BULLI: The Bulli Methodist Church is the oldest church in the district north of Wollongong.

Bulli Methodist services began about 1857 and the temporary chapel was opened on January 27, 1862, with the largest assembly of people and first tea meeting at Bulli to which many rode on horseback from Wollongong.

The Sunday School established about 1859 with seven scholars grew to have 90 soon after the chapel was opened and after the coal mines opened in 1863 the church had 90 worshippers.

The foundation stone of the present stone church was laid on January 26, 1864, and it was opened on May 7, 1865. It cost £900 and was in size and architecture pre-eminent in Illawarra. Its cedar-lined roof was covered with oak shingles and its windows diamond-shaped leaded glass.

The diamond windows were replaced by stained glass and memorial windows in 1922; the shingle roof was replaced by fibro tiles which in turn were replaced by cement tiles in 1956.

The interior was re-decorated in 1957 when the pulpit from the demolished William Street church (Sydney) was installed.

Sunday School attendance rose to 210 scholars with 22 teachers. In 1919 the “Old Military Hall” from Thirroul was re-erected behind the church as a school hall.

Bulli Primitive Methodists built a timber chapel in 1867 and replaced it in 1885 with a brick church which served Woonona until after Methodist union in 1902 when it was sold.

WOONONA: Woonona Methodists, on February 6, 1909, laid the foundation stone of their brick church which was opened for worship on May 28, 1909. The school hall and kitchen were added at the rear in 1923.

COLEDALE: At Coledale the foundation stone of a timber church hall in Young Street was laid in November 1907. The opening took place on August 8, 1908, with a tea meeting and concert. A Sunday School was begun with an attendance of 60.

THIRROUL: At Thirroul the timber church was opened on April 9, 1911 by Rev. B. Danks and the following Sunday Rev. C. J. Prescott, M.A., preached, whilst midweek opening features were a concert and tea meeting. A Sunday School started with the opening of the church. A verandah was erected at the rear of the church in 1919 and replaced by the church hall in 1923. Stage and modern kitchen were further added in 1953.

AUSTINMER: At Austinmer services began in the surf club house in 1921 and the foundation stone of the brick church in Moore Street was laid on December 3 when £113 was placed on the stone. The church which cost £750 was opened on January 7, 1922 by Rev. C. J. Prescott. The opening ceremony was followed in the evening by a concert. After the Second War memorial gates were erected and in 1956 schoolrooms and modern kitchen were added.