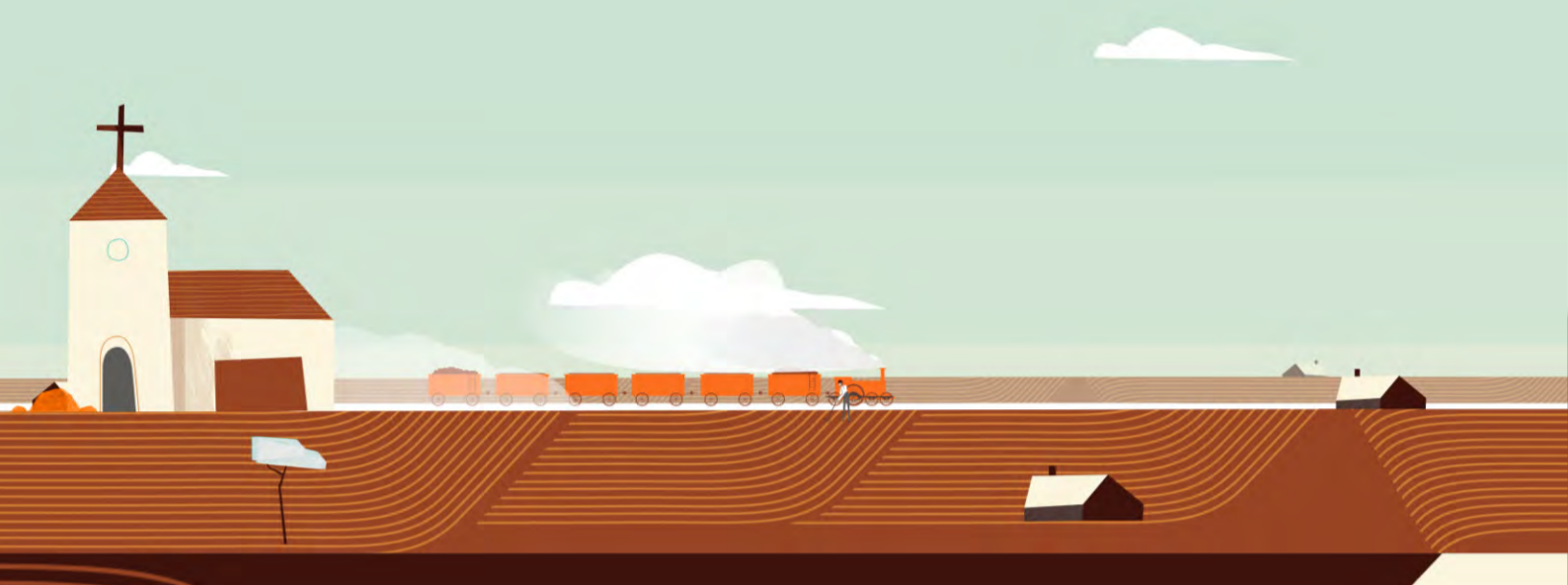
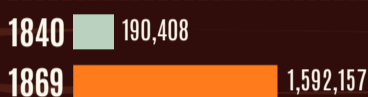


THE AUSTRALIAN BAPTIST MOVEMENT MOMENTUM BUILDS (1840-1869)



A Growing Population



The 1850s ushered in a period of unprecedented growth in the Australian colonies. The most significant event was the discovery of gold, especially in New South Wales and Victoria. Between 1840 and 1869 the population of the colonies grew 1.4 million

Leadership Emerges to Establish Key Churches in the Early Settlements

Melbourne

New Settler Thomas Napier (1802-1881)

Using a tent set up in Collins Street on land that an early settler and builder Thomas Napier had acquired, the first Baptist service took place. In 1842, Rev John Ham arrived from England and went onto to formally establish the Collins Street Baptist Church.



Hobart and Launceston

Rev Henry Dowling (1780-1869)

Tasmanian Baptists received the assistance of good leadership from people such as Rev Henry Dowling who began ministry there in 1835 and was pivotal in establishing the first Baptist Churches in Hobart (1835) and later in Launceston (1840)



Brisbane

Rev B G Wilson (1823-1878)

The first Baptist church was formed in 1855 with Rev B G Wilson the pioneering leader who in 1858 helped form the Wharf Street Baptist Church. In the days to come it would move location and become the Brisbane City Tabernacle Church.



Sydney

Rev John Ham (1797-1870)

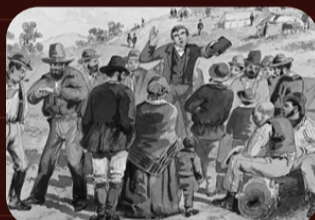
Rev John Ham took over from Rev Saunders at Bathurst Street Baptist Church in 1848, at which time there were 124 on the membership roll. Churches began in Wollongong, Parramatta and Goulburn.



Baptists Go Bush

With the 1850's Gold Rush and the growth of the Colony – the Church went bush and evangelists and church planters immersed themselves with the diggers. There were numerous baptisms in creeks and services took place in bare and unadorned buildings.

As farming communities grew Baptists were there. It is in the 'bush' that Baptists imagined themselves coming closest to realising the quest to be Australian.



Mead Sets Adelaide Alight

Rev Silas Mead (1834-1909)



The most significant leader in South Australia was Rev Silas Mead who founded the Flinders Street Church. In particular, his weekly Bible study groups led by lay people were very successful. He advocated open fellowship, welcoming unbaptised members into his church, and was not interested in sectarianism and his church provided a model for many Baptists in South Australia.

Structuring for Sustainable Mission



1862

Baptist Union of Victoria

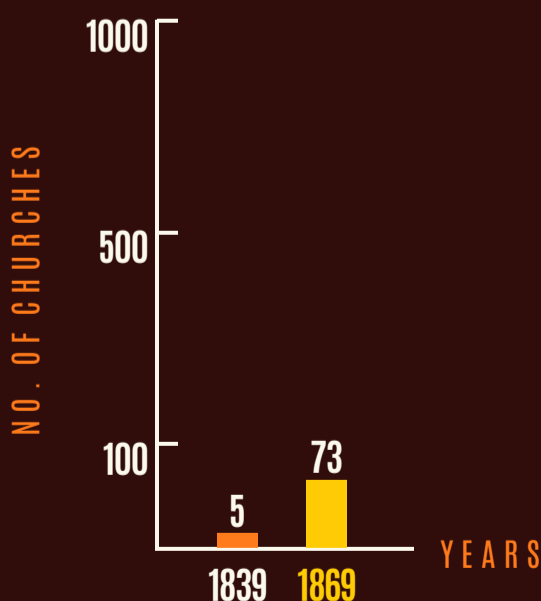
1863

Baptist Churches in South Australia

1868

Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT

Local Baptist Church Growth



WHO IS AUSTRALIAN BAPTIST MINISTRIES?

Australian Baptist Ministries is an evangelical movement of churches, State Baptist Unions and national ministries committed to proclaiming and demonstrating the Gospel of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Scriptures.