

Minutes of Annual Conference held
in the Tabernacle, Enmore Good Friday
April 16. 1897 Bro J Hunter Pres. presiding.

A short devotional meeting was
held in which several Brethren
took part.

The minutes of the last Confer-
ence were then read.

MINUTES
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Bro Barath moved Bro Stinson
see "That the minutes as read
be confirmed." An amendment
was moved by Broth Forscutt &
J.P Walker - "That all reference
to the Leichhardt Church be
expunged." The minutes were
confirmed, no dissenting.

Visiting Brethren. On the motion of Broth
Hall, & Verco visiting Brethren
were welcomed and invited to
take part in the conference.

Greetings. Victoria, Queensland & Sisters
Conference sent greetings.
Broth J Colbourne & Broth from
South Australia conveyed verbal
greetings from their colony.

President's Address. The President then
gave his annual address and
at the close a hearty vote of
thanks was tendered him, to
which he briefly replied.

Annual Reports. The Secretary's Annual
report was then read by Bro
Rose who moved its adoption,
the motion was seconded by

Bro Arnold and after discussion it was duly carried.

Twelfth Annual Report.

DEAR BRETHREN, -

In the good providence of God we are again privileged to present an account of our stewardship for the year. Pursuant of the resolution passed at the last conference Brother Clapham was located at Corowa for a period of three months. Your Committee decided to offer Brother Clapham a re engagement for a period of twelve months, but to their regret he could not see his way to accept the offer.

On the Church at Corowa appealing to the Committee to send Brother Picton, arrangements were made for him to take up the work there immediately on Brother Clapham's retirement. At the express wish of the Church, Brother Picton has labored there ever since, and his report will be placed before you.

COUNTRY EVANGELIST.

In accordance with the resolution carried at the last conference, the country Churches were written to asking what financial assistance could be given towards the support of a country evangelist, but your Committee regret that the amount was altogether inadequate to meet the necessities of the case.

ROOKWOOD

In response to an appeal from the Church at Rookwood for financial assistance towards engaging Brother Gilmour, the sum asked for was granted, and Brother Gilmour has labored there for a period of nine months.

OPEN-AIR MEETING.

A suggestion came from the Sisters Conference that an open-air meeting be held on the 24th May (Queen's Birthday), but it was deemed advisable to postpone it until the 3rd October (eight hour day). On that date a considerable number of brethren and sisters were in attendance at the Domain, and Brother Hunter occupied the chair. Addresses were delivered by Brethren Gilmour, Dickson, and Walden. About 5,000 copies of "our plea" (as published each week in the "Pioneer") were distributed, and we feel confident that this meeting was not without good effect, and would suggest that it be made an annual gathering.

ENGAGEMENT OF BRO. EWERS.

In view of the financial responsibilities already incurred and the fact that the definite promises of assistance were very small, your Committee were loth to enter into an engagement with another evangelist, but eventually decided to make an offer to Brother Ewers. Since our Brother's engagement the funds to meet the additional financial responsibilities have come in satisfactorily. Brother Ewers has labored with the Church at Petersham up to the present, and we will not anticipate what he may have to report.

MEREWETHER.

On an appeal coming from Merewether, your Committee asked for the services of each of the evangelists at Sydney, and Enmore for a month, and although in this were not successful, the Officers at Enmore very generously arranged to pay the salary of Brother Gilmour for three months, and our Bro. is now located there.

During the year a resolution was passed suggesting that the Churches in the metropolis should have a uniform meeting night for mid-week services, and in the majority of cases this has been adopted. The facilities for holding special meetings in connection with any of the Churches have thereby been increased.

In conclusion, our thanks are due to the Sisters Conference for their valued help; the collectors in the various Churches who have worked nobly; and the brethren who by their liberality have enabled your Committee to meet all financial engagements during the year.

Praying that the Lord's richest blessing may rest upon the labors of the past and the future.

J. HUNTER, PRESIDENT.
A. HUTCHISON, VICE-PRES.

C. A. ROFE, SECRETARY.
D. R. HALL, ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

COMMITTEE.
E. ANDREWS, TREASURER.
W. BENSON,
G. BAGLEY,
R. STEER, C. GROCOCK,
G. W. LOGAN.

Treasurer's Statement. This was read by Bro E Andrews who proposed its adoption, sec by Bro Hall and carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT.



DEAR BRETHERN,

In drawing your attention to the Financial Statement we have every reason to thank God and take courage.

Notwithstanding the many calls on the Brotherhood, they have nobly helped the Committee, with the result that we start the year with a credit balance of £15 odd.

Again, we have to record our hearty thanks to the Sisters' Conference, who have helped us well, raising some £30.

A word of praise is due to the Church at Corowa, who showed their determination to have a preacher by largely helping to provide his salary.

To all who have helped, whether much or little, we record our thanks.

E. ANDREWS, TREASURER.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1896-97

RECEIPTS.		DISBURSEMENTS.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
By Bro. Jacobs	1 1 0	To Debit Balance	2 7 9
„ Bro. Walker... ..	0 14 4	„ Printing	6 2 6
„ Sister J. Hunter	3 0 0	„ Tea Meeting	5 12 6
		„ Standard and Pion. Reports... ..	3 0 0
„ Surplus, Conference Dinner	1 3 9	„ Speaking Plans	1 0 0
„ Collection, Conference Dinner	3 1 9	„ Social	1 5 0
„ Proceeds of Tea Meeting	6 1 6	„ Stamps	8 2 6
„ Proceeds of Socié	3 19 6	„ Grant to Rookwood	2 6 8
„ Sisters' Conference Printing	0 11 0	„ Exchange on Cheques	5 0 0
		„ Advertising	0 7 8
„ Church Contributions—	14 17 6	„ Travelling Expenses—	0 8 0
Enmore	57 11 3	Bro. Clapham	2 6 0
Marrickville	29 14 2	D. Ewers	10 0 0
Sydney	10 18 9	H. G. Picton	2 0 0
Merewether	10 5 0		
Roo w d	8 18 0	„ Evangelist Salary—	14 6 0
Chatha	8 0 0	Bro. Clapham	27 10 0
Lismore	3 2 6	D. Ewers	36 0 0
Woolahra	2 19 0	H. G. Picton	35 19 0
Prospect	2 10 0		
Rockdale	1 18 8		99 9 0
Petersham	0 13 10	„ Cash in hand	£144 2 2
Bungawalbyn	0 10 0		15 5 4
Junee	0 10 0		
Wagga	0 10 6		
Croydon	0 3 0		
Sisters' Conference	1 10 0		
	189 14 8		
	£159 7 6		

Audited and found correct, C. A. ROPE.
In addition to the above, the Church at Corowa, as per agreement with the Committee, raised and paid direct to evangelists labouring there the sum of £68.

March 27th, 1897.

E. ANDREWS, TREASURER.

£159 7 6

Sunday School Union.

G.S.W.

On the motion of Burt Hawkins & Steer it was taken as read, and on the motion of Burt Steer & Walden it was adopted after discussion

Annual Report of the Sunday School Union.

1897



In presenting our annual report, we are pleased to be able to say, that never in the history of the Churches in New South Wales has there been such interest and enthusiasm manifested in Sunday School work, as there is now. We speak, of course, so far as the city and suburban Churches are concerned, and we believe that this interest is attributable to the work of the Sunday School Union, and the annual examinations held under their auspices. We hope to see before long more of the Sunday Schools represented than there are at present.

You will notice by the statistics that have been presented to you to-day that not only have the scholars increased, so far as numbers go; but that a very large percentage of the additions to the Church are from the Lord's Day Schools. This needs no comment.

We have had very large attendances at our quarterly tea and business meetings, held during the year, the members of the Church being brought thereby into more intimate contact with the Sunday School work, and by this means we believe that when we enlarge our sphere of operations, it will not be difficult to get the workers necessary to carry on the increased work.

The chief work of the year was the Annual Examinations, which took place in July last, and the subject of which was the first quarter's lesson of the International Series, and comprised the early scenes of the Life of Christ, as given in the first twelve chapters of Luke's Gospel. There were competitors from six schools, to the number of 125, of which number 87 passed the necessary standard, and received certificates. In addition to these certificates, thirty-three prizes were also given.

The school results were:—

	68 Competed,	47 Passed,	11 Obtained Prizes.
Enmore ...	25	22	15
Sydney ..	17	11	3
Marrickville ..	5	5	0
Merewether ...	8	1	0
Petersham ...	2	1	1
Lismore ...			

The examiners were Brethren Walden and Dickson.

We may mention that each school is examined, at their own place of meeting, all the necessary papers being sent to the attendants appointed to the various districts.

The presentation of the prizes and certificates gained at the examination took place in the Sydney Chapel, the large building being crowded, and it was agreed that it was about the largest gathering yet held in connection with our Sunday School work.

The annual examination for this year will take place on July 17th, the subject matter of the examination being the second quarter's lessons of the International Series, comprising the early ministry of the Apostles, Peter and Paul. We expect a large number of senior scholars to take part, and would urge the country delegates to try and arouse an interest in the examinations in the schools of their respective districts.

We have, during the year, introduced a system of Honorary Membership. Members of the Church on payment of 1s or more per year, are entitled to become members, and will receive a card certifying that they are Honorary Members. By this means it is practicable for you to help us, and become interested in the Union. We are prepared to supply cards to anyone desirous of becoming members. We also thank the members of the Church who have helped us, financially and otherwise, during the past year.

In conclusion we would draw your attention to:—

1. The fact that we have the Sunday Schools with us.
2. The children will soon be men and women.
3. Shall we persuade and help them to become Christians while they are young.
4. If so, help us in our work; if not actively, by becoming members of the Union.
5. Our motto for the year is "Christ for the young and the young for Christ."

JOHN KINGSBURY, PRESIDENT.

DAVID R. HALL, VICE-PRESIDENT.

T. MORTON, TREASURER.

R. STEER AND J. T. HUNTER, JOINT SECRETARIES.

Foreign Mission, Report read by Bro
Ewers, who moved its adoption see
by Bro filmou and carried.

CONFERENCE REPORTS.

3.

on the whole; much preaching and doctoring in the town; a great number of the surrounding villages visited, women and children receiving her special attention. But cholera has been rife, and, even worse than that, gaunt famine has visited the land with grim death his close attendant. In their need the hungry have hastened to the rivers and railways, so that Hurda has been filled with pain and sore distress, and the orphanages at Mahoba and Bilaspur and other neighbouring stations crowded with hungry little children, whilst all the missionaries have found themselves exceedingly busy. Here in our favoured land brethren have realised this to be the day of their opportunity to commend the love of Jesus to the heathen, and have been, and are still, filling the hungry with good things. Membership, 54; S. S., 312; Day School, 118. Miss Thompson speaks of Bro. SHAH, the new preacher, as very faithful and true and earnest. This brother is now reporting himself to his Australian brethren, who are his supporters, in enviably fluent English.

3. KANAKA MISSION.

JOHN THOMPSON'S annual report was printed in the *Standard* of February 4th. It will be seen he has done a good work. But the scheme for building the chapel approved at last Conference has not made much headway. Our well-to-do and liberal brethren are urged to at once follow the lead of a S. A. brother, who promises £50, about one-sixth of all that is needed. Bro. Thompson writes: "The friends of the mission will remember that our progress is much hindered by not having a place to meet in at Childers. The Church of England having a building in Childers and having placed another missionary in this field will have a considerable advantage over us." Our brother also reports himself as having married a wife. Shall we not wish him prosperity in the work of his heart by raising a chapel, during this his wedding year? Baptisms, 16. Present membership—Childers, 52; Doolbi, 14; Nochrone, 14; total, 80.

4. CHINESE MISSION (Victorian).

Your Victorian Committee is glad to record substantial work, though rather in the way of ploughing and sowing than of harvesting. Bro. McClean reports average attendance of teachers 17; scholars, 16—at 3 meetings per week. Latterly the scholars' attendance has risen to 26.5, with the third class-room added and in full swing. Since the New Year a Monday evening class has been formed. Average attendance of teachers, 9; scholars, 13.5. A pleasing feature of the year is the establishment of a preaching service in which Bro. Sam Ah Wong discourses on the truth as it is in Jesus to the Chinese, who "hear it in their own language in which they were born."

5. HANDS ACROSS THE SEA.

There appeared in the *Standard* of Dec. 17th a letter from the English Conference desiring co-operation in work in South Africa, proposing to establish the work by engaging to raise funds both here and "at home" and in Austral-Africa itself. It is proposed that for three years the sum of £450 per annum be raised, one-third approximately from each of the countries specified; that the operations be under the direction of a committee having consulting members in Great Britain and Australia, and that the evangelists engaged be drawn alternately, unless strongly contra-indicated

at the time, from the respective countries. Your Committee has weighed this matter, and recommends the appeal to the Conferences of all the colonies as worthy of serious discussion, and as meriting cordial approval.

6. THE LANTERN.

The addresses of Bro. McLean have been followed up by those of our Bro F. Pittman, who has spoken to audiences aggregating over 3000 souls, appealing both by eye-gate and ear-gate. The lectures have been confined to Melbourne and suburbs, but the slides are now being used in Queensland, and are at an early date to make the rounds of the S. A. churches; other colonies to follow.

7. FINANCIAL.

Our credit is good, and our prospects better. At last Conference we were behind all round, now we owe no man anything—not even John Thompson—and "look the whole world in the face." A comparison is invited as helpful. Last year your Committee handled £250; this year over £400. Last year we were in debt in all the three directions in which we are working; now all are paid a little ahead of date, and a tiny nest-egg remains. Every colony has done better, and especially our own. This year you have contributed £205 as against £82 for last year. South Australia £80 as against £72. New South Wales £49 compared with £27. Queensland has jumped from £12 to £29. New Zealand from £15 to £21. Tasmania from £2 to £7. And Westralia, "the Cinderella of the group," not a contributor last year, has now her foot and say in the matter with a modest £1 note. The July collection was taken up. The number of churches contributing has largely increased in Victoria, viz., 36 to 55. The Famine Fund, now close on £50, is a notable item.

8. FEDERAL.

Matters have worked smoothly as between the four committees. Those in other colonies are to be thanked for the trust they have reposed in your Committee as Executive.

9. ET CETERA.

Mission Bands are persistent in their help, notably Malvern and Doncaster: the latter raising the half of Bro. Shah's salary and a most substantial aid to the Famine Fund; the former showing an abiding interest in the Kanaka work. The Indian Xmas Box was sent as usual. The thanks of the Committee are hereby tendered to Bro. O'Brien, of Maryborough, Queensland, as our esteemed local adviser of the Kanaka work; to the Editors of *Pioneer* and *Standard* for the free use of their pages afforded to our scribes—Mrs. Maston, Mr. F. Pittman and the secretary; to Bro. McClean and his staff for their abundant labours, and to the collectors for the F. M. Fund in the various churches.

10. ATTENDANCES OF COMMITTEE.

Meetings held, 6. Mrs. Huntsman, 4; Mrs. Maston, 6; Miss McCoughtry, 5; F. Pittman, 6; W. C. Thurgood, 2; W. Wilson, 0; F. M. Ludbrook, 6.

On behalf of the Committee,

F. M. LUDBROOK, Secretary.

FOREIGN MISSIONARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

1. MR. McLEAN.

The presence of Bro. McLEAN, Foreign Missionary Secretary, U.S.A., gave a very desirable stimulus to the interest in the foreign work at the beginning of the year. That the impression made has been deep is evident by a comparison of the finances then with now; that it will be lasting, your Committee hopes and believes. The Lord will richly reward our brother according to his works.

2. INDIA.

MISS THOMPSON reports good work done, and with a fair measure of health enjoyed

Evangelistic Reports. Breth Picton & Ewers gave verbal accounts of their work and prospect in their respective districts.

County Delegates. Bro Hawkins spoke of the work at Prospect as encouraging.

Nomination & Election of Officers.

On the motion of Bro Rose & Verco Breth Horsley & McIneloe. were appointed scrutineers.

The following were duly elected Officers.

President G. J. Walden

Vice — P. A. Dickson

Secretary G. A. Rose

Assist " W. Hall

Treasurer. W. Benson

Committee. F. Newby, G. Bayley, R. Steer, J. Hunter, & S. Hawkins.

Foreign Mission Committee

On the motion of Breth Ewers & Lovell it was decided to increase the committee from 3 to 5.

The following were elected —
Sisters Fion & Bayley, Breth D Ewers, & J. J. Hunter.

Isolated members. Breth Walden & Lovell moved that the incoming committee be asked to consider the advisability of appointing a Bro to act as Correspondent to Isolated Brethren Carried unanimously.

Motions A hearty vote of thanks to the sisters of the various churches for the bountiful dinner provided on the motion of Bro Ewers was carried.

MOTION

Bro Horsley moved Bro J. Lillie
 sec - That at any time during
 a discussion, a motion may be
 moved - that the question be
 now put; provided ten rise in
support thereof, and should such
motion be carried, the question
 shall then be put without
 further discussion.

DEBATE
CLOSURE

While the motion was being
 discussed attention was called
 to the time (10 to 6) and on
 the motion of Bro Forscutt an
 extension of $\frac{1}{2}$ a hour was voted.
 Bro Horsley motion was then
 put and carried.

No 2 Motion. Bro Hutchison in view of
 the foregoing motion having been
 carried withdrew the motion re
 Instrumental Music standing
 in his name.

INSTRUMENTAL
MUSIC

No 3 Motion. This was a motion prop by
 Beth Lee & Gilmore to the
 effect that more attention should
 be paid by the Church to the
 work of the Sunday School, in
 view of its importance, motion
 unaniously carried.

SUNDAY
SCHOOL
WORK

Motions 4, 7, 8. These motions, dealing
 with location of Conference
 Evangelist were handed over
 to incoming Committee to be
 dealt with.

LOCATION
OF
EVANGELIST

Bro J. P. Walker was allowed

an opportunity of reging the claims of the Richmond River district which he accordingly did.

Motion 5. Bro Steer prop Bro Andrews see — "That in future the Conference Seely be paid six pounds per year payable Quarterly, Motion carried.

SECT'S SALARY

Motion 6. This was a motion by Bro Hutchins dealing with the relation of the Church of Christ and the Denominations but owing to the absence of the mover the motion lapsed.

CHURCH SECTS

Motion 9. Bro Walden prop Bro Forscutt see — That this conference of disciples of Christ appoint representatves to the committee known as the Council of Churches.

COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

On a point of order the chairman ruled the motion out of order. There being no other business a hearty vote of thanks to retiring Officers was carried on the motion of Bro Ewers & Hawkins.

The meeting was then closed.

Home Mission Night.

The usual tea and Public meeting was held at night

The Speakers at the after meeting being Broth G. J. Walden, P.A. Dickson, Bro Ewers, H. G. Picton and J. Hawkins.

At the suggestion of the sisters conference a motion in regard

to the drink traffic was unanimous
 ly carried. The motion was
 proposed by Bro Walden and see
 by Bro Dickson and was to
 the effect — "That this conference
 is of the opinion that the most
 satisfactory solution of the drink
 question is to be found in the
 abolition of the manufacture, import
 ation and sale of intoxicating liquors.
 The meeting was then closed.

On Thursday evening April 15
 a special meeting in connection
 with the Conference was held
 in the Tabernacle Innore
 Bro J. Hunter presided
 Bro J. P. Walker read his essay
 on Bishops & Deacons their duties
 obligations, and mode of appoint-
 ment from a scriptural stand-
 point.

The essay was interesting, and
 a discussion followed in which
 several Brethren took part.
 Bro Walker having replied
 the meeting was closed. †

G. Walden

During the Business session of the Conference the following Brethren answered to the roll of Delegates - Hereafter. Buck Gilmour, Russell, Wright & Williams

Woolahra. Buck, Palmer, Stark, Cox, Wilson, Lewis & Watson.

Prospect. J. Hawkins.

Chatham G. Darby.

Lusmore J. P. Walker.

More. E. Winter.

Yarruckville Buck ~~McEwan~~, Lee, Price & J. Hunter.

Corowa. H. J. Pickett.

Rookwood. Buck Andrews, & Marton

Sydney. Brethren P. A. Dickson.

Lillie Jones Ley

Spiveck

Stinson

Morris

Newby

Loyan

Holman

Hutchinson, Sr

Black

Fox

Fuller

Hall

Warner.

W. McIndoe

Anderson

Scouler

Kearn

Enmore, Bulth -
 Inigate
 Roe
 Ewers
 Rope
 Pine
 Knapp.
 Banatt
 Jos Kingsbury
 Horsley
 Lever
 J Bardsley
 J Lovell
 Marks
 R Vercio
 E Bardsley
 J Bayley
 Arnold

J. Merlox
 Knapp.
 Ward
Barnes
 Edwards
H. J. filmow
 Steer
Rien
John Kingsbury
 Clemson
 Walden
B Kenford
J Crawford
J Andrews
 Gorscutt
 Benson
 Wallace

STATISTICAL REGISTER. March 1st 1897:

LOCATION OF CHURCH	CHURCH ADDITIONS.				CHURCH LOSSES.			MEMBERSHIP.			LORD'S DAY SCHOOL.				Church Additions from Lord's Day School.	SEATING CAPACITY.		
	Membership 1896.	Faith and Obedience.	Letter.	Baptised Believers.	Restored.	Letter.	Death.	Removal or Discipline.	Members 1897.	Increase.	Decrease.	Scholars 1896.	Scholars 1897.	Teachers 1896.		Teachers 1897.	Of Meeting House.	Of Schoolroom.
Marraville*	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	19	19	2	2	...	...
Bungawalbyn*	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	19	19	2	2	...	...
Chattham	88	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	87	...	...	30	30	3	3	...	...
Corowa	76	4	...	1	1	...	...	...	76	1	...	28	28	3	3	...	80
Croydon§	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	59	23	...	...	30	20	4	3	...	100
Enmore†	351	57	19	66	5	13	1	26	458	107	...	30	20	4	2	...	200	
Fairfield	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	327	346	20	20	...	...
Heathcote§	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39	...	1	...	24	350
June*	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	...	2	...	...	...
Lismore	52	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	27	27	4	4	...	...
Merewether	50	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	49	...	...	27	27	4	4	...	...
Marrickville	80	3	1	3	1	...	...	6	49	3	...	34	34	2	3	...	200
Moree	48	2	...	2	...	5	1	3	76	1	...	100	50	6	6	1	70	
Petersham§	52	...	...	...	...	2	...	4	44	...	...	50	70	10	10	3	170
Prospect	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	...	3	...	...	100
Rockdale	38	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52	...	42	108	5	9	...	200
Rookwood	44	1	4	1	2	3	...	13	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200
Sydney	288	19	14	4	...	1	...	4	49	5	...	18	50	3	7	...	...
Wagga	30	...	...	...	...	8	4	57	256	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Woollahra	48	6	5	...	...	...	...	7	23	32	...	123	180	12	12	5	100
Wingham	18	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	58	10	...	42	79	5	6	...	500
	1286	97	48	77	9	85	7	179	1214	122	194	944	989	85	87	38	2520	500

* Last year's figures, as these churches did not forward returns.
 † Including Petersham and Croydon Branch. Decrease of Church Members, 72. Increase of Sunday School Teachers, 2.
 § Churches ceased to exist. † Including Petersham and Increase of Sunday School Scholars, 45, Increase of