

# Christian Israelite Church



Singleton  
1857-2005

## 148 Years of History

*2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*  
*Christian Israelite Church Singleton*  
*1<sup>st</sup> Printed 1986*

## **Editorial**

This booklet is more than just a history of the Christian Israelite Church at Singleton. It shows the conviction and the dedication of men and women who have worked together to make their faith a living example. In this booklet we read of the untiring efforts made by our predecessors as they moulded the church community into what it is today. It brings to life the trials they have endured and the achievements they have made. As a need arose there was always someone there to make a personal contribution by giving of their time or assisting financially.

As a member of the church at Singleton for the first 18 years of my life I had the privilege of experiencing first hand the love and kindness of a group of people dedicated to serving their God. Today I am involved with the church on a state-wide level and still have the opportunity to be part of many of the local activities in the church at Singleton. The church community at Singleton is held in high regard by all members throughout the state of NSW and further a field. It is a good example of Synergy, where the combined effect of the individuals is greater than the sum of their individual effects.

I commend the efforts of the writers of this book, in particular Beryl Ricardo and Margaret Beardslee who have spent many hours preparing and presenting the material in the book. I thank their spouses for patience and support and also thank all others that have contributed to the publishing of the booklet. The result is a comprehensive account of the church history that will be of interest to many people, both inside and outside the church community, now and for generations to come.

Paul Ricardo  
Trustee for NSW  
Christian Israelite Church

# *148 Years of the Singleton Christian Israelite Church*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Edition *Christian Israelite Church Singleton*  
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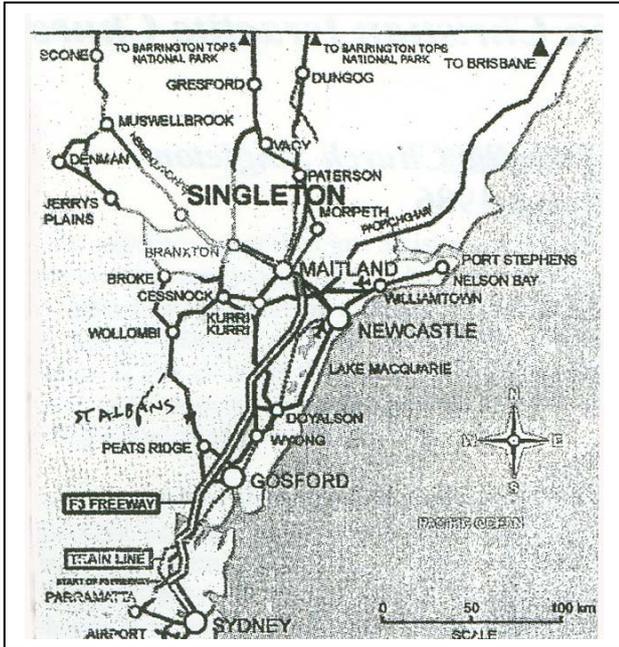
*Written and compiled by Beryl Ricardo*

Arranged by Margaret Beardslee

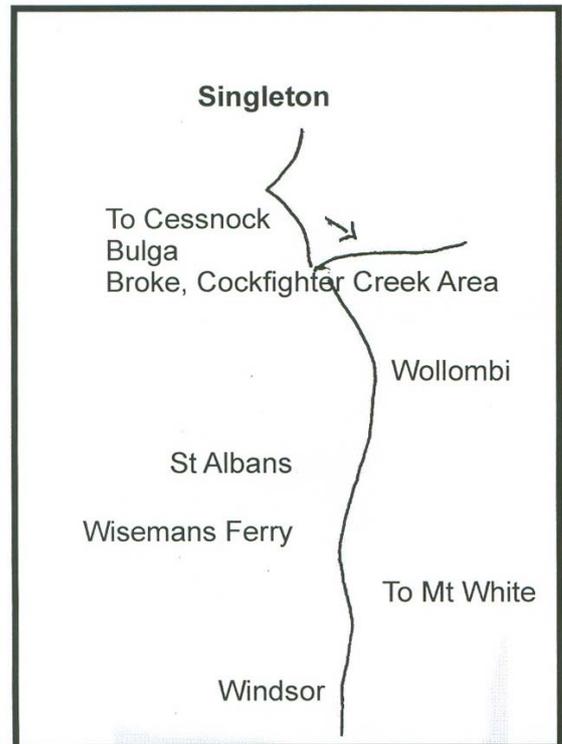
Printed by Stanley Gould

# THE LOCATION

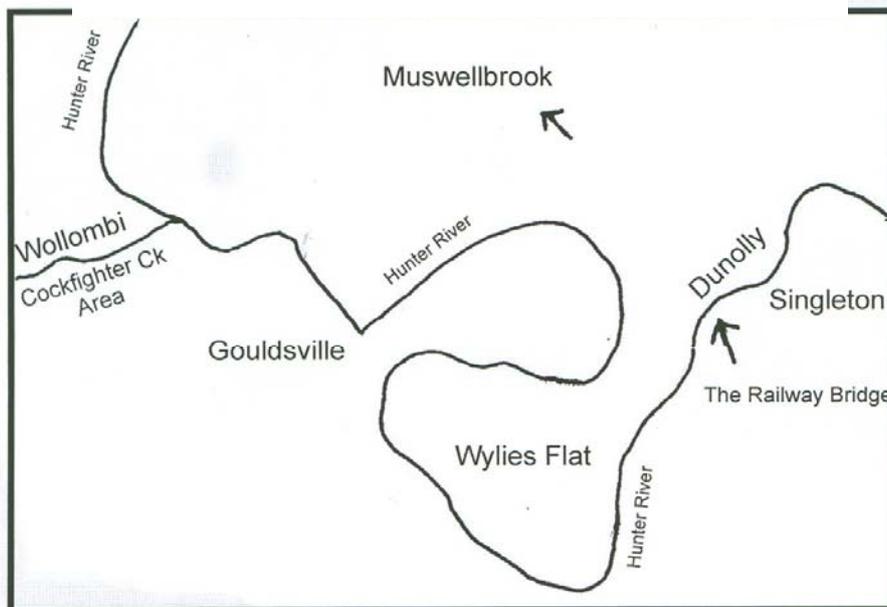
## TODAY



## THE EARLY ROUTE



## A SKETCH OF WHERE OUR EARLIEST MEMBERS LIVED



Broke  
Wollombi  
St Albans

## PREFACE

*Recently, when a request was made for a history of the Christian Israelite Church in Singleton, it was found that we had only the history I had written in 1986 at the opening of the New Hall that year. I decided that it was time I put together a more detailed account of the beginning of the church and the history since then. Here it is.*

*I would like to give a special thanks to my daughter, Margaret Beardslee for her contribution to the production of this book. Her patience, expertise in computer skills, artistry, photography and many hours of work have given it an interesting finish. Thank you, Margaret.*

*No doubt there will be some names which have been missed, and the church as it is now, has many staunch, loyal and honorary workers in all areas... I apologies for any omissions and recognize their work.*

*I have listed people who contributed photographs and diaries for use in this history in the acknowledgement section, and I thank them all for the use of these. Some information I was not able to use but it provided interesting reading. Our church diaries also have copies of past programmes and records of events, weddings, births and deaths of members in the church from 1950 to 1990's. These are in the church library.*

*Lynne Gray's thesis on "The Christian Israelite Church in Australia" has a comprehensive coverage of all districts into which preachers took our message, and is available for reading on request.*

*The fact that we do not have historians recording activities makes it difficult to obtain details of past events. Hobby diaries have given some information, and those who are here, or to whom forebears have told life stories are the greatest source of subject matter about the early members. Unfortunately we do not have access to any information before 1920's.*

*The Singleton Church is a wonderful place for an active group to worship and socialize. I look forward to seeing continued development and happy fellowship in this centre, in the years to come.*

*Thank you to Stanley for your work in printing this record.*

*Beryl Ricardo.*

## **A WORD FROM THE CARETAKER OF THE SINGLETON CHURCH**

As an officer of the Singleton Body for the past thirty five years, I have been involved with, and have seen many changes to the buildings on the Church grounds, as this publication shows. Like any organisation, keeping one step ahead of the needs of the members, can sometimes be a challenge, and I feel we have done this through the various working committees over the years. .

As member numbers increased, the need for larger buildings became necessary, and so over the years, extensions were undertaken and more property was purchased to allow for this expansion.

We have been blessed many times with new buildings and furnishings and I am grateful and thankful for the dedication and help that members have given, and are giving, of their time, donations and expertise of work towards these things.

The opening of the new hall in 1986 would have to be a highlight of my time, as it is such an asset to the members and friends for fellowship and concerts etc.

Congregation numbers rise and fall over the years, and as it is with many denominations today, we find it harder to keep our younger members as they move to other towns to live and work, and so this puts more load on the older members left to carry on the work.

The faith of the Christian Israelite Church is a unique faith to which a person has to be drawn. Many of us have been fortunate to be born into the faith and many members are fifth or sixth generation.

The history and changes that have taken place are interesting, but it is the future that holds the hope and aspiration of the members. In a hostile and changing world, the challenge today is to keep our faith, which our forefathers have passed on to us, as we near the time of the return of our Saviour.

I trust you will enjoy our little book on the history of the Christian Israelite Church at Singleton.

Stanley Gould.

## **THOUGHTS FROM HEATHER KNIGHT**

*(ACTING FEMALE TRUSTEE NSW 2005)*

I would like people reading this book to note that being a member of the Christian Israelite Church is much more than a once a week gathering to Praise the Lord God Almighty for His wonderful blessings but a lifestyle. Christian Israelites have been blessed with an extended family of like minded Christians who have all been blessed in some way by the Lord, with the talents that you will read about in this book.

Our love for our Lord is expressed in the various services, celebrations, concerts, and musicals that we perform. It is a joy for us to be able to express this love to others and we thank God for giving Beryl the talent to formulate this wonderful record of our history