

## GOSFORD CITY LIBRARY

## VERTICAL FILES

## MANGROVE MOUNTAIN UNION CHURCH

This Church Building was officially opened and dedicated 12<sup>th</sup> May, 1912. It has been in continuous use by various Christian Denominations ever since. In earlier times the same congregation would gather whatever the denomination of the presiding minister. At present the Anglican, Uniting, and Christian Fellowship use the church regularly.

The original large Bible is dedicated to his mother by Douglas Kelynack Phillips on "Mother's Day" Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May, 1912.

Church Services had originally been held on the verandah of the Kelynack home in Waratah Road. The present owner of this property is their granddaughter, Mrs Phyllis Makinson.

The font was donated by Walter Cowlshaw, and the pulpit by the Kelynacks, as a memorial to their father.

The original organists are not recorded.

1927-1940 the organist was Mr Frank Halford,

1940-1968 his wife Peg Hulford

From 1968 their son-in-law, Laurie Moncrieff played for some years.

Many others have given this service. One of them to-day is Helen Brougham for the Uniting Church.

In 1918 the Committee President is W.H. Kelynack, Secretary - V.W. Wood, Treasurer - J. Harrison.

Trixie (Best) Arnott is believed to have been the first white baby born at Mangrove Mountain and christened in the new church.

The Sunday School was established by Mrs George Hunt and carried then carried on by Miss Bertha Margarie until her death many years later. Mrs Leo dean then became Superintendent for many more years. Later on this became "Monday School" until discontinued in 1995.

The Mangrove Mountain Christian Fellowship held its first Service on the 5<sup>th</sup> May, 1981 conducted by Rev Bill Thitchener from the Greenpoint Baptist Church. The Christian Fellowship has an active youth group which participates in the C.C. Churches Soccer Competition as well as indoor cricket and Touch Football. Adults are also Scripture teachers in local schools extending from Yarramalong to Spencer.

In May 1997 an 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Combined Church Service and Harvest Festival was held.

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On 25<sup>th</sup> May a new building nearby, the Family Education Centre, was opened by John Bate and John Price.

The present Secretary/Treasurer, Connie Carraro, is still using the original "Accounts Book" commenced in August 1913. There is also the first Minute book in her care.

The Tablets of Names for World War 1 hanging in the Church were beautifully painted by Mrs Claudia Hull.

The building was originally brown weatherboard painted with oil, probably creosote. In later year several attempts were made to paint it white but this was not very successful.

In 1991 the outside was covered with white cladding. The old hardwood weatherboards still remain underneath. The window glass was re-newed with clear glass, the floor sanded and coated, with some carpeting, new pews installed, fans and new lighting, the stained woodwork cleaned and polished and walls painted inside. "This was achieved by donations and physical help from the people of the Mountain area" \_\_\_\_\_

Stewart Brougham Sec/Treasurer, 27<sup>th</sup> April 1991.