

Kurmond & East Kurrajong Methodist Church

The East Kurrajong Methodist Church was first erected at Kurmond and was known as Kurmond Methodist Church. The church building was moved to the present site on East Kurrajong Road in 1954/55.

Information from the journal *The Methodist*, 26 September 1936

Prior to the erection of the Kurmond Methodist Church in 1936, services were held in the home of Mr. & Mrs. H. L. Stephens who occupied a Soldier Settlement block in Longleat Lane [now Longleat Road]. A service was held in the Stephens' home each Sunday evening and a Sunday School was established under the guidance of Dr T H Harrison. The size of the congregation soon outgrew the accommodation provided by Mr. and Mrs. Stephens who generously decided to provide a portion of their land for the erection of a church building.

Dr. Harrison oversaw the organisation of the construction which was achieved by voluntary labour. Funds for the purchase of materials were provided by the Home Mission and Property Department of the Methodist Church. The plans and specifications were prepared by Mr. Roy Bennett, head carpenter at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College, Richmond.

Construction of the building took place over two days commencing on Saturday 12 September 1936 and concluding the following Saturday. About thirty volunteers including carpenters and students from the College as well as local helpers worked on the project. The building measured 30 feet by 28 feet and included a verandah on one side for kindergarten work. The building of the church was an excellent example of community initiative and co-operation.

***The Methodist*, 17 October 1936**

The opening ceremony took place on Saturday 3 October at 2.30pm. The address was delivered by the Chairman of the District, Rev. J. H. Sommerville, and then the door was ceremonially opened by Mrs. Stephens. Rev. W. T. Dyer referred to the generosity of Mrs. Stephens in donating the land for the building and her close association with the church while Services and Sunday School were held in her own home. A number of musical items were presented by the Sunday School children under the guidance of Mrs W Golding.

Removal of the building to East Kurrajong – information from correspondence held by the Uniting Church Archives, North Parramatta.

By 1953 attendances at Kurmond had fallen and in May of that year, it was decided by the Management Committee of the Methodist Church to sanction the sale of the property for the sum of £600. Proceeds were to be paid into Sites Fund on the understanding that the funds were to be used for future developmental work within the Windsor Circuit.

In February 1954 the Property Secretary for the Methodist Church, Rev. R. H. Doust, acknowledged the donation of a quarter of an acre of land at East Kurrajong by Mrs. Cribb.

The Methodist Church at Comleroy Road had been destroyed by fire in 1944 and there was some discussion regarding moving the church building to that location in order to re-establish services in the district. Many of the trustees of the Comleroy Road church had either left the district or resigned and there was a lack of local interest in this project. There was also no local objection to funds being redirected from Comleroy Road Trust to providing a church at East Kurrajong.

In September 1954 trustees were appointed for the new church site at East Kurrajong. They included Carlton Edward Mitchell, orchardist, East Kurrajong; Everett Stephen Mitchell, orchardist, East Kurrajong; Ronald Frederick Penfound, orchardist, East Kurrajong; Charles Harold Small, farmer, East Kurrajong; James Emanuel Sweet, poultry farmer, Tennyson and Hilton Albert Miller, orchardist, East Kurrajong.

The trustees of the East Kurrajong church offered £500 for the purchase and removal of the Kurmond building and contents. Final approval for the cessation of services at Kurmond and the removal of the building to East Kurrajong was notified by the chairman of the Parramatta District in October 1954.

The tender price of £243 was accepted for the removal of the building and the new trust would accept all other expenses including renovation costs. The total expenditure was calculated to be £900.

Opening of East Kurrajong Methodist Church

According to the Windsor Circuit, Plan of Services for August, September, October 1955, the official opening of the East Kurrajong Methodist Church took place on Saturday 23 April 1955. Mrs. Cribb performed the ceremony of opening the door and the Ex-President of the Conference, Rev. A. G. Manefield gave the official address. Afternoon tea was provided for the large crowd by Richmond Parents and Friends. Worship was held every Sunday at 3pm.

By 1990, the congregation had diminished and in 1991 the church was no longer included in the Synod directory. There was a need for rationalisation in order to make the best use of local resources and the property was sold. A small hall was also located on the same allotment to the west of the church building, but this has since been removed.