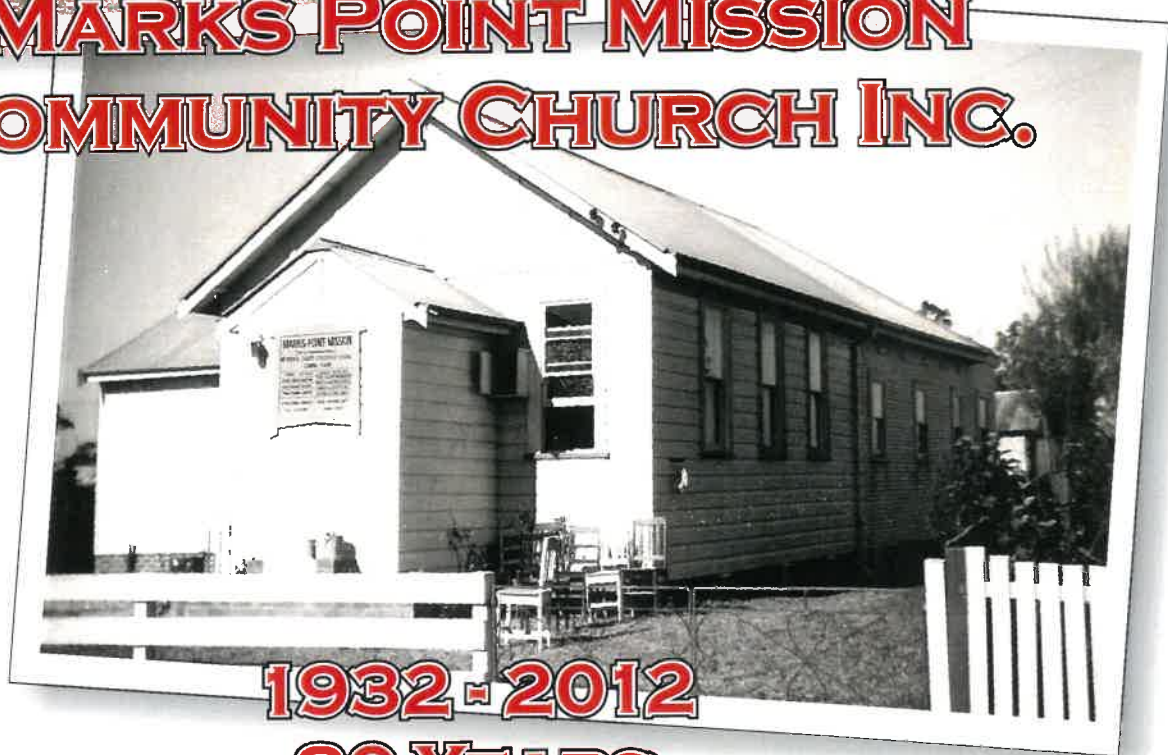
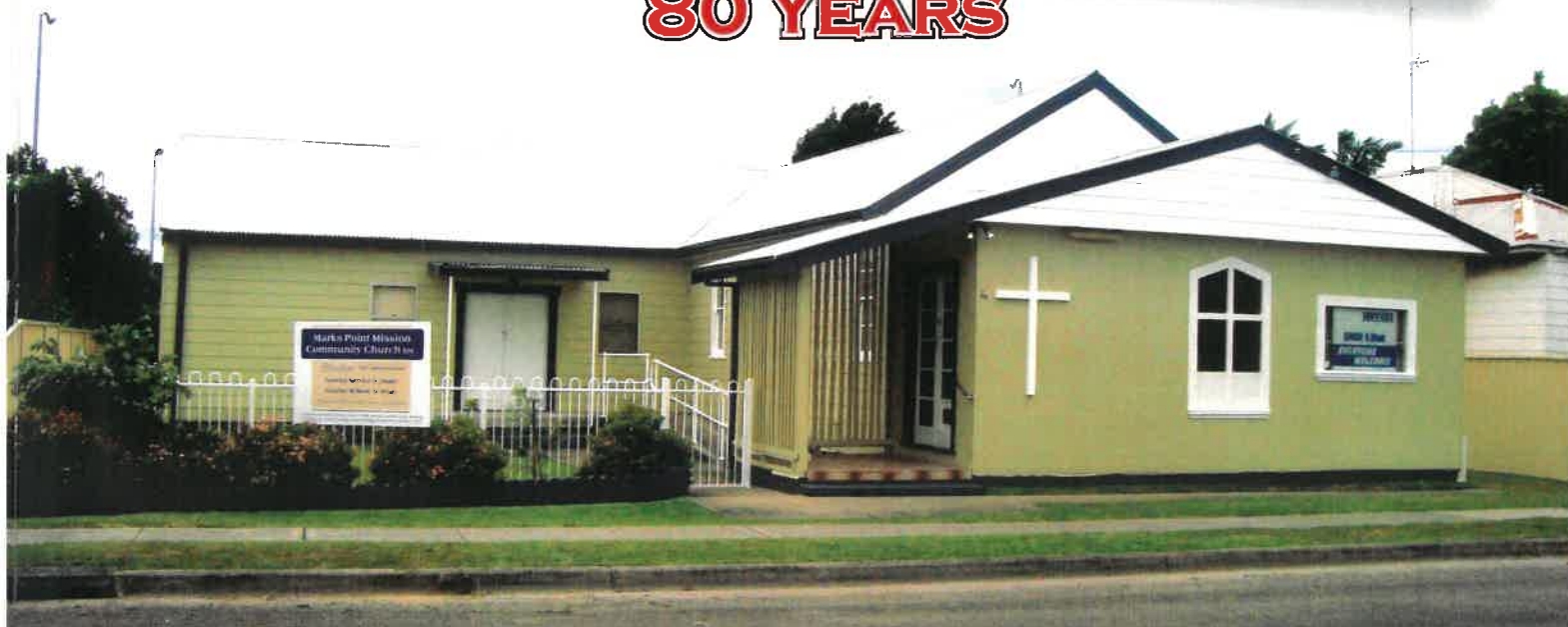


**A BRIEF HISTORY OF  
MARKS POINT MISSION  
COMMUNITY CHURCH INC.**



**1932 - 2012  
80 YEARS**



***A Brief History of the  
MARKS POINT MISSION COMMUNITY CHURCH (Inc.)  
Compiled & Updated by John & Roslyn Parsons 20.3.2012 (1st Print 18.11.1972)  
Pictures added by Roslyn Parsons 1.7.2012***

The faith of a handful of people at Marks Point who set out to establish a Non-Denominational Community Church in **1932** has been vindicated by the growth of the Marks Point Mission Church.



***Mrs Sadie Taylor's Home 27 Marks Point Road, Marks Point***

It was **80 years** ago when four dedicated Christians met in Mrs. Sadie Taylor's home, Marks Point with the objective of developing the Christian future in the area.

As a result of their vision and hard work, over the years, scores of Lake District Residents have shared in the spiritual and material benefits of a Community Project which surmounted Denominational Barriers. This project is the Marks Point Mission Church, which serves as a Meeting Place, Church, Youth Centre and the focal point of the spiritual life at Marks Point.

The system of Church Government is democratic and local and is not connected with any outside enterprise.

The members of the Mission Church meet regularly to discover the mind of Christ, and endeavour, under His guidance, to shape the program and fulfill their sacred trust.



***Emma (Mathews) Scholes, George Mathews & Isabella (Mathews) Bruton***

The Mission had its small beginning in **1932** when Mr. Norman & Mrs. Nellie Scholes, Mrs. Isabella Bruton and Mr. George Mathews met at Mrs. Sadie Taylor's home, Main Road, Marks Point to discuss the establishment of a united place of worship for all the people living in the Marks Point District.

These four people were filled with the burning desire to provide a Missionary Orientated Fellowship to reach all people with a message of "Divine Love". They decided to work for the establishment of a united Church and meeting place where all denominations would be welcome.





*Mrs. Annie Selwood's Home in 24 Marks Parade*

The Church began its Services and Youth Groups in the home of Mrs. Sadie Taylor and also Mrs. Annie Selwood of Marks Parade, Marks Point. In 1937 a "Tin Shed" was built on a block of ground which was bought in 1936 for 5 Pounds (\$10) which now has a complex of buildings and furnishings worth more than \$750,000. Most of the financial support came from very generous local residents.

The \$10 block of land is today valued at over \$250,000.



*Original Tin Shed*



*Tin Shed & 1<sup>st</sup> Church 1940*

The new Church built in 1937 was not terribly impressive. It was a galvanized iron shed (24'x12'), but it became the first Church the area had known. Regular evening services were held for 3 years in this building before taking a major step forward in 1940 when it moved into its real building, a suburban-type weather board construction Church. The first service was conducted by Pastor A. Miller of Lambton. The Sunday Evening Services have continued until February 23, 2003.

In the late 1930's the Australian Christian Library was commenced in the "Tin Shed" under the guidance of foundation member Mr. Norman Scholes. Mrs. Nellie Scholes also a foundation member was in charge of the Sunday School and Cradle Roll.



Miss Emma Mathews was pianist for many years followed by Mrs. Jessie Roberts who was the Church Organist for a considerable number of years. *Mrs. Phyllis Doyle (left)* was organist whilst her husband was Pastor and *Mrs. Roslyn Parsons (right)* is the current Church Organist.





*Mr. Barry Jones*

In **1942** Mr Barry Jones was appointed as the 1st Pastor of the Mission. He had the oversight of the Church for **5 years** (1942 until 1947).



*Doreen and Joyce Parsons*

Doreen Parsons was Sunday School Superintendent from **1945** for **6 years** then for **4 years** leader of the Girls Club.

Also in the late **1940's** the Marks Point Mission Ladies Guild was formed under the leadership of Mrs. Beatrice Ford.

Over the years the 1st Church building known as the "**Tin Tab**" has had several moves on the property for a period of time and in the late **1940's** was used as the residence for the 2nd Church Pastor Mr. Ken Barnes and his wife Mrs. Florence Barnes. Mr. Ken Barnes filled the position as Pastor for the **next 3 years** (1948 until 1951). Following the completion of Mr. Barnes' ministry many Lay Preachers have filled the pulpit for the Sunday Services.



*Ken Barnes outside the "Tin Tab" 1948*



During the **1940's** and early **1950's**, the Marks Point Mission Church had an active Life Boys Brigade and Senior Boys Brigade captained by Mission Founder Mr. George Mathews and Mr. Neville Robin. It was known as the **10th Newcastle Brigade**.



*Mr. Allan Baxter, Mr. George Mathews & Mr. Neville Robin*



*Mothers Day Service 1946*



*Church Brigade Parades*





*Kevin Russell*

In the **mid 1950's** the "**Tin Tab**" was used again as a temporary residence for a short period of time by Mr. Kevin Russell who made himself available and assisted in the many repairs and alterations of the Church Building originally **erected in 1940**.



*Alex Holgate*

Alex Holgate was a lay preacher at the Mission for 5 years. His last service was **21<sup>st</sup> August, 1958** and he passed away Aged 25 years in **September, 1958**.

The "New Look" Church was re-dedicated on **October 25, 1958** by Revd. Clive Hutchinson of Hamilton, on the **26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of it's foundation.



*1958-1960 with Tin Tab at rear*



*Rev. Clive Hutchinson*



*Margaret Steinhour, Fay English, Elsie Sutcliffe,  
Joyce Parsons, Irene Parsons, Emma Scholes,  
Geoffrey Parsons  
Les Smith & John Parsons at front*



*Unveiled Plaque*

Two years later the growth of activities at the Mission Church were taxing the available accommodation. New additions were completed in **1960** which included a Youth Centre, a large Sunday School Hall, 2 Activity Rooms and a Kitchen which cost **\$7000**. These additions were opened by a foundation member Mr. George Mathews and dedicated by Mr. John Parsons on Saturday **October 29, 1960**.



*Church Hall Foundations & Sunday School  
November, 1959*



*Church Hall Under Construction*



*March 7, 1960*



*Hall with Awning & Poles June 1960*

These additions were opened by a foundation member Mr. George Mathews and dedicated by Mr. John Parsons on Saturday **October 29, 1960**.



*Sign in Hall*



*John Parsons (Supt.), Charlie Heine  
Guest Speaker), Joyce Parsons (Sec.)  
George Mathews who opened and  
unveiled the Sign.*

A very active Junior & Intermediate Christian Endeavour group played a part in the Mission's History under the leadership of Joyce & John Parsons.



*Newcastle District Christian Endeavour  
Sports Day at Harker Oval, New Lambton*



*Newcastle Christian Endeavour  
Convention March down Hunter St, Newcastle  
Flag Bearer Unknown, John Parsons,  
Graham & Ian Hodgson, Unknown,  
Geoffrey Thompson, Lloyd Hills, Kay Auberson,  
Unknown & Joyce Parsons*



*Junior Christian Endeavour leaving for Camp from Newcastle, 25<sup>th</sup> August, 1961*



Mr. George Mathews constructed the toilet and amenities block during the **early 1960's**. In the **mid 1960's** the round house, lovingly known as the **"Opera House"** at the rear of the Church property was constructed and still stands, by Mr. George Mathews and used for a temporary Kindergarten Sunday School class room by Mrs. Joyce Hills.



*Amenities Block*



*Round House - "Opera House"*

Two years later another **\$3000** was spent on further extensions of the church, which provided a large porch and a crying room for young children and their mothers.

General seating for the Congregation was increased to accommodate **80 people**. **15** Polished Pews were Donated and plaques placed on the Pews, to the New Look extended Church.



1962



Revd. Eric Potter, George Mathews  
and John Parsons Supt.



These extensions were opened and dedicated by Revd. Eric Potter, Principal of the Tahlee Bible and Missionary Training College on **September 22, 1962**.

In 1963 the 1st Church Building which was affectionately known as the “**Tin Tab**” was demolished to make way for the construction of the Christian Education Centre.

In 1965 the Mission continued its building expansion program when a Christian Education Centre was erected at the rear of the Church property. A lot of thought went into the design of the “**L Shape**” building which resembles a motel layout and provides an Auditorium and Seven self-contained Sunday School Class Rooms built at a cost of \$10,000.



*Bernie McLean & John Parsons Mixing Cement for the Foundations. 9.10.1965*



*Foundations dug ready for the cement*



*George Mathews laying the cement*

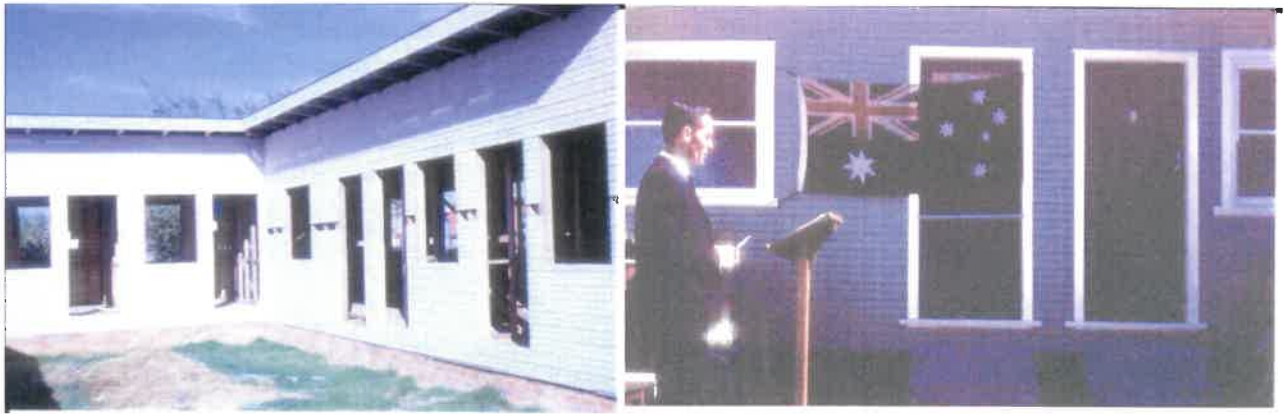


*John Parsons checking the Plans*



*Framework for 7 Sunday School Rooms and 1 Auditorium*





*Sunday School Rooms under construction*

*John Parsons leading the Dedication Service*

This building was known as the “MBS Auditorium” dedicated to the Glory of God by Mr. Charles Heine on **December 11, 1966** to the memory of the Four Church Founders, Mr George Mathews, Mrs. Isabella Bruton, Mr. Norman & Mrs. Nellie Scholes.



*M-B-S Sign on Auditorium Door*



*Mr Charlie Heine*





Joyce Parsons for many years was the leader of the “**Primary Section**” and then later the “**Beginners Section**” of the Sunday School assisted by Mae Reynolds and many others from time to time.

*Joyce (Parsons) Vallance & Mae Reynolds about 1988*

Also the mission had very close ties with the Gospel Fisherman Mission at Tanilba Bay, Port Stephens as well as the Newcastle Open Air Campaigners. Currently the mission has close ties with the Gospel Service Ministries and Tahlee Bible College near Karuah. Over the years the Marks Point Mission has had 5 students enter the Tahlee Bible College for studies and missionary service.

Before entering Tahlee Bible College, Elsie Sutcliffe, Jenni Allen, Michelle Gibson and Steven Parsons played an active part in the Sunday School. Also Elsie Steel has been a Student at Tahlee.



*Elsie Sutcliffe*



*Jenni Allen*



*Michelle Gibson*



*Steven Parsons*



*Elsie Steel*

Today the Marks Point Mission is the only Church of its type surmounting denominational barriers in the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie region.



John Parsons carried out the Pastoral Duties of the Church from **1956 until 1976.**

He was appointed Sunday School Superintendent at the age of **14 years.** And since the day of his appointment every moment of his spare time was devoted to Church Duties together with overseeing **3 Major Building and Development Projects.**

Also he was licensed to perform the various services of the church, including officiating at Weddings and Funerals.

***John Parsons 20 Years 1958***

During the **1960's** over 200 people met weekly for various Christian Meetings and Outreaches of the Mission.



Besides the immediate affairs of its own district, the Church goes further afield in supporting various Community Organizations including Red Cross and Meals on Wheels as well as Non-Denominational Home and Overseas Missionary Societies.

***Beryl Hodgson, Rita Parsons, Alice English  
And Grace Henwood (Jean Sutcliffe absent)  
Meals on Wheels workers***

Over many years the Church had very close connections with the Aborigines Inland Mission, now known as the Australian Indigenous Ministries. Each year in February a Harvest Festival was held and every November an Empty Christmas Tree Appeal for toys for distribution amongst the Aboriginal children of Australia. Mr. Arthur Collins made himself available every year at these times.



***Arthur Collins***



***Toys made by Frank Roberts –  
Husband of Church Organist  
Jessie Roberts***



***Marilyn McRae 11yrs placing  
a Teddy Bear on the Tree***

An 8 page church brochure called “**Lakeside Outlook**” was printed and delivered as a letter box drop to over 500 Marks Point homes every 3 months from 1956 to 1965. Weekly church news items and reports appeared in Belmont Swansea Gazette till 1976.

**MISSION**  
*Miniature*

GRATIS. — Official Organ of Mark's Point Mission — "The People's Church".

**CENTRE OF CHRISTIAN WITNESS AND TEACHING AIM OF MARKS POINT MISSION**

The development of the spiritual and moral life of the people is the primary object of the Mark's Point Mission.

To achieve this end the activities of all auxiliaries of the Church are being designed to make a spiritual impact upon the individual. In the plan of the Mission the individual is never dissociated from the spiritual truths and lessons from the Bible. Heart knowledge and not merely head knowledge is the aim. Believing that a man cleanses his way by taking heed to the Word of God, the teaching of the Word itself becomes the chief means of promoting moral and spiritual growth.

Each week the Church, by means of Sunday Evening Service, Sunday Schools, and Christian Endeavour, influences 180 people for Jesus Christ. While this is good, and a vast increase in what attendance was four months ago, we feel that there is much more to be accomplished in Mark's Point.

Believing that a nice church building and well laid out grounds can be used by the Holy Spirit in influencing a person for Jesus Christ the Church executive is pursuing, as far as finance will permit, a progressive plan and policy to this end.

Though much remains to be done, already vast improvements have been carried out. These include re-alignment of building, replacement of pipes, erection of notice board, erection of front fence, installation of fluorescent lighting in church and porch, removal of ramp from front of building, repairs and renovations including relining of porch, new doors fitted to porch, large boards on porch, cement steps, painting the inside of building, filling of property.

Two new south windows are to be fitted to the front of the church and when funds become available the other six windows will be replaced. The church had hoped to have a brick fence along the front of the property but, although a master tradesman had offered to erect same free of labour costs, the plan had to be abandoned owing to insufficient funds.

We are indeed grateful to the gentleman, however, for his kindness and thoughtfulness in offering to assist us in this matter.

Improvements visualized in the next few months include six new south windows in the sides of the church, large boards erected, cement path to front gate, brickwork around front of porch to height of eaves, erection of guttering and down pipes, final painting of inside of church, text on scroll painted over pulpit, installation of new pulpit, painting of outside of church including roof, re-

**WITNESSING AND SERVING**

By Ald. F. J. Pendue, M.L.A.  
Appears on Page 1

Continued on Page 8

**God's Word**

This Page Donated by  
D. J. McCANN  
Newsgate, Mark's Point.

**LAKESIDE**  
*Outlook*

Supt. Mr. JOHN PARSONS  
1 Swan St., Marks Point  
Phone 44343  
Secretary Mrs. M. OUTRAM  
Treas. Mrs. F. SUTCLIFFE

Mark's Point Mission — "Outreaching Denominational Interest"

No. 29 32 YEARS OF CHRISTIAN WITNESS July, 1965

## EXPANSION PROGRAMME

Marks Point Mission Church plans to build a £2000 Sunday School block shortly.

The rapid growth of the Sunday school in recent years has resulted in overcrowding of some of the classes.

The Mission's Committee members decided to build the new block at the annual meeting last month.

The plan for the new building includes 6 classrooms, and a main hall.

The single-storeyed building will be constructed off weatherboard at the rear of the present church hall.

The Committee members expect the block to be financed by donations from the general community.

Mission Superintendent launched an appeal for assistance during an evening service.

He said he felt confident that the target amount of £2000 would be reached within 12 months.

He praised the community for their unstinting support in previous church projects and said he was sure that the importance and magnitude of the present project would be met with widespread enthusiasm.

**WORTHY PROFIT**

The Lake Shire President, C. Pendlebury today commended the Mission for the work it was doing both in a spiritual and practical way.

He said he was pleased to see the Mission undertaking an expansion

programme which would extend its influence and enable it to achieve more.

C. Pendlebury said he felt sure the community generally recognised the Mission's worth and for that reason would give full support, both morally and financially to the project.

Donations should be sent to 1 Swan St. Marks Point and marked "Building Project".



C. T. R. Pendlebury

The Mission commenced its 1st morning service **October 27, 1963** at 10.45am. Then on Sunday **February 22, 1969** the morning service was changed to 9.30am to run concurrently with the Sunday School programs.



David Brunton and John Parsons

David Brunton joined the Mission's Ministry Team in 1965 until mid 1968.



John Doyle together with his wife Phyllis commenced their Pastoral Ministry **April 24, 1978** and concluded **February 26, 1984**.



*John & Phyllis Doyle*

Following John Doyle's ministry, the Mission continued under the joint leadership and ministry by 2 of the Church Elders, Ernie Bigelow and Graham Nattress for about **6 years**.



*Graham Nattress & Ernie Bigelow*

This was followed by the appointment of Ernie Bigelow as Pastor together with his wife Jenni in the early **1990's** with their ministry concluding **February 11, 2001**.



*Ernie, Jenni (Allen) Bigelow and Benjamin*

Two men who have played an important part in faithfully proclaiming the Word of God for many years were Mr. Ron Carlin and Mr. Charles Heine. Mr. Carlin recalled conducting services when they were held in the Marks Point homes and Mr. Charles Heine and Mr. Ron Carlin had preached from the Mission pulpit for well over **20 years**.



*Ron Carlin*



*Charlie Heine*

For many years Mrs. Mollie Smith of Marks Point organized the **Sunday School Frolics** and also donated the prizes to help raise funds for the Mission's Building Expansion Projects. For this we were gratefully thankful.



*Molly Smith and Susan McGregor (5)  
as Santa 1964*



*Lexie Foote, Anne Hattander,  
James Lowe and Molly Smith 1964*

Also for many years Mrs Laurel Humble and Cheryl of Marks Point arranged a variety of **Day Coach Tours** to a number of scenic destinations to raise funds for the Church Building Projects. Their efforts were deeply appreciated.



*Cheryl and Laurel Humble*

We acknowledge with sincere gratitude and thanks for the untiring efforts of the band of dedicated Sunday School Teachers, Church and Departmental Officers, Deacons and Preachers who sincerely proclaimed the Word of God down through the years.



*Back Row: John Parsons, Elsie Sutcliffe, Joyce & Irene Parsons, Emma Mathews, Fay English, Kevin & Les Smith, Geoffrey Parsons October 1958*



*Joyce (Parsons) Valance, Belinda Brown, Pam Bray, Mae Reynolds  
Back Row: Gwen Baker, Ken Brown, Bernie Baker 1992*



*Joyce Vallance, Steven Parsons, Gwen Nattress, Roslyn Parsons, Shirley Brown, Michelle Gibson 1985*



*Gwen Baker, Mae Reynolds, Joyce Vallance, Pam Bray, Bernie Baker, Jean Sutcliffe, Jenni Bigelow, Shirley & Ken Brown, Roslyn Parsons November, 1991*



The Mission also acknowledges the numerous acts of **“Labours of Love”** given unselfishly by both Doug & Mae Reynolds for many years. Our sincere thanks to all those responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the Mission buildings. A special thanks to Bernie Baker, Doug Reynolds and Norm Quinlan for the regular mowing of the Church grounds and our deep appreciation to Sam Hadden for his electrical skills and maintenance on the Property.



*Doug & Mae Reynolds*



*Bernie Baker*



*Norm Quinlan*



*Sam Hadden*

A number of Sunday School Teachers were responsible for Religious Education in the local district public schools.

Another outreach of the Mission was to open an “Op Shop” of used clothing, kitchenware and toys, in the mid 90’s by Shirley Brown, Pat Ison & Jenni Bigelow (Library). All the proceeds of the “Op Shop” open Friday Mornings go to **sponsor 4 children** together with a love gift for the unsponsored children of “**Compassion International**”. Shirley Lean has operated the “Op Shop” since **January 2002** together with Jenny Jones with their personal outreach ministry and in later years Kim Outram.



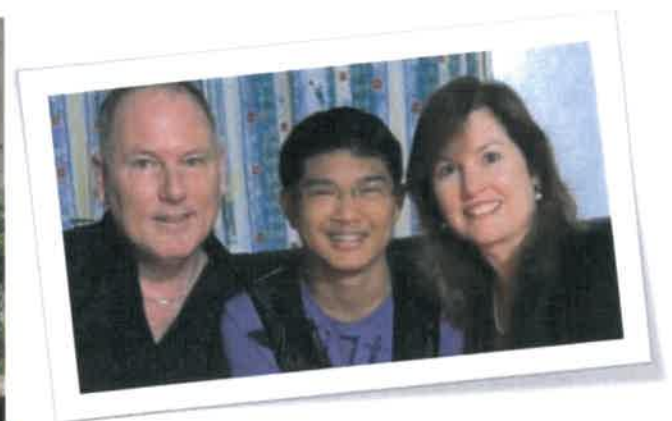
Shirley Lean (Church Treasurer) also leads the “**Ladies Fellowship**” on Wednesday Mornings. The Ladies sponsor Joshua & Megumi Parsons who are in the “Support a Missionary Child” program.

*Shirley Lean*

The Marks Point Mission Church is a regular supporter of Steven, Sandra, Joshua & Megumi Parsons who are serving with the **CMS (Church Missionary Society)** in partnership with TEAM (The Evangelical Alliance Mission) in Japan. Also the Church supports Paul, Debbie & Jubab Howells who are serving with **New Tribes Mission in the Philippines**.



*Steven, Joshua, Sandra & Megumi Parsons*



*Paul, Jubab & Debbie Howells*

Ken Brown took over the leadership in **February 2001** following Ernie & Jenni Bigelow moving to Ipswich Queensland. In **November 2001** Ken accepted the Administrator Position at Tahlee Bible College and continued taking the morning services until the travelling and work load became too much. Ken then acted in a Consulting Role assisting to arrange visiting Preachers together with Church Secretary Brenda Hadden, until his family purchased Kingswood Camp Centre in Warwick, Qld from the Gospel Service Ministries in 2003.



***Belinda (Brown) Rees, Shirley & Ken Brown***



***Brenda Hadden***



***Pastor Albert Booth and Nell Booth***

Pastor Albert Booth led the Mission from **August 31, 2003** until **February 1, 2004** when he resigned to take care of his sick wife who needed his full devotional attention.



Richard Nash served as Pastor briefly from **February 24, 2004** until Sunday **July 25, 2004**.

Pastor Booth again agreed to act as Interim Pastor from Sunday **August 1, 2004** and continued until Sunday **April 2, 2006** when he felt the need to retire.

For legal purposes the church became Incorporated in **September, 2005**. Members have complete control of the property and this replaces all Trustees. A special thanks to Brenda Hadden (Church Secretary) for all dealings with the Solicitor and Department of Fair Trading.



In **August 2005** Kylie Gibson recommenced the Sunday School after a **17 month recess**. Since then the Sunday School has been led by Ruth Sarich, Kim Baker & Dannielle Ayres. And more recently Alecia Bateman.



*Kylie Gibson teaching Sunday School*



*Ruth (Baker) Sarich*



*Dannielle (Koster) Ayers*



*Kim Baker*



*Colin Gibson*



*Grant, Alecia  
& Nevaeh Bateman*

A Sunday Evening Youth Service was introduced in **March 2007**, led by Co-Pastors Colin Gibson & Grant Bateman. Grant is studying at Newcastle University for a diploma in English & History, which will enable him to teach these subjects in High School. Grant Bateman became our present Pastor in **2010**

A monthly preaching cycle was introduced in **2007** with preachers, Majors David & Joan Tong, (Salvation Army), Scott Sarich, Grant Bateman, Len Sweeney, Doug Reynolds and Dean Koster.



*Majors David & Joan Tong*



*Scott & Jillian Sarich*



*Len Sweeney*



*Dean Koster*

Author and writer of verse and poetry, Dorothy Baker-Blades joined the Mission together with husband Tom in **October 2004**. Segments of her writings are presented from time to time during the Sunday Services.



*Dorothy & Tom Blades*



*Rene Vernon, Coral Tranter & Joyce Wotherspoon*

We thank Rene Vernon for her unfailing dedication and wise counsel to the Mission's outreach ministries.

A Baby Crèche was commenced in **2009** under the guidance of Lynette Koster and other mums.



*Lynette (Ayers) Koster and daughter Elisha*

Dean Koster introduced a 4 page weekly bulletin of the Mission's activities on Sunday **February 21, 2010**.

Websites can be viewed through  
<http://facebook.com/markspointmission.church> or  
[www.myspace.com/markspointmission](http://www.myspace.com/markspointmission) or  
[www.xianz.com/MarksPointMission](http://www.xianz.com/MarksPointMission)

**Marks Point Mission**

Non - Denominational



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44 Marks Point Road, Marks Point.  
 For enquiries, please call 4971 2955  
[www.myspace.com/markspointmission](http://www.myspace.com/markspointmission)

**We Preach Christ Crucified, Resurrected  
and Coming Again!**

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**Welcome to our Service**  
 We're glad you are here! May the Lord bless you as you  
 fellowship today. We especially welcome new guests.  
 Join us for a cuppa and a chat after the service.

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2010  
 Speaker - Dean Koster

Whilst now in its **80th year**, the Mission embarks upon a **"new era"** filled with many exciting challenges ahead.

*And always - as in the past - in its History will reflect the History of the people of Marks Point, where a community spirit built an Independent Non - Denominational Church.*

**In Loving Memory:** Of a man called of God with an insight to carry on the growth of this Church, from the Foundation Members, to serve the community.



He stepped forward in faith many times to extend the buildings and the costs were provided.

It is with sadness that **John Parsons** was called Home to Glory on **April 27, 2012 Aged 73**, before our 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

We want to thank Ernie Bigelow for the initiative to inspire John to write this **"Brief History of the Marks Point Mission Church."**

If not, the History would have been lost forever.

*John Parsons*