



Hornsby (Methodist/Uniting) Church—1896-2008

*Celebrating
the new
Hornsby Uniting Church
Worship and Activity Centre*



*Hornsby Congregation
&
Sydney Senal Congregation*

Grand Opening - 19th June 2010



St. Andrew's (Presbyterian/Uniting) Church—1921-1989



Waitara (Methodist/Uniting) Church— 1931-2010

*Hornsby Congregation
&
Sydney Senal Congregation*

The Uniting Church in Australia
celebrates a new building
at 24 William Street, Hornsby
and the partnership between the
Hornsby and Sydney Senal Congregations

Grand Opening and Dedication
performed by the Moderator of
NSW/ACT Synod
Rev. Niall Reid

Ministers
Rev. Ann Hogan
Rev. Bomwook Choi

THIS IS HOW IT CAME ABOUT.....

The vision of a new church on the Frederick and William Streets, Hornsby, site is one that has been promoted for the best part of the last 30 years.

In the early 1980s the Uniting Church (formed 1977) was in its infancy. The *Hornsby Parish* then comprised former Methodist churches at Hornsby (Frederick Street), Waitara, Asquith, Mount Colah and Berowra, and the former *St. Andrew's* Presbyterian church, Edgeworth David Avenue, Hornsby. Following Uniting a process of rationalization of properties and new combinations of congregations commenced, with a number of former Presbyterian churches being sold and the Asquith (Baldwin Avenue) congregation amalgamating with either Mount Colah or Waitara churches. Waitara Methodist Church had been linked with Normanhurst from 1938 but became part of the Hornsby Parish upon Uniting in 1977.

Planning priority in the new parish was accorded to the newer growth areas of Berowra and Mount Colah, resulting in new churches at Alan Road, Berowra in 1985, and at Mount Colah in 1995. In the meantime the inadequacy of the Frederick & William Streets, Hornsby, buildings (that with modifications had served the church since 1896) was recognized and planning committees set about considering the future needs of a modern church and activity centre in this area. As a first step, in 1986, the Hornsby and Waitara congregations agreed to work together utilizing the Waitara complex. Only a small Sunday evening service and use of the church for choir rehearsals remained at Hornsby. In following years the Frederick Street church was used by the *Sau Faupula* (Tongan) congregation, the *Lin Liang* (Chinese) church, and *St. Thomas'* (Indian) Orthodox church.

In 1989 the *St. Andrew's* church was sold, forming the basis for future property developments in the district. These included the investment purchase of a cottage adjoining the Waitara complex in 1992, and the reconstruction of a derelict cottage adjacent to the Hornsby church to become *Sarah's Place* Long Day Care Centre in 1998. This centre formed Stage 1 of early development plans that were to culminate in the current new church and activity centre complex.

The Hornsby District was restructured in 2007 so that Berowra and Mount Colah churches each became autonomous, with Hornsby and Asquith remaining as linked congregations – Asquith having become recognized as

being within the beneficial proprietorship of the *Sau Faupula* (Tongan) congregation. Under terms of the restructuring it was resolved that residual capital funds in the district would be reserved for the purpose of a new complex at Hornsby. To achieve this final aim it was also resolved to be necessary to sell the Waitara complex, and this occurred in 2008. Fresh plans to accommodate the financial strictures of the development were then approved, and the process quickly moved to demolition of the old Hornsby complex, the calling of tenders, and the construction of the new building.

Enthusiasm for this project commenced under the ministry of *Rev. Ronnie Goh*. It has been fulfilled by the drive and determination of our present minister, *Rev. Ann Hogan*.

THE HORNSBY STORY

In 1890 the North Shore railway line was completed and the area, formerly known as *Jack's Island* became known as *Hornsby Junction*. In the following year land fronting William and Frederick Streets in the locality of *Mt. Errington* was transferred as a gift to the Wesleyan Methodist church by John Fitzgerald Burns, George Withers and Robert Burdett-Smith, for the purpose of a Wesleyan church to serve the growing population. Wesleyans at the time had travelled to *Old Hornsby* (now Normanhurst). The building of a church on the new site was sponsored by pioneers including W.H. McKeown and the Channon family, and opened for Divine Worship on 26th January 1896 at a cost of 3000 pounds, including fittings and fencing. Additions were made to the original building in 1902-03, including extensions to form a transept. In 1928-29 further renovations included preacher and choir vestries and a raised dais, providing for an alcove with sacramental setting and preparation room, as well as choir seating and a side pulpit plan. The changes were made largely in association with the installation of the Channon memorial pipe organ.

In 1950 the small porch with steps leading to Frederick Streets was replaced with a new foyer and in 1953 a memorial window in memory of Marion Winter was dedicated there. In 1968 the Methodist Fellowship Centre adjacent to the rear of the church was built and opened, encroaching on land which had been purchased to allow this development.

Back in 1904 a group of 13 Methodists acquired, and transferred as a gift for the use of the Hornsby church, land on the eastern side of Frederick Street. By 1909 this land had an Infants Hall and Gymnasium, and in 1923 a new Memorial Hall on the site was opened by Miss E. Hall. This hall became the hub of the church's social life; the land also having a tennis court. The hall was demolished in 1968 to permit the development of the *Karinya* aged care apartments, an enterprise that was managed by local people, later by a joint board of the *Bowden Brae Retirement Village* and *Karinya*. Although administration of these facilities is now in the hands of Synod's *UnitingCare*, there is a well-founded view that the Hornsby church has not surrendered the beneficial proprietorship of the site implicit in the 1904 gift.

Presbyterianism also had a presence in Hornsby from 1893, moving to a new site in Junction Road (now Edgeworth David Avenue) opened as the *St. Andrew's* church on 6th February 1921. It was this building that was sold in 1989.

THE SYDNEY SENAL CONGREGATION

As well as a new building this occasion celebrates a partnership with the *Sydney Senal* (Korean) congregation, a body recognized within the Uniting Church in Australia. The centre is managed by a Joint Management Committee consisting of representatives from both congregations and jointly funded by each.

The church named *Hansin*, a former name of *Senal* Church, was first established in May 1995 by three families. Then the church formally joined Ku-ring-gai Presbytery of the Uniting Church of Australia in 1999 and started its ministry as a member of the Uniting Church in Australia. In 2000 *Hansin* church started sharing the Waitara church premises with generous care and support of the Hornsby-Waitara congregation.

In October 2002, our second year at Waitara, *Hansin* church was first approached by *Chambit* Presbyterian church which was worshipping in a high school in Lindfield, regarding combining of the two churches. *Hansin* and

Chambit churches officially agreed on their uniting in November 2002 and had a first combined service in Elanora Conference Centre on 24th December 2002. The church was newly named as *Senal* (which means *new days*) and since then the congregation is devoted as one to accomplish the vision and mission of *Senal* church. As the Hornsby building project began, the *Senal* congregation moved into Mount Colah Uniting Church to share their property until April 2010. There were tremendous moments of joy and gratitude to the present date of *Senal* church but not forgetting pain and suffering moments we shared. However, it was in those despair moments that we realized the Lord always guides us in His way. God is always with us.

[Contributed by Rev. Bomwook Choi]

MEMORIALS

Each of the three churches from which the present complex has eventuated (*Frederick Street, Hornsby; St. Andrew's;* and *Waitara*) had been recipients of gifts during their histories which were recognized by dedicated plaques; the most common items being furnishings.

The *St. Andrew's Chapel* (to the right as one enters the foyer of the new building) is designed as a *heritage room* and is also a requirement of the building's development consent in that respect. Numbers of memorials will be found in this unique room, which also will find uses for small meetings and as a "crying room" from which parents with young children may witness services in the southern auditorium through the one-way glass window. The *Marion Winter* stained glass window from the foyer of the old *Frederick Street* church has been located as a centrepiece in the exterior wall. The chapel contains restored pews from the old church, as well as the communion table; sanctuary chairs and a hymn board from *Waitara* are preserved, as well as a wooden cross made from timber rescued from the *St. Andrew's* church (made by Jack Clark). On the walls will be found memorial honour rolls from each of the three churches relating to participation of church members in the First World War. (It will be of some interest to know that the remains of Clifford Holliday, who is listed on the *Frederick Street* honour roll, were identified in 2009 among those found in Fromelles, France. His father, Andrew Holliday had been a Minister of the Wesleyan Methodist circuit serving Hornsby in 1899.)

Photographs and depictions of the former church building are also displayed. Some items were found to be too large or numerous to enable their preservation. In these cases the plaques were carefully removed and have been the subject of collection on a memorial board at the rear of the chapel, along with plaques remembering numbers of past members. This board itself is in the nature of a memorial, having been reconstructed by Pat Liberty from the front of the previous Frederick Street pulpit with its carvings including the "I.H.S.". Items which could not be kept have been photographed to retain their identity; these photographs and others donated by members showing many aspects of earlier years of the church life – as well as numbers of other artifacts and records – are being displayed in a History Book. Another book records and honours the many people who have donated towards this building project.

The beautiful round stained-glass window from high above the sanctuary area of the Waitara church has also been given a place of prominence in the southern auditorium in an interior wall and illuminated from behind. Placed on the timber feature wall in the southern auditorium is a cross reconstructed by Pat Liberty from timber paneling preserved from the old Frederick Street church pulpit and choir surround.

The bell which once sounded from a wooden tower atop the old church (but which had removed because of instability in the 1980s) has been preserved.

Facing the entrance to the building from the external car park, one will notice the garden to the right. In this garden have been placed foundation stones of the Frederick Street and *St. Andrew's* churches, and of the 1923 memorial hall that was on the site of the present *Karinya* apartments. The *St. Andrew's* cross that formerly graced the pinnacle of that church may also be seen.

THE PIPE ORGAN

The church's pipe organ is perhaps our most significant memorial. The cost of the organ was donated by the *Channon* family in 1929 in memory of pioneer Hornsby Methodist, *James Channon*, who had died on 14th August 1920. The organ is believed to be the last installation of the firm of *Charles Richardson* – Richardson himself had died some 3 years earlier, and his nephew Ernest died in 1929. Alterations to the church to accommodate the organ, and its specification and organ case, were designed by architect *Norman McPherson*, who was also the organist. (McPherson was also the architect for the Waitara Methodist church, built in 1931).

The organ was originally of mechanical ("tracker") action. In 1966 it was rebuilt with electric action by organbuilder *Roger Pogsøn*. In 1997 a raucous "Horn" stop was exchanged for a more suitable Oboe reed. It was removed from the church to storage in November 2008, and has been undergoing a complete renovation with improvements to the action and sound output at the hands of organbuilders *Peter D.G. Jewkes Pty. Ltd.* The opportunity is being taken for the console to be detached instead of being integrated with the organ case, enabling improved operational facility for organists. A factor that had caused difficulty with the accompaniment of both vocal and instrumental music over the years was that the organ is pitched about a semitone above the standard of A440hz. In the current rebuild a "transposer" is being included that will enable this difficulty to be overcome; a quite unusual innovation for pipe organs.

Although the organ's renovation is not ready for this Grand Opening of the building, we look forward to this occurring in coming months and to its continued use in the musical life of the church. The organ is complemented by the gift of a Kawai grand piano.

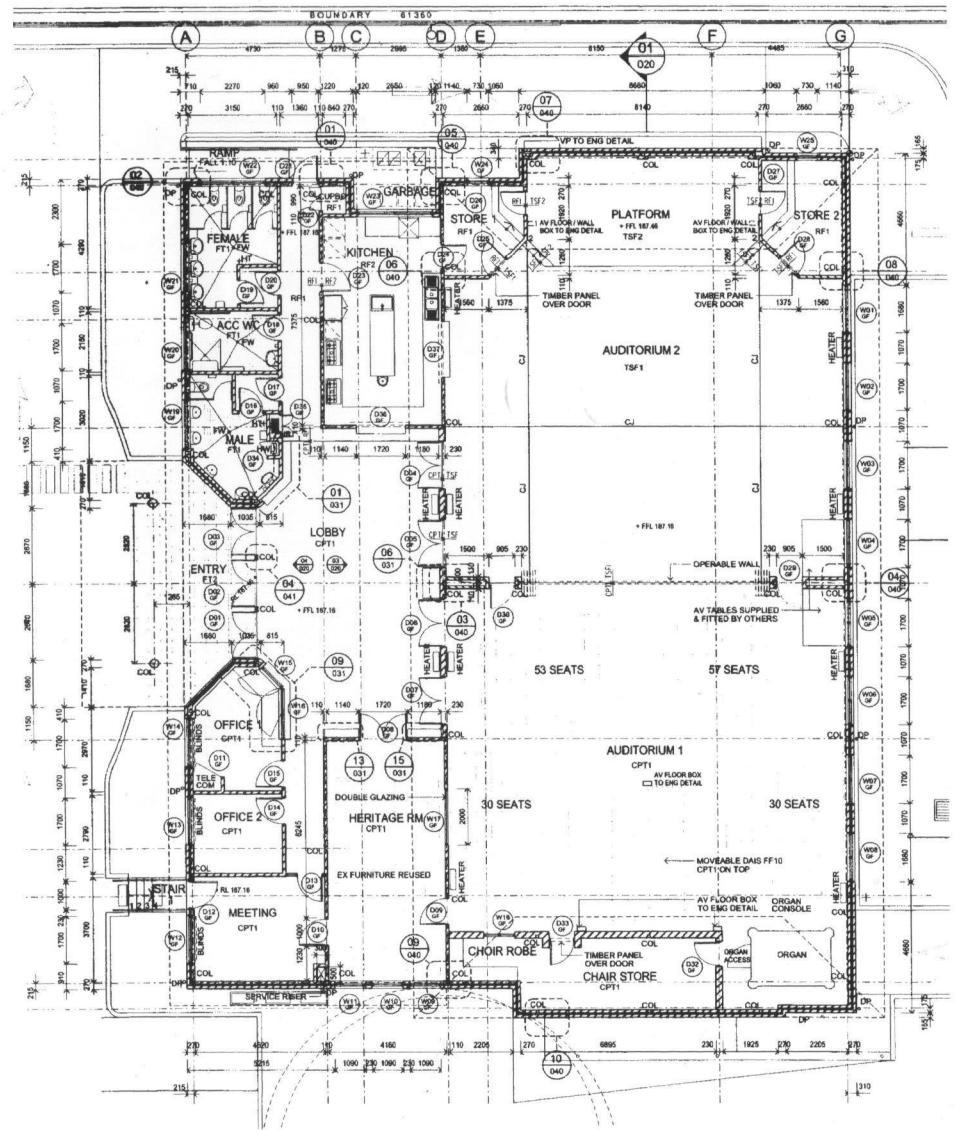
D U R A L L A N E

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 Rev. Bomwook Choi, Mrs. Myongsoon Noh, Mrs. Cecilia Woo,
 Mr. Hongtac Suh

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This account researched and written for the
 Organizing Committee by
Rod Blackmore
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Floor plan of the new building