

# Steadfast Through Change

A History of the Wesleyan - Methodist - Uniting Church in Highton 1853 to 2006



Part 1 1853 - 1900  
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Part 2 1900 - 1956  
Joan A. Smith

Part 3 1956 - 2006  
Jean Williams

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## **Foreword for *'Steadfast Through Change'***

On the north eastern corner of the Barrabool and Scenic roads intersection is a sacred space. In time before our remembering this space was cared for by the Wathaurong people, the first inhabitants of this place and we acknowledge and give thanks for their faithful custodianship of the land.

For just over 150 years a Christian Church has occupied this site, standing as a signpost to the interconnectedness of human beings, one with another, with creation and with the divine.

*'Steadfast Through Change'* records the stories and thereby the history of the people of God in this place over time and their strong links with the Highton community and the Geelong Wesleyans. Over 2000 names are recorded in telling the stories of those who have lived faithfully, engaging with the gospel of Jesus Christ, in the context of their time and local community; and who have passed on to each succeeding generation the awesome privilege and responsibility of both maintaining and sharing the faith. The stories are accompanied by some wonderful photographs and maps which are invaluable.

*'Steadfast Through Change'* represents a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the history of the Uniting Church in Australia through focussing on the history of this one Church.

We give thanks for the people who have gone before us and shown us the way.

We give thanks to the authors, Joan Smith, Marion Stainsby and Jean Williams, whose passion for faith, the faith community and history have enabled this rich story to be told. They have been diligent in their research, persistent in the task and generous with their time. They have each brought their unique styles, skills and perceptive insights to the task.

We give thanks to the editors, Peter Mansfield and Christine Smith, for their encouragement, patience and expertise in preparing the final manuscript for publication.

As a result of the dedication of the authors and editors, *'Steadfast Through Change'* has a style which is readable to all generations, as a record of past endeavour, present reality and future direction.

Comprehensive as it is, this is not the whole story. It is hoped that readers will give feedback by sharing their stories and by providing copies of photographs and memorabilia to our archives.

We look forward in faith to those who will come after us who will continue the story.

To God be the glory and the praise!



Rev. Rachel Franklin

## THE CHANGE OF NAMES

1853-1902

Highton Wesleyan Church

1901-1972

Highton Methodist Church

1972-1976

Highton Methodist/Presbyterian Cooperating Parish

1974

St. Luke's Highton

1976-1977

Highton Barrabool Hills Parish  
(St. Luke's Highton)

1977-1999

Uniting Church in Australia  
Highton Barrabool Hills Parish  
St. Luke's Uniting Church

1999-2004

St. Luke's Uniting Church Highton  
Member South Barwon  
Mission Group  
Seceded on August 29, 2004

2004

Uniting Church in Australia  
St. Luke's Uniting Church  
Highton

Note: Highton Presbyterian Church  
Established 1960 – Sold 1980