

Minutes of meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference held in the City Temple, Campbell Street, on April 8<sup>th</sup> 1898, The President, Brother Geo. T. Walden, occupied the chair.

A devotional meeting was held from 9.45 to 10.15 a.m. which was led by Brother Ewers.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed on the motion of Brethren Lovell & Stimson.

Correspondence was read comprising letters from the Secretaries of the churches at Moree, Broken Hill, and Lismore; and greetings from the Sisters Conference, and the Victoria Committee. On the motion of Brethren Hall & Stimson the correspondence was received.

The letters from Broken Hill, Moree, and Lismore, were, on the motion of Brethren Steer and Hunter, referred to the incoming Committee.

The roll of delegates was then called; after which the Committee's report for the year was read and after being discussed clause by clause was adopted with one slight alteration.

The first two clauses, comprising the introduction and the reference to isolated Brethren, were adopted on the motion of Brother Arnold.

Brother Steer moved the adoption of the clause relating to changes. Carried.

Brother Benson moved the adoption of that relating to Petersham. Carried.

Brother Steer moved the adoption of the clause relating to Corowa. Carried.

Brother Lovell moved the adoption of the clause relating to Kerewether. Carried.

The clauses relating to Hookwood, Richmond River, Manning River, and the statistical register were adopted on the motions of Brethren Arnold, Stimson, Hall, and Coors, respectively.

As above stated the report as a whole was then adopted; the mover and seconder of the motion being Brethren Ingor and Fuller.

The Treasurer's statement was then read showing a debit balance of £44-4-1, and was adopted on the motion of Brethren Benson and Grock. The Treasurer, Bro Benson, explained that since publication of his statement he had received a cheque for £14, thus reducing the debit balance to 30-4-1.

The Sunday <sup>Union</sup> School report was read and adopted on the motion of Brethren J. S. Hunter and Anderson.

The President, Brother Walden, delivered his address on "The Blessings of ~~ad-~~ forgetfulness", basing his remarks upon Paul's statement "forgetting the things that are behind &c". The motion of Bro Steer and Stimson, a hearty vote of thanks was tendered to Brother Walden for his address.

The election of officers was then proceeded with, and resulted as follows:—

President	Brother J. A. Dickson.
Vice "	" D. A. Ewers.
Secretary	" R. Steer.
Assistant Secretary	" J. Lery.
Treasurer	" W. H. Minson.
Committee	Brothers G. I. Jones, J. Hunter, C. A. Kofe, J. Minson, and C. Andrews.
Foreign Mission Committee	B. G. Cole, D. A. Ewers James Hunter, Mr. S. Bagley, S. Newby, & Fox

An excellent dinner was provided free to the delegates by the sisters from the various churches, after which Bro. Kingsbury and Johnson voiced the thanks of the delegates to the sisters.

On resuming a short devotional service was led by Brother Kingsbury.

Brother Gibson then moved the resolution of which he had given notice namely "that a Conference be appointed to have and hold such properties as may from time to time be deemed advisable to invest in such trust for church purposes." This was seconded by Brother Wright, and a lengthy discussion followed. On the vote being taken the motion was declared lost by a considerable majority.

B. Inter spoke a few words to the Conference, as also did B. Joseph Kingsbury.

Reports from the field were given by Bro. Grauer, Wright, Rabbit, and Gibson of Newcastle. Brother Ewers reported on the work at

Petersham, Hookwood, and Lismore.

Bro Johnson spoke on the work at Corowa, and generously informed the conference that the £10 owing to Corowa, which made up part of the debit balance of £44.40 above mentioned, might be used in other mission work.

Bro Bruce read a motion to the conference, which the committee had decided was not in order, and moved dissent from that ruling, but failed to get a seconder.

Sister Ker read a short paper on "Fact distributions", and a very interesting discussion followed, no speaker being allowed more than 3 minutes, and the majority not taking more than 10 minutes.

Brother Ewers read a short paper on "Modern methods of reaching the people", which was also criticised, the same rule with regard to length of speeches obtaining as in the previous discussion.

Sister Ker and Brother Ewers received a hearty vote of thanks for their papers.

On the motion of Bro Arnold it was unanimously resolved that the secretary be instructed to write to the Woman's Christian Temperance Union conveying the sympathy of this conference in the loss they have recently sustained through the death of Miss Francis S. Millard.

On the motion of Bro. Silvanus it was resolved that this conference express its sympathy with the efforts now being made to obtain State & local control of the liquor traffic without compensation.

It was also resolved that the Secretary be instructed to write thanking the officers of Sydney and Ermore Churches for the use of their buildings for the meetings of the Conference, and of the Committee respectively.

This concluding the business of the session the meeting was closed with prayer.

About 120 delegates and friends attended the tea meeting in the evening, after which a public missionary meeting was held, when addresses were delivered on "All Authority" by Bro. Gilmore; "All Nations" Bro. Hawkins; "All Things" Bro. Dickson; "All the Days" Bro. Evans. A collection of promises was made towards missionary work. During the evening musical items were rendered by the Sydney Chorus and others. The meeting closed at 9.30.

On Easter Monday a reunion of delegates took place at Ryde, but owing to the inclemency of the weather it was not largely attended.

On the evening preceding the Conference a meeting was held in the City Temple to hear the Conference Essay on "The Sunday School" by Brother Rope, but it was only moderately attended. After Brother Rope had read his essay it was criticised by

And a vote of thanks passed to Bro. Rope  
 P. A. Dickson Conference  
 31/3/99

The following delegates were present

Sydney	Brethren	Anderson	Dickson
		Fuller	Cole
		Crock	Hall D.
		Hall G.	Butchison Senr.
		Jones	Leck
		Lillie	Logan
		Macindoe	Kendry
		Roberts	Stinson
		Key	Walters
Woollahra		Lewis	Almer
		Watson	
Lismore		D. A. Evans	
Brookwood		Macdace	C. Andrews
Prospect		Hawkins	
Merewether		Gibson	Gasser
		Wright	Kerbit
Corowa		Johnson	
Petersham		Denford	Griffiths
		Ward	W. Hall
		Wilson	Hamby

Enmore  
 J. Hunter.  
 R. Steer.  
 W. Edwards  
 C. Kope  
 H. Howley  
 Arnold.  
 J. Lovell.  
 Geo Kingsbury  
 J. Bardsley  
 Knapp.  
 McLoughly  
 W. Pye  
 Deal.  
 Barnes.

G. J. Walden  
 J. L. Hunter.  
 W. Benson.  
 J. Andrews  
 N. Vico  
 Lee  
 J. Hindle.  
 Geo Kingsbury.  
 W. Roe.  
 J. Farr.  
 A. Taylor  
 J. Tote. -  
 A. Gilmore.

STATISTICAL REGISTER, March 1st, 1898.

LOCATION OF CHURCH.	CHURCH ADDITIONS.					CHURCH LOSSES.			MEMBERSHIP.			LORD'S DAY DAY.				Church Additions from Lord's Day School.	SEATING CAPACITY OF MEETING HOUSE.	RAISED FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS.						
	1897. Membership.	Faith and Obedience.	Letter.	Baptised Believers.	Restored.	Letter.	Death.	Removal or Discipline.	1898 Membership.	Increase.	Decrease.	1897 Scholars.	1898 Scholars.	1897 Teachers.	1898 Teachers.			£	s.	d.				
Bowraville*	14								14			19	19	2	2									
Bungawalbyn	10	4	1	1					16			30	31	3	4						80		8	
Chatham	87					2		1	84	6	8	23	12	8	2						100	2	12	6
Corowa	23	6	2			1	1	6	23			20		2							200	4		
Croydon			3										14										11	2
Enmore	458	58	6	23	1	11	4	48	520	62		346	332	20	21	15				350	32	4	11	
Petersham		16	12	5		2	2					108	120	9	9	7						2	11	16
Fairfield*												39	39	1	1							1		
Junee	13								13			27	27	4	4						200	1	7	6
Lismore	49								47		2	34	25	3	8						70			
Mungundij									14	14		40	40	2	2						120	1	10	
Merewether	49	14	11	1		5			70	21		50	140	6	8	3					170	1	5	6
Marrickville	76	3	4			7			70		6	70	80	10	10	3					100	3	16	9
Moree	44	1				15			30		14	12	12	2	2						200	5	10	9
Prospect	11					1			10		1		21	1	1							4		10
Rockdale	28								28				30		2									
Rookwood	49	2	1		2			23	27	22		50	56	7	7						120	1	11	
Sydney	256	29	15	3		9	2	27	265	9		130	126	12	17	6					500	14	12	8
Wagga	23							4	19		4										200			
Woollahra	58								58			79	55	6	8						250		5	
Wingham*	16								16												250			
*Isolated Brethern									9	9														
Totals	1214	133	55	33	3	53	9	104	1233	121	52	1025	1179	88	98	84				2910	77	17	2	

\* Last year's figures, as these Churches did not forward returns.  
 † New Church. Increase in membership of 69.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1897-1898.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
By Fees, Bungawalbyn ...	0 5 0	To Printing ...	2 17 6
Chatham ...	1 0 0	" Tea Meeting ...	5 5 3
" Enmore ...	1 0 0	" Stamps, Stationery and Advertising ...	2 16 0
" Lismore ...	0 10 0	" Cheque Book ...	0 2 0
" Merewether ...	0 10 0	" Exchange on Cheques ...	0 1 0
" Prospect ...	1 0 0	" Grant to Corowa ...	10 0 0
" Rockdale ...	0 10 0		21 1 9
" Rookwood ...	0 10 0	" Travelling Expenses	2 0 0
" Sydney ...	1 0 0	Bro. D. R. Hall ...	1 12 0
	6 5 0	" H. G. Picton... ..	0 18 3
" Contributions from churches at which		" G. T. Walden ...	4 5 3
Evangelists have been stationed—			
Corowa ...	25 11 0	" Salary	32 10 0
Petersham ...	53 1 6	Bro. T. G. Dyson ...	159 0 0
Merewether ...	62 0 0	" D. A. Ewers ...	125 0 0
	140 12 6	" R. C. Gilmour ...	10 0 0
" Other Contributions		" H. G. Picton ...	10 0 0
Enmore ...	62 19 0	" C. A. Rofe ...	6 0 0
Sydney ...	28 5 4	" D. R. Hall ...	332 10 0
Rookwood ...	8 12 7		
Croydon ...	8 0 0		
Chatham ...	5 0 0		
Marrickville ...	4 17 6		
Prospect ...	4 12 0		
Lismore ...	2 10 0		
Wollahra ...	2 2 9		
Moree ...	2 0 0		
Rockdale ...	1 12 7		
Fairfield ...	1 0 0		
Mungundi ...	1 0 0		
Bungawalbyn ...	0 8 0		
One Interested ...	5 0 0		
Juryman ...	1 0 0		
Conference Tea... ..	6 10 0		
Refund Bro. C. A. Rofe, ...	6 0 0		
" Bro. D. R. Hall, ...	151 9 9		
	15 5 5		
Credit Balance, 1897. ...	44 4 1		
Debit Balance, 1898. ...	£357 16 9		

Amount received through Treasurer of Sisters' Conference Meeting, £47 9s. 7d. Individual Contributions placed to credit of Church at which membership held. March 80th, 1898.

Audited and found correct, J. F. ASHWOOD. W. H. BENSON, TREASURER.



## THIRTEENTH

# ANNUAL REPORT.

DEAR BRETHREN,—

We have much pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Home Mission Committee to say that we have, by God's help, endeavoured to initiate a forward and aggressive movement during the past year, and to believe with some measure of success. Although the results have not reached our expectations, still the bread cast upon the waters must return to us even though it may be after many days.

A financial scheme was placed before the various churches in the City and suburbs with a view of raising funds for having more preachers in the field, but for various reasons this did not succeed. Still our financial statement will show a large increase in contributions when compared with those of previous years, and we were thus enabled to keep two evangelists in the field for the whole year, and three for part of the year.

### ISOLATED BRETHREN.

Pursuant to a resolution passed at last Conference recommending the appointment of some brother to correspond with the isolated brethren, Brother Hall was appointed to carry out this work. During the year over 60 letters were written, but owing to the fact that church secretaries have not kept very correct records of the addresses of many that have left them, quite a number failed to reach those for whom they were intended. A fair proportion of replies, however, have been received, and it is evident that the letters were appreciated. We feel sure there is scope for a good work to be done in this direction.

### CHANGES.

Early in the conference year, owing to pressure of other duties, Brother Rofe found himself unable to continue in the capacity of Secretary, and therefore resigned. The brethren in the churches round the City availed themselves of the opportunity to mark their appreciation of Brother Rofe's consistent work for a number of years by holding a social gathering in his honor, and presenting him on that occasion with a gold watch and chain.

Since his retirement, the Secretaryship has been entrusted to Brother Hall, Brother Steer acting as Assistant, and Brother Rofe filling Brother Steer's position on the Committee.

### PETERSHAM.

The wisdom of the previous Committee in selecting Brother Ewers as Conference Evangelist, is shewn in the excellent work he has been able to accomplish in Petersham, the Church there is now united, good meetings are the order of the day, a fair number of additions have been reported, and as well there is a most flourishing Lord's day school, which of itself bespeaks a good prospect for the future in that place. So successful have been the labors of Brother Ewers, that the Petersham brethren have agreed during the coming year to raise the sum of £2 per week towards his support, and Enmore having promised to provide the balance of his salary, the incoming committee will thereby be freed from any further responsibility at Petersham. May God bless the effort.

### COROWA.

The Corowa Church, having invited a brother to labor with them for one month, at the end of that time, expressed a wish that he should take up the work there, and offered to raise 80s. per week towards his salary provided the Committee supplemented that amount with one pound per week which they accordingly did. This arrangement was carried out for three months, but we regret to report that the effort was not a success. Since that time the Church has had special services conducted by Brethren Walden, Houchins, and Ludbrook. The brethren now continue the services without the aid of an evangelist.

### MEREWEATHER.

Brother Gilmour has continued to labor with the Merewether Church. For the first six months the Committee provided 80s. per week towards his salary, the local Church raising one pound, but at the end of six months, the Merewether brethren asked his re-engagement, and at the same time, offered to increase their subscription to 30s. per week. The Statistical Register attached hereto will show the results of Brother Gilmour's labors, and the fact that during the past month the Merewether Church has passed a resolution asking the Committee to re-engage Brother Gilmour for a further period of twelve months, will give additional evidence of the work he has accomplished. It will remain for the incoming Committee to decide as to what arrangements shall be made for the future carrying on of the work in this important district.

### ROOKWOOD.

The work has gone on steadily in this place, Brother Ewers having for some months conducted week night meetings in the district. Within the past few months an arrangement has been made by which either Brother Ewers, Walden, or Dickson, holds services in the chapel on Thursday evenings, thereby encouraging the brethren there. A week's mission was held by Brethren Walden and Dickson during December with the result that two additions were made. Brethren from the various churches have carried on the work on Sunday evenings.

### RICHMOND RIVER.

At the earnest solicitation of the Lismore Church your Committee asked Brother Ewers to labor in this district during the month of February. Unfortunately the weather was much against the mission being as successful as was hoped in the number of additions, but in every other respect it was a success. Among the churches visited were Lismore and Buagwalbyn, and since Brother Ewers return, Brother Goode has held a mission at the latter place with the result that three have been added to the Church.

### MANNING RIVER.

Arrangements were made for your Secretary to visit the Manning River last August, and we have reason to believe that the Church highly appreciated his visit, and we would recommend that other speaking brethren who have holidays should occasionally place their services at such times at the disposal of the Committee, when arrangements may be made for them to visit some of the country churches.

In conclusion, we again express our gratification at the work the Sisters' Conference has been able to accomplish during the year, and trust that the united efforts of the sisters, in the various churches, will make it even more successful in the future. We have also to thank the collectors in the different churches, whose efforts to help the Committee in their financial operations have been keenly appreciated.

Thanking God for His blessings in the past, we still rely in the Saviour's promise that "Lo! I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

GEO. T. WALDEN, PRESIDENT.  
P. A. DICKSON, VICE PRES.  
DAVID R. HALL, SECRETARY.  
R. STEER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY.  
W. H. BENSON, TREASURER.

### COMMITTEE.

F. NEWBY,  
T. HAWKINS, G. BAGLEY,  
C. A. ROFE, J. HUNTER.

