

## Local Church Survives Century 1880-1980

September 14 will mark the one hundredth birthday of the Sinnamon Memorial Uniting Church on 17 Mile Rocks Road. The church is reputed to be one of the oldest in the Brisbane area.

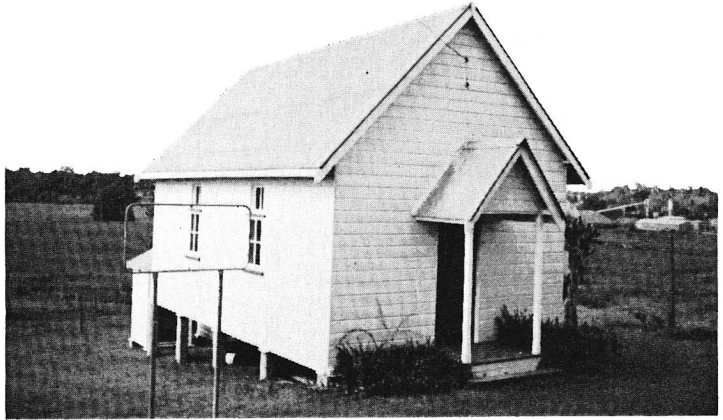
### ORIGINAL LOCATION

At the time of its opening in 1880, the area around 17 Mile Rocks was relatively well populated with large pioneering families. In order to accommodate their religious needs a church was built with funds provided by the Sinnamon family and friends. The first structure was of bark and shingle and was built on the corner of Goggs and 17 Mile Rocks Road. In 1888 the present building of sawn timber was constructed.

### THE EARLY DAYS

The church was built to accommodate approximately 60 people on plain pine seats and its original use was intended for the Church of England. However, they were unable to provide a minister and the Methodists were invited to take over.

Many important ministers preached from its pulpit, even though it often meant a long journey to reach the congregation. Before the coming of motor transport, the minister would have to row down the river by boat or travel by buggy from the city. In the 1920's the minister would often travel by train to Oxley and then either walk to the church or be met at the Oxley station by a member of the Sinnamon family.



Up until the end of the 1st World War church attendances were high. Then the members began to move away from the district and elder members to pass away. Even so, when the Golden Jubilee was celebrated in 1930, there was still a large gathering. In 1950 the Sunday School was transferred to the Jindalee State School at the death of its leader for all its history, Benjamin Sinnamon.

### THE SINNAMON FAMILY

Throughout the church's history the Sinnamon family played a very important role in its running, with members of the family serving the church as treasurer, steward, organist, Sunday School teacher and Superintendent, some for a whole lifetime.

### TODAY

In 1966 the church had to be removed from its original location to make way for the overpass bridge across the Centenary Highway. To save it from being demolished, Mr. H.V. Sinnamon kindly donated an allotment from his land along 17 Mile Rocks Road for the new location of the church — where it stands today.

After its removal in 1966 the church was closed by Council ordinances till its reopening on June 12, 1968, when it was dedicated as the Rocks Road Sinnamon Memorial Methodist Church. However, until recently, it has only had occasional use. It was used for a year until June 1969 as the Jindalee Church when on June 22 the new Jindalee Uniting church was opened and all activities were transferred there.

Today, there is a United Church Service held on the second Sunday of the month and the Church of Christ holds regular services there. Once a year a large Sinnamon family gathering takes place for the Rocks Anniversary held in September. This year there will be special centenary celebrations on the 14th.

### FAREWELL TO RETIRING EDITOR

It is with regret that the management of the 'Jindaleader' has to say good-bye to the retiring editor, Alison Crouch. Our best wishes and sincerest thanks go to Alison for the fantastic work she has put into the paper over the past 19 months.

We now welcome our new editor Pam Grimes.

## Home Gardening

Featuring this month our new Home Gardening section courtesy of Brian McConville of Plant Boutique, Kenmore Village. We hope you find it both interesting and informative, as we continue with this feature each month.

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