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PRINCIPAL
CONTENTS:

St Stephen's, Newtown
ST Andrew's Dundas with
Christ Church, Gosford and
St Paul's, Kincumber and
St Thomas', Port Macquarie and
Church of the Good Shepherd, Kangaroo Valley

- Transcription of Church of the Good Shepherd section only

**CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD,
KANGAROO VALLEY**

Valuable information on the earlier work of Anglican Church affairs in this district is to hand, as a result of the availability of a book of press cuttings prepared and kept by the late Mrs. Alick Osborne, of Barrengarry. This beautifully bound book was presented to the Church on April 22nd, 1956, by a grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Alick Osborne, the Rev. Gilbert L. O. Jessop, when on a visit from England to Australia. The mallet which was used in the laying of the Foundation Stone of the Church was also given to the Church by Mr. Jessop on behalf of the Osborne family.

From this information it is revealed that the movement to build the Church of "The Good Shepherd" commenced in the year 1867, when a Fancy Bazaar was held in the home of Mrs. Alick Osborne, then resident at Marshall Mount, on December 26th, 1867. The proceeds, £55.6.5, went to be devoted to a fund to build "a commodious edifice", the Church and a Sunday School, at the Kangaroo Ground, under which name the Kangaroo Valley was then known. Mrs. Alick Osborne and her friends organised and worked the function, which included a Christmas Tree and many articles for sale. Four hundred people from near and far attended and enthusiasm was high in anticipation of the success of the Church movement.

The next reference is dated October 19th, 1870, when the Bishop of Sydney laid the foundation stone of the church of "The Good Shepherd" in the presence of two hundred persons. The offerings placed on the stone amounted to £46.10.0. Mrs. Alick Osborne was in charge of a Tea Meeting which followed the ceremony. After tea, the Sports commenced, the prizes being donated by Mr. Alick Osborne. At a Public Meeting which followed, it was revealed that the total amount raised on this occasion was £70.7.3. It was announced that the Church would be built of brick, at an estimated cost of £600. The site was the gift of Mr. Alick Osborne. The meeting appointed a Committee, as follows, to take charge of the works programme: Rev. W. Hough, Messrs. Alick Osborne, O'Connor, Nugent and Graham. Advice was to hand that His Excellency, Lord Belmore, Governor of the Colony, had donated £50 to the cause.

On November 12th, 1870, there appears the first Subscription List towards the effort, a total of £364.13.3, with an addition that the cost of the East Windows was being donated by Mrs. Alick Osborne, and the West Door by Mr. Reilly. The second Subscription List of March 4th, 1871, discloses an additional contribution of £155.13.0, including an amount of £74 as a result of a Tea Meeting and Picnic at Bundanoon.

Referring to the projected building of the Church, the Press report says, after very favourably commenting on the movement: "The whereabouts of the Kangaroo Ground is not known to many. We may describe it as a deep, fertile valley on one of the tributaries of the Shoalhaven River, lying between the railroad to Goulburn and the Coast. It is accessible only by a very steep descent from the mountains that enclose it. One approach is a bridle track, down which the horses; have to be: driven, their riders following on foot. Another track is from Cambewarra or Broughton Creek over a steep precipitous mountain, by a road scarcely worth the name. The other approach is by road from Sutton Forest Station, a distance of twenty miles. the descent being long and steep".

On January 26th, 1872, the Anniversary of the Colony, the opening of the Church took place, with a Morning and Evening Service. Those officiating at the Service were Reverends J. C. Corlette, T. Kemmis, T. C. Ewing, J. Hassall and J. Barnier.

There was a good attendance of worshippers at an inspiring and appropriate Service. The contributions from, the day, from both Services, amounted to £82.8.4. During the afternoon, a meeting for all concerned was held, and high tributes were paid to all who participated in the present success of a valuable movement, with the following Press reference to the name Osborne: "The building of the Church of 'The Good Shepherd' is mainly due to the unceasing exertions and great liberality of Mr. and Mrs. Alick Osborne of Barrengarry. who have, since living on their estate of Barrengarry, left nothing undone to promote the intellectual, moral and spiritual interests of the people there".

On May 14th, 1875 reference is made to the satisfaction and delight of all, when it was made known that Mr. Alick Osborne had promised to liquidate the remaining portion of the debt on the Church, a sum of £80. He also promised £20 per annum towards a resident Clergyman's stipend.

On January 26th, 1879, the Foundation Stone of the Rectory was laid in the presence of some hundreds .of people, when the Rev. T. Kemmis delivered a stirring address. The sum of £50 was laid on the foundation stone. In the evening a Musical and Literary Entertainment was held, and a total of £126 was raised from all sources, and the immediate erection of the Rectory was proceeded with.

A Picnic and high class Concert was held on May 24th, 1883 in aid of the development, and a sum of £30 was raised. A second Concert was held on September 28th, 1883 when £25 was forthcoming. At both concerts the Rev. Muzy referred to the high class entertainment and the progressive interest and work.

Under date April 10th, 1894 the Kangaroo Valley Pioneer Newspaper refers to further improvements to the Church by way of exterior renovations where required; the interior painted and ornamented; the ceiling and seats varnished; new Communion Cloth, Carpets, Cushions and Lamps provided, at a total cost of £150. The Rev. H. Tate conducted a Special Service for the occasion, and the Offertories amounted to £32.11.0. The Church is referred to in the Press article "as probably the most beautiful of any in the Country Parishes of the Diocese". The names of both Mr. and Mrs. Alick Osborne again appear as conspicuous in the added achievements.

It will be readily seen that the task of establishing the Church of "The Good Shepherd" presented many difficulties, which were surmounted by faith and a will to succeed. The results are handed down to posterity, and serve as an inspiration to cherish and maintain that which has been so graciously placed in our midst.

J. W. Jarrett,
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