

The Synod of Eastern Australia
Minutes of the 147th annual meeting held in Taree, NSW
8th-12th April, 1994

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SESSION 1: FRIDAY, 8th APRIL, 1994, 4.00 p.m

94.1 OPENING

Within the Taree Church Building on Friday, 8th April, 1994, at 4.00 p.m., the Synod of Eastern Australia met and was constituted with worship, the Moderator, the Rev. W.M. Mackay presiding.

94.2 RETIRING MODERATOR'S ADDRESS

The Retiring Moderator (Rev. W.M. Mackay) read Isaiah 48: 1-22. He then addressed the Synod on the subject of The Plea and The Promises. He spoke of the failure of the people of Judah to fulfil their mission, and of the plea contained in verse 18. There was a gift promised, but the people had turned their back on it. He challenged us to consider the Promises which were given to God's people, and whether we had responded to the Plea.

94.3 ROLLS OF PRESBYTERIES

The Certified Rolls of Presbyteries were tendered, with apologies for non-attendance from those marked † here-under:

Northern Presbytery

Armidale
Brisbane
Grafton
Hastings
Lismore
Maclean

Synod Appointments:

Ministers

T.I. Leggott
W.J.W. Hanna
R.W. Murray †
A.L. Tripovich
vacant
K. MacLeod
S.N. Ramsay (retired)
E.R. Lee (retired) †

Commissioned Elders

K. Dawson
J. Greensill
R.L. Campbell
D. Caughey
J.D. Ramsay
J. McPhee

Central Presbytery

Hawkesbury/Nepean	vacant	G.A. Neil *
Hunter/Barrington	vacant	P. Smith
Manning	W.P. Gadsby	K. Longworth
St. George's, Sydney	J.A. McCallum	A.H. Steel
Sydney South	vacant	N.A. McPherson

Southern Presbytery

Geelong	J.M. Cromarty	J.R.B. Webster
Melbourne	R.S. Ward	G.J.Moodie
Ulverstone	P.A.L Hill	N.G. Triffett †
Synod Appointment:	W.M. Mackay	

* Apology for absence from first three sessions

94.4 WELCOMES

The Moderator welcomed Mr. McPhee and Mr. Smith to their first Synod. Mr. Leone Tupua from Fiji was also welcomed by the Moderator. It was resolved that Mr. Tupua be associated with the Synod, but without voting rights.

94.5 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 3

The Clerk requested leave of the court to introduce Correspondence Item 3 as the Administration Committee felt that this item had a bearing on the acceptance by Synod of the Certified Rolls of Presbyteries. It was resolved that the correspondence be received. Rev. S.N. Ramsay moved that:

As the standing of Mr. Graham as a member of Presbytery is not clear to all, the matter be referred to Law and Advisory Committee for clarification and report.

The motion was seconded and carried.

94.6 ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Clerk sought the approval of the Court for the proposed order of business. It was agreed that this order be followed.

94.7 ELECTION OF NEW MODERATOR

The Clerk reported that the Rev. T.I. Leggott of Armidale was Moderator-elect, and it was resolved that this appointment be confirmed.

94.8 THANKS TO RETIRING MODERATOR

It was resolved that the Retiring Moderator be thanked for his work during the year and for his sermon.

94.9 ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Clerk presented the Report of the Administration Committee. The report was received. It was resolved that:

1. The Resignation of Mr. Tom Higgins as Auditor be accepted with regret, and that he be thanked for the work that he has freely performed for this Court.

2. Synod approve the following memorial minute for the Rev. Dr. J.C. Andrews, and direct that an extract be sent to Mrs. Andrews.

Rev. Dr. James Campbell Andrews

Campbell Andrews was born on 26th August, 1909 and grew up in the Hastings River district of New South Wales. He attended a local school until the age of 14, when he left to work on the family farm. At the age of 20 he was converted to Christ through the agency of Christian literature and the preaching and counsel of the Rev. M.C. Ramsay. He was accepted by the P.C.E.A. as a student for the ministry and proceeded to Sydney to prepare himself for entrance to the university. At this stage he became persuaded that God had called him to be a missionary. Completing his matriculation studies, he sailed on September 23rd, 1932, to Scotland, intending to study medicine, arts and theology simultaneously. In eight years he had completed his courses with distinction. He completed his Free Church College course in 1937, being licensed to preach on April 27th of that year. He also graduated as MA (Edin) in the same year and as MB, ChB (Edin) in 1940.

Returning to Australia in 1941, Dr. Andrews married Ruby Daisy Elvery of Alstonville. He worked as Resident Medical Officer in the Lismore Base Hospital before enlisting in the Australian Imperial Force, serving in the Medical Corps in both Australia and in Borneo. He was ordained in 1946 to missionary service in South Africa and arrived there in 1948, labouring in the Pirie district of the Free Church of Scotland mission until 1964. He then returned to Australia and was inducted to the Manning River charge in 1965. In 1970 he returned to South Africa, where he was seconded to work at the Mt. Coke Methodist Hospital at King William's Town until his retirement in 1975. He retired with Mrs. Andrews to "Lilybank", the family home, restoring it and enhancing the grounds.

Even in retirement Dr. Andrews was not idle. He worked unflaggingly in the church courts and on various committees for a number of years, before feeling the need to resign his seat on Presbytery and Synod. Even then he maintained his interest in Synod business and was always available to give advice to the Missions Committee. On the very Sunday evening when the call of God came so suddenly, he was going over his notes for a sermon on the following Lord's Day.

At the Annual Synod held in 1987, he was special guest at a luncheon held in his honour, an event at which both he and Mrs. Andrews were presented with gifts as tokens of appreciation of the services they had rendered to the P.C.E.A. over many years. We, as a Synod, give thanks to God for the life of Dr. Andrews. He was among our most cultured ministers and our finest contemporary ambassador. This was acknowledged when he was sent to Scotland to represent the P.C.E.A. at the Disruption celebrations of the Free Church of Scotland. We thank God for his life and work, and for our memories of him, and we extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Andrews and to his children, Elspeth, Annabelle, Jennifer and Jamie.

3. Synod appoint a committee consisting of the Rev. A.L. Tripovich and the Rev. S.N. Ramsay to prepare a memorial minute for the Rev. D.G.C. Trotter.
4. Synod record its sadness at the passing of Mr. Alistair Cameron, and direct that the following memorial minute be included in the record.

Mr. Alistair Cameron

Alistair was born on the 10th March, 1945, and spent all his life on the family farm at Harwood Island. He professed his faith in Christ at the age of 22, at Maclean, in May, 1967, and was a tireless worker for his Lord thereafter, taking a keen interest, not only in the work of the P.C.E.A., but in other Christian endeavours, such as Gideons International, of which he was a long-serving member. For over twenty years he has served the Grafton Congregation as Precentor, taking a strong interest in the choice of suitable tunes for the psalms selected. He was ordained as a deacon in April, 1988, and as an elder on the 3rd March, 1991. He was appointed as commissioned elder from the Grafton Congregation to Synod 1993, but was unable to take his seat due to the onset of the illness which finally claimed his life. He passed to be with his Lord shortly afterwards, in June, 1993.

5. Synod express its sympathy to all connected with the church who have been bereaved since last Synod, and that we do now engage in prayer for those who have been so bereaved.

At the request of the Moderator, the Rev. S.N. Ramsay led the court in prayer.

It was further resolved that:

6. The Clerk be authorised to collect the statistical information outlined in the body of the report.

94.10 CLOSURE OF SESSION

Notices of motion were read and the session was closed with prayer at 6.00 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

T.I. Leggott
Moderator

SESSION 2: FRIDAY, 8th APRIL, 1994, 7.05 p.m.

The session was constituted with praise and prayer.

94.11 MODERATOR'S ADDRESS

The Moderator read from 2 Timothy 2. Referring to the early verses of this chapter, he spoke first of the example which had been given to the Church by the late Rev. Dr. Campbell Andrews. From this he proceeded to speak of the need of the Church for men with the qualities displayed by Dr. Andrews and outlined in these verses. He spoke of the need for ministers who fulfilled these criteria: Reliable men ... Reminded men ... Gentlemen. The church needs men who are well instructed, and also faithful to Christ and in their attitudes and interactions with each other. Sometimes these attitudes are absent and we need to be reminded of this - and to remember Christ as our example. We need to be gentlemanly in our attitudes toward those who differ from us - we remember that the late Dr. Andrews was renowned for his gentlemanliness. The Moderator ended by calling on all God's servants to be likewise.

94.12 MINUTES

The minutes of Session 1 were read and confirmed.

94.13 ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE(cont.)

It was reported that the Central Presbytery wished to fall from Correspondence item 1.

It was resolved that:

7. Correspondence item 2 be taken with the report of the Trustees for Victoria.
8. Correspondence items 4, 5 and 10 be taken under "Causes" in Session 8.
9. Correspondence item 6 be considered along with the report of the Trustees for New South Wales.
10. Correspondence items 7 and 9 be considered along with the report of the Law and Advisory Committee.
11. Correspondence item 8 be not received, on the grounds that it is inadvisable for this court to receive correspondence relating to the internal affairs of another denomination.
12. Presbyteries having business to complete be permitted to meet when Synod is not in session.
13. The time and place of next Synod be determined on the last day of this Synod.
14. The following Examiners of Records be appointed:

Synod Permanent Record	Rev. K. MacLeod and South Sydney elder.
Northern Presbytery	Rev. W.P. Gadsby and St. George's elder
Central Presbytery	Rev. P.A.L. Hill and Armidale elder.
Southern Presbytery	Rev. A.L. Tripovich and Hunter elder.
15. Synod record its appreciation to the Manning River Congregation for providing hospitality to this Synod.
16. Correspondence item 11 be taken after the report of the Training of Ministry Committee.

94.14 CHURCH EXTENSION AND SUPPLY COMMITTEE

The report was presented by the Convener, the Rev. J.A. McCallum. The report was received. After some discussion, it was resolved:

1. That Commissioners be asked to remind their congregations of the ongoing needs of Church Extension and Supply and to make prayerful and practical support towards this area of the Church's witness.
2. That Commissioners be asked to remind their congregations, especially Sessions, to be alert to opportunities and potential for Church Extension in their congregational areas.
3. That Commissioners be asked to convey to their congregations the thanks of Synod for all who have supported the work of Church Extension and Supply.
4. That in accordance with the decision of Synod 1993, Ulverstone be granted 50 % Stipend Relief for the remainder of 1994 and also 50 % Stipend Relief for 1995 on a needs basis.

5. That in accordance with the decision of Synod 1993, Armidale be granted 50 % Stipend Relief for the remainder of 1994 and also 50 % Stipend Relief for 1995 on a needs basis.

It was moved, seconded and carried that Synod, having taken notice of the Congregational Report from the Grafton congregation, express its appreciation of the work in the area of Religious Education being carried out by the Rev. R.W. Murray in South Grafton High School, and by Mrs. Murray in the Infants and Primary Schools of the Clarence Valley, and encourage them in this endeavour.

94.15 CLOSURE OF SESSION

Notices of motion were read and the session was closed with prayer at 9.00 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

T.I. Leggott
Moderator

SESSION 3: SATURDAY, 9th APRIL, 1994, 9.00 a.m.

The session was opened with praise and prayer and Scripture reading at 9.00 a.m.
The minutes of Session 2 were read and confirmed.

94.16 THANKS TO MODERATOR

It was resolved that the thanks of the Synod be conveyed to the incoming Moderator for his address.

94.17 TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE

The Rev. W.M. Mackay took the chair while the Convener (Rev. T.I. Leggott) presented this report. The report was received. After discussion, it was resolved that:

1. Synod encourages Mr. Graham Kinder in the further undertaking of his theological studies and commends him for his efforts thus far, assures him of our prayerful support, and agrees to pay college fees and book allowance for 1994.
2. Synod encourages Mr. Harry Klomp in the further undertaking of his theological studies and commends him for his efforts thus far, assures him of our prayerful support, and agrees to the payment of a living allowance for 1994, together with college fees and book allowance.

It was resolved that Standing Orders be suspended so as to permit the hearing of following Overture from the Northern Presbytery:

To the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia:

The overture of the Northern Presbytery humbly sheweth:-

Whereas Mr. Christopher Tuck applied to the Northern Presbytery in October 1993 to be accepted as a student for the ministry of the P.C.E.A., and, whereas the Presbytery having examined Mr. Christopher Tuck as to his motives in applying to be received as a student for the ministry, and, whereas the Presbytery examined Mr. Tuck as to his life and doctrine, and, whereas, the Presbytery, being satisfied as to the suitability of Mr. Tuck to be received as a student, the Presbytery resolved to commend to the Training of Ministry Committee Mr. Tuck as a student for the ministry, and to undertake the normal tertiary and theological courses of study, and whereas Mr. Tuck prepared himself for tertiary education by gaining entrance to the

University of Queensland, and whereas the Training of Ministry Committee confirmed to Presbytery their satisfaction with Mr. Tuck, and whereas the Presbytery have resolved to grant Mr. Tuck provisional recognition as a student for the ministry of the P.C.E.A., and do now respectfully overture Synod to take these premises into consideration and confirm the action of the Northern Presbytery in granting provisional recognition to Mr. Chris Tuck or do otherwise for this object as in its wisdom may seem best.

It was resolved that the overture be received. It was proposed and seconded that the prayer of the overture be granted. It was resolved to meet in closed Court. It was resolved that the prayer of the Overture be granted. It was agreed to meet in open court.

The Convener of Training of Ministry proposed an amended resolution 3.

3. Synod encourages Mr. Chris Tuck in the commencement of his tertiary studies, and assures him of our prayerful support and that Synod agree to pay his Higher Education Contribution and other fees, and normal book allowance, and a living allowance of \$50 per week on a needs basis for the year 1994/1995, provided that he first sign the bond.

The Synod resolved accordingly. Mr. Hill dissented with the following reasons:

While whole-heartedly agreeing with Synod's financial support of Mr. Chris Tuck as a student of the Church, I dissent from the motion inasmuch as I do not believe Synod ought to pay Mr. Tuck's HECS fees because:

- (a) HECS is not a tertiary fee properly understood and therefore ought not to be paid by Synod, and Synod is not obliged by its regulations to pay such monies;
- (b) that it is an unnecessary imposition upon the finances of Synod as it ought to be borne by the student himself.

94.18 REPORT FROM LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE WITH REGARD TO STATUS OF REV. J.S. GRAHAM

The Convener of the committee presented a report:

It was resolved that the report be received.

It was moved and seconded that Synod ratify the decision of the Central Presbytery of 15/02/1994 which relieved the Rev. J.S. Graham of the privileges of membership in the Presbytery granted by Synod 1981, on the grounds that:

1. It is perfectly clear that the reason given by the Presbytery for its action was precisely identical to that accepted by Mr. Graham himself and embodied in the Presbytery decision of 30/11/1993 which relieved him of his Interim -Moderatorship of the South Sydney Session.

2. No dissent or complaint was entered by Mr. Graham against the decision of 30/11/1993 or against the decision of 15/02/1994.

3. While the Synod granted Mr. Graham a Presbytery seat in 1981, and he subsequently signed our Formula and was added to the Central Presbytery roll, the Synod's decision in 1981 does not invalidate the Presbytery's action in 1994, given that Mr. Graham's stated position placed him outside the Confessional commitment to which all office-bearers are pledged..

It was moved and seconded that this matter be deferred and taken up with Causes on Tuesday morning.

The second motion was placed against the first, and the first motion was preferred. On being put to the vote the first motion was carried.

94.19 YOUTH AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Convener (Mr. Neil McPherson) presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. After discussion, it was resolved that:

1. Synod express sincere appreciation to:
Mrs. Irene Steel for her interest and valued efforts in conducting the Search Work,

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Dunne and Rev. and Mrs. Jim Cromarty for their interest and effort in administering the Birthday Roll,

Rev. Jim Cromarty for editing and distributing the Fellowship Magazine, and to him and to his wife for their combined effort in examining and marking the Essay Competition.
2. Presbyteries and Sessions
 - a) take positive action to promote and encourage the use of the set memory work, search work and essay writing in the instruction of our children.
 - b) continually review the special needs that the pressures and circumstances of today's society place upon young people and encourage a continued emphasis on biblical principles of family life in the teaching and pastoral ministry of the church in order to combat the anti-Christian pressures to which our young people are subjected.
3. Synod pause for prayer for a marked work of grace among the youth of our church and nation.

94.20 CLOSURE OF SESSION

Notices of motion were read and the session was closed with prayer at 1.00 p.m., this time of prayer including prayer for a work of grace among the youth of our nation, as agreed previously.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

T.I. Leggott
Moderator

SESSION 4: SATURDAY, 9th APRIL, 1994, 7.00 p.m.

The session was constituted with praise and prayer at 7.00 p.m.
The minutes of session 3 were read and confirmed with some corrections.

94.21 MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Convener (Rev. W.M. Mackay) presented his report. It was resolved that the report be received. A period of discussion followed.

94.22 Mr. LEONE TUPUA

The Convener introduced Mr. Leone Tupua to the Moderator, who welcomed him. After praise and prayer, the Moderator read from 2 Timothy 4. The Moderator introduced Mr. Tupua and invited him to address the Synod. Mr. Tupua spoke of his appreciation of the help and interest of

the Church in Australia. He reported on the progress of translation work. He then proceeded to give an account of the work undertaken since his retirement from full-time employment. Disappointments had been experienced but there was still the command to "Preach the word, in season and out of season." Thirty-four tracts had been produced and were being distributed. He gave some interesting examples of the titles of those tracts, and of those to whom they were being distributed. He concluded by speaking of his faith in the sovereignty of God for blessing on the work.

94.23 THANKS TO Mr. LEONE TUPUA

The Moderator thanked Mr. Tupua for his instructive address, asked him to convey our greetings to the church in Fiji, and assured him of Synod's continued interest in, and support of, the work in Fiji.

94.24 MISSIONS COMMITTEE (cont.)

It was resolved that:

1. Synod expresses its continued interest in proclaiming to Jewish people in this country and around the world the good news of the Messiah who has come.
2. Synod welcomes Leone Tupua on his visit to Australia, recognises the difficulties under which he works, but encourages him and his colleagues to continue to maintain their witness in Nausori.
3. Synod recognises the importance of the medical and educational work based in Lakhnadon and Chapara and sends special greetings and thanks to Mrs. Lall for her service to Community Health.
4. Synod appreciates the significance of the April elections for the future of South Africa and prays for its peace.
5. Synod gives thanks for the years of service given to South Africa by Dr. and Mrs. Campbell Andrews.
6. Synod prays for the continued growth of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru and for the strengthening of its leadership.
7. Synod notes with appreciation the work done among Aboriginal young people in Maclean.
8. Synod notes the work of the Middle East Reformed Fellowship and supports acceptance of its invitation to Rev. Peter Hill to speak at the Study Conference in 1995.
9. Synod endorse the statement of 'Present Synod Financial Policy' set out in the Missions Committee Report, commends it to the attention of Sessions and Deacons' Courts, and urges regular quarterly remittances to the Synod Treasurer, and report by the Treasurer to the Committee in order that financial information as well as Mission news may be publicised in the Banner and directly to congregations as appropriate.
10. Synod approve the Missions General Budget and the Fiji Budget for 1994, as given in the Report to Synod 1994, but that, should there be a shortfall in givings to Missions General

that allocations be reduced by the Committee in the light of known specified giving and /or proportionate to the shortfall as seems most equitable, specific report to be made to the ensuing Synod for Synod's approval.

It was moved on notice and seconded that , in deliverance number 10, the words "in the light of known specified givings and/or" be deleted and the last word "approval" be replaced with "ratification".

The amendment was put against proposed deliverance 10. The deliverance was preferred. On being put to the vote the deliverance was approved.

94.25 CLOSURE OF SESSION

Notices of motion were read and the session was closed with prayer at 9.35 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

T.I. Leggott
Moderator

SESSION 5: MONDAY, 11th APRIL, 1994, 9.15 a.m.

The session was constituted with praise and prayer.
The minutes of session 4 were read and confirmed.

The Clerk introduced a motion that a committee, consisting of Mr. T.I Leggott, Mr. J.M. Cromarty and Dr. W. Hanna, be appointed to meet privately with the Rev. John Graham in a pastoral capacity. The motion was seconded and, on being put to the vote, was carried.

94.26 MISSIONS COMMITTEE (cont.)

It was moved on notice and seconded that the Missions General Budget be amended by deleting the provisions for add-back of \$4,300. On being put to the vote the motion was defeated.

It was moved on notice and seconded that the Missions General Budget be amended by increasing the allocation to C.W.I. (Aust.) to \$7,500. On being put to the vote, the motion was defeated.

It was resolved that:

11. Synod congratulates Mr. Tigi Verghis on his success in study and wishes him well in the doctoral studies recently begun.
12. Synod endorses the allocation of \$2,000 by the Committee for the relief of earthquake victims in India.

The Committee proposed that:

13. Synod resolve that Mission relief Fund Regulations (Act 7 Synod 1982 as amended by Act 12 1986 and by Synod 1993) be amended in line with the spirit of the original regulations as approved by Mr. McSwan, by changing the words in clause (ii) from "not

less than \$100,000 by 31st December 1984” to “not less than \$450,000 by 31st December, 1995.”

On being put to the vote, the proposed deliverance was defeated.

It was resolved that:

14. Synod approve the budget for Missions Relief in 1994, i.e., Mr. Muldoon \$1500; Mr. Tigi Verghis \$1600; India Health project \$17,000; \$1,000 to Middle East Reformed Fellowship Diaconal Relief; and up to \$5,000 to be allocated to particular situations as they arise, subject to report to, and endorsement by, Synod in due course, and that the Missions Committee give serious consideration to providing financial aid for the relief work presently engaged in, in Romania, by members of the Free Church of Scotland.
15. Synod commends the usefulness of the study being undertaken by the Missions Committee with regard to the use of the interest income from Mr. Malcolm McSwan's estate by which the available funding may be maximised in its impact by investment in individuals and projects of long term significance in the relief of physical need.
16. Synod thanks Mr. John Kerridge for his continued efforts to make the Missionary Prayer Notes available for distribution.

It was resolved that the name of the Rev. K. MacLeod be added to the committee to meet in private with the Rev. Graham.

94.27 CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE

The Convener (Rev. A.L. Tripovich) presented his report. It was resolved that the report be received. The editor of *The Presbyterian Banner* presented his report. The report was received. After discussion, it was resolved:

1. That the editor of *The Presbyterian Banner*, together with those who help in its production and postage be sincerely thanked for their efforts over the year of 1993.
2. That the booklet entitled, “An Introduction to the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia”, produced by Rev. Peter Hill, be published, and the cost be met from general funds.
3. That the study of James 5: 13-18 be the means of encouraging the church to be more fervent in prayer, with faith and expectation of the answer of God to requests in accordance with his will.

It was moved on notice and seconded that 300 copies of “The Goal of Creation: The Significance of the Lord's Day and its Connection with God's Rest” by Rev. R.S. Ward be purchased and distributed rateably to communicant membership to Sessions; that the cost of \$450 (including postage) be met by Synod General Fund and Deacon's Courts be encouraged to re-imburse the cost where possible. The motion was carried.

It was resolved that the following memorial minute to the Rev. D.G.C. Trotter be engrossed in the minutes:

Rev. D.G.C. Trotter

Synod places on record its appreciation of the work and witness of Rev. D.G.C. Trotter, M.A. (1909-1994).

Born in Wauchope, on the Hastings river in 1909, Dudley was educated initially in his native district and received some further education at High School in Taree. Conscious of a call to the ministry, he was received as a student in 1930, and in company with Campbell Andrews of the same district, studied for Matriculation in the Metropolitan Coaching College in Sydney, where both students distinguished themselves.

Possessed of an incisive mind and a retentive memory, Mr Trotter gained his M.A. Degree and completed his theological course in Edinburgh, being granted his licence to preach by the Presbytery in Scotland in 1937. He returned to Australia having been granted the status of Licentiate by the Free Church of Scotland, a circumstance which was to have repercussions in later years. He was ordained and inducted to the Maclean Charge on 10th March 1938, as the third minister of that congregation, where he laboured for ten years.

In 1939, he married Miss Christina Anderson, daughter of Elder W.J. and Elizabeth Anderson of Bob' Farm, N.S.W. Christina proved a worthy and valuable help meet to him throughout his ministry. His was an active and useful ministry at Maclean where he was held in high esteem by office-bearers and members, while his active interest in the Free Kirk Fellowship and his concern for the well-being of the youth of our church is remembered with gratitude by many who today are growing old themselves.

Mr. Trotter resigned his charge in 1948 for reasons of health and a controversial issue concerning the use of Paraphrases in public worship. He resumed farming life at Huntingdon on the Hastings as a member of the Hastings River Congregation. Following the death of his wife Christina, in Sept. 1973, Mr. Trotter was left very much alone. Some years later he moved into the town of Wauchope maintaining an active interest in the local congregation where he attended regularly as long as failing health and strength would permit.

His remaining days were spent in increasing illness and physical weakness, though his mind remained clear, in Bundaleer Nursing Home, Wauchope, where he passed quietly away on 23rd February, 1994

We express gratitude to God for the work and witness which he rendered for Christ in the course of his life, and extend our sympathy to his daughter Ruth, and to his surviving sister, Florence Shaw of Wauchope.

94.28 FINANCE COMMITTEE (inc. TREASURER'S and AUDITOR'S REPORT)

The Convener and General Treasurer of Synod, Mr. A.H. Steel, presented his report. It was resolved that the report be received. After discussion, it was resolved that:

1. Synod record its gratitude to God for the continued provision for the work of the ministry throughout 1993.
2. Adjustment of the Minimum Stipend and benefits (excluding Manse, Car and Telephone) for 1994/95 remain at the full flow on of CPI increase and child allowances remain

unaltered. In the event of a decrease in the CPI in any quarter, a “Nil” movement be taken into account.

3. The rate of reimbursement for Motor Vehicle Running Costs as detailed in Synod Minutes 1992.38 (c) remain at 16 ¢ per kilometre in line with the NRMA “Motoring Costs Schedule - June, 1993.

94.29 CLOSURE OF SESSION

Notices of motion were read and the session was closed with prayer at 1.00 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

T.I. Leggott
Moderator

SESSION 6: MONDAY, 11th APRIL, 1994, 2.00 p.m.

The session was constituted with praise and prayer.
The minutes of session 5 were read and confirmed.

94.30 FINANCE COMMITTEE (cont.)

The Convener continued to present the proposed deliverances.

It was proposed that:

4. To enable ministers to be classified as “deemed workers” under State Workers Compensation Acts and prevent the church from being faced with possible financial burdens in the event of compensation claims made through the WorkCover Authority, Synod:
 - a) Direct the Finance Committee to make application to the Work Cover Authority in each State for an order, that the ministers and any other workers who would not otherwise fall within the provisions of the Act, be “deemed workers” of our church.
 - b) Upon issuance of the order, to arrange the appropriate workers’ compensation cover for all deemed workers, taking into account any existing cover held by individual Deacons’ Courts. Each Deacons’ Court to remit their application to the General Treasurer.

On being put to the vote this deliverance was defeated.

It was resolved that:

5. Rev. J.A. McCallum’s name to be added to the list of authorised signatories to operate the Synod’s bank account at the National Australia Bank, Eastwood Branch.

The Convener introduced Proposed Deliverance 6:

6. The appointment of Mr. Richard W. Partlett A.C.A, of Partlett, Chave and Rowland, Chartered Accountants of Caringbah, N.S.W., as auditor be confirmed, and that he be thanked for his willingness to undertake the task and promptness in auditing the 1993 accounts.

It was agreed to defer voting on this deliverance until Provident Funds business.

It was resolved that:

7. The interest rate to be payable on the "in house" deployment of Missions Relief Funds to assist in the purchase of property by Armidale Deacons' Court, be at the equivalent of rates currently being earned on the funds, say 5 % p.a., to be reviewed annually in line with 30 day National Australia Bank Term Deposit rates.

It was moved on notice and seconded that investment of the Mission Relief Funds in the Armidale property purchase be at a rate commensurate with average return on mortgage/debenture stock for a similar period say 7.5 % on average at present, and that future investments of the Mission Relief Fund be treated as if it fell within the terms of Synod Act 10, Class 2, 1985 as amended 1992.

On the motion being put against the proposed deliverance, the motion was defeated. On being put to the vote the deliverance was approved.

Mr. Ward handed in a Dissent and Protest, duly signed:

I dissent and protest that it is contrary to our moral and legal obligation to ensure a prudently proper return on the Mission Relief Fund for the purposes of that Fund, and that there is no right to advantage another purpose to the detriment of the trust.

Mr. Mackay adhered to the Dissent and Protest.

8. The Treasurer's action in providing for the deficit of \$2,705 in the Church Extension Fund from the General Fund, be confirmed.

94.31 FRATERNAL CONFERENCE

It was resolved that Synod meet for a period of brotherly conference. The conference took place from 3.45 p.m until 5.00 p.m.

94.32 8:14 FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

The Convener (Mr. A.H. Steel) presented the report. After discussion, the report was received.

It was moved on notice and seconded that on any funds remaining on loan to the Melbourne Congregation from the 8:14 Foundation, interest shall be payable at the same rate as that charged on any Synod funds loaned to the Armidale Congregation and such payment credited to the Armidale repayments. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

94.33 N.S.W. TRUST CORPORATION

The Clerk presented the report on behalf of the Trustees. It was resolved that the report be received. It was further resolved:

1. That Synod grant approval for the deposit of the Maclean Title Deed with the Westpac Bank, Maclean, should this be necessary in connection with a loan for the construction of retirement units on the site.

94.34 CLOSURE OF SESSION

Notices of motion were read and the session closed with prayer at 5.30 p.m

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

T.I. Leggott
Moderator

SESSION 7: MONDAY, 11th APRIL, 1994, 7.00 p.m.

The session was constituted with praise and prayer at 7.00 p.m.
The minutes of session 6 were read and confirmed.

94.35 OVERTURE FROM NORTHERN PRESBYTERY

Rev. K. MacLeod presented the overture (correspondence item number 6). It was resolved that the overture be received. It was resolved that the Synod authorise the local Deacons' Courts to execute lease documents on behalf of the body corporate, The Trustees of the Synod of Eastern Australia, on condition that such leases are first sanctioned by the Presbytery of the bounds and copies provided to the Trustees as soon as practicable after signature, for report to the ensuing Synod.

94.36 QUEENSLAND TRUST CORPORATION

The Clerk presented the report on behalf of the Trustees. After discussion the report was received. There were no deliverances in connection with the report.

94.37 TRUSTEES FOR VICTORIA

The Rev. R.S. Ward presented the report on behalf of the Trustees. After discussion, the report was received.

94.38 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 2

Mr. Moodie's letter of resignation as Trustee for Victoria was received and discussed. It was noted that the resignation became effective on its reception by the Synod Clerk.

It was resolved that Rev. Dr. William John Wesley Hanna be appointed as a member of the Victorian Trust Corporation.

It was resolved that Dr. William John Wesley Hanna be appointed Secretary of the Victorian Trust Corporation.

94.39 PROVIDENT FUNDS COMMITTEE

The Convener (Rev. R.S. Ward) presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. After discussion, it was resolved that:

1. Synod request that any arrears for 1993 be remitted promptly.
2. Synod request Deacons' Courts to note that the 1994 levy is \$2,267, not less than 50 % to be paid by 30th June 1994 and the balance by year end.
3. The basic rate of the weekly pension be increased from \$54 to \$55 (married) and from \$38 to \$38.80 with effect from 1/07/1994.

It was moved and seconded on notice that Synod direct:

1. That the annual audit is to include the superannuation fund and all required records are to be made available to the Auditor for that purpose.
2. That from the close of this meeting of Synod the Provident Funds are to be administered by the Finance Committee.
3. That Mr. Tom Higgins be invited to continue as Auditor.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried. Mr Gadsby tendered simple dissent.

Proposed deliverance 6 of the Finance committee was put to the court, and was approved.

94.40 CLOSURE OF SESSION

Notices of motion were read and the Session was closed with prayer at 9.00 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

T.I. Leggott
Moderator

SESSION 8: 12th APRIL, 1994, 9.00 a.m.

The session was opened with praise and prayer.
The minutes of session 7 were read and confirmed.

94.41 REV. J.S. GRAHAM

It was moved on notice and seconded that, in the interest of Christian courtesy, Synod grant Mr. Graham the opportunity to address the court for a period not exceeding 20 minutes. On being put to the vote, the motion was carried and Mr. Graham was invited to address the court. After he had spoken, Mr. Graham was thanked by the Moderator and left the court.

It was resolved, none dissenting, that this matter now be passed from.

94.42 PETITION FROM REV. J.S. GRAHAM (Correspondence Item 4)

Since the petitioner was not present, the Moderator ruled that the petition was fallen from.

94.43 APPEAL FROM MR. N.A. McPHERSON

(Correspondence Items 5 and 10)

It was moved and seconded and carried that Correspondence item 10 be received and noted.

Synod then took up consideration of Correspondence Item 5.

The Clerk reported that the Appeal and extracts were in order, and that the Appeal was suitably worded. It was resolved that the Appeal be received.

The Appellant and the Central Presbytery were called to the bar. Mr. McPherson spoke in support of his appeal. The Rev. W.P. Gadsby replied on behalf of the Presbytery. It was moved and seconded that Synod dismiss the appeal and uphold the judgement of the Presbytery. On being put to the vote the motion was carried. The presbytery acquiesced in the decision. The parties were dismissed from the bar.

94.44 INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Convener (Rev. W.P. Gadsby) presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. After discussion, it was resolved

1. That Synod thank Messrs Gadsby and Ward for their representation of our Church at the 1993 meeting of the ICRC.
2. That the ICR Committee be encouraged to maintain its contact with true churches both in Australia and abroad, in the interests of advancing the cause of Christ's Kingdom in the world.

94.45 LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Convener (Rev. R.S. Ward) presented the report, which was received.

It was resolved that Correspondence Items 7 and 9 be received and noted. A period of discussion followed.

It was resolved that:

1. Synod approve of the draft approved in 1986 and amended 1992 as follows:
 - a. In the preamble the words 'a voluntary' to be deleted in the phrase 'a voluntary association' and replaced by 'an unincorporated'.
 - b. The words 'for the time being' throughout in the phrase 'the constitution and laws of the Church for the time being' to be deleted.
 - c. The words 'or accommodation for the poor, aged or sick,' after 'residence' in 6 (3) (a) be inserted.
 - d. Amendment of the body corporate address to 23 Gleneagles Crescent, Albany Creek, Queensland, 4035.

- e. Amendment of the initial trustees in section 4 to read William John Wesley Hanna, William Peter Gadsby, Alex Henry Steel and two others to be determined by Synod.
- f. the incorporation of the typographical corrections noted in 1993 Synod Reports page 32.

2. The additional two initial trustees be Donald Evander Kerr and Keith Allan Dawson.

It was moved on notice and seconded that the Law and Advisory Committee be directed to continue the remit to organise a fresh draft Amendment to the New South Wales Property Act 1918, and that Sessions in New South Wales be invited to submit suggestions to assist the committee in bringing forward an up to date draft amendment, such suggestions to reach the Committee by 30/11/94. The motion was carried.

It was resolved to hold over recommendations 2 to 6 until Synod 1995.

It was moved and seconded on notice that the Administration Committee be instructed to make the necessary inquiries with a view to the appointment of a qualified Procurator, and that a report be submitted to Synod 1995 with an appropriate recommendation. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

94.46 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 11

It was moved, seconded and carried that the correspondence be received and that the Clerk write to the Reformed Theological College, Geelong, thanking them for their greetings.

94.47 SESQUICENTENARY COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE

The Clerk presented the report in the absence of the Convener (Rev. E.R. Lee). The report was received. After discussion of the report, it was proposed:

1. That a 96 page booklet be produced to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the formation of the Church, and that the Rev. R.S. Ward be asked to edit this.

An amendment was moved on notice and seconded that , in deliverance 1, the words “Rev. R.S. Ward be asked to edit this”, be replaced with “Rev. W.P. Gadsby and Rev. James A. Cromarty be appointed as joint editors.” On being put against the proposed deliverance the amendment was preferred. On being put to the vote, the amended deliverance was carried.

It was further resolved:

2. That Synod agree in principle to invite a delegate from the Free Church of Scotland to attend Synod 1996.
3. That the Committee be asked to investigate the resources, both inside and outside the Church, for the production of a Commemoration Video, and that firm proposals, with costs, be reported to Synod 1995.
4. That delegates who may have other suggestions be asked to bring these to the attention of the committee.

It was moved on notice and seconded that Mr. MacLeod and Mr. Leggott be appointed special assessors to Central Presbytery for the business relating to Sydney South only, unless the Central Presbytery ministerial membership fall below two in which case they be assessors for all purposes, the appointment to be reviewed by Synod 1995. The motion was carried.

94.48 COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

It was resolved that the following Committee structure be adopted:

ADMINISTRATION and INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS

Clerk (Convener Administration), Moderator, Moderator-elect, Assistant Clerk, Convener of Law and Advisory, W.P. Gadsby (Convener I.C.R.), P.A.L. Hill (ICR business only).

CHURCH EXTENSION and SUPPLY

P.A. Hill (Convener), J.M. Cromarty, K. MacLeod, N.A. McPherson, G. Moodie.

CHURCH and NATION

A.L. Tripovich (Convener), S.N. Ramsay, T.I. Leggott, K. MacLeod, R.L. Campbell, D. Caughey.

FINANCE AND PROVIDENT FUNDS

A.H. Steel (Convener), R.S. Ward (Convener, Provident Funds), N. Kerr, N. McPherson, G.A. Neil.

8:14 FOUNDATION

Treasurer (Convener), Clerk of Synod, Moderator, plus one representative from each Presbytery.

LAW and ADVISORY

R.S. Ward (Convener), W.P. Gadsby, W.M. Mackay, Synod Clerk, K. Longworth, A.H. Steel.

MISSIONS

W.M. Mackay (Convener), R.S. Ward, P.A.L. Hill, J.R.B. Webster, J. Pateman; Adviser: Dr. Helen Ramsay.

TRAINING OF MINISTRY

T.I. Leggott (Convener), J.A. McCallum, W.P. Gadsby, J.M. Cromarty, J. Ramsay, W.J.W. Hanna.

YOUTH and FELLOWSHIP

N.A. McPherson (Convener), J.A. Cromarty, P. Smith, G. Hamilton, G. Wylde, J. Greensill.

94.49 REPORT OF EXAMINERS OF RECORDS

The Permanent Record and the Minutes of the three Presbyteries were reported to be in order and Synod accordingly resolved that they be attested.

94.50 TIME AND PLACE OF SYNOD 1995

It was resolved that Synod 1995 be held on the Manning.

It was resolved that an amount of \$1500 be made available to the Manning Deacons' Court on a needs basis to assist with catering.

It was resolved that Synod's thanks be conveyed to those who have submitted suggestions.

It was resolved that the date of Synod 1995 be determined by the Administration Committee and Sessions advised within one month.

94.51 MODERATOR ELECT FOR 1995

It was resolved that the Moderator-elect for 1995 be Rev. R.S. Ward.

94.52 PRINCIPAL ACTS

It was resolved that the Clerk draw up a list of the Principal Acts of Synod 1994, and include it with the minutes.

94.53 TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Steel indicated the financial commitments made by this Synod.

94.54 THANKS

Thanks were expressed to the minister, session and congregation of the Manning, especially to the ladies for their hospitality.

A vote of thanks was passed in favour of the Moderator and the Synod Treasurer.

94.55 MINUTES

The Minutes of this closing Session were read and confirmed.

94.56 CLOSURE

Synod 1994 concluded with the singing of Psalm 19: 12-14 and with prayer at 1.25 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

T.I. Leggott
Moderator

Acts of Synod 1994

Appended by the Direction of Synod (see Article 94.52)

Class 1 (Barrier act Procedures) Nil

Minutes of the 1994 Meeting of the Synod of Eastern Australia

Class 2 (Others)	Article	
1	Resignation of Auditor	94.9.1
2	Memorial Minute: Rev. Dr. J.C. Andrews	94.9.2
3	Memorial Minute: Rev. D.G.C. Trotter	94.9.3
4	Memorial Minute: Mr. Alistair Cameron	94.9.4
5	Stipend Relief: Ulverstone	94.14.4
6	Stipend Relief: Armidale	94.14.5
7	Reception of Mr. C. Tuck as student for the Ministry	94.17.3
8	Ratification of decision of Central Presbytery re Rev J.S. Graham	94.18
9	Addition to Bank Account signatories	94.30.5
10	Interest rate payable on “in house” funds deployment	94.30.7
11	8:14 Foundation loan to Melbourne	94.32
12	Deacons’ Courts authorised to execute lease documents	94.35
13	Appointment of Dr. Hanna as Secretary of Victorian Trust Corporation	94.38
14	Increase in basic rate of pension	94.39.3
15	Audit to include Superannuation Fund	94.39

LIST OF CORRESPONDENCE

Item Number

1. From Central Presbytery - overture to grant a seat on Presbytery to Rev. J.A. Cromarty.
2. From Mr. Greg Moodie - resignation as Trustee for Victoria.
3. From Central Presbytery - notification of presbytery decision to relieve the Rev. J.S. Graham of the privilege of membership of the Central Presbytery, and request for ratification of this decision.
4. From Rev. J.S. Graham - Petition to be heard concerning his position.
5. From Mr. N.A. McPherson - appeal against ruling of Central Presbytery regarding a petition of the South Sydney Session.
6. From Northern Presbytery - overture regarding leasing of property.

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7. From Mr. A.H. Steel - copy of letter sent to Convener, Law and Advisory Committee.
8. From Rev. G.W. Bancroft - copy of a letter sent to the Evangelical Presbyterian Synod.
9. From Mr. R.A. Lawson - copy of letter sent to the Convener, Law and Advisory Committee.
10. From Mr. D. Hawkes - notice of adherence to appeal of Mr. N.A. McPherson.
11. From Reformed Theological College, Geelong - Greetings to Synod.