sends greetings and its thanks and appreciation of work well done to the Board of Management, the Sunday School, the Boys and Girls Club (known as the Club) and the Ladies Guild."

The building in Buckingham Street was occupied for eight years until it became too small.



People at the Opening
Left to Right - Mr J. Wright, Mrs E. Hunter, Mr S. Carnie, Mrs F. Abbott, Mr G. McDonald.

MEMORIES OF MISS HILLIARD 1952 - 1954

North Albury was a place of which I have only the happiest of memories as I worked with the people there. Having worked in an entirely different parish in a slum suburb of Melbourne, you can imagine how the fresh air and the shady streets of Albury were such a delight. I really did enjoy working in both settings, as the real interest was the people. I still hear from some, even though my time in Albury was not long ... only sixteen months, but both it and the poor parish in Melbourne gave me valuable experience for my next move, to Ernabella. Here I worked with people of a totally different culture and made my home there with them for thirty-two years.

From the time I started to work in Buckingham Street Manse/Church I was helped to get to know folk. Mrs Abbott took me round to various people who were supporting the funds which were being built up towards a permanent church building. At that time it was thought that this building would be erected on the vacant block of land next to the house.

There was a small Sunday School already going, and, as I had a number of Scripture classes at the Albury High School and the Primary School, as well as the North Albury Primary School and Lavington, the Sunday School numbers grew rapidly, and the school contact opened many homes to me.

Living in a Manse Church was quite an experience for me. The first minor event was caused when the bowl in which I'd put the cooking salt was put on one of the tables for afternoon tea! The rapid growth of the Sunday School meant that the garage at the back was quite inadequate, so every Sunday morning the house, except for the "Church" part, became a Sunday School, and anything that could be used as a trampoline or suchlike was stored away in the bathroom.

I had wonderfully kind neighbours and I remember them with deep affection. One of my special heroines was Mrs Hunter. I am sure that she will always be remembered as a true saint. She always seemed to be caring for sick or helpless members of her family, and I grew to love her dearly.

Working with a number of migrant families was a helpful experience. To meet people who had suffered greatly during the war in Europe was a privilege, and it gave me a greater understanding of what some of these people must have been through.

When I was asked to go and take over the craft work at Ernabella, it was no easy decision, but on looking back, it was the right one. Two young girls were concerned that I would turn black, and when reassured on that score, decided that I would marry a black man! Their fears proved groundless on both counts!

WEWAK STREET 1960 - 23rd JANUARY 1972

As early as 1956 plans were being made for the construction of a permanent Church Hall and Manse with sufficient land for other facilities. Land was purchased in Wewak Street and tenders called prior to Christmas 1959. Construction commenced on a church hall with a manse consisting of two bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom and laundry. The total cost of the manse and hall was ten thousand pounds.

The Wewak Street Hall was dedicated and opened on Saturday 31st July 1960 by Rev E.J. Jakes assisted by members of the Wagga Presbytery.

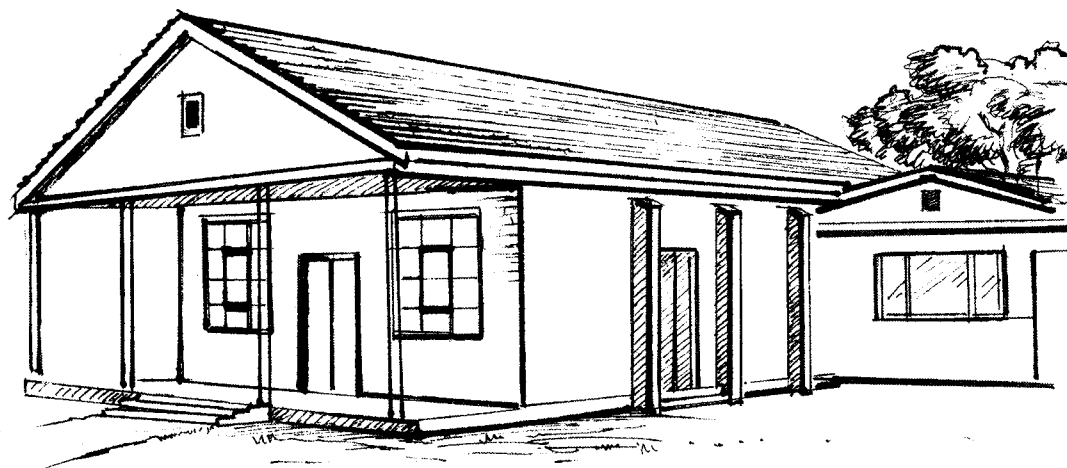
It was at this time that the name St Andrew's was decided upon. The church was a true church family now and the numbers in Sunday School had reached a hundred children. Mr G. McDonald was Sunday School Superintendent assisted by a team of teachers. Sunday School was held at the same time as Church. There were classes everywhere. Some were out of doors when the weather permitted or if it was too cold or wet the kitchen and dining room of the manse were used, even the laundry became a classroom. Activities included barbeques, talent quests, children's frolics and social games nights. The annual fete commenced at this time.

On 13th July 1960 the Presbytery of Wagga Wagga raised North Albury Home Mission Station to a Sanctioned Charge.

Rev Les A. Martin was appointed as minister from 1st July 1961 to April 1965. Under Rev Martin's guidance the PFA (Presbyterian Fellowship of Australia) which had commenced in August 1958 with eight young people, increased to thirty five. The Pathfinders' Group replaced the Girls' and Boys' Clubs and operated as an outreach to primary age children during this time.

Rev C. Ernest Bowles was minister from 1st Feb 1966 to June 1969. Finances were a struggle. The ladies continued to conduct regular street stalls in Dean Street and to hold fund raising activities. Eventually Rev Bowles decided to leave North Albury and a meeting was organised with the Moderator of Presbytery to plan North Albury's future.

Gordon and Rosalie McDonald and Alma Mitchell remember being at Wewak Street on the Saturday afternoon, at a working bee preparing for the meeting with the Moderator the following day, when a car drove up. In it was Rev Ian Davidson and Mrs Davidson. They were enroute to Wollongong and just called in to see North Albury's situation. The outcome of that visit was that Rev Davidson accepted a call to North Albury on 29th January 1970, and trusted God to supply the finance.



Wewak Street Church

BEGINNING OF THE OP-SHOP

Three months after Rev Davidson's appointment the owners of the Village Shopping Centre wrote offering a shop rent free for twelve months for a church Op-Shop. The next morning, at 7.30am contact was made with the owners of the Village Shopping Centre and four days later St Andrew's Op-Shop opened for business.

The Op-Shop was established in the Village Shopping Centre in 1970 and continues to operate to this day. Funds are raised from the sale of re-usable clothing and goods and rags. Used clothing is sent to the Dorcas Committee in Sydney as the need arises. The Op-Shop ladies have contributed much to the church finances and local activities. Since 1986 when the debts on the church were paid in full, the shop income has been given to Missions and local charities. The total income from the Op-Shop till August 1997 is \$212,000. All the church activities appreciate the financial support given by the Op-Shop.



Early days at St Andrew's Op-Shop

CONTINUING GROWTH AT WEWAK STREET

Again the church facilities became inadequate. "The hall is too small." A newsletter dated August 1970 states that there are 83 members and 17 adherents of "active membership ... and ... as for housing the children at a Sunday session of worship ... with their parents ... this has become impossible to cope with ... One church hall and one temporary garage which is quite out of accord with health regulations ... totally inadequate ... Another pressing problem is that the temporary manse requires immediate attention which could run into hundreds of dollars."

It was not possible with 1970 health regulations to economically extend the Wewak Street premises.

Another factor led to the purchase of the present land in Wagga Road. This was the fact that the community had continued to build to the north and it was felt that the church should be in the centre of the people.

SO TO BUILDING NUMBER THREE - 402 WAGGA ROAD

Several blocks of land were looked at. Finally three acres in Wagga Road were purchased. This was a Step in Faith by the congregation as they had to borrow the money to pay the deposit. Once again there was a building fund. "Our first donation was for \$100 from church member, Stan Carnie, and we proudly added the final proceeds of \$58,000 from the Wewak Street property sale to this." This left the North Albury Presbyterians without a place of worship. Mr Davidson says, "We have a great deal to thank the Rev John Southerden and his vestry at St Mark's for. We doubled up for two and a half years without falling out once - their Sunday Service at 9.30am and ours at 11.00am."

The present site in Wagga Road was purchased in 1971 for \$21,000. Within twelve months the front section of the block was sold for \$25,000 and a side section for \$16,000. By the time construction commenced there was a profit of \$20,000 to put towards the total cost of \$183,000 of the church complex, including the driveway.

OFFICIAL OPENING

The Border Mail quotes Rev Ian Davidson after the official opening of St Andrew's Peace Memorial Church on November 9th 1974 "We needed faith and drive and a little experience to get through and thank God we did."

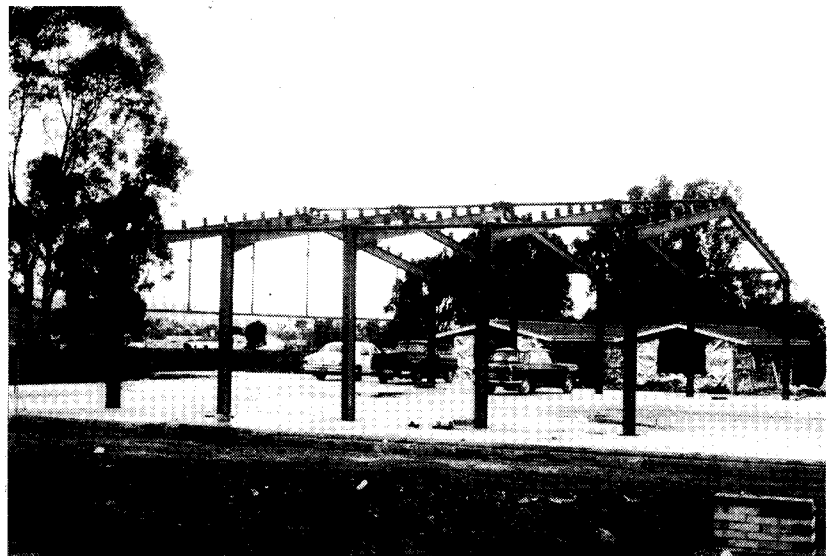
The church building took two years to complete. From reading the Committee of Management's Minute Books it shows that a dedicated team of men and women directed the construction and in many cases assisted with it.

Carnie Hall is named in recognition of Mr Stan Carnie's faithful work for this church. The church drive is named in honour of Mr Harold Bloomfield who was the Building Convenor.



Mr Stan Carnie Laying the Foundation Stone of St Andrew's Peace Memorial Church on 27th May 1973

Building The Church.
Steel Construction by J De Kruiff



ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ALBURY

402 WAGGA ROAD LAVINGTON

1974 -1986

Once again the Presbyterians in North Albury had a new home. All of the church groups appreciated being able to meet in their own hall and as the PWA state in their 1974 report " settle down to the real work of mission in and around our parish."

1977 Church Union

The formation of the Uniting Church of Australia in 1977 placed some strain on the administration but did not affect St Andrew's very much except that we found new members coming to St Andrew's. Among these newcomers was the Cookinburra Presbyterian Congregation from Victoria.

Wagga Road 1978 - 1986

Rev Davidson accepted a call to Casino in February 1978 and Mr Bill Porter-Young came to Albury in December 1978. He left Albury in December 1979. Rev Gary Fintelman was called and took up his appointment on 3rd February 1980 until he too accepted a call in July 1986.

COOKINBURRA

The formation of the Uniting Church of Australia left the Cookinburra Presbyterian Church with its closest sister congregation the other side of Benalla or with North Albury. Cookinburra became a " linked charge " with St Andrew's at the time of Church Union. A roster to provide pulpit supply was organised for their services. This continues in 1997.

The history of Cookinburra Church goes back to 1865 when a small brick school was built on the present site of the Church. An Anglican rector from Yackandandah, probably the Rev J.H. May conducted the services. In 1874 when the Middle Indigo School was opened a decision was made to use the school building as a church for Christian Services of any denomination. It is known as " The Cookinburra Church " and is owned and maintained by the people of the district, being used for worship by the Uniting Church and the Presbyterian Church. The present church was built in 1937.

Families in both the Indigo and Cookinburra Valleys, between Barnawartha and Yackandandah, attend the church, in earlier days approximately 50-60 people.

The current exodus of young people from rural areas, and lack of interest in spiritual things, means that only a faithful few now worship regularly.



Cookinburra Presbyterian Congregation 1995