

---

# Where Two Rivers Run

---

*A History of Kilkivan Shire*

By

Dulcie Logan

*Published by Kilkivan Shire Council  
as a Bi-Centennial Project*

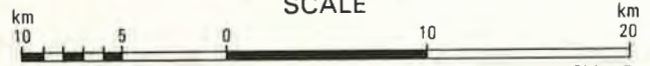




# SHIRE OF KILKIVAN

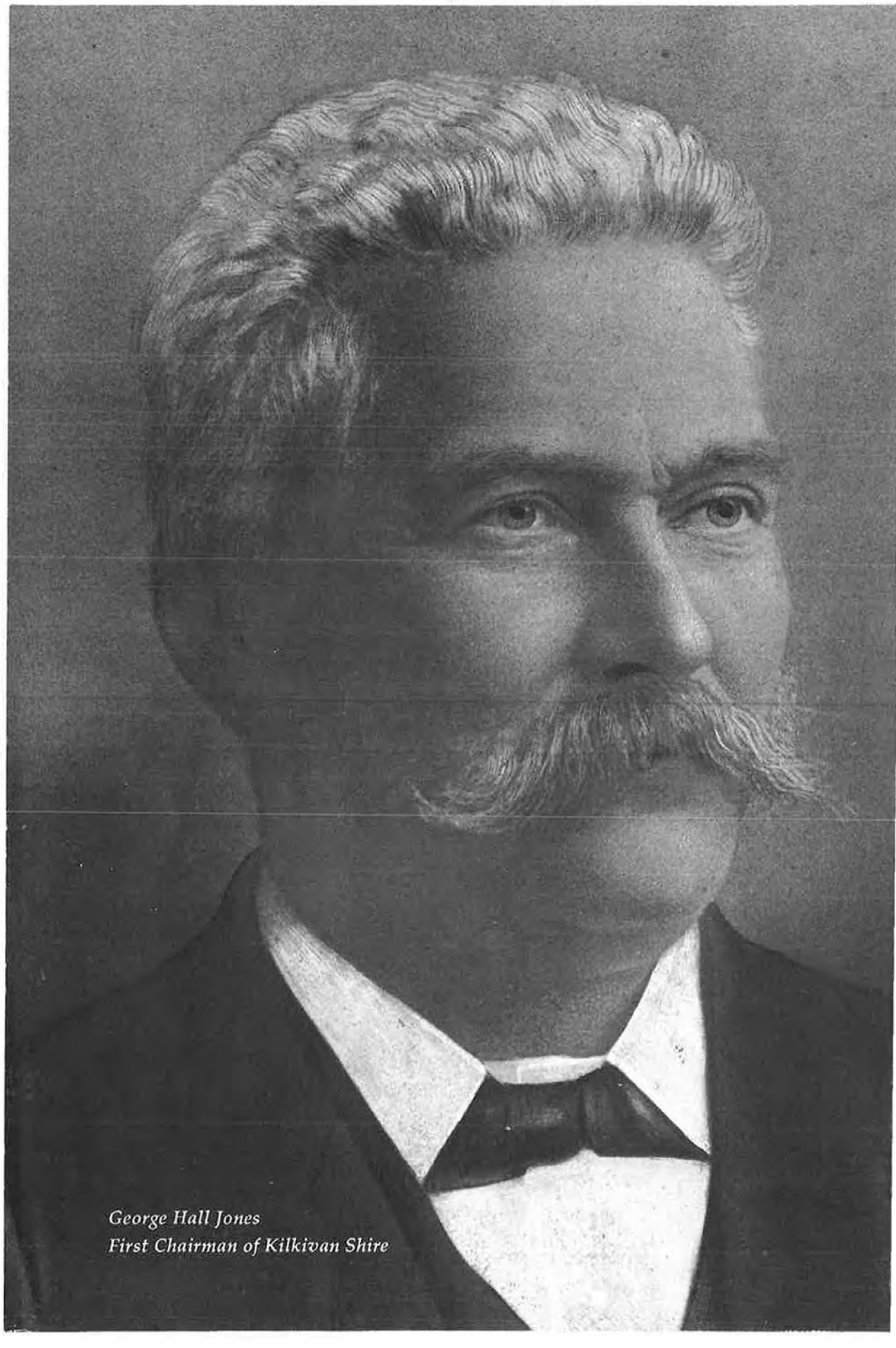


SCALE



# Where Two Rivers Run

*A History of Kilkivan Shire*



*George Hall Jones  
First Chairman of Kilkiwan Shire*

# Where Two Rivers Run

*A History of Kilkivan Shire*

By

**Dulcie Logan**

with chapters on Widgee by

**John Dale**

*Published by Kilkivan Shire Council  
as a Bi-Centennial Project*

© Kilkivan Shire Council

All rights reserved. No parts of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publisher.

Published 1988 by  
Kilkivan Shire Council  
Kilkivan Q 4600

ISBN 0 7316 1928 5

*Typeset in Palatino 10 by D-Press, Goomeri*

*Printed in Australia by Watson Ferguson and Co, Brisbane*

## **Acknowledgements:**

*Map of Kilkivan by courtesy of Department of Mapping and Surveying*

*Cover photograph by Murray Studios, Gympie, from an original painting of Booubyjan Homestead, courtesy of B R Lawless*

*Line drawings Chapter 1 by Danielle Mathewson*

# *Table of Contents*

## **PART 1**

Acknowledgements	(xii)
About the Author	(xii)
Introduction	(xiii)
Foreword	(xv)

### **Chapter 1 THE ABORIGINES 1**

1. The Tribes	1
2. The Bunya Feasts	3
3. Customs	4
4. The Corroboree	5
5. Burial Customs	5
6. Clothes and Shelter	5
7. Initiation	5
8. Implements	6
9. Weapons	7
10. Aboriginal Place Names	7
11. Coming of the White Man	9

### **Chapter 2 THE EXPLORERS 11**

1. Alan Cunningham	11
2. Andrew Petrie	11
3. Jolliffe	13
4. Henry Stuart Russell	15
5. Land Commissioner Simpson	16
6. Land Commissioner Rolleston	17
7. Surveyor-General Captain James Perry	17
8. Surveyor Burnett	19

### **Chapter 3 THE ERA OF THE PASTORAL HOLDINGS 21**

1. Introduction	21
2. Barambah	23
3. Manumbar	27
4. Scrubbers & Brumbies	29
5. Boonara	30
6. Boobyjan & Windera	35
7. Kilkivan	40
8. Transport	45
9. The Aborigines after Settlement	50
10. Woollooga	54

	11. Outlaws	57
	12. Social & Public Life	62
	13. How the People Lived	66
	14. In Conclusion	71
<b>Chapter 4</b>	<b>KILKIVAN'S MINERAL BOOM</b>	<b>72</b>
	1. Early Mineral Discoveries	72
	2. West Coast Creek	74
	3. Black Snake	81
	4. The Rise & Shine Reef	83
	5. Long Tunnel Mountain	85
	6. Running Creek	85
	7. Yorkey Paddock & the Marodian Gold & Copper Field	85
	8. Gold Top	88
	9. The Mining of Copper	88
	10. Quicksilver	92
	11. Cobalt	97
	12. Silver-Lead	99
	13. Mining in the Burnett	100
	14. Present Mining Ventures	103
<b>Chapter 5</b>	<b>SELECTORS &amp; SETTLERS</b>	<b>106</b>
	1. Selection Begins	106
	2. Manumbar Selectors	109
	3. Booubyjan Selectors	111
	4. Boonara Selectors	114
	5. Barambah Selectors	122
	6. Kilkivan Selectors	124
	7. Gigoongam Selectors	128
	8. Woolooga - Widgee Selectors	131
<b>Chapter 6</b>	<b>THE COMING OF THE RAILWAY</b>	<b>134</b>
	1. Early Moves for Railway to Kilkivan	134
	2. An Early Survey	135
	3. Official Moves for a Railway	136
	4. Work Begins on the Railway	137
	5. The Opening of the New Line	140
	6. The Railway in Use	140
	7. The Extension of the Railway	142
<b>Chapter 7</b>	<b>BEGINNING OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>145</b>
	1. Before Local Government	145
	2. Widgee & Barambah Divisional Boards	146



	3. Agitation for a New Divisional Board	148
	4. Disaster	150
	5. Kilkivan Divisional Board	151
	6. The First Year	153
	7. The Following Years	154
<b>Chapter 8</b>	<b>CLOSER SETTLEMENT</b>	<b>160</b>
	1. The Beginning of Dairying & Agriculture	160
	2. Kilkivan	163
	3. Boonara & Kilkivan	165
	4. Manumbar & Barambah	168
	5. Goomeri West Reid Group Settlement	168
	6. Weivehurst Station	171
	7. Kinbombi Station	172
	8. New Settlers in the Kilkivan District	172
	9. Woolooga	173
<b>Chapter 9</b>	<b>THE GOOMERI LAND SALE</b>	<b>177</b>
<b>Chapter 10</b>	<b>THE TIMBER INDUSTRY</b>	<b>184</b>
	1. In the Beginning	184
	2. Kilkivan Timber	186
	3. The Teamsters	186
	4. The Sawmill at Black Snake	188
	5. The Spencer Mills	190
	6. Kilkivan Sawmill	192
	7. Goomeri Timber - Ross and Co	192
	8. Kabunga & Kinbombi Sawmills	195
	9. T H Spencer	195
	10. The Elgin Vale Mill	196
	11. Difficulties in the Twenties	197
	12. Goomeri Teamsters	200
	13. Timbergetters' Association	200
	14. The Travelling Sawmill	200
	15. Kinbombi Ply-Wood Mill - Manumbar	200
	16. The Manumbar Mill	201
	17. Brims Mill - Gallangowan	202
	18. The Manumbar Men	203
	19. The Timber People	203
	20. The Timber Industry - A Point of View	205
	21. Tractor and Road Haulage	209
	22. Forestry Activities	209
	23. Gallangowan Forestry Reserve	210
	24. Oakview Forestry Reserve	211
	25. The Timber Industry - An Overview	212

<b>Chapter 11</b>	<b>KILKIVAN SHIRE COUNCIL</b>	<b>215</b>
	1. The First Decade	215
	2. The First World War	217
	3. Council Employees	219
	4. Changes in Shire Boundaries	220
	5. A Move to Form a Goomeri Shire	221
<b>Chapter 12</b>	<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT SINCE 1911</b>	<b>226</b>
	1. After the Goomeri Land Sale	226
	2. The German Community	228
	3. Other South Burnett Settlers	232
	4. Soldier Settlers	236
	5. The Growing of Lucerne	240
	6. Good Grazing Country	242
	7. Dairy Factories	243
	8. Sexton - Carmyle	247
	9. Booinbah Bird Sanctuary	249
	10. Share Farmers and Working Men	251
	11. Changes Since the Thirties	253
<b>Chapter 13</b>	<b>THE GROWTH OF KILKIVAN TOWNSHIP</b>	<b>255</b>
	1. The Beginning	255
	2. The Town of Kilkivan	256
	3. Kilkivan School of Arts	266
	4. The Kilkivan People	267
<b>Chapter 14</b>	<b>THE TOWN OF GOOMERI</b>	<b>273</b>
	1. The Development of the Town	273
	2. The Hall of Memory	289
	3. The Goomeri People	293
<b>Chapter 15</b>	<b>SMALLER TOWNS &amp; CENTRES</b>	<b>297</b>
	1. Tansey	297
	2. Cinnabar	299
	3. Woolooga	301
	4. Manumbar	304
<b>Chapter 16</b>	<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>305</b>
	1. Kilkivan	306
	2. Calgoa - Running Creek	308
	3. Calgoa State School	310
	4. Woolooga	310

5. Widgee	311
6. Rossmore	313
7. Oakview	315
8. Brooyar	316
9. Cinnabar	317
10. Sexton & Carmyle	319
11. Upper & Lower Wonga	319
12. Brooklands	321
13. Boonara	321
14. Goomeri	322
15. Tansey	325
16. ElginVale	325
17. Goomeri West	326
18. Goomeribong	327
19. Kinbombi	327
20. Barambah	327
21. Booinbah	328
22. Oakfield	328
23. Daddamarine Creek	329
24. Boobyjan	330
25. Watchbox	330
26. Manumbar	330
27. Gallangowan	331
28. Mount Marcella	331
29. Goomeri Kindergarten	331

**Chapter 17 ORGANIZATIONS & PUBLIC LIFE 333**

1. Queensland Country Women's Association	333
2. Show Societies	341
3. Lapidary Club	345
4. Progress Associations	345
5. Kilkivan & District Development Board	346
6. Goomeri Chamber of Commerce	346
7. United Graziers' Association	347
8. Grain Growers' Association	348
9. Lions Clubs	348
10. Dairy Farmers Organizations	349
11. Play Groups & Kindergartens	349
12. Junior Farmers & Rural Youth	350
13. Masonic Lodges	352
14. Benefit Lodges	352
15. Kilkivan Historical Society	353
16. The Returned Servicemen's League	354
17. Political Parties	356
18. Junior Chamber of Commerce	356
19. Apex Club	357

**Chapter 18 RELIGION IN THE KILKIVAN SHIRE 358**

1. The Anglican Church 358
2. The Presbyterian Church 360
3. Goomeri Methodist Church 361
4. The Lutheran Church 362
5. The Babtist Church - Goomeri 362
6. Kilkivan Union Church 363
7. The Catholic Church 364
8. The Apostolic Church 366
9. Assembly of God 366
10. Church Guilds 368

**Chapter 19 RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES 369**

1. Music & Drama 369
2. The Light Horse 372
3. The National Horse Trail 374
4. Golf 375
5. Cricket 376
6. Tennis 379
7. Football 379
8. Indoor Bowls 383
9. Lawn Bowls 383
10. Rifle Clubs 384
11. The Goomeri Sports Association 385
12. Swimming Clubs 386
13. Campdrafts, Races & Horse Events 387
14. Netball 391
15. Basketball 392
16. Goomeri & District Pony Club 392
17. Sports Achievers 393

**Chapter 20 THE LATER YEARS**

1. Medical Facilities within the Shire 396
2. War Memorials 400
3. Kilkivan Shire Council 1922-1940 403
4. The Shire & the Second World War 403
5. The Post-War Years 406

## **PART II**

<b>Chapter 1</b>	<b>WIDGEE STATION</b>	<b>412</b>
	1. First Leases	412
	2. The Aborigines	415
	3. End of First Leases	418
	4. Conversion to Freehold	421
	5. Closer Settlement	424
	6. Sale to the Government	429
	7. End of an Era	431
<b>Chapter 2</b>	<b>THE EARLY SELECTORS OF WIDGEE</b>	<b>437</b>
	1. Independent Selectors	437
	2. Absentee Landowners	448
	3. Pike's Vineyard	451
<b>Chapter 3</b>	<b>THE POST STATION ERA</b>	<b>456</b>
	1. Further Development	456
	2. Timber	467
	3. Minerals	470
	4. Recreation	470
	5. Transport	472
<b>Postscript</b>		<b>476</b>
<b>Appendix 1</b>		<b>477</b>
<b>Appendix 2</b>		<b>481</b>
<b>References</b>		<b>483</b>

# *Acknowledgements*

In compiling this history I am grateful for the help and co-operation of the many people who supplied information and photographs (including those I was unable to use for lack of space).

I particularly wish to acknowledge the help of the following people: the Shire Chairman, Councillor Alec McIntosh and his wife, Betty; all councillors and their wives; the staff of Kilkivan Shire Council; my collaborator, John Dale; Pauline Fitzgerald, Betty Roach and all members of the Kilkivan Historical Society; Dr Ruth Kerr, Queensland State Archives, and John Kerr; Mr Clarrie Miller MHR and his staff; Tim Moroney, Queensland Parliamentary Library; Lyn Argent, Goomeri Shire Library; Mr and Mrs B R Lawless, and Mrs Jean Davis for their fund of local information; Murgon Historical Society for the loan of photos, and Oxley Memorial Library, Mitchell Library and Queensland Museum.

I am indebted to the following people for editing and proof reading: Jill Slack, Bill and Judy Bandidt, Sue Hullock, Yolande Euler, Helen Stanton, and members of my family, Tim, Margaret, Janet and Arthur. And finally, I would like to thank my husband, Arthur, without whose help this book would never have been written.

*Dulcie Logan*

## *About the Author*

Dulcie Logan is a Graduate of Arts from Queensland University, and a former high school teacher, having taught at Kilkivan and Goomeri. She and her husband, Arthur, have lived all their married lives at their property, Romley, in the Goomeri area. Mrs Logan, while teaching History, researched with her students and wrote *A History of Education in the Goomeri Area*. She has a particular interest in writing and historical research.



# *Introduction*

Kilkivan Shire, though small in population, covers a large area, stretching from Widgee, Bell's Bridge and Sexton in the east, to Barambah and Manyung in the west, almost to Ban Ban Springs in the north, to Manumbar and Elgin Vale in the south. It was first settled in the 1840's and has had a rich and varied history. In any one of at least four sections there would be material to cover a complete book. The historical photos of the area (too numerous to include in this book) could also fill an independent volume.

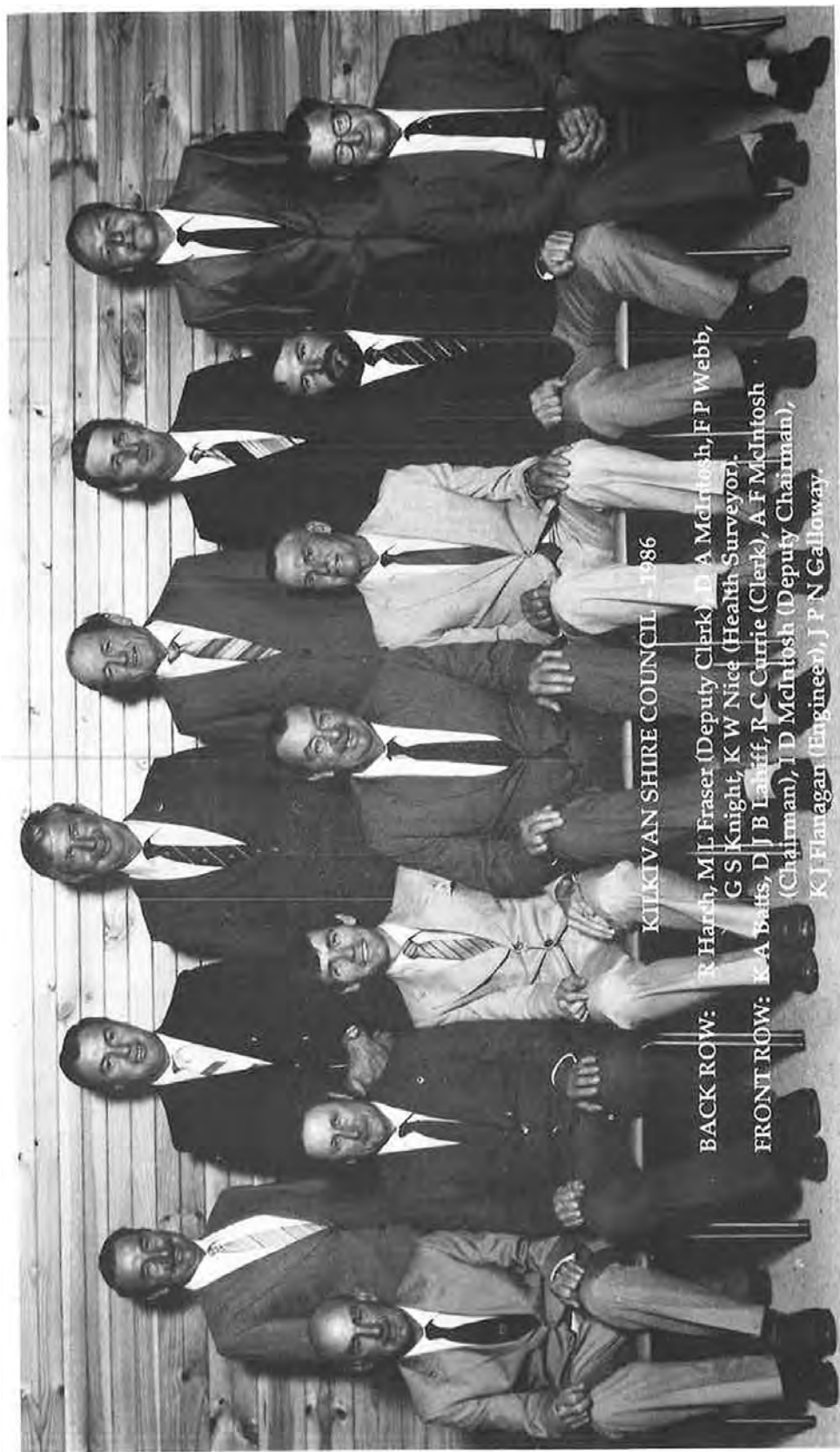
In writing the book I have tried to focus on the people themselves, the way they lived and how they were affected by circumstances and change. I have made every effort to be accurate, but inevitably there will be errors and omissions. For this I apologize. I suggest that people who note these errors or have information they regard as relevant, lodge such material with Kilkivan Shire Council for insertion in future editions.

There are times when I may have repeated small sections. This is to accommodate those who may choose to read isolated chapters which are of particular interest to them, in preference to reading the entire book.

The terms 'run' or 'holding' in Chapter Three refer to an entire grazing property. These terms were commonly used for large properties taken up in the early days of settlement. The term 'factor' in Chapter Ten refers to a head forester in charge of forest rangers. This term is no longer in use.

I wish to express my appreciation for the work of John Dale, who wrote the chapters on Widgee. Mr Dale is a descendant of the O'Donnells, early Widgee selectors. He has a deep knowledge of the area and a particular interest in its history.

*Dulcie Logan*



KILKIVAN SHIRE COUNCIL - 1986

BACK ROW: R Harth, M J Fraser (Deputy Clerk), D A McIntosh, F P Webb,  
G S Knight, K W Nice (Health Surveyor).

FRONT ROW: K A Batts, D J B Lawiff, R C Currie (Clerk), A F McIntosh  
(Chairman), I D McIntosh (Deputy Chairman),  
K J Flanagan (Engineer), J P N Galloway.



# *Foreword*

I am delighted to have been asked to write the foreword to this history of the Kilkivan Shire. Our shire, lying astride the coastal range, has an area of 3 250 square kilometres and a population of 2 720 people. Most of our residents are dependent on primary production and therefore their income is linked to market prices, floods and droughts.

I am pleased that the Council decided to ask Mrs Logan to write our history for release in the bi-centenary year, as well as to commemorate the centenary of the Kilkivan Shire. On 29 February 1888, the first council meeting of our Shire was held. To mark this historic event, the Governor of Queensland, Sir Walter Campbell and Lady Campbell, together with all former councillors and senior staff, will be invited to attend a special commemorative council meeting.

One hundred years ago, mining and grazing were the main industries, followed by dairying and timber. Grazing is still important, and mining development in the Kilkivan area has recommenced. Dairying and timber are still part of our industries, together with agriculture, irrigated areas, feedlots and piggeries. Unfortunately, we have no secondary industry and are still dependent on primary producers who pay the majority of the rates.

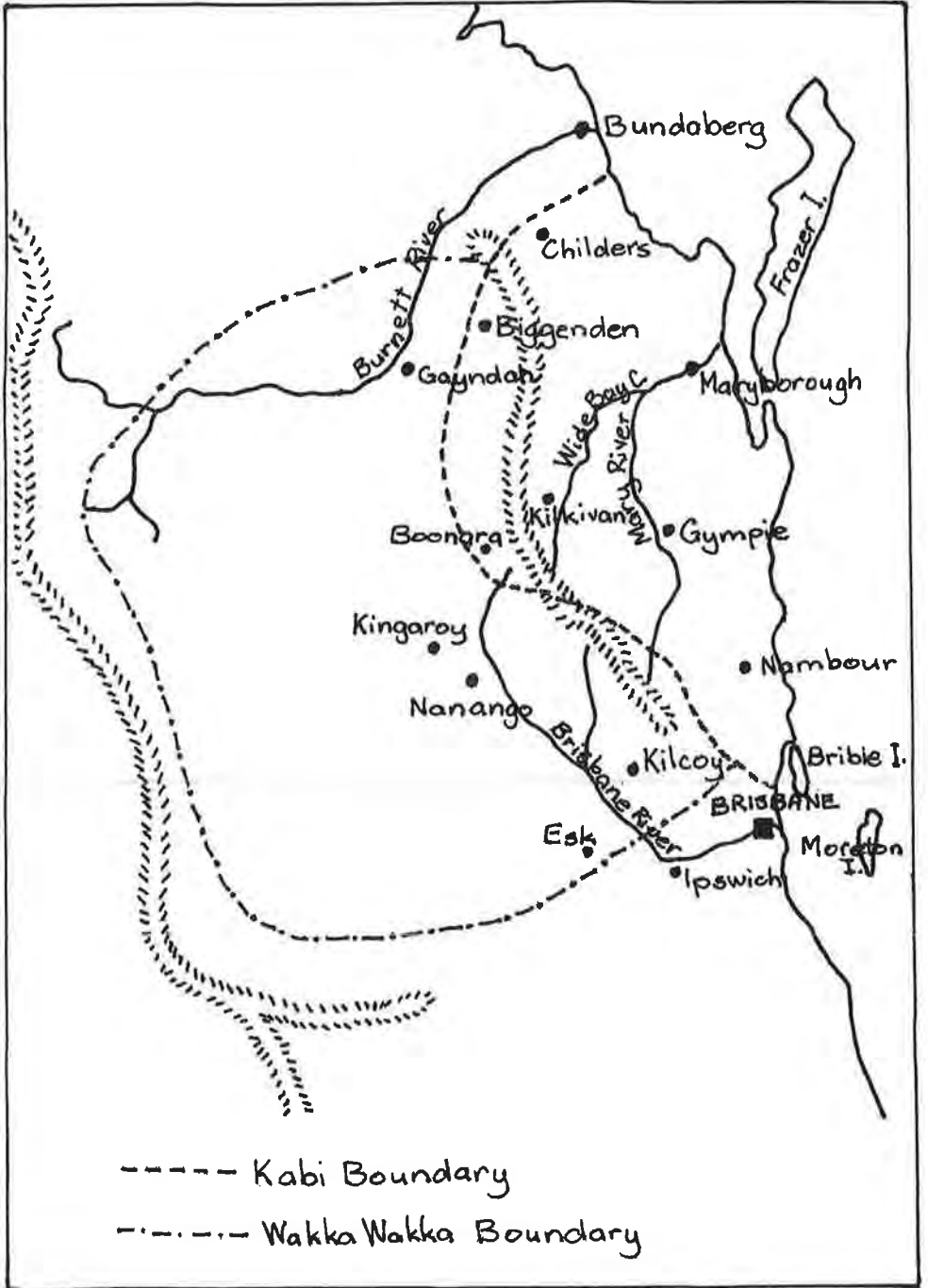
Our shire has two towns of similar size, and we do have extra costs involved with duplication of services such as sewerage, water supplies, halls and swimming pools. This does add to the cost to our urban rate payers, but our council is very proud of the neat, tidy towns with trees, shrubs and gardens making a bright, cool area in which to live. Sport and recreation hold a high place in our lives and many famous people have been proud to call Kilkivan Shire home.

The councillors of Kilkivan Shire acknowledge the part played by former councillors and senior staff in putting our shire to the forefront of rural shires in Queensland. We also acknowledge the part played by the workforce who carry out their duties with skill and ability, and form part of a team for the betterment of our area.

The councillors of the Kilkivan Shire are proud of our area, and of the people who settled here and did so much of the hard work in developing our heritage. This book is to preserve history for this and future generations. I do hope that future councils will update this book so that our history is not lost.

*Alec McIntosh*

Chairman, Kilkivan Shire



*Territory occupied by Wakka-Wakka and Kabi tribes*



## Chapter 1

### THE ABORIGINES

The aborigines of the Wide Bay-Burnett area have long since lost their identity. Fortunately, however, their customs have been well documented by people who realized the uniqueness of their way of life.

John Mathew, a cousin of the Mortimer family (one-time owners and operators of the Manumbar Run) spent seven years (1865 - 1878) studying the aborigines of that area and recording his findings in *Two Representative Tribes of Queensland* and other publications.

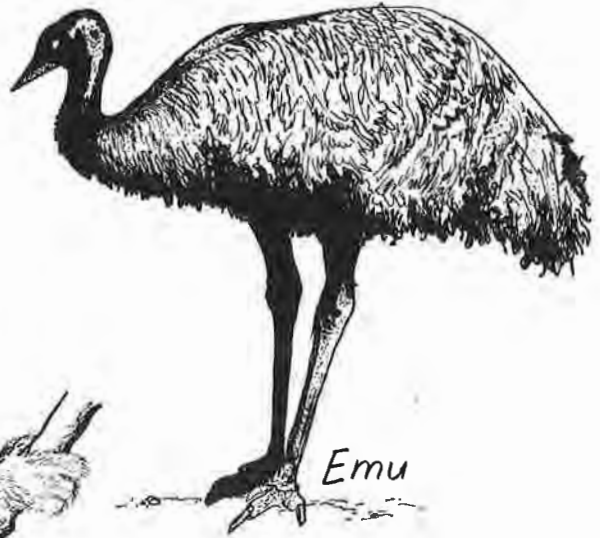
#### 1. THE TRIBES

There were two main tribes in the Wide Bay-Burnett area - the Kabi (or Gabi) and the Wakka Wakka. The Kabi frequented the basin of the Mary River, east to the coast and north to the mouth of the Burnett, covering an area of approximately 8 200 square miles. The Wakka roamed an area of about 5 000 square miles bordering the boundary of Kabi territory, a small part of the Dawson and a large part of the Burnett basin.

The word 'tribe' is a rather vague expression when related to aborigines. It probably referred loosely to a number of groups having a common language, similar customs and ethnic origins. There was no chief or organized governmental structure of any kind. Within these tribes were numbers of groups, clans or hordes whose members travelled and camped together and laid claim to a certain territory. These clans could be of various sizes. The family - husband, wife (or wives) and children - formed a distinct social unit within the clan. They lived and travelled together. Clans were probably extended families in which everyone in the same age group was regarded as sister or brother, but in actual fact was loosely related. Each person in a clan or group bore the name of the group - the most common form of address, inherited from the mother.



*Koala*



*Emu*



*Opossum*



*Scrub Turkey*

Dr Howitt, in his book, *The Native Tribes of South-East Australia*, named such a group *Kaiabara*, while John Mathew claims to have got the name *Gigarbora* from the same group. The explanation could have been that there were several such communities, containing only a few families each, and occupying a common area. The *Goroburra* were described as Wakka-speaking people occupying the tableland between Nanango and Kilkivan, drained by Barambah Creek.

Although the aborigines were 'stone age' people, they had a well organised lifestyle suited to their environment. They moved easily through the bush - even dense scrub. They were nomads, but their movements from place to place and the setting up of gunyahs for shelter were done to a consistent plan. They fitted as naturally into the landscape as the indigenous plants and animals.

The territory the aborigines roamed was well watered by regular rainfall; there was no want of food. Animals abounded: koalas, opossums, wallabies, kangaroo rats, bandicoot. The rivers teemed with fish: mullet, catfish, barramundi, eels. Bird life - scrub turkey, brolga, emu - provided flesh and eggs. Plants supplied yams from roots, the tops of cabbage palms and some wild fruit.

## 2. THE BUNYA FEASTS

However, the most prized source of food was the nut of the bunya (*bon-yi*) pine tree. Both the Kabi and the Wakka took part in the bunya feasts, which took place every three years. The bunya forests were quite extensive, including those on the ranges in the Gallangowan area, bordering on Manumbar. Members of the clan that claimed the bunya forests as their territory had recognised rights to their own trees. These men acted as hosts to visitors. At the onset of the bunya season, invitations were sent to nearby clans, stipulating numbers to be asked. Most of the guests were young people, able to make the journey easily. Then these clans would in turn invite others - from clan to clan all over the country. Usually these clans were connected by marriage and came from a hundred miles around. At the various bunya feasts, there would be from six or seven hundred to several thousand aborigines.

Each local man had two or three trees that he considered his own property. These he would climb, bringing down nuts to share with his guests. The trees were handed down on a hereditary basis, and ownership was recognized by other members of the group.

J G Steele in his book, *Aboriginal Pathways*, records that Manumbar was a gathering place for visiting aborigines in the bunya season. In February 1856, he records, about 400 aborigines gathered 'at a sheep station of Mortimer and Anderson' about fourteen miles from Yabba - presumably the original site of Manumbar head station. Many migrated to Tee-bar district (fifty kilometres to the north) for a bunya nut harvest on Kabunga. In the early days of Barambah Aboriginal Settlement (later called Cherbourg), some of the residents continued to attend the bunya feasts. The aborigines grew sleek and fat on the nuts which were eaten raw, roasted or powdered. Some were buried in nearby creek beds to be dug up and eaten later.

These gave off an offensive smell, tainting the breath and the body odour of those who ate them. But they were considered a delicacy and the smell was scarcely noticed.

### 3. CUSTOMS

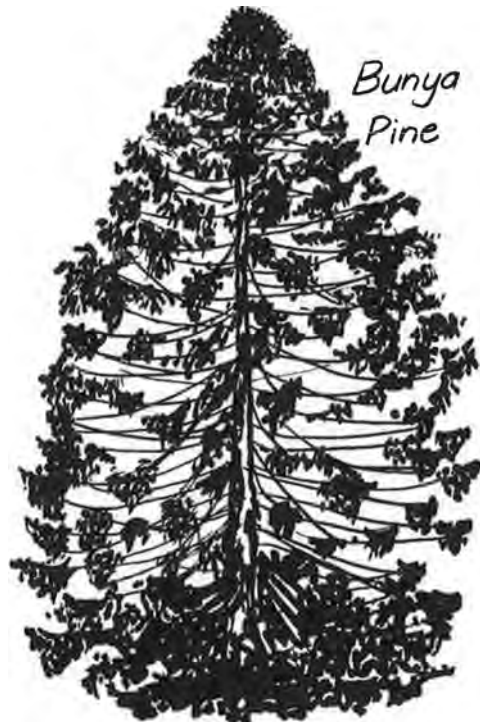
Ritual cannibalism was practised by both the Kabi and the Wakka, although humans were never killed solely for use as food. The flesh of fit healthy warriors slain in battle was thought to endow the consumers with the strength of the dead persons.

Although no religious rites were undertaken, aborigines acknowledged the existence of supernatural beings with power over humans. There was no well defined idea of life after death but it was thought that shadows or ghosts of the dead lived in the tree-tops.

Aborigines believed in magic. Sorcerers were thought to have magic stones in their bodies. They carried dillie bags which no one dare touch. In these bags they kept circular flat stones (*menkom*) of obscure origin, thought to be obsidianites. The bags might also contain relics of the dead as well as hair, nails or excrement of a living person whom the sorcerer might intend to harm - probably for revenge of an assumed wrong. Sorcerers were regarded with awe and had enormous power over the rest of the group. A white stone, probably quartz cripitan, was used for cutting gums or wounds. Clay, ashes and a tight ligature were also used for abscesses, wounds or pain.



Cabbage Palm



Bunya Pine

Death was never thought to be from natural causes. Another person was blamed for carrying out malignant mischief against the unfortunate person and revenge had to be sought. Nevertheless, most members of the Kabi and Wakka tribes lived to a great age.

Children were treated with indulgence. Husbands were usually affectionate except when roused to anger, which could result in brutal conduct towards the wife. Marriage was for life. On the death of a husband the widow became the property of his brother or nearest relative, who had the right to keep her or give her away.

#### 4. THE CORROBOREE

The favourite entertainment was the corroboree - a grand occasion. The ceremony was usually performed at night on a level plot of ground lit by fires. Mathew claims that on Boonara Run, a structure like a rude flat-roofed house was built where the men performed. The performers - always men - were painted with red, white and ochre soil and were often adorned with feathers.

Happenings in the life of the tribe, great battles, hunting feats, encounters with others were enacted with great drama, skill in dancing and often, humour. Women provided a kind of rhythmic orchestra, clapping hands on thighs or on stretched opossum skins.

#### 5. BURIAL CUSTOMS

Burial took place on a platform in a tree. There was ritualised mourning for several weeks. It was regarded as courteous to mourn the dead even if one was not a relative. After the body had decomposed, the remains would be collected and lodged in a hollow tree. The bones of special people were often carried for a set time by the gins in a dillie bag, before being placed in a last resting place.

#### 6. CLOTHES AND SHELTER

No clothes were worn except opossum skins over the shoulder when the weather was cold. But both men and women adorned themselves with head bands made from dingo skin, ornamented with feathers. Necklaces were made from seeds. Occasionally holes would be bored through the bridge of the nose and feathers inserted.

#### 7. INITIATIONS

For young men, initiation ceremonies similar to those in other parts of Australia took place. These usually lasted in a set pattern for six days, but could last as long as four weeks. The last initiation in this area was thought to have taken place in 1867.

On the first day the older men held a grand corroboree. Young men were prohibited to eat certain food, but were surreptitously given possum meat.

A covering was placed over each boy's head so that he could not see the sky. On the second day the youths were washed and the hair shaved off all parts of their bodies except their heads. Fire ceremonies were performed on this day. No laughter was allowed and the youths could be punished with death if they disobeyed. Often other members of the tribe would stage ridiculous antics to test the young men. Tribe members would attempt to scare the boys with sham fights or sham animals. Each boy slept on his own in a separate camp prepared by himself and one of his fellows.

On the third day the youths were painted red and taken out into the bush. At sunset they returned near to the main camp where a gin (painted red) sang in their hearing. The boys could come close to the main camp but were not allowed in. After marching, attended, four times round the camp they had to sleep together outside the main camp. On the fourth day they were taken from their camp before daylight and not allowed back until sundown when the same gin would sing to them again. About twenty fires were lit in a line and covered with green leaves to make dense smoke. Each youth in turn jumped into the first fire, clapping his hands. The process was repeated at every fire.

They were taken into the bush on the fifth day, each in the care of a *Kamarin* (leader). The old men prepared large fires. At night the boys jumped on red hot embers until the fires were extinguished.

The *Wamarin* (naming ceremony) took place on the sixth day. This was similar to a roll call. Two large fires were prepared, around one or other of which all the aborigines would congregate. They called out each boy's name in turn and gave him an additional name to the one he had been given at birth. He would respond: '*Kai ngai*' (Here I am). They were next asked if they wanted a wife, to which they replied: '*Yes!*' At night the married women took charge of the young men. The married men of the tribe camped apart.

This would usually be the end of the ceremony. In some cases it could last a month. No levity was allowed. Often the young men were picked up and tossed about by the strong men of the tribe. Sometimes there was fighting. The cutting of shoulders, back and chest for ornamentation was often carried out. The cutting was done with crystal, shells or sharp flint. The wound was filled with fat and powdered charcoal to keep it open. Sometimes the septum of the nose would be pierced and bone or wood placed in the hole. Marriage ceremonies usually took place after a week of exile from the camp.

## 8. IMPLEMENTS

The men used a variety of implements - stone axes and knives, flints and shells for cutting, kangaroo sinews for string, bone awls for sewing, the inner bark of kurrajong or stringy bark trees for cordage, flower stalks of the grass tree for making fire by friction. Domestic utensils were simple - coolamons (wooden basins for holding water); stones for grinding nuts and seeds. The women carried dillie bags made of grass, string or fur, and small hand nets for fishing.



## 9. WEAPONS

The chief fighting weapon was the *kut-har* (nulla-nulla), a club made of iron bark or bragalow, carved with knobs on the heavy end. The boomerangs used were narrow and light. The *bokkan* (bokka) was a horn wielded like a pick axe. *Kne* (spears), seven to ten feet long, were made from saplings with points hardened by fire. Shields were oblong with rounded corners. They were thick, made from kurragong wood, with handles at the back, light and tough with ornamentation on the front. Message sticks were simple, usually twigs with notches.

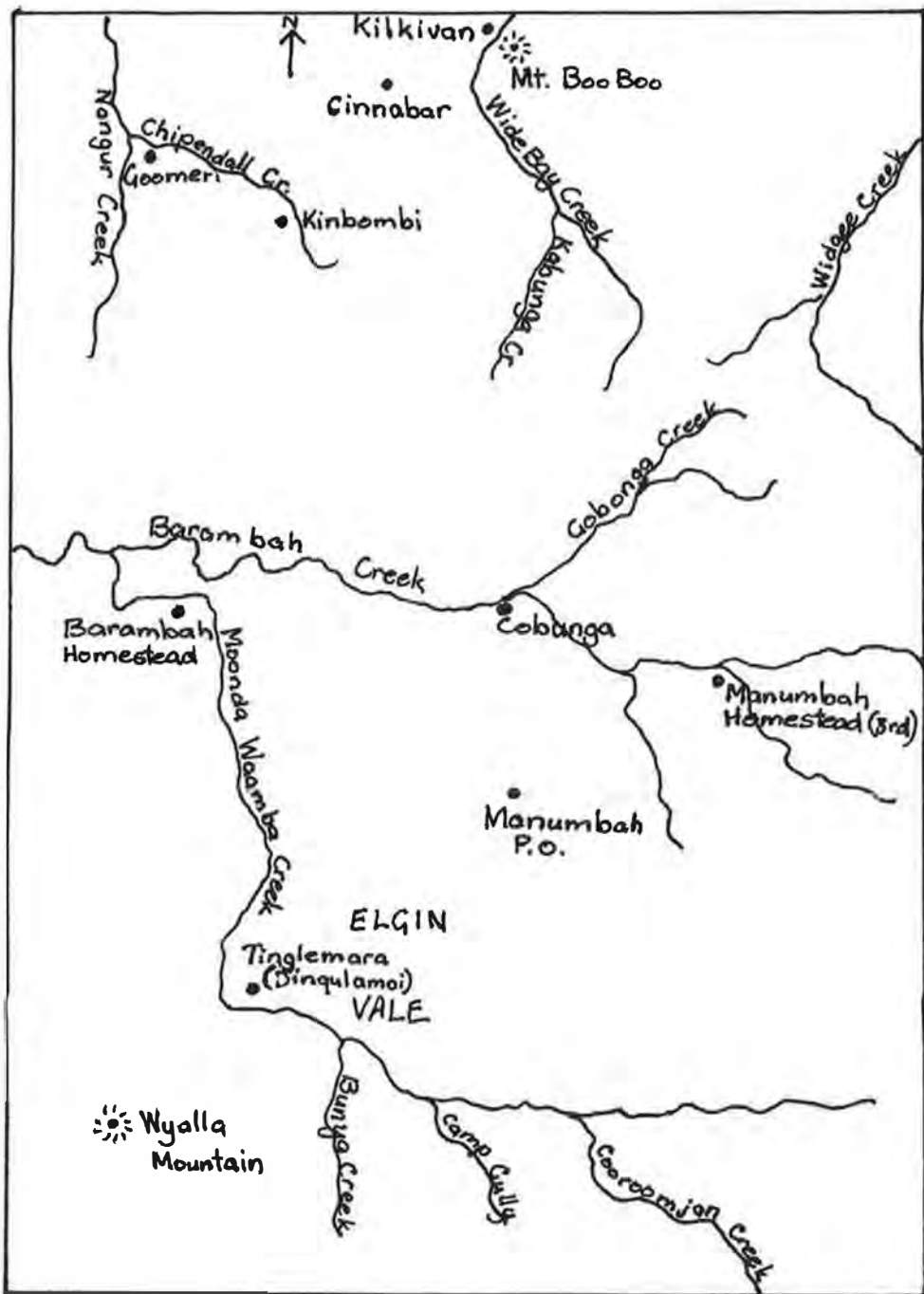
## 10. ABORIGINAL PLACE NAMES

One of the most interesting aspects of these original inhabitants is the heritage of aboriginal words from the Kabi and Wakka Wakka that are still used as place names. The Barambah Run obtained its name from *Boyembah*, *Buramboar*, or *Burambair*, meaning 'westerly wind'. The name 'Kabunga' is derived from the word *Gobongo* or *Gobonga*, meaning 'frog'. *Dingulamai*, 'place of wrestling' was on Manumbar Run, the site of the original homestead. This was probably a gathering place in the bunya season and could be the origin of 'Tinglemara', a creek near Elgin Vale.

When the railway was extended from Kilkivan through the shire in 1902 the Railway Department used aboriginal names for some of its new sidings. 'Kinbombi' literally means 'a fight about a woman' - *gin*, 'woman'; *bombe*, 'hit'. This spot was originally the site of a traditional fighting ground where trials of strength were held during the bunya season.

The name 'Goomeri' means 'a large corkwood shield', used in close fighting to ward off clubs. The original name of the fighting ground was *Gumeribwae* or *Goomeribwoi*, 'a shield speared or broken'. It evidently refers to an incident in which a spear, thrown contrary to the referee's directions, pierced the shield. The name of the parish and locality, 'Goomeribong', preceded the name of the town 'Goomeri' and is an anglicised version of the original word.

Wyalla Mountain was the place from which smoke signals were sent. It was near the border of the Kabi and Wakka Wakka territories. A circle of stones was built, about 120 cm in diameter, and a fire made using apple tree wood, to give off plenty of smoke. This smoke was broken into short and long columns by smothering the fire with bark at given intervals. The use of smoke signals probably underlies the legend that Mount Boo Boo, close to Kilkivan, means 'big smoke'. The smoke was thought to come from fissures in the mountain, a spectacle arranged by the fully initiated men of the tribe who claimed mystical origins for the fires. *Bam*, a mountain near the source of Wide Bay Creek, means 'egg'. *Guriemdyam* or *Gooroomjam*, (a creek near Elgin Vale) is said to mean 'no fire'. *Kuijum* means 'fire'. Another interpretation of the name is 'place of kangaroos' (*gurumanahan*). It is near *Dingulami*, an important camp where kangaroos were hunted at the end of the bunya season. Widgee Creek was named from *wudka* or *wootha* meaning 'red cedar'.



Manumbar area showing aboriginal place names

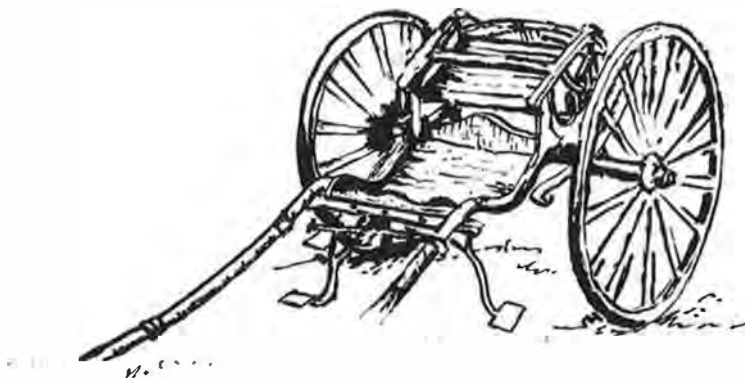
The Widgee Widgee Run took its name from this word. The clan of the Widgee area was called *Kaibora* ('bite') or *Gigabora* (*giga* - 'sweet'). In the Kabi language the words *moonda* (*munda*) and *waamba* (*wambai*) mean 'a place of black myrtle'. This could be the origin of the word 'Manumbar'. The original Manumbar homestead lay on the boundary between Kabi and Wakka Wakka territory.

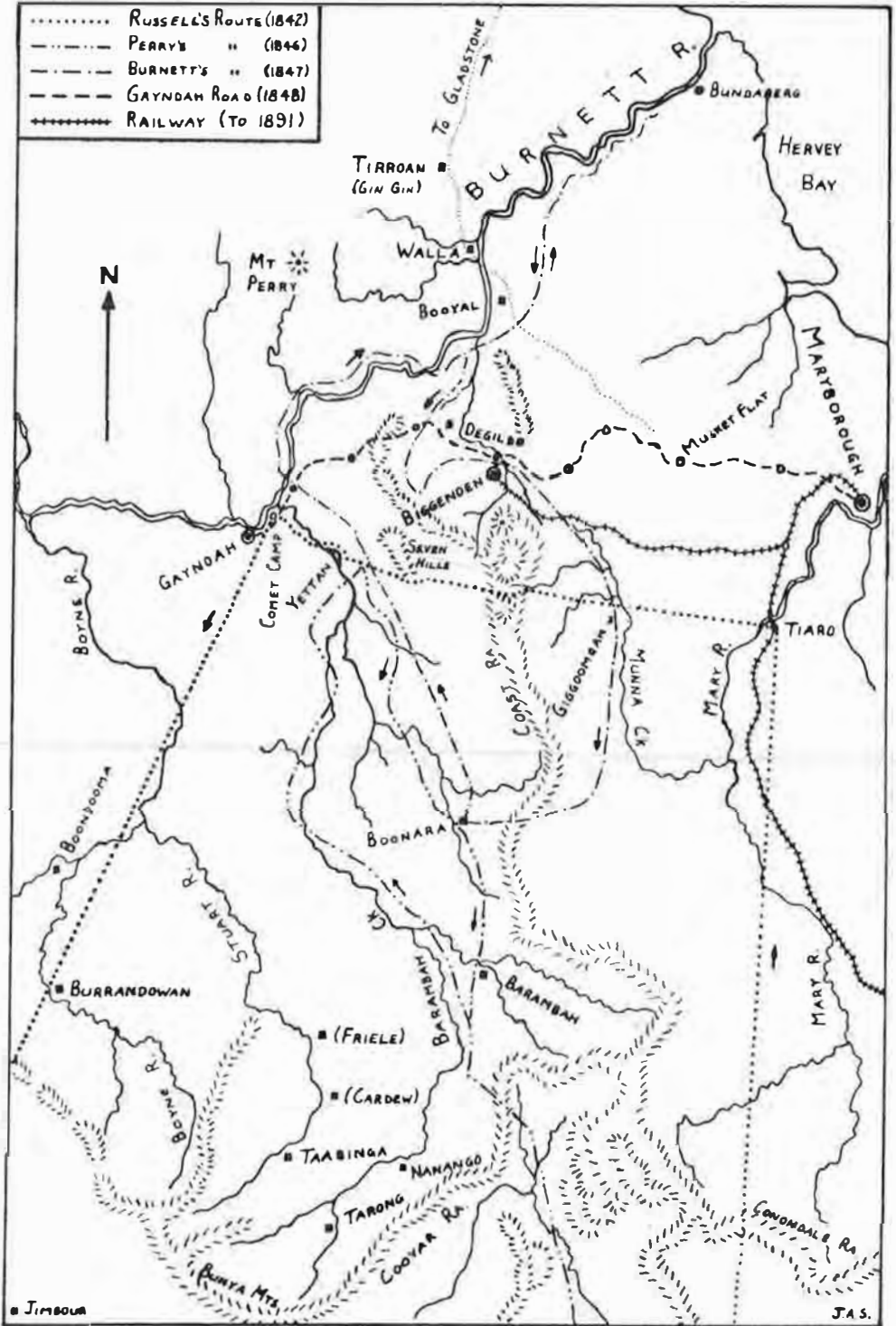
## 11. THE COMING OF THE WHITE MAN

With the coming of the white man the lives of the Kabi and Wakka Wakka changed drastically. Reports vary as to the way they reacted to the intruders and how the owners of the runs treated these original inhabitants. This will be dealt with in later chapters.

Most of the aborigines came to live around the stations where they sometimes worked and were often cared for. Old bushmen still speak with affection for the aborigines alongside whom they grew up, admiring them greatly for their bushcraft and their horsemanship. But tragically, the unique and well-ordered life of these people was lost forever in the onslaught of the white man's civilization. We can only be grateful to the enthusiasts who collected and recorded the ways of these two tribes before they were lost forever.

In 1904 Barambah Settlement was formed and the remnants of the Kabi and Wakka Wakka moved there. This settlement, now known as Cherbourg, was one of two in Queensland that were government-run from their inception. Barambah Settlement was in the Kilkivan Shire until 1912, when the new shire of Murgon was formed.





Explorer's Routes - 1840's  
 (G and F Stewart in 'Biggenden's Beginnings')



## Chapter 2

---

### THE EXPLORERS

With the spread of pastoralists to the Darling Downs and the opening up of Brisbane to free settlement, it was not long before moves were made to find what lay further north. It was to take several expeditions over many years before explorers sorted out and completed their knowledge of the river systems - where they ran and how useful they would be for water transport.

#### 1. ALAN CUNNINGHAM

Alan Cunningham, in his final journey of exploration (1829), was hampered by hostile aborigines, wet weather and rough terrain. He did not reach the headwaters of the Mary and the Burnett Rivers, but he did find that the Brisbane River had its source in the range that borders the south-western end of what is now Kilkivan Shire. (It is referred to on modern maps as the 'Brisbane Range'). Cunningham discovered that the Brisbane and Stanley Rivers and their tributaries ran east to the coast and did not link up with the rivers flowing west.

In his journeyings, the explorer met up with an absconder from the Moreton Bay Penal Settlement who told of a river, which may have been the Burnett, that ran into the sea several hundred miles to the north of Brisbane.

#### 2. ANDREW PETRIE

In 1842, Andrew Petrie, Superintendent of Works in Brisbane, was sent north in a small boat, by the government of New South Wales, to explore the coastline to the north of Brisbane, and possibly to make contact with escaped convicts who were rumoured to be living with the aborigines in that area.

In the same year, John Eales, a squatter with shipping interests from the Hunter Valley, assigned an ex-seaman, W K Jolliffe, to take flocks of sheep north and establish a run near Moreton Bay.



Alan Cunningham (John Oxley Library)



Andrew Petrie (John Oxley Library)

When Jolliffe arrived at his destination, most of the pastoral land in the area had been taken up. He was stranded with a large number of sheep and no vacant land to pasture them. He realized that it was imperative to find more land, and with this in mind, he joined Andrew Petrie's journey of exploration. He took with him Darling Downs pastoralist, Henry Stuart Russell, Jolliffe, the Honourable W Wrottesley, five convicts and two aborigines from Brisbane tribes. Petrie encountered Davis and Bracefield, the escapees he had expected to meet. These two men persuaded the local aborigines that the intruders were friendly. The natives directed the party to the mouth of a large stream which Petrie named 'Wide Bay River' (now the Mary).

Petrie estimated the river to be navigable for a distance of forty miles from its mouth and declared the surrounding land suitable for sheep pasturage. The aborigines told of other streams to the north and the west - one of them quite large.

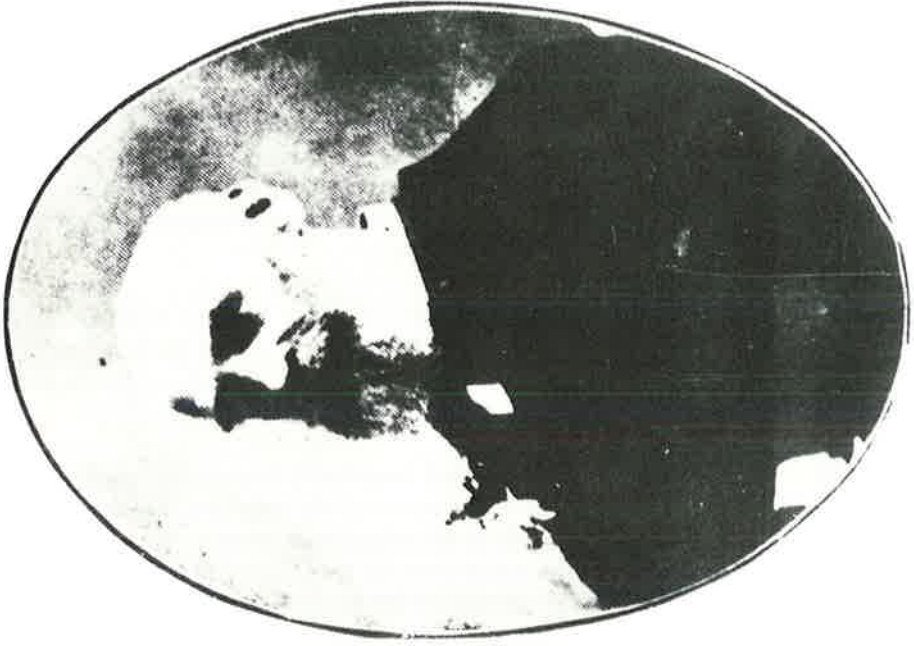
At that time water transport was considered important. Because of the distance from British markets and the small population of the colonies, sheep rearing was the only viable primary industry. If the hinterland were to be settled and pastured with sheep, a port on the coast close by was essential for the loading of wool for export by ship. A river navigable for some distance from its mouth would have been an added bonus.

Both Russell and Jolliffe were looking for sheep country. But Petrie warned them that Governor Gipps had declared any bunya forests out of bounds to white settlers. Gipps appreciated the importance of these forests to the local aborigines. He also ordered that no licences to cut bunya pine for timber be granted. This proclamation was not repealed until 1860.

### 3. JOLLIFFE

Jolliffe, on his return to Brisbane, contacted his employer, Eales, to seek permission to go north with Eales' flocks of sheep. When this was granted, Jolliffe set out on a seemingly impossible journey. He passed through Kilcoy Run in the Brisbane Valley, crossed over the Conondale Range into the valley of the Wide Bay River to establish a run called Tiaro. His party most certainly traversed what was later to be Kilkivan Run. They were probably the first white men to do so. To bring his flocks, his men and supplies through such difficult unknown country was a remarkable feat for Jolliffe.

An unsuitable climate, hostile aborigines and isolation from civilization all contributed to the abandonment of this venture after several years. Sheep became diseased because the climate was too wet; aborigines decimated the flocks and killed many of the shepherds. Jolliffe himself was lucky to escape the venture with his life.



*(John Oxley Library)*

*Henry Stewart Russell*



*(Mitchell Library)*

*Captain James Perry*



#### 4. HENRY STUART RUSSELL

Another man who had travelled with Petrie, Henry Stuart Russell, was also consumed with curiosity about the country which lay between the mouth of the newly discovered Wide Bay River and the holding which he held in partnership with Glover - Cecil Plains on the Darling Downs.

On 24 November 1842, Russell set out from Cecil Plains with a stockman named Orton and a black boy, Jimmy. They took a route across the Darling Downs, down the Dividing Range to the Brisbane Valley. Next they followed the tracks, still visible, left by Jolliffe's drays, and eventually arrived at Tiaro.

Russell was searching for land suitable for grazing sheep. He concluded, rightly as it turned out, that this coastal country would be unsuitable for that purpose. The party replenished their supplies and started off into unknown country with no compass to guide them. Russell left no diary, but in recent years, two local historians, Gordon and Frances Stewart, while researching their book, *Biggenden's Beginnings*, spent some time examining accounts of Russell's journey and attempting to retrace his footsteps.

The 1842 journey of exploration was undertaken with few men and scant equipment, no maps and complete ignorance of the nature of the unknown country into which they were venturing. Russell had not been long in the colony and was unused to conditions in the bush. This, combined with the loss of his diary and the breaking of his compass, makes his path difficult to follow.

After he left Tiaro, it appears that he went north by west. He met up with two of Eales' shepherds who were intending to establish an out-station at Gigoomgan. The explorers persevered over the daunting bunya slopes of the Coast Range. They were hemmed in on either side by dense timber, the towering side of the range and steep creek banks. The weather was uncomfortably hot and humid with frequent thunderstorms.

At the summit of the range they found travelling easier over spurs and ridges connected by saddles. Eventually they emerged onto a magnificent plain which they crossed, to be stopped by a large precipice, evidently the Yettan waterhole on Barambah Creek. They travelled along the northern creek bank, turned west and came out evidently downstream from the present site of Gayndah.

Russell assumed the river he had reached to be the Boyne whose mouth had been discovered further north years before by Oxley. He spoke glowingly of the country, but, fearing the aborigines, decided to return home.

Recruiting his partners, Glover and his brother Sydenham Russell, he set out from Cecil Plains again to explore the so-called Boyne. The party probably reached the present site of Wallaville, near Gin Gin. Russell regarded this country, though '*impressive*', also as unsuitable for sheep raising.

He returned to the Darling Downs and decided to take up a run at Burrandowan. In March 1843, Glover and Syd Russell were placed in charge of this run. They were plagued with misfortunes and pulled out two years later. H S Russell divested himself of his pastoral holdings soon after this and his ties with the area were finally broken.

His remarkable journeys of exploration had yet failed to determine the direction and ultimate destination of the Condamine River. The exact position of the Great Dividing Range was in doubt. However, he had discovered the existence of hitherto unknown rivers and had been the first white man to locate some fine new country that later proved to be suitable pasture for sheep.

## 5. LAND COMMISSIONER SIMPSON

By this time, land commissioners had been appointed to each area to control the spread of settlement and to attempt peaceful co-existence between aborigines and Europeans. Sir George Gipps, the Governor of New South Wales, was anxious to stem the flow of settlers until the rights of aborigines had been safeguarded and the government could establish control over any newly settled area. To these land commissioners fell the lot of exploring the unknown country beyond the borders of their spheres of authority.

On 10 March 1843, Commissioner Simpson of the Moreton district was sent, among other things, to explore the land that lay north of the settled area over which he presided. He had with him mounted police, two former absconded convicts - who had lived with the Wide Bay aborigines and could speak their language - and four convicts. Simpson followed the Brisbane and Stanley Rivers to their source and crossed the Conondale Range in the tracks of Jolliffe and Russell before him. He was able to track this route by the old tree stumps sawn off a foot from the ground and by broken trees against which the wagons of these men had crashed.

From the summit of the range Simpson could see nothing but rugged mountains on all sides. He concluded that the Wide Bay Range, as he called it, extended from the coast to the Great Dividing Range and formed a natural 'boundary' to his district. The descent down the northern side of the range was slow and dangerous. A dray capsized and all its contents were lost, but the bullocks miraculously survived. In a valley below they came upon the headwaters of the Wide Bay (Mary) River. They followed this stream down, crossing the river many times. Their animals were fatigued and suffering from the difficult journey.

This country Simpson described with enthusiasm as having '*abundant apple-tree flats*' and '*magnificent blackbutt and stringy bark*', with '*fine cedar and chestnut*' along the river. He admired the grassy ridges. At times, however, he passed through country he described as '*barren and thickly timbered and very mountainous*'. This was difficult to traverse, having practically impenetrable scrub and boggy swamps. As he travelled north, he became less enchanted with the country - clayey soil with very little grass.

The party eventually reached Eales' head station at Tiaro. Shortly after Simpson's visit this station was finally abandoned. A ship lay at anchor in the Wide Bay River at the present site of Tinana. Simpson discussed with the captain the desirability of forming a settlement there.

After they had rested and replenished their supplies, the party returned to Woogaroo (near Ipswich). They had been absent for seven weeks. Simpson had followed the Wide Bay River from its source to its mouth and gained useful information about the country north of the Conondale Range. He mentioned the bunya trees and referred to the bunya forests to the west of where he had crossed the range. However, the existence of the Burnett River had yet to be realised.

## 6. LAND COMMISSIONER ROLLESTON

The newly appointed land commissioner for the Darling Downs district, Christopher Rolleston, reported on October 1 1843, Russell's discovery of previously unknown country. He stated that the land was drained by a river, thought to be the Boyne, *'the largest body of water yet known in the colony'*. He reported Russell's taking up of Burrandowan and the wish of other settlers to travel further into the area.

Governor Gipps was anxious for Rolleston to explore the area, but gave no hope to those who desired to take up land in the area. Flocks were multiplying, and available land had already been occupied. Pastoralists were not happy about Gipps' edict.

On December 28 1843, Rolleston set out to inspect the Boyne and the surrounding country. Having done so, he reported favourably on what he saw. He said the country was *'well adapted for the grazing of sheep'* and that he expected *'a great rush of settlers to descend upon the area'*. Gipps replied that he would only grant licences if police protection was available.

Rolleston was of the opinion that the country, though fit for sheep raising, would not interfere with the bunya scrubs as haunts of the local aborigines. But Gipps would not give permission for expansion of settlement. He wished to have more information about the *'bunya country'*.

## 7. SURVEYOR-GENERAL CAPTAIN JAMES PERRY

In May 1846, Letters Patent from the British Government declared a separate colony of 'North Australia', from that part of New South Wales north of 26 degrees parallel latitude to Cape York and west to 140 degrees meridian. The boundary would have run through the present Kilkivan Shire. It was to be governed by a superintendent based at another northern position. Halifax Bay (Bowen) and Port Curtis (Gladstone) were both being considered as possible sites. The British Liberal Government of Gladstone was defeated soon after and the new government at Westminster abandoned the scheme.

In the meantime, however, the new governor, Sir Charles Fitzroy, arranged for an expedition to go overland to the proposed capital of the new colony with the object of finding a route to the north. This party was also instructed *'to trace the water courses'* originating in the range of mountains between the heads of the Condamine River and the coast at Wide Bay and leading northerly in a direction supposed to be that of the 'Boyne'.

There was hope that this river, if explored for some distance to its mouth, would prove suitable for navigation. The party was led by the Deputy Surveyor-General, Captain Samuel Perry. With him were Assistant-Surveyor James Burnett, four other men, three horses and a mule to carry camping gear and provisions. They left on 7 November 1846 and travelled north along the Brisbane River to Cressbrook Station. Here they bought two more horses and left behind one of the men.

On 16 November Perry and his party crossed the range at the head of the Brisbane River by a line that had been marked by Ferriter and Uhr (of Barambah Run), and descended into *'gently undulating but dry'* country to a place they referred to as 'Mongregah' where *'water was always to be found'*. From this place the party travelled through poor country to *'a beautiful reedy lagoon'*, 'Boorambah' (Barambah) and along a succession of waterholes to *'a sheep station called Wialloo'* (Wyalla?). From there he travelled to *'another sheep station, latitude 26 degrees 14'*. He crossed a creek and *'travelled north-north-west'* over *'gently undulating country'* about five miles to another creek - probably near the present site of Murgon. Travelling north-west he crossed a wide flat at the end of which was a *'long serpentine lagoon'* and a large pine scrub.

The aborigines had fired the country, probably to discourage intruders. Perry made contact with the blacks who were on the opposite side of the creek. Because of the extensive fires he estimated the aborigines to be *'numerous'*. He deemed them to be *'much finer and sharper'* in features than the Brisbane tribes and to be *'very agile'*.

The party passed through ever changing country - grassy flats, an open valley, into more undulating country and pine scrub, granite hills, well grassed into *'rocky ranges'*. They then proceeded through rough country where creek banks were steep and stony, making the journey exhausting for both man and beast. Plotting from the stars, they realized that they had reached the boundary of the proposed new colony. (It would have passed through Boonara Run).

Like the explorers before him, Perry struck very wet weather which compounded his task. When the land opened out, he could see in the distance a mountain which now bears his name. He found, on crossing a creek, an extensive flat covered with large honey-combed stones. Directly in front was a thick scrub *'at the foot of the sierra'*, *'a remarkable range of mountains having seven distinct conical tops'*. This, no doubt, was Walla, later known as the Seven Sisters. Despite the incessant rain, he climbed a peak and saw the valley of the river winding its way to the coast.

Perry found himself surrounded on three sides by flooded streams and on the fourth with *'brickalow scrub'*. All the creeks were rising fast. They were forced to make for higher ground, although this too was boggy. The rain ceased and the creek levels dropped, enabling them to resume their journey. However, when the rain started again they were trapped and narrowly escaped the loss of their horses in their efforts to get to safety. Eventually some local aborigines came to their aid and guided them to a newly selected station - 'Bookembah' (Boonara). Leaving a horse and some of their gear behind at the station they returned to Brisbane.

In his report to the Colonial Secretary, Perry maintained that a route to the north was possible in normal seasons. He had not discovered where these river systems he had crossed entered the sea and suggested that an expedition be sent at the most convenient season - March to July - *'when the weather would have become more settled'* and *'after the blacks'* who were *'at that time collecting for their bunya feast'* would *'have dispersed'*. He stated that much of the country he had traversed lay *'between very extensive bunya scrubs'* and would have to be approached with care if good relationships were to be maintained with local aborigines.

He advocated a depot at 'Bookembah' for provision of any future expeditions into the area. He also recommended his helpmate on the journey, Assistant Surveyor Burnett, as a good choice to lead a further expedition, because of his knowledge of the area and his experience with the aborigines.

Perry had covered country suitable for settlement and had come across a number of river tributaries, but the respective river systems to which they belonged had not, as yet, been clearly defined. By the time he had finished his journey and reported to the government, the idea of a new northern colony had been abandoned.

## 8. SURVEYOR BURNETT

On 12 January 1847, Surveyor Burnett was asked to further the investigation into these river systems and to find a suitable site for a seaport to serve the area that was being newly settled. Burnett left Brisbane on March 1 of that year. The expedition proper started from from Edward Hawkins' Run, 'Booginbah' (Burnett's spelling). It is interesting to note the resemblance of the name to 'Booinbah', the area where the first homestead on that run was located. This run, at the time, was the most northerly settlement in the area.

With three men on horseback and some pack horses, he proceeded to the stony flat, 'Bin Bin' (probably Ban Ban Springs). He climbed one of the Seven Sisters that Perry had discovered and continued down stream on the so-called Boyne. The party continued in that direction for three days, hampered at times by thick scrub and rugged country, small mangrove creeks and swamps. Burnett gave up before reaching the mouth of the river, but felt sure that the stream entered the sea at Hervey Bay.

Further exploration brought him to the conclusion that the low range he had discovered was a watershed for the Wide Bay River and the 'Boyne' River. He crossed the coast range and travelled back to 'Booginbah' Station.

Burnett's next assignment was a trip by sea to locate the mouth of the Boyne. He left Brisbane in July, in a boat with a crew of seven. He declared this river (later named the Burnett) to be unsuitable for the use of anything but small vessels. Burnett next explored the Wide Bay River and declared it (as Petrie had before him) to be ideal for navigation up to 40 miles from its mouth.

As a tribute to Burnett, Governor Fitzroy declared the river previously called the Boyne (which had been proved to be a different river from Oxley's Boyne) to be named the 'Burnett' after the intrepid surveyor. The Wide Bay River was re-named the 'Mary' after the Governor's wife who was shortly after killed in an accident.

As a result of these journeys of exploration the river systems of the Wide Bay - Burnett area had been located and defined; the position of the Great Dividing Range, and the mountains separating the watersheds of the Mary, Burnett, Brisbane and Condamine River tributaries were also understood. The type of country that lay in this area had been found to have great pasture potential. Settlement had already begun in the southern parts of the region. The following years saw a sudden impetus to further settlement.



*Barambah Homestead*

*(L. Yesberg)*



## Chapter 3

---

### THE ERA OF THE PASTORAL HOLDINGS

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Governor Gipps had been loath to allow settlement beyond the limits of the Darling Downs and the Brisbane Valley. Pastoralists were waiting impatiently to take up any newly discovered areas. But Gipps represented a government half-way round the world. He was also trying to ensure that all people, black and white, on the frontier settlements were adequately protected by the limited police force at his disposal. But he lacked the flexibility to deal with the situation.

The question of land tenure had been a problem since the beginning of early settlement in New South Wales. In the early 1840's, the time when explorers were attempting to solve the mystery of the rivers in what is now known as the Wide Bay-Burnett district, pastoralists with large flocks of sheep were waiting to take up land. The settled areas of the Darling Downs, Moreton and Brisbane Valley were already fully occupied.

Gipps, however, refused to alter his stance. At the time leases were granted only for a year, making it impossible for settlers to undertake any worthwhile improvements to their runs or to establish permanent homes for their families.

In August 1846, Gipps was replaced as Governor by Sir Charles Fitzroy. A change of government in Britain, the growing influence of the newly-established Legislative Council of New South Wales and Fitzroy's more lenient attitude toward colonial society, all brought about a change.

In the same year the British Government passed the Australian Land Sales Act, granting squatters '*pre-emptive rights and fourteen-year leases*'. Fitzroy did nothing to stem the resultant flow of settlers into the newly explored areas.

In 1846 a group of adventurous young men - Clement and Paul Lawless, Humphreys, Henry Herbert, Edward Hawkins and James Reid - rode north through the Brisbane Valley. They took with them a young Brisbane River aborigine, Jacky, who was able to convince the native tribes they met that the white men meant no harm. The party were several months exploring this new country which they found well grassed and watered by numerous creeks. They returned full of enthusiasm for the newly discovered country. The Lawless brothers and 'Ned' Hawkins were to settle in the South Burnett, while the others established runs further north.

Early records of pastoral leases granted at this time have been lost. There is evidence that some settlers were in the area by 1846, if not earlier. Some leases were presumably granted but not formally documented until several years later. Others may have tried to keep their arrival unnoticed by officialdom to avoid government intervention or to prevent others poaching on what they considered to be their territory. It has already been stated in the previous chapter that when the land commissioners undertook expeditions into the area in 1846, they came upon lonely settled outposts at 'Barambah' and 'Booinbah' (Boonara).

Barambah Run was taken up in 1843, Boonara in 1846, followed by Boobyjan and Manumbar in 1847. By 1848 the large runs of Kilkivan and Widgee Widgee in the Wide Bay area had been established.

In September 1847, George Ferber, an enterprising man from Ipswich, saw the potential of the Mary River as an outlet for the newly occupied Burnett area. Despite being attacked and wounded by hostile blacks, he established a store and a wharf on the river bank. Soon boats were arriving with supplies to take away the bales of wool that had come from the hinterland by dray. This was the beginning of the port of Maryborough which was to service the needs of the inland pastoralists.

All these runs consisted of huge areas. But much of the land they embraced - particularly scrub country and stony ridges - was considered useless. Sheep were grazed on selected areas with access to water. Shepherds were placed in charge of flocks numbering about 1 000 sheep. They usually had small huts nearby in which to live. These men preferred open grassy country which gave no shelter to dingoes or marauding aborigines.

Most runs consisted of a main station and several out-stations. These frequently changed hands as neighbours fell on bad times and were forced to divest themselves of some country, or found certain out-stations too inconvenient to work efficiently. A run of 25 000 acres was considered an average size.

Sheep continued to be pastured on most runs in the South Burnett-Wide Bay area until the seventies and eighties. The change-over was thought to have been due to the predominance of spear grass in the pastures at that time. It was a native grass and in normal seasons it had caused no trouble, but overstocking and droughts had caused this species of grass to gain ascendancy over other native grasses.



The seed of this grass had a point resembling a fish hook. It could do great harm to sheep, lowering the quality of the wool and penetrating the skin of the animals - causing suffering and sometimes even death.

We know today that drier country further to the west of this shire is more suited to sheep, since these animals are subject to footrot and other diseases in higher rainfall areas. Dry weather produces better quality fleeces. At the time when these runs were first settled, wool production was the only viable export industry. There was no home market for beef until the population of the colonies increased dramatically at the time of the gold rushes. No effective means of transporting beef for export was available until Thomas Mort successfully shipped frozen beef in 1878. The runs on the eastern end of the shire, Widgee and Kilkivan, raised cattle much earlier than those in the drier South Burnett district. Barambah Run continued to raise sheep until the end of the century.

## 2. BARAMBAH

Barambah appears to have been the earliest run to be established in the area now covered by Kilkivan Shire. Already Tarong and Nanango had been taken up. J S Ferriter and Edmund Uhr continued on to Barambah, which was selected in 1843 but not stocked for several years.

Uhr sold his share to his brother-in-law, Richard Jones, later to become member for Stanley in the Legislative Council of New South Wales.

The run, at its zenith, contained ten paddocks. They were given as: three blocks of twenty-five square miles - Barambah North, Barambah, and Brisbane Range; a 20 000 acre block - Charleston; and five 16 000 acre blocks - East Barambah, Johnstown, Barambah Range, Cherbourg and Murgon. The whole run covered 164 000 acres.

When Richard Jones took over from Uhr, the property was stocked with sheep which were brought overland from the south in the care of fifty shepherds. On the journey north, the party fell foul of H S Russell at his Cecil Plains holding for pasturing flocks on his land without permission, before moving them on to Barambah.

As the owners had other interests, management of the run was handed over to Richard Jones' son, Thomas, who ultimately inherited his father's share.

It is also on record that Richard Jones employed a friend of his, Charles Mason, to manage the property as early as 1849. Mason had previously been in charge of Jones' pastoral ventures in the Hunter Valley. It is possible that Mason worked under Thomas Jones but managed the run in his absence. Charles Mason died in 1862 and is buried on Barambah. His wife returned to Sydney, but one daughter, Lucy, who had eloped with a stockman, Andrew Ogilvie, in the year of her father's death, remained in the area where many of her descendants still reside.



*Barambah Flats - 1914*

*(Murgon Historical Society)*

In the early days of the run's operation, there were difficulties with marauding aborigines, dingoes, diseased flocks (scab) and transport. Yet, despite all these troubles, there is on record a shipment of twenty-six bales of wool from Barambah in 1847 to the newly established wharf at the present site of Maryborough. It is difficult to imagine how the drays drawn by bullock teams accomplished the journey through practically unknown country, with treacherous creek crossings, precipitous mountain ranges, scant white settlement and hostile aborigines in the surrounding country.

During the absence of Thomas Jones on a three-year trip to England, the property suffered from misfortune. Disease among the sheep and a severe drought caused the once-prosperous enterprise to acquire a heavy mortgage. Jones retired to Sydney in broken health with much of his fortune gone.

Meanwhile Stephen Ferriter had also retired and his interest had been acquired by Mr George Clapperton, owner of Tarong and Nanango Runs. In February 1871, Clapperton also took over Thomas Jones' share of the enterprise including the acquired debts on the property.

Clapperton evidently proved to be both a good pastoralist and a competent business manager. On his death, several years later, Barambah was once again a prosperous going concern.

The holding was bought from the Clapperton estate by Messrs Isaac and Hugh

Moore in August 1875, at an auction held in Sydney, conducted by Mort and Co. In the sale catalogue the following livestock were listed: 7 000 head of cattle at £5/1/- per head; 150 horses at £7 per head. There were 17 920 acres of freehold land at 15 shillings per acre and 289 square miles of pastoral lease at crown rental.

No sheep were listed, but account books kept by the Moore Brothers show that sheep were still grazed in conjunction with cattle until the end of the century. At the time the property was listed for sale, Mr Charlie Green, former manager of Mondure Station, was employed as temporary manager of Barambah and undertook a 'bang-tail muster' of cattle for the purpose of listing them for sale.

No mention of brumbies appeared on the inventory of sale, but they continued to frequent the paddocks of the run until the turn of the century. Brumby running on Barambah provided some excitement and opportunity for skilled riding by the station's stockmen, both black and white. When a mob of brumbies was yarded it was customary for the stockmen involved to take their pick of the horses. The rest became the property of the station. Calico wings were used to guide the horses into the yards. This custom meant that all stockmen on the station were well mounted.

When Moore Brothers took over Barambah, they embarked on a programme of ringbarking, clearing land, erection of buildings and elimination of pests. At time of purchase it was considered well stocked with 7 000 cattle. In the following years, the herd numbers of cattle went from 18 000 to 20 000 with a considerable number of sheep.



*The Cow Paddock Waterhole, Barambah - 1914*

*(Murgon Historical Society)*

Its holding capacity increased from one beast to twenty-five acres to one beast to six acres. The leasehold section had previously been badly watered, but after ring-barking was carried out, springs emerged in several places. The station was subdivided into areas of 5 000 to 10 000 acres each. Frequent burn-offs resulted in good growths of Mitchell and blue grass. On these the cattle fattened well.

In 1877, resumption of land for selection began. The station lost some land to early selectors, reducing the leasehold part of the run to 7 000 acres. But the area of the property was actually increased by the purchase of an extra 40 000 acres of freehold country, bringing the total freehold acreage to approximately 60 000.

The cattle originally stocked were Shorthorns. A type of animal more suited to the climate was evolved by the mixture of Hereford bulls with the Shorthorns. A registered stud was started. Bulls were frequently imported from England to improve the standard of cattle. This has been carried on under several owners. By 1930, 2 000 Herefords, Shorthorns and Red Polls were run - one beast to every six acres. Barambah Herefords have built themselves a great reputation, being very successful at the annual Brisbane Exhibition. They won the A M E Cup in 1929. The yearly 'Barambah Bull Sale' came to be an important event on the Queensland rural calendar. Horses were also bred from fine stallions.

Cattle have been run on Barambah almost since the establishment of the property. Between 1880 and 1890, 20 000 sheep were pastured. But eventually at the beginning of this century sheep raising was finally abandoned because of the havoc wrought on these animals by footrot in wet seasons and spear grass in droughts.

In 1877, William Baynes bought into the partnership and the property operated under the name of 'Moore Brothers and Baynes'. In 1901, at Baynes' death, his share was purchased by Moore Brothers.

The property was managed by Isaac Moore from 1875 to 1900, when he handed control to his two sons, Messrs Hugh and Isaac J Moore. Two original partners, Hugh and Isaac Moore Snr, both died in 1909. From then the firm Moore Brothers was managed by Mr I J Moore. The name of the partnership was altered to I J and M J Moore as joint tenants in common (M J Moore was Isaac's wife) until the death of Mr I Moore in 1939. His widow continued to own it in conjunction with her daughter, Mrs H Carter, whose husband managed it for a time. The present homestead was erected in 1905.

The following year, 1906, a group of aborigines from nearby stations settled on 7 000 acres of Barambah reserved for them by the Queensland Government. This was later to bear the name of the original paddock where it was located Cherbourg. After the death of Isaac Moore in 1939 his widow retired. From 1925 to 1934 the property was managed by Mr Les Hall. Mr Hall left to run a stock and station agency and car hire service. Later he acquired a cattle property, a resumption from Barambah Station.

Both he and his wife were active in public affairs in Goomeri and for a while Mr Hall served as a Kilkivan Shire councillor.

Barambah was managed until 1958 by Mr Harry Carter, husband of Eileen Moore. Mr White took over the managership from him but died in 1960. The property remained in the Moore family and was managed for them by Mr R Francis until 1967 when Mr Francis moved to his own property in the Murgon Shire.



*Mares and foals - Barambah*

*(Murgon Historical Society)*

The station was sold in 1967 to Mr Bland, a solicitor from Melbourne. He immediately resold it in sections. The Homestead block was bought by Mr John Vestey. In 1974 it was resold in two blocks, the Crowe family, present owners, buying the Homestead block. The property is much reduced in size but still retains its reputation for the quality of its cattle.

### 3. MANUMBAR

Manumbar Run was taken up in 1848 by John Mortimer. It covered an area of about 64 000 acres, consisting of four blocks - Gotonga, Toomul, Manumbar and Gallangowan - each of 16 000 acres.

From its earliest times this run was stocked with sheep. The isolation of the property made it particularly susceptible to attack by hostile aborigines. Shepherds were always in short supply, as few men wanted to work on lonely out-stations under constant threat of attack and death.

It is greatly to John Mortimer's credit that he adopted a particularly humane attitude to the local aborigines. In fact, much of the information about the local tribes available to us was collected by his cousin, Rev John Mathew. While staying at Manumbar, Mathew gathered material which he later published in *Two Representative Tribes of Australia*. This book, and others written by him, were based on observations which he made about the way of life the local aborigines were leading, their language and legends, before these were overwhelmed and lost for ever by the onset of white civilization.

The early settlers felt they had a responsibility to 'civilize and Christianize' the so-called 'savages'. Mrs Mortimer worked for the betterment of the aborigines on the run, particularly the children, for whom she organized a Sunday school. Two of her pupils - Johnny Campbell and Billy Lillis - were, in later years, to become famous criminals.

Campbell started by attacking a shepherd's wife on Manumbar. After a life of crime, he was brought to the gallows for the murder of an aboriginal woman.

Billy Lillis, following a spell as a police tracker, became a notorious thief. He cleverly evaded capture and, on one occasion, escaped police custody. Eventually he gravitated to Barambah Settlement, where it is thought that he was deliberately poisoned.

John Mortimer became a successful squatter, sending his wool overland through the mountainous country of his run, by bullock dray to the port of Maryborough. By the eighties this property, like others in the district, had turned to cattle raising.

There were three homesteads. The first later became a holding yard near an old quarry. After cattle raising was started, the homestead was shifted to Moondawamba Creek in the area known as Little Namba. The third homestead was built on the site it occupies today.

This property was plagued with brumbies which had gravitated from a run on the Brisbane River side of the range. In the early eighties the Simpson Brothers undertook brumby running on a large scale on Manumbar. They sold the horses they caught on the goldfields.

In 1875, following the Land Act of 1868, resumption of leasehold land for further settlement commenced. The first such resumption was Elgin Vale, taken up by the Porter Brothers from the Darling Downs.

The Mortimer family were still in possession of Manumbar in 1885. But a letter in possession of the Mathew family (relatives of John Mortimer), dated 8 July 1887 states: 'Your uncle (J Mortimer) has sold out of Manumbar ... to Messrs Sparkes and McKinnon, Brisbane butchers'. McKinnon took no part in the affairs of Manumbar Station. Mr Alonzo Sparkes managed the family interests, including Manumbar. He operated both his business and his pastoral interests under the name of A Sparkes Pty Ltd. He lived there until his death in 1923.

Alonzo Sparkes was twice married. By his first wife, Katherine Roy, he had three sons - Alonzo, Arthur and Sydney. By his second marriage to Pauline Heller, he had more sons - Eric, Roy and Theodore - and three daughters - Mrs Hutton, Mrs Barne and Miss Zoe Sparkes.

Mr W Sparkes, brother of Alonzo, in the early days, took fat cattle to Brisbane overland. On one of these trips he was drowned in a flood and is buried at Kilcoy.

Mr Theo Sparkes took over the management of Manumbar in 1928. Mr Peter Sparkes succeeded his father in 1956 and managed Manumbar until his untimely death in 1973.

After this, the property was sold in several blocks, the homestead block going to a company who started farming the deer that had been running wild in the surrounding country since the last century. It is now owned by the Ottley family who have continued deer farming and cattle grazing. Although much reduced in size it is still regarded as a good grazing property.

#### 4. SCRUBBERS AND BRUMBIES

In the days of the big runs, mustering cattle was difficult. There were no fences between properties. Barambah, for example, adjoined the runs of Nanango, Mondure, Boonara, Kilkivan and Manumbar. It was usual, when mustering near the boundary of a station, to have two to three hundred of one's neighbours' cattle in the muster. The adjoining station (or stations) would be informed and would send stockmen to join in the muster.

The cattle on Barambah and most other stations were Shorthorns, but all were plagued by 'scrubbers' - descendants of cattle that had been missed in early musters or had wandered in from other stations to breed indiscriminately.

Very few properties at that stage had bullock paddocks, resulting in the cattle from several runs being mixed up. Cows with calves and weaners would be drafted out and taken home before all strangers and other station cattle were let go. Sometimes there would be a bullock muster. There were no ticks until the early 1900's and the only disease among local cattle was pleuro-pneumonia which broke out occasionally causing loss of valuable cattle. Holding yards were built at certain places on the runs and the stockmen would camp out while mustering.

Some 'rogue' scrubber bulls and cows would be shot by the musterers. Other cattle that had wintered in scrub country for several years, would be driven out by a dry season, caught and added to the station's herds.

Barambah and Manumbar for years also carried considerable mobs of brumbies. These were progeny of blood stock that had been allowed to run wild on a run on the Brisbane River side of the range. They had eventually worked their way over the mountain passes to the Mary and Burnett Stations.

Mr Charlie Green, who had managed Stations in the South Burnett and Brisbane Valley, gives his opinion of and experiences with brumbies in his memoirs.

The good strain of Arab blood and the effect of the rough country in which they were reared were important in producing good horses. The rough terrain, good grasses, natural herbage and plentiful supply of water in the local creeks, all contributed to the quality of the best brumbies. Constant galloping over the ranges from their birth developed *'alertness, intelligence, muscle conformation, sure-footedness and hardening of the sinews in the legs'*. They had to learn to find their way over *'sticks, stones, logs and broken gullies'* and had to travel *'at fast speed up and down very rough country'*. All these qualities were necessary for survival - if they were not to be either *'shot or caught'*.

Mr Green regarded the life that these horses lived and their good bloodlines as giving them outstanding stamina. Certainly there were many inferior horses caused by *'uncontrolled inbreeding'*. But the average *'home bred horse'* would never have had the opportunity to develop the strength and staying power to match the best of these mountain brumbies.

## 5. BOONARA



*Boonara Station, prior to 1860*

*(Murgon Historical Society)*



Land Commissioner Perry, writing of his journey of exploration, mentions 'a newly selected station called Bookenbah'. It is therefore evident that Edward Hawkins had installed himself as early as 1846 on the run later known as Boonara. Hawkins came north into the Burnett region with a group of young men looking for new pasturage. This group also included the Lawless brothers, Humphries, Herbert and Reid. It appears that Hawkins left the party and marked off the run he was to occupy without survey plans. We can only surmise his reasons for haste in taking up this land. It may have been his desire to acquire the run before others could get there before him.

Sheep were brought from the south to stock the holding by James Cleary. Hawkins built himself a slab hut for a homestead several miles from the present one in the vicinity of what is now known as Lakeview. This is close to the Booinbah Swamp - a name bearing resemblance to the early 'Bookenbah'.

Despite the usual difficulties that most pastoralists encountered, Hawkins made some progress in those early years. He built a new homestead on the present site. The distance to the nucleus of the port of Maryborough was only seventy-five miles, but the trip by bullock waggon sometimes took weeks. The path was as yet barely carved out of the wild country. Flooded creeks, rough mountain passes and hostile aborigines were some of the hazards certain to be encountered. The road overland to Ipswich and Brisbane was even more difficult and dangerous. Nevertheless, Hawkins managed to send his wagons to the coast with wool, hides and tallow, to return with supplies for twelve months.



*Boonara Homestead - 1895*

*(Murgon Historical Society)*

In 1849 he heard news of the Californian gold rush in North America and set out, with his friend Thomas Archer, to seek his fortune overseas.

A man named Berthelson was left in charge of the run. A tiny grave was discovered in the homestead garden in 1920 bearing the name of 'Neil Louis Berthelson, aged twelve months'. He was probably the first white child to die in the South Burnett. He has since been reburied in the cemetery close by.



*Boonara Homestead from main road - early 1930's*

*(S Siiburn)*

Hawkins never returned as he was drowned in California. The run was taken up soon after by Mr David Jones of Sydney, well-known retail merchant, who was looking for a property for his two sons, David Mander and George Hall Jones. At the time of this purchase, Boonara comprised 265 square miles of well watered country.

The new owners took over the run at a difficult time. One of the greatest problems they encountered was a labour shortage. Transportation of convicts had ceased. Most migrants coming into the colony were absorbed quickly into the labour force close to Sydney; the gold rushes had started in the South. Eventually the problem was solved by the introduction of Chinese workers.

Old records were unfortunately lost in a fire but there is evidence that Boonara employed a large labour force. Many of these were German immigrants. Some of their descendants eventually settled in the area permanently.

In 1862 the present homestead was built on the site of the old one. It was a fine colonial building with cedar walls, fire places in the main rooms and wide verandahs. An extension on the northern side contained a large kitchen and rooms for the servants. This part was pulled down in recent years and rebuilt as a workman's cottage. In those days the area around the homestead resembled a small town, with clusters of houses, huts, stores and offices. A woolshed and sheep yards were located to the east of the homestead. There are still traces of sawpits where the cedar and ironbark were hand-sawn to build the homestead. Nails used in the building were hand crafted.

David Mander Jones died in 1864 at the age of thirty. He was buried in the homestead graveyard which is now in the grounds of Saint David's Church of England. Although his life was short, it did not lack adventure. Before settling at Boonara, he was with Hargreaves at the discovery of the Turon goldfields.

David's son, Llewellyn, who was six years old at the time of his father's death, eventually took over the running of the property. In the meantime, George Hall, David's brother, managed Boonara.

According to Mr David Jones, eldest son of Llewellyn, Boonara was originally a number of leases from the Crown, and as each lease expired, a portion was eligible to be converted to freehold. Resumption of land for selection began in the 1880's. When the last lease expired in 1906, Boonara consisted of 33 000 acres freehold.



*Front view of Boonara*

*(Murgon Historical Society)*



*Boonara Homestead with store, office, kitchen and bachelor's hall  
(Murgon Historical Society)*

The holding established a high reputation for the quality of its sheep and wool. At one stage more than 60 000 sheep were pastured in the care of shepherds. About 1890, Boonara, like other properties in the South Burnett changed over to cattle because of spear grass.

In 1892, George Hall Jones sold his share of Boonara to his nephew, Llewellyn, and bought Kilkivan Station from the Mactaggart Estate.

An early bookkeeper on Boonara was Frederick Ford who married Sarah, daughter of the Sydney merchant, David Jones. His grave is also in Boonara cemetery, with his year of death marked as 1879. Ford's daughter, Katherine, was born at Boonara in 1867. She married her cousin, Llewellyn Mander Jones, and lived out her life at the homestead. She died in 1954 at the age of eighty-seven and was buried in the Boonara graveyard beside her late husband, having survived him by twenty-one years.

There was always a close relationship between the Sydney store of David Jones and Boonara. One often helped the other to survive through difficult times. The 1902 drought was one such time when creeks dried up and cattle died.

When the railway line was being extended from Kilkivan in 1902, the authorities consulted Llewellyn Jones about a name for the new siding to be located on his property. The area around this siding was known as the

Goomeribong cattle camp where the cattle in that part of the property were mustered and calves branded. The siding was therefore named 'Goomeri', a shortened form of the name of the station area.

According to Mr David Mander Jones, his father sold the whole freehold area of the station to the Goomeri Land Company in 1911 and bought back a few thousand acres, including the homestead. He himself remained as manager and he and his family as owners.

A very successful sale was held in March 1911. A certain part around the railway siding was divided into town allotments. The remainder was divided into agricultural blocks of varying sizes and sold to farmers, some local and others from many parts of Queensland and the other eastern states. This was the real beginning of the township of Goomeri and the prosperous era of dairying and mixed agricultural farming in the district.

The Jones family continued to live at the homestead. Llewellyn Mander Jones died in 1933 at the age of seventy-five. Throughout his lifetime he had been very active in local government. He had lived his whole life at Boonara. His son John (Jack) took over the much reduced property which consisted mostly of prime creek flat surrounding the homestead. Jack's sister, Elwyn, was given the adjoining property, Romley, on her marriage to George Lynton.

Jack Mander Jones joined the armed forces at the commencement of the second World War. He was killed when Singapore fell into Japanese hands. On his death, his brother Rhys (Bill) took over management of the property. He lived there with his wife, Beth, his mother and his sister, Dorothy. On the death of their mother, Dorothy joined her sister and brother-in-law, Elwyn and George Lynton. They were living in Brisbane, having sold their property in 1946 to J A Logan.

On the death of Bill in 1969 the property was put up for auction and bought by the late Cecil Euler for his son Floyd. The Euler family had had a long association with Boonara. Cecil's grandfather, August Euler, had come in the early 1860's to work on the station. August and his son, William, father of Cecil, had been among the first to select land from Boonara.

## 6. BOOUBYJAN AND WINDERA

In 1840 two young men, Clement and Paul Lawless, younger sons of an aristocratic Irish family from County Cork, sailed to the colony of New South Wales. On arrival they wasted no time in taking up and stocking a property on Liverpool Plains. They were unlucky to strike a dry season, which caused the death of many of their sheep, but they managed to pull out with little loss. Their next venture was with cattle on a pastoral lease at Nindoombah in the Moreton Bay district.

They still yearned to find a property suitable for the grazing of sheep. With several of their friends, they rode up the Brisbane Valley in 1846.



*Boobyjan Homestead - 1860*

*(B R Lawless)*

The men were away several months and travelled into the Burnett basin. They found fertile country, well watered and covered with lush native grasses and returned home very enthusiastic about the possibility of settling on this land.

Clement and Paul Lawless brought flocks of sheep north. They were held up at Booinbah Lagoon, near the boundary of Hawkin's run, by hostile aborigines and spent a fortnight encamped there before they moved on. A few sheep were stolen and feasted on by the aborigines, but the party was eventually able to complete their journey to Boobyjan. This name is the aboriginal word for the 'big rock' that stands close to the homestead.

On arrival there, they marked out their boundaries by blazing trees along the banks of a creek which they named the 'Liffey'. It is now known as Boonara Creek. The homestead was built on a hill overlooking lightly timbered flats. Walls were slabs of ironbark and the roof, shingles. Huts were built for the shepherds and yards for the sheep to protect them at night from dingoes and aborigines. Gradually outstations were established with huts for sheltering the shepherds and their off-siders. As time went on, these were moved further and further from the head Station.

The Lawless brothers shared the tribulations of the other runs - isolation, danger from marauding aborigines, difficulty in getting their wool clips to the coast and in obtaining necessary supplies. The first loads of sheep skins and tallow boiled down in huge vats and stored in sheep's bladders, were taken

overland to Ipswich by bullock teams. This journey through the Brisbane Valley took up to three months. The drays returned to Boobyjan with provisions for a year.

In 1849 the price of wool was low and a drought prevailed in the South Burnett. There was also an acute shortage of pastoral workers on all runs in the Burnett district. Clement Lawless went to Brisbane to recruit labour and, like many of his fellow pastoralists, decided to import Chinese labour.

In a letter to his sister-in-law, Alicia Lawless Pyne in Ireland, dated 16 March 1849, he wrote about the low price of wool and the need to obtain labour at an affordable rate. He complained about the shortage of English migrants.

During the ensuing years the Station prospered with the help of Chinese labour which came up to early expectations. The Chinese were used as shepherds, shearers and washers. (Sheep were washed in creeks or pools on most stations at that time before being shorn). The wages of the Chinese were about a shilling a day and they seemed contented with their work and conditions.



*Boobyjan Woolshed - 1860*

*(B R Lawless)*

A woolshed was built in 1856 by sawyers Horsby and Shephard, who charged £32 for cutting the timber and building the large structure with its shingled roof. The wool was being sent to the port of Maryborough through Daddamarine country over a convict-built road. From there it was shipped to agents in Sydney for export to England. Supplies were brought back for Boobyjan and other nearby runs.

These years nevertheless were filled with hardships for the two brothers. Apart from the difficulties mentioned, they were far removed from medical help, social contact and regular mail services bringing news from the outside world.

In 1855 Paul returned to Ireland to visit his family. While there he married Ellen Nash. They returned to the colony in 1859. Their first child was born in Sydney, from where they sailed to Maryborough and on by horse-drawn transport to Booubyjan. Meanwhile Clement also had returned to Ireland.

Paul and Ellen settled in to a busy life, he on the property, she as mistress of the homestead. A second child, John Paul, was born at the homestead in 1861.

Clement Lawless, while in Ireland, married Henrietta Babbington Wise. They returned from Ireland, bringing Clement's nephew Thomas Pyne, son of his eldest brother Rev John Lawless Pyne. This man had adopted the name 'Pyne' on inheriting the estates of an uncle bearing that name.

From Imbil, the run which the Lawless family had acquired in the Mary Valley, logs of cedar were brought to the homestead. They were made into tables for the dining room and kitchen, washstands and high-chairs for the children.

Another son, William Burnett, was born to Paul and Ellen in 1862. In that year also, the leases for the run arrived - Booubyjan in Clement's name and Windera in Paul's. The lease of Boonimba block was in their joint names. The whole of the Booubyjan Run was 281 square miles. It bordered Ban Ban, Mondure, Boonara and Teebar. The Liffey River was renamed Boonara Creek. Other creeks were named Lawless, Ellen, Liney (after Caroline), Marcella (after Ellen's grandmother) and Cloyne (after the Irish place of that name). Particulars of the holding at the time the lease was granted include the following:

*'Capacity - 6 000 sheep.*

*Maximum rent - £15*

*Name of water - Liffey (This refers to Boonara Creek)*

*Southern boundary - marked trees on both sides of creek with a scrub on eastern bank*

*On west - very broken country*

*On east - broken mountainous country*

*This piece is estimated to be 6 to 7 miles from north to south.'*

The homestead gave hospitality to travellers passing through and distances were so great that many stopped overnight. Some shod their horses at the blacksmith's shop before continuing their journey.

An Irish ex-convict called Paddy O'Neil was put in charge of several acres of land across Daddamarine Creek where he grew fruit and vegetables - peaches, pears, grapes, potatoes and melons - for the homestead.



A daughter, Emmaline Ann, was born to Clement and his wife in Ireland. A second daughter and fourth child was born to Paul and Ellen in 1864 and named after her mother. At this time Paul's health was poor, and the family decided to travel to London for specialist medical care. They returned to the family home in Ireland, where Paul died in August 1865. Ellen stayed in Ireland and then lived on the Continent for several years, while Clement and his family returned to Booubyjan. Clement did not remain there long, but returned again to Ireland, leaving his nephew, Tom Pyne, in charge of the property.



*Booubyjan Homestead - 1873*

*(B R Lawless)*

In 1870, six years after the death of Paul, Ellen returned to Booubyjan with the children. Clement returned to sell his share of the property to Ellen. After several years, she decided to install her two sons in English boarding schools, so again the family made the trip to England.

In 1878, John Paul returned to Booubyjan where his cousin, Lumley Pyne, was now manager. In 1889 he married Mabel, daughter of Thomas Evans, a former manager of Booubyjan and Ban Ban. After their marriage, they built a home on the Windera block where his widow and two daughters, Ellen and Noel, continued to live after his death. After the death of Ellen in 1977, Noel remained at Windera until 1980 when she retired to Buderim. The property was sold by her nephews in 1986.

Like most of the other holdings, Booubyjan and Windera turned from sheep to cattle in the 1880's. About this time the first of the leases expired, some to be taken up by the first selectors. By then, both cattle and sheep were being raised

on the stations. This arrangement continued in the area until about 1900. By then sheep raising had been completely abandoned. The breeding of horses for the British Army in India was also a profitable enterprise until the First World War.

In the early days few cattle were kept - just enough to sell for local consumption and to keep enough for rations on the station. In 1872 stud Durham cattle were imported from overseas. They were exhibited at Gayndah shows and won certificates and medals. Later Shorthorns were introduced. Lucerne was grown as fodder from the seventies long before it became a popular crop in the district. Maize was also grown to feed a famous stallion 'Jack Frost' (brother to Derby winner, 'Union Jack'), which had been imported from Ireland.

After John Paul's marriage, Burnett returned to Queensland and managed Boobyjan for his mother who remained there until 1909. She lived in Maryborough until her death in 1922. Burnett married Beatrice Walker of Maryborough in 1898. In 1927 they retired to Sydney where Burnett died in 1945, leaving Boobyjan to his two nephews, Ivan and Burnett R Lawless. Burnett purchased his brother's share in 1955. He married Enid Walker of Sydney. They are the present owners of Boobyjan which Burnett Lawless works in conjunction with his son Michael, who lives close by with his wife Stephanie and three children.

Boobyjan is one of the few properties in Queensland still owned and worked by the original family that first occupied it at the beginning of white settlement. The homestead retains its original character. The Lawless family have a great sense of the heritage that has been handed down to them by past generations. A wealth of history is retained within its walls. Furniture, paintings, photographs, station record books and maps are carefully preserved, enabling researchers of the area's history to obtain a wonderful insight into the way people lived during the 140 years since white settlement began in the Kilkivan Shire.

## 7. KILKIVAN

The first attempt at forming a sheep holding in the Wide Bay area of Kilkivan Shire was undertaken by a man named Sheridan, probably in 1845 about twelve miles north of the present township on Running Creek. Not much is known about this venture. It is thought that Sheridan made a promising start, but the aborigines proved too hostile. Two shepherds were killed and flocks of sheep were dispersed. Sheridan pulled out and went further south, but more trouble with the aborigines caused him to abandon the whole venture and return to Maryborough.

John Daniel Mactaggart, a Scot from Ayrshire, arrived in the colony in 1841. He worked for Ben Boyd in southern New South Wales, but had a desire to have his own run.



*Kilkivan Head Station from the East - 1872*

*(B R Lawless)*

Stories vary as to how he came to the Wide Bay area. One account is given of a meeting with Sheridan, just after that man had abandoned his run, and of Sheridan's glowing praise of the country he had recently left, despite the danger of belligerent aboriginal tribes. Mactaggart, who appears to have possessed the stubborn determination of his Scottish forebears would probably have regarded a move into such a potentially dangerous area as an irresistible challenge.

The most likely version, and the one most favoured as being correct by the Mactaggart family, is that John Daniel came looking for a run in the Nanango area. He returned to Moreton Bay and got together a flock of sheep which he brought north through the Burnett. He was anxious to settle at Degilbo or Paradise in the Central Burnett, but he fell ill with rheumatic fever. Walsh managed to forestall him and settled at Degilbo before he (Mactaggart) was well enough to proceed further with his flocks. Meanwhile, Walsh pointed him in the direction of Hawkin's run. Mactaggart continued on past Boonara and eventually settled at Kilkivan over the range to the east of Boonara in the Wide Bay area.

Mactaggart named his holding Kilkivan after the family farm near Campbelltown in Kyntire, Scotland. The name is derived from two Gaelic words - 'Cil' (Kil), meaning 'church' and 'Chaomhan' (Kivan) 'beloved' - 'Church of the Beloved.' The ruins of this church are on the old burial ground of the Scottish farm. The church derived its name supposedly from an ancient custom instigated by the local priest to do away with 'delinquencies' among

local married couples. All couples who were dissatisfied with their married partners could assemble once a year in the church. *'The church being darkened,'* they could *'try their fortunes in grasping someone or other. When the church was lightened, whether the one they held was hunchbacked or crooklegged, they were obliged to put up with them till the next yearly meeting.'*

Retaining his run and protecting his sheep against attacks by Wide Bay aborigines was a formidable task. There was a general shortage of labour in the colony. The Masters and Servants Act, which operated at that time, bound men or women to stay with their employers for a given period. Also it was impossible to force frightened men to stay on holdings that were so isolated from civilization. Lonely shepherds working on outstations were in constant danger from hostile aborigines who resented their presence, stole their sheep, and, being unable to distinguish between friend and foe, wrought vengeance on them for other men's crimes. Pastoral workers could well disappear to find work in more congenial surroundings. Daily the sheep were stolen and speared for food. Aborigines had for thousands of years hunted animals; she p, to them, were fair game.

Mactaggart had built himself a homestead which resembled a fortress rather than a home. The slab walls of the house and outbuildings were fitted with slots for rifles needed to protect the inmates against attacks by natives. Deserted by his workforce and under siege from aborigines, Mactaggart eventually decided he could no longer hold out. He saddled his horse ready for an early morning start, intending to travel to Maryborough and surrender tenure of the run. The story has it that the horse ate the damper he had made for the journey. Whatever happened, he was delayed and did not leave on the intended day. In the meantime, two men arrived, sent to assist Mactaggart by his neighbour, Ned Hawkins. With the help of these men, Mactaggart was able to hold the aborigines at bay and tend his flocks until he obtained more permanent help. He remained at Kilkivan for the rest of his life, to make it one of the most successful enterprises in the State.

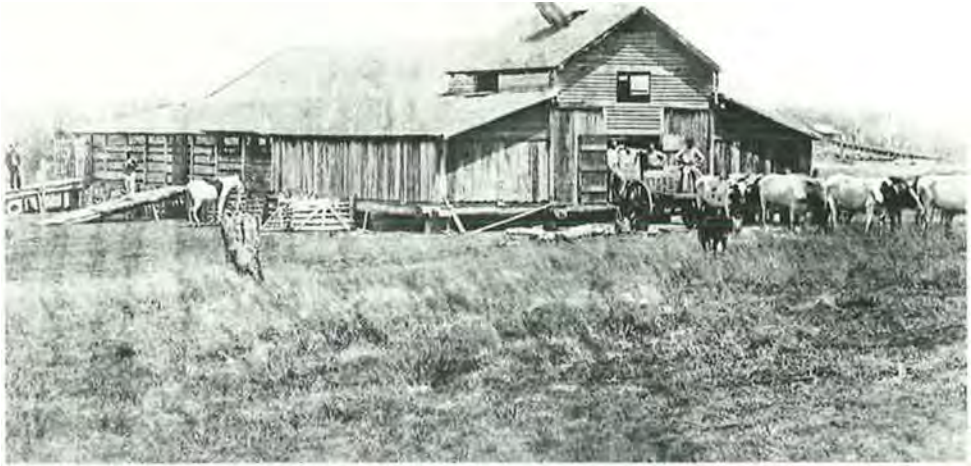
The original homestead, built on a hill, was blown down the slope into a creek by a cyclone. It was replaced in 1870 by a house on the same site. An account of the station's history, thought to have been written about 1914, described the homestead as having wide verandahs and a well kept garden with a fernery. In the compound surrounding the homestead were the bachelors' quarters, slabbed with cedar, other substantial buildings, an underground water-tank, fruit trees and ornamental shade trees. Close by was a woolshed and a room with a wool press.

Mactaggart married Maria Bloodworth but had no children. He was joined by his nephew Daniel in 1869. Daniel's brother, John, worked at Boonara Station. These two brothers later founded the firm of Mactaggart Brothers in Maryborough in 1892. Daniel also for a time, owned Glenbar Station in the Wide Bay area and, for a short time, owned a resumption block from the leasehold of Kilkivan Station.



*John Daniel Mactaggart*

*(D Mactaggart)*



*Kilkivan Woolshed - 1860's*

*(Queensland Museum)*

The discovery of gold at Gympie in the late sixties and the gold rush at West Coast Creek on Kilkivan Station soon after, brought a sudden influx of gold seekers. This must have been disruptive to the life of Mactaggart and his workers, but he seems to have helped rather than hindered the miners. He himself evidently took a certain interest in the local mining ventures and is reputed to have played a part in the discovery of copper and quicksilver. Although he lost valuable grazing land to the miners, he helped them with supplies from the station store before a regular supply of foodstuffs was arranged for the exploding population. The gold rushes were of short duration, but they resulted in the birth of the town of Kilkivan. This town was to shift three times as the population followed the gold discoveries. The third and final move was to the present site of the town, close to the homestead.

Mactaggart died in 1871 and was buried on a hilltop near the present site of the town. The property was managed by trustees for the Mactaggart Estate for the next twenty-one years. The widowed Mrs Mactaggart married the manager of Kilkivan Station, Mr Rose.

In the early 1860's the run was made up of 320 acres freehold and 125 square miles leasehold, which was subsequently increased to 180 square miles. The country had been stocked with sheep and later, cattle. In 1869, Kilkivan was carrying 23 000 merinos and 6 000 head of cattle. About 1878, the trustees decided that the country was unsuitable for sheep. The flocks were sold and from then on only cattle were stocked.

By this time selectors had moved into the area and taken up much of the leasehold land. A large area of the remaining leasehold was converted to freehold.

In 1892 the property was purchased from the Mactaggart Estate by George Hall Jones, former co-owner of Boonara Station. By this time it was much reduced by the taking up of land by selectors. Mr Jones lived there and managed the property until his death in 1899. It remained in the Jones family until 1911. By then most of the land had been sold and cut up for closer settlement.

On the hill overlooking the town of Kilkivan are the graves of John Daniel Mactaggart, George Hall Jones and his wife, Rose, who died in 1910. Beside them lies G H Jones' son, David Lacey Jones, who, for many years, was Clerk of Kilkivan Shire.

The small property surrounding the homestead was bought by Mr F A Stevens, a Maryborough dentist who worked it as a dairy employing share farmers. Unfortunately the old homestead was burnt down in 1941. The property, now owned by the Lawler family, has a new home built on the site of the old homestead.

## 8. TRANSPORT

The early explorers who came into the Wide Bay-Burnett area travelled on saddle horses with pack horses to carry supplies and equipment. The latter carried a pack saddle which was longer than a riding saddle, having places where other gear could be attached. These horses carried 200 to 300 pounds weight according to the load required and the size and strength of the animal.

When the first settlers came, they brought drays in addition to their pack and saddle horses. The dray was a two-wheeled vehicle with no springs, capable of carrying loads of one to two tons and pulled by one to six bullocks, according to the size of the load. It had to be carefully loaded so that the goods carried were evenly distributed to prevent undue strain on the bullocks or the tipping off of the load.

As there were no tracks, the first arrivals often had to hack pathways through difficult terrain. Much of the country they had to cross was steep and mountainous, thickly timbered and with frequent stream crossings. Bullocks were strong patient animals, very easy to manoeuvre in such country. Wherever possible, people travelled in convoy to provide mutual help in difficult situations and protection against hostile aborigines.

It was many years before trafficable roads were established, and these were as yet primitive tracks. Wet weather caused frequent bogging and deep rutting from wagon wheels, which made the roads rough in dry times.

The wagon, a four-wheeled vehicle, was a great improvement on the dray. It was more stable so larger loads could be carried.



*Riders and pack horse - Kilkivan Station*

*(Murgon Historical Society)*

Wagons were built with a pole to which two bullocks (polers) were harnessed. These animals did the steering. Bullock teams usually comprised twelve to twenty-four animals - sometimes more.

The 'table-top' wagon had a flat timber floor above wheel level and was ideal for general carrying - bales of wool from the stations to the coast and provisions on the return journey. It was usual for twelve months' supply of goods - staple lines, everyday equipment for the work of the station, clothing - to be sent at one time. If there was room, there might be toys for the children, medicines for home treatment of illnesses, furniture, hats for the women, settings of eggs etc.

The wagons from Boobyjan often brought back supplies for neighbouring runs as well as for their own use. Among other things, record books from the station list flour in 200-pound bags, sugar, rice, matting, sacks, tea chests, tobacco, pipes, lucifers (matches), clothing for the shepherds. The only 'luxuries' brought were pepper, mustard, pickles, raisins and currants.

Sometimes bad weather held the teams up for so long that the teamsters ran out of food and had to live off the land or help themselves to the station supplies if they happened to be carrying them. Occasionally men would be sent out from the homesteads with packhorses to meet stranded drays and bring small quantities of essential supplies to tide the station people over until the teams could get through. There would be times, however, when, because of the delay to wagons due to bad weather, tea, flour and sugar would be eked out to the last ounce.



Early trips from the Burnett stations were made down the Brisbane Valley to Ipswich with their loads of export goods. As the port of Maryborough grew, it was found easier to transport goods from the Wide Bay-Burnett area from this port. Supplies were shipped from the south and provided back loading. The journeys were shorter but still hazardous.

Long journeys through rough country often resulted in broken wheels, injured bullocks or, occasionally, death of animals or men. Sometimes two teams were needed to pull a wagon over a difficult part. Often bullocks, wagons and their loads tumbled over precipices or steep mountain areas - resulting in the loss of valuable goods or supplies, as well as some of the bullocks.

One of the worst sections on the journey to Maryborough was the Coast Range. Here the wool and other loadings had to be hauled to the top of the range with the aid of a Spanish windlass and lowered down the other side by the same means. On one occasion the dray was too heavy for the bullocks. It ran out of control and the ropes strangled the unfortunate beasts.

The first drays and wagons had no brakes, although the poler bullocks could hold the loads on slight slopes. Saplings were pushed through the spokes of the wheels or logs were hooked on to be dragged behind to steady the rate of travel of the vehicle. When logs were used as brakes while travelling down steep inclines, a large pile would often accumulate at the bottom of such a slope. When the pile reached a certain size, the logs would be carted to the top again for re-use.



*'Table-top' wagon - carrying chaff*

*(M Lehmann)*



*German Wagon*

*(M Lehmann)*

Later, brakes were attached, the brake block being made of hardwood and able to be screwed onto the iron rim of the wheel. A 'brake boy' was usually engaged for this job. He walked behind the wagon and applied the brakes when necessary.

Eventually horses were used as well as bullocks to pull wagons. The former were comparatively fast and strong but bullocks were still able to negotiate the roughest patches, showing patience, strength and flexibility in awkward situations as well as demonstrating calmness in crises. Horses were easily frightened.

The first government road in the Burnett was a cutting built over the range at a spot known as Sheep Station Pinch. A number of the very early roads were convict built, although convicts were never used as workforces on the properties in this area. Traces of these roads can still be seen today particularly in the Boobyjan area.

The present Nanango-Kingaroy-Murgon-Goomeri road follows almost the identical track blazed by the first settlers. One of the early pack-horse mail services in the Burnett was conducted by Mr Pat McCallum. He travelled regularly every week from Nanango to Gayndah and back, making Boonara his half-way house. The trip was 110 miles each way.

Travellers moved about on horseback or obtained lifts on loaded drays and wagons. As time went on traps and dog-carts - small horse-drawn vehicles with

seats and room for light luggage - were used for passenger transport. When wagons, drays and vehicles for personal transport were built with springs, travel became more comfortable.

By the eighties the buggy, a four-wheeled light horse-drawn vehicle, came into use. This was well sprung with comfortable seating for two or three people and pulled by one or two horses, or in the case of more affluent owners, four horses (four-in-hand). The buckboard was similar but had an extended floor to the rear which could carry a reasonable amount of luggage.

Around the 1890's the sulky came into use. It was a light two-wheeled vehicle, well sprung and comfortable, with seating for two or three people. It was pulled by one horse placed in shafts. The sulky became very popular and was used well into the twentieth century - long after early motor vehicles became popular.

In the early 1900's, when the area was more closely settled, the spring cart - a light dray-type vehicle with springs and shafts, pulled by one horse, and the German wagon - a light four-wheeled vehicle, usually unsprung, with a narrow floor below wheel height and sides sloping over the wheel height, were in common use, especially on farms. The German wagon was easy to load and unload.

The advent of the railway to Kilkivan by 1886 and its extension to Goomeri in 1902 brought the first means of fast transport. However it was still necessary to transport goods and passengers by horse-drawn vehicles to the railheads.



*Dog-cart*

*(D Hicks)*

## 9. THE ABORIGINES AFTER SETTLEMENT

As mentioned in an earlier chapter, Governor Gipps, during his term of office, declared the bunya forests to be aboriginal reserves and delayed settlement in the newly-discovered Wide Bay-Burnett area until both natives and whites could be adequately protected. However, with the arrival of Governor Fitzroy, settlers were allowed into the area. But the bunya forests remained under protection from settlement or timber getters until 1862.

The early settlers' relationships with aborigines varied. In the South Burnett there appeared to be harmony with the local tribes. There are no records of atrocities being committed by whites or aborigines on a large scale at the Barambah, Boonara, Booubyjan and Winderu Runs. These were owner-operated enterprises except for periods when these men were abroad or the properties were being run for an estate or a minor.

In *Epic of Adventure*, this 'happy state' on Boonara Station is put down to the 'kindly but firm way in which the natives were treated from the outset'. This article also mentions an incident in the 1850's soon after the Jones family took over Boonara. A shepherd and his hut-keeper were found murdered on the out-station of Merodion on the Wide Bay side of the Coast Range. The aborigines took the sheep which had been under the care of these men. They (the aborigines) went as far away from the scene as they could, coming to rest on Tye, a lonely out-station on Boonara. The avengers - a punitive expedition from the surrounding runs - caught up with the aborigines. The sheep were in a bough enclosure and a large aborigine was killing them indiscriminately with a nulla-nulla, striking the animals on the back of the head. The dead sheep were then seized by others and thrown on to the fire. The white party 'punished' the offending natives - how is not mentioned - and the remaining sheep were driven home.

At Booubyjan the men were away from the homestead for weeks at a time manning the outstations. Someone was always left behind to protect the women and children. The most likely threat came from 'myall'- ones from other tribes who happened to wander into the area. Aborigines were allowed the run of the station and given employment if and when they wanted to work. There was no compulsion for them to remain. But they were always given rations, shelter, and medical treatment if these were needed.

The Booubyjan natives continued to hold meetings at the rock a mile from the homestead - from which the station takes its name. The self-styled king of the tribe, Boney, came to the station for rations and sometimes a little work. On one occasion, Paul Lawless was bending over a cask of salt beef in the station store. He turned suddenly to see Boney with a tomahawk uplifted ready to bring it down on his head. Paul reprimanded him sternly, to be told: 'You turn back, Boss, me kill you'. This illustrates how tenuous relationships between aborigines and whites were, even at the best of times.

In the Wide Bay area the situation was much more volatile. Andrew Petrie's expedition to the mouth of the river in 1842 made contact with two absconded convicts - Bracefield and Davis - who had been living with the Wide Bay aborigines. This was a fortunate move. The convicts told stories of the murdering of two shepherds by the natives on McKenzie's run - Kilcoy. This had been followed by the poisoning of a number of aborigines on this station by the lacing of flour with arsenic, and its distribution by a shepherd on an out-station to the aborigines. The convicts were able to persuade the aborigines that Petrie's party was friendly. But as there were hundreds of natives and only a handful of white men, extreme caution had to be exercised. The white men gave the aborigines an impressive show of musket fire to dissuade any likely attackers.

The tragic outcome of Jolliffe's grazing venture at Tiaro and Sheridan's attempt to establish a run at Running Creek have already been mentioned. There is also a story that John Daniel Mactaggart at the time of his arrival in the area, did battle with the local aborigines at Wide Bay Creek and emerged victorious, leaving casualties behind him. In the early years of Kilkivan Run, harassment by aborigines resulted in losses of sheep and shepherds and an inability to obtain shepherds to care for the sheep. This resulted in the near abandonment of the property by Mactaggart. Gradually, however, the aborigines realized his determination and accepted his presence. They even took employment on his run.

One great stand against the aborigines occurred when Mactaggart received a message from H C Corfield of Gigoongam who had lost 500 sheep in an aboriginal raid. He sent to Kilkivan for help. The band of white settlers attacked at night and recovered nearly all the sheep. The aborigines counter-attacked at Calgoa Creek. From the top of a ravine they pushed boulders onto the party of white men, who narrowly escaped death. The natives threw three spears. The whites, who were running short of ammunition, used the last shots to pick off some of the attacking natives. Fortunately the aborigines retreated and did not attack again.

The government of New South Wales (before separation) formed the Native Police Patrol in a genuine attempt to keep the peace between white settlers and aborigines. This group operated in the Wide Bay-Burnett area from 1849 to its abolition in 1859. The force seems to have been undeservedly maligned. Whether it was ethical to set aborigine against aborigine is a debatable point. But there is evidence to show that Lieutenant Walker tried to act impartially toward both the aborigines and the white settlers. He encouraged the pastoralists to allow aborigines the freedom of their runs, feeling that this resulted in more harmonious relations between natives and whites. He understood his native policemen and could match them in ability to penetrate rough country and thick scrub. He tried to be fair to the aborigines, meting out or recommending punishment when guilt was proved beyond reasonable doubt.

Walker had an impossibly large territory to cover and found it difficult to be in all the places that required him at the one time. The correspondence of the day

reveals complaints from squatters of cattle destroyed and dispersed and sheep driven off runs. On the high road between the Burnett and Brisbane, travellers had been attacked and bullocks speared. A report dated 1851 tells of native police proceeding to the station of Messrs Tooth in Wide Bay (Widgee Widgee) where aborigines had begun to destroy cattle. The marauders were difficult to apprehend as they invariably made for the coast.

A further report, dated 31 December 1851, tells of 'a serious affray with firearms' between Chinese and white servants, where the Chinese were found guilty.

After the murder of Corfield's shepherds, Mactaggart wrote advocating the use of the military instead of the police force to keep order. Fifteen Burnett stockholders wrote in July 1852 expounding the ineptness of the native police in safeguarding the peace.

Most of the complaints came from Widgee. This may have been because it was one of the earliest runs to carry cattle, easy prey for aborigines.

At this time Mactaggart was having constant trouble with the aborigines. Walker left twelve of his men at Kilkivan to be rationed by Mactaggart from his station store. Unfortunately these men, without an officer, proved to be undisciplined. Some absconded only to commit atrocities later on.

Walker was ultimately dismissed from the service. His alcoholism and his inability to keep the accounts of the force in order played into his enemies' hands. Despite his final disgrace he had done much to deserve merit. He was never surpassed in his ability to handle the aborigines that served under him. He could equal these men in finding his way through the toughest terrain; and he tried to be impartial toward black offenders, refusing to convict them unless the evidence against them was conclusive. This often brought him into conflict with pastoralists who thought that their interests were being disregarded.

On most stations the aborigines were cared for and protected and their welfare was considered. Unfortunately, contact with white civilization ultimately eroded their unique life-style and they became totally dependent on the white man.

At Manumbar Station, a cousin of John Mortimer, Rev John Mathew, took a great interest in the habits and customs of the surrounding tribes. He recorded his findings in two books, *Two Representative Tribes of Queensland* and *Vocabulary of the Wakka Wakka*. He spent seven years at Manumbar (1865 - 72), and was in constant contact with the Kabi and Wakka Wakka tribes. Posterity owes much to this man who documented the way the local aborigines had lived for thousands of years before the coming of the white man.

Lieutenants Bligh and Morrissey were two of the mounted troopers who came into the area regularly to supervise the natives and sort out their problems. These troopers were greatly feared by the aborigines. The officers would camp

at the homestead of each station for a few days, then continue on to another homestead. Native police were employed as trackers. They were very clever in the bush but needed supervision.

The night Mrs Ellen Lawless' second child was born, Lieutenant Morrissey and a native trooper arrived. 'Chief' Boney tried to persuade Morrissey that Mrs Lawless was ill and wanted them to move on. The police made enquiries and found it was a trick to get rid of them.

One incident that shows the genuine concern that pastoralists had for their local aborigines, is a letter dated 3 April 1861 and signed by T and A Mortimer of Manumbar Run, to the Colonial Secretary concerning an alleged outrage committed by an officer of the Native Police against the blacks on Manumbar Station. The Mortimers claimed to have '*sufficient evidence*' to convince the authorities that such an outrage had taken place. They had placed an advertisement to that effect in the *Moreton Bay Courier*. They stated:

*'On Sunday 10th February 1861 a little before sunset, our attention was attracted to the report of firearms discharged at no great distance from our head station. A few minutes after the firing had eased a Black who was shepherding sheep left them and came running to the head station telling us that Policeman had shoot him blackfellow. We asked him to go with us and point out the place where the Blacks had their camp. When we had proceeded about a mile-and-a-half from the head station and about two or three hundred yards from where the blacks had been encamped, we were met by a party of Native Police, Mr Giles Junior from the station of Widgee Widgee and another gentleman... we presumed to be in charge of the Police.'*

The Mortimers stated that the blacks about the station kept telling them that many had been shot by the police and that the others had gone to Yabba (over the range). On being directed by the station blacks, the Mortimers found the bodies of five of their blacks who had been shot. Two of the station blacks, they said, had been wounded while on Yabba. Mr Swanson of Yabba informed the Mortimers that a party of Native Police accompanied by Lieutenant Morrissey visited Yabba on the Monday and that, upon their arrival, they had apprehended a deserter from the Native Police implicated in the murder of Fanny Briggs at Rockhampton. On Monday night the prisoner was handcuffed and left in charge of the Native Police. The prisoner escaped the next day. While riding over the Station (Yabba) the police had come across an aboriginal's camp where they shot a young shepherd who was innocent of any crime.

A few days later two Manumbar aborigines came home wounded by bullets. They claimed they had been camped on Yabba with a number of natives from various tribes who had come '*to the Bunya Bunya*'. As soon as the police arrived they (the tellers) remained where they were and said they '*belonging to Mr Mortimer*'. The police took no notice and fired.

The Mortimers continued:

*'We have never before known the Native Police to fire upon blacks if they did not run away, and we have always warned our blacks of the danger of trying to go away from the police and instructed them that it was better to stand and tell them where they came from.'*

There was an enquiry into this incident but such enquiries were seldom fruitful. However, it throws light on the concern these people had for the welfare of the aborigines.

On Widgee two stockmen, Andrew Ogilvie and James Caulfield, stopped at a waterhole close to the present site of Woolooga. The water was coated with a greasy substance and, on closer inspection, they found the decomposed bodies of five dead aborigines, all with bullet holes in their skulls.

As time went on, incidents such as these were less frequent. In later years many old-timers spoke of the aborigines on the Stations with affection and admiration. Many of them were good horsemen and became integrated into the life of the stations. However with the advent of land selection and closer settlement, most of the aborigines eventually moved to Barambah Settlement. Their old way of life had disappeared for ever.

## 10. WOOLOOGA

There is unofficial evidence that the Murray Brothers took up Woolooga (or Walooga as it was referred to at that time) in the late 1840's. Before their occupation could be documented and legalised they had left - most probably because of harrassment by the local aborigines.

John Murray wrote on 21 December 1850 of the daily danger in which he and his employees lived from the surrounding aborigines. He stated that two shepherds had been killed and 600 sheep stolen. One man was speared, as was the horse he was riding. Later the aborigines had taken off another 1 000 sheep and destroyed them. This finally convinced him to give up and surrender the run. Another piece of evidence was found on the fly-leaf of a book belonging to John Daniel Mactaggart of Kilkivan Station after his death. The note read:

*'Dear Mactaggart, make all haste. Frank is murdered and a lot of sheep taken, J Murray.'*

It seems probable that Mactaggart answered the call for help, as he himself had stood his ground many times against hostile aborigines.

The first registered occupier of this run was William Powell. The date given is 1854. Possibly he was there at an earlier date. His name figures in the correspondence of the Native Police sent to protect the settlers and the aborigines from unnecessary slaughter.





*Woolooga Homestead*

*(The Queenslander)*

In 1856 there were complaints from F R Hutchenson of Widgee Widgee Station and William Powell of Walooga about the killing of livestock and the helping of workers on the stations to abscond. Powell reported that the aborigines had attacked his station, robbed the stores, bound his son and left a hutkeeper for dead on the ground. This man, though seriously wounded, had travelled for miles to a Justice of the Peace to '*give his deposition*'. Therefore it was not until October 1855 that Halloran (head of the Native Police at the time) had taken the hutkeeper's statement on the station and had issued warrants for the arrests of the five aboriginal ring leaders.

In the meantime, Powell complained, aborigines had taken a number of sheep and had sent Powell word by others of their race that they intended to come to Walooga after the bunya season, take all the sheep and the stores, and murder Powell and his men. There were only two men working on the run at that time and Powell felt very insecure.

He stated that the Native Police had called at Walooga eight times since the first robbery on 25 April 1855, but only on four occasions had they been accompanied by an officer. Powell felt that aborigines for whom warrants had been granted could be easily apprehended as they were often at Widgee Widgee Station.

On 16 May 1856, Morriset reported to the Inspector-General of Police of Powell's grievance. He said he had visited Walooga three times and that Powell had no grounds for complaint. The Native Police were usually very effective in

keeping peace between the aborigines and the white settlers. It appears that the officers would not act against aborigines unless they had absolute proof of guilt. The pastoralists often felt that, in their efforts to do justice to the black man, the white men's interests were not protected. There were many complaints against the Native Police Patrol by the settlers; but it must be remembered that the police had large areas to cover and could not be everywhere at once. It also appears that the native policemen needed the on-site control of their white officers to be really effective. Without their officers to oversee them they often acted without discipline or constraint.

Walooga was originally stocked with sheep in its early years. Widgee Widgee and its out-stations began earlier than other runs with cattle, which were better suited to the near-coastal areas of Wide Bay.

It is possible that Powell also eventually gave up his tenure because of the constant attacks by aborigines and the difficulty of keeping sufficient workmen to cope with the work on the holding because of the dangers from aborigines.

In 1857 ownership was officially transferred to Robert Tooth, a wealthy cousin of William Butler Tooth, who had taken up Widgee Widgee with his brother in 1846. The area of Walooga was given at that time as 16 000 acres. Robert Tooth resided in Sydney and apparently never lived at either Widgee Widgee or Walooga or any of the other numerous runs he had acquired. Walooga, which would have been placed in the care of a manager, may have been run after this time as an out-station of Widgee Widgee.

Trouble with aborigines continued. There is very little official documentation, but there seems to have been raids by the aborigines on the stock pastured on the run, followed by retaliatory action taken by the whites.

Local aborigines had a trick of grabbing sheep with their powerful toes and holding them under water until they drowned. Bongmuller Creek, according to local legend derives its name from a reprisal raid in which many aborigines were killed by station hands. It is suggested that the name derives from 'bong', the aboriginal word for 'dead'. Whether 'muller' was the name of a white man or the German slang word for 'aborigine' is a matter about which there is differing local opinion.

Robert Cran bought into the Widgee partnership in 1864 and the owners became Tooth and Cran, Cran holding a mortgage over the Tooth share of the enterprise. Woolooga appears to have been part of this deal.

By this time cattle were run throughout the holding and sheep had been phased out. The next years brought more trouble - an economic depression, a shortage of labour caused mainly by the effects of the gold rushes, and pleuro-pneumonia in the cattle. The mortgage was surrendered to the Bank of New South Wales in 1868. In that same year the Crown Lands Alienation Act was passed by the Queensland Parliament. Woolooga was consolidated with Widgee, Wonga, Orange Tree, Basin of Widgee Widgee, Carrington,

Glastonbury, Bald Hills and Reserve into one run. Of this whole area, 120 300 acres was resumed and 34 708 acres came under a new lease.

Soon after this, Woolooga was sold to Messrs Lord and King. At that time the property comprised about 20 000 acres but later owners increased the area. Woolooga next passed into the hands of Sir Horace and Lady Tozer, she being a member of the Lord family.

Woolooga was bought from the estate of Lady Tozer by Mr Pat Lillis and later by C J Booker MLA. In 1908, Booker sold the property to the government to be cut up for closer settlement. The price is listed in government records as £38 784. Widgee's sale price is given as £92 534.

Booker retained a small area around the homestead. Here he ran Shorthorn and Welsh Pony studs and also kept Southdown sheep. His property was also used as a depot for handling fat cattle from the Mungy and Lochaber leaseholds in the Burnett at that time owned by the Booker family.

## 11. OUTLAWS

### **The Wild Scotsman**

The most famous outlaw to operate in the Burnett was James McPherson - 'The Wild Scotsman'. He was a benign criminal who became a hunted man almost by accident.

After migrating from Scotland, his family worked on Cressbrook Station in the Brisbane Valley, where James learnt horsemanship. When the family moved to Brisbane in 1853, James was apprenticed to a building contractor, John Petrie, where he became skilled at all facets of building with timber and stone. While shearing in North Queensland, James was reputed to have held up his employer at gunpoint demanding a fair payment for his work. The squatter claimed that McPherson and his mates had mishandled his sheep. Whatever the reason, the young McPherson from then on bore a grudge against society.

An involvement in a hold-up and a shooting made him a wanted man. He fled to New South Wales but was eventually caught and brought north to Bowen to stand trial. While being transported south to Rockhampton by boat, he escaped. He operated on the Darling Downs and the Taroom area. While the chase for him was going on, he reappeared in the Burnett district.

James McPherson's specialty was holding up mailmen on their lonely routes. He would take possession of the mail, open it and extract all money, cheques, or anything else of value. He complained that he could not understand the characters written by the Chinese, making their cheques of no use to him. Sometimes he would steal a horse, or just the saddle and bridle.

In the South Burnett, McPherson's main victim was Patrick McCallum, an Australian-born mailman who operated between Gayndah and Nanango in the

1860's. One evening when McCallum was riding toward Nanango, McPherson, mounted on a white horse, met up with him at Seven Mile Flat near Barambah. At first the mailman pretended to be a traveller going to the races, but McPherson had a good knowledge of the timetables and the routes followed by the mailmen in the district and was not deceived. He pulled a gun, forced McCallum off the road, told him to dismount and light a fire. McCallum refused to take the mailbags off the horse, but McPherson said he was quite willing to do that himself. There was very little of value in the mail, as people were, by that time, wary of sending money or valuables of any sort by post.

McPherson could not resist boasting of past exploits, referring to himself as 'Johnny Dunn', a member of the Ben Hall Gang. He even gave McCallum letters to post to O'Connell who was in charge of the police and to the Governor, Sir George Bowen - threatening McCallum with retribution if these were not delivered. He swapped McCallum's fine new saddle for his old one.

McCallum returned to Gayndah, posted the letter to the Governor and reported the incident to Inspector O'Connell. McPherson had boasted of his ability to hold up any mailman who was not escorted by two armed police. He also promised that he would raid the town of Gayndah when he considered himself well mounted. McCallum left for Nanango accompanied this time by a lieutenant of the Mounted Police for protection, having bought himself a new saddle to replace the one that McPherson had taken.

He delivered the mail to Nanango and set out to return to Gayndah, encountering McPherson a mile-and-a-half from the town as he was *'letting down the rails of the Common'*.

McPherson, who was on foot, commandeered the Brisbane and Ipswich letters from the mail and then took the mailman's horse and new saddle. McCallum walked back to Nanango with his packhorse and the remaining mail.

On 19 December, McPherson bailed McCallum up on the Gayndah - Boonara road and repeated his former thievery, adding remarks to the fact that he did not like the mailman. McCallum went to the nearest habitation, Chapman's Black Horse Inn, thirty miles from Gayndah, to get help. Chief Inspector G P M Murray with members of the first division of Native Police gave chase. The Wild Scotsman was thrown from his stolen horse and narrowly escaped capture, but he managed to reach the safety of the surrounding bush. His ability to elude the police can be put down to the fine horses that he stole. He rode into Gayndah and disappeared with F G Connolly's thoroughbred, 'Foxhunter', one of the finest horses in the district. With such a horse he could easily outstrip the police. Mounted on this horse he disappeared into the scrub and again outwitted the police.

McPherson took everyone by surprise when he rode into Gayndah just before the races to pick himself a good mount. Very rashly, he walked into Connolly's store to buy supplies before going to the racecourse. Connolly set off the alarm and

gathered a group of young men of the town. The district remained in a state of unwarranted terror. McPherson, by his boastings, had created the impression that unaccounted for members of more dangerous gangs from the south were operating with him.

The letter to the Governor reached Brisbane on 20 December. Included were cheques and promissory notes to the value of £1 700 - of no use to McPherson. These were returned to their rightful owners.

On his way out of the South Burnett in the New Year of 1861, he again held up McCallum, took his horse, but promised to return it within a few days. This he did, leaving the horse beside the road for McCallum to pick up. Previously he had returned McCallum's new saddle with a note saying:

*'This is Pat McCallum's saddle. See that he gets it back'.*

He had also returned the horse he had taken at Nanango common, leaving it at Mondure.

He operated around Roma for a spell before returning to the Burnett area. On 20 January 1866, he appeared at Boobyjan Station and stayed the night with a shepherd, to whom he rashly bragged about his exploits.

He next moved north, holding up the local mailman wherever he went, going through the mail. He was described by those who saw him as *'a dashing figure'* on a *'well-known thoroughbred'* - stolen, of course! The police were informed and gave chase.

McPherson again cheekily arrived outside Gayndah, but, when he saw the law coming, he disappeared into gravelly country and spent the night in a shepherd's hut. All mail leaving Gayndah was again put under police escort. A month later, McPherson was running out of money and needed fresh horses. He planned to rob the Maryborough - Port Curtis mail.

With this in mind, he went to Gin Gin Homestead, loaded his pack-horse, and asked when the mail would be passing. The station folk guessed his identity and were relieved to see him go. Armitage, the mailman, later had lunch at the homestead and was convinced the Wild Scotsman was waiting for him. A party of squatters and station hands, with Superintendent Mott, used Armitage as a decoy. McPherson was clever enough to make a getaway down the side of a ridge. This proved his undoing as his horse was too exhausted to make the ride up the steep slope on the other side.

No chances were taken with McPherson once the pursuit party captured him. At Monduran Station, to which he was brought, he remained good humoured, affable and neither *'flash'* nor *'ferocious'*. Mrs Walsh and her children, who were at the homestead at the time, found him courteous. The children took a liking to him and smuggled him fruit.

He was taken under heavy escort to Maryborough and then to Brisbane, where he was tried and sentenced in late 1866 to twenty-two years penal servitude. He was released in 1874, mainly because of a petition instigated by his father and signed, among others, by some eminent citizens of the colony.

Eventually he went to North Queensland, married and became a law-abiding citizen, earning his living as a drover, stockman, teamster and, for a while, a stone mason. In 1895 he was killed by a fall off a horse at Burketown.

By comparison with other bushrangers, James McPherson, alias Alpin McPherson, alias The Wild Scotsman, was a mild character. He appears to have been well spoken, reasonably well educated and well mannered. He never took advantage of a person in real need. Even in his hold-ups he only took enough to sustain himself. There were no great riches to be made by his style of crime. He was a splendid horseman and loved horses till the day he died, being particular about his mounts to the point of vanity.

Near the northern boundary of the shire is a cave that McPherson used as a hide-out. It lies in rough country, away from human habitation. McPherson used his skill as a brick-layer to form ledges for his guns. No one could have crept on him unawares. Below and in front of the cave is a grassy area where his horses could have grazed. He appears to have been a colourful character more deserving of the admiration that Australians persist in giving to such early figures of crime than most of his southern counterparts.

### **Billy Lillis**

The kindly Mrs Mortimer of Manumbar Station ran a Sabbath school for the aboriginal children on the property. Two of these - Johnny Campbell and Billy Lillis - turned to crime when they reached adulthood. Billy Lillis had been a police tracker. Probably the training he received in white man's ways and his native cunning made him an adept sneak thief. He never committed any crime of violence. Most of his energy was diverted to stealing goods from the stores of the stations in the Wide Bay-Burnett area. Alcoholic liquor was one thing he favoured.

He was eventually caught on Manumbar when hunger drove him to steal food. The police, on their way to Kilkivan, stopped at Abbotsford, home of the Simpson brothers. Billy was left handcuffed to a post while the police enjoyed a meal. When they returned, Billy was gone. They had forgotten he was double-jointed.

However, he did one good deed that gave him a life-long champion. Mr Charlie Green, well known horseman and station manager, was chasing scrubbers on Yabba in the Brisbane Valley when he was thrown from his horse and rendered unconscious. He was found and brought to safety by Billy.

Mr Green maintained that Billy's failing was drink. When he was under the influence of alcohol he would steal from anybody. He quite often spent short

spells in gaol for stealing or molesting others when drunk. His favourite trick was entering a house by a chimney. Often the people he stole from would mete out justice in the form of a hiding. Strangely, Billy respected those who punished him in this way.

At one time he was hiding in rough bush country on Manumbar waiting for the mailman who travelled past this area on his way from Kilcoy to Barambah twice a week. The mailman would often give Billy tobacco and food. This day his hunger was so great that he came to the kitchen at the homestead. Mr Chambers, the manager, handed him over to the police.

In later years Billy Lillis moved with other aborigines in the area to the Barambah Aboriginal Settlement (Cherbourg). He was regarded with awe by his fellow tribesmen. He died after drinking rum. Whether it had been poisoned by someone who wished him ill, or whether the alcohol he consumed had eventually caused his death, is not actually proven.

### **Johnny Campbell**

Unlike Billy Lillis, Johnny Campbell was a vicious criminal. He was described as a man of stocky build, thick-set, with powerful shoulders. As a young man he worked as a stockman on properties in the Wide Bay-Burnett area. According to one local historian (D W Bull), he was taken to England by an employer who admired his skill as a horseman, and while there may have developed undesirable habits by mixing with dubious company.

He was in his thirties when he turned to crime. For eight months he terrorised the district, particularly the women - black and white.

His first misdemeanor was to way-lay a young school mistress who was riding through the property where he worked. She escaped by hitting Campbell across the face with a whip. For this the station manager later had Campbell flogged.

He continued to rob homesteads, molesting and kidnapping gins and terrorising white women left unprotected for any length of time. He usually travelled with a gin, taken by force, discarding his current companion for another partner when he felt so inclined. He had other aboriginal helpers in his criminal undertakings or his evasion of the law. These men stole for him and acted as decoys when needed but did not commit the violent crimes of which Campbell was guilty.

On 19 June 1879, he entered a house at Black Snake Creek, molested a ten-year-old girl, and vanished into the night. He continued to pillage houses in the district, having one very clever trick for eluding capture by the police. When pursued, he would walk along the top of a two-rail fence to confuse the trackers. While the police were combing the area around Gayndah searching for him, he was operating near Kilkivan.

On August 3, an aboriginal woman appeared at the Kilkivan police station in a bad state, saying she had been molested, kidnapped and stripped of her clothing, to be later rescued by another aboriginal man.

Each time these atrocities were committed Campbell managed to outwit his pursuers. For months he continued in his career of robbery, rape and violence. He was finally captured at Tewantin with the help of several local aborigines who were given a boat outfitted for fishing as a reward. He was tried and sentenced to fourteen years penal servitude for highway robbery because no woman would testify against him.

Eventually, those people whom he had terrorised realised the possibility of Campbell being free after his sentence expired to resume his career of violence. One man whose daughter had been raped by Campbell persuaded the girl to testify. A fresh trial was held and this time Campbell was sentenced to death. He was hanged in Brisbane Jail on 18 August 1880.

## 12. SOCIAL AND PUBLIC LIFE

The burning political issue of the 1840's was separation from New South Wales and the choice of a capital for the new colony.

There had been movements for separation as early as 1844. Mention has already been made of the abortive attempt by the Colonial Office in Britain to proclaim a new colony of North Australia in May 1846.

In the early days of settlement of the Wide Bay-Burnett area one of the biggest problems faced by settlers was an acute labour shortage. Migrants were coming to New South Wales, but most of them would land in Sydney and be absorbed by job vacancies in the south. Settlers in the northern part of the colony felt they would have a better chance of obtaining such labour if separation were to give them their own colony.

A letter written by Clement Lawless in March 1849 highlights the problems of the time:

*'The colony saw a low price of wool last year and lower even this year. Many of the settlers are bringing in Chinese from Hong Kong to prevent ruin ... The supply of English immigrants is not equal to a tenth part of what is wanted. We can import Celestials for about £10 at £6 per year per head.*

*'They will be engaged for five years and we will be able to grow wool at a very low rate. Those who have been brought into this country have been found to be most excellent shepherds - even better than most Europeans. The only drawback is that we don't understand one word of their language, but they do everything by signs most readily. We are going to get a lot of them as soon as possible now that we know their value.'*





*Sir Maurice Charles O'Connell*

*(John Oxley Library)*

During the next ten years Chinese labour proved invaluable to the pastoralists. They made excellent shepherds, shearers and washers. Wages were small but they seemed content to stay.

When settlers moved into the Wide Bay-Burnett area the government of New South Wales appointed land commissioners to control the new area. In November 1848, Captain (later Sir) Maurice Charles O'Connell was appointed Land Commissioner for the Burnett district. O'Connell was a grandson of Governor Bligh. John Carne Bidwell was made Commissioner for Lands in the Wide Bay district.

O'Connell chose the spot where Gayndah now stands to make his headquarters. He regarded it as a central position. It was already a meeting place for travellers and bullock drivers - and was said to have been given the name of Norton's Camp. There were about thirty stations at the time in the Burnett.

Travellers from twenty of these converged on Norton's Camp while travelling. Four went from Boonara by the early track to the coast. Six of the southern stations regularly sent their drays to Ipswich, either south by a route following the present road through Nanango and over the Blackbutt Range to Ipswich, or over the range behind Manumbar Station through Kilcoy Station to Brisbane.

By 1850 the Burnett was fully settled and land seekers had to go further north to take up runs. By 1852, the town of Gayndah had a population of about 100.

It boasted 'two public houses, a blacksmith, a post office, a general store, two doctors, a court house and a gaol'. One of the earliest social events organised in this town was an annual race meeting. The residents prepared a track and generous prizes were donated. There were some fine thoroughbreds on the surrounding stations. Even the ordinary stock horses were above average in quality.

The races became the event of the year. Squatters came from miles around with their wives and families dressed in their best finery, mounted on splendid horses or riding in dog carts. Teamsters and stockmen came in their work-a-day clothes.

The first Queensland Derby Day was held in Gayndah in 1868 and for three years after, when it was taken over by the Queensland Turf Club and shifted to Brisbane. After the great day the pastoralists would meet in the hotel and discuss the political problems of the colony. At such a meeting of well known citizens of the Wide Bay-Burnett, including J D Mactaggart and Clement Lawless, support was voiced for separation from New South Wales, but there was opposition to having Brisbane as the capital of the new colony. This may seem strange to us today, but, at that time, Brisbane was still little more than a country town.

The squatters discussed the shortage of labour - caused by immigrants remaining in the environs of Sydney, the fear of aboriginal attack, and, later in the fifties, the gold rushes in the south. A statement in a contemporary newspaper expresses the feelings of these men:

*'The Burnett and Wide Bay districts have indeed cause for praying for separation. We squatters have regularly paid our assignments and squatting licences and what have we in return? No member of the Legislative Council to represent us 700 miles away; no money for roads and bridges; not a single immigrant; worst of all, no protection. For this immense district, six constables and two chiefs.*

*We do not want to cry out for separation because we want to have no truck with Brisbane. We only want our right.'*

They agitated for the return of revenue from sale of Crown lands to the Wide Bay-Burnett and for immigrants to be landed at Wide Bay.

In his book, *Genesis of Queensland*, Henry Stuart Russell remarks:

*'In 1854, Gayndah and the Burnett opposed Brisbane as the metropolis of the confidently awaited colony.'*

The anti-Brisbane faction included well-known citizens, including E B Uhr, J D Mactaggart and Clement Lawless. Separation came in 1859 and, despite their efforts, Brisbane became the capital.

The settlers in this area, especially those who worked their own properties, had a strong sense of public responsibility. They acted as Justices of the Peace and made themselves heard on controversial issues of the day. At times their strong minded opinions led them to act in a rather controversial manner.

There is a story about J D Mactaggart losing his temper with a civil servant and horsewhipping the unfortunate man in the streets of Maryborough. It is said to have been '*over a matter of honour concerning a lady*'. Mactaggart, brought before a magistrate, was given a fine, which he refused to pay - choosing to go to gaol instead. He was shipped to Sydney under escort to serve his fortnight's sentence there. A number of young pastoralists from the neighbouring runs went with him on the boat. They had a merry time throughout the voyage, continued their roistering in Sydney, and returned with him. At Maryborough they set out on the homeward journey to Kilkivan Station, celebrating joyously with Mactaggart until he arrived home.

Many of the pastoralists of the Wide Bay-Burnett served their country as members of parliament and members of early divisional boards, and later as shire councillors. For these positions they received no payment, not even travelling expenses. They travelled long distances over bad roads in primitive forms of transport.

Richard Jones, an early part-owner of Barambah was member for Stanley in the Legislative Council of New South Wales. After separation several pastoralists from the Wide Bay-Burnett area served in the Queensland Parliament. George Hall Jones was member for Burnett in the McIlwraith Government (1888 - 1891). He also was the first Chairman of Barambah Divisional Board when it was formed in 1880 and, when Kilkivan Divisional Board was formed, its first chairman also.

Mr William Baynes, co-owner of Barambah, was MLA for Burnett from 1878 to 1883. Sir Horace Tozer, owner of Woologa Station, was M P for Wide Bay for a short time in 1871 and later for ten years (1888 - 1898). During this time he was a Minister of the Crown, holding the positions of Colonial Secretary, Secretary for Public Works and Home Secretary. After his parliamentary career he was Agent-General for Queensland in London. He acquired the nick-name of 'Jawbones' Tozer when he spoke for eight hours without a break on a proposed loan of £1 000 000 for railways. A parliamentary writer described his '*large voice*' as a '*danger to the foundations of Parliament House*'. One of his fellow members described a 'Tozerism' as '*something which might be true but probably was not*'. A later owner of Woolooga, C J Booker, was MLA for Maryborough (1909 - 1912) and Wide Bay (1912 - 1918).

Mr M Mellor of Widgee Station was member for Wide Bay (1883 - 1888) and Gympie (1888 - 1893). The pastoral families were also very active in local government. Isaac Moore and Hugh Moore of Barambah, W B Lawless of Boobyjan, Llewellyn Mander Jones of Boonara and John Broadbent of Widgee all served on the Kilkivan Divisional Board and later, the Shire Council.

### 13. HOW THE PEOPLE LIVED

In the early days of settlement life was difficult for everyone, especially for the women and children. Money and social position were no shields against the hardships and loneliness of life in such isolated areas. Yet most people survived the rigours of those times, carved out happy family lives, and gave their descendants a solid beginning to life in this area. Diaries, reminiscences, and newspaper articles help us to build up a picture of life as it was lived on the early pastoral runs of the Wide Bay-Burnett.

In 1859, Ellen, wife of Paul Lawless, arrived in Maryborough with her husband and young baby. She had been brought up in the English town of Bath by a grandmother and an aunt, educated by governesses and tutors to be proficient in languages and music - scarcely a useful preparation for the life she was to lead in the colonies!

At Maryborough she was placed with the baby in a dogcart while the Irish nursemaid and the baggage were piled on a springcart. It was a long hot journey over rough bush roads. On the last day, to her constant enquiry of *'How much further, Paul?'* her husband replied: *'Only a few more hills'*.

At the foot of the range the dogcart collapsed. Ellen and the baby joined the nursemaid in the springcart. It was midnight when they arrived at the homestead where they were given a warm welcome by the overseer and the workers. The cooks had prepared a special meal for them.

As Clement Lawless had returned to Ireland, Paul was busy managing the run. It fell to Ellen to reorganise what had been a bachelor establishment into a comfortable family home. The house had four rooms, slab walls, calico-lined to keep out draughts, floors of pit-sawn timber, the nails hand-made. The kitchen quarters were connected by a shingle-covered gangway.

Wives and daughters of the shepherds were employed as domestic help and trained as kitchen maids and housemaids. This was not an easy task as many had their own ways of doing things. One young German girl, when asked how she got the bread to rise so well, said: *'When I gotten up in der morning, I putten it in my bed to rise'*.

A storeroom was built and from there Ellen handed out the daily rations drawn from the main station store. Water for household use came from the nearby lagoon in wooden casks, hauled up the hill on a horse-drawn dray. Drinking water was filtered through charcoal in large stone filters. One 'new chum' was tragically drowned with his horse when, on such an operation, he backed the dray into the lagoon. Candles and soap were made on the station from tallow. Washing was done at the creek and spread on the bushes to dry, taking a couple of days to complete. In 1862 when baby John Paul arrived, a nursery was added to the homestead. Ellen was an accomplished needlewoman and her work brightened the furnishings of the house. Rugs of wool and tanned hides made the floors more comfortable.



*Interior of Barambah Homestead - 1914*

*(Murgon Historical Society)*

Another young mother, Ellen's neighbour, Mrs David Jones, lived at Boonara. She often rode over to see Ellen, her baby on the saddle in front of her, to spend a day in feminine company. Mrs Jones' home at Boonara was nearing completion and she looked to Ellen for advice on furnishings.

Ellen had a great sense of responsibility for the welfare of the women and children living on the station. Her medical book was of help in time of illness. She advised mothers on the care of their babies and helped them to sew for their often large families. There is every indication that the atmosphere on the station was one of happiness and contentment.

About 1864 a letter written by Rev R R Wilson and published in the *Burnett Argus*, indicates how the families of the shepherds lived. He writes in the flowery English of the time describing how he travelled to the home of a shepherd's family - newly arrived immigrants - seven miles from the homestead, to conduct the marriage ceremony of the daughter of the house to a carrier residing on Boobyjan Station:

*'The road leading to the shepherd's hut winds around the lofty belt of undulating ranges, thinly timbered and well grassed to the summit... with a never-failing supply of water winding round the serpentine course, leading to an open valley, beautifully situated, covered with nature's richest carpet upon which stands the shepherd's rural home.*

*Dairy cows responded to the bleat of calves in their pens. On the opposite side a mob of well-bred horses, at the door, a large number of fowls; two corn gardens cultivated to feed them. On the north side of the hut was a well kept garden - vines carefully trellised ..... and two year-old vines hanging down with clusters of grapes. The whole scene made a pleasing impression of domestic comfort and happiness.*

*The mother of a promising family met me at the door with a happy welcome. The children - all dressed in white frocks, with blue sashes and wreaths of flowers round their youthful brows, on Nature's simplest type - their sportive eyes and ruddy appearance the very essence of health and happiness. From the bride - the eldest daughter of the shepherd - to the infant bounding in its mother's arms - all proclaimed a happy family.*

*The mother told me she was happy; she had money, horses, cows and calves - plenty to eat and clothing to put on - that Mr and Mrs Lawless were the kindest people on earth.*

*Mrs Lawless was the best lady in the world; she said the comfort and happiness of all the mothers and the families on the station were her constant care. She could not help crying when she heard of their going to Europe.'*

In 1865, Paul and Ellen left Boobyjan with their young family because of Paul's ill-health. On Paul's death in Ireland, Ellen was left to bring up her four young children alone. After a stay of several years on the Continent, Ellen decided

that the future of her family lay in the colonies. She returned to Boobyjan with a tutor for the boys and a governess for the girls. The boys were later to attend boarding schools in England. It must have required courage on Ellen's part to rear her growing family and to retain an interest in Boobyjan until they were old enough to take over themselves.

In its heyday, Boonara Run appears to have been a busy active place. Long before the first official schools operated in the area a private school with a tutor operated for the children who lived at or near the homestead.

The *Burnett Argus* - 7 March 1864 gives the following account:

*'Welcome at Boonara to G H Jones and his wife ... children of Boonara school in the procession ... real festive day.'*

21 May 1864 (from the Chairman's address at Gayndah):

*'Went to Boonara Homestead where he rejoiced to say there was not only a Sunday School but a day school conducted by a gentleman named Harvie whose pupils would outshame those of many schools in large townships. Mrs George Jones, a highly accomplished lady, accompanies him to hear the examination of the children, and so greatly pleased was she, that she volunteered to teach them to sing their pieces with piano accompaniment every Saturday. May she be blessed for such laudable services.'*

In his memoirs, Konrad Nahrung tells how he came to Australia looking for work in 1858. He worked for six years on Boonara, starting in 1863. By training he was a bootmaker. He plied his trade at the station, assisting with other work when needed. There were thirty-three women living there. Fifteen of them he deemed to be of marriageable age. He became engaged to Wilhelmina Gesch whose parents, with four other children, had come from Germany. Konrad was evidently a provident lad. He saved up and bought a dray with twelve bullocks, with which he intended to carry goods to and from Maryborough. Unfortunately pleuro-pneumonia struck and only three bullocks survived. He exchanged the bullocks, with Mr Jones, for a draught horse. In 1864 he made his first and only trip with his own team taking wool from Barambah and Boonara to Maryborough. It was a difficult journey because the Mary and Burnett Rivers were in flood at the time.

Konrad and Wilhelmina set their wedding date for 27 April 1865. Mr Jones asked him to drive his (Mr Jones') team to Maryborough and back, starting on 13 April. Mrs David Jones, whom he describes as *'a lovely woman'*, organised the wedding to take place in the Boonara school house. The good lady made all arrangements, including obtaining the services of Rev Pool of Maryborough. Konrad arrived back at 4 pm, on his wedding day and the ceremony took place at 7 pm in the presence of Mr G H and Mrs David Jones. Konrad mourned the death of Mr David Jones at the early age of thirty, leaving two sons and two daughters. The younger son, Llewellyn, was to become the future owner of Boonara.



*Shepherd's Huts - Kilkivan Station - 1869*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*

Mr Jack Brown of Goomeri tells of his grandfather, John Brown who came to Boonara from Newmarket Stables in England, bringing three thoroughbred horses - Shamrock, Pasha, and Lord of the Hills. His proper surname was 'Robinson' but for some reason unknown to his family he was made to change it to 'Brown'. He worked as a groom on the station and rode the horses in races. When his horse bolted from the track during a race into the surrounding bush he was thrown off and killed, leaving a widow with young children. Mrs Brown remarried to teamster Carl Gesch, who already had family of step-children from a deceased wife. Gesch was a legendary figure who drove his team between the stations and Maryborough for many years. He was well known for his habit of talking to his horses as he worked with them.

Another teamster, whose family later settled in the district was Johann August Wieland who, with his wife Pauline, lived on Boobyjan and later on Boonara. August and his wife had both emigrated from Germany. They had a large family and raised four boys and four girls to adulthood. The name 'Wieland' appears on the accounts of dray loadings in 1864. On one occasion while August was on such a journey to Maryborough for supplies, two of his children died - presumably of diphtheria - shortly after he left. He did not know of the children's deaths until his return two months later. The children are buried on Boobyjan Station. Pauline, while the family was living on Boonara, made working clothes at night by hand and sold them to the workers on the station.



On Boonara Station in there was a dam built across Nangur Creek close to the homestead. Its purpose was to back up enough water to make a lake suitable for boating, a favourite pastime for ladies and gentlemen in the nineteenth century. The venture was short lived. A subsequent flood caused the creek to change its course. The remains of the Chinese built dam may be seen today, close to the homestead.



*Workman's Cottage - Barambah - 1914*

*(Murgon Historical Society)*

#### 14. IN CONCLUSION

By the second half of the nineteenth century the dominance of the large pastoral holdings was on the wane. From 1868 onwards a mineral boom had increased the population of the area and had resulted in the establishment of the town of Kilkivan. Leasehold land had been thrown open for selection and brought new settlers. The coming of the railway had brought better transport within the reach of the growing population.

Local government was established, and by 1888 Kilkivan Divisional Board had come into being. Some of the pastoralists played an active part in this new dimension of government.

By the end of the century further changes had been wrought. Some of the pastoral holdings remained, very much decreased in size. Others were soon to be divided into small agricultural blocks. An interesting and colourful part of the district's development had become history.

## Chapter 4



### KILKIVAN'S MINERAL BOOM

#### 1. EARLY MINERAL DISCOVERIES

The first gold to be discovered in what was later the colony of Queensland was found at Black Snake Range, about 8 miles from the present site of Kilkivan. Samples were taken from here in 1852, but apparently there was no move to follow the discovery further. This was fifteen years before the Gympie gold rush.

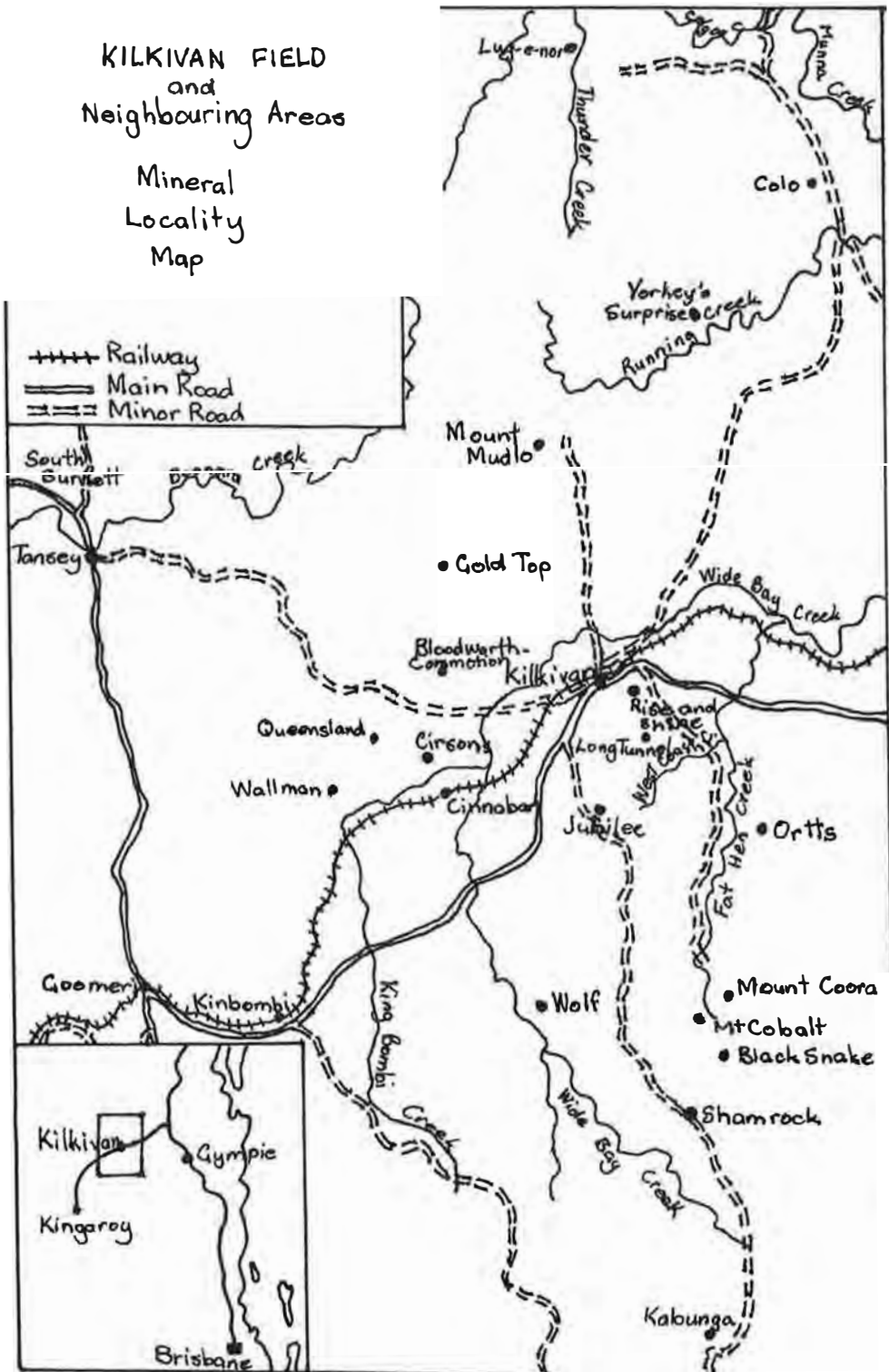
In 1851, J D Mactaggart sent a specimen of ore from what appeared to be a gold reef to Mr Norton, his solicitor, in Sydney. It turned out to be 30% copper. At the time most people in the colony were obsessed with attempts to find new goldfields, which probably explains why no interest was taken in the copper ore. In 1865, Mactaggart addressed a meeting in Maryborough about the possibility of a mineral reserve on Kilkivan Run. He even arranged an expedition to look at outcrops. An assay made as a result of this undertaking indicated the presence of gold and silver.

Although the Kilkivan mine fields have not had the publicity or continuity of other such mining areas as Gympie, Charters Towers or the Palmer River, they deserve recognition as some of the most interesting and diverse mineral discoveries in Queensland. They resulted in short-lived rushes but had a lasting effect on the development of the whole area.

Geologically, Kilkivan district is a complex area. Minerals which were found there included mercury, gold, copper, silver-lead, manganese, serpentine and limestone, asbestos, magnesite, barytes, talc, chromite, antimony, zinc, arsenic, molybdenum, and tungsten. With a few exceptions, mercury, gold and copper were only worked to shallow depths and were too narrow or too low-grade to produce sizeable yields.

# KILKIVAN FIELD and Neighbouring Areas

Mineral  
Locality  
Map



Since minerals were first discovered in the area there have been, and still are, intermittent attempts to mine these minerals. Much has depended on the ease with which the minerals could be reached, the financial position of those attempting to mine, and the world price and demand for each type of metal. Operations have been stopped at times by such mishaps as landslides, cave-ins, or floodings.

## 2. WEST COAST CREEK

### The Beginning

Following the discovery of the rich Gympie gold field in 1867 by James Nash, miners turned their attention to the Kilkivan area.

Kilkivan's alluvial deposits were discovered near Fat Hen Creek in early May 1868 by a party of six New Zealanders, including Stewart, Preston, O'Neill and McMullen (or McMillan). This location was on Kilkivan Station, the pastoral holding of J D Mactaggart. The gold was found six miles from Fat Hen Creek on a tributary of that water-course which they named West Coast Creek after the west coast of their native New Zealand. The site was seven miles due south of Kilkivan Homestead.

Many of the men who had come to Gympie flocked to the new find. They included men from all walks of life - professional people, pastoral workers, townsmen, 'new chums' and sailors who had deserted their boats. Some had come from the Victorian goldfields to Gympie and then on to Kilkivan; married men came with or without their families.

*According to the Nashville Times, 'People who were idle did not only rush (from Gympie) but men who had good payable claims went likewise. Some men went away in the excitement without bread, tea or sugar, tent or blanket, pick, dish or shovel. All Sunday night the din of rush was heard... The rush has been too great... nothing to justify such an exodus of men, stores, drays and horses... they are decent looking men, and when they wash, they hand round for inspection, if desired, the wash-dish after cradling.'*

The correspondent mentioned that drays of stores were already on their way, but that there was a shortage of water at the diggings. Horsemen and passengers also left Maryborough to join the 2 000 hopeful but unprepared men. Eight hundred claims were quickly pegged out. So great was the lure of gold that men rushed off to join the diggers without adequate preparation of stores and equipment.

Three gullies were being worked and prospects looked good. Diggers were finding four pennyweight of gold in each panful of washdirt taken from shafts sunk in the old creek beds.

Reports in the *Nashville Times* and *Maryborough Chronicle* pleaded caution, saying that the West Coast field was too small to support a large rush. But

shafts were still being sunk and small yields were being returned. Provisions were scarce and storekeepers sent about ninety drays from Gympie with supplies.

Commissioner Charles James Clarke was sent from Gympie. He was responsible for administration of the Gold Fields Regulations of 1866. A *Nashville Times* correspondent, 13 May 1868, remarked that the road to 'Kilkivan Run Diggings' was '*pretty well marked*'. He described the settlement as '*well scattered over with tents and horses*'. Upon '*the flat*' was '*centered the township-to-be*'. He drew up at the store of G G Craig, '*the first on the ground from Gympie*'. It was remarked that the claims were '*all pegged off and scarcely a business licence to be had*'.

Commissioner Clarke refused to keep ground for '*selling purposes*'. The '*main street*' appeared to be '*ninety feet wide*' and of black loose soil that would stick to one's boots '*like gum*' when wet. Already several shanties had been erected and storekeepers were selling their goods out of drays covered with tarpaulins. Butchers were doing a roaring trade and flour was in great demand. It was sold at £5 a bag or £50 per ton; nobblers (whisky) were sixpence; jams, one shilling and sixpence; tea, three pence per pound; sugar, sixpence per pound. Two loads of baker's bread from Gympie went at one shilling and sixpence per loaf. The *Nashville Times* sold for a shilling, the *Sydney Mail*, for two shillings.

Reporters spoke to the miners and found that they had dug shafts but found little gold. However they believed that the gold was '*not far off*'. They estimated from their observations that there was no immediate promise of gold, but hope for the future.

Commissioner Clarke won the respect and popularity of the miners with his firm but fair control of the field. The new tent mining town that rose within weeks four and a half miles from the site of the present town was named 'Kilkivan' after the pastoral run on which it grew up. It was different from other diggings in the colony. Observers at the time noted '*the settled appearance and lack of violence*' of the mining community, though the diggers had their grievances with officialdom. The men were deemed to be '*law-abiding in the absence of effective law enforcement*' and united against what they saw as '*government neglect of their goldfield*'. This was despite the fact that the find had attracted a motley array of diggers which included people from the Gympie field, Victorians and New Zealanders.

### The 'Tent' City

Kilkivan resembled other small fields in Queensland - a tent city that grew overnight and slowly became a township with '*hotels, sly grogshops and general stores*'. The European diggers found thousands of ounces before the abandoned diggings were taken over by the Chinese in mid-1869. The Chinese were not allowed by law to work any new diggings until two years after they were opened. There was feeling against them among Europeans, caused, according to contemporary reports, by the fact that the Chinese would often use

waterholes or lagoons specifically set aside for drinking water, for other purposes such as washing their clothes and their bodies.

Fortunes were made and lost and thousands turned away to try their luck at other fields. Kilkivan's first and only gazetted field at West Coast Creek established the district as a gold mining centre.

The first weeks were disappointing for many miners. About 1 000 returned to Gympie to find that their claims had been taken over by the Chinese. Just as many came to replace the ones who had left and there developed a floating population of between 2 000 and 5 000. In the early days of the diggings the miners found narrow leads of gold deposits in gullies and flats. The first prospectors got little advantage out of their work but they opened up new ground and gave leads to where the gold really was. Hundreds of shafts were sunk along the gullies and in ancient creek beds covered with soil.

There was a concerted campaign in the press to prevent people from rashly leaving their homes and occupations to seek wealth on the fields.

Within a week the diggers had pegged out a township on a flat opposite the present Kilkivan Cemetery. The main street, named after New Zealander Stewart, was thirty feet wide but on loose black soil that became a quagmire in wet weather. A number of Gympie businessmen set up temporary business premises. Butchers did a thriving trade. The prices charged for goods were by standards of the day outrageous. Bread was two shillings a loaf; flour, one shilling per pound; sugar, nine pence a pound; tea, four shillings; meat, four pence. These prices were higher than those paid when the goldfield first opened. A flock of 2 000 sheep was brought to the diggings and sold at ten shillings each. Drinking water had to be brought from a creek three miles away. As the businesses became established, prices of most goods fell. Three blacksmiths, three bakeries and many shanties and stores grew up along the main street.

Diggers who remained were soon eeking out a bare living - £1 to £3 a week. However, most were lucky to get an ounce of gold per week while others were panning two ounces to the load. Prospecting parties worked all the surrounding gullies.

Despite the gold finds, the rumour circulated that the mine was a hoax - partly perpetrated by Mactaggart so that he could sell his cattle. This seems ludicrous in hindsight; the rush was of no advantage to Mactaggart. Apart from the disturbance it caused to the life of the station, he received no more money for his cattle. He also lost a large area of good grazing country to the miners - where he could have run an extra 2 000 head of cattle. He had to employ eight more men at £400 a year to shepherd his sheep. He is said to have offered a cheque for £1 000 to the diggers if they would leave his land in its original state.

Despite all these inconveniences, Mactaggart appears to have been courteous and helpful to visitors seeking directions and emergency rations. He set up a store to sell supplies to the miners but this would not have compensated him for his losses in other ways.

### **The Diggings Reach Their Peak**

Despite gloomy forecasts, the miners persisted, some coming from a disappointing find at Yabba. The population of the town stood at 2 000. Some of the best discoveries were at the head of Italian Gully where seven to eight ounces per dish were found. Some miners made small fortunes; most made at least a meagre living. A thirty-ounce nugget was found at West Coast Creek. Such places as Deep Creek compared favourably with similar places at Gympie.

The creeks and gullies were producing 500 ounces of gold a week which created problems. There were no banks on the diggings to buy the gold. This meant that diggers had to hide their finds. Sergeant John Moore and his six policemen were not provided with horses to enable them to protect the miners from bushrangers and thieves. Mr Mactaggart lent horses occasionally until two were provided. The police station was a tent and there was no lock-up. Offenders who had to be held over a weekend were chained to the safe rather than outside to a log or tree.

### **An Unhappy Incident**

The body of William Kirkrouse, or 'Billy the Bellman', a New Zealand miner, was found on Boonara Run. While it was being exhumed from a grave dug by a local shepherd, two bushrangers shot at Commissioner Clarke and Dr Mason and galloped off. They were chased and disappeared into a clump of she-oaks beside a creek. The criminals walked out on the other side of the water-course leaving their double-barrel gun projecting over a stump. The constable, the only armed man, refused to go into the creek or lend his gun to any of the others. After much waiting they called upon the gun to '*surrender in the Queen's name*'. An inspection of the exhumed body showed that Kirkrouse had been murdered and his money stolen.

### **More Rich Finds**

Italian Gully proved to be the richest of the leads, producing a 27-ounce nugget. August 12, the best day in Commissioner Clarke's books, saw the discovery of a 73-ounce nugget at the top of Star Gully. It was the size of two turkey eggs.

On that day, William Millward and his party brought in a reef sample of quartz and gold. It was named the Stafford Reef after Millward's home town in England. Clarke granted a claim for the reef on the banks of Fat Hen Creek. There were three other quartz reefs at the time, but the Stafford created the most interest. Shares in this reef sold at from £50 to £70 and several shafts were sunk. Millward's was the first attempt at quartz mining in the area.

It was followed later in the year by the Long Tunnel mine at Black Snake. Most of the diggers stuck to the more easily found alluvial gold. A new water course, Baker's Gully, was pegged out, creating a small rush.

### Discontented Miners

Despite all that had happened at Kilkivan, it was still ignored by the government and the banks. Meetings were held to lobby for a bank and an escort. John Thompson, of the West Coast Store and Hotel, headed a petition containing 150 signatures, asking the Bank of New South Wales to open, at least, an agency.

The storekeepers had run out of cash and could not buy gold. On 29 August 1868 the Bank of New South Wales opened a branch under the management of Selwyn King. The bank was built next to the Clydesdale Stores (a branch of a Gympie business) on West Coast Creek. It was a six by four metre building similar to the Gympie Court House and, according to reports at the time, could '*beat bank buildings in Nashville hollow*'. The post office, managed by Mr Prince, was given a Savings Bank in August.

A meeting of miners on June 21 had also decided to press for an escort and a Court of Petty Sessions. The only contact with Gympie was through private travellers. People, fearing the risk of carrying the gold for others, began slipping away unnoticed when they had to travel. Private hoards of gold began to disappear. Robberies were common.

In July the diggers organized a heavily armed six-man escort to take 500 ounces of gold to Gympie, but several hundreds of ounces remained on the field. By mid-August an escort was running from Kilkivan to Gootchie to join up with Cobb and Co coaches going to Maryborough. The charge for carrying gold to Maryborough was sixpence an ounce and eight pence to be taken to Brisbane by boat.

The miners would have preferred sending their gold to Gympie where the Bank of New South Wales had a branch. The coach travelled to Kilkivan on Mondays and Thursdays, returning on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

This fight for a bank and an escort was a unifying factor in the new mining community. The men greatly admired Commissioner Clarke for his '*urbanity of nature and the justness of his decision*'. They banded together to prevent his transfer. On June 26, a meeting of 1 000 men met for this purpose. A petition signed by 500 men was taken to Brisbane by Mr G C Craig of the Clydesdale Store and presented to Mr Walsh, MLA for Maryborough.

It appears that the petition failed and that a Mr Stuart was to take Clarke's place. But Clarke seems to have still been at Kilkivan a year later. There was a feeling among the diggers that Kilkivan needed more attention from those in authority. Kilkivan continued to be officially ignored. References in *Government Gazettes* and Parliament's *Votes and Proceedings* were, according



to the press, '*as rare as the gold in West Coast Creek*' and also *mixed with a lot of dirt*'. Clarke remained at Kilkivan despite mention of his transfer in official papers.

### **The Entertainment Circuit**

As the township became more settled with its banks and escorts, Kilkivan was included in the entertainment circuit. Ashton's Anglo-Saxon Circus visited for a week in September 1868, following a tour by Cobb's West Coasters and a troupe of 'World Renowned Wizards'. A temporary theatre opened at the West Coast Store and Hotel on August 15 with amateurs playing the parts of Sydney bushrangers. The Mustard Pot concert room subsequently became very popular on the diggings - but, according to contemporary newspaper reports, was no place to take the three women who arrived on the goldfield in September.

### **A Brush With Bushrangers**

The Bank of New South Wales closed in early 1869 as less gold was being found. During his trip to Sydney with the Bank's proceeds, manager Selwyn King was one of seven passengers on board a Cobb and Co coach travelling from Gympie to Brisbane. He carried the halves of banknotes representing £2 000, but five miles from Gympie, bushrangers bailed up the coach. When the driver obeyed, two roughly clad men stepped from behind an ironbark tree, armed respectively with a shotgun and a revolver and wearing masks.

Mr King, being a man of action, fired at the shorter man. A startled fellow passenger, Mr Walker, jolted Mr King's elbow as he fired. The bushranger was struck on the shoulder and returned fire as he retreated behind a tree. One bullet struck Walker in the wrist and the other embedded itself in the coach. The taller bushranger covered King with the shotgun. Realizing the futility of further action, King lowered his revolver and the bushranger ordered the passengers to leave the coach. King returned the revolver to its holster and hid it behind his back, covering it with his shirt. He then joined the others and lined up beside the coach.

Obeying the bushrangers, the party removed their coats and waistcoats and dropped their money and watches on the ground. King took off his shirt, keeping his revolver hidden inside it. Told to lie on the ground, he refused. A drunken passenger who was watching from the coach suddenly jumped to his feet and threw his coat over his shoulder, distracting the bushranger's attention. King dived for his revolver and fired three quick shots at the bushranger. Taken by surprise and wounded in the thigh, the outlaw fumbled with his shotgun and it slipped from his hand. The shorter bushranger stopped, picked up the money and the pair hurried to their horses without making any attempt to take the mail from the coach.

The two men escaped, but one, William Bond, was captured within a week. The other was caught six months later and identified as George Palmer, who, with three other men, had robbed and killed Patrick Halligan, a hotel owner and

gold buyer, in Rockhampton on 26 April 1869. Palmer was sentenced to death for murder and Bond was given twenty years' jail for bushranging.

### **The End of the Rush**

The diggers gradually worked out the alluvial gold. Most of the Europeans drifted away and the Chinese moved in to prospect more meticulously the abandoned claims. Kilkivan's population fell from its original 4 000 to 500 by May 1869.

Reefs were found at Black Snake and miners who had followed the leads up Italian Gully formed into larger syndicates to extend the Long Tunnel mines.

Little is known about the Chinese population, but it is said that they worked from Fat Hen Creek up to the Mt Clara smelter chimneys on the Rossmore Road. The *Maryborough Chronicle* reported in 1870 that the Chinese did little to support the local economy. They grew their own vegetables and were partial to eating native dogs, rats, mice, snakes; they did not support the local butchers. They did, however, supply the rest of the population with vegetables. One Chinese named Ah Long worked a plot of ground on a bend in Fat Hen Creek. His grave and the irrigation channels of his garden are still to be seen beside the Rossmore Road.

By June 1870, the early excitement of Kilkivan was dying down and men were begging for rations, but they refused work at the nearby stations. Their waiting ended with a new rush in late June to One-Mile Gully on the opposite side of the ridge from West Coast Creek. A German called Endreck discovered the lead with six pennyweight to the pan, and about 100 men started working the new claims, sinking three to six metres into washdirt. This rush was short and did not revive the earlier rushes. The area gradually changed from an alluvial field to a more stable mining community.

### **The Spencers, an Early Mining Family**

One of the earliest families to come and make their home in the district were the Spencers. William and his wife, Annie, travelled overland with their family. Annie had two children, Emma and Jane, by a former marriage to John Barton. Annie and William had a large family - Elizabeth, Ellen, William, Maria and Annie. Charles, their youngest son was born on the goldfields. On their journey north from the Victorian goldfields, they were intercepted by bushranger, Joe Gardiner. He did not molest them in any way, probably because they were not wealthy, but told them where to find water.

Spencer worked with a horse and dray on the goldfields, carting gravel to the battery. If there was gold in the gravel he received payment for his work. If there was no gold, he was paid no money. William Spencer never dug for gold. He raised goats and sold milk and vegetables to the miners. His goat herd grew to 1 000 head. He acquired a property on the Rossmore Road which he called 'Live and Let Live'. This land is still today in the hands of the Spencer family.

### 3. BLACK SNAKE

With the tapering off of gold at West Coast Creek, reefs were found running toward the western slopes of Black Snake Range thirteen miles from Kilkivan.

The *Brisbane Courier* of 18 February 1869 reported a rush to Black Snake. There were forty miners on the field and prospects looked promising. By 22 May prospectors who had bought three shares in the Black Snake Reef for £9/10/- sold them for £100. Some of the early prospectors - Kenelley's men, Guy and Co and Henderson and Co, were reported as doing very well, with 1 000 tons waiting to be crushed.



*Black Snake Hotel*

*(John Oxley Library)*

The most productive lode at Black Snake was the Shamrock (originally called the Rose, Shamrock and Thistle). Mining reached its peak in 1873 when a smelter was erected to treat the primary sulphide ore. This smelter was closed two years later. The chief reefs were the Black Snake and Mariners which produced good yields. Its highest yield was nine ounces to the ton. The Shamrock Mine averaged 1 ounce 6 pennyweight per ton at a time when gold was £3/18/- an ounce.

There were eight distinct lines of reefs in all. The most important have already been mentioned. The main mines that grew up on these reefs were Mount Clara, Cobalt Mine, Mount Terrible and The Pembroke.



Mt Shamrock

(H Franz)

In 1886 the first government geologist to visit the Kilkivan area, William H Rands, found abandoned shafts and mines through the area.

The *Gympie Times*, 16 March 1873, reports that there were 250 residents at Black Snake. There was a hotel and general store to serve this population. A Court House, Police Station and general Government Offices were to be opened shortly. There was a move in 1874 by the Queensland Post Offices Department to change the name of Black Snake to Mount Mia Mi. The local residents and the editor of the *Gympie Times* were none too happy. It was short lived, and Black Snake reverted to its old name.

George Slater Webb and his family came to Black Snake before 1872 to establish a carrying business. He later bought the Black Snake Hotel (sometimes called the Mount Mia Hotel) from James Morgan Thompson. The Webbs added a butcher's shop, post office and general store to the hotel and ran them with family help. George Webb eventually acquired the grazing property, Mount Mia. *Mia Mia* was aboriginal for 'high mountain'. The licence of the hotel was later transferred to George Webb's wife, Mary, who held it until it was cancelled in 1914.

During 1890 - 1898 an English company called Freehold Goldfields of Queensland operated the mine employing 26 men at the Shamrock. The main shaft was deepened and 16 000 tons of ore were extracted, gaining them 487 ounces of gold. The average thickness of the lode was 7 feet 6 inches.

Several mines in the area, including the Blacksnake, Mariners, Tablelands, Homeward Bound and Victoria were productive during the early mining period. A later attempt to exploit the Black Snake mines was made by Vic Bouldery who had done well from gold at Gympie. In 1901 he was getting six to eight ounces of gold per ton until a landslide cut off the gold. Despite the sinking of a shaft to 250 feet the lode was never found again.

In 1905 the United Reefs Company started work. A year later two reverberatory furnaces were installed, and the following year a blast furnace was erected. Twenty tons of matte which assayed copper at 3%, eight ounces of gold per ton and twenty ounces of silver per ton were sent to England. A blast furnace was installed in 1906 and closed the following year after treating 2 114 tons of ore for a return of 1 685 ounces 17 pennyweight of gold, 1 816 ounces of silver and 277 tons of copper, with a total value of £5 706/1/-.

The mine was again reopened in 1939 by Messrs Archibald and Runge. In 1942 the operation was taken over by the Essential Metals Syndicate. They installed a plant with amalgamation, flotation and cyanidation units. Between 1943 and 1948 over 7 000 tons of ore produced 2 347 ounces of gold, 975 ounces of silver and 26.6 tons of copper.

In 1939 a large scale attempt was made to revive the Shamrock by the Queensland Mines Exploration Company under the management of Mr L. L. Hester. Its results were disappointing. It was still being worked on a small scale in 1949. But due to the erratic distribution of gold mineralisation giving the impression that the grade of metal would be lower than formerly estimated, it was closed.

#### 4. THE RISE AND SHINE REEF

At the time when the West Coast mines had apparently been worked out, two prospectors, Allen Cook and Tom Harding, discovered a rich reef which was named 'Rise and Shine'. It was located just south of the present town, near the present rifle range and was the second site of Kilkivan township.

The West Coast township became a ghost town overnight. A new town mushroomed up on the site of the newly discovered reef. It was given the name 'Mount Neureum' after a nearby mountain. But this name was replaced very quickly by the name of the first township - 'Kilkivan'.

Two batteries operated on the new field. John Beer built the first hotel. There was also Ashley Bright's hotel and store which was bought out by William Greer McKewan in 1883. Stores were also started by Mat Devine and J Wormald.

Close by the Rise and Shine reef several other reefs operated for a time. The Morning Star and Welcome reefs close by appear to have been worked in conjunction with the Rise and Shine. They were narrow reefs with erratic production. Shallow workings were sunk.



*Rise and Shine Mine*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*

The Morning Star for a time gave a return of seven-and-a-half ounces per ton from two tons of ore, and the Welcome, half-an-ounce per ton from twenty tons of ore.

During its most productive time (1874 - 1877) this goldfield produced an average of 6 ounces per ton. Some production on a small scale was carried on until 1886. It was again worked on a very limited scale in 1925 and 1939.

The goldfields commissioner, Mr J Bligh, marked out the streets of the new township. In 1876 a co-operative company formed by claim holders established a ten-head battery in the centre of the town. Its first crushings showed a return of six ounces to the ton. It was a rich reef, but not of any great depth and soon all workings were abandoned.

A school was established at this town in 1878 - called at first Mount Neureum. But its name was later changed to Kilkivan School.

### **The Beer Family**

John Beer, an English immigrant, and his Irish-born wife, Ann Elizabeth, travelled by horse and wagon from the Bendigo goldfields in Victoria to Kilkivan, arriving in 1878. They established the first hotel on the Rise and Shine mining area. Here they reared a family of ten children - four boys and six girls. Both are buried in Kilkivan cemetery. One son, William, remained in

the district all his life. He married Jessie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Schacht of Forest Vale in the Kilkivan area.

## 5. LONG TUNNEL MOUNTAIN

Gold deposits at Long Tunnel Mountain near West Coast Creek were discovered in 1882. The Long Tunnel Company was formed and set up a battery. In 1888 the Queensland Mineral Exploration Company took over the enterprise and drove a 778 feet adit into the hillside. In 1890 they treated 422 tons of ore which produced 194 ounces of gold. The company closed down its operations in 1893 but the mine was worked intermittently up to 1932.

Some alluvial gold has been found in creeks and gullies draining from Long Tunnel Mountain. Payable amounts were also found for short distances from the heads of Italian, German and Skibereen Gullies and West Coast and One Mile Creeks. These were shallow. But four to five feet of wash underlying 20 feet of overburden have been mined at the junction of West Coast Creek and Italian Gully and also at the junction of West Coast and Fat Hen Creeks.

## 6. RUNNING CREEK

In 1893 the Running Creek field was opened up. The ore was sent to Gympie for crushing. The first yield was one-and-a-half ounces to the ton. Eventually a company was formed and a battery purchased from Mount Stedman.

Funds fluctuated over the years during the ownership of Marodian Enterprises, a subsidiary company of the Gympie Scottish Company. Work ceased in 1908. Since then the tailings have been treated with cyanide, giving good results. A third attempt was later mounted.

## 7. YORKEY PADDOCK AND THE MARODIAN GOLD AND COPPER FIELD

Yorkey's Goldfield was situated on the left bank of Running Creek, almost ten miles due north of Kilkivan. It was proclaimed a provisional goldfield in 1894, the boundaries being the same as a forfeited selection of 80 acres in that area.

Marodian Goldfield occupied the country at the heads of Calgoa, Sandy and Running Creeks, about 22 square miles in size and originally a forestry reserve. It was proclaimed in 1896, following the discovery of gold at Yorkey's.

The alluvial gold at Colo Flat, which was included in the Marodian field, had been the scene of a short lived rush in 1867. About 300 men had found alluvial gold there at a depth of from six to twenty-five feet. It was worked out within a few weeks but was probably about the earliest gold find in what is now Kilkivan Shire.

On the border of Marodian, the discovery of the Calgoa copper lodes probably took place about 1872. Copper was discovered at Mudlo by Hon H S Littleton's prospectors, but at that time the ore was not considered rich enough to work.



*Mudlo Copper Mine*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*



*Water Storage Dams - Mudlo Mine*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*





*Mudlo Mines*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*

The presence of metal at Yorkey Paddock was found in June 1900 by a teamster - Walter Schacht - while he was spelling his bullocks. He saw a glint on a stone that one of the bullocks had scratched. He picked up the stone without realizing its significance.

His father, Charles Schacht, who had worked on the early fields at Kilkivan, recognized this 'glint' as gold. He got together a party of miners who were working in a nearby paddock and made a start on an expired copper lease. They named their find 'Yorkey's Surprise'.

In 1898 they sold the property to a company so that it could be worked on a large scale. Gold was found at several points in Yorkey's Paddock and as a result of prospecting operations undertaken for Messrs Mant and Littleton, five mining leases - the Zealandia, Triad, Triad Extended, Waratah, and Beer and Dawson's - were granted over the land.

The first crushing gave two ounces to the ton. One of the best discoveries on this field was Beer and Dawson's first crushing, yielding four ounces five pennyweight to the ton.

A company was formed in Gympie and a ten-headed battery erected. It worked well for twelve months before the gold petered out. Gympie Scottish Company then opened up 'Yorkie's Shaft', employing 100 men and sinking a shaft to 300 feet before it was abandoned.

The Zealandia was worked by a small syndicate until 1901. It did not pay owing to its limited exploitation. The Triad and Beer and Dawson's were more successful and continued for longer but closed about 1902.

## 8. GOLD TOP

The Gold Top Reef, situated four-and-a-half miles north-west of Kilkivan, was operated from 1911 to 1914. The gold was near the surface and easy to work. It remained idle until 1931 when Wongella Mines Syndicate carried out underground mining on the site. However, difficulties in treating the ore led to its closure in 1934.

## 9. THE MINING OF COPPER

### Early Discoveries

The first mention of copper in the Kilkivan district could have been in 1851 when J D Mactaggart sent specimens of ore from what appeared to be a gold reef to Mr Norton, his solicitor in Sydney. This specimen was said to be 30% copper. At the time there was more interest in discovering gold.

In 1867 there was a move from Sydney and Melbourne interests to mine copper on land once applied for by Mactaggart. His application had been refused on the grounds that it was a goldfield and must be under goldfield regulations.

In 1867 advertisements were put in the *Maryborough Chronicle* by the Kilkivan Mining Company for 100 - 200 drays to cart the copper ore from Kilkivan to Maryborough. From here it was intended to ship the ore to Newcastle. An item in that paper reads:

*'We are asked what is happening at Kilkivan copper mine - believe Mr Smith, manager, is testing the quality of the ore in several parts of the neighbourhood. He naturally wants to send the richest he can to the smelting works at Newcastle. The ore must have 50%-60% of copper in it to make it profitable to send so far.'*

On 16 May 1867, James Mitchell applied for 80 acres, six to eight miles south of Kilkivan Station, to mine copper.

In November of that year, the manager of the Kilkivan Copper Mining Company, Mr Smith, forwarded the first lot of three to four tons of ore to the company's smelting works at Newcastle to ascertain the percentage of copper it contained. He reported that the lodes were unusually wide and had been traced for about a quarter of a mile. He was offering contracts to local carriers to transport the ore to the coast.

In December 1867 it was reported that three bullock and two horse drays came to Owanyilla with ore from Kilkivan copper mines. An estimated 500 - 600 tons of ore were awaiting transport because of the paltry payment offered to carriers. Labour was scarce because of the Gympie gold rush. Mr Smith had plans to build a depot for the ore at Owanyilla. He was greatly angered by people who painted a gloomy picture of the prospects of copper mining in the Kilkivan area. His only concern at that stage was the *'lack of drills and*

*powder and proper mining materials*'. He believed the hill that it was intended to mine was *'almost all ore'*.

By May 1868, the Kilkivan Copper Mine had been abandoned, as the average yield from picked stone sent to Sydney was only 5%-7%.

It may have been that attention was too sharply focussed on the rich gold finds of the Gympie fields; labour was difficult to obtain; management could have erred or the miners merely failed to look in the right places. It was only after Kilkivan's sudden but short-lived gold rushes that any successful copper mining was undertaken.

### **Mount Clara and Mount Coora**

Despite the folding up of Kilkivan Copper Mining Company's operation there was still interest in copper deposits in the areas just south of the new township of Kilkivan. By 1871, several parties were examining copper lodes in the district and sending samples to Newcastle to be tested. Late that year it was decided to re-open Mount Coora copper mine with the backing of a company from Melbourne.

In November 1871, Mr Walter Smith made a report on Mount Clara Copper Mine. He estimated there were several lodes showing promise of good yields of copper-bearing ore. Copper in payable amounts was being worked in 1872 at Mount Clara and Mount Coora, about three miles north of the Black Snake field.



*Mt Clara Copper Smelter Chimney*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*

The Mount Clara Copper Mining Company was registered in April 1872 at Maryborough with a nominal capital of £40 000 in £1 shares. The subscribers were all Maryborough residents: W Southerden, merchant; G Horsborough, tinsmith; J J Power, doctor of medicine; P Graham, merchant; J S Meiklejohn, bank clerk; E Thomas, bank clerk; R Murdoch, merchant. The first directors were: W Southerden (Chairman), G Horsborough, J Power, P Graham, T Braddock, J Robertson, and R Murdoch - all of Maryborough.

There was also a Mount Coora Copper Mining Company operating. In March 1873, its capital was listed as £75 000.

Seven furnaces operated at Mount Coora and one at Mount Clara. At the height of their production three shifts a day were worked on each furnace. A large mining camp surrounded Mount Coora. A resident medical officer, Dr Long, was employed by the company which worked the mine. This man also supplied the first medical services in the early days of West Coast Creek.

In 1877, a tragedy occurred, when Mrs Long, the doctor's wife, and her two children, aged seven and three, were travelling by dray to Maryborough for Mrs Long's next confinement. On the very primitive road at Wide Bay Creek, the dray capsized, killing Mrs Long and one child. George Webb, the driver, seeing that the other child was alive, rode with him to get help. The coroner's verdict was: *'Accidental death caused by the upsetting of a bullock dray'*.

In February 1874, there was still optimism about the potential of these mines. A report in the *Maryborough Chronicle* at that time states:

*'The Kilkivan district, exceedingly rich in minerals, has suffered grievously in the want of judgment, want of capital, or want of some sort...Mount Coora is a case in point.'*

The report goes on to say that Mount Clara had been under a cloud for two or three years previously but that the dark days were passing.

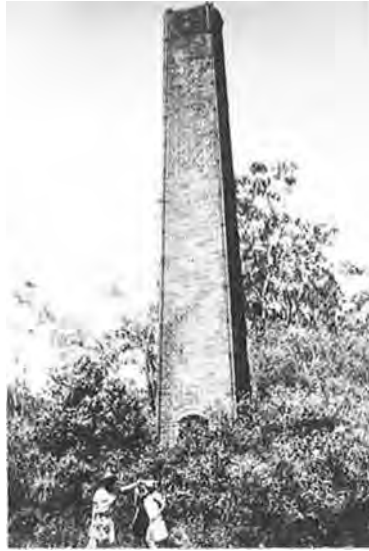
In March of that year a report by a Captain Stevens told of the engine shaft being sunk to 83 feet. There were hopeful signs of a good return on Arthur's Lode. The furnaces had been given new bases to increase their capacity and other new ones were being installed.

Two tons of copper had arrived in Sydney and another twelve tons were on their way from the mine. The operation had to be temporarily stopped, and most men were discharged while the company waited for new machinery to arrive.

Mr Wright, a director of Mount Coora Company, had inspected the mines and declared that a steam engine was required to rid the mine of water at its lower levels. The smelting was *'proceeding indifferently'* and Mr Wright decided to suspend work and dismiss the men until a first class smelter could be brought into operation. At that time two furnaces and a roaster were in working order

and two more were being erected. A refinery was under construction. Wood from surrounding trees was being used to stoke the furnaces, but it was thought that in time, coal would have to be obtained.

A number of wealthy and influential people had been induced to put finance into the Mount Coora mining venture. These included Honourable G A Lloyd (Treasurer in New South Wales Government), Hon G W Allen (Justice Minister) and Professor Smith. There was great optimism about the future of the copper finds.



*Mt Coora Smelter Chimney*

*(H Franz)*

New machinery was ordered from Walker and Co, Maryborough - an engine to pump water and new smelters. Tenders were called for transport of these to the mines. Heavy castings and a boiler (in pieces) were to be dispatched from Union Foundry. A smelter manager from South Australia was en route to supervise the installation of the new machinery. It was expected that the mine would soon be employing 200 - 300 men. A new office was erected.

A 55-foot chimney with a Cornish flue boiler was erected by Mr John Annear. It housed pumping gear and a fly wheel. Mr Prince, who had been brought from South Australia, was in charge and was very optimistic about the prospects of the working of the new machinery and its housing.

Mount Coora was the better mine, yielding ninety tons of copper before it and Mount Clara were closed down in 1875.

Between 1942 and 1945 the Essential Metals Syndicate tried to open some of the copper mines in the Black Snake - Mount Coora area but the only payable find was from the copper lode near the Black Snake gold mine.



*Copper Mining at Calgoa*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*

### **Copper Mining in the Calgoa Area**

Copper mining in the Calgoa area, now on the border of the shire, probably started in 1873 but records of this are difficult to obtain. From 1905 to 1911 many shafts were sunk and reasonably good quantities were sent away for smelting. Most production was from the Lug-e-nor and Knight of Gwyn. In 1963 Lug-e-nor workings were reopened and deepened and a flotation treatment plant installed. From 1963 to 1970, 310 tons of copper and 9 078 ounces of silver were yielded.

Twelve miles north of Kilkivan the Mudlo Copper Mine was worked from 1901 to 1909, 1915 to 1918 and from 1929 to 1930. Most of the ore came from Spicer's Tunnel which reached a distance of 697 feet.

The ore was high grade and was sent to smelters. In the 1920's Mudlo Mining Syndicate Limited concentrated several hundred tons of low grade ore at the mine by tabling and jigging.

### **10. QUICKSILVER**

In 1873 a shepherd on Kilkivan Run, Jimmy Godfrey, tending his sheep three miles from the present township of Kilkivan, noted the heavy weight of some pieces of reddish stone which was rife in the area. He took a specimen to Mr Mactaggart. Mactaggart placed a quantity of the powdered rock in a gun barrel. *'With the gun barrel thus functioning as a roasting medium, an ingenious retorting process was enacted'*. The foreign substance in the ore left the parent

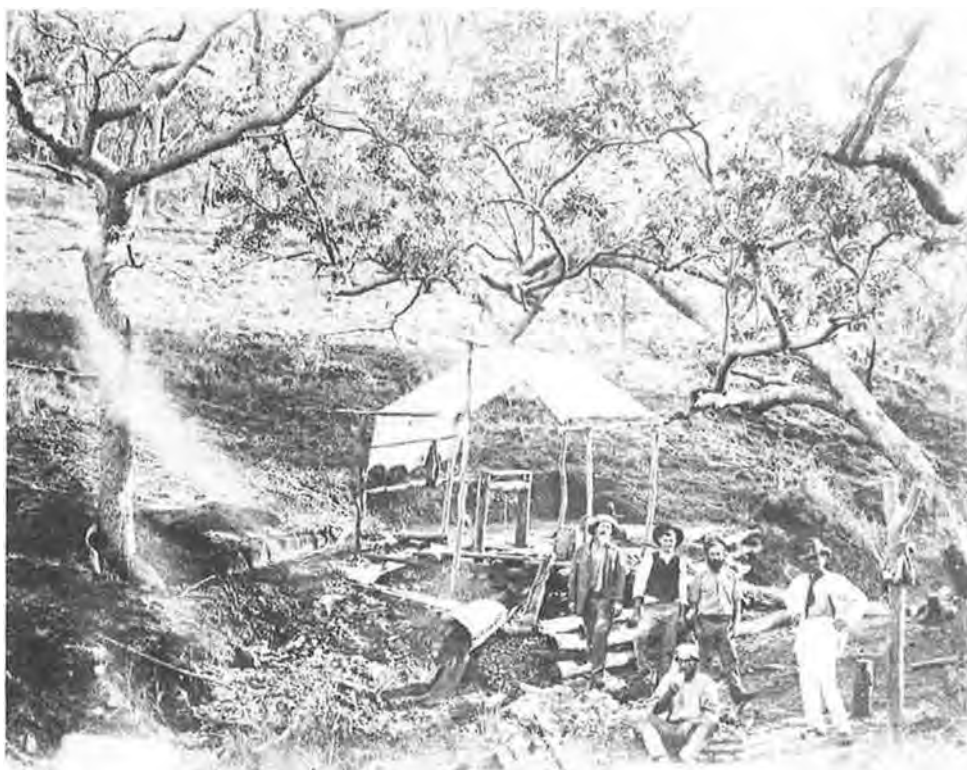
rock in the form of fumes and precipitated in the water as mercury. Godfrey had discovered cinnabar and the field was named after this metal. It was the only such mining area of its type in the (then) British Empire.

Altogether some thirty-five deposits were found in an area extending south-south-east from a line from the Coast Range, north-west of Kilkivan to the western edge of the Black Snake Plateau.

In 1873, an Australian geologist, Dr Wolf, visited the field and, gaining a favourable impression of the find, returned to Europe to raise capital to exploit the quicksilver deposits. Dr Wolf died on his way back to Europe.

In 1887, the Duke of Manchester visited Kilkivan in connection with pastoral and mining interests he had in the district. He brought with him a geologist named Hurst. The Duke left Hurst with power of attorney to act in his interests. Hurst remained at Cinnabar and they set up a company called Queensland Quicksilver Estates Ltd.

Unfortunately the Duke died on his return journey. This complicated Hurst's position and he had to return to England. The boat Hurst travelled on, the QUETTA, was lost in Torres Strait and Hurst was drowned.



*Cinnabar Quicksilver Mine - about 1900*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*



*Wooden Railway Track leading to Steam Driven Engines  
(Kilkivan Historical Society)*



*William Henry Hester (Kilkivan Historical Society)*

The first development of the field was undertaken by S L and W H Hester, experienced quicksilver miners from California.



Within a radius of ten miles many shafts were sunk by S L Hester, W H Eldred and others. The largest enterprise was Mactaggart (nephew of J D Mactaggart), Thynne and Macartney's 'Bloodworth', later sold to John Hawkes and then to the Queensland Quicksilver Company, managed by Mr John Lennox. They set up retorts for the treatment of ore which worked for two years before their closure.

Cinnabar's viability has been bound up with the demand for, and the world price of, quicksilver. In the early days of mining, the best price was three shillings and sixpence per pound. The highest price ever reached was during the Second World War.

The Duke of Manchester's venture, a grand undertaking, was named the 'Wolf' after the early geologist. Most of the capital went in administrative costs. Similarly the 'Kabunga', also floated by the Duke, failed. In 1891 the deposits were again worked by the Hester Brothers. But world prices were not good and this made the small scale operation unprofitable. The mines closed again in 1892.

The Queensland Quicksilver Company Limited reopened the Bloodworth and Commotion lodes in 1930 but closed down in 1933 when mining became unprofitable. Near these two mines sluicing of alluvial deposits was attempted but also abandoned. When the price of mercury rose sharply in 1940 mining was again attempted. Further lodes were also mined until the end of the war in 1945.



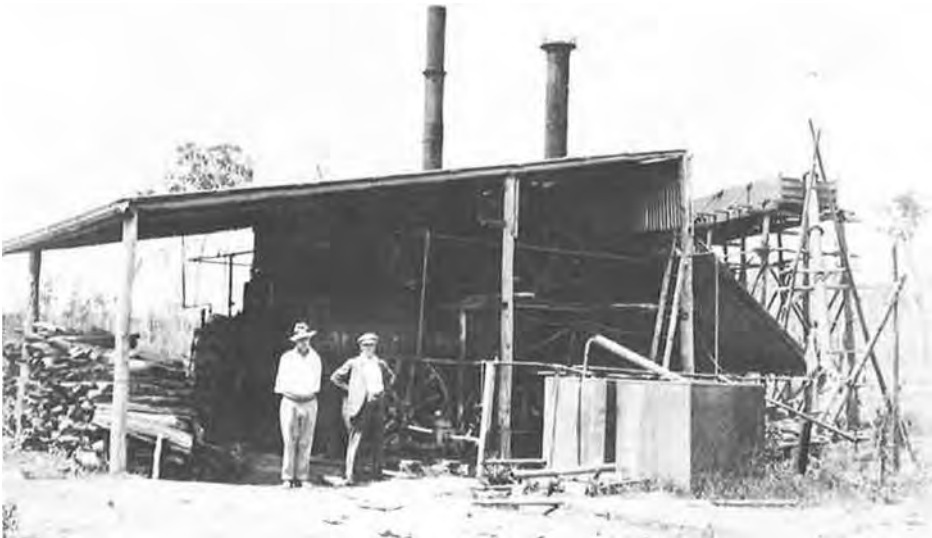
*Qld Quicksilver Co Ltd Re-opening - 1930*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*



*Compressors for Cinnabar Quicksilver Mine leaving Kilkivan*

*(M Batts)*



*Steam Driven Engines of Cinnabar Quicksilver Mine  
(Kilkivan Historical Society)*

In 1934, Mr H W F Cirson formed Cirson's Cinnabar Mines Pty Ltd after the discovery of Cirson's Lode in 1931. He made it pay when mercury was four shillings per pound and worked it until 1939. When Mr Cirson joined the RAAF he sold the mine to Q S Mines Ltd. Mercury was an even better price during the War. According to Mr Jim McArthur who worked in the mine during the war, the Government eventually took over the mine because the production of mercury was vital to the war effort. He claims that the price of mercury rose to £5 per pound during the war. After the war ended the mine closed down.

Up to 1945, 33 000 tons of mercury had been obtained from the Cinnabar deposits. This was 90% of Australia's production until that date. The available supplies of mercury in the Kilkivan district was of significance to the local gold mining industry in the 1874 - 1892 period and again in the Second World War when necessary supplies from overseas were unobtainable.

## 11. COBALT

The 'rediscovery' of the Cobalt Lode at Black Snake by Government Geologist, William H Rands in 1886 created excitement throughout the British Empire. Rands acclaimed it as a '*most remarkable and valuable discovery*'.

Cobalt is used as a base for pigments and in materials used for staining glass. It enamels a blue colour. Cobalt is highly magnetic and stronger than iron. It is a very malleable metal and does not oxidise if exposed at ordinary temperatures.

This discovery was first made by Mr F Smith in the early 1870's. The lode was on the eastern side of a spur running north from Mount Coora. The workings are in rugged mountain country, which would have made transport very difficult.

The spur known as Mount Cobalt rises more than 990 feet above Fat Hen Creek. A pack horse track was carved from the mine back to Mount Coora, from where the ore could be taken to Kilkivan. Little is known about this first mining venture and Rands himself did not know about it when he visited the area.

He writes in his report of 1886:

*'I have been informed by Mr Walter Smith of Maryborough of the occurrence of cobalt in a lode situated about a mile-and-a-half south of the Mount Clara Mine on the Mount Clara hills. I understand ... that two hundredweight of this ore has been sent home among the exhibits for the forthcoming Indian and Colonial exhibition. I roughly tested specimens of the ore and found it to contain cobalt and manganese.'*

Rands worked out that the lode was about 32 feet wide at the surface, running north and south, with an underlie to the west. During another visit in the same year, the Government Inspector of Mines, Mr W Friar, described the lode in his report as '*a possession unique, not only for Queensland, but for Australia and probably, in some essential particulars unsurpassed anywhere*'.



*Cinnabar Quicksilver Mine - building a retort (Kilkivan Historical Society)*



*Cinnabar Quicksilver Mine - water storage dam (Kilkivan Historical Society)*

The lode yielded much ore but little is known about production figures, either in Smith's time or in later attempts to exploit it between 1900 and 1904.

Assays of the undressed ore averaged in monetary return about £13/10/- per ton. Rands said that if the ore were to be hand-dressed, it could yield 10% of cobalt at £23/12/- and sixpence per ton. The opening of the Kilkivan Railway Branch 10 miles from the mine would reduce cartage costs.

The original workings were done while Mr Walter Smith held the land; but the mine later went to a banking company before coming into the possession of the Mount Cobalt Company in 1898.

This company worked the mine from 1900 to 1904. It had a succession of managers - Steve Daddow, appointed in 1900; John P Kelly, in September 1901; Victor Cauldery in March 1903; James Elliot in Victor Cauldery's absence. Government geologist, C V J Jackson, found that the original workings had become filled up and that several hundred feet of new tunnels, cross cuts, adits, drives and winzes, had been carved into the lode. Three tunnels, two about 330 feet long, were driven in serpentine around the lode, but with little success. Jackson recommended that the miners concentrate on a small open cut on the lode and drive a tunnel from there into the ore. His advice was taken.

The mine is now deserted, caved in in various places. No machinery is left. A sole piece of railway track shows where the carriages of ore were brought out of the tunnel and deposited. A few drill bits and hand-forged nails mark the position of a blacksmith's building on the pack horse track to Mount Coora.

A third government geologist, A K Denmead, reported in 1944 that there was another shaft which ended in a 72 feet drive. Fifty feet of the drive had been stoped out. Denmead estimated that a good deal of ore must have been obtained. He assumed that most of it went to England. He felt that the ore, being friable and powdery, would have had to be hand-picked, and that most of the higher grade ore would have been worked out by 1904, forcing the mine to close.

It has been idle since then, probably leaving thousands of tons of low grade reserves of cobalt and nickel untapped.

## 12. SILVER-LEAD

In 1892, traces of silver-lead were discovered at the head of Fat Hen Creek, about ten miles from the town of Kilkivan. These were known as Ortt's Diggings. The first signs were encouraging. A shaft was dug to a depth of 90 feet and stoping was extended from a 50-foot level almost to the surface over a length of 30 feet. The only recorded production of the mine was 11 tons of ore, yielding 766 ounces of silver in 1892. After two years the workings were abandoned as unprofitable.

### 13. MINING IN THE BURNETT

#### The Lord Nelson

Although there was no great mineral rush in the Burnett area of what is now Kilkivan Shire, there were some finds that brought hopeful miners to try their luck.

In 1873, copper was found north of Boobyjan Homestead, but this was not considered worth exploiting. Soon after this gold was discovered on Boobyjan by a stockman named Nelson.

People came in droves from all over the place. At one stage there were about one hundred miners camped on the flat close to the homestead. It became necessary to have an assay done and to get a government official to supervise the pegging out of claims. Quite a crowd of people watched the operation being done.

Miners' rights were taken out by Mrs Lawless, Nelson and his friend Stephenson, and mining was started. The mine was known as the 'Lord Nelson', a name by which the paddock in which it lies is still known.

Payable gold was found there. After the first rush subsided this mine continued to be worked over the years. In recent years Mr Norm Curden stayed on, established another shaft and joined it to the original one. Eventually he became too old to work the claim and retired, so today the mine remains idle.

#### Cobungo Creek - Kabunga

In August 1868, a party of prospectors reported finding payable gold at Cobungo Creek on Mortimer's Run - Manumbar. Miners started panning for gold in the creek but found only a few specks. However they considered this to be likely gold bearing country, and some miners who had rations with them pitched their tents and remained. A rush certainly took place in this locality but it was short lived. A few men remained to work the area, and managed to eke out a meagre living for a few years before the claim was abandoned.

Apart from alluvial panning, exploration seems to have been confined to two trenches and two small pits. An assay taken later by the Mines Department estimated gold to be 0.02 to 0.14 ounces per ton and copper yield as 1.4% to 3.3%.

Although there was a north and south reef about eighteen inches wide in the Duffer Paddock containing some gold and mercury '*in a free state*' there was no attempt to exploit it on a large scale as the country on which it was located was private property. There is no evidence of mining there after 1890 although in recent years prospecting has been carried out there.

There is mention of Kabunga Mining Company Ltd, one of the business ventures launched by the Duke of Manchester. It was launched with 259 000 shares at a

value of ten shillings per share. Like the Duke's other Queensland ventures it evidently was unsuccessful.

### **Planted Creek - Tansey**

Gold was discovered on a farm on Planted Creek Road, about three miles north of Tansey in 1919. This property belonged to the Kiehne family.

Mr Bill Kiehne was divining for water on this property, carrying a penny on his tongue. When it turned salty to taste he took it as an indication that gold lay beneath the surface of the ground. He and an old German friend sank a shaft to a depth of 42 feet and found gold.

It was ten years before he decided to exploit the mine. Following the acquisition by the South Burnett Gold Mining Development Syndicate in 1934, a battery was erected and the deposit worked to a depth of 285 feet. The mining syndicate included Bill and Fred Kiehne, Messrs Harold Crowley and McDonald and several other shareholders from Torbanlea.

A stamper battery, gas engine, winding engine and compressor were bought. The mine was worked as a single compartment shaft with one cage. From the 285-foot depth of the mine 2 000 tons of ore were crushed. It was low-grade containing impurities.



*Kiehne's Gold Mine - Planted Creek*

*(A Logan)*



*Kiehne's Gold Mine- Planted Creek*

*(A Logan)*

When Mr Paul Murray, a mining expert, came to work there in 1939 the mine had been closed for six months because it was deemed unprofitable. It was decided to start work again. Water was baled out and a winding engine and driving belt were installed. Mr Jack Tarrant from Wallaville came to supervise the removal of the water. Two men were sent down to bring the ore out. It carried impurities - manganese and arsenic.

Mr Murray took charge of the battery. The mine crushed two days a week while the water was there. The share-holders put in a pump and pipes to bring water from the lagoon on Tansey reserve. More ore was crushed but very little gold was found. There was trouble with the machinery and all the men were put off except Mr Murray who was retained as caretaker.

When work resumed again a clean quartz reef was struck at a depth of fifty-three feet. It had a width of two feet and bore two ounces of gold to a ton of ore. Two tons were taken out and the syndicate planned to expand. Another manager, Duncan Lindsay, was brought in in early 1942. He tried to cyanide the gold but found it impossible.

Mr Murray stayed on until 1942. Two of the workers were called up for military service and the mine was shut down completely. Between 1934 and 1942, a total of 3 152 tons of ore had been treated, yielding 1 311 ounces of gold and 1 188 ounces of silver.



A diamond drilling programme was carried out on the mine by the Mines Department in 1967 - 1968. In 1970 Uranium Consolidated LNL dewatered the mine and took samples from the lower workings. At the time the mine had been worked, gold losses in the tailings were high because of the coating of gold particles with graphite, preventing amalgamation. Good prospects were reported in the Mines Department survey at a depth of 50 feet below the level to which it had previously been mined. But the general results of the survey were inconclusive.

Uranium Consolidated N L, in their survey of the lower part of the mine, were not encouraged by their findings. They found that some sections of the lode contained significant quantities of gold which was low grade. The company allowed their lease to lapse.

#### 14. PRESENT MINING VENTURES

The rising price of metals, particularly gold, on the world market has brought a revival of activity in mining on abandoned fields in the district.

In 1979, local residents David Lahiff and his brother, Reg, took out a mining lease on a site on West Coast Creek, seventy acres belonging to Mr Chris McGurl. They called their enterprise 'West Coast Mines'. Mr Reg Lahiff owned the lease and mined a percentage of it, which turned out to be a very profitable mining venture. Mr R Lahiff has been cleaning up unworked pockets with his own plant.

Two other smaller companies were Ray Mills (just about finished his lease) and Don Smith, who is still mining.

In 1985 West Coast Mines obtained the right to prospect over a big area on West Coast Creek. It had a six-month agreement and sold out to a West Australian company. They are working one small plant because of the dry weather and lack of water.

The West Australian Company - Beaumark Pty Ltd - has a plant capable of treating 200 cubic metres per hour when it rains. This company has spent half-a-million dollars on a plant and set-up. Its annual gross turnover is \$40 000 000. This company also has authority to prospect the South Burnett section of the shire.

Mr Reg Lahiff also has a plant set up on the old Rise and Shine Reef. In December 1986 it had to close down because of dry weather. It moved to West Coast Creek and Mr Don Smith did likewise.

A second plant of West Coast Mines is working part time for Beaumark because it bought plant sites and has authority to prospect. Beaumark is bringing water by pipe line from Wide Bay Creek. It is also using a nearby well. At present it is working a double shift - twenty hours a day.

Mr Bussell has a lease on Mudlo Mines. To retain this lease a certain amount of work must be done on the mines each year. He also has a lease in the Calgoa - Running Creek mining area.

In 1979, Nickel Mines started work at the copper mines at Mount Coora. They worked there for about three years. During that time the world price of copper dropped from \$1 800 to \$1 200 per tonne, making the enterprise uneconomical. Since then these mines have been idle.

At Black Snake, Fletcher Quinn bought out S Phi and has authority to prospect in that area. There is much activity over the whole Black Snake area with extensive drilling of test holes going on.

In the past twelve months, Mr McGurl has had authority to prospect over Long Tunnel and several of the gullies around Rossmore. Drilling has also been carried on around Mount Boo Boo close to Kilkivan.

Colo mines are being mined by Mr Warren Buckley.

The *Cooloola Regional News* (April 1987) reports that:

*'according to the Queensland Mines Department's Annual Report, West Coast Mines, located in the Kilkivan Gold Field, produced 64kg of gold in 1984-85, making it the State's Number 1 alluvial gold producer' ....*

Since 1983, Authorities to Prospect have been issued over the entire Kilkivan goldfield. Holders include major companies like Mt-Isa Mines and Peko Wallsend. BHP also has interests in the area and Cyprus Minerals and Hault Mining are also ATP holders. With the continuing favourable price of gold, further exploration of the Kilkivan field is expected.





*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*

*Miners' Camp*



## Chapter 5

---

### SELECTORS AND SETTLERS

#### 1. SELECTION BEGINS

The discovery of minerals on Kilkivan Run may not have resulted in any great permanent mining industry, but it had lasting results on the Wide Bay-Burnett area. A town had grown up, first at West Coast Creek, and later at the Rise and Shine Diggings. It was to shift again when the railway was extended in 1886. Though Kilkivan was only a small town, it was to prove a catalyst to closer settlement. Many of the people who had come chasing gold and other minerals had left again. But some had stayed, either to open businesses in the town or to take up land.

From the beginning of the first Queensland Parliament, conditions of land tenure had received attention. Through the 1860's various acts were passed setting out conditions of land tenure and resumption, provisions for towns and land for public purposes. The most important legislation, the 'Crown Lands Alienation Act', was passed in 1868. It was the first real attempt to deal with the question of closer settlement.

As the leasehold land of the large pastoral runs, taken up in the 1840's and 1850's, came up for renewal, sections of their vast areas were resumed by the Government and declared open for selection. The term 'selector' was used in official documents to describe people who took up land under such conditions.

The origins and backgrounds of the selectors in the Wide Bay-Burnett were varied. Some were wealthy land-seekers, members of families established in other areas or scions of British families desirous of establishing themselves in the new colony. Others were migrants or sons of migrants who had worked on the large pastoral runs and had, in many cases, saved enough to buy their own horse or bullock teams. There were men who had come to the area seeking gold and stayed on after the rushes, having had no former connection with the land.

It was common to see members of one family - husbands, wives, sons, daughters - take up blocks near to one another in their respective individual names to maximize their selections. There seems to be no evidence that dummyming - taking up land for a bigger landholder - was practised in this area.

Some of the early selectors had close connections with the pastoralists - either as relatives or former employees. But this could have merely indicated the desire on their part to settle close to the area in which they had formerly worked or in which family members already lived.

The use to which the selected land was put varied according to the type of land or its proximity to water courses and railway, or to its climatic conditions. But grazing of cattle remained the predominant rural industry until the end of the last century. Some of the very early selections were stocked with sheep but these were soon replaced with cattle. Cattle raising has proved to this day the most profitable and suitable use to which much of the land in this shire could be put.

There was some agriculture in the part of the Wide Bay area closest to the coast. Most of the crops grown in the Kilkivan area were used on the properties themselves as fodder for animals.

The advent of the railhead to Kilkivan in 1886 gave fast reliable transport. The opening of the Tiaro Butter Factory, the first in the colony, in 1880 gave rise to dairying on some properties, though not on the scale it reached after closer settlement.

It would be impossible to mention all the families who selected land in the Kilkivan Shire from the late 1870's to the end of the century, but an attempt has been made to present material about the better-known settlers, particularly those who have had a long association with the area.

The diverse family history of these early arrivals may help to illustrate the variety in their backgrounds, the reasons that brought them to this area and the way people lived at that time.

A list of ratepayers of Barambah (Nanango) Divisional Board, 1885, roughly covering what is now Division 2 of Kilkivan Shire gives an indication of the land-holders who were in the area at the time. It reads as follows:

John Broadbent (Mondure); J P Lawless (Boobyjan); Patrick O'Neil (Boobyjan); Jacob Mergard (Winderera); G H Jones (Boonara); L M Jones (Boonara); G B Lawrence (Boonara); T Bloodworth (Boonara); Rawden Briggs (Boonara); Michael Tansey (Boonara); J Elworthy (Goomeribong); John Tansey (Boonara); J Jackson (Winderera); J Herd (Goomeribong); R Kirby (Boonara); P McPherson (Boonara); W B Lawless (Winderera).

(These names were taken from contemporary lists of ratepayers and may not be accurately spelt.)

The following is a list, also for the same date, of ratepayers in what is now roughly Division 3 of Kilkivan Shire:

Isaac Moore (Barambah); Harry Baynes (Barambah); William Baynes (Barambah); C R Graham (Barambah); James Connors Jnr (Barambah); H S Trynhitt (Barambah); Kate Baynes (Brisbane Range); A Banks (Brisbane Range); T O'Brien (Brisbane Range); F H Davenport (Barambah); J Mortimer (Manumbar); James Porter (Gallangowan); Robert Porter (Gallangowan); W Simpson (Soboryo); T Simpson (Soboryo).

At the same time (1885), what are now Divisions 1 and 4 of the present Kilkivan Shire lay within the boundaries of Widgee Divisional Board. The following is a list of ratepayers in that area:

Widgee Crossing: William Forde.

Widgee Road: M Mellor, John Conway, J Briere, A Mullholland, Richard Crank, Henry Callighan, William Green, Daniel Donoghue.

Widgee: John Atkinson, Patrick Lillis, Broadbent and Williams, John Broadbent, James Caulfield, William Wooster, Edward Homer, J McMahon.

Widgee Creek: James Meakin, William Meakin, J Ream, Charles Wilson, William Cave, Norman Wilson.

Brooyar: John Burke, W Graham, J Gallager.

Nanango: Jane Smith, Peter McPherson.

Rocky Creek: John Spier.

Wide Bay Creek: Mrs R J Lord, Thomas Harvey, A Batts, Francis Power, Thomas Standen, William Graham, Samuel Fittham, John Wilson.

Coppermine Creek: Jonah Courtman, Emanuel Williams.

Woolooga: H P Abbot, Joseph McFarlane.

Nine Mile: Konrad Nahrung, William Hayles.

Curra: E Booker, W Bouldery, J Robinson, G Thrower.

Glastonbury Creek: Patrick Green, C O'Sullivan, J McCarthy, Bridget Walsh, Michael Whelan, George Williams, Thomas Betts, T Betts Jnr, Harrison Fittell, Martin Fittell, Martin Carroll, Michael Cotter, William Carroll, Jerimah Leahy, Michael Leahy.

Glastonbury: Michael O'Brien, John Fitzgerald, G W Anderson, Michael McGrath, A Matthew, Ellen Clapperton, J O'Connell, H Andrew, T Betts.

Black Snake: J Thompson.

Maryborough Road: James Meridith.

Kilkivan: Thomas Rose, Thomas Bloodworth, Trustee for J E Rose, Trustee for J D Mactaggart; Robert Hunter, Rudolph Brown, William Spencer, Godfrey Moessenger, William Laurie, James Hunter, Hector Innes, A Brayshaw, G M Towner, Jane Eliza Rose, B Molyneux, J Threlkeld, E Delipa, Horace Tozer, E Vickery, Mount Clara Copper Mining Co, John Frampton, J Henderson, P Ramsay, R Lord, J Haley, G W Allen, Tubbs Pritchard and Co, Boase and Co, McGhie and Co, H Coop and R Collins, A Carter, George Zahnleiter, Ashbury Bright, John Beer, Michael Mackay.

The list from Widgee Divisional Board is considerably larger than that from Barambah, indicating that selection of land progressed much more quickly in

the Wide Bay area than in the Burnett. But it must be remembered that some of the ratepayers in Widgee Divisional Board were businessmen in Kilkivan and other places or had mining interests. Nevertheless, it appears that mineral discoveries in Wide Bay not only resulted in the growth of the town of Kilkivan, but brought selectors to this area. Some had come initially to the goldfields and stayed on to take up land.

The second half of the nineteenth century also saw the rise of a new class of workers - the contractors. These men built fences, stockyards, dams, and carried out sinking of bores, ringbarking of trees, shearing, woolclassing - sometimes undertaken by station employees but quite often by independent contractors who travelled the country looking for work.

As cattle replaced sheep, stockmen replaced shepherds, and horsemanship was a greatly prized skill. Settlers had to cope with drought, floods and depressed prices for their stock. This forced them to be more systematic and realistic in their use of capital and labour.

Communication was improving, although roads were still in a primitive state. Kilkivan had sprung up around the mineral fields. It was a great amenity to have even a small town in the area. The coming of the railway to that town in 1886 provided a railhead - a much faster and more satisfactory method of obtaining supplies and sending produce to bigger centres.

Contact with the outside world was improving, making life for the pastoralist, the selectors and their workers more congenial - though, by modern standards it was still difficult. There was no longer danger from hostile aborigines; those who remained had been integrated into the life of the stations, making excellent stockmen.

The following section gives an account of the lives of some of the selectors and enables us to see their diverse backgrounds, why they came to the area, the patterns of their lives and the difficulties they encountered.

## **2. THE MANUMBAR SELECTORS**

### **The Porters of Elgin Vale**

One of the earliest selections in the Manumbar area was that taken up by Porter Brothers. They bought a resumption of land from Manumbar in July 1879 when it was sold at twenty-six shillings an acre. The acquired area was 8 000 acres, later increased to 10 000 acres, the new additions being Langley, now owned by the McGhee family, and an area north of the original block, called Tablelands.

James and Alexander Porter had migrated from Scotland in 1849, where Elgin was their home town. The family already had a sheep property, North Branch, near Pittsworth on the Darling Downs. Elgin Vale was originally put under sheep, but because of spear grass they later turned to cattle.

William Porter, son of James, was long-time manager of the family's Burnett holdings. It was he who found the gap in the Dividing Range now called 'Porter's Gap'. This gave them easy access to their Downs properties.

In the early days of Elgin Vale, sheep were driven each year to North Branch for shearing and would be away for three months of the year, giving the country and the shepherds a spell.

At an early date in their tenure, ring fences were erected. One strand of barbed wire was run along the top with two plain wires underneath. The barbed wire was not run through the posts but passed through a cut made by a saw into the battens and posts about eleven feet apart. The strainer posts were huge by today's standards. Some are still in use and the barbed wire is in good order.

After the death of James, in 1912, the properties were split up among the families. William retained the Elgin Vale homestead block and bought his brother Jack's share of the Range paddock. Their sister, Mrs Ethel Scott, was left Tableland. In 1924 Albin Perrett bought her out and later bought Elgin Vale from William Porter. Hugh Porter retained his portion, which is still worked by his son, Douglas.

#### **James Connors Jnr of Glen Erin**

James Connors Jnr was born in 1865, son of an Irish shepherd, originally a baker by trade. As a young boy he worked around Nanango at a variety of jobs - mainly on pastoral holdings.

His brother bought a mail contract, which he (James) ran for many years. In his work as a mailman he travelled from Nanango to Kilkivan, Winderera and Boobyjan and, for a while, from Nanango to Jandowae. He followed the 'back' way through to Kilkivan (through Barambah and Manumbar). At that time Barambah was linked by a mail service to Kilcoy - the mailman travelling over the range behind Manumbar. The mail service from Kilkivan to Boonara was run by a woman, Mrs Cunningham. At one stage James went droving horses to Rockhampton but he always had a desire to own land.

He selected a small property, Glen Erin, a resumption from Manumbar Station, in 1888. More land in the Nanango Shire was added to the property but the family always lived at Glen Erin. To the home he built there he brought his parents and a widowed sister with five young children, for whom he took responsibility. The original house was small - built of split slabs and shingles. Many of the first top-rail fences he built are still standing today.

In 1899 a school was opened on Elgin Vale to cater for the Barnes family (James' sister's children), the Hunts, Banks, and Porters. The young city-bred teacher, Miss Sheridan, eventually married James in 1906 when the school was closed. Despite droughts and other hardships, James prospered, building the present home on the property in 1914. He also imported Aberdeen Angus cattle from New Zealand and built up a good herd.



James died in 1961 at the age of 96. His two daughters still own the property. Berenice and her husband, Reg Lane, formerly a boring contractor, have lived there all their married life and still work the property. The younger daughter, Irene (Mrs Frank Coleman), lives in Goomeri.

### **The Glasgow Family**

In 1898, Samuel Henry (Harry) Glasgow, son of a Gympie business man, selected land from Manumbar Station which he named Ivanhoe. Mr Glasgow had worked on the goldfields as a younger man. He married Isabella Banks, daughter of a neighbouring selector, and reared a family of three - Archie, Jack and Mollie (Mrs Walthall).

Harry Glasgow's younger brother, Robert, also took up property in the Manumbar area, which is still owned by his son, Robert.

Ivanhoe is still in the family today and is the home of Mrs Mollie Walthall. Her late husband, Cecil, was for some years a dentist in Goomeri in partnership with a Gympie dental practice. During the manpower shortage in the Second World War, Mr Walthall left to take over the Gympie practice. Their son Peter also owns property in the Manumbar area.

Mr Harry Glasgow was for many years a Kilkivan Shire Councillor.

## **3. BOOUBYJAN SELECTORS**

### **The Lawless Pyne Family**

One of the earliest resumptions from Booubyjan and Windera Runs went to Lumley Lawless Pyne, a nephew of Clement and Paul Lawless. He and his brothers, Thomas and Clement, had been sent out from Ireland to the colonies to the uncles so that they could gain experience on the land. He had managed Booubyjan while Paul and Ellen Lawless were in Ireland at the time of Paul's death.

He adapted well to life in the new colony. For a time he bought and sold cattle while droving about Queensland. In those days when land was being opened up further north it was profitable to drive mobs of well bred bulls and useful horses, to sell to graziers in more remote places. There is evidence that he continued to do this, taking with him Bill Euler, an early worker on Boonara who later took up a selection, and W Moessenger, who later selected land at Kilkivan.

Lumley Pyne selected Cloyne, one of the first resumptions from Booubyjan Station. He lived here until he died in 1906. His widow, Annie (Micklethwait) remained at Cloyne until the 1930's. Two sons, John Lindsay and Clement Lumley, settled on land in the Goomeri area after service in the First AIF, Light Horse. Daughter Barbara, who married O W A Ogg, also ran a property near Goomeri.

## The Grieve Family

James Grieve in the 1880's settled on land resumed from Boobyjan Station. In 1885 he took up Boonimbah. This property was later sold to John Lawless Pyne. James made his home at Ettrickdale, which he took up about the same time, naming it after his home town in Scotland. He and his wife had eight surviving sons - Robert, Walter, Archie, Jim, George, John, Billy and Charlie. Three more had died in infancy. The two selections were run as cattle properties.



*James and Mary Grieve (E Dunn)*

James died in 1913 and is buried on Ettrickdale. His son, Archie, took up Gowanlock, a property close by. James Junior remained on Ettrickdale. He married one of the governesses employed to teach the children on the property - Violet Herd. James Junior was the owner of one of the earliest cars in the district. He and his family were crossing a flooded creek in the car when it stalled. He got out to crank the car which had been left in gear and it ran over him. His wife tried to support him while a son went to Boobyjan for help. But the unfortunate man died several days later from the injuries he sustained. He was survived by his wife and two children, John and Lavender.

Billy and Charlie managed Boonimbah in partnership with Percy Chavell, brother of the famous Charles Chavell, until it was sold. Two daughters of George have recollections of Ettrickdale in their childhood. George did not work on the property but Mollie (Mrs Paterson) and Nell (Mrs Dunn) remember staying at Ettrickdale. Mollie, at the age of seven, came to live with her grandmother for several years. Visits to Kilkivan, staying at Cogan's Hotel, were a treat; sweets were bought at Miss Beer's lolly shop; stores were brought to the homestead by Mr Karl Gesch, well known teamster. Schards ran a dairy close by. A small slab building near the homestead acted as a class-room and governesses were employed to teach the children.



*Ettrickdale Homestead - 1890's*

*(E Dunn)*



*The eight sons of James Grieve*

*(E Dunn)*

#### 4. BOONARA SELECTORS

##### Rawden Briggs

A very early resumption from Boonara Station, Oakfield, was taken up in 1877 by Rawden Bentley Briggs on the northern border of Boonara Station. A friend, Peter McPherson, selected an adjacent block that was later transferred to Rawden Briggs.

Several blocks had been acquired at the time. One of the requirements for retention was residency on the land. Briggs set up house on one and put bailiffs on the other two. At that time the property was reasonably accessible by road. Charlotte Mary (Micklethwait), his wife, told her grandchildren in later years that they lived in a slab hut with a dirt floor and shingled roof at the beginning. She had to cope with a shortage of water. It was brought every morning in a ship's tank on a horse-drawn slide from a nearby creek to the homestead. This water had to serve the family for all purposes.

Rawdon Briggs, as well as establishing himself as a successful grazier, found time to represent Sub-division 3 on the Barambah Divisional Board, formed in 1879, until 1885 and was one of the group of landholders who petitioned for the formation of Kilkivan Divisional Board. Meetings of Barambah Divisional Board were held in Nanango, a long distance to travel.

Charlotte Mary, who had been used to city living and servants, must have had much courage to cope with her new life. One son, Rawdon, was left in Brisbane with relatives to attend school. Supplies came twice a year from Nanango. One member of the family recalls that, as a boy, his boots never fitted all the eight years they lived there, being either too small or too big for his growing feet.

Charlotte Mary became a proficient seamstress, making all the clothes for the family - even the moleskin working trousers for the men. She was inexperienced, learning as she went, and made cabbage tree hats from the palm of that name.

The family moved to Tenningering in 1885. This property was a resumption from Winderera. Rawdon's son, Richard Rawdon Briggs was given Oakfield to manage. In 1906 he purchased Holroyd from Mr John Fox of Wigton. He sold Holroyd in 1913.

Charlotte Mary's brother, Ben Micklethwait, also worked here and at Oakfield. In 1913 Ben and his wife, Vera, bought Holroyd in conjunction with Rawdon Briggs. Ben died in 1920 but his widow continued to live there until 1943 when the property was sold.

##### The Tansey Family

Michael Tansey took up a large resumption from Boonara holding about 1877, which he named Lakeview. In the fifties he ran a general store at Beenleigh.



*'Lakeview'*

*(M Lehmann)*



*A Shearer at 'Lakeview'*

*(G Ahern)*

The Tansey property was a large cattle grazing enterprise, carried on successfully for many years. Michael had three children - John, Thomas and a daughter, later Mrs Hogg of Wooroolin. Thomas worked with his father on Lakeview and, on Michael's death in 1911, took over the property.

Thomas married Georgina, daughter of George and Mary Webb of Thornside. Their two children - Michael and Mary - were both born at Kilkivan. Mary died in infancy and Georgina in childbirth in 1908. Michael was reared on Lakeview, educated by governesses and later at Nudgee College, Brisbane. He survived his father. However Michael himself took ill and died at the age of twenty, a few months before he was to take over management of the property and inherit the considerable Tansey fortune.

The property - 15 000 acres of choice grazing country - was sold to Bevan Webb. Lakeview is now much reduced in size due to closer settlement. It has been owned by the Ahern family since 1930.

### **The Euler Family**

August Euler, a German migrant, arrived in Queensland in 1855. He worked for three years at Barfield Run in the Banana area. In 1858 he came to work on Boonara Run as a shepherd.

In 1862, while working on Boobyjan he met and married Catherina Murgard. Catherina's father, Caspar Murgard had come to this country in 1856, with his wife, three sons and a daughter. He was working as a shepherd on Boobyjan at the time. Shortly after his daughter was married, he returned to Germany, taking his wife and one son with him.

August and Catherina had a large family: August, William, Peter, Berne, Frederick, Kate, Anne, Alice, Charles, Rosia and Matilda. Four other children died in infancy. In the 1880's August took up a selection from Boonara, which he called Sunnyhill (now owned by Peter Thomas). His wife died at the age of fifty and is buried on the property.

His second son, William (Bill), took up land close by, which he named Boatview. Bill married Zarah Floyd, an English governess. Their sons Louis (Tom), Douglas, Cecil, Melville, and Eric later took up properties in the Boonara area. Tom worked Hopeful Valley; Douglas for many years lived at Boatview; Cecil owned a property close by and later bought Boonara Homestead block. His son Floyd now owns and works this property as well as the land formerly owned by Eric Euler and, for a few years by William, son of Douglas. Douglas's sons Rodney, William and Wesley live in Goomeri and daughter Marjorie (Mrs Keith Batts) lives at Kilkivan. Her twin sister, Elwyn married John Hetherington. William's youngest son, Melville, lived for many years on the property now owned by J and C Hatton.

Other descendants of August have remained in the area. August (Gusty) had land at Cinnabar. He had three daughters, Gladys (Mrs Roy Stockden), Renee

and Elsie (Mrs Jack McCarroll). Peter had a selection which he called Hopeless Valley (east of Boatview, toward Cinnabar). Bernie had seven children - Edward, Frederick, Robert, Lillian, Violet, Enid and Dulcie. Colin, son of Frederick, lived at Tye for many years.

### **The Maudsley Family**

In 1892, after selecting land resumed from Boonara Station and building homes, the three Maudsley brothers brought their wives and families to settle in the district - Roger at Margoo, Richard at Undaban and Thomas at Trinity. They all had large and steadily increasing families.



*Richard and Maria Maudsley*

*(Mrs P Maudsley)*

Roger's family consisted of Harling, Garnett and Francis (twins), May (Mrs Brownlow), Roy, Elsie (Mrs Purser), Martha - 'Tottie' (Mrs Hatton), and Sydney.

Richard's children were Lily (Mrs Thompson), George, Charles, Percy, Allan, Lewis, Ethel (Mrs Bob McIntosh), Elizabeth (later Mrs Fred McIntosh) and Doris (later Mrs Tapsall).

The family of Thomas consisted of Richard, Agnes (Mrs Tilney), William, Booker, Thomas, Roger, Gordon, John and Ivy. The three brothers were members of a family of seven who had emigrated from England with their parents in 1866. Thomas, the eldest son, married Elizabeth Brassey, a school teacher.



*The old 'Undaban' home*

*(Mrs P Maudsley)*



*Droving cattle at 'Undaban' - early 1900's*

*(H Maudsley)*



In 1893 he joined Roger and Richard in the South Burnett, travelling by bullock dray via the Stanley River with his wife and seven children. When he selected Trinity, Roger and Richard were already well entrenched at Margoo and Undaban. Richard bought Undaban, a 1 280 acre block and his wife bought Springvale close by. They arrived with four children.

Although some agriculture had been undertaken in the area since settlement, most of the produce had been used for stock feed. The Maudsleys were the first selectors to undertake agriculture - chiefly maize growing - on a larger scale. They also grew pumpkins and lucerne, raised sheep and cattle and bred horses for the Indian Army. Once a month they would go to Kilkivan to buy supplies from McKewan's store.



*'Margoo' Homestead about 1915*

*(E Maudsley)*

A number of the next generation of Maudsleys remained in the area and took up farming. Margoo is still owned by descendants of Roger. The late Roy Maudsley passed it on to his nephew, Boyd Hatton, son of Tottie. Syd Maudsley for many years owned the property which he eventually sold to Lord and Sons. Frank owned property at Daddamarine and later on Margoo Road (first owned by the Hatton family). Frank and his brother, Garnet, for a while ran butcheries at One Mile Creek (Boonara), Tansey and Goomeri. Frank, with his daughter Amy and son-in-law, Stan Toop, owned Broadacres and Malvern which were eventually sold to Maudsley Brothers, sons of Garnett. Garnett in his early married life, bought Watchbox which his sons Len, Dennis and Herbert carried on and enlarged after his death. This property is still worked by them in conjunction with Len's twin sons, Geoffrey and Robert. A daughter of Len, Betty (Mrs Stuart Hetherington) lives at Goomeri West.

Trinity and Undaban are no longer in the Maudsley family's possession, but Richard's son Percy, who married Hazel Bryant of Goomeri West, bought Rose Hill. After his death his son Glen has continued to work the property. Glen's sisters, Dell (Mrs Weier) and Lesley (Mrs Schneider) live in the district. Another sister, Joan (Mrs Riley) lived in the Boobyjan area for many years. Elizabeth married Mr Fred McIntosh. Her sons Ewan, Fred and Peter still work their late father's property at Booinbah. Eldest daughter Meta married Hubert Graham and lived at Tansey for some years. Second daughter Betty (Mrs Roach) lives on a property at Woolooga. Ethel married Mr Bob McIntosh and died in childbirth when her daughter Joyce (Mrs Quinn) was born. George Maudsley was killed in an accident, leaving a widow and two daughters, Dorothy (Mrs Schienpflug) and Isobel.

Two of Thomas' sons, Gordon and William (Bill) returned from the First World War each with young English brides. They settled on farms in the Boobyjan area and later acquired soldier settler blocks at Daddamarinc Creek. These girls, Edith and Winnie, found the challenge of country life in a new land very difficult. The descendants of Thomas still resident in the shire are Yvonne (Mrs Young) and her brother Reg, children of Bill. Reg's son Peter also lives at Kilkivan. Ruth (Mrs George Palmer), daughter of Gordon, lived in the Barambah area for many years where she operated the Barambah North telephone exchange.

A daughter of Agnes (Mrs Tilney), Olive, married Mr Bert Kratzmann. Their son Neville lives at Windera on the border of Kilkivan and Murgon Shire.



*Thomas Maudsley and Family*

*(R Palmer)*



*Sheep at 'Trinity' - before 1900*

They have recently bought Windera Homestead. Two daughters of Mervyn, son of Richard, Judith (Mrs D K Smith) and Jenny (Mrs Green) live in the Windera area. John (Jack) lived in Goomeri with his wife and family and operated a mail run for many years.

#### **The Westaway and Warburton Families**

Two branches of the Westaway family are associated with the early history of Kilkivan. David Westaway in 1842 bought Eagle Farm, formerly a women's prison, for use as a cattle property but found it unsuitable for this purpose.

He next took up cattle raising at Mooloolo Plains in 1867. At that time there were only three families north of the Pine River. The Westaway family was given tenure of 3 000 acres on the Mooloolo River. In late 1867 they took up more land at Marodian and later leased the northern end of Bribie Island. The female cattle and young stock were pastured there after being bred on the home property. The cattle were driven forward and backward between the island and the mainland at low tide.

There were two sons, Richard and William, each with families, so it was decided to seek more land. On the advice of Mr Mant of Gigoongam, they bought a freehold property, Dunmorin, from J D Mactaggart. The name of the property is Scottish for 'timbered ridge'. The Westaways used it as a fattening paddock for bullocks, Richard Westaway's family having the main interest in

it. They also took up a selection from Barambah, Piggot's Plains, working both properties from their home base at Mooloola.

When grandson Noel Warburton, who was in the family business, married, he and his wife bought Myrtlevale from the Moreland family. They settled there in 1939 and ran the property for many years. Mr Warburton, a councillor of Kilkivan Shire, was also chairman for many years.

During the war when labour was scarce Noel and his wife Billie ran all three properties with a much reduced labour force. Mr and Mrs Warburton now reside in Murgon. He is a director of Murgon Meat Works, having been chairman for many years.

William Westaway, son of William, also settled in the Planted Creek area in the Burnett basin about 1906, dairying and raising cattle. His son Roy carried on the property until it was sold in the 1950's.

## 5. BARAMBAH SELECTORS

### The Hunt Family

Francis (Frank) Hunt came to Australia from England when he was two years old. His father, George, settled at Ipswich where he grew cotton. George, being illiterate, was duped into signing away land which later became a valuable coal mining area.

Frank left school at the age of eleven and got a job as brake boy on a bullock team. He also did mustering and droving with cattlemen and became a good judge of cattle and horseflesh. At the age of twenty-one he joined a friend carting wool from Roma by bullock team and worked on railway lines that were being constructed at the time. While travelling from Rockhampton by boat, Frank became ill with fever and had to leave the boat at Maryborough. On his recovery he carried his swag from Gympie to Widgee Run and found a job fencing for Mr Hillcoat of Wadonga. At Manumbar Station Mr Mortimer had no work for him so he continued on to Yabba Station where he found his father shingling a roof. This was a great surprise as father and son had had no contact for some time. He then worked at Monsildale Station doing stock work. All this time he bought horses, keeping a keen lookout for good mares for breeding purposes.

Frank married Margaret McKewan and in the 1880's took up a selection from Barambah which he called Peenam. He reared a large family, Jess (Mrs Bill Porter), Frank, Alec, Eve, Emma (Mrs Bill Ray), George, Bob, Ted, Col, Len and Florence. Frank ran cattle and bred good horses on this property and mobs of horses were taken to Gympie sales. Although they were considered to be among the finest in the country at the time, the animals brought only seven shillings and sixpence per head. The original selection, Peenam, is still owned by the Hunt family and Mrs Daisy Hunt lives there. The Hunts bought other properties, including Court le Roi, which Frank Junior and Alec worked in the

early thirties. When they sold this property to Mr O Blacker, Alec stayed on as stockman. On the death of Mr Blacker in 1961 he continued to manage the property until it was sold in 1971.



*Alec Hunt* (Don Moffatt)

Alec moved to Goomeri where he became one of the town's most interesting and respected elderly citizens. He was a fine bushman, tall and straight with his bush hat, his whips, his dog and his arresting voice. He died in 1980 after a short time in a nursing hom .

### **The Banks Family**

The name of Archibald Banks appears on a list of ratepayers of Barambah Divisional Board in 1885. He called his original selection Bellavale. Later more land was selected from Barambah leasehold, some in the names of other members of his family. Archie Banks and his wife had a large family. His son Archie, who was killed in a accident while driving a bullock team, married Mary Porter of Elginvale. James (Jim) took over Bellavale when Archibald Senior retired to Nanango. William (Bill) had another property in the area - Boonevue.

There were several daughters in the family. Bella married S H Glasgow of Ivanhoe in 1902. Jessie married George Knight of Baalgamon in the Manumbar district. The descendants of these two women are still in the shire. Annie (Mrs Simpson) worked for the Mortimers of Manumbar Station before her marriage. She and two other daughters - Dorothy (Mrs Coleman) and May (Mrs Hickin) left the district after their marriage.

## 6. KILKIVAN SELECTORS

### The Moessenger Family

One of the earliest selectors from Kilkivan Station was Godfrey Adam Moessenger. Born in 1855 in Germany, he migrated to Queensland as a young man and worked on Boonara Station for many years as a sheep overseer. He married Mary Ann Davis in 1861.

When leasehold land from Kilkivan Station came up for selection, Godfrey applied for a block. Meanwhile he and Mary lived in a bark humpy. The land was eventually granted in 1877, its location being close to the later site of Cinnabar Railway Station. He named the selection Rose Hill. Here he built a home of slabs which were made and dressed from trees on the property.

Initially he raised sheep, but eventually changed to cattle. He was the first landholder in the area to raise Angora goats. He also bred and sold Clydesdale draught horses. When the roads of the Boonara and Kinbombi Ranges were gazetted to be built he received the contract for the work.

After his death in 1904, his widow and family carried on the management of the property. It was sold in 1915 to Mr W McGill, whose family still own and live on the property. The name has been changed to Margoan.

The Moessengers reared a family of seven boys and three girls. One daughter, Rose Amelia, married Aaron William Davies in 1900. Mr Davies selected land at Cinnabar and Planted Creek and was Kilkivan Shire Chairman for many years.

### The Zahnleiter Family

The Zahnleiter family migrated from Germany to the Ballarat gold fields in the 1850's. They travelled overland to Young. Then they were lured northward by news of the Gympie gold rush. Eventually they came to Kilkivan in 1867 with the Beer family. These families were among the first to arrive at the West Coast Creek gold field.

George and Bertha (nee Rockemer) had seven children, George, William, Charlie, Alice, Harry, Louisa and Herbert. William Ernest, the second son, was born at the Rise and Shine in 1882. In 1898 the family took up a selection from Kilkivan Station near Cinnabar. They dairied at first then changed to grazing.

Several members of the family taught themselves to play instruments, and formed an orchestra. They enjoyed sport and often rode to Nanango to play tennis. Charlie, Harry and Herb later ran the Kilkivan Mercantile store. Alice married William Schienpflug who was in partnership with her brothers at the Mercantile Store. Louisa married Dick Jeffries. They had a grazing property at Barambah which was later run by their son Reg until it was sold in

the 1960's. Dick Jeffries was also a partner in the firm of Cobb and Jeffries, Murgon.

William remembered as a small child, seeing several thousand people on the alluvial diggings at West Coast Creek, the copper smelters at Mt Clara and Mt Coora being fired by surrounding trees, and the bullock teams of Alec and Bob Rockemer.

Will's first job at the age of thirteen was to ride through virgin scrub from Kilkivan to Wigton (Proston) and back with mail, a round trip of 360 miles, once a week. On his first trip, father George rode with him to blaze out a trail by marking trees. Even with this help, William recounted in later years how he travelled through the bush at night with dingoes pacing him. Sometimes he lost his way and anxious station owners would send someone out to look for him.

The old Zahnleiter homestead is now in Goomeri, the home of the Currie family. It was sold for removal after the death of George Senior whose wife had pre-deceased him.

Will bought out his brothers. He had one son, Marvin, who took over when his father retired. In 1962 Marvin, still a young man with a wife, Joan, and three children, was thrown from a horse while mustering. He died of injuries several days later.

The property was sold in 1963 to the Rockemer family, relatives of the Zahnleiters.

### **The Hewson Family**

George Hewson's parents came from England to Queensland seeking a better future for their family. They landed at Maryborough in 1888 where they stayed for three years. George, as a boy, came to Selwood to Mr and Mrs Hunter for his Christmas holidays. The Hunters had no children of their own and wanted to give a city boy a holiday in the country. George remained with the Hunters all the next year although he had not officially left school.

In 1892, James Hewson (George's father) settled at Cinnabar. There were only two houses in the neighbourhood at the time. To obtain more funds George worked as a drover for Widgee Station, bringing cattle from Mondure. For this he was paid £1 per week and his 'tucker'. He took cattle to Enoggera, Newmarket and Cannon Hill Yards in Brisbane. Bullocks at that time brought £2 to £3 per head. The trip to Brisbane from the Wide Bay-Burnett Stations usually took about fourteen days, travelling at the rate of twelve miles per day.

George did other trips, sometimes being away from home for as long as three months. He went as far north as Gladstone and Rockhampton. On one occasion, the mob stampeded, breaking and smashing everything in front of them.

It took the drovers a fortnight to round up the missing cattle. It was three months before the last ones were found. George was one of the two hundred men who were employed on the railway line when it was extended from Kilkivan to Goomeri. He had a dray and two horses for carting water in a square ship's tank. He also worked in the flying gang.

He ran cattle on his property and started dairying in 1897, being one of the first farmers in the district to buy a separator. At that time there was no dairy factory outside Brisbane. The Hewsons railed their cream to the Silverwood Dairy in Stanley Street, South Brisbane and received four pence per pound for it. The journey from Kilkivan to Brisbane took twelve hours. Every property at that time employed aborigines for stock work. George Hewson died several years ago in his nineties. His son, Gerald now owns and works the property.

### **The Batts Family**

In 1864, James Gallagher came to the Woolooga district. He started the Mail Change Hotel at Brooyar. This was an important stopping-off place for travellers going between Maryborough and the newly settled mineral fields around Kilkivan. Sometimes they changed horses for the rest of the journey or even stopped the night. Gallagher married his second wife, Mrs Agnes Brittian (Frame) in 1867. She was a sister of his deceased wife. A daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, was born in 1869. James and his wife died when Sarah was a young girl. They are buried at Brooyar behind the home of Miss Cahill overlooking the site of the former Brooyar Hotel.



*Arthur Lovell Batts and Family*

*(K Batts)*



Sarah married Arthur Lovell Batts in 1890. He ran a store at the Running Creek gold mines. The couple had two sons, James (Jim) and Oswald David. The family left the gold mines in 1906 and bought property on Running Creek Road. They later bought another block at Fat Hen Creek in 1924. Oswald had two sons Keith and Barry. Keith took over his father's property in 1970 but sold out in 1983. Keith and his wife, Marjorie (Euler) live in Kilkivan. Keith is a Shire Councillor for Number 1 Division. Jim had grazing blocks throughout the shire, including one on the Kilkivan - Tansey Road which he later sold to Paul Stumm. He was an officer in the Kilkivan Light Horse and for a while had business interests in the town, including a travelling picture show. His widow, Mrs Mollie Batts, resides in Kilkivan.

### **The Hunter Brothers**

The Hunter Brothers (Robert and James) first selected land in Wide Bay district in the early 1870's on a property known as Gracehall. They also dealt in cattle.

James Hunter later selected Mount View, five miles further toward the source of Wide Bay Creek in 1877 and raised sheep until his death in 1901. From then on his widow and family managed the property.

Daughter Annie, who later married William Zahnleiter, remembered aboriginal bushranger, Campbell, being brought down from Abbotsford through Mount View, his feet chained together under the belly of the horse, with a trooper escort. When the Hunter children went out to look, Campbell spat on them.

### **The Ray Family**

Joseph Ray married Jane Zahnleiter in 1875. A great horseman and rough rider, he drove a bullock dray from Webb's hotel at Black Snake and was the first man to take a team down the Black Snake Range. His children - Alec, Joseph, Agnes, William and Edwin - were born in Kilkivan.

In 1876, the family left for Tarampa where Joe was head stockman. As well, he looked after all the leather work. Molly, Lockyer, Moreton and May were born during this time.

In 1898, he took up a selection of virgin land on Oakey Creek - Mount Olive. Oliver was born there. The family lived in a small dwelling of bush timber until a better house was bought for removal from Gympie.

Joe ploughed with a single-furrow plough and grew maize, lucerne and pumpkins. He raised beef and dairy cattle, carting cream to Cinnabar Railway Station in a spring cart. He later owned one of the first Model-T Ford cars in the district. Joe and Jane retired to Kilkivan and lived to a great age. Joe was 95 years old when he died in 1944.

His daughter Agnes married well-known Kilkivan resident Charles Spencer. Betty Olzard (nee Harwood), a descendant of the Rays and the Spencers, still lives in Kilkivan with her family.

John and William Ray also came with their brother Joseph to the Rise and Shine during the gold rush. John married Catherine Zahnleiter. They had one son, Phillip, who was killed during the war. Phillip's widow, Mary Ann, married Richard Warren. She was known all over the district as Granny Warren - competent midwife.

### **The Mackrell Family**

John C Mackrell purchased Selwood, a resumption from Kilkivan Station, in 1894. He was a member of Kilkivan Divisional Board for a time. On his death, in 1903, the property was left to his children - son, Frederick Lionel Bertram Mackrell and a daughter. Frederick Mackrell was also a Shire Councillor until 1915. He was a keen member of Kilkivan Rifle Club until he died in 1940.

## **7. GIGOONGAM SELECTORS**

### **The Wason Family of Mudlo**

The roots of this family go back to the early days of settlement. In 1849 Charles Mason with his wife and family came to manage Barambah for his friend, Richard Jones. The family lived there until Charles died in 1862. His daughter, Lucy, the year her father died, fell in love with a young Scottish stockman, Andrew Ogilvie, who had come to Australia in 1859 and was assistant storekeeper on Barambah for two years.



*The first Wason home at 'Mudlo'*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*



*The Ogilvie family at 'Burnside'*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*

He then worked as a stockman on Widgee Station and Glenbar, owned by J D Mactaggart, where he was in charge of the 'Glen' herd. The couple eloped to Gayndah, where they were married. They had the blessing of J D Mactaggart who gave them a handsome family Bible as a wedding present.

Their eldest daughter was possibly the first white child to be born on Widgee Station. Other children were born at Glenbar and the youngest child at Maryborough in 1881. Altogether the couple had five daughters and one son, who was killed when he was thrown from a horse as a youth. Andrew Ogilvie selected Burnside, a resumption of 4 000 acres from Widgee, where he lived until he retired to Maryborough. His eldest daughter married James Wason in 1880.

James came to the colony some years previously. His father, a merchant, sent the young man to Australia assigned to a stock-and-station agency, possibly Mactaggart's of Maryborough. This firm undertook to find him a job as a jackaroo where he would receive training in order to enable him to take up his own property. James' parents undertook to support their son financially during his years of indenture and pay the station owner - Mr Mant of Gigoongam - for the training received.

At the time of his marriage to Margaret, James had selected the property, Mudlo, which is still in the possession of the Wason family. It consisted of resumption from Gigoongam and the region of Boonara Station known as Tye.

Margaret's sister, Lucy, married Thomas Wason, a brother of James. Thomas and his son had land in the Manumbar area for many years. Another sister, Janet, married Joseph Schacht, whose father is mentioned in the discovery of Yorkey's mine near Kilkivan.

When Margaret and James had been married barely a few weeks, they undertook a marathon journey on horseback which included crossing the range behind Mudlo to Eidsvold Station, where James worked as manager for some years to obtain enough capital to stock his newly acquired property. The seventeen-year-old bride showed the pluck she was to evidence throughout her long life. At one time during this difficult journey, James developed a fever. They encamped beside a creek until he was sufficiently recovered to continue the journey. Their first child was born at Taroom. The others, except for one who was born at Mudlo, were all born at Maryborough.

They had a large family: Margaret, who married Mr William Elliot of Mount Perry, Edward (Ned), who, after his father's death, ran Mudlo, Mary, who married Mr M Conway of Kilkivan, two boys, Leslie and Herbert, who died together from eating green peaches, at ages eleven and eight respectively, Ernest and Daisy.

Timber was brought from Maryborough and Woolooga by bullock dray to build a homestead at Mudlo. There was no road to Kilkivan at that time. The track to Maryborough went over the mountain to the Planted Creek area. It was to be many years before there was more than a bridle track to Kilkivan.

Margaret Wason started a dairy, made cheeses and took them on horseback to Woolooga Railway Station to be railed to Maryborough for sale. Children were educated by governesses, who at Margaret's insistence, had to be able to teach music and art. She often accompanied her older children to dances and other forms of social entertainment, taking the current baby on horseback with her.

Aborigines were still frequently in the area at the time. The lubras would become restless when Margaret Wason had a young baby. This was a constant worry.

When James died, his sons took over the property. Eventually Ernie married Lillian Spring of Gympie and bought a property at Planted Creek - Glen Doone. This is now owned by his daughter Jessie and her husband, Doug Haas. He dairied for a while and eventually enlarged his property and went into cattle raising.

Ned Wason for a while ran a butchering business in Kilkivan in conjunction with Mudlo. He also set up a dairy on which he employed a share farmer. The property is now run by Ned's son, Eric, and wife, Dawn, assisted by their son Russell.

## 8. WOOLOOGA - WIDGEE

### The Fitzgerald Family

John Fitzgerald was born in Ireland in 1845. He landed in Sydney as a young man with five shillings in his pocket. His first job in the country was washing sheep. This involved standing knee-deep in water in all weathers. Despite the meagre wages he managed to save £5 which he sent home to his family in Ireland.

He worked his way to Queensland, taking any job he could get and eventually managed Glennifer (now known as Myravale Station), a grazing property owned by his sister, Mrs Charlie Clapperton. While there, he selected Boowoogum, a Widgee resumption. He did not live there at first but employed a bailiff named Williams to work it. It was a dangerous time. On the property are the graves of two shepherds murdered by natives.

One afternoon, a daughter of Mr Williams, fishing on the bank of Wide Bay Creek, looked up to see the aboriginal outlaw, Campbell, close by. She ran to her horse and mounted. Campbell got close enough to touch the animal. The girl used her whip to ward off the menace and escaped unhurt.

When John Fitzgerald settled on Boowoogum, there were still aborigines roaming the area, but they were friendly. He founded a Hereford stud on the property. Eventually he married Ephrath Paulovitch, a governess to the Clapperton children.



*Boowoogum', home of John Fitzgerald*

*(Dray Family)*

Their first home had slab walls lined with calico, a shingled roof and a separate kitchen with an open hearth. All the bread was home-baked; cattle were killed and meat preserved by soaking in brine casks; butter was made from milk set in large flat pans. When times were hard they would ride to Gympie to sell butter.

When the railway came through to Kilkivan, a small strip of Fitzgerald's land was resumed for building the line. Having this form of transport so close gave the family contact with the outside world. Regular mails arrived but stores still came once a year. Everything was bought in bulk, kept in a storehouse and brought to the kitchen when required.

John Fitzgerald had many setbacks - the 1896 flood, the 1902 drought, the death of cattle from redwater when ticks found their way to the district. Dips had to be built. More rooms and a verandah were added to the house.

John died in 1920. Six of his eight children had survived. Robert bought a property at Oakview. Ned and Jack remained on Boowoogum. There were three daughters - Kathleen Walker, whose husband had a property nearby, Effie Lancaster and Geraldine Hudson. Jack died in 1970, at the age of 82. The property was left to his wife, Irene and family. In 1979 the two properties were taken over by the two sons of John - Ian and Noel and their wives Pauline (Jones) and Jean (Wason) under the name 'Fitzgerald and Company'.

Nothing remains of the old house but the spot where it stood is marked by the surrounding trees.

### **The Wilson Family**

John Wilson, a Gympie miner, selected a property from Woolooga Station in 1871 which he named Carmyle after a mining town in Scotland. Other land around was later selected in the names of various members of the family. John's son, James, carried on Carmyle after his father's death. Another son, Alec, remained on a property named The Oaks, also a selection from Woolooga.

Carmyle is still in the hands of the Wilson family, the present owners being Mr Victor Wilson and his sister, Eileen (Mrs Krafft). The Oaks was sold but another property, Narrabrai, also a selection from Woolooga, was taken up in 1903 by Mr Arthur Wilson.

Carmyle is probably one of the earliest selections in the shire to have been retained continuously in the one family.

### **The Dray Family**

Patrick Dray was an Irishman who had come to Gympie during the gold rush to work in the mines. In 1882 he selected his first block which was a resumption from Widgee Station. This was situated near the eastern border of Kilkivan Shire in the area known as 'Ten Chain Road'. In 1887 he selected a second block

close by. Patrick had a large family, six sons and two daughters. Five of the sons - Jim, Jack, Edward, Patrick and Mark - remained on the land. The remaining son became a Christian Brother and the two daughters, nuns.

In 1897 further selections were made at Woolooga, where the Dray family now lives. Another block was bought in 1905 at the time of Widgee purchase and sale by the government. The two original blocks at Ten Chain Road are no longer in the family's possession.

One of the greatest problems that these selectors faced was obtaining education for their children. At one stage Patrick Dray wrote a letter to the Government asking for a school to be provided at Woolooga. He offered to pay half the teacher's salary. At the time his bid was unsuccessful.

Of the five sons who remained on the property, only Edward married. His wife was the former Miss Blatchford, an early teacher at Woolooga School. Edward had three children. His daughter Gay became a teacher and taught at several schools in the area. The two sons, Edward and Patrick are at present running the property. Edward married Beatrice Walker, daughter of a neighbour and a former teacher at Lower Wonga School.

#### **The MacFarlane Family**

Joseph MacFarlane, a Scotsman, came to Gympie to work as a builder. He selected land from Woolooga Station in 1876, and on an old petition gave his address as 'Old Woolooga'. On his death, his son, John, took over the original selection and added to it. John left his property to his three children, John Joseph, William Henry (Bill) and Agnes (Mrs Walter Knox). In 1985, Agnes sold out her share to her two brothers. It is now owned by John and Bill and worked by Bill as a grazing property.

#### **The Elderfield Family**

Another early resumption from Woolooga Station was Burk's Farm, taken up by George Elderfield in the mid-1880's. His son, Ernest, took over from him and the property is now owned by Ernest's son, Frederick George.

From the early 1930's to the 1950's this property was worked as a dairy, supplying cream to the Gympie factory, as did many of the surrounding places at that time. Mr Elderfield now grazes cattle.

#### **A FINAL WORD**

Every effort has been made to record the history of families who were in the area before 1900. Some unfortunately have little knowledge of their origins. Many have left the district and are difficult to trace. The era of the selectors was an important part in the development of the shire. It is imperative that all such families capture what they can of the past before those older members who have the knowledge are gone and their histories are lost for ever.



## Chapter 6

---

### THE COMING OF THE RAILWAY

#### 1. EARLY MOVES FOR RAILWAY TO KILKIVAN

The port of Maryborough had, since the 1850's, been the outlet for wool from the Wide Bay-Burnett area, and later for the gold from the extensive and very profitable mines at Gympie, 60 miles to the south of Maryborough. Travel to Brisbane by land in these early days of settlement was difficult and hazardous.

The Maryborough - Gympie Railway was completed by 6 August 1881. The first request for a rail link to the Kilkivan area was made in 1874, when it was suggested that a railway might be built from Gootchie on the proposed Maryborough to Gympie line, to Miva and Kilkivan.

Gold and other metals had been discovered in the Kilkivan area. Also the passing of the Crown Lands Alienation Act, by the Queensland Parliament in 1868, gave the promise of the opening up for selection of the large pastoral runs in the area. This had resulted in a growth of population in the Wide Bay-Burnett.

A preliminary examination of the land, from Gootchie to Kilkivan, was made by Mr Thornloe Smith in 1879, for the purpose of selecting the most suitable route for a survey, but the work was not completed.

An exploratory survey was begun in 1881 for a branch railway to serve the Kilkivan and Gayndah areas. A route for the branch of the railway from a spot thirty-eight miles from Maryborough to Kilkivan, which was twenty-eight miles from that main location, was surveyed in 1882. Surveyor Dupree was more urgently needed at the time on the Western Line survey. However, it was announced that contracts would be let for a Mary River bridge once a site was selected. In 1883, a new trial survey was undertaken, crossing Wide Bay Creek three times and crossing the Mary River near Miva.



## 2. AN EARLY SURVEY

A report upon the *Continuation of the Kilkivan Railway to Gayndah* by Surveyor T J Carlton published 'under the auspices of the Western Railways Association', Maryborough, by Robeson and Co, Brisbane, makes extremely interesting reading.

The report suggested that the terminus of the new line should be a site west of Rise and Shine Reef - where the public buildings, hotels and stores were situated in a 'snug valley' (the present situation of Kilkivan township). This was to be a 'trial survey to Gayndah'. It crossed 'Mr Rose's selection, Coppermine Creek' and went to the 'tablelands of Black Snake'. At that time there was a township at Black Snake and the area was still showing promise as a mineral field.

The proposed route spanned Wide Bay Creek and went 'across a group of mineral selections, Five Mile Creek and Cinnabar Mines and Mount Moessenger'. It would have then followed the road to the top of Boonara Range. The surveyors found a level plateau over the range, which presented tunnelling and cutting difficulties.

It then passed 'Mr Bloodworth's selections, Rose and Llewellyn Creeks to Booinbah Lagoons'. Here 'level and flooded country' would have necessitated a bridge. Next it passed by 'Mr Tansey's homestead (Lakeview) and crossed Boonara Creek near its junction with Washpool Creek'. It continued on past 'a large selection (possibly Oakfield) and a camping reserve on Christmas Creek', which it followed 'to its head - in a mountain spur', forming the 'divide between the eastern head of Boonara Creek and Daddamarine Creek'.

The 'spur' rose 200 feet in half-a-mile and descended through a 'steep and broken country', ... 'unfavourable for rail construction'. It then followed the main road to Boobyjan Homestead, past a 'group of mineral selections on the left' (the Lord Nelson mine). To avoid country subject to flooding the 'line would go round ridges, over Ellen and Marcella Creeks'.

From then on there would be no difficulty until the 'range between Boobyjan and Ban Ban' was reached. Here it would 'follow closely the Buggy Track from Boobyjan to Ban Ban'. A shorter route, the 'Postman's Track', four miles to the north-east, was deemed impractical.

In summing up, the principal features were listed as:

*'three ranges, otherwise easy; only one large bridge needed but bridge timber scarce, although there was sleeper timber and metal for ballast in plenty. Half of the line ran through unalienated crown land; it traversed mineral claims past Kilkivan. The park-like lands of Boonara, Boobyjan and Ban Ban were open or lightly timbered flats and had well grassed ridges. These areas would be splendid for agriculture and cattle.'*

*The creek flats could hardly be surpassed in Queensland for rich soil. There was (at that time) a tendency to alienate and enclose large areas as paddocks for stock. Mr Briggs (Oakfield) and Mr Tansey (Lakeview) were supplementing natural grass with lucerne and oats.'*

However, the report regarded the *'breaking of monopolies of large holdings'* as desirable. The argument in favour of such a line was the possibility of closer settlement on such rich soil and the *'need to bring them closer to markets'*.

The objections were that such a route to Gayndah was 44 miles longer than one by Mungar Junction direct to Gayndah. Such a route would be the *'most expedient and inexpensive'*.

### 3. OFFICIAL MOVES FOR A RAILWAY

Kilkivan branch plans had been laid on the table of Parliament as early as 1882 and were approved in November of that year. In the Legislative Council, October 1882, it was moved that the Select Committee's report be adopted. The mineral activities in the area were given as reasons for the need for a line. As yet there was sparse pastoral and agricultural settlement, but there was hope that this would increase in the future.

Some lively correspondence survives from that time as to the desirability of having such a line and as to the suitability of the route to be followed.

Mr Walter Smith of Maryborough, who had mining interests in the area, regarded the route as too far from the mineral deposits. He also claimed that the proposed fencing off of Wide Bay Creek frontages was an attempt by local graziers to *'lock up good land'* to prevent selectors acquiring parts of their holdings.

There were differences of opinion as to the virtues of various routes regarding proximity to population and cost of building. At Kilkivan the *'old township'*, where the mines were, was favoured by miners as the terminus because it was closer to Mount Clara, Mount Coora and Black Snake.

Official opinion favoured the *'new town'* where public buildings were situated. One letter suggested that the terminus selected was the most useless part on Kilkivan Run and was a deliberate attempt on the part of the owner to prevent closer settlement.

The Department of Public Works Railway Branch's engineer, H C Staley, issued an official memo on 11 July 1885 refuting the above claims as *'unworthy of notice'*. Criticisms of the route were answered and logical explanations given for its choice.

It was claimed that access to water on future runs had been carefully considered. Cost had been taken into account when deciding the best places for creek crossings. The *'new township'* was located where the post office, police

station, school, two hotels and a number of cottages had been constructed (the present site).

Mining at this stage was holding up selection of land from the large runs through which the proposed line was to be built. The extension of the line at a later date had also been taken into consideration.

The survey was made rapidly - at a average of one mile a day - to have plans ready for parliament at a certain date and to give the public plenty of time for examination of the scheme.

#### 4. WORK BEGINS ON THE RAILWAY

By October 1882, the plans for the proposed railway had been tabled in parliament and subsequently passed by both houses. In December 1883, Surveyors Dupree, Johnson and Patterson had brought the permanent survey to Kilkivan. Messrs McDermott and Owen were awarded a 21-month contract for the construction of the railway for the price of £113 642/13/8. The building of the line was to start from Kilkivar. Junction (Theebine) on the main line.



*Kilkivan Railway Station - 1909*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*



*Oakview Railway Station, about 1914*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*

The biggest undertaking in this venture was the building of the Dickabram Bridge across the Mary River near Miva. The bridge was designed for two tracks should the need arise, but the whole width was planked so that it could be used for road as well as rail transport. Severe flooding occurred (and still does) on the Mary River from time to time, so the bridge had to be above flood level. The line from Kilkivan Junction to Dickabram on the east bank of the Mary River was opened to traffic on 1 January 1886.

Work on the bridge was held up because of damage to imported cylinders while they were in boat transit from overseas, necessitating their replacement. However, the bridge was opened in May 1886. The line had passed its biggest obstacle and reached Kilkivan on 6 December 1886. Separate tenders were called for station facilities along the way. These were not included in the original contract.

The goods shed at Kilkivan was constructed under two contracts. The first, by John Kyle was for £175, commencing on 15 June 1885. A later one dated 10 July 1886 went to Robert Taylor. Henry Neale was awarded contracts for the construction of an engine and carriage shed at Kilkivan on 9 September 1886 for £276, and for the station master's house on 15 October 1886 for £485. Also he was engaged to make further alterations to the station in 1888.



*Kilkivan Railway Station - 1911*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*



*Woolooga Railway Station, about 1906 (Owen & Agnes O'Donnell Collection)*

## 5. THE OPENING OF THE NEW LINE

On 6 December 1886, a special train left Maryborough to be joined by a contingent from Gympie at Kilkivan Junction (Theebine). There were 300 people on board including the Gympie Town Band. This train was bound for the new terminus - Kilkivan Station. On its arrival at 10 am Mr Curnow, Commissioner for Railways, alighted with Mr W C Bailey MLA, Member for Wide Bay, who was given the honour of declaring the railway line open.

Mr Bailey congratulated the local community members on their good fortune in obtaining such a fast means of communication. The large crowd of townsmen, miners, squatters and selectors had come from miles around in buggies, traps or on horseback to celebrate the most exciting event since the first Kilkivan gold discovery in 1868. Luncheon was prepared in Mr Mackay's new store near the railway terminus. This same man had bowed to progress and shifted the store he had previously owned at the old site to the new town business centre.

After the opening of the railway, the official party proceeded to the court house to view a collection of local minerals organized by Mr Hester of Cinnabar Mines. There were samples of gold, silver, cobalt, nickel, copper and tubs of quicksilver.

A banquet was held, chaired by Mr Rose of Kilkivan Station and Mr G H Jones of Boonara Station. Other guests besides those already mentioned were Hon A H Wilson MLC, Mr M Mellor MLA, Mr Z Tooth, Mayor of Maryborough, Mr Ferguson, Mayor of Gympie and Mr Hodgkinson, Gympie Gold Warden.

Many different opinions were expressed in the after-luncheon speeches. Some lauded the advantages of a railhead to mining and to present and future pastoral and agricultural enterprises. The Railway Commissioner praised the Queensland railway system, but declared £6 000 per mile was too great a price to pay for the construction of a branch line. Mr Tansey, a selector from Lakeview, a resumption of Boonara, accused the government of building a line through alienated ground, depressing such land and favouring the pastoralists. He condemned the Lands Act as it was operating at the time. The day ended with the return by rail of the official guests.

## 6. THE RAILWAY IN USE

Sidings were established at Sexton, Boowoogum, Woolooga, Nondiga, Oakview, Bular and Mouingba. A report by Richard Sexton, Traffic Manager for Maryborough Railways, to the Commissioner on 22 February 1887, stated that the traffic on the new line had exceeded anticipation and showed even more promise. Wool from the surrounding stations was being sent by rail to Maryborough. The miners appeared anxious to transport their ore by rail. At that stage mining appeared to be a growing industry and another report lists the transport of fat sheep from Kilkivan to Gympie and Maryborough for local butchers.



*Goods Train leaving Kilkivan Station*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*



*First Pumper used on line at Oakview*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*

The flood of 1887 washed the line away in three places and came to within 15 feet of the Dickabram Bridge decking. The even greater flood of 1897 blocked the bridge and the train was forced to return to Maryborough.

Kilkivan remained the terminus of the line for sixteen years. During that time the railhead of Kilkivan was an important element in the growth of the pastoral, agricultural and timber industries in the area, despite the gradual waning of importance of minerals.

## 7. THE EXTENSION OF THE RAILWAY

It was not until 1899 that Surveyor Amos completed the trial survey for the extension of the railway from Kilkivan to Nanango. Several proposed routes had previously been considered, the others starting at Caboolture, Beerburrum, Jondaryan, Crows Nest and Cooyar.

Construction of the extended line started in March 1901, by Departmental day labour. The first stage was opened to traffic to Goomeri on 1 August 1902.

The rest of the line continued subsequently. It reached Murgon and Wondai in 1903, Kingaroy in 1904, Nanango in 1911, Tarong in 1915, Proston in 1923 and Windaera on 28 March 1925.



*Shop in Jones Street, Goomeri - opposite Railway Station, 1919  
(McIvor Family)*





*Loading Chaff at Goomeri Station*

*(M Lehmann)*

Nanango was an old town established in the 1840's. The other places, however, started as railway sidings or small settlements, owing their origin and growth to the coming of the railway and the subsequent opening up of the surrounding country. At the time, Kilkivan Divisional Board embraced not only Goomeri but Murgon and Wondai. On the railway line from Kilkivan to what is now the boundary of the shire are the sidings of Cinnabar, Coleman, Kinbombi, Goomeri and Manyung.

The names were chosen by the railway. 'Cinnabar', being the word for quicksilver, was named after mineral finds nearby. 'Coleman's Siding' was called after John Coleman, a Kilkivan businessman who had bought a grazing property in the area. 'Kinbombi' was a corruption of an aboriginal word meaning 'a fight about a woman' - *gin* (woman), *bombe* (hit). The area was the former site of a traditional aboriginal fighting ground.

'Goomeri' received its name from the locality of Goomeribong on Boonara Station, a paddock where cattle were mustered and calves branded. 'Goomeribong' meant literally 'a shield speared or broken'. 'Goomeri' was the word for 'a fighting shield'. This meaning was given by John Mathew (cousin of J Mortimer of Manumbar Run) as the word in the Wakka dialect.

In the *Local Government Journal* - August 1962, Sydney May, well-known musical examiner and collector of place names, records 'a strange list' given 'as place names of neighbouring runs to Manumbar' attributed to John Mortimer in

1844. Here he describes the origin of 'Goomeri' as a corruption of the aboriginal word '*Kunmarrim*', meaning 'Kurrajong Tree'. It seems most likely that the former meaning given by Rev Mathew would be the more accurate, as the word '*Goomeribong*' was in use as an outpost on Boonara Station and later as the name of a parish in the same area. 'Goomeri' is a shortened version of the original word.

The word 'Manyung' is thought to be derived from an aboriginal word meaning 'scrub fruit'. Its original name was '*Jura*'. This siding provided an outlet for the scrub country between Goomeri and Murgon when it was opened up in the first decade of this century.

All the railway sidings were used by the surrounding population. Cinnabar became a centre for cattle trucking, lying as it did in the centre of cattle producing country.

The late Mr Cecil Euler, who was born in Gympie in 1902, claimed to be the first baby to travel by train to Goomeri, when his mother returned home with him from hospital. Mr Percy Perrett, now in his nineties, also remembers travelling on one of the first trains to reach Goomeri.

The growing timber industry used Kinbombi, Goomeri and Woollooga sidings as well as Kilkivan Station. With the sale of Boonara Estate to the Goomeri Land Company to be put up for auction, the town of Goomeri was set to grow around the siding.

Railways no longer have such an important place in the lives of local people. A hundred years ago, when the line first reached this shire, trains were the only means of fast transport - a great improvement on horse and bullock teams, coaches, buggies and sulkies. The coming of the railway to Kilkivan, and its extension some years later further into the shire, were milestones in the development of the area.





## Chapter 7

---

### THE BEGINNINGS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### 1. BEFORE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

After separation from New South Wales in 1859, the new colony of Queensland was still sparsely populated. In the early years of the new colony, the first Legislative Assembly contained fourteen pastoralists out of a total of twenty-six members. Two-thirds of the Legislative Council were *'sheep and cattle magnates'*.

Even after the Electoral Distribution Act of 1872 there were still, according to one account, a number of *'old-time pure merinos'* with also *'a healthy leaven of farmers and small traders'*, but the pastoralists still predominated. Members of parliament were not paid salaries or even given expenses, which meant that only people of means could afford to stand. Also, to give the pastoralists their due, many of them came from settled, well-established families with a strong sense of social responsibility. It was not until the Members' Expense Act was passed in 1888 that members were given any remuneration. This made it possible for a wider spectrum of the colonial community to enter parliament.

The main function of each member at that time was, of necessity, to secure as much money as possible for the construction of local works in his area. To ensure that his own electorate obtained what he thought was a fair deal, he would fervently support his fellow members in any bids they might make for country roads or bridges over creek gullies. Because of this, they became popularly known as *'Roads and Bridges Members'*. It is fair to say that all members of that period qualified for that title.

The Municipal Institutions Amendment Act of 1864 and the Local Government Act of 1878 brought local government to the more populated areas of the colony. But areas, particularly those still occupied by large pastoral runs, only partly alienated, needed some form of local administration. There still were some sparsely populated districts.

The Divisional Boards Act of 1879 '*gave power to constitute divisional boards*' as a '*temporary expedient*'. These proposed boards were to coincide with the colony's electoral divisions.

It was intended to '*encourage local administration*' in every portion of the colony, and it provided for divisions not included in any municipality. The financing of these was to be by the granting of '*twice the amount raised by rates for the first five years*' and, after that, '*pound for pound subsidy*'. Rating was to be '*sixpence in the pound*' (2.5%) of the unimproved value of the land.

## 2. WIDGEE AND BARAMBAH DIVISIONAL BOARDS

The area now covered by Divisions 1 and 4 of Kilkivan Shire became part of Widgee Divisional Board which was gazetted in 1879. This board had its headquarters at Gympie and the division had an estimated population of 1609.

The board held its first meeting on 31 January 1880. Among the members elected was John Broadbent, co-owner of Widgee Station. He became the second chairman, and later served on the Kilkivan Divisional Board when it was formed. Another member, Alexander Matthew, had selected 321 acres from Widgee Run.

The Barambah Divisional Board, also gazetted on 11 November 1879, had its headquarters at the town of Nanango. It covered an area which included the present shires of Nanango, Kingaroy, Wondai, Murgon and what is now Divisions 2 and 3 of the present Kilkivan Shire.

The Government Gazette of 12 February 1880 gave the following list of elected members for the Barambah Divisional Board, Sub-division 3 (covering roughly the Boobyjan-Boonara area):

George Hall Jones  
Rawden Bentley Briggs  
Robert McCreen

G H Jones was then co-owner of Boonara Station, and R B Briggs had selected Oakfield, a resumption from Boonara.

The members for Sub-division 2, which covered roughly the Barambah-Manumbar area, were:

Robert Noel Davenport  
James Porter  
Isaac Moore

James Porter belonged to the family that had selected Elgin Vale, the first resumption from Manumbar. Robert Davenport appears to have been a selector in the same area. Isaac Moore was a co-owner of Barambah Station.



*(Kilkivan Shire Council)*

*John Broadbent*



*(Kilkivan Shire Council)*

*Isaac Moore*

The rateable value of the land in these two divisions was estimated to be: Sub-division 3 - £4 383/10/-; Sub-division 2 - £3 741/10/-, a total of £8 725. The progress of land selection in the ensuing years and the vast size of the area covered by both Widgee and Barambah Divisional Boards, led to an agitation for a new divisional board taking in Sub-division 2 of Widgee and Sub-divisions 2 and 3 of Barambah.

### 3. AGITATION FOR A NEW DIVISIONAL BOARD

As Kilkivan was already an established town and was about to become the railhead for the previously mentioned areas, it was natural that the desire for a new board should centre round this town.

A petition was launched and eighty-eight signatures were collected. It drew the attention of the Minister for Works to the fact that it had *'the almost unanimous signatures of the rate payers residing within the proposed new division in favour of the alteration'*. The petitioners gave as their reason for wanting a new division that their interests were identical, ie - *'to secure good roads from the surrounding districts to the Kilkivan Branch Railway'*, which owing to the conflicting interests under the then *'existing present arrangements of boundaries was not practicable'*.

The petition contained the names of landholders already mentioned in the list of rate-payers. In addition there were other familiar names - Ernest Jones, W Frazer, Webb, Hester, W McKewan, C Schienpflug, G M Wollmershauser, G Angel.

This petition was despatched in October 1885 and received in November of that year. A breakaway movement from Widgee Divisional Board was headed by Mr Broadbent of Widgee Station. A large number of the Widgee Board members were against this movement at first, but within a year, Mr Broadbent had swung most of them to favour the new board. Widgee Divisional Board wrote to the Ministry of Works expressing their agreement to the proposal of severance with some amendments, provided that the Government did not move too hastily with any changes.

By now, Mr J P Lawless was a member of Barambah Divisional Board. This board also had the proposition of a new board forwarded to it. The matter came up for discussion on 11 December 1885. When put to the board, approval of severance was given by five votes to three but the decision was not well received by residents in the southern part of the division. A petition was sent to the Minister for Public Works objecting to the excising of Sub-division 2 of Barambah Divisional Board. One rate-payer felt that the meeting had been *'packed by Sub-divisions 2 and 3 members'*.

The five members in favour of the decision also wrote to the Minister, giving an analysis of the rateable value of the land to be taken from the board, but not giving any mention of the possible effects of the loss of so much rateable land from the Boards of Widgee and Barambah.



*Rawden Bentley Briggs* (Mrs H B L Colquhoun)



*John Paul Lawless* (B R Lawless)

Just over two months later, 1 July 1886, the Government Gazette proclaimed the formation of the new Divisional Board of Kilkivan. The boundaries were laid down; there were to be two divisions, with three members representing each, from which the board would elect its chairman.

#### 4. DISASTER

The sudden announcement of the formation of this new board had a catastrophic effect on Widgee Divisional Board. Not expecting any loss of rateable land because of the government's assurance to that effect, the Widgee Board had taken out an overdraft from the Queensland National Bank, using the return from expected rates (including those from Sub-division 2) as collateral. In late April 1886, the board had received an assurance from the Secretary for Public Works that the formation of the new divisional board was to be held over until a future date. When the gazetted announcement appeared in July of that year, the bank refused to honour the board's cheques, thus completely cutting off its finance.

On July 1, the acting chairman of Widgee Board, William Ferguson, wrote an urgent letter to the Minister for Works outlining the situation about the *'unusual position of the Widgee Divisional Board'*. He claimed that, at considerable cost the board had made *'an entirely new valuation'* and had entered into contracts for the year based on expected income. Not only was he outraged about the cutting off of bank finance, but he also feared the legal implications of recovering unpaid rates from Sub-division 2 if it were to be excised.

He said that the chairman of the board, Mr Mellor (who was, at that time, also MLA for Wide Bay) was often absent. But the members of Sub-division 2 Messrs Broadbent, Power and Rose, two of whom were on the Finance Committee, would be disqualified from sitting on the board, making it impossible to obtain a quorum. The board, he maintained, needed time to reconstruct its boundaries.

Because of Widgee's financial plight, the proclamation of Kilkivan Division Board was withdrawn in the Government Gazette, 30 July 1886. This brought a storm of protest from ratepayers in the proposed new division. A *'large and influential meeting'* was held at Kilkivan on 31 July, where *'all classes and all shades of politics were represented'*. The opinion was unanimously expressed that they had been *'hardly treated in the matter of rescinding the proclamation'*.

A fresh petition was quickly organised, dated 14 August 1886, and sent to the Administrator of the Government, Sir Arthur H Palmer, and the Executive Council. It stated that a previous petition had asked for a Divisional Board of Kilkivan, which had been agreed to by Barambah Board and *'unanimously agreed to'* by Widgee Board. The signatories claimed that, in requesting the boundaries of July 1, the petitioners had been *'guided by the public good in requesting Kilkivan as the focal point of the new division'*.



The petitioners contended that the Minister had rescinded the proclamation in consequence of representations made to him by the '*self-styled Acting Chairman of the Widgee Board*' (the Chairman being '*on the spot*') and the chairman of Barambah Board, without the consent of their boards, the chairman's objections being on the grounds of financial difficulties. They implied that Widgee's fears were groundless, and also emphasised the importance of the new railway in unifying the interests of the proposed new board.

New names that appeared on this petition were: R Downing (Barambah), G Euler, H G Harrison (Oakfield), Karl Gesch, C W Schacht (Kilkivan), G Penney. There were also miners from Kabunga, as well as J Ray, Coleman, Dray, August Euler, Warren, Samuel Jones. Occupations listed as well as '*grazier, selector, miner, storekeeper*' were '*stockman, horse driver, horse breeder, horse breaker, teamster, financial agent, labourer, publican, mail contractor, carpenter, blacksmith, butcher, clerk, bailiff, shepherd, baker, sawyer, timbergetter*'. Some called themselves '*freeholders*'; one man, simply, '*ratepayer*'. This gives us an indication that there were a number of occupations by which the people earned their livings. It also indicated how united all the population was in its fight for its own board.

Another petition, dated 17 May 1887, sets out in detail the area desired to be covered by the proposed new board and outlines carefully the reasons why a new board was needed. It particularly stressed the need for selectors in the Widgee Station area to use the new railway at Woolooga or Kilkivan as its outlet. The validity of the signatures, the greatest number on a petition to that date, was vouched for by well-known Kilkivan resident, George Towner, whose signature was witnessed and counter-signed by Thomas Smith JP.

There was other correspondence backwards and forwards, including a petition received by the Public Works Office on 23 December 1887, asking that the new divisional board constitute two sub-divisions and that the elections be held on 16 February 1888, nominations to close on 1 February. This petition included the signatures of James Grieve and Walter Smith, as well as those already mentioned.

## 5. KILKIVAN DIVISIONAL BOARD

The new Kilkivan Divisional Board was officially proclaimed in the Government Gazette to be officially constituted from 1 January 1888. The Gazette, dated 6 January 1888, gave directions for the elections of the first Kilkivan Divisional Board. Donald McFie was appointed Returning Officer. Six members and two auditors were to be elected according to the Act. The place of nomination was the Court House, Kilkivan; the date of nomination, February 1; the close of election, February 16.

A proclamation of 16 January set the boundaries of Sub-divisions 1 and 2. Sub-division 1 covered roughly the present shire Divisions 1 and 4. Sub-division 2 covered the areas now covered by Divisions 2 and 3 plus the present shires of

Murgon and Wondai. This was a large area, but as yet it contained no towns, while Sub-division 1 contained the town of Kilkivan, the mining areas and a greater number of selectors.

It appears that Returning Officer, Mr McFie, had a difficult time. On 26 January 1888, he wrote an unofficial letter from Kilkivan Station to E Deighton Esq, Brisbane, as follows:

*'The following I thought too ridiculous to send ... on an official document but send to you privately to show the hardships of the returning officer in the bush.*

*In Sub-division Number 1 there are about 20 ratepayers all told of which I have been told 10 are going to stand for membership. They have arranged about 5 different bunches and there are one or two outsiders who are going to plump for themselves. These plumping gentlemen argue that when a man has three votes and there are three members standing, if they go for one man, that one man gets nine votes.*

*I have been driven nearly frantic by them and done nothing but argue, that they only get three votes whether they vote for one or a dozen, and the only answer I get is: "Three threes is nine, ain't it?" Of course there is no disputing that fact but "what has that got to do with voting?" I ask.*

*Well, they again reply: "Three threes is nine, ain't it?" And what with the multiplication table and the Divisional Board Act, I am afraid I shall not be able to get through when the day of the election arrives.*

*The worst of it is these lunatics intend to stick to it, and as they are about the greatest lot of bush lawyers I have ever had the misfortune to run against, you can imagine the effect. Morning, noon and night the only thing you hear is: "Three threes is nine, ain't it?" In fact I shall recommend the new board to adopt the phrase as their motto.'*

However, despite the tribulations of the returning officer, the new divisional board was elected as follows:

Sub-division 1:

John Hunter, Thomas Rose, John Broadbent.

Sub-division 2:

George Hall Jones, Francis Henry Davenport, Frederick Power.

Auditors:

John Coleman, Frank Purser.

This was confirmed by the *Government Gazette* of 23 February 1888.

John Broadbent, a partner in Widgee Station, was a former chairman of Widgee Divisional Board. Thomas Rose (second husband of the widow of J D Mactaggart) was manager of Kilkivan Station at the time. John Hunter was a selector in the Kilkivan area.

G H Jones at the time was co-owner of Boonara Station. He had been the first chairman of Barambah Divisional Board. Mr Davenport, a Manumbar selector, had also served on the Barambah Board. Frederick Power was an attorney and '*financial agent*' with the Kabunga Gold Mining Co which was at that time operating in the Manumbar district.

It would seem then that the board contained men of experience in finance and public affairs, half of them having previously served in local government. They were unpaid for their services, not even being reimbursed for the expenses they incurred in carrying out their public duties.

## 6. THE FIRST YEAR

On 29 February 1888, the first meeting of the Kilkivan Divisional Board took place in the Kilkivan Court House. The Returning Officer, Mr McFie, took the chair and called upon the board to appoint a chairman. They chose George Hall Jones.

One of the first actions of the new board was to ask the Minister for Works for £500 to carry on until the rates were struck and funds collected. They wrote to the Widgee and Barambah boards asking for copies of rates and valuations of the area and guidance in forming by-laws. They also had to procure a map of the division but decided to defer the matter of sub-divisional boundaries until a later meeting.

Mr McFie was appointed Clerk with an annual salary of £125. Messrs Rose, Power and Hunter were appointed as a sub-committee to draw up by-laws. Tenders were called for the position of overseer, competent to build bridges, make roads and do general lay-out work. The meetings were to be held at 12 noon on the last Wednesday of each month.

A letter was written to the Police Magistrate, Gympie, asking for the use of the Court House for the holding of meetings until the board could procure its own premises. Necessary furniture for the running of meetings and the undertaking of board business was to be ordered.

At the second meeting, it was decided to leave the purchase of a dray to the chairman. (They had been offered a dray and harness that was for sale.) The board accepted the offer of businessman, Mr McKewan, to let the building opposite the hotel for £1 per month. This was conditional on two windows being placed in the building.

Consideration for a permanent home for the board was made. Allotment 2, Section 10 was voted a good site. The clerk was directed to take up the

mentioned site, in the name of the chairman, under the Goldfields Act as a revalued area. He was to write to the Minister for Mines asking that *'the said allotment be vested in the Board as a grant for building purposes'*. Eleven tenders had been received for the position of overseer at an annual salary of £180. Mr Lamb was appointed for three months' probation *'provided that he devote the whole of his time to the board'*.

At the April meeting, a horse, dray and harness were purchased from Coleman and Company for £40. The Union Bank was appointed as the board's banker. The clerk was appointed valuator at a further annual fee of £50. Wages for labourers were set at six shillings and eight pence per day for road work, for a 48-hour week.

By May it was decided to inspect the area between Kilkivan and Barambah for the purpose of building a shorter road. A special meeting passed the by-laws.

In the June meeting, the road between Widgee and Woolooga Railway Station came up for attention. A prize of £25 was offered for the best plans and specifications for improving the two range crossings - between Kilkivan and Boonara and between Kilkivan and Barambah. Roads to the newly-established railhead were considered of prime importance.

At the July meeting, there appears to have been trouble between Kilkivan and Widgee Boards over some comment made by Mr McFie. The clerk was instructed *'not to indulge in any personal remarks in future correspondence'*.

In August, the crossing at Boonara Creek was discussed. (This would have been the crossing now at Tansey township). It was decided at the September meeting to send the board's monthly minutes to the *Gympie Times* and *Maryborough Chronicle*. A horse and dray was purchased from Mr W T Chippendale for £30. A new dray was also bought for £14. Mr Moessenger was paid £450 for repairs to the Kinbombi Range road for four months' work. Mr J Gunn was appointed overseer at a salary of £2/12/- per week.

## 7. THE FOLLOWING YEARS

One member in each division came up for re-election each year. Mr Rose and Mr Davenport were re-elected in February 1889. Mr Jones was re-elected chairman. Mr McFie resigned his position of clerk.

Mr Broadbent questioned the legality of Mr Power's right to sit on the board. Positions on divisional boards or councils at the time were the right of rate payers only. Mr Power claimed that he held a power of attorney from the Kabunga Mining Company to take up land and to pay rates. This was accepted by the board as a valid right to be a member.

In March, Mr Davenport resigned, because he was leaving the district. His place was taken by Mr Michael Tansey of Lakeview, Boonara. The Black Snake Road was discussed. The section of the road between Boonara and

Boobyjan called 'Five Mile Pinch' was declared dangerous and in need of attention.

In July, plans were begun for the erection of an office on the board's own land. It was to be 30 feet by 20 feet, with flooring of pine or beech if possible.

In September, tenders were called for this building. From November to March 1890, all meetings lapsed because of a failure to obtain quorums.

Rainfall charts from Boonara Station show that the rainfall for those months was as follows: November - 4.5 inches; December - 6.6 inches; January - 20 inches; February - 3.2 inches; March - 11.2 inches - a total of 45.5 inches for five months, giving an average of over 9 inches per month for 5 months.

Because of legal requirements, the long period without a meeting necessitated the appointment of a chairman by the Minister for Works. At that time Mr Jones was MLA for Burnett.

A letter to Parliament supporting Mr Jones, from the newly elected member of Sub-division 2, Isaac Moore of Barambah Station, states:

*'A meeting was called for 26th idem (February) and among the business notices was the appointment of a chairman, but, owing to the flooded state of the creeks, Mr Jones and I were unable to get to Kilkivan.'*

Mr Moore felt that an attempt was being made to have Mr Broadbent of Widgee appointed as chairman. However, the Government Gazette of 11 April 1890, again proclaimed Mr Jones as chairman.

Soon after, tenders were called for the new board building and for a bridge over Boonara Creek. It was decided not to enforce Wheel Tax during the year. This tax was a local government levy on *'any conveyance ... carrying timber of any sort ... pulled by more than two horses or more than four bullocks'*. The tax varied from £1 to £6 per half-year according to the size of the wheel of a vehicle.

The said vehicles had to have a number plate, easily visible, displaying the number of the licence. This tax was applied normally to obtain revenue. As the colony of Queensland (and the whole of Australia) was suffering a depression at the time, this was probably a gesture to help local industry to survive.

The tender for erection of the board's building was won by Mr T Wood at a sum of £225. By November 1890, the board found itself in a bad financial position. Work on roads and bridges had to cease and men were retrenched.

In February 1891, Mr Broadbent became chairman on the resignation of Mr Jones, who was replaced on the board by Mr W B Lawless. The Travelling Dairy Committee asked permission for the use of the board's office for the holding of a demonstration and the use of the grounds to graze their horse.



*William B Lawless*

*(Kilkivan Shire Council)*

The financial position of the board had evidently improved because workers were re-employed - gangers at eight shillings a day, horse-drivers at six shillings and sixpence, and labourers at six shillings. The gangers were given 'wet pay' (for days when it was too wet to work) but this privilege was denied to labourers.

The subject of expense allowances for board members was raised. Mr Moore avowed that he would never accept such payment. One member expressed the opinion that such a move would be illegal. The chairman, Mr Broadbent, thought that it could be done by voting such an amount to the chairman and disbursing it among other members. He was of the opinion that, as members gave their time for the benefit of ratepayers, they should be paid. The matter was held over. Wheel tax was again introduced.

Mr Hester of Cinnabar Mining Co addressed the meeting on '*outrages in the district*'. He claimed that there was no police protection - the police had been sent north. This was the time of disturbances in the wool industry and the shearers' strikes in North-West Queensland. Mr Hester persuaded the board to petition the government for more police in the area.

A petition from ratepayers asked the board to reconsider the cut in wages paid to employees. There was mention of the '*burning of an effigy*' by a number of persons which was severely commented on. Whether the effigy was of a board member is not stated. By July, the board decided to raise the wages of their employees to what they were before: labourers, six shillings and eight pence per day; horse-drivers, seven shillings and eight pence; gangers eight shillings and eight pence. Also pay was allowed to the men when shifting camp. The meeting day and time was altered to suit the train service.



*First Shire Council Office - built early 1890's*

*(S Silburn)*



*Mr Simpson at home with family at 'Lisanore'  
(Kilkivan Historical Society)*

By September of that year, they were concerned for the first time with the problems relating to noxious plants: lantana, prickly pear, scotch thistle and bathurst burr.

In 1892 various meetings lapsed for want of quorums. This was evidently another year of heavy rain. There were no meetings in January and February 1893. The March meeting of that year mentioned a Flood Relief Fund.

G H Simpson was appointed clerk, overseer, returning officer and tax collector at a salary of £150 per annum. There was dissension about the election of Mr Hester, mine manager, to the board. Evidently the objections were upheld because he was replaced by a new member, Mr McKewan.

The important issues of those early days were roads and bridges. The board's minutes also highlight the need to preserve camping reserves for travelling stock. The board was thanked for the use of their paddock for cricket matches. The board was in favour of its land *'being available to the public for recreation'*.

In 1894, G H Jones was again elected chairman. Isaac Moore resigned and his place was taken by his son, Hugh Moore.

In 1897, the clerk's salary was £12 per month. He was asked to explain at a meeting why certain work on Barambah Road authorised by the board had not been carried out, and why there had been delays in sending a gang to Mondure Bridge. His excuse was that he needed to spend an occasional day in the office.

A complaint was received about cricket being played on public grounds on a Sunday. This was upheld by the board because at that time it was illegal to play sport on such grounds on Sundays. Five pounds was put aside for the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. The men were granted a holiday for the occasion.

In 1898, Mr W B Lawless became chairman. A deputation consisting of Messrs Patterson, Newton, and Ortt requested assistance for improvement of the road from Kilkivan to Running Creek where there were three mines working and showing *'good performance'*. These men stated their intention to buy more machinery, including a crushing plant to be unloaded from the rail at Kilkivan. There was need of a crane to lift the machinery from truck to wagon. The road under discussion was the most direct. The two crossings of Wide Bay Creek were deemed *'impassable for such loading'*. They wished the road to be improved so that it would be available for *'this and other traffic'*. The deputation received a good hearing from the board but they considered because the miners were not rate payers, a government grant should be obtained for the upgrading of the road.

In September 1899, G H Jones died. He had given good service to local and colonial government in the area for many years. It was decided that in memory of Mr Jones, a large photo of him would be hung in the board's office.



In 1900, the board received word that a traction engine was to be run between Widgee and Woolooga in connection with the timber trade. There was a need to ascertain whether the road was capable of carrying such heavy traffic.

March 1901 saw the resumption of land for the railway which was about to be pushed on further into the South Burnett toward Nanango.

In April 1903, the minutes are stamped 'KILKIVAN SHIRE COUNCIL'. The era of Kilkivan Divisional Board had come to an end.



*Opening the Bridge at Tansey*

*(H Rigby)*



## Chapter 8

---

### CLOSER SETTLEMENT - TO 1900

#### 1. THE BEGINNING OF DAIRYING AND AGRICULTURE

Early records show that lucerne, oats and maize were grown on station properties and selections from the 1860's on. These crops were used solely for the feeding of cattle and horses on those properties. It was only with the coming of the railway that it became feasible to grow cash crops and run dairies for the production of cream. In many cases, dairies were started by women. Margaret Wason of Mudlo, ran a dairy and made her own cheeses. She carried them nine miles on horseback to Woollooga to be railed to Gympie for sale.

Some of the selectors ran dairies in the early years of their tenure. Here again it was often the women and children who did this work. It was also necessary for them to have access to rail transport in order to market their produce. The first agriculturalist in the Kilkivan area was probably the Chinaman, Ah Long, who had a miner's homestead lease and grew vegetables to supply the miners at West Coast Creek. On his death, the property was taken over by William Spencer who arrived with his family in 1868. Mr Spencer cleared land and kept dairy cows and goats. He supplied the miners at West Coast Creek and later at the Rise and Shine Reef with milk, home made butter and vegetables. He called his property 'Live and Let Live'. Messrs J Courtman and A Williams of Spring Farm also sold corn, potatoes and pumpkins to Kilkivan storekeepers.

The Queensland Department of Lands set up the Travelling Dairy, based on one used in Victoria, to improve the standard of dairy farming in the colony of Queensland.

*The plant consisted of a Steam Turbine Cream Separator (Sharples Russian make) with a capacity of 65 gallons; a Laval steam turbine cream separator of 95 gallons capacity; a Victoria cream separator of 35 gallons capacity; a*

*Sharples Russian milk and cream tester; a Laval pasteuriser with a capacity of 400 gallons and a Laval milk and cream cooler of the same capacity with two other milk coolers; a Dobson's Patent and a Moore's Patent; a concussion churn, a butter worker, cheese vats and plant complete, a salting and cooling sink and cheese presses.'*



*Ah Long (Kilkivan Historical Society)*

Wherever the Travelling Dairy went, the local Agricultural Society was asked to choose not more than five pupils, male or female, to receive special instruction from the manager. The milk used was supplied by local farmers. A 'Baby Separator' was used to separate milk from cream; cheese was also made. Anything produced became the property of those that had supplied the milk. In many cases, this was the first time farmers had seen a cream separator working. Milk had previously been set in shallow pans and the cream skimmed off.

In September 1890, the Travelling Dairy, under the supervision of Mr Barron Jones, moved into the Wide Bay, and visited, among other places, Kilkivan. The Kilkivan Divisional Board gave the use of its building for the demonstration and allowed Mr Jones to graze his horse in the grounds.

Previously butter had been made on the farm and sent by rail to Gympie, where it sold at seven pence per pound. Now the farmers were shown how the use of separators would enable them to send cream to the butter factory that had opened at Tiaro in 1890. Each siding along the railway became a pick-up point for cream.

The Tiaro Factory was the first co-operative butter factory in Queensland. At the time, its produce had a ready market in Gympie which was a thriving gold mining town. Unfortunately it was closed in 1892.

James Hewson, from his property, Lucerne Vale, sent cream to the Model Dairy in Brisbane. This cream had to be left overnight at Cinnabar siding to be railed

to Brisbane. Despite the handicaps, Mr Hewson received a '*fair deal*' from the factory in Brisbane. He was one of the first farmers in the Kilkivan area to install a cream separator. The Webb Brothers of Thornside, the McKewans of Wongella and the Hunter Brothers of Mountview all had early dairies.

According to the records of the Department of Agriculture, the Travelling Dairy paid another visit to Kilkivan and Brooyar in late 1895. Soon after, it ceased operating because of drought conditions and the difficulty of obtaining milk.

In the South Burnett, Boobyjan Station, from the 1860's, grew oats and lucerne for the use of horses and other stock on the property. Horticulture was carried on by Paddy O'Neil, an Irish ex-convict, who had a small piece of freehold land near Daddamarine Creek. He grew peaches, pears, grapes, melons, potatoes and other vegetables, which he sold to the people on the station.



*Cutting lucerne for hay*

*(Murgon Historical Society)*

An early railway survey of this area, taken in 1884, describes paddocks under cultivation of lucerne and oats at Michael Tansey's property, Lakeview, and Rawden Briggs' Oakfield, and expresses the opinion that much of the country would be eminently suited for agriculture.

Three Maudsley brothers took up selections in the early 1890's at Margoo, Trinity and Undaban in the Boonara area. Roger Maudsley of Margoo was one of the earliest selectors to start a dairy. The Maudsleys also reared pigs and grew maize. The Stumm brothers of Coongan, who took up their property in 1905, dairied for several years.



*Harrowing at Weivehurst*

*(D Bowman)*

Mr Jack Collins of Weivehurst, another selection from Boonara, also ran a dairy. The Lobegeier brothers, who selected land at Boonara in 1908, took cream to Goomeri siding to be railed away.

The land sales, in the first decade of this century, saw the large pastoral holdings, and even some of the bigger selections, divided into small agricultural blocks where the main enterprise was mixed farming. By 1911, closer settlement was opening up a new phase in the development of the shire.

## **CLOSER SETTLEMENT 1900 - 1911**

### **2. KILKIVAN**

By 1900, the mining boom around Kilkivan had abated, but the timber industry was growing. The railway was being extended through the South Burnett. Two years later, a railway siding was established at Goomeri. The town of Kilkivan was still the business and administrative centre for the area covered by the Kilkivan Divisional Board. As yet, it was the only town in the area.

George Hall Jones, owner of Kilkivan Station, died in 1899. His son, Aubrey Edward Jones, managed the property until 1904. Aubrey's brother, David Lacey Jones, took his father's place on the Kilkivan Divisional Board from 1900 to 1903. He later became Shire Clerk, a position that he held for many years.

The Queensland Government had, by 1900, resumed a considerable area from Kilkivan Station. More selections were taken up soon after that date.

In 1908, the remaining 16 600 acres was sold by the trustees of the estate of G H Jones for sub-division. The brochure, at the time of sale, painted a glowing picture of the land - *'rich alluvial flats... undulating ridges... abundant water supply... from Wide Bay, Kinbombi, Coppermine, and Ongellic Creeks and their tributaries... water bearing sub-stratum... good for lucerne and easy to work... underground water'*. The agents claimed that the land had been sub-divided so that *'every block'* had *'natural supply of water from creeks'* and that *'more could be obtained at a low cost'*. Each holding was fenced and sub-divided into ten paddocks. The sub-divisions would utilise existing fences. There was ample timber on the blocks for fencing.

The auction was undertaken by Hain and Searight of Sydney. Thirty blocks were offered for absolute auction sale and were described as *'Ideal Dairy and Mixed Farms'* - which could grow *'lucerne, maize, paspalum, cereals, pumpkins and root crops'*. It was described as situated *'in a valley of Boonara Range, 154 miles from Brisbane, on the railway'*, having *'deep rich alluvial soil'* and a rainfall average of thirty-six inches.

As well as the farming blocks, seventy-nine blocks at Cinnabar Township Division, each a quarter-of-an-acre, were offered. The district was described as *'not thoroughly opened up'*. It was thought that the land would bring prices much below its true worth. The terms of payment were to be *'one-fifth cash, fifteen per cent to be paid at the end of two years and the balance in eight annual instalments, with interest at five per cent'*.

The authorised surveyor, Harry Raff, who was described as having *'experience with large country estates'*, praised the area. It was stated that one farm in the vicinity, owned by Mr J Jorgensen, had grown lucerne for forty years and that a crop at Kilkivan Homestead was cut *'seven times a year'*. The ridges could be cultivated for maize, and the railway was handy for the disposal of grain. Milk-producing paspalum was growing well at the homestead block. Mr McEwan's farm, it stated, had also grown onions.

The Cinnabar Township blocks were on 25-acres at Cinnabar Siding on *'gently sloping land'* with *'rich soil suitable for cultivation'*. Four blocks were reserved - for a school, a School of Arts, and a recreation reserve. Buyers were assured of comfortable accommodation at Davies' Federal Hotel, next to the Post Office, opposite the railway station and advertised as having a billiard table. Horses and buggies could be hired for the occasion.

There was also the Railway Hotel, owned by Mr McKewan, which had *'a first class table, comfortable bedrooms and horses and buggies for hire'*. The Kilkivan Hotel, owned by George Moessenger, was described as *'the leading commercial hotel, with large coffee and dining rooms, good stabling for horses and buggies for hire'*. Telegrams would be delivered and a buggy was provided to meet the trains. Men who bought land at the sale were Larry Whelan from Victoria, F H Stevens (a Maryborough dentist who bought the homestead and its block) Peters, Hammet, Stewart and Clark.



*Kilkivan Federal Hotel (C Elmer)*

The government, soon after, threw open twenty-five square miles of the old goldfield for settlement.

Most of the new owners intended to dairy. They cleared their land and accepted employment where they could - mainly in the timber industry - until they could establish their farms as productive units. Maize was planted and later lucerne and other fodder crops for the dairy cows with which they stocked their land.

### 3. BOONARA AND KILKIVAN

In the Burnett area, selectors also took up land but resumptions here appeared to be at a slower pace. The following families took up land in this area before the Goomeri Land Sale in 1911.

In 1905, Jacob Stumm, a Gympie resident, formerly editor and part-owner of the *Gympie Times* and Member for Gympie in the Queensland Legislative Assembly, selected Coongan, land resumed from Boonara Station on the Boonara Road 10 miles from Kilkivan. Parts of the original 1 009 acres were registered in the names of various members of his family.

His sons, Charles, Fred and Bob worked the properties. Coongan was first run as a dairy, but over the years more land was added and the family switched to grazing. Charlie and Fred left, but Otto (another brother) joined Bob. Jacob Stumm and his wife and daughters moved to Coongan to live in 1912. Shortly after, Jacob became Federal MP for the electorate of Lilley, a position that he

held until 1917. Mr Sam Hester, manager of the mercury mines at Cinnabar, acted as agent for Mr Stumm in his purchase of Coongan.

Otto joined the AIF in 1916, and after active service in France, returned and bought land in the Barambah district. His son Geoff, with wife and family, still lives on this property.

Robert Pride Stumm (Bob) eventually married and took over Coongan which he ran for many years until he retired in 1958. In 1948, his son Paul bought an adjoining property which he still works. This property includes some of the land originally selected by the Stumm family.

Mr Bob Stumm was a member of Kilkivan Shire Council, which he served as a councillor from 1919 to 1930 and as chairman from 1930 to 1933. He was also a member of the Cattlemen's Committee of the United Graziers' Association, and became a JP in 1926. He was on a committee which established an early hospital in Goomeri and helped to obtain a school at Booinbah in 1928.

In 1909, land was selected by Mr Sam Heathwood and his son, Joe. Sam's property was worked by another son, Charlie, who married Lily Klumpp of Goomeri and settled at Lenavale on Watchbox Road, the nucleus of the property still owned by his family. Charlie also had a block at Boobyjan. He ran these as cattle properties and made extra money by driving a bullock team.

In 1930, Mrs Heathwood and her daughters started a dairy on Lenavale. Charlie's son, Eric, now works the property in conjunction with his (Eric's) son, Colin. They now run a modern dairy and mixed farming enterprise. Charlie's daughter, Leonie, Mrs Nayler, lives in Goomeri.

Joe Heathwood worked a property, now owned by Ian Clark, for some years. A nephew of Charlie, Walter (Wally) Heathwood, also worked a nearby property until he joined up in 1914. It was run by his brother Herb until 1926, when it was sold to Mr Percy Maudsley.

After the war, Wally obtained a Soldier Settler's block at Boonaravale, which he and his family worked until 1945.

The Lobegeier families arrived from Ipswich in 1906. The brothers, William and John, took up blocks on Boonara in the vicinity of Booinbah. William had two blocks and John, one. Their father, William, also took up two blocks.

They built a house from timber on the property and started up a dairy. Their cream was taken to Goomeri and sent by rail to the factory at Tiaro. Both brothers raised large families and their sons farmed in the area.

The original properties are now in the hands of William's grandson, Vance Delemare, son of Jessie who married Syd Delemare, a soldier settler at Booinbah after World War One.



John's daughter, Gertrude, married a soldier, Albert Brown, who took up a block after the First World War at Boobyjan. Their son still works this property. Daughter, Olive (Mrs Dorse), lives in Goomeri. Albert Brown, who was aged 90 when he died, marched in Goomeri Anzac Parades every year up to the time of his death.

In 1909, Aaron Davies, a stockman from Barambah Station, applied for and obtained land on Planted Creek Road. He had previously owned land at Cinnabar where he married Rose Amelia Moessenger in 1900. One of his daughters, Rose Mary, married Cinnabar farmer, William Waldock. Another daughter, Maureen, married Kilkivan business man, Burnett Moreton Beer. Kevin Davies, son of Aaron's sixth child, is now Surveyor General of this state.

For some years, Aaron Davies was a member of Kilkivan Shire Council and later Chairman.

Other names that appear on the list to receive land resumed from Boonara in 1908 and 1909 were: Thomas Euler (son of William), A Euler, A Spry, E C Spry, W T Williams, Westaway and A J McIntosh.

Alexander M McIntosh emigrated from Scotland to Australia with his brother Donald at the time of the Gympie gold rush. Alexander married Margaret Berry and raised a family of seven sons and two daughters. Two sons were killed in the First World War but other members of his family have made the name well known in the area.

Alexander and Donald bought 700 acres of land at Glastonbury near the goldfield area. They ran a hotel there for twenty years. Alexander later acquired grazing property in the Glastonbury, Widgee, Manumbar, Boonara and Boobyjan areas. When Widgee Station was cut up for closer settlement, he bought the Homestead Block and 600 acres. More land has been acquired and now three of his grandchildren, Margaret, Laurie and Ian (a Kilkivan Shire Councillor), live and work there.

A M McIntosh selected land in the Boonara area and sent his young sons to fulfill the family occupancy of these blocks. In 1908, Arthur (Attie) acquired a selection in the Booinbah area. He later bought Ettrickdale, originally selected by the Grieve family. Robert (Bob) selected land close by, but after the First World War, acquired a block at Boonaravale where his sons, Donald and Alec also farmed. Alec now owns Goomeri's first motel in conjunction with his wife Betty. Both Alec and Don are long-serving shire councillors, Alec having been Shire Chairman since 1968. They have been active in public life and sporting activities in the shire.

Fred McIntosh, another of Alexander's sons, worked on his father's early acquisitions in the Booinbah area. After the first World War, he acquired a soldier settler block at Booinbah and expanded the property, which now includes that previously owned by his late brother, Attie. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Maudsley.

His sons, Fred, Ewan and Peter now work this property. Daughter Betty (Mrs Roach) lives near Kilkivan. Another daughter, Meta, married Hubert Graham of Oakfield. They lived on a property at Tansey for many years.

A descendant of the original Donald, Val McIntosh, has a grazing property in the Kilkivan area.

#### 4. MANUMBAR AND BARAMBAH

Further settlers were moving into the Manumbar and Barambah areas. The following pages give an account of when these settlers came, their backgrounds and the way they settled into the area.

James Henry Gentry came to Queensland in 1870, where he first worked around Ipswich and Kilcoy, in the timber industry. His first selection was from Barambah, in the Johnstown area of the Nanango Shire. His son George Gentry took up a resumption from Manumbar, the Manumbar Mill Paddock (Lot 16) in 1906. He also took up resumptions from Barambah. Clem, grandson of James, still owns the Manumbar property, where he lives with his wife and family.

Friedrich Theodor Franz, a tailor from Pomerania in Germany, was one of a group of German missionaries and laymen that came to Moreton Bay in 1841 to establish a mission for aborigines at Nundah. It failed to achieve its purpose, and the people who had founded it gradually drifted away to take up land elsewhere. The Franz family settled in the Upper Caboolture area.

They later moved to the Manumbar area where they still own and work the land originally selected. For years, they have exhibited cattle in local shows and the Royal National Exhibition, and have many ribbons and trophies to indicate their success in this field.

Emma Franz, mother of the present owner, was a bush nurse, helping to deliver babies when medical help was difficult to obtain. She also saved the lives of several local people bitten by venomous snakes. On one occasion she successfully sewed on a severed finger with needle and thread. Several members of the family, Ted, Bert and Eric Franz, cut timber for the local mills when the timber industry was flourishing in the Manumbar-Gallangowan area.

#### 5. GOOMERI WEST - THE REID GROUP SETTLEMENT

In 1909, four young Sydney men decided to move north and take up land in the scrub lands of Queensland. This type of country had never been used by earlier settlers, and was still in its original state. The lads were inexperienced and unaware of what might lie ahead. Their leader, Mr R Reid, was an interlocking draughtsman in the New South Wales Railways. The others were Mr G Reid, a shipping clerk, W Herwig, an architect, W M McIvor and H H Silburn, clerks in the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, Sydney. The Reids were nephews of an early Prime Minister of Australia, Sir George Reid.



*H H Silburn and W McIvor in first camp*

*(S Silburn)*

At that time, a Group Selection of Crown Land could be made by four or more men. The government would then survey it into individual selections, if they thought the men applying proved suitable. The 'Reid Group', as they called themselves, was formed in 1910. They were given licences to fulfil the conditions of tenure, which were certain improvements, and residence on one's own block for at least six months in a year.

Some financial assistance could be obtained if needed; conditions of tenure were strictly enforced by land rangers who made periodic inspections. After five years, a conditional purchase was granted; after twenty years selectors were promised a 'Deed of Grant'.

These young men travelled by boat to Brisbane and then by rail to Jara Siding (now called Manyung). There was as yet no township at Goomeri or Murgon. Weivehurst Station, an early resumption from Boonara, was still a large property.

The newcomers were met by another member of the group, riding on horseback. They packed as many of their possessions as possible on the horse, carried the rest and were taken to a camp on the outskirts of the group's land. Here they built a big fire, cooked some food and then settled down to sleep as best they could with dingoes howling around the camp all night.

In the morning, they set out along the survey line to find their individual blocks. They cleared a space around these lines and put up tents. Horace (Horry) Silburn and his friend, Bill McIvor, erected their tent so that it straddled the boundary of their properties. This enabled them to live together for company in lonely alien surroundings, while fulfilling the residency terms of their lease.

Clearing was a difficult task for workers who had never used brush hooks or axes before. With no one to show them, they learnt by trial and error. Mr Silburn made contact with a gang of scrub fellers working close by, and watched them at work. They had heard about *'the two city blokes having a go'* at the scrub and very generously gave them good advice as to how to tackle their difficult task. Brynie Higgins, the contractor, undertook to come and work for Silburn and McIvor when their properties became easily accessible. Higgins also warned them about the dangers of working alone in such an isolated place.

Mr Silburn heeded their warning. He was anxious to get the job of clearing finished but every night after work he walked through the scrub with a lantern and a gun, using the survey line as a guide, to have a yarn and a smoke with the men.

After clearing an area of land, the timber had to be left to dry before being burnt. While waiting for this to happen, the young settlers travelled to Sydney and studied agricultural science and animal husbandry at Sydney Technical College. They then returned, burnt the cleared area and put up their first huts.

Enough scrub was felled to enable Mr Silburn to plant a crop of corn. These properties still had no access roads. There had been an understanding when they took up the land that the government would subsidise the shire council to build such roads. The council sent surveyors out, and, as a result of their investigations, the landholders were asked to pay half the cost of the road (one shilling per chain) of ninety chains. At first, when they found how difficult the building of the road would be, they refused to do this, but eventually an agreement with the council resulted in the road being completed.

Silburn and McIvor went to a sawmill at Manyung and ordered timber for a floor in their hut and two tank stands. With the road opened they were able to have farm supplies, fencing wire and stores delivered by Mr Coleman, a local storekeeper. They ordered tanks from Murgon. These and the timber were delivered by a four-horse team.

The first crop of maize was harvested, threshed and carted by bullock teamster, Jim Downing. Another crop of corn was planted with a hand planter and 1 800 bags were harvested. It was a good season. All the members of the group did well. Crops were carted by the Perretts - George, Herb, Percy and Sealy.

The Reid Group was one of the last group settlements in Queensland. Thirteen blocks in all were surveyed and thrown open for this group.

They all faced similar conditions to those described. R Reid, H H Silburn and W McIvor had the added trouble of being surrounded on all sides by virgin scrub with no proper outlet. The others had 'timber' roads, used by timber getters to cart pine out of the Nangur Reserve and Weivehurst Station. There was no pine on the portions selected by Silburn and McIvor.

The first settlers of the Reid group were:

R Reid, G Reid, W Herwig, W McIvor, H H Silburn, W A Latham, A and H Latham, F Cherry, L Zerner, M McGrath, E Wenzel, O Pearson and S McGrath.

Mr H Silburn married Isabelle Towner of Kilkivan. Her father had come to the district during the 1880's. His name appears at the end of the petition sent to Parliament in 1887, as a voucher for the authenticity of the signatures. He owned land in Bligh Street, opposite and on the same side of the road as the present Shire Council offices (on the corner of the Gympie Road). His occupation is given as 'storekeeper'. His wife was Louisa, daughter of John Beer, who had started the first hotel and store at the Rise and Shine Goldfield in 1872. George Towner died in 1899 after an accident in which he received brain damage. On her husband's death, Louisa was helped to bring up her family by the Beer family.

Isabelle's aunt, Miss Annie Beer, had a fruit and sweets shop in Kilkivan. At the Goomeri Land Sale in 1911 Miss Beer bought an allotment in the town of Goomeri for £91 and started a business similar to that formerly run by her in Kilkivan. It was Allotment Number 4, Section IV, and was listed in the newspaper report of the sale as being one of a group bought by '*ladies from Kilkivan*'. Isabelle Towner stayed with her aunt and became Goomeri's first postmistress. She operated from the railway station in what was afterwards the ladies' waiting room. She also sold newspapers, including the *Brisbane Courier*.

The original Silburn property, now run by Syd Silburn (Horrie's son) has a dairy, piggery and crops. Another son, Bill, operated as a milk and cream carrier for some years. He carted milk to Goomeri Cheese Factory from the Goomeri West Road. He now has a carrying business, a mail run and a fuel depot.

Mr Silburn died in 1977 at the age of 92. He was a great worker for farmer organisations, school committees, progress associations, the Masonic Lodge and the RSL. He had served overseas in the AIF during the First World War.

Mr McIvor married Minnie McCarroll of Kilkivan. He sold his property and bought a general store in Goomeri which he and his family ran for many years.

## 6. WEIVEHURST STATION

Weivehurst Station was an early resumption from Boonara. It was originally taken up under the terms of the Dutton Crown Lands Act of 1884, which

provided for the resumed land to be initially leased. No holding of this nature could be obtained with freehold tenure. Leasehold terms and conditions rested with a newly formed Land Board.

Its first selector was, Mr Theo Simpson, followed by Mr O Flemmich. At that time it was noted for its good horseflesh. Later, Mr Jack Collins ran it as a dairy. As the scrub nearby, now called 'Goomeri West', became settled, timber was being taken out in some quantity. The leasehold part of Weivehurst was cut up for closer settlement.

On the south side of Goomeri West Road the first selectors were: L Dunn, A Brockhurst, W Moore, on the north side, W Klumpp, M Higgins and F Schuler.

The Goomeri West Road was originally a Weivehurst 'timber' road which gave access to Goomeri. The freehold part of Weivehurst became known as 'Hiawatha', later owned by T H Spencer.

## 7. KINBOMBI STATION

Kinbombi Station was a resumption from Boonara, acquired initially as 'grazing farm lease' by W T Chippendale - an area of 10 000 acres - and used for the grazing of cattle and horses.

It was taken over by a wealthy Englishman from Toowoomba, Mr O Flemmich, who owned Weivehurst for a time. He improved the holding and acquired some of the adjoining land from Kilkivan Station - a total of 15 000 acres. He sold it to a man named Ralston who again sold it to J C Mayne from New South Wales.

Mr Mayne and his wife, whom a neighbour described as '*a perfect English lady*', were evidently a very neighbourly and public spirited couple. One son, who had fought in the AIF in the first World War, was killed on his journey home in an unfortunate accident.

After the war, Mr Mayne relinquished the Boonaravale part of his holding. This was cut up for soldier settlers. He took up more land on the Cinnabar side of the property. Mr Mayne did much to help returned soldiers. He and his wife died several years later and the RSL honoured them with a plaque in the Hall of Memory.

## 8. NEW SETTLERS IN THE KILKIVAN DISTRICT

The Moreland family came to Kilkivan in 1900 from the Gympie goldfield. They took up land, a resumption from Kilkivan Station, on Wide Bay Creek. Here they were engaged in dairying and grazing.

The eldest son, Oscar, born in 1902, worked in the timber industry. In the early years, the family also ran a bullock team to Black Snake, bringing timber to Kilkivan Railway Station. At the time, the timber industry was booming, but the teamsters were not well paid.

The family consisted of three boys - Oscar, Percy and Arthur (Jim) - and a daughter who married Mr Hillcoat, a selector of Widgee. The family attended Cinnabar School, and for a while, Upper Cinnabar.

Times were difficult during the depression of the thirties. In 1932, Mr Jim Moreland worked for the Shire Council. He then drove a timber truck for 'Bluey' Teague and Henry Brunjes, working at Planted Creek, Coothan and from Manumbar to Goomeri and Kinbombi. The property, 2 000 acres, was sold in 1939 to Mr Noel Warburton.

Kilkivan resident, George Stockden, was born in Gympie. His father selected land from Kilkivan Station on Wide Bay Creek in 1904. On the property there is a big waterhole - the Fifteen Mile Hole - so called because it was that distance from the head station.

There were slab buildings on the property that, in the days of sheep rearing, had been shepherds' huts. Holes in the wall were for rifles in the days when shepherds in lonely places faced real danger from hostile aborigines.

At first the Stockdens ran a dairy, keeping calves on cows and milking once a day. Cream was taken to Cinnabar siding in a buckboard and railed to Tiaro Butter Factory.

When Mr Stockden died, George ran the property for his mother. He bought one paddock when the rest of the property was sold to the Nutting family, but later sold this too, to the new owners, and acquired a block from Mr R P Stumm. Eventually, he sold all his grazing interests and took up various business ventures in Kilkivan.

For a while, he was a partner in Stockden and Warburton, auctioneers and commission agents, and later ran the Federal Hotel in partnership with Mrs Feevier.

His brother Roy married Gladys Euler and owned a property at Cinnabar for many years. Both brothers were champion horsemen and took a keen interest in sport.

## 9. WOOLLOOGA

In 1908, when the Woollooga pastoral holding was sold to the government and divided into small blocks for closer settlement, the township received a boost. Dairying became an important industry and Woollooga was a centre for the railage of cream to the factories. Some of the first selectors were: Messrs J H Cecil, G H Harvey, M Platt, F Walker, J Sellen, T Thomas, P Smith, B Smith, and E Pike. The following selectors from Woollooga Estate appear on a list dated August 1907: Patrick Smith, Thomas Thomas, C A Booker, J A Morrison, John Bambling, John Dray, F E Walker, J H Cecil, G H Harvey, Frank Spiller, W S Harvey, G J Olsen, A Bambling, Thomas Dawson, W G Currant, A Wilson and W Wilson.

Some of these were already landholders or members of families who had previously taken up land.

James Sellen, a miner, had worked at Croydon and Mount Morgan. He gave up mining when he developed lung trouble and selected 280 acres of agricultural land from Woolooga, where he started a dairy. His daughter, Elsie May, married Martin Caulfield whose father, James, had selected land nearby. Joyce Caulfield (Mrs Schuler), daughter of Martin, lives in Woolooga.

Mr McCormick first selected the land which he sold to the Roach family in the late 1940's. In the early 1900's, Mr F Schollick took up the property on which his daughter now lives. He ran a dairy for many years and was very active in Kilkivan public life, being a shire councillor for many years.

Miss Cahill still owns the property her father selected near the site of the old Brooyar Mail Change Hotel. This property includes land formerly owned by the Dean and Clark families. Land around the hotel site was originally surveyed into town allotments, but has since been taken up by nearby property owners.

Behind the Cahill residence are three graves. Two contain the bodies of James Galligher and his wife, Agnes. The other grave contains three bodies - that of Anne, wife of David Joseph Lewis (died 1916, aged 52), and their sons, Thomas Llewellyn (died 1893, aged 4 weeks), and Gwylym Howell (died 1899, aged 9 months). The family had selected a property, Ashgrove, in 1889. They later had two more sons to which they gave the names, Thomas and Gwylym, and a daughter, Annie (Mrs Tallon). David Lewis eventually sold the property and returned to Wales. By a strange co-incidence, these families who are buried side by side, are now connected by the marriage of Keith Batts (descendant of the Gallaghers) and his wife Marjorie, whose mother is a member of the Lewis family.

Several families, the McDonalds, Staples and Hammers moved to Goomeri in the 1920's and started businesses in that town. The Spiller family still live in the the Shire. Lurlie is married to Mr Archie Peterson whose family were very early settlers at Bell's Bridge. Two Spiller sons, Frank and Barlo, saw service overseas in the First World War. After they returned, they took up blocks in the Booinbah area.

Frederick Walker selected Illaville from the Woolooga estate in 1907, and married Kathleen Fitzgerald of Boowoogum. His son, Jack, now owns the property. A daughter, Beatrice, married a neighbouring landholder, Edward Dray.

Dairying received another boost with the throwing open of land from Widgee Station. Some of the farmers attracted to that area were: N E Burnett, G L Shepperdson, W Dawson, O Schmidt, E Eastaway, C Norliks, C Hayes, J Stokes, F McPaul, the Kingtons, D G Horsfall, J W Johnstone.



The first cream was carted to Woolooga by Mr T W Jones, using a horse-drawn vehicle, and then railed to Gympie.

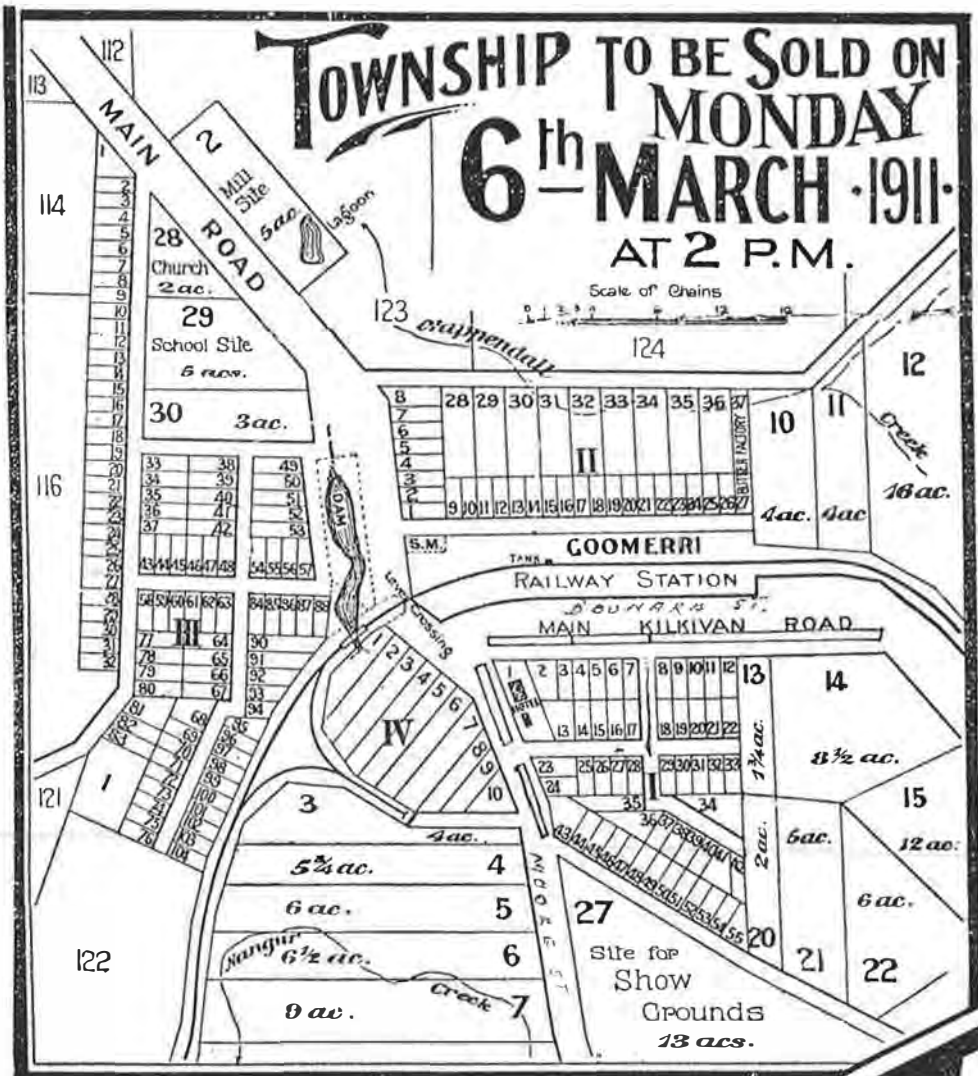
In 1927, the last portion of Woolooga Station was cut up for settlement. The Hall, Jones and Bishop families started dairying on their properties.

The original selections were sold as agricultural farm blocks. The general opinion of residents in this area is that they were not viable living areas, and were more suited to grazing than for their early use of agriculture and dairying. Most landholders here have followed the general trend of land use in the shire, expanding the size of their properties and reverting to rearing cattle.



*Ploughing in the 1930's*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*





## Chapter 9

---

### THE GOOMERI LAND SALE

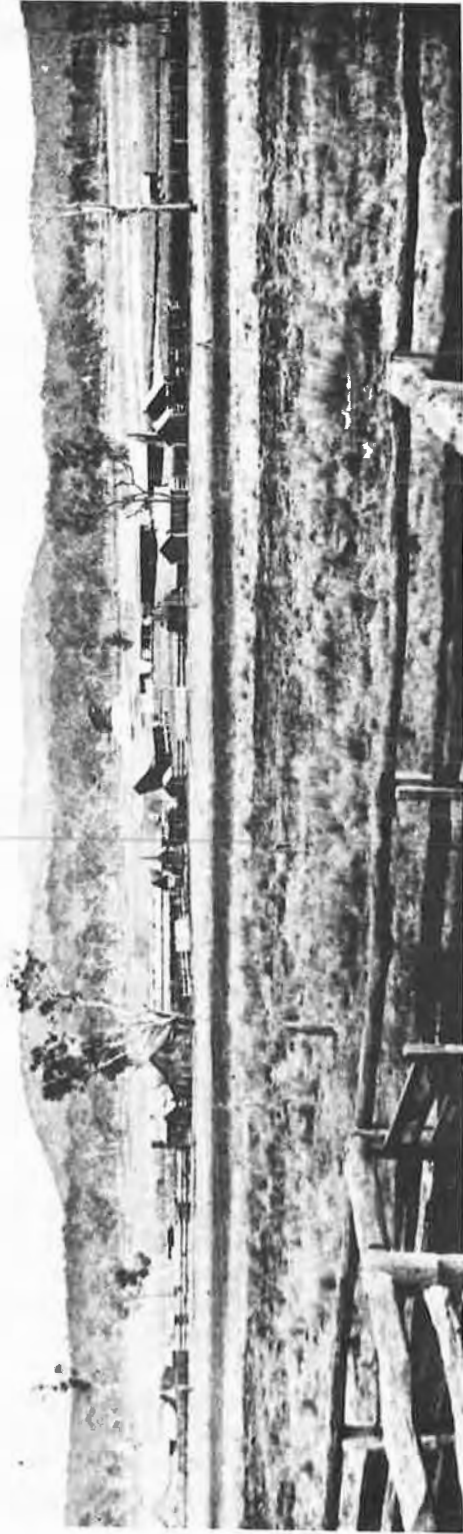
Since the 1870's, Boonara Run had been progressively reduced in size by resumption of leasehold land. Other pastoral holdings had suffered severely in the 1902 drought. The days of the large station properties were over. Boonara contained a large amount of good agricultural land, that would seem destined eventually to be carved up into small holdings.

From 1902, when the railway came to this area, there had been a siding at Goomeri. Around it had grown up a small settlement - a couple of stores and for a while, a hotel owned by Mr J A Slater on a piece of land leased from L M Jones. When the lease ran out, the hotel was closed. The railhead was widely used by the timber haulers and local graziers and farmers.

Llewellyn Mander Jones, owner of Boonara, decided to sell his remaining land (which comprised 33 000 acres freehold) to the Goomeri Land Company - a Melbourne syndicate. According to Mr David Mander Jones, eldest and only surviving son of L M Jones, his father bought back a few thousand acres, including the homestead block. This was owned by a family company with Llewellyn Jones as manager.

A sale was organised for 6 March 1911. It was a great occasion. The event had been widely publicised, not only in Queensland, but also in other states, for three months before the actual date. Messrs Isles Love and Company of Sydney had been appointed auctioneers. Previously, one single block had been sold to J J Murphy for the construction of a hotel.

Great preparations were made in the weeks before the sale. Several motor cars were commissioned at Goomeri and prospective buyers were driven to all parts of the estate. There had been heavy rain and flooding in February. Despite this, a large number of people came to inspect the blocks.



*(E Brett)*

*Boonara Station*



(D B Euler)

Land Sale in Marquee - Goomeri 1911

On the Monday before the sale, 300 people alighted at the 'small wayside station' of Goomeri. Although a large hall was available to be used as eating and sleeping quarters for the expected influx of buyers, a huge marquee was erected in which to conduct the sale, and if necessary, as extra accommodation.

The Royal Bank established temporary quarters in the marquee. Mr Moffatt, the bank officer sent to Goomeri for the occasion, had a very busy time. On that Monday, there was an assemblage of residents from Kilkivan to Nanango seeking town allotments. On the Tuesday and Wednesday, many settlers from the south arrived seeking land. Opinions of the land for proposed sale varied. Some said it was not as good as that in other parts of the South Burnett. Others saw great potential for dairying and agriculture on the well watered black soil flats.

The sale of township allotments took place on Monday 6 March at 2 pm with unexpected speed, the prices being well above expectation. Most of the buyers were district residents - farmers or men associated with the timber industry. Many intended to establish businesses in the future town.

Those who bought could evidently see the wisdom of getting in early. Business sites went from £110 to £160 for quarter-acre blocks. One corner block was sold for £400.

Residential blocks sold from £30 for quarter-acre blocks to £7 for allotments on the outskirts of the town. Enough blocks were sold to warrant an anticipated population of 1 000, and a total of £8 595 was realised.

A butter factory was pledged for the town. An area was set aside for a show ground to be handed over to a future show society at terms of three years' free rent. A school was to be built by the Government. A church site was purchased by the Methodists for £32. Mr Love, the auctioneer, returned half this money as a gesture of good-will.

The sale ran from 2.00 pm to 5.30 pm. The auctioneer proved very competent, according to contemporary reports, even speaking German to a farmer who knew no English. After the sale most people found accommodation at Murgon, Wondai or Kingaroy.

The following details of the day's sale were given in the *Kingaroy Herald*:

*'Section 1, (adjoining hotel and hall) business sites fronting three-chain road along railway line: Allotment 2, Royal Bank, £160; 3 - Cowen, £160; 4 - QN Bank, £130; 5 - W H Williams, £100; 6 - Keller, £100; 7 - Munro and Smith, £110; 8 - T Greer, £65; 23 (Barambah Road next to hotel) - Coleman, £10; 24 - Anderson, £72.*

*Section 2, north of the railway line, fronting street leading to goods shed and butter factory: 1 - Leslie, £405; 9 - R Hodge, £110; 10 - R Bushnell, £110; 11 and 12 - T J Cahill, £250; 13 and 14 - QN Bank, £250;*

14 - Slater, £125; 16 - Royal Bank, £120; 17 - Cilschesky, £105; 18 - Elford, £75; 19 and 20 - Moore, £144; 21 and 22 - Raff, £106; 23 and 24 - Bushnell, £90; 25 (adjoining butter factory) - Murphy (Kilkivan), £90.

The back allotments (one-acre blocks) were sold as follows: Murphy, £25; Bushnell, £25; Raff, £22; Cilschesky, £35; Royal Bank, £39; QN Bank, £39; Cahill, £50; Fleming, £50.

Fronting Boonara Road: 2, 3, 4 and 5 - G Grey, £391; 6 - Macfarlane £55; 7 - J Mclucas, £52; 8 - Watts, £82.

Section 4, (from level crossing to the hotel): 1 - Seymore, £110; 2 and 3 M Higgins, £200; 4 and 5, £90 each; 6 - £86; 7 - £82, 'purchasers being ladies from Kilkivan'; 8 - £64; 9 - £60; 10 - R Downing, £61; 11, timber-yard block running into railway siding - McNab, £60. The above were three-quarter to two acre blocks.

Large blocks along the Barambah road, from 5 to 14 acres: 7 and 8 at £10 per acre; 5 - Thompson, £13 per acre; 6 - Butler, Gympie £10; 9 - Maudsley, £11 per acre; 4 - Crawford at £14 per acre and three acres in section 1, £42. Section 2 - adjoining butter factory, 4 acres - Martin at £14 per acre; 11 - four acres, Murphy at £13 per acre.

The auctioneer announced that arbitration was proceeding regarding compensation for the railway dam. Whatever was received would be used to build a foot-bridge to connect with the station and business centre.

Section 1, fronting show grounds site: Jensen, £65; section 1, backing frontage blocks: 13 - Murphy, £39; 14 and 15 - Moffatt, £29; 16 and 17 - Rewald, £31. Back residential blocks in section 1, near the hotel quarter-acre blocks, brought £25, £27, £31, £22, among the buyers being Perrett, Lewis and Rewald. Fronting the showgrounds: £13 to £18 - Loynes, Jensen, Wolmershauser and others.

Section 3, facing the railway dam: 49 to 57 - £25 to £40 - Euler, Smith and Warby. Facing the railway line on other side of the dam from station: from £1 to £9 - Smith, Harrison, Waldock and others. One street back - £7 and £8 - J C Forster, Loynes, Smith and others; numbers 48, 47, 62, and 63, on hillside, Lewis, £18 each; 41, 42, 35 and 37 - Latham, £14; 40 to 33, six blocks at £12, H Lindley; 1 on main road near mill site, £26. About 32 allotments on the back line running along the ridge - from £8 to £12 each, McLucas and Rewald and others purchasing three and four; number 30, two acres next to the school site, Lobeigier; mill site, Thompson, five acres at £26 per acre.'

The Boonara Land Sale brought in a total of £60 000, including £8 595 for town allotments. The allotments in the 'infant township' were considered by popular opinion to have brought 'astonishing prices'.

Mr J Murphy had paid £405 for a quarter-acre corner lot. All the town allotments had been sold.

When one considers that at that time the average wage of a worker was £3 per week and that £200 per annum would have been a good 'white collar' salary, the prices appear to have been exceptionally good.

On Tuesday, 7 March, bidding for the farms was commenced. Buyers had come from Victoria, New South Wales and all over Queensland as well as from local areas. Most of the farms were sold. The highest price was £13 per acre for prime creek flat. Most of the blocks were sold for from £4 to £9 per acre.

The following list from the *Kingaroy Herald* gives an account of the buyers and the prices per acre that they paid:

- 'Lot 23, 170 acres at £3/15/- per acre - B V Greber, Montville.*
- Lot 44, 122 acres at £6 per acre - F R Shrank, Memerambi.*
- Lot 50 and 51, 260 acres at £7/2/6 per acre - M McGrath, Cooroy.*
- Lot 52, 109 acres at £4/10/- per acre - J Tapsell, Coominya.*
- Lot 62, 210 acres at £4 per acre - S C Jocumsen, Cooroy.*
- Lot 70 and 78, 1 023 acres at £4/17/6 per acre - Lomas Brothers.*
- Lot 80, 151 acres at £4/12/6 - W Euler, Boonara.*
- Lot 81, 139 acres at £5/5/- C Anderson.*
- Lot 82, W Nash.*
- Lot 83, 123 acres at £7/15/- per acre - F Irvine, Wondai.*
- Lot 85, 114 acres at £5/10/- per acre - E E Isilaub, Greenview.*
- Lot 86, 121 acres at £4/5/- per acre - G W Nash, Cooroy.*
- Lot 87, 142 acres at £4/15/- an acre - Lomas Brothers, Warwick.*
- Lot 90, 153 acres at £5/5/- per acre - Lomas Bros.*
- Lot 91, 147 acres, at £4/5/- per acre - W F Breitreutz, Glamorgan Vale.*
- Lot 95, 92 acres at £4 per acre - G W Martin, Victoria.*
- Lots 96, 92 acres at £5/10/- per acre - J C Frederickson, Lake Clarendon.*
- Lot 97, 152 acres at £3 per acre - M Whelan, Tarampa.*
- Lots 102 and 103, 337 acres - H C Nissen, Childers.*
- Lot 104, 97 acres at £5/7/6 per acre - J Anderson, Victoria.*
- Lot 105, 99 acres at £4/5/- per acre, J Anderson.*
- Lots 106 and 107, 174 acres at £3/2/6 per acre - A Berggran, Childers.*
- Lot 108, 89 acres at £3/2/6 per acre - G W Martin, Melbourne.*
- Lot 109, 74 acres at £4/10/- per acre - J Nickols, Isis.*
- Lot 110, 105 acres at £5/10/- per acre - C Jensen, Cooran.*
- Lot 111, 56 acres at £13 per acre - W F Bandidt, Lake Clarendon.*
- Lot 112, 35 acres at £8/12/6 per acre - F W Klumpp, Versdale.*
- Lot 113, 57 acres at £7/10/- per acre - T Fleming, Brisbane.*
- Lot 114, 67 acres at £5/5/- per acre - H A Hanson, Forest Hill.*
- Lots 115 and 116, 147 acres at £4/2/6 per acre - J J Murphy, Goomeri.*
- Lot 117, 32 acres at £7/2/6 per acre - W Doggrell, Wondai.*
- Lot 118, 33 acres at £7/2/6 per acre - A Hayes, Port Douglas.*
- Lot 119, 33 acres at £6/15/- per acre - A Hayes.*
- Lot 120, 48 acres at £8/10/- per acre - A Hayes.*



*Lots 121 and 122, 63 acres at £5/10/- per acre - J T O'Sullivan, Murwillumbah.*  
*Lot 123, 152 acres at £4/7/6 per acre - M Higgins, Wondai.*  
*Lot 129, 47 acres at £8/15/- per acre - H Raff, Brisbane.*  
*Lot 130, 68 acres at £4 per acre - H Blakeney, Augathella.*  
*Lot 134, 34 acres at £7 per acre - Edwin Thompson, Boonara.*  
*Lot 138, 94 acres at £1/15/- per acre - S Harrison, Cedar Grove.*  
*Lot 142, 100 acres, at £5/5/- per acre - W J Anderson, Wondai.*  
*Lot 148, 104 acres at £2 per acre - J O Moreland, Kilkivan.*  
*Lots 149 and 150, 242 acres at £2/10/- per acre - J C Mayne, Kinbombi.*  
*Lots 155 and 162, 1 360 acres at £2/7/6 per acre - John Stumm, Coongan.*  
*Lots 169 and 172, 638 acres at £1/13/- per acre - W Lobegeier, Murgon.'*

The above list is taken from the *Kingaroy Herald* and not from official documents, therefore its complete accuracy cannot be vouched for. However, it serves to give a clear indication of the success of the sale.

Some of the landholders who were already established in the area took advantage of the sale to add to their properties. Of the original buyers two families still remain on the land they bought at the sale - Don Nissen, grandson of Hans Nissen, and Bill Bandidt, grandson of W F Bandidt, whose piece of choice creek flat was the most expensive land per acre at the sale. Mr Gordon Anderson and his sister Jean (Mrs Eland) still live on the property that their father, Mr C Anderson bought, although it has been sold to Mr Boyd Hatton.

Altogether, three-quarters of the land was sold at the auction. More blocks continued to be taken up steadily in the ensuing years. Mr James Lawrie, who had represented Isles Love and Co at the auction, remained in Goomeri to sell the remaining blocks. As well, some of the original large selections from the nineteenth century were reduced in size and blocks were made available from these larger properties for closer settlement.

Some of the town allotments and rural blocks had been bought by land speculators and were sold within a few years. A few of the farming blocks lay idle or were grazed by cattle from other properties while the owners organized housing for their families, as well as outbuildings, stock and equipment to make the properties working enterprises.

Regardless of this, however, Goomeri had become a township, and the surrounding area was entering into its golden years of prosperity.





## Chapter 10

---

### THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

#### 1. IN THE BEGINNING

The rise and fall of the timber industry in Kilkivan Shire is an integral and important factor in the fortunes of the district. The forests in this area have contributed vast quantities of timber and wealth to the development of Queensland.

There was no thought given in the early days to the value of timber as a commodity, or to the conservation of forests. The first settlers were more concerned with clearing the land to facilitate growth of natural grasses for pasture and to provide timber for fences and buildings. Due to transport difficulties, it was either impossible or uneconomical to exploit cut timber; trees, once ringbarked or felled, were usually left to rot on the ground.

There are records as far back as the early 1870's of timber being milled in the Kilkivan area. The men employed in the industry combined with other millers in the Wide Bay-Burnett in complaining about competition from imported timbers - mostly from USA. They said that it cost six shillings and sixpence per 100 super feet to bring timber to Maryborough by bullock dray. American timber was rafted downstream at a fraction of the cost. Also, the cost of transport by boat to other Australian markets was almost as much as the cost of sending timber across the Pacific. They tried unsuccessfully to have the tariff on imported timber increased.

In 1876, residents of Kilkivan petitioned the government to declare a timber reserve on Wonga Creek as a camping ground for travelling stock. An 1880 report of the Lands Department declared that the only progress made in forestry surveying was to set apart some areas as timber reserves, which, it assumed, would ultimately become state forests. It admitted there was a continual clamour to have these areas thrown open for selection, especially by land-hungry selectors, who tried to exert parliamentary influence.



*Carl Gesch - early teamster*

*(J Brown)*

In the Kilkivan district, there were vast supplies of pine, cedar, ironbark, and gum. From the 1880's on, selectors were also moving into the area. In many cases, they realized the money to be made by selling off felled timber. The early pastoralists made little use of scrub areas, but, with the increasing demand for land, there was agitation from would-be landholders for the government to open up these formerly disregarded areas.

The earliest timber exploited in the South Burnett part of the shire came from Jimmy's Scrub in the Manumbar area, from Nangur on the foothills of Boat Mountain and from Planted Creek. This district also has a large number of state forests and timber reserves.

The first timber to be felled was hoop pine which was grown at Gallangowan, Manumbar and in the Kilkivan area, and bunya pines, which were more scattered and not so prolific.

Most of the creek flats were covered with blue gum, while ironbark and spotted gum were common throughout the whole area. Cedar was once grown near Widgee. It was plentiful before the end of the nineteenth century, but unfortunately has been worked out.

In the early 1900's, as most areas in the colony became more closely settled and towns sprang up, there was a great demand for timber.

## 2. KILKIVAN TIMBER

In its early days as a timber railhead, thirty teams operated hauling timber to the rail from stands nearby. Timber played an important part in the growth of Kilkivan. There was a seemingly endless supply of pine, red cedar and iron bark in the area. The arrival of the railhead in 1886 was a great boost to the industry.

From then on to the end of the century, Kilkivan acted as the railhead for timber as far afield as Nanango. Mr Charlie Birch of Maryborough, now in his nineties, remembers as a boy travelling with his father from Nanango to Kilkivan regularly with loads of timber and other goods.

There were large forests of hoop pine on Mount Sinai at the head of Fat Hen Creek. The Black Snake Range lay between Mount Sinai and the railhead, but eventually some daring teamsters made the hazardous crossing. These included Jack and Charles Moreland, Charles Waldock, George Zahnleiter and Charles Houghton.

The Black Snake hardwood stands have been regarded as among the best in the state and over the years have yielded large amounts of good timber. The piles for the Hornibrook Highway and Mackay Harbour were obtained from here.

Negotiating the range was difficult. Once Mr Jack Moreland's wagon capsized near the top of the range; logs were strewn down the mountain-side. It took two days hard work to right the wagon and retrieve the load. On another occasion on this same track, the chain broke, spilling the logs and sending the bullocks in all directions.

## 3. THE TEAMSTERS

Among the teamsters, who were well known in the Kilkivan area, were Mark Knowles, the Baxter Brothers, 'Dobbie' Brown, Jack and George Webb, S W Gesch, W Burton and T J West. Sam Gesch was one of the best known.

Jack Moreland at one time lost eighteen bullocks with redwater. By the early 1900's cattle ticks were just beginning to make their appearance.

In the early days of the railway, Woolooga also acted as a railhead for timber. There were thirty teamsters operating several plants. They hauled logs from stands at Widgee, Cunjule, Pine Mountain and Bongmuller Creek.

The Baxter family arrived in Kilkivan in 1902. John Henry Baxter, who was eighteen years old at the time, and his brother Samuel, who was sixteen, brought their teams from Biggenden to work in the timber. Their father, who had been a teamster, had worked on the railway at Mitchell and at the Mount Shamrock mine outside Biggenden. Their grandmother, 'Granny' Baxter, owned and operated the 'Live and Let Live' Hotel at Biggenden, a stopping place for the coaches and teams on their way through from Maryborough to the Burnett.



*Early Bullock Team (J Brown)*



*Sam Gesch's team (Kilkivan Historical Society)*

Arthur 'Dad' Bishop told the Baxter boys about the good stands of hoop pine at Black Snake. Their father died soon after but the boys decided to work the timber around Kilkivan themselves.

These two lads had a younger brother Jimmy, who won the Lilley Medal awarded for the highest pass in the State Scholarship Examination (entrance to secondary school). The Baxters, on the death of their father, took responsibility for Jimmy's education - paying his fees at Nudgee College and later at Queensland University, where he became the Rhodes Scholar of his year. The scholarship was deferred because of the advent of the First World War. Unfortunately, while doing laboratory work, Jimmy lost the sight of an eye and later died of blood poisoning.

The Baxters found the Black Snake road very hazardous. On one occasion a wagon wheel went over John's foot, taking three toes off. The Webb sisters, from Black Snake, were going past in a buckboard and took him to Kilkivan. The Baxters later carted timber from Mudlo. In those days, the roads were full of teamsters carting timber.

When trucks were introduced, John and Sam were reluctant to forsake their bullock teams and refused to convert. When timber contractors who owned trucks cut prices the brothers decided to retire from timber hauling.

John married Mary Margaret Colch in 1908, and bought a house in Kilkivan. They had five children. He also owned freehold paddocks near Kilkivan, one acquired in 1915 and another in 1934. He had a ten square mile grazing lease on Sawpit Creek, starting at Wrattan's Camp in the Black Snake Range. He retired from timber in 1946 to give more time to cattle raising.

Barney, John's son, served in the Second World War. After he was discharged, he did carpentry and joinery as a post-war Reconstruction Course. He spent fifteen years in the building industry in Maryborough, before returning to Kilkivan in 1960, and taking over his father's grazing properties. He purchased a further block on the Black Snake Road. John died in 1957. His daughter, Mary (Mrs D'Arcy), lives on a property outside Goomeri.

#### **4. THE SAWMILL AT BLACK SNAKE**

The Black Snake Mill was established by Raspus and Coop, who later sold out to T H Spencer of Goomeri. He sold it to Hayden Shire. The next company to own it was Allen and Company - Mr John Allen being part-owner and manager of the mill.

At the peak of its operation, the mill supplied timber for council buildings, local schools and private residents. The mill worked very profitably until the early fifties.

Allan and Company sold out to North Holdens (Strakers from Gympie). Six months later the mill closed. Part of the mill was transferred to Gympie.

Mr Allen remembers the large number of teamsters who worked in the Black Snake area, the best known being the Bishops and the Baxters. When he first took over the management of the mill, there were fourteen people employed. In the 1950's, the number had dropped to seven, but more modern machinery had been installed.

When bullock teams were being replaced by trucks, Mr Allen bought and managed a fleet of motor vehicles in conjunction with the mill. He later sold these to Jimmy Herbohn. A Caterpillar Tractor (D6) was used by Jim Choate for timber work.



*Jim Choate*

### *Snigging with Caterpillar tractors*

Electric power was installed and used extensively in the mill's operations when it came to the area. Clearing, costing £700, was undertaken by the company to make way for the power line. This was found to be more economical than paying the Electricity Board to do the job.

During its operation the mill cut large quantities of pine (which was on quota), as well as hardwoods - ironbark, blackbutt, yellow and white stringy bark, bumpy and crows ash, box green heart, brown tulip oak and a small amount of cedar.

## 5. THE SPENCER MILLS AT OAKVIEW AND KILKIVAN

The Spencer family came to Kilkivan in 1868 seeking gold. After the gold rush, William Spencer took up land at Fat Hen Creek. Charles Spencer, his son, who was born in 1871, took over the property and added to it over the years. He and his wife had six children.

Toward the end of the depression, the family decided to buy a portable sawmill, cutting timber from their own properties. In April 1934, Mr C E Baldwin, who previously owned the plant, was engaged to establish the mill and teach two of the sons, Bill (aged 21) and George (aged 19), how to operate it. After thirty-one working days, the boys felt confident enough to manage on their own. They cut timber to supply the local market. It was decided to improve the mill and shift it to a more convenient place.

In April 1935, the mill was moved to Oakview Siding to give it access to the forestry pine supplies. This site had the added advantage of being close to the railway. The years 1935 - 1936 were spent in obtaining as many pine logs as possible, limited by the ability of the forestry contractor to deliver the timber and the company to pay for them. The balance of time was spent cutting hardwood, subject to logs available, and orders received.

In 1938, a licence and quota system was introduced by the Forestry Department. This restricted the mill to a certain yearly limit and affected the viability of the mill. A large amount of scrub timber was used to make cases cut for the fruit trade, and pine was cut for the case tops. Very little hardwood was milled until 1947. During the war years, orders for the military were fulfilled. The Public Works Department also required timber. Butter boxes were needed for the export trade.

In 1954, when power was extended to rural areas by the Wide Bay Regional Electricity Board, the mill immediately installed it. Larger motors were acquired, making production easier and faster.

In June 1956, the hoop pine plantation at Oakview Forestry Reserve came up for thinning. Spencer Brothers were able to buy a 300 000 super feet per year entitlement. It was then decided to install a larger plant to cop with the extra timber. Thinnings from the Cinnabar area were also acquired. About this time the sawmill was receiving more orders than there was timber to cut, so the company bought another 300 000 super feet entitlement when it became available at auction.

In 1960, at the auction for Jimmy's Scrub Reserve, George Spencer bought entitlements, even though he had to bid high to get them.

In 1961, an Australia-wide credit squeeze caused a decline in sales, but the Spencer Sawmill was able to survive without loss of customers. They even increased their cutting production each year.





*Kilkivan Mill*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*



*Oakview Mill*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*

In late 1963, the Kilkivan Sawmill was purchased. The thinning quota was transferred to the Oakview mill but permission to transfer the pine licence was refused by the Forestry Department, as they required the Kilkivan Mill to be kept operational.

During 1964, another thinning quota was obtained from the Gallangowan area, bringing the total entitlements to 1 650 000 super feet - about 450 to 500 truck loads of logs per year.

In 1969, the Forestry Department permitted sawmills to amalgamate. As George Spencer's health was beginning to fail, it was decided to merge with other sawmills - North Coast Sawmill at Cooroy, S and S at Gympie and Wilson Hart at Maryborough. North Coast joined with the original hardwood and pine licence, S and S and Wilson Hart amalgamated with the thinning quotas.

S and S, Gympie, was built up to take all the thinnings, and in December 1971 the Oakview mill was closed. It was then cutting approximately 2.5 million superfeet of thinnings per year.

Numerous members of the Spencer family, spread over several generations, worked at the mills while they were operating. Victor Harwood, grandson of Frederick Harwood, who had selected land in the early 1900's at Cinnabar, married Lillian Spencer. After his marriage, they went to Oakview to work, living at first in a tent. He worked in the mill and his wife cooked meals for her brothers, George and Billy Spencer, as well as her own family. The Harwoods, who had a family of four small children, including twins, moved to a hut and finally to a house.

## 6. KILKIVAN SAWMILL

The Kilkivan sawmill was built close to the railway yards in the twenties by Mr C C Jones for Mr Hector Denyer. Mr Jones operated the mill until it was sold to Mr Alf Pearson from Maryborough, who also built and rented a number of houses in Kilkivan. When the Spencer operations were amalgamated and the mill was closed, the building was bought for removal by Mr Reg Lahiff.

## 7. GOOMERI TIMBER - THE SAWMILLS OF ROSS AND COMPANY

The first sawmill in the Goomeri district was established by Ross and Company in 1908, at Elgin Vale. It was situated on the bank of Moonda Waamba Creek in Water Reserve 81. This company consisted of William Ross, his step-son Frederick Thurecht and brother-in-law, George Wieland. The mill was used for cutting timber from the nearby stands.

After the land sale, another mill for planing timber, brought from the Elgin Vale Mill, was opened in Goomeri. Houses for the owners and workers at the mill were among the first to be built in the town. The new mill was situated where the swimming pool and sports complex was later built.



*Elgin Vale Mill*

*(M Owens)*



*Goomeri Mill*

*(M Owens)*

About 1914, Ross and Company decided to shift the Elgin Vale operation to Goomeri, making one large mill which undertook the two processes of cutting and planing. The mill, at that time, employed a large workforce. It was later burnt down but a new building was erected on the same site.

Shortly after, George Wieland and Fred Thurecht also left but Bertha Thurecht married Frank Wright, who came to work in the mill and brought up his family in Goomeri. Frank's son, Dudley, was later engaged in saw-milling, while the other son, Arthur, operated a pharmacy in the town for many years.

The families, who were related, had a long and varied association with the district. When two brothers, Nicolaus and George Thurecht, emigrated from Germany in 1855, they landed in Maryborough. The pastoral runs in the Burnett were at that time in need of shepherds, and as Germans were highly regarded as workers, the two men were employed on Boonara Run.

According to the family records, they found very cordial relations existed between aborigines and settlers on that station. It was felt that German workers got on better with the natives than either the British or the Chinese. The two brothers stayed for two years, then left for Maryborough.

Nicholaus later took out a licence to cut timber in the Wide Bay area - eucalyptus, hoop pine and bunya pine. One of his sons, John William, owned two properties near the township of Woolooga on Bongmuller Creek in 1898 - 1899. George also had an early timbergetter's licence.

Nicholas, son of George, the other brother, married Amelia Wieland in 1883. She was the daughter of John Augustus and Pauline Wieland, who worked at Boobyjan and Boonara Runs in the 1860's. Nicholas and Amelia had seven children. When the eldest was twelve, Nicholas died suddenly. Three years later his widow, Amelia, married William Ross and had four more children.

It was this family, together with Amelia's second son, Fred Thurecht, and Amelia's brother, George Wieland, who came to Elgin Vale and later to Goomeri to start the sawmilling business. George Wieland took up a farm at Goomeri West. His son later worked this farm before it was sold to the Bandidt family. George's eldest daughter, Myrtle, married Arthur Owens of Glen Retreat, and she still lives in the area.

Mr Ross operated the mill until he died in 1940. His two eldest daughters, Ethel and Alma, ran the office. Alma later married Arthur Duffey, who had come to Goomeri to start a plumbing business in a small shop close to the mill. After their marriage in 1924, they built the combined home and business premises still occupied by Arthur's son, Ron. Stan Ross, William's son, lived for many years in Goomeri. Mabel Ross, another daughter, married Goomeri businessman, Harold Wimberley.

The mill passed out of the Ross family's hands on the death of William Ross, but continued to operate successfully for many years, despite another fire and a

wind storm that played havoc with the building. It was finally closed in 1958 and dismantled soon after.

When the mill was in operation, there was a loop branch line from the railway for the easy handling of timber railed from Goomeri to other places. This mill was established before the town had come into being. The enterprise, and the family who had established it, played a large part in the early prosperity of the district.

## 8. KABUNGA AND KINBOMBI SAWMILLS

The Duffer Scrub near Jimmy's Scrub was being worked about the end of the First World War. In the early 1900's, Mr A Boldery built a sawmill near Kabunga Creek and processed timber found nearby, which was later taken over by H A Skyring. A settlement had grown around the mill, with a boarding house for single men, houses for married staff and a school.

In the early twenties, Maisie Brukenbach (Mrs Pearson), whose father drove a bullock team supplying timber to the sawmill, travelled as a small child in a box on a bullock wagon to Kabunga when the family first went to live at the mill settlement.

In 1925, the mill was destroyed by fire. However, Skyrings rebuilt at Kinbombi near the railway siding. Here they relocated their workforce and had the closed school at Kabunga shifted with all its furnishings and brought to Kinbombi. Families that worked at the mill included the Wilsons and Bradleys. Albert Skyring managed the mill and Ted Schneider was the accountant.

The mill was closed in the late twenties at the time of the down-turn in the timber industry.

## 9. T H SPENCER

T H Spencer, timber merchant and commission agent, originally came from Bundaberg. He worked in the Burnett, having gained experience in timber at Nerang. He then turned to the contracting side of the business.

For five years he was involved in sawmilling in Gayndah and Biggenden, before acquiring his first mill in the Kilkivan Shire at Sefton near Daddamarine. About 1927, he transferred this mill to Elgin Vale (Scrubby Paddock), 25 miles from Goomeri. He only worked at full pressure for six months before trade became slack. For a time he hauled log timber to Goomeri Railway Station and had an office in town. At Scrubby Paddock he established a settlement and built a school.

Being one of the first in the district to realize the advantage of motor transport, he bought Linn Caterpillar tractors for use in the scrub, and a fleet of motor trucks for the haulage of timber.

He became councillor for Division 3 of Kilkivan Shire Council, and later, chairman for many years, and was instrumental in persuading the council to use mechanical graders on roads, spending his own money on improving roads in the Elgin Vale district. These were private roads but were used by the public.

As well as his timber interests, he owned the property, Langley, on which he placed workers to manage a huge herd of dairy cows. Hiawatha, a resumption from Weivelhurst Station, was also owned by him for a time.

One of Mr Spencer's most trusted employees was Mr David Trudgian, who worked as his accountant for many years. Mr Trudgian continued to live in Goomeri and died recently at the age of 86. His daughter, Joyce, Mrs Henningsen, and her daughter Narelle still live in Goomeri.

#### 10. THE ELGIN VALE MILL

Mr T H Spencer started operating the mill at Elgin Vale in October 1927. In November of that year, he sent away 380 000 super feet of timber for the month and for two years, his wages bill amounted to between £3 000 and £4 000 per month. During the Depression this dropped to £800. The average wage per month would have been about £10 at the time.

In 1930, because of the Depression and the downturn in the timber industry, the mill closed down. However, Mr Spencer continued his operation in the logging of timber. This he brought to Goomeri Railway Station and railed all over Queensland.

When conditions improved, the mill started up again. A steam-driven engine with enclosed belts was installed. It was capable of handling 15 000 super feet of timber a day, but only able to work at full pressure for a short time. It made butter boxes for the Maryborough Butter Factory. This engine came from T Robinson and Son, England, and was brought out by sailing ship. A smaller engine was installed for planing.

A small town grew up around the mill with cottages for workers, a boarding house for twelve single men and a school. There were twenty-five houses, an office, shop and a cookhouse.

Comments at the time were that the mill site to be ideal: *'at the bottom of a rising slope at a point where it dropped very quickly, allowing the floor of the mill to be built up and plenty of room underneath for the boilers etc ... Above the mill, on the gently rising slope, thousands of feet of log timber could be stored and easily rolled down the hill as required'*.

At one time when the mill was working at full pressure, over 10 000 super feet of timber was seen on this area.

The mill, for the time at which it operated, was considered *'a most modern structure'*. It contained a steam engine with two boilers underneath the

building, fired from the accumulated sawdust. Machinery was the latest available, with safety features for the protection of the workmen from belts and other moving parts.

In 1943, the mill was burnt down but was rebuilt in 1945. After the fire, it used only one boiler.

Mr Spencer sold the mill in 1946 to Wilson Hart of Maryborough, who installed Mr Roy Veritz as manager. Other managers were Messrs G Risk, R Davies and Dick Collard. For the last years of the mill's operation, these managers also acted as foremen and benchmen. The machinery of the mill was kept in good order by Mr Collard and welder, Mr J McGhies.

Mr Frank Coleman of Goomeri was one carrier who delivered processed timber from the mill by truck to Goomeri Railway Station. From here it was usually sent to Maryborough. Over those years, the mill usually employed about twenty men at a time.

A bad fire at the Maryborough mill of Wilson Hart resulted in the firm relocating its staff at Elgin Vale. To make up for the short-fall caused by the inability of the Maryborough mill to operate, the Elgin Vale mill worked continuously around the clock, with three shifts a day.

Electricity did not reach Elgin Vale until 1965. The mill continued to operate its steam engines, using electricity for lighting only. After the mill had been shut down for any length of time, the steam engine needed a day to reach a sufficient head of steam to work the mill. The engine, despite its age, continued to work very efficiently even with large logs.

The mill operated until April 1987, using the original steam engine. Its closure was due to the downturn in the building industry and the depletion of local timber supplies. At the time of closure, the mill was employing eleven men and processing twenty cubic metres of timber a day. Besides the mill, only six houses, the barracks and the school remain. The school, which had become a two-teacher school in 1965 because of a rise in local population, was closed in 1977. It was bought by the Elgin Vale QCWA and is now used as their rest room.

The mill, which has been operating under the management of Mr Bob Mercer in recent years, has now been handed over jointly to Kilkivan and Nanango Shire Councils as a National Trust building. It is thought that the councils will keep it as a historic tourist attraction.

## 11. DIFFICULTIES IN THE TWENTIES

There were great softwood reserves of hoop pine and bunya pine held by the forestry board at Manumbar, Elginvale and the surrounding district within a radius of thirty miles of Goomeri, but only small portions were allowed to be cut.

At that time (in the 1920's), the forestry reserves at Manumbar consisted of about 10 000 acres; the reserve adjoining, also 10 000 acres; and that at Elgin Vale (Scrubby Creek), 7 600 acres. On the other side of Goomeri at Planted Creek, Daddamarine and Fawley, there were also large forests.

These had provided employment for a large number of men, but, by the thirties, the workforce had been reduced to half. The industry, according to local operators, was '*stagnating*'.

The slump was caused, in the opinion of mill owners, by the practice of importing timber. However, it also appeared that the Forestry Board had estimated that, at the rate of usage, timber reserves of native pine would last only another twelve years, and therefore some form of rationing was imperative. '*Silviculture*' - the replacement of timber stands, needed to be practised in order to replenish the depleted forests and to ensure timber for the future.

This was a slow, long-term process, which, however, would ultimately maintain supplies of timber. It meant a temporary lapse in the prosperity of the timber industry, particularly in towns such as Goomeri, that depended on such an industry for their prosperity. Between June 1925 and June 1929, the aggregate increase in available silvicultural estates decreased.

Many residents of Goomeri at that time regarded these precautions as unnecessary. They contended that the high royalty placed on locally grown timber by the government, and its policy of slowing up the use of reserves would allow foreign timber to enter the market. Also when fewer timber lots were thrown open for cutting, the scarcity of timber would push prices up.

Timber prices soared and costs became exorbitant, which meant that foreign timber was a better proposition for the buying public. Many sawmills in Queensland stopped work. At the time, one of the largest buildings in the business section of Goomeri was constructed using foreign timber, its price being lower than that of the local product.

On timber standing in the scrub, 32 miles from the railway, a royalty of eleven shillings and sixpence per 100 super feet was imposed. The Forestry Board, when selling timber, charged £1/0/8 for A-quality and three shillings and three pence less for B-quality delivered to the railway, so that, instead of paying an average of nineteen shillings per 1 000 super feet of timber, they had to pay an average of £1/0/3. The Department was scoring an advantage of one shilling and three pence per 100 super feet.

One of the Goomeri timber merchants maintained that, if royalties could be reduced by half, all the sawmills in Southern Queensland could be re-opened, giving work to a large number of people.

In the late twenties and early thirties, unemployment was rife. Royalties were much less in New South Wales.



The rural community was also complaining about the amount of valuable land locked up as forestry reserves. They contended that the land could be better used for pastoral and agricultural purposes. In the Kilkivan Shire, it was stated, such acreage *'suitable for banana growing'* was thus tied up.

They also questioned the Forestry Department's accuracy in estimating the number of trees in reserves. Gangs of men were employed in surveying the forests. They marked a certain area and counted the trees, then moved on a further distance and followed the same method. It seemed a slow process with very little to show for the work done. It was local opinion that there were tremendous quantities of timber that, in many instances, the department knew nothing about.

They considered that the amount of growth of a tree in a year represented an enormous amount of timber, but there was *'more timber dying in forests than was cut'*. *'Posterity'* they claimed, *'should be able to look after itself and the land thrown open and closely settled'*.

It was thought that at that stage an industry dependent on man-planted trees would die out; therefore local timber should be exploited to its fullest. If it ran out, foreign timber could be introduced. Land cleared would serve the public better if it was thrown open to settlers for dairying and agriculture. They felt that many of the trees were being left in the scrub to deteriorate.

On the occasion of the opening of the new Police Station and Court House in Goomeri in 1930, State Member of Parliament, Mr E H C Clayton MLA, said that the timber question was one that the Chamber of Commerce should take up with the Federal Member for Wide Bay, Mr B H Corser MHR, to have a heavy import duty imposed on foreign timber.

Mr Clayton maintained that the Queensland Government was trying to use as much local timber as possible in all of its building programmes. He estimated that only 50% of the rationed timber would be cut, leaving the rest in the scrubs, and that, if the timber industry was not hindered, it could provide jobs for the unemployed, resulting in less pay-out of dole by the government.

Even at that early stage, there was a realisation that natural stands of timber could not continue to be exploited without some thought for the future. Unfortunately the Government brought in these measures of control at a time when the economy of the whole country was suffering from the Depression.

Some mills in the district closed during this period never to reopen. But, by the end of the decade, the Second World War had begun, causing a demand for timber which was to last until the post-war housing shortage was overcome in the late fifties.

Some mills re-opened and were able to take advantage of this boom period before the ultimate decline of the timber industry.

## 12. GOOMERI TEAMSTERS

Among the early Goomeri teamsters who arrived in 1902 were Harry and Jacob Eisentrager, Stafford and Tom Greer, Gus Euler, S A and J G Perrett, Sam Gesch, Mark Knowles, Frank Wex, Tom and Gary Crawford, Charlie and Jack Moreland and Carl Gesch. This last-named man was a legend. He was an ingenious man at mending equipment.

## 13. TIMBERGETTERS' ASSOCIATION

The Timbergetters' Association was established in the 1930's in Goomeri. It worked to achieve better conditions and higher pay for workers and better contracts for owner-operators in the industry. Monthly meetings were well attended. Mr P M Perrett was the first president. A tireless worker for the association was Mr John Baxter who travelled round the Kilkivan - Goomeri area promoting the association. Mr Stan Gatfield, a Goomeri solicitor, was secretary for a time.

This association was an attempt to prevent any union the timbergetters might have being swallowed up by large unions, such as the Australian Workers' Union.

The names of John H Baxter, P M Perrett, H E Wilson, W W Starkey, R H Crole, R H Solway and J W Zwisler appear as the executive that drew up the rules of the association. It ceased to operate after the Second World War.

## 14. THE TRAVELLING SAWMILL

Mr Fred Hoskins set up a portable steam-driven mill near Toomcul Creek on the Manumbar - Kinbombi Road. It later moved to a site near Tankallaman Creek. Eventually this mill was bought by D S Brims and Sons. Both this mill and the Manumbar Mill had ceased to work by the late 1960's.

Other travelling sawmills operated in the Kilkivan Shire during the period, when there was plenty of local timber available and an upsurge in the building of houses and farm buildings. These could be easily located for a time where needed. Then they would move on to the next locality where work was available.

## 15. KINBOMBI PLY WOOD MILL - MANUMBAR

The Kinbombi Plywood Mill operated at Manumbar alongside the timber mill. Hoop pine was used in the manufacture of this specialised product. The plywood trade demanded perfect logs - straight, cylindrical and large.

Plywood (three-ply) consisted of three strips of veneered timber, glued and pressed together, the grain running in alternate directions to give strength. Each strip had a thickness of one-sixteenth of an inch, making the standard three-ply sheet three-sixteenths of an inch. If desired, further strips could be

added to the sheets to give four or five-ply thicknesses. The logs were cut into lengths of 6 feet 6 inches and then boiled to soften the timber.

They were next carried to the veneer lathe and trimmed. When cylindrical, they were shaved to a thickness of one-sixteenth of an inch. The thin strips came away continuously like rolls of paper. An enormous quantity of white milky sap poured away from the blade of the cutting machine.

As the sheets emerged from the lathe, they were carried back for a distance of fifteen feet. The process was repeated, each sheet being stored on top of the other. After a certain number had been done, they passed to the air clippers to be cut to size. They were then sent to the drying sheds, where row upon row of strips could be seen drying, a process that took a week.

They went back to the mill where one sheet at a time was passed between two rollers and given a coating of glue on either side, the grain of which ran in the opposite direction in the middle section. This gave the ply its strength.

The three sheets were forced together under great pressure and allowed to dry. Next they were sawn to regulation size and wired together in packs of twelve sheets ready to be marketed. At its peak, this mill treated 25 000 super feet of timber per week. The manager was Mr R B Nutting.

#### 16. THE MANUMBAR MILL



*Manumbar Mill*

*(H Franz)*

The Manumbar Timber Company started a sawmill under the management of Mr H Thomsett in 1917. It was situated in the same grounds as the plywood mill. The yards, at the height of operation, were piled high with sawn timber which was transported at first by bullock teams, and later by trucks, to Kinbombi Siding from whence it was railed all over the State.

Twenty-three men were employed at its peak, but this dropped to fifteen as the 1930's Depression hit the country and orders for timber slackened off. It was capable of handling a large amount of timber. In its later years of operation it was owned by Brett and Company. This company also bought the plywood mill and operated the two mills with the one engine for a time.

A small township sprang up around the two mills. It included a school, a hall, houses and a number of shops. Mr Gordon Chamberlain ran a general store, butcher's shop and post office at the settlement. Two schools operated in the Manumbar area.

Mr Thomsett and his sons were keen cricketers and several cricket teams played regularly. Tennis was also played. A sub-branch of Goomeri QCWA met at Manumbar in the twenties. A hall was erected in the early thirties by voluntary labour, and was used as a church by several denominations - Catholic, Anglican and Presbyterian. It was also used as a Sunday School by Mrs Thomsett, and as a school for a time. Mr Jim Batts visited Manumbar in the fifties with his travelling picture show. Dances were held regularly in the hall and every year the 'Bachelors of Manumbar Mills' would send out invitations to a formal ball.

It seems that the Manumbar hall was the hub of social activity for the mill and timber workers and the surrounding rural community. It was destroyed by fire in 1962.

A railway line was said to have been surveyed from Kinbombi to Coothing to shift timber, but it was never built.

The Manumbar Mill closed in 1967. At the time Mr Dick O'Brien was manager.

## 17. BRIMS MILL - GALLANGOWAN

A small mill was operating in the Gallangowan area as early as the 1920's. The first houses for workers were built before the Forestry settlement was established. Around 1935, Mr Fred Hoskins was managing the mill, which was originally steam-driven. Later this was replaced by a diesel engine. Mr Toby McIntosh operated gangs of girder cutters around Gallangowan in the thirties.

Brim's Mill, as it was called, continued to operate two miles from the Gallangowan Forestry Reserve in the 1960's. It cut knots out of thinnings from the forestry for two years. During its operation, it dealt almost exclusively with thinnings from the forestry reserve.

## 18. THE MANUMBAR MEN

Men were employed, not only at the mills, but also cutting and hauling timber. Mr Jack Boreham felled and carted logs and timber to Kinbombi. He started around the Gallangowan area in 1929 and cut 20 000 000 super feet of timber in twenty years. Mr Jimmy Graham and Mr Ernie Saib had bullock teams. Three Franz brothers - Ted, Bert and Eric - also worked in the scrub. Other haulers and cutters were Jimmy Grensill, Messrs Krafft, Dollery, Chillcott, Lacey and Laherty. Names associated with the area were Talman, Fisher, Morris, Taylor, Trace, Prendergast, Altman, Heeb and Abbot. The four Adams brothers - Sammie, Archie, Dave and Wally - were all bullock teamsters.

The two Mackie Brothers, Sam and Alec, worked in the ply mill as maintenance men and built many of the houses required for the workers. Mr Phil O'Neill, who married Elsie Dahlke of Goomeri, worked at both the mills at Manumbar. He was maintenance engineer in charge of the boilers.

## 19. THE TIMBER PEOPLE

Mr Percy Perrett, on coming home from the First World War, helped his brothers, Sealey and George, who were carting timber by bullock team. He also did some clearing for George. For a while, he worked in the Ross and Company sawmill as a tailer-out on the planing machine.

In the early twenties, he joined the Forestry Department as a sub-foreman. He was engaged in liberation thinning - weeding out small growth, enabling good trees space to grow to maturity. In this capacity, he worked at Black Snake, at a time when the roads were little more than tracks, travelling about on horseback, camping in tents and always carrying a compass to ensure that he did not get lost in the scrub. He would return to Goomeri at weekends. He was also engaged in liberation thinning at Gallangowan, Manumbar and outside Wondai. Later he carted timber from Planted Creek by bullock wagon. Percy cut the timber and his brother Herb managed the bullock teams.

Mr Jim Knipe of Goomeri spent thirty-five years in the timber industry. His first job in the shire was working on a road from Woolooga to Widgee. He had his own truck and was contracted to work with council employees. It was in the early thirties and wages were being cut for lack of money. The payment for a man with his own truck was dropped from £15 per week to £11/5/-.

During this time he met and later married Violet Anderson, daughter of a local selector-blacksmith.

He then obtained the right to work on a stand of timber at Planted Creek. The Forestry department gave contractors the right to work on patches of timber, in this case 200 acres in area. He had to clear timber 60 inches in circumference, measured at a height of 4 feet (breast height). This timber was then carted to Kinbombi. The contractor also had to organise the marketing of the timber.

His family lived in a two-roomed hut. They moved to Goomeri when their daughter Betty was old enough to attend school. Mrs Knipe has pleasant memories of their life at Planted Creek.

Mr Knipe also worked at Jimmy's Scrub and Coothing in the same capacity. He later bought T H Spencer's trucks and worked at Elgin Vale and for a time he worked with Schachts at Mudlo. They had bullock teams; he had trucks.

Mr Aub Lane, whose father selected a block at Manumbar after the First World War, worked for a time in the Manumbar Mill. He maintains that the workforce at both mills at the height of its operation was about 150 and that there were about 400 people living around the mills. There were often as many as twenty-eight horse and bullock teams at the one time on the road from Manumbar to Kinbombi. In 1938, Kinbombi and Goomeri rail loadings of timber led the state.

Mr Lane worked at the mill for a while and also was engaged in timber cutting and snigging. Workers often had to cut tracks through the scrub to bring the logs out. People working at the mill seldom went to town, depending on the local store and the carrier for goods and services.

Mr Jack Brown's grandfather, George Robinson Brown, brought blood horses from England to Boonara Station in the 1850's where he worked as a groom. While still a young man he was accidentally killed (about 1873) when thrown from a horse. Mr Brown's grandmother married teamster Karl Gesch and the family went to live at Kilkivan where Mr Gesch owned a home on a few acres of land. Jack's father, George Robinson ('Dobbie') Brown Jnr was a well known teamster. His wife was a member of the Turner family and their children were born in Kilkivan. They lived on a block now owned by Miss Lyn Brown.

'Dobbie' Brown was one of the last bullock drivers to work around Kilkivan. He also broke in horses and ran brumbies. He never went to school but his mother taught her children to read and write. Dobbie's half-brother, Sam Gesch, who also married a Turner, was a well known Kilkivan teamster. Dobbie worked on Mudlo for seven years cutting pine, for which he was paid seven shillings per 100 super feet, out of which Mr Ned Wason, owner of Mudlo, received one shilling. Freight on the rail to Maryborough was sixpence per 100 super feet. The timber had to be cut, snigged out, carted to Kilkivan by bullock team and loaded on railway trucks.

Jack Brown started work as a brake boy on a bullock wagon. After a difference with his father, he joined his brother on a banana farm outside Maryborough (a very unprofitable enterprise at that time).

He worked at Kingaroy cutting timber, before driving Ross's team at Elgin Vale. When he bought his own truck, he worked for Mr Herb Perrett snigging and carting logs. He had no winch - only a bolster - for loading. In the following years, he felled scrub for Mr Evans at Crownthorpe, worked on Mr Len Hunt's property at Johnstown, and on Wason's Proston property.

In 1939, he met and married Merle Suchting, who was at that time working at the Boonara Hotel. In their early married life they camped wherever Jack was working.

Timbergetters had a tough existence. While Mr Brown was working at Planted Creek with Mr Wally Anderson and Mr Herb Perrett, they went into the scrub with 'tucker' for a week - butter wrapped in a damp cloth, a seven-pound syrup tin for making tea, damper. One blanket and their saddle cloths were spread on the ground for sleeping.

In the following years, Mr Brown worked cutting pine on Manumbar Station and at Gallangowan Forestry Reserve. When war broke out, he was carting for Ross and Company and wasn't allowed to join the armed forces. During the war, he worked on bridge building between Nanango and Goomeri. For a while, he worked for Mr Jim Knipe on his tractor, hauling timber. A bad accident caused by a fall of logs at Kinbombi resulted in a loss of work time.

After the war, he started a firewood depot. At the time, there was a good market as far away as Brisbane. In recent years he ran an earthmoving business which is now carried on by his son. He also owns a 700 acre grazing property near Goomeri.

## 20. THE TIMBER INDUSTRY: A POINT OF VIEW

Mr Walter Knox was born on Barambah Station, where his father was a stockman. The weekly wage for a stockman was twenty-five shillings. In addition to free housing, each worker was issued with staple food - tea, flour, sugar and meat. His mother could get most of her supplies at the station store, but every three months she would travel by sulky to Goomeri for other supplies. Mr Wise would give her a large tin of Arnotts' biscuits when she paid her bill.

Mr Knox, as a young man, worked as a timbergetter. He married Agnes McFarlane, daughter of a Kilkivan selector. In later years, he and his wife ran several school bus services, before they retired to Tin Can Bay.

The following facts and opinions of the timber industry in the Kilkivan district were given by Mr Knox in a conversation with the author and Mr Barney Baxter.

When timbergetting first started in the Kilkivan area, bullock teams were used. Bullocks travelled at three miles per hour. They needed water and grass. The weather played an important part in the hours of work undertaken by the teamsters and timbergetters. Wet weather held them up and very dry weather caused a shortage of feed and water. At the time, there were few roads, especially to the more inaccessible scrub areas. In wet weather cutting had to cease, as the timber, if barked and left in the rain, went blue from mould.

It was customary for a team to leave home (in this instance, Kilkivan) on Monday morning. The first day would be spent getting to the location of the

timber to be worked. For three days the teams would work, bringing in an average of 1 000 super feet per day, 3 000 in all. On Friday the teams would return home to deliver the logs to the railway yards. Over the weekend the bullocks would be spelled.

Mr Baxter, as a young man, worked bullocks with his father at Mudlo. He often brought out thirty feet logs, three on the bed of the wagon and two on top. When snigging logs to the loading ramp, the team was usually split into two parts. The young boy was given the eight 'lead' bullocks (easier to handle), while his father worked with the remaining twelve. Pinches (very steep stretches of road) caused difficulty. Sometimes two teams of bullocks were needed to pull a load over difficult places.

Logs coming to the railway were invariably left with a small margin of about four inches to allow for damage to the log or crooked cutting. When they were loaded, enough space had to be left between loads on each wagon to ensure the safety of workers.

In the early days, the logging of timber was supervised by the Land's Department and the rangers, who controlled leasehold, pastoral and agricultural land. When the Forestry Department was established, stricter control over logging was introduced. The initial charge by the Lands Department was sixpence per 100 super feet stumpage and timbergetters had to find their own markets.

When the Forestry Department was formed, control over the felling of timber was tightened. No more than three knots were allowed in one log of timber. In the opinion of both men, the Forestry Department was very responsible in its attitude to the preservation of natural forests and the replanting of areas, that were at this time being harvested. Mostly controlled cutting would be followed by natural regeneration. However, Mr Knox deplored the introduction of lantana and erosion in certain cleared places.

At the same time, scrub areas became more accessible by road, and motor vehicles made their appearance. This increased the volume of timber that could be worked and brought to the railway. In the late twenties and early thirties, the industry suffered a downturn because of strict governmental control and the Great Depression.

When W Forgan Smith's Labor Government came to power in 1932, the mass erection of the workers' dwellings began. These were comfortable family homes produced to a standard plan to bring their cost within the reach of most wage earners. They were built in cities and towns throughout Queensland and caused an increase in the demand for timber.

In the years that followed, it was customary for cutters to go into the scrub with bullock wagons and winders, fell the timber and bring it to a central point to be loaded on to trucks. The winder was an old truck adapted for use as a winch. It had to be hauled into the scrub, but once positioned there, was a very effective



way of shifting timber. Its most effective use was in hauling logs from otherwise inaccessible places such as deep gullies. Sometimes a cow bell was used to give the necessary signals when operating the winder.

Timber would be brought to a central point, where it would be measured by the forest rangers and crowned (given a distinguishing mark). In very steep areas, it was the custom to send logs down a chute, to be taken thence by bullock team or winder to the loading ramps.

With Kilkivan as a base, log timber was brought from Black Snake, Mudlo, Kabunga and Tye when roads and motor transport made these places more accessible.

At one stage about one million super feet of timber a month was being loaded at Kilkivan Railway Station. There was a shunting yard, where the sports oval is now, to accommodate the piles of logs coming in.

One well known couple, who worked at Black Snake, were Mr and Mrs Felsman. Mr Felsman logged timber, sometimes with the help of his wife. She drove the loaded truck to Kilkivan, taking her baby in a cane laundry basket and carrying spare oil, tools and water containers, which would be filled for household use at creeks.

Black Snake was well known for its girders, some over sixty feet in length. A big tree, usually an iron bark, was dressed with a broad axe. Harry Spicer and Ernie Borden were well known broad axe men. There is still plenty of this timber left at Black Snake.

Timbergetters worked for a month at a time, before coming to town for a break. There was an effort to form a union in the thirties, but this was foiled by the custom of tendering for timber stands. The undercutting of prices by some contractors made it difficult to gain any cohesion among the timber workers.

Average earnings of timbergetters were £5 to £6 per week, good money in those days. The Forestry Department owned the timber. Its clients were the millers.

Drivers received ten shillings a load, cutters, a shilling to one shilling and sixpence, and bullock drivers, two shillings per 100 super feet for snigging. Men like W W Starkey obtained a number of blocks and paid men to work on them. The timber men were well paid by contemporary standards but worked very hard for their money.

Mr Knox listed some of the well known timber men. S and J Baxter, A Bishop, J Moreland, S Gesch, Mark Knowles, Houghton, J Buckley, A Abdy, Frank and George Wex were 'bullockies'. Charlie Wex had a horse team. M Gillis and M Heeb worked at Tye.

Trucks were run by W W Starkey (who had four), B and R Cross, Mackenzie and O Moreland. Drivers were G and H Coop, 'Bluey' and George Teague.



*Log Haulage (H Franz)*



*Sawn timber from Elgin Vale (Coleman)*

## 21. TRACTOR AND ROAD HAULAGE

Early haulage of timber was mostly by bullock teams. These patient animals would wind their way through difficult and practically inaccessible areas. They had great strength and flexibility, but they were slow.

Mr T H Spencer in 1928, was the first man to introduce a fleet of powerful motor trucks and two Linn Caterpillar tractors, each fitted with a trailer. At the time, the Linn tractors were considered one of the best vehicles available for timber transportation.

When these vehicles were first used, problems were encountered. But Mr Linn, the American manufacturer, paid a special visit to Goomeri to inspect the machines. He brought new parts with him and left the tractors working well, although they required, at first, a great amount of servicing.

They had enormous advantage over the old bullock teams, that could bring only three logs a trip. The Linn tractor, with trailer, would bring thirteen or more logs at a time - approximately 9 500 super feet.

They also saved time. Carting from Scrubby Paddock, a bullock team would take anything from a week to a fortnight to do one trip. The tractor could do three trips a week, and because it was a crawler, could work in wet weather.

It did not damage roads, as the caterpillar tracks were slightly bevelled, had a breadth of fourteen inches and flattened the road, making a smooth track.

This halved the cost of haulage, being an estimated three shillings per hundred super feet, compared with seven shillings with bullock teams. Logs were delivered freshly cut and thus did not turn blue with mould while waiting to be sent away.

Mr Spencer also operated a number of Republic Trucks. The timber from Manumbar was also being sent by motor transport.

Teamsters who had worked in the industry had to eventually acknowledge the change. Many of them retired to take up land or to do other jobs. Some bought motor trucks or operated tractors and trucks bought by larger operators.

## 22. FORESTRY ACTIVITIES

In the early twenties, the Forestry office opened in Kilkivan on the western side of McNulty's shop. Albert Euler was the first factor. He was followed by Mr Don Frazer. Mr J O'Donahue and Mr Bull were clerks.

Goomeri opened its first Forestry Office in 1932 - a rented room in the home of forest ranger, A F Euler. The office remained there until 1935, when a room was rented at Goomeri Log Yard.

In 1947, the Kilkivan office was moved to Goomeri and remained there until 1950. In that year, the office was moved to the business centre of Goomeri. It was finally closed in 1956, after twenty-four years, and it was transferred to Murgon.

There is now a forestry office at Kilkivan run by Dallas McCarroll, son of Clark McCarroll, who worked in the forestry as a young man. This office works under the direction of the head area office at Murgon.

There are large areas of forestry reserves in the shire. Regardless of what the general public may think, the Forestry Department lays down strict guidelines for the harvesting of timber resources.

The cutting of timber is controlled and supervised by officers of the Department. Unfortunately, there are no longer any mills left in the shire to process the timber that is at present being taken out.

### 23. THE GALLANGOWAN FORESTRY RESERVE

The area covered by the Gallangowan Forestry Reserve was at one time an out-station of Manumbar Run. Because of the thick forest and scrub land, it was considered of little value for sheep and cattle raising.

It was declared a forestry reserve and became a nursery for reafforestation in 1933. The first trees had germinated by 1935 and by 1937 they were being planted out. Hoop and bunya pine were planted there.

The hoop pines were planted from seeds of trees already felled or seeds that had been harvested from growing trees by climbers. The seeds were dried and sent to Brisbane where they were kept in cold storage until the season was right for planting. They were planted between two boards and covered over, the boards being removed after planting.

After the first six months of growth, trees were thinned to eight trees per foot for best results. When they reached five or six inches in height, their tap roots were cut six inches below the surface to induce lateral root growth.

Seedlings in the nursery were shaded by Sailon or Nylon mesh. These materials helped to control light filtration. The trees were next placed in tubes for four months in special beds, after which they were planted out.

With bunya pines the pods or clumps of seeds were gathered and thrown at random on top of the soil beds. After they were established, they were placed in tubes and left till they reached a height of twelve to fourteen inches. They were then planted out.

Trees were left to grow for eighteen years before they were thinned. This process was repeated every four years until 80 trees per acre remained. They were then pruned to a height of seventeen feet.



*Fire Tower at Gallangowan (V Williams)*

Gallangowan Forestry Reserve has a fire tower that was, when it was built, the highest in Queensland - 134 feet. It gives a view for miles around. At the top is a circular map in the cabin giving degrees latitude and longitude. The Reserve is also supplied with fire-fighting equipment. Water is supplied from a well and pumped into two 20 000 gallon tanks on a nearby hill to give pressure. The nursery uses a large amount of water.

The population of the Reserve has fluctuated over the years, according to the workforce required at the time. It was probably at its zenith when Mr V Williams was in charge of the reserve in the sixties. It is 50km from Goomeri and about the same distance from Murgon and Nanango. Its isolation has been broken down by better roads, and the provision of a school bus service so that local children can attend secondary school in Goomeri. The settlement has its own primary school which also caters for children on nearby properties.

The aim of the Forestry is to produce suitable softwoods for the State's future needs, so that supplies of timber will always be available.

At the moment, operations have been drastically scaled down by the Forestry Department and many families have left the area.

#### **24. OAKVIEW FORESTRY RESERVE**

The Oakview Forestry Reserve, which is situated near Kilkivan, is a smaller operation than Gallangowan, but has been worked on much the same lines. It is about 1 100 acres in area. The first plantings were made in 1926. The area was

low bottle tree vine scrub, not considered as good as the Gallangowan area. In some of the higher areas, the plantations are better. The Serpentine Scrub forms part of the reserve.

Some of the areas have already reached their peak and are ready for 2R - the forestry term for 'second rotation'. The trees here are the second growth ready for cutting. Most of them have been thinned out over the years and are now ready to be finally cleared, before replanting begins. Some of the area has been cleared and already planted again. In the rough and stony places, the forest has been allowed to return to its natural state. Plantings have been mostly hoop pine with small areas of bunya pine. The reserve has its own nursery.

Men who have been in charge of the Reserve include Mr Les Emerson, Mr Tadke, and Mr McNamara. The workforce varies according to the operations in progress at any one time. As many as thirty men have been working there. In the early days, workers lived in tents. Today, there are barracks for the single men and some houses for the married men. After the Second World War, a number of New Australians were employed. In busy times, extra forestry workers are brought from Gallangowan.

## 25. THE TIMBER INDUSTRY: AN OVERVIEW

Both Kilkivan and Goomeri have owed much of their growth to the timber industry. This is more so in the case of the latter, as Kilkivan had experienced a mineral boom and had been established much earlier than Goomeri.



*Timber yard at Goomeri Railway Station*

*( J Davis)*

At the zenith of the timber industry in Kilkivan Shire, it was probably one of the wealthiest timber districts in the state. Even in the depression year of 1930, 3 114 000 super feet or 2 892 tons of timber passed through Goomeri Railway Station. This comprised only timber from Elgin Vale. The Manumbar timber was hauled to Kinbombi Siding, three miles from Goomeri. Timber from Fawley, near Daddamarine, went to Brooweena in the Woocoo Shire.

The stories of timber piled high in the railway yards of Kilkivan, Goomeri, Woolooga and Kinbombi are many and legend. People talked in hushed tones of admiration of the money being made, not only by mill owners, but by haulers and other contractors. In Kilkivan and Goomeri, employment was generated for a large number of workers. There were smaller settlements around the outside mills with their own schools and shops.

Much of the timber was sent to Rockhampton, Mackay and Townsville, which were centres of population needing new houses and commercial buildings.

Although the Ross and Company Mill had been in the district since 1909, and the Manumbar Mill since 1917, teams had been hauling timber from all over the shire from the time the railway had come through. In 1930, local timber operators contended that the wealth of this industry had barely been touched.

During the 1930's, tenders were called to cut, snig and deliver log timber, for loading at the railhead from the Gallangowan area. Two were received - one for three shillings and five pence and the other for three shillings and eight pence per 100 super feet.

Elgin Vale, the last remaining mill in the shire, has recently been closed. The Forestry Office is now located in Murgon with a sub-branch in Kilkivan. Forestry Reserves at Oakview and Gallangowan have been scaled down considerably. The once-prosperous timber industry has become part of our history.

There are still large stands of timber in the shire. Despite the propaganda generated by some sections of the media, it appears that the government, by way of the Forestry Department and its officers, is adopting a responsible attitude toward valuable timber resources.

In the Kilkivan Shire, there are a number of State Forests, managed purely for timber and no other purposes, and Timber Reserves, which have many uses. They can be leased to landowners for grazing, used as parks or venues for four-wheel drive rallies. All these activities are strictly controlled to prevent damage to the environment. (A list of State Forests and Timber Reserves is given in the Appendix B of this publication.)

The policy of the Forestry Department, according to a local officer, is one of '*sustained growth*'. All timber taken out must be replaced by new growth, either by natural regeneration or by replanting. Already the first plantings on local forestry reserves are being harvested.

The cutting of natural forests is done under control that is growing progressively stricter year by year. Most timber is sold to milling companies on licence, with an occasional private sale to local landowners for fence posts etc. The licence restricts the miller to an allotted stand of timber. Each tree to be felled is marked by a forestry officer and sometimes stipulations are made as to how or in which direction a tree is to be felled. The cutting of trees is planned in order to leave room for regrowth. Paths of bulldozers entering the forests provide beds for germination of seeds. Great care is taken to preserve the natural environment and no logging is allowed near creeks, gullies or land prone to erosion.



*The timber track - Mudlo Gap*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*





## Chapter 11

---

### KILKIVAN SHIRE COUNCIL

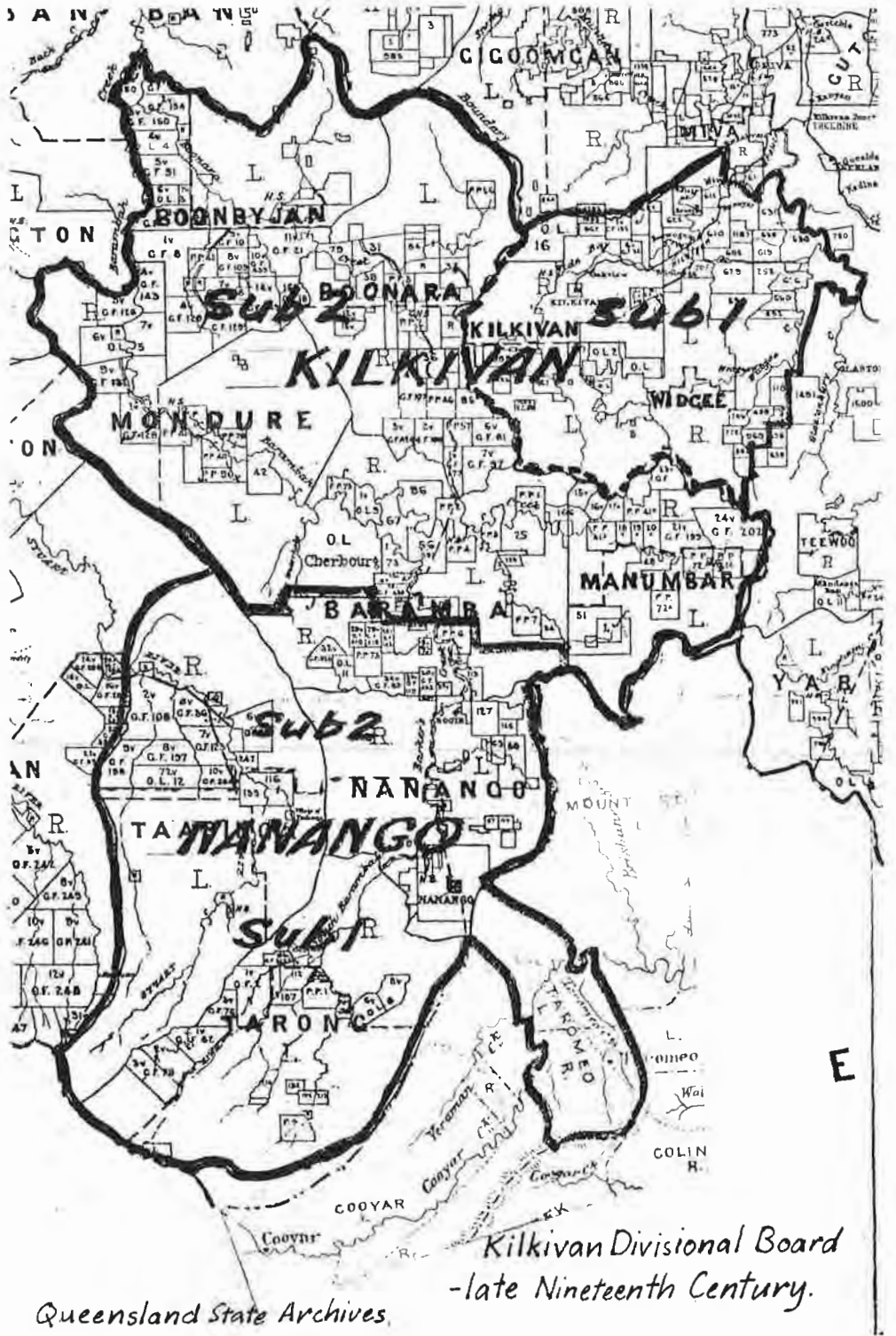
#### 1. THE FIRST DECADE

In April 1903, Kilkivan Divisional Board became Kilkivan Shire Council. The area had a growing population, due to the growth of the timber industry and the influx of more selectors and settlers on the land, including a few agriculturalists and dairymen.

In 1904, the council acknowledged the proclamation of the Aboriginal Reserve, Barambah Settlement (now Cherbourg) which was at that time in Kilkivan Shire. On three occasions, letters were sent to the Ministry for Lands claiming that *'the large area of good land could be more profitably employed'*. The Council probably felt that it was to them a loss of profitable rateable property. However, their opinion was ignored by the Minister.

At this time, the street frontage of the Federal Hotel in Kilkivan was a burning issue. The council pointed out that only a small amount of rates were collected in Kilkivan. Therefore they could not support a large expenditure on its streets. The area covered by Kilkivan Shire included the present shires of Murgon and Wondai, a huge and sparsely populated area. Most of the large rate payers were in the rural sector. Kilkivan was the only town of any size. Council business reflected the growth of industry and changes in transport and communication.

The extension of the railway in 1901 resulted in a slight upheaval in the town. The railway station was moved from its first position near the recreation grounds and re-located on its present site. Most of the business houses were also re-located. The Council agitated strongly to have the Court House and the Police Station moved to a more central situation. There was also a protest lodged by the Council about the removal of an extra police constable from Kilkivan, and a complaint about the lack of suitable housing for the remaining officer.



In March 1909, the Postmaster General was asked to provide a telephone exchange in Kilkivan. A daily rail passenger service between Theebine and Kingaroy was also requested, and there were complaints about the length of time the trains spent at Theebine.

The Council asked for public telephones to be installed at Sexton, Boowoogum, Woolooga, Oakview, Cinnabar, Kinbombi, Goomeri and Manyung. Party telephone lines were being established in the district. The Honorary Secretary of the Farmers' Telephone Syndicate of Boonara, in 1919, asked for permission to erect poles for a party line. This was followed by a similar application by Mr A J Owens of Oakfield, a Goomeri West Syndicate and one at Manumbar.

The Council itself was modernising its equipment. It bought a typewriter for office use, and the overseer was provided with a motor cycle.

The first decade of the century saw a growing concern with pests and noxious weeds which were coming into the shire. Flying foxes, dingoes and crows had, in previous years, been regarded as pests. The cattle tick menace was spreading and new by-laws had to be drawn up in connection with the movement of cattle. Prickly pear, khaki weed, African box thorn, Scotch thistle, Bathurst burr and lantana were becoming problems to landholders.

It was the custom to pay ratepayers for work done on roads, culverts, bridges, tree felling or the disposal of dead beasts found on council property. Citizens would perform the urgent tasks associated with the above and place a claim for payment with the Council. Most of these were paid promptly, though not always for the full amount claimed.

Much of the Council's correspondence dealt with submissions of complaints about roads and bridges. Each locality - Sexton, Widgee, Woolooga, Manyung, Mondure, Winderera, Goomeri, Cinnabar - had its own Progress Association which kept the Council informed of the needs of its locality.

Camping reserves were important because of the needs of droving stock. The Council zealously guarded these reserves from the incursion of landholders wishing to rent or acquire them.

## **2. THE FIRST WORLD WAR**

The World War, which broke out in 1914, had its effect on the district. In August 1915, a Patriotic Fund was launched and it was decided to place an honour board in the shire office to record the names of enlisted men from the shire.

When a move was made for universal suffrage (a vote for all citizens over the age of twenty-one) for shire elections, the council came out firmly against it. They considered that only rate-payers had the right to vote in local government elections.

A tender was passed in 1916 for the building of the main street in Goomeri, raising the street and making it 26 feet wide in the centre section.

Conscription was a burning political issue throughout Australia and a referendum on its introduction was about to be held. The Council wrote to the Prime Minister voicing its support for the move.

Cars were starting to appear on the roads, and the Automobile Club of Queensland offered to supply the Council with free directive signs for the Shire roads. This was gladly accepted.

Mr H F Mead, a Tansey school teacher who owned his own block of land close to the school, asked for a bridge over Boonara (Sandy) Creek near the school. The Council agreed to build the bridge if the local residents provided half the funds.

Part of the vacant land adjoining Kilkivan Railway Station was declared a reserve for the purpose of erecting a monument to soldiers who were killed in the war. The minutes quite frequently mentioned letters of sympathy sent to families of dead soldiers.

In November 1918, the Goomeri Soldiers' Memorial Fund was set up. A piece of land, *'roughly triangular in shape'*, in Moore Street was *'proclaimed a park or reserve for an honour board'*. At the same meeting a motion was passed expressing the Council's pleasure at the termination of the war. Appreciation was received over the Council's action in issuing mementos to relatives of fallen soldiers.

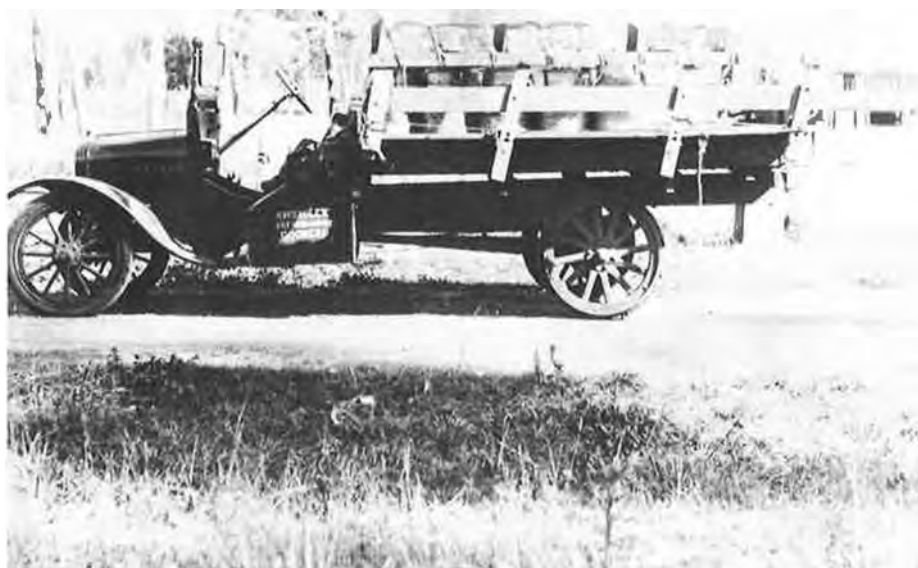
A letter of congratulation was sent to Mr S Glasgow to be passed on to his brother, Major-General (later Sir William) Glasgow on his *'high distinction from the French Government'*.

Mr Arnold Weinholt was congratulated on his safe return after his escape from a prisoner-of-war camp in West Africa.

An application for a grant of £374 was made to provide work in the shire for returned soldiers. The RSSILA (Returned Soldiers' and Sailors' Imperial League) of Maryborough was supported in its effort to give a cream carrier's licence to an ex-AIF man in the Goomeri area (Mr Bert Sadler).

During the war, Kilkivan Shire Council waived all payment of rates to servicemen serving in theatres of war.

There were sporadic outbreaks of typhoid fever during the following years. In Goomeri, the railway dam was continually under suspicion as a source of infection. A case of diphtheria occurred at Kilkivan. Like all places worldwide, the Shire had an outbreak of the deadly Spanish influenza, but by April 1920, the epidemic had evidently subsided, as the Council decided on a sale of equipment that had been bought to cope with it.



*A W Sadler's first cream truck - 1919*

*(D Jenkinson)*

### 3. COUNCIL EMPLOYEES AND THEIR WAGES AND SALARIES

In March 1905, Mr David Lacey Jones, son of George Hall Jones and nephew of Llewellyn Mander Jones, became Shire Clerk, a position which he held until 1945. Mr Simpson, the previous clerk, had served the council for fifteen years. The original clerk's salary in 1888 was £125 per annum.

In 1905, the position of 'Shire Clerk, Valuator and Returning Officer' had been advertised at £80 per annum. Gangers were to be paid seven shillings per day (five shillings on wet days); horse drivers were paid six shillings and sixpence per day (no pay on wet days); labourers were paid six shillings with no pay on wet days.

In 1907, Mr Jones' salary was raised to £100. In 1910, Mr Pye, the overseer was granted a salary of £130. By 1911, the clerk received £110 and the overseer, £140. Gangers' wages had risen to nine shillings per day and labourers to seven shillings. In 1914, Mr C Beer was appointed assistant to the clerk at a wage of seven shillings and sixpence per week.

By 1916, Mr D L Jones had a salary of £180 per annum and Mr Beer was being paid fifteen shillings per week. The chairman was given a yearly expense allowance of £25 and councillors were to have their lunches paid for on meeting days.



*David Lacey Jones*



*Llewellyn Mander Jones*

In February 1918, Mr Jones' yearly salary was fixed at £208 and the assistant clerk received thirty shillings per week. The Overseer of Works was paid £250 per annum. All councillors were given a travelling allowance of £15 per annum.

On July 1919, Mr Beer resigned and his place was taken by the first woman to be employed, Miss A McLean.

In February 1920, the Chairman's allowance was raised to £35 and the clerk's salary to £260 per annum. That same year, the Council, worried about future wage demands, contributed toward a fighting fund to counter wage claims made by the Australian Workers' Union for council workers.

The efforts of councils to stem the tide of union intervention were unsuccessful. In August 1921, D L Jones received 'the set award rate', the assistant clerk, £1/15/- per week. Gangers were to work five-and-a-half days a week except on pay week, when they worked five days. Overseers were allowed to get their week's work done in five days.

#### 4. CHANGES IN SHIRE BOUNDARIES

In 1905, the Kilkivan Shire Council agreed to the alienation of that portion of the shire including Wondai and surrounding rural land, provided it did not incur any extra expense for Kilkivan Shire. This new shire became known as the 'Weinholt Shire'.

On every occasion when the boundaries of the shire or divisions within the shire were altered, or new shires created, there were petitions to the Home Secretary by ratepayers relating to the new proposed boundaries and wanting adjustments to be made. Usually these submissions were heeded and boundaries adjusted to serve local interests.

In October 1913, a letter was received from the Home Secretary's office in connection with a proposed new shire of Murgon. This was duly granted and Murgon Shire councillors were elected for the first time on 16 January 1914.

It was natural that the growing town of Goomeri should be the next to want excisement.

### 5. A MOVE TO FORM A GOOMERI SHIRE

In July 1915, a proposal was put to the shire that Division 2 of Kilkivan Shire should form a new shire. In favour were Messrs Lawless, Moore and L M Jones, all of Number 2 Division. Against were Messrs Tennison, Mackrell and Schollick. The casting vote went to the Chairman, Mr L M Jones, who voted for the motion, ensuring that it was carried.

In September of that year, a request was sent to the Home Secretary asking that an officer be sent to Kilkivan, to adjust the boundaries of the proposed new Shire of Goomeri. An amendment was proposed to use the boundary between the two divisions in Wide Bay as the boundary of the two shires. This was carried by a narrow majority. The next month, a letter was received from the Home Secretary asking for a recommendation as to how the ratepayers would be allotted to each shire.

After the November meeting, Mr Chuter, Chief Clerk of the Home Secretary's Department addressed the councillors to explain the government's situation. He indicated that *'the days of the small shire had come to an end'*. Government policy favoured the amalgamation of small shires and no more below a certain size were to be formed in the future. He admitted that shires covering large areas were difficult to work effectively, but the decision as to when a shire became unworkable depended on a number of circumstances.

He regarded Kilkivan as being in a very favourable situation, having a railway practically through the centre of it. He also pointed out that it was compulsory for all local authorities to employ certificated clerks, engineers and overseers, making it difficult for small shires to finance the higher salaries that this would entail. He did not consider the proposed new Goomeri Shire too small.

However, what was left behind of Kilkivan Shire would have a rateable value too low to survive on its own. He therefore felt that the petitioners who had asked for the new shire had a strong case. However such a move would leave behind a very poor one. Mr Chuter advocated that a re-division of Kilkivan Shire would give them *'all the benefits sought under a new shire'*.

The reasons for the claim of a new shire had been:

- i. Number 2 Division was divided from Division 1 by a natural water-shed.
- ii. The natural outlet for Number 2 Division was the town of Goomeri.
- iii. The interests of the two divisions were not identical.
- iv. The rateable value of Number 1 Division was £175 000 while that of Number 2 Division was £309 200 with a 1.5 pence in the pound rate.

Mr Chuter had with him the petitions relating to the shire, including one by a group of ratepayers, headed by Mr R P Stumm, wishing to stay in Kilkivan Shire if a new shire was to be granted.

Mr L M Jones (Chairman) complained about the unequal valuation between Division 1 and 2, the former averaging thirty shillings per acre and the latter, £2/5/- per acre. This discrepancy was regarded as due to the recently cut-up Boonara lands in contrast with the country around Widgee.

Councillor Tennison (Division 1) said he doubted whether a vote throughout the shire by ratepayers would favour the move for a new shire.

Councillor Schollick remarked that Number 1 Division had to supply roads which were also used by ratepayers from Number 2 Division. An example was the Manumbar Road which gave access for Manumbar residents to Kinbombi in Division 2. (The Kinbombi district was at that time located in Division 1).

The chairman said that much of the land in Number 2 Division was only stony ridges fit for grazing, and could not be valued at a high rate. He also contended that, although Number 2 provided two-thirds of the rates, it very seldom saw the overseer.

Councillor Schollick said that Goomeri was aiming to be the centre of the shire. He advocated a new valuation of the whole shire if some ratepayers were discontented about the matter. He also mentioned that the efforts to get another division had been thwarted by the close vote and negative casting vote of the chairman, which caused the matter to be shelved.

The Chairman claimed he had firm backing from ratepayers in Number 2 Division for the new shire rather than a third division.

Mr Chuter responded that he might have to '*save the ratepayers from themselves*' and make a decision to re-divide the shire. He asked what the ratepayers would do. The Chairman said they would refuse to pay their rates. This caused much amusement at the meeting.

Mr Chuter said that, as the shire could not come to a decision, he would report to the government on his return to Brisbane that he was of the opinion that the best interests of the ratepayers would be served by having the shire re-divided.



Both the Chairman and Mr Lawless then left the meeting. Mr Moore had done so earlier, but his reasons for doing so were not given. The meeting finished soon after.

Mr Chuter spent the afternoon with the Shire Clerk (Mr D L Jones), obtaining data for dividing the shire into three divisions. He later, in his report, described Mr Jones as *'very helpful'* and asked that a letter of appreciation be sent to him thanking him for his courtesy.

The report of Mr Chuter, to the Under-secretary of the Department of Home Affairs, explained that the Chairman, Councillor L M Jones, who appeared to be the leader of the movement for a new shire, was unhappy with the high valuations in Number 2 Division. He believed Division 1 insisted on using a different valuation from Number 2, and the valuations were made on different bases.

Mr Chuter's opinion was that the discrepancy in valuations only applied in a few cases. He had closely questioned the Shire Clerk and the Bank Manager, and had also interviewed the valuer for Division 1 who strongly repudiated the claim by the Chairman.

His impression was that the proposed new shire would be for the *'aggrandisement of the township of Goomeri and the councillors of Division 2'*. He felt that only a minority of ratepayers wanted the new shire.

He complained about the lack of co-operation from the chairman once it was stated that there was no possibility of forming a new shire, but said he had taken matters into his own hands over investigations into the possibility of a re-division of the shire.

Mr Chuter favoured the removal to Division 1 from 2 of certain ratepayers in the parishes of the group led by R P Stumm, who had petitioned to remain in Kilkivan Shire, should changes be made. He favoured a new Division 3 to be excised from Division 2, using the railway line as a boundary, but including the corner through which the road from Manumbar to Kinbombi ran. The upkeep of this road had been a complaint of the councillors from Division 1.

He gave the approximate rateable values of the proposed divisions as follows:

Division 1 - £19 0779;

Division 2 - £15 6315 (north of the railway line);

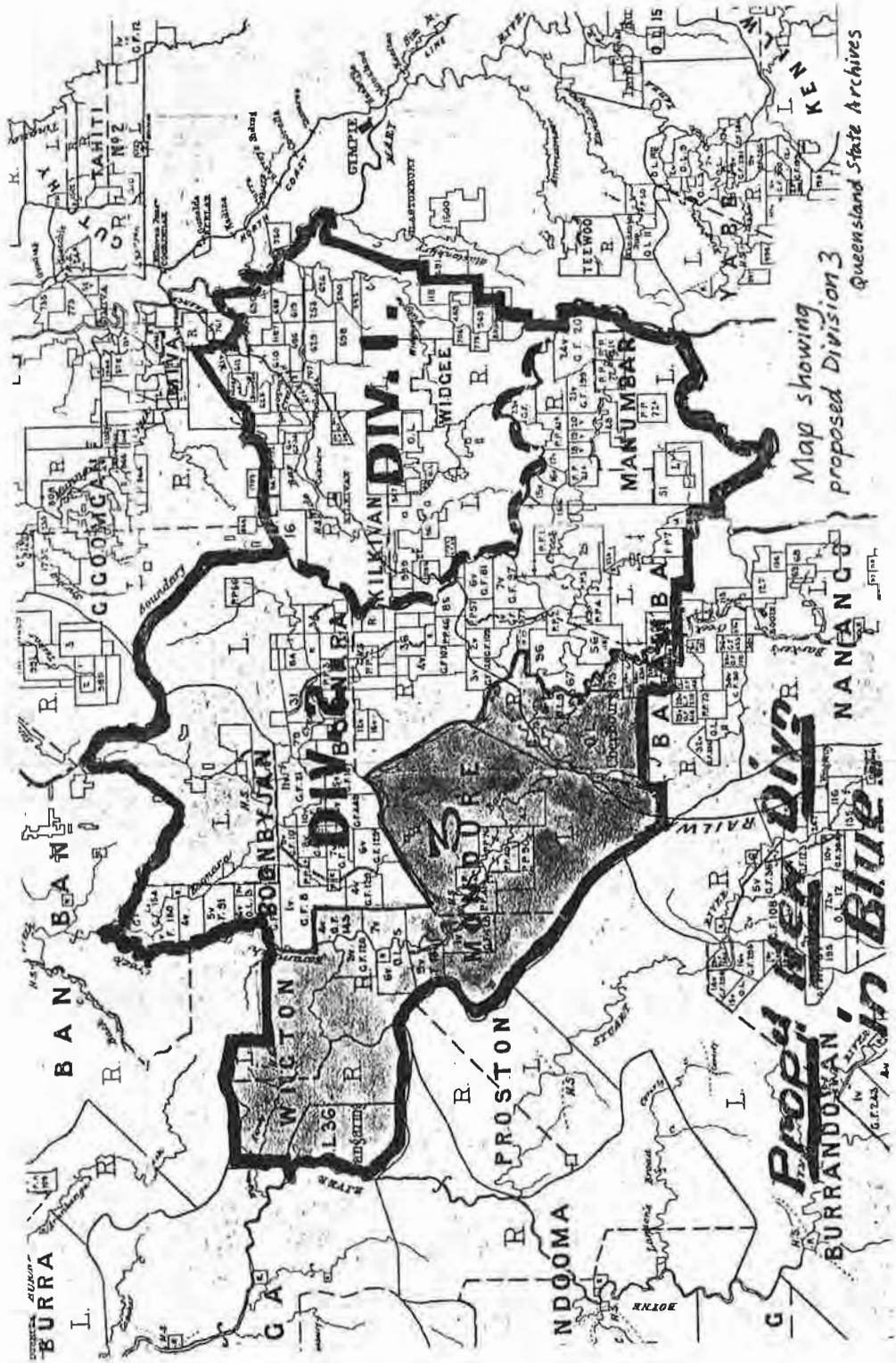
Division 3 - £12 5000 (south of the railway line).

He advocated the number of councillors as:

Division 1 - 3 members;

Division 2 - 2 members;

Division 3 - 2 members.



History of Kilkivan Shire

This would mean that Divisions 1 and 3 would be slightly over-represented and Division 2, under-represented.

Councillors for Divisions 2 and 3 would have to go out of office every two years instead of every three. (At the time, one seat in each division was declared vacant and put to the vote each year.)

This incident indicates a shift in the pattern of parochial loyalties which had taken place since the inception of the Divisional Board. In 1888, Kilkivan was the only town in the division and was also the railhead for a wide area. As the railway advanced inland, it was natural that parts of the Divisional Board (later, Shire) should use their nearest railway sidings as centres of transport and communications. These sidings, in some cases, grew into towns. Kilkivan was no longer the only centre for all the Shire.

The towns of Wondai and Murgon had both obtained their own shires. It was natural for Goomeri and the people who were beginning to use it as their business centre, to expect to do likewise.

As a petition had been sent to the Home Office asking for a new shire, it seems that the majority of ratepayers in Division 2 did generally favour the concept of a new shire. Councillors L M Jones, W B Lawless and I Moore were natural long-standing leaders in such a community where many of the people were newcomers. It seems rather harsh that they should be accused, by a visiting public servant, of self-interest and '*aggrandisement*'.

It was also understandable that the councillors and rate-payers of Division 1 would be concerned about any further excisement from the shire. Kilkivan was the original established centre.

However, Mr Chuter, despite his harsh judgments, must be given credit for doing his best in a difficult situation. It was government policy by that time not to establish any more small shires. The plight of Division 1, should the rest of the shire have been excised, was a real one and had to be considered. Mr Chuter did what he could to resolve genuine grievances, by his recommendation of the establishment of a new division and the adjustment of other boundaries.

Had the new shire been granted, it is possible that both Kilkivan and Goomeri, with their surrounding districts would have followed one of two courses. They may have each (or at least one of them) become larger towns. Alternatively, they may have been swallowed up as parts of adjoining shires.





## Chapter 12

---

### RURAL DEVELOPMENT SINCE 1911

#### 1. AFTER THE GOOMERI LAND SALE

The sales of Kilkivan freehold in 1906 and Widgee and Woolooga Repurchased Estates in 1907 had already resulted in the closer settlement of the section of the shire, formerly covered by these pastoral runs. The sale of Boonara freehold land at the Goomeri Land Sale in 1911, several years after these other divisions, resulted in the closer settlement of the land previously covered by Boonara Station. Scrub country, in the Goomeri West area, formerly considered useless for farming, had also been taken up. Land from many of the large holdings selected from all these pastoral runs in the nineteenth century was also thrown open to closer settlement.

A few of the buyers at the Goomeri Land Sale were speculators who resold their land within a short time. Others found it impossible to obtain finance for the stock, machinery and buildings necessary to make their farms operative. As a result, many properties changed hands in the years between 1911 and 1920.

Some of the blocks that were not sold at first were disposed of within the next few years. Isles, Love and Company, the agents who had conducted the sale, retained an agent in Goomeri to sell the remaining blocks. By 1920 very few farms remained unsold.

Of the families who bought properties at the land sale, only two still retain their original blocks - the Bandidts and the Nissens. The present owners are grandsons of the first buyers. The Breitreutz and Klumpp families have sold their properties, but many of their descendants are still in the district.

Mr Gordon Anderson was two years old and his sister Jean a babe in arms, when their father Frederick Anderson brought the family to live on the block on Margoo Road, Goomeri, which he had bought at the Goomeri Land Sale in 1911.

Mr Fred Anderson and his friend, Mr Tom Irwin, came from the Hunter River region where they had gained considerable experience in growing lucerne. The frequent destructive floods in that area caused them to look around for a safer place to farm. When the Goomeri Land Company held a lucerne growing competition, Mr F Anderson was given second prize.

Mr Anderson milked a herd of twenty-eight cows by hand twice a day, taking two-and-a-half hours to do each milking. While the Boonara Cheese factory was operating, he took the milk there each day with a cart and horse. The family also grew millet from which Mr Anderson made brooms, sold to Wimberley's store in Goomeri. They were of good quality and in great demand locally.

The creek crossing on Margoo Road was a problem in wet weather. When Mr Anderson suffered a heart attack during a flood, the Goomeri doctor, who had never ridden a horse before, had to ride across the creek to see his patient. When Mr Anderson died in 1954, Mr Krebs, the undertaker from Murgon, had to enlist the aid of several strong neighbours to hoist the coffin as high as possible and wade waist deep across the swollen creek.

Gordon and his sister Jean (Mrs Eland) still live on the property which they recently sold to Mr Boyd Hatton.

The Nissen family still retain the farm they bought at the sale. When Mr Hans Nissen retired, his son Charles took over the property which he in turn passed on to his son, Donald, the present owner.

Mr W F Bandidt came from Lake Clarendon to take up one of the richest blocks of creek flat sold on the day of the Goomeri Land Sale. He was well known for his expertise in lucerne growing and acted as judge in a lucerne growing competition run by the Goomeri Land Company. In later years, he bought another property at Goomeri West on which he employed a share farmer to run a dairy. Mr Bandidt was a shire councillor for many years.

His son Samuel (Sam) continued the ownership. The family later bought the property owned, for many years by, Mr George Wieland. Sam married Marion, daughter of Mr H M Graham of Oakfield. Mr W F Bandidt's daughter, Jessie, ran a dressmaking business until her marriage to school teacher, Mr B Fleming.

Another son, Mr Alan Bandidt, after obtaining an engineering degree from Queensland University, joined the RAAF, attending Point Cook. He was then seconded to the RAF, serving in many overseas countries. During the Second World War, he rose to the rank of Group Captain. After the war, while working for Miles Aircraft, he undertook the first post-war solo flight from England to Australia, in which he faced many hazards, including unrest in Indonesia at the time of that country's bid for independence. He subsequently became the world sales manager for Handley-Page Aircraft, eventually returning to Melbourne to manage a large engineering firm connected with aircraft maintenance.

The properties are still in the hands of Mr W G (Bill) Bandidt (grandson of Mr W F Bandidt), his wife, Judith, and their son, Samuel.

Mr W F Breitreutz, on his retirement, sold his property to the Dascombe family. His son, Trevor, with his wife and family are still Goomeri residents.

Mr F Klumpp and his son Georg sold their property and went into the building trade. Fred Klumpp's daughter Lily, married Mr Charlie Heathwood. Another daughter, Grace, married Mr Cunningham. Her husband worked in McIvors' Store in the thirties. Mrs Cunningham and her family are now living at Tansey.

## 2. THE GERMAN COMMUNITY

In 1912 a group of German migrants came to Australia sponsored by the Apostolic Church of Queensland which was attempting, at the time, to swell the number of adherents to their denomination. These people came from various parts of Germany. They were working class - mostly coal miners. Australia offered them hope of better prospects for themselves and their children. They were given an assisted passage on a nominal fee of £10.

In May of that year thirty families arrived in Brisbane. The Apostolic Church made all provisions for their future. They were taken to Bundaberg to work on the cane fields. Gibson and Howes, owners of Bingera Plantation, wanted workers to replace the Kanaka labour that had been abolished by law. Each family was given a patch of cane to work, receiving a share of the profit at harvest time.



*The German Community, arriving in Australia - 1912  
(L Keune)*

The plantation owners, in the meantime, provided housing, food and clothing - the cost to be deducted from future earnings. To ensure their indoctrination in the Apostolic faith, and because they could not speak English, a pastor of the Church went with them to Bundaberg.

This pastor was Fred H Keune who had migrated with his parents to Australia in 1891. Mr Keune had a wife and six children. He sold his farm at Gatton and joined the others at Bundaberg as their leader, mentor and pastor.

After eighteen months, it seemed that the venture on the canefields was a dismal failure. Mr Keune realized that the best solution was to find these people their own land. He and several others went looking for property which would suit these migrants.

In 1911 the Boonara Estate had been auctioned by the Goomeri Land Company. Mr Keune heard that some of the farming blocks were still unsold. The local agent, Mr Laurie, took these men on horseback to see the available land. The proposition was made to purchase the blocks at one-twentieth deposit, the balance to be paid over twenty years. Mr Keune found the land suitable and the price acceptable. When the proposition was put to the migrants, some refused to go, having found work in the Howard coal mine or the local sugar mills.

The Kilkivan Shire Council rate book records that 2 760 acres were sold to the German Land Company and that a further 915 acres were '*sold to Germans on the way out*' (to Australia). Names listed include : Klein, Kuhnel, Barringhaus, Groer, Rosenberg, Finner, Pustolla, Keune, Kiehne, Wittenburg, Borchner, Fischer, Costar, Mischke and Lamont.

Eventually twenty-three families decided to accept the offer. A few more were to come later. These people had very little money but some had acquired a cow or a horse, some fowls and odds and ends of furniture. Transport to Goomeri was a problem. The Commissioner for Railways was approached and eventually a special train was made available, free of cost to the settlers.

On 14 January 1914, this train-load of people, numbering about 100 men, women and children with an assortment of goods, arrived in Goomeri. Many had brought their furniture on the train with them, upending tables and encasing them in wire netting to transport their poultry. The land agent had arranged with local residents to help accommodate the new arrivals. The Boonara Hall, attached to the Boonara Hotel, was made available to the women and children. They slept the first night on the floor; breakfast was provided.

Most of the blocks were at Tansey. Mr Keune had brought over a horse and wagon, Mr Kiehne, a dray and Mr Wittenburg, a horse. The men and boys were organised to walk the few cows owned by the new arrivals out to Tansey. The women and children stayed on at the hall and were transported in small lots in Mr Keune's wagon. The men and boys made the halting place at Boonara (Sandy) Creek where the Tansey bridge is now. This area was, at that time, used as a camping place for teamsters and drovers.

From here, after a night's rest, the men found their blocks and took possession. To the best of his ability, each man erected a hut. For building, Mr Keune purchased a large quantity of second class timber from Ross and Company, the sawmillers in Goomeri, and some galvanised iron. Transport was a problem as the road was only a dirt track. One of the main hazards was the big hill two miles from Goomeri which became known as 'Bullock Hill', because on the first trip a dead bullock was found there.

Eventually all settlers cleared their land. Lucerne, maize and other fodder crops were planted. Herds of dairy cows were bought from Goomeri Land Company on terms of 2.5% interest. The farms were 100 - 200 acres in size. Farmers helped one another. Mr Keune carried on his own farm, helping and advising the others.

All the families were settled on their own land scattered throughout the district. Seven or eight settled along Planted Creek Road, some near where the Tansey School now stands, some on the Watchbox Road and two families on the Oakfield Road.

Yards and bails were quickly erected using the bush timber that was plentiful on their properties. They worked hard and helped one another, obtaining separators for their dairies on easy terms. A cream carter started with a spring cart and horses, taking cream to Goomeri Railway Station for transport to the factory at Murgon. On his return trip he brought bread, meat, groceries and mail from Goomeri.

In conjunction with the dairies, pigs were raised using separated milk. Often farmers had to learn by trial and error and suffer the vagaries of the weather. But they worked well and eventually made progress.

A number of other graziers nearby had been agitating for a school. With the coming of the German settlers there was a big influx of children of school age. Local residents, including Messrs Tansey, Holtorf, and Westaway prevailed on the Department of Public Instruction to establish a school. This was delayed because of the war and a consequent shortage of teachers. But eventually the Tansey School was established with a high percentage of German children.

The German community quickly built a church at Tansey. Mr Keune acted as pastor until his death, when his place was taken by his son, Hermann. Later Mr Graffunder took over this position. Many of these early settlers prospered and their children continued to farm in the district. Some eventually sold their properties and went elsewhere. They all proved to be good citizens and contributed to the growth of the community.

Few of their descendants remain in the district today. Les Kolling, a grandson of Anton Fischer, is the only descendant of this group still working the original farm. Messrs Les and Stan Keune, grandsons of Fred Keune, and descendants on their mother's side from the Barringhaus family, are still in the area. Nevertheless these settlers left their mark on the district.





*Groer family, on their farm - Tansey*

*(L Keune)*



*The Keune family, Fred Keune sitting*

*(L Keune)*

### 3. OTHER SOUTH BURNETT SETTLERS

Mr Christian Frederick (Mick) Lehmann remembers much about the early settlers of the Tansey area. In 1913 his father bought the property from the Goomeri Land Company. This property is still worked by Mick and his son, William. Although Mr Lehmann was Australian born, his parents were German and he had learnt to speak their language. Mr Lehmann was therefore able to help the German settlers, some of whom spoke very little English.

When the Lehmann family arrived they were welcomed by local landholders, Thomas Tansey and Jim McAuley. They pitched a tent on the property. The neighbours visited them and offered them help and advice. The first six dairy cows were bought from Mr McAuley. The Lehmann farm consisted of two blocks. After nine months it was sufficiently organised to start a dairy.

Mr Lehmann owned one of the first cars in the Tansey area - a Studebaker. Being the only car around, it was used as an unpaid taxi and ambulance by the locals, especially by the German midwife, Mrs Groer. Petrol was bought in four-gallon tins - two to the case. When the car was used to transport cricketers to matches at Kilkivan, the cricketers always got out and walked up the range as did Mrs Lehmann. She evidently did not feel safe in a car that was travelling up such a steep road.

During the First World War there was a cheese factory at Tansey near the present cemetery. Mr Lehmann was a director of this co-operative factory. It opened in 1917. Milk carter, Mr Denham, who had a horse and wagon, was drowned crossing a flooded creek. For years after cream cans were found - washed off the wagon and dispersed by the force of the water.

After the factory closed, local people took turns in carting the cream to Murgon until cream runs were established. The factory building was sold for removal to Kilkivan, where it was made into a store.

Lehmans grew cotton in 1924. A large amount was grown in the Goomeri, Tansey and Booubyjan areas. The crop was well suited to the climate and soil, but the price dropped and made it uneconomical. Eventually Lehmans bought out the farms owned by Messrs Rosenberg, Shroder and Pustolla, all members of the original German Community.

Mr McAuley, according to Mick, was a fine bushman who had a way with horses. He could easily ride to Gayndah and back in a day. He could also cure horses' complaints with his own medicines.

Mr Lehmann died when Mick was thirteen years old. Mick's uncle, Bill Lehmann, and John Everett kept the farm going until he was old enough to take over. Mrs Lehmann later married Mr Collins who had a property on Planted Creek Road. Mick married Hazel Edwards, niece of Mr and Mrs Teitzel. His two children, William, and Elizabeth, Mrs Bill Owens, are still living in the area.



*Tansey Cheese Factory - 1917*

*(M Lehmann)*

Mick also has memories of other local farmers, the Kuhnel Brothers, Max and Gus, who worked in the Howard coal mines, but eventually joined other members of the German Community at Tansey. They owned Pustolla's property on Planted Creek road at first, but later took up land at Oakfield. Another German farmer, Mr Gurski, came from the Lockyer to join his fellow countrymen at Tansey. The Seilers, who lived at Planted Creek, eventually sold out to Mr Jack Nagel.

Mr Jim Baillie owned the property recently sold by Mr Reg Harch. Mr Baillie and Mr Tod Macaulay helped to clear the race track for the Tansey Races. Mr Macaulay had taken up a resumption from Boonara Station on Planted Creek Road after travelling through the area with a mob of horses in 1902. He sold this to Mr Ernie Wason in the early twenties. Mr Holtorf, another grazier whose property was on the Planted Creek Road, later sold out to Mr and Mrs Joe Mackaway. Mr Hornberg, of Planted Creek Road, grew tobacco for a time.

Mr S A W Owens came to Goomeri from Forest Hill with his wife and family in 1916, and bought two blocks of land on Oakfield Road from the Goomeri Land Company. He died soon after, leaving his eldest son, Arthur, to look after the family. One of Arthur's sisters, Ethel, was married to Charles A Armstrong who had bought a block close by. This property was later owned and worked by their daughter and son-in-law Jack and Jean Henness. One of the Henness family, Russell, still works a property in the district.



*Hornburgs - Planted Creek Road*

*(L Keune)*



*Seilers - Planted Creek Road*

*(L Keune)*

Arthur had one brother, Bill, who died, leaving a widow and son, and four other sisters - Margaret, May, Alice and Nell. Margaret married Will Greer who later had a property at Tansey. The Greers had four sons - Lex, who now owns Kinbombi Station, Kevin and Rob, who have a property in the Tansey area and Colin, who at one time owned a store at Tansey. May married Mr Stuart Coulter, a soldier settler in the Booinbah area. Alice married Mr O S Harrison who had a property at Oakfield for many years.

Arthur married Myrtle Wieland, daughter of George Wieland of Goomeri West. Their son Bill still owns and works the original property bought by his grandfather.

Victor Albert Essam, an Englishman, came to Goomeri in 1913 and bought an unsold block from the Goomeri Land Company, four miles outside the town of Goomeri. He later bought Evelynvale on the Watchbox Road, from George Maudsley. At that time, there were still old watchboxes around the hills where the shepherds of Boonara Station had watched for marauding natives.

In 1933 he married Helen (Lena) Kensler. The Kensler family were of German extraction. About 1913 they had bought a farm on the Watchbox Road. Victor Essam's brother, Lance, lived with his family on Trinity and milked 100 cows for a time.

In 1938, because of ill-health, Victor put Evelynvale and his near-by farm, Frog's Hollow, on shares, worked by Mrs Essam's two brothers Otto and Gus Kensler. They continued to work these farms until Mr Essam's daughter Joyce and her husband, Ted Shorten, took them over. The Shortens bought both properties in 1957. In 1971 they sold out to Maudsley Brothers of Watchbox. From the time of the Goomeri Land Sale until the early 1920's, more land was taken up and some land changed hands.

The Bryant family took up Block 28, the remaining one left in the Goomeri West area. This was partly scrub and had to be cleared. Hazel (Mrs Percy Maudsley), a member of this family, recalls the constant hard work for adults and children alike to make a living on such virgin land. Mrs Maudsley, the oldest surviving pupil of Goomeri State School, brought the cream to town in a buckboard to Goomeri Railway Station when she came to school. The family later bought a farm, three miles out of Goomeri on the Gayndah road, which is now owned by the Crouch family.

The O'Mara brothers - Bill and Tom, owned a property which now forms part of Maudsley Brothers' property, Watchbox. Tom raised a family there. His brother Bill was an active member of the Boonara Local Producers' Association.

Mr Bert Hatton, who married Tottie Maudsley, had a property on the Margoo road now owned by the grandson of J E Stanton. His son, Boyd Hatton, owns Margoo, the property selected by his maternal grandfather, Roger Maudsley. Mr Hatton and his son Ted owned a property at Daddamarine.

Other families who took up land shortly after the Land Sale were the Grohns who still own the property close to Goomeri, the Seccombes who had land on the north side of Goomeri and the Hetheringtons who acquired a block at Goomeri West. Stuart Hetherington still has it in his possession. Mr P Wright had a property at Watchbox and engaged in cattle dealing. Mr L Dunn had land at Goomeri West, which was recently sold by his grandson to the Grohn family. In 1915, Mr McIvor sold the property he had selected to the Schuler family.

At Daddamarine Creek in 1910, Mr Sam Beresford selected Sunnydale, a resumption from Boobyjan Station. He had previously done contract ringbarking in the district and was favourably impressed with the country. On this property he farmed, dairied and raised cattle. He and his wife eventually sold out and retired to Goomeri. Of their large family, two daughters, Mrs Joyce Graham and Mrs Barbara Pearce, and a number of grandchildren are still living in the Kilkivan Shire.

A number of properties changed hands in the 1920's. It is impossible to list further changes individually, except for the mention of soldier settlements after the First World War.

#### 4. SOLDIER SETTLERS

##### Booinbah

Making the Booinbah area available for soldier settlement was not, in the first place, a government decision. A number of local experienced landholders saw its possibilities, and took a representative deputation to wait on the Minister, pointing out its possibility for soldier settlement.

Departmental experts surveyed the country. They decided to drain the swamp to make way for farms. This would, in the opinion of certain nearby residents, have made the surrounding country useless. A deputation sought audience with government officers over the issue and the swamp was left intact, but the government sold the best timber around it and left the rest for future settlers to use as they wished.

The Booinbah area lies along the road from Boonara to Kilkivan about 10 miles from Goomeri. Its 1 500 acres were divided into eleven farms of little more than 100 acres each. These were considered at the time to be living areas. They probably were justifiably so in good seasons until the 1930 Depression.

The main swamp, cut into two farms, and regarded as the best properties, was acquired by Messrs Eustace and Anderson. At first the farms were very productive. Four were watered by Boonara Creek and the remainder by almost permanent waterholes and wells. The soil varied from sandy loam to heavy black soil in the lower reaches of swamps and creeks. Cotton was grown on the ridges until the price fell, but dairying with lucerne and fodder crops was most successful.

The swamp area proved to be very good '*dry weather*' land. In 1926, properties were averaging twenty acres of cultivation with some lucerne on each farm. Corn and pumpkins were also grown.

The average milking herd was twenty-five head - mostly Jersey cows. Cream returns averaged £20 per month, and pigs were reared on separated milk. Mr Everett had a herd of Friesians. The largest herd belonged to Mr Spiller, who was one of the earliest farmers to own milking machines.

Mr Fred McIntosh had great success with cotton in the early years, and Mr S Coulter's farm had one of the best patches of lucerne (according to newspaper reports at the time).

Some of the men were experienced farmers; others were tradesmen and labourers. In 1926, most of these farms employed working men, usually young English migrant boys.

Under the Soldier Settlers' Act, each farmer had the right to borrow £625, but it was estimated that most had a loan of half that amount. The original group that settled in the area was: Messrs F McIntosh, G Spiller, S Coulter, H Teitzel, W Eustace, J G Everett, S Delamare, T Wixted, J Peters and F C Anderson.

After the Second World War the tendency was for farms to mechanise and get larger. The day of the small farms had ended. Today, the sons of Fred McIntosh own and work the original block that their father bought, combined with several others. Vance, son of Mr Syd Delemare, works the farm that his father owned and much of the land that his mother's family, the Lobegeiers, selected in 1908. Other farms have also become part of larger properties and their original owners have long since gone.

### **Boonaravale**

In 1916, C J Mayne, owner of Kinbombi Station, purchased the Leamba Estate (Cinnabar). Some of the leases on his land were falling due. An arrangement was made with the government that for every acre of land at Kinbombi Mr Mayne relinquished, he would obtain one-and-a-half acres of Leamba. The Kinbombi land, called 'Boonaravale' was to be cut up for soldier settlement after the war.

The Maynes donated £6 000 to be used as a fund to give assistance to every returned soldier in the Kilkivan Shire. Each man received a bonus on a pro rata basis.

The Boonaravale land was opened up in 1919. It had good lucerne flats and permanent water from Chippindall Creek. Some settlers increased the size of their blocks, which were rather small. Mr Walter Heathwood had two blocks; Messrs R Bador, Bob McIntosh, E H Goodchild and H Horne had 100 acres each.

## Cinnabar

The soldier settler blocks taken up at Cinnabar were not considered viable by the surrounding community. None of the original settlers remain in the district today and all of the blocks have been absorbed into larger properties. Some of the farms were only 80 acres in size. Farmers who took up these blocks were: G Harold, J J Mallen, N Lindsay, Mark Groves, Gary Godfrey, Kershaw, Gleeson and Warr.

All dairied and took cream to Cinnabar Railway Station. There were twenty farmers sending cream to the butter factories before the Second World War. There are no longer any dairymen in this district.

## Winderera - Booubyjan - Daddamarine Creek

The soldier settler blocks resumed from Booubyjan were on the whole, larger than those in other places. Most averaged 200 to 300 acres in area. All the properties had a mixture of hillside and creek flats. Dairying and mixed farming was carried on by these settlers. Some have stayed and enlarged their properties. Other farms have changed hands. None of these original blocks would be living areas in today's rural economic climate.

Mr Albert Brown who took up one of these blocks, was late receiving his discharge and did not arrive home until 1924. He married Gertrude, daughter of John Lobiegeier. Like other settlers they started their married life in a bark slab hut until a house was built. At one stage, cotton was grown on the property. It did well but involved much work and when the price fell, was replaced with other crops suitable for cow feed.



*Cotton growing at Booubyjan - 1920's*

*(J Brown)*



When Mr Brown retired to Goomeri, his son took over the property and is still in possession of it. Mr Brown had a long retirement and died in 1986, in his nineties. His wife still lives in Goomeri close to her daughter, Olive (Mrs Harry Dorse).

The two Maudsley brothers - Gordon and Bill - who already had properties close by, took up more land at Daddamarine Creek when it became available. Others who acquired blocks at that time were: Tom Kelly, Patrick O'Rouke, Reg Nissen, Harry Shore, Weston, Coster, Guttridge, Greenwood, George Angel, Frank Hayes and Kenny. These may not all have been soldier settlers, but their blocks were taken up in the early twenties.

### **Manumbar**

A number of resumptions from Manumbar Station and other early selections in the Manumbar area were thrown open for selection after the First World War. These were larger blocks than in other places in the shire, varying from 400 to 1 000 acres in size. The area became known as the 'Manumbar Settlement', developing as a focal point for the community, much as the Manumbar Mill area did.

George Knight was one of the soldier settlers that took up a block at that time. His father had been a Gympie miner and a strong supporter of Andrew Fisher, who became Prime Minister. As a young man George worked on the new railway that was, at that time, being extended to Nanango during the 1902 drought.

From 1912 to 1915 he managed Elambah, a 5 000 acre property at Cinnabar, owned by a Gympie man named Donavon. He had married Jessie Banks and in 1916, the family went to live at the Banks' property, Bellavale. In 1920 George acquired a soldier-settler block which he called 'Baalgamon'. They dairied on this land. The property, which has been enlarged and developed, is still in the possession of George's son, Gordon and his two sons.

One of the blocks, now owned by Mr Aubrey Lane, was taken up by his father, Albert Lane, in 1920. The original property was 411 acres in area. Two other blocks have since been added. This was run as a dairy at first, but Mr Lane now rears beef cattle.

Other people who settled on Manumbar blocks at that time were: Messrs Syd Smith, Percy Pointon, Webb Brothers, Franz, Innes, Schultz, John Ross, O Leo, Dickens and Fischer.

There are no dairy farms left in the area, which is regarded as good cattle country.

### **Fat Hen Creek**

One family, the Lahiff brothers, took up land in 1920. Mr Reg Lahiff married Agnes Jones. Their son David now owns his father's property and has business

interests in Kilkivan. His wife, Fay, is a descendant of Mr Sam Beresford. Another son, Reg, has extensive mining interests in Kilkivan.

### A Final Word

Soldier settlement brought more farmers to the shire but did not contribute greatly to the prosperity of the district. As in most cases all over Australia, blocks were too small to be viable. The depressed conditions of the late twenties and early thirties forced many farmers off their properties. Those who stayed bought more land and, in some cases, have passed larger more productive farms on to the next generation of their families.

For a while at the end of the Second World War, some land in the district was frozen. But plans for further soldier settlement in this area were abandoned in favour of concessional loans to ex-servicemen who wished to go on the land.

### 5. THE GROWING OF LUCERNE

Lucerne was grown in the shire in the days of the large pastoral holdings and early selections. It was used as fodder for horses and other animals. Early writings about the area mention lucerne growing on Boobyjan, Kilkivan and Lakeview.

With the introduction of dairy farming, after closer settlement, lucerne growing received an impetus. Creek flats, particularly on farms created by the Goomeri Land Sale and later soldier settlements, were ideally suited for the growing of lucerne. Not only were local dairy cows fed on the pasture but hay and chaff were made for dry times and for sale.

In the twenties and thirties Goomeri district had a reputation for good lucerne chaff. It was highly sought after in the Roma Street Markets where it brought good prices. Bags of chaff were sent all over the state, particularly to North Queensland. Many of the farmers who came to the area were experienced lucerne growers from the Lockyer, and the Hunter River in New South Wales.

Mr J E Stanton, who bought a farm with a large area of creek flat at Boonara, was a very successful lucerne grower. In 1925 he won two medals for prime lucerne chaff at Wembley Exhibition, England.

Mr William Bandidt was also a successful lucerne grower, having come from the Lockyer in 1911. The land he bought was situated beside Nangur Creek, half-a-mile outside Goomeri. It was regarded as one of the choicest pieces of creek flat in the district.

The Goomeri Land Company offered a prize of £25 for the best patch of lucerne grown on Boonara Estate. Because of his knowledge of lucerne growing, Mr Bandidt was elected judge for the competition. It was won by Mr Jim Anderson who owned a property three miles outside Goomeri on the Gayndah road, now owned by the Mollenhauer family.



*Cecil Euler's first load of chaff*

*(Mrs E Euler)*

Other well-known lucerne growers were Mr Percy Stanton of Boonaravale, Mr Irwin, Mr J A Stanton and Mr F Anderson of Boonara.

Mr Cecil Euler also grew good lucerne and became known as a producer of prime chaff. He worked the flats around Boonara Homestead (which he later owned) and had a farm nearby.

Farmers at that time (in the early days of closer settlement) helped one another, and those who were knowledgeable passed advice on to their neighbours. In 1925 an observer stated about the creek flats outside Goomeri: *'Lucerne is to be seen everywhere. It is a sight never to be forgotten'*.

Approximately 300 tons of chaff a month passed through the rail system, making Goomeri a very busy railway station and greatly contributing to the prosperity of the district. A price of £6 per ton could be obtained for prime chaff in 1930. It was known to reach £10 to £20 per ton at times. The average yield of local crops of lucerne was 15 hundredweight to the acre. Lucerne-growing land was bringing a price of £20 to £25 per acre.

Chaff was a wonderful revenue-earner for the railway. In 1929, 21 030 tons of agricultural produce was handled at Goomeri Railway Station. The railage on that amount brought £2 629. A large quantity was sold through local produce agents. Lucerne is still grown on the creek flats throughout the shire. Because the soil has lost its original quality, fertiliser has to be used. Insect pests have also caused trouble in recent years.

With the advent of irrigation from bores and creeks, lucerne is still considered one of the district's most reliable crops. Hay balers and bale loaders have taken much of the hard work out of the job of hay-making. As the district turned away from dairying, lucerne, for a time, gave way to cereal crops. However, in recent years, there has been a return to lucerne growing. Hay is now sold in bales and transported by truck to its destination.

## 6. GOOD GRAZING COUNTRY

In the Kilkivan Shire the natural grasses, especially blue grass, are ideal for grazing cattle. The principal breeds of the 1930's were Herefords, Shorthorns, Red and Black Polls. Large mobs were brought to this area to be fattened.

In 1929, 7 178 cattle and 370 calves were railed from Goomeri. There were also truckings from Kilkivan and other sidings.

From 1911 to 1940 dairying was conducted mainly with small herds. Large quantities of cream were sent to nearby factories. Most of the herds were grade herds but there were some stud herds. Mr W Pearce conducted an AIS stud at Fairview.

The Goomeri police records of 1928 give the following statistics: 208 dairy herds; total amount of milk produced - 2 100 768 gallons; an amount of 2 061 079 gallons was separated for cream to be sent to dairy factories.

In 1921 the Registrar General gave the following statistics:- population of Kilkivan Shire, 3 046; of which 624 people gave their address as 'Goomeri'.

By 1928, the area under cultivation in the shire was 5 879 acres. Thirteen farms had 5 acres under cultivation; 65 had 20 acres; 112 had 30 to 50 acres; 22 had over 50 acres. Area under crops was 3 943 acres with 1 936 acres lying fallow. There were 1 404 acres under maize for the production of grain. Lucerne covered 983 acres; cotton, 38 acres; potatoes, 78 acres; pumpkins and melons, 76 acres; broom millet, 3 acres; peanuts, 3 acres, producing 1 466 pounds, as well as areas under other crops.

Yields were as follows: maize, 11 777 bushels; English potatoes, 52 tons; sweet potatoes, 17 tons; unginced cotton, 14 306 pounds; lucerne hay, 2 130 tons; grapes, 49 pounds; onions, 3.5 tons; tomatoes, 44 bushels; broom millet, 1 421 pounds of straw; mangold worzel, 826 tons.

There were 401 people engaged in farming. The value of farm machinery and implements was given as £22 358, travelling machinery being valued at \$4 735.

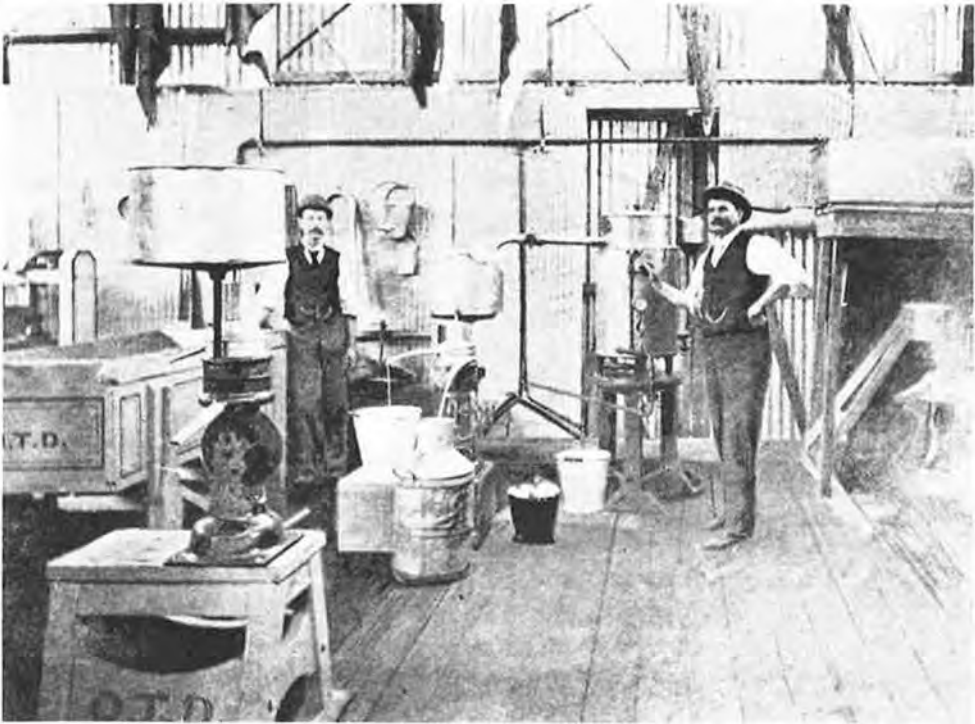
The statistics for livestock were: 9 794 horses, 20 808 beef cattle, 3 035 sheep, 10 525 swine, 41 277 dairy cattle.

Persons engaged in dairying were 392 males and 216 females. There were 208 dairy farms.

Milk was as follows: 2 100 768 gallons; 2 061 679 gallons separated (the cream being sent to butter factories and the separated milk used on the farm for feeding pigs); 60 659 gallons used for making butter on farms, from which 30 817 pounds of butter were made. The value of dairy machinery and implements was £21 596. Stocks of poultry numbered 7 537, producing 41 985 dozen eggs.

## 7. DAIRY FACTORIES

It has been mentioned in other chapters that dairying was started early and mainly in the Wide Bay section of the shire. At first butter and cheese was made by the farmers on the farm, and transported by rail to Gympie or Maryborough for sale.



*Model Dairy*

*(Dept of Primary Industries)*

The advent of the model dairy has also been mentioned, and the demonstration of the cream separator as a great step forward in contrast to the skimming of cream from milk placed in shallow vats.

The first butter factory to be used by local people was at Tiaro, established in 1890. It was the first co-operative dairy factory in Queensland. There was a ready market for butter at the time in Gympie where mining was still in progress. This factory was closed in 1892 and taken over by the Lowood Creamery Company Ltd of Oxley. While it was operating, cream was sent by rail from Kilkivan Station and the other railway sidings.

In the period 1895 - 1896, following demonstrations by the Model Dairy, most people who were dairying bought separators. This made the production of cream on the farms much more efficient.

In 1901, the Maryborough Co-operative Dairy Association opened its factory. Cream was still being taken to the nearest rail pick-up and this factory provided an outlet for local supplies. A co-operative factory had also been established at Gympie about this time. The Hewsons of Cinnabar started dairying in 1898, having bought a separator the previous year. At that time, according to the late Mr George Hewson, there was no dairy factory outside Brisbane. He sent cream to the Silverwood Dairy in Stanley Street, South Brisbane. It took twelve hours to reach Brisbane but, despite the length of the journey, Mr Hewson considered he received a fair deal from the factory.

In 1908 a second co-operative factory was opened in Tiaro to cater for, among others, dairymen from Kilkivan Shire. After the land sales at Goomeri and Kilkivan, the number of dairymen increased dramatically. By 1912 most of the co-operative's shareholders were closer to Murgon than to Tiaro, and it was decided to re-locate the factory in Murgon. In 1914 the name of the co-operative was changed to 'South Burnett Co-operative Dairy Company Limited'. Much of the cream from the Kilkivan - Goomeri area went to Murgon by rail.

To serve its cream suppliers in the South Burnett and Kilkivan area, the Maryborough Co-operative Dairy Factory Company established a butter factory at Kingaroy in 1907, and much later in Wondai in 1930. Once the Wondai factory was opened, the co-operative's suppliers in the Kilkivan Shire sent their cream to this factory until it closed in 1969 as the number of dairymen started to decline.

When the First World War broke out in 1914 there was a great demand for cheese for export to Great Britain to be used as army rations. In the Kilkivan - Goomeri district it resulted in a large number of small cheese factories being established. By 1917 there were factories at Goomeri, Boonara, Tansey and Cinnabar. Mention was made in the Kilkivan Shire minutes of a plan to start a factory at Woolooga, but apparently nothing came of it. In Goomeri, one site was at the end of Jones Street, near the present Finnemore's factory. It was later moved near the lagoon close to Goomeri on the Gayndah Road.

The Boonara Factory was on the eastern side of the road just past the turn-off from Boonara to Kilkivan, and the Tansey Factory, near the present cemetery. The Cinnabar factory was located near the railway station. Each of these worked independently, having its own share-holders and board of directors. They were all closed in the early twenties, when the demand for cheese slackened. The Tansey factory was sold for removal to Kilkivan where it became a store.

In the Second World War there was again a demand for cheese production. This time two factories were established. Tansey Factory opened in 1942 and was run by the Maryborough Co-operative Dairy Association. It closed in 1974.



*Boonara Cheese Factory - 1916*

*(J Stanton)*



*Shareholders of Boonara Cheese Factory*

*(F McIntosh)*

The building was later converted into an abattoir, but now lies idle. The Goomeri factory, about two miles out of town on the Gayndah Road, was opened by the South Burnett Co-operative Dairy Company in 1942. It closed in 1962 and was later used as a grain storage depot. It is now vacant. Both factories, during their operation, were noted for the quality of their cheese. Tansey cheese won prizes at the RNA Exhibition and other major shows. Goomeri cheese also did well in competitions.

Early carriers of milk and cream operated with horse-drawn vehicles. At first they carted cream to the nearest rail outlet, from whence it was carried by train. When the cheese factories were opened in the First World War, carriers were not needed as most farmers carted their own milk, returning with whey, a by-product from cheese making, used for the feeding of pigs. The factories had to be close to the suppliers because of the slowness of transport and the state of the roads. Some farmers, especially those further from the factories continued to supply cream which they often carted to the nearest rail outlet or depot. After the war, when the cheese factories closed, farmers again reverted to supplying cream.

One of the earliest carriers in the Tansey area was Mr Denham who was drowned crossing a flooded creek. Other cream carriers that succeeded him were Walter Kimber and Bruno Groer. After his return from the war, Mr Bert Saddler had a cream run. He was one of the first carriers in the district to change to motor transport. Another early carrier was Mr Len Murphy who ran a truck to the Boonara-Tansey-Booinbah area, picking up cream and mail. He also had a run to Barambah and Johnstown. Mr Roy Wain followed him. After the war these runs were reorganised to cope with changing conditions.

Mr Jack Maudsley of Goomeri bought a mail run in 1920. When he started he used a sulky, but later changed to a buckboard, using a change of horses and employing an assistant. He travelled regularly to Holroyd, Winderera and Daddamarine Creek. The run was so large that it necessitated stopping overnight at Holroyd. In the thirties, he changed to motor transport. He retired in 1948.

When the 10 am train passed through Kilkivan, the railway yard would be full of horse-drawn vehicles from surrounding farms waiting to put cream on the train. The only real cream run in the early days was run by Mr Phil Sebbens from Fat Hen Creek. In 1936, Mr Clark McCarroll started a cream and carrying run. He sold it to the Deitz brothers, who in turn, sold it to Mr Arthur Muir and finally, in 1968, to Mr and Mrs Choate, daughter and son-in-law of the first owner. It remained a cream run until the seventies, and a mail run for longer. Now it is a fuel supply depot with a small mail and delivery run.

Mr Percy Perrett started transporting cream by road, direct to the factories in Murgon and Wondai, during the 1930's. At the time the Cream Transport Board proposed zoning all cream to the nearest factory. This was not acceptable to the producers or the factories. It would have been welcomed by the carriers who had to use a raft in flood time to ferry the cream across Barambah Creek.



The cartage rate from Goomeri to either Murgon or Wondai was one penny per gallon. Mr Perrett later purchased a cream and mail run to Manumbar which was run by his son, Doug. During the war he had a similar one to Oakfield, which later included Booinbah, Tansey, and Watchbox. It was sold to Mr Vince Weier in 1962.

Carriers not only transported milk and cream to the rail or the factories, but delivered mail, papers, bread, meat and any other goods the farmers needed. Today cream carters have been superseded by carriers who transport fuel, mail and other goods. There are only a handful of dairy farmers left. These have up-to-date milking sheds with electric motors and bulk vats. Tankers load the milk and transport it to the factory. Although the farms are so few, they produce a greater volume of milk than all the small farms did in the twenties and thirties.

Pigs are no longer given skim milk in open sties. They are scientifically raised and housed in air-conditioned sheds on specially prepared mixed food, either prepared on farm or bought from local suppliers. With better roads, modern cars and home refrigeration for storage, country people no longer rely on the carrier for their household supplies, but they are still needed to transport mail, fuel, farm supplies and other heavy goods.

Many of the farms in the Wide Bay section of the shire sent cream to the Wide Bay Co-operative Dairy Association and later, also to Nestles - both in Gympie. Nestles' Factory has closed and Wide Bay has merged with Queensland Farmers' Co-operative of Booval and again with Caboolture Dairy Co-operative to form Queensco Food. This move is in line with the presently regarded advantage to the industry. The three suppliers in the Kilkivan district now supply the Gympie factory with milk.

At present there are about twenty suppliers in the Goomeri - Tansey section of the shire, some supplying Murgon Co-operative Dairy Association and others Maryborough Co-operative Dairy Association. In many cases dairymen have personal, long-standing loyalties to one or other of these factories. The future may bring changes in which the survival of the industry may depend on policies of co-operation and rationalization.

Farms are larger. There are still many growing lucerne, which is usually sold in bales. Soya beans, barley, wheat, and sorghum are sold as cash crops. Cattle raising is widely undertaken. It is possible that we will eventually turn full circle to the large properties of the nineteenth century if present rural economic trends continue.

## **8. SEXTON - CARMYLE**

The Sexton - Carmyle area lies at the far north eastern end of Kilkivan Shire close to where the Mary River joins Wide Bay Creek and bordering on the Tiara Shire. It is almost a pocket containing about ten blocks of land, ranging from 300 to 600 acres each, bounded by the Mary River on the east, Devil's Mountain on

the west and Wide Bay Creek on the north. Most of the properties were bought when Woollooga and Widgee Estates were purchased from their owners by the government to be cut up for closer settlement.

Some of the early owners of these blocks were: Messrs Radeker, Currant, Cauley, and two families of Bamblings and Mitchells. Mr P J Birt was not one of the original settlers, but took up a block when the ownership had lapsed soon after.

His son, Mr Jim Birt, still owns the land his father took up. Most of the original selectors have left. Mr Birt gives a graphic description of the conditions in this area after settlement:

*'In the early days everybody dairied. Cream was transported by horse-drawn vehicles to the Sexton Railway Siding to be railed to butter factories in Gympie, Maryborough and Murgon. The trip to the siding was undertaken three times a week - three to six miles there and back in all weathers.*

*Floods were the greatest trouble as practically all farmers had to cross Wide Bay Creek to reach the railway, and, with no bridges, in flood time some cream had to be taken across by boat or by flying fox (pulley running on a taut wire).*

*At the southern end of the area (where we live) a low-level bridge was built about 1925, but it was often covered by high floods. During floods we took the boat on a sled pulled by a quiet draught horse to the creek crossing. Sometimes Mr McKewan, who lived at Sexton, brought his horse and dray to meet my father. Otherwise a large hand cart built on sulky wheels was ferried over the creek, on the boat and man-handled up the road cutting to be loaded with all the cans it could hold. Smaller cans were carried by hand. A horse was usually swum across behind the boat and helped to pull the cart.*

*When the bridge was built it was sometimes possible, though risky, to drive a buckboard over the bridge even when it was under water.*

*On one occasion, my uncle volunteered to do this with a pair of horses in a buckboard. He took the cream across without mishap. On the return journey, carrying empty cans, mail and other goods, the buckboard went over the side of the bridge. The driver, horses and vehicle got to safety but the load was lost. My father and some of his neighbours chased the load downstream but only saved one can. They swam to the mouth of the creek, continued to the Dickabram Bridge, but eventually came home defeated.*

*On another occasion our show cattle team were to be taken to Sexton to be trucked to Kilkivan. There was water over the bridge. My father walked in front leading the stud bull. I followed on horseback. About three-quarters of the way over, one cow, baffled by the water rushing by, walked off the top side and was quickly sucked under the bridge. I gave her up for lost, but a short distance down stream she came up and clambered on to the bank, none the worse for her adventure.*

*In the twenties, a number of British lads, no more than sixteen years old, were working in the district on farms. A farmer who had one of these migrants working for him, waded across a flooded creek leading a horse, put the lad (a non-swimmer and non-rider and only a few days in Australia) on the horse and started back. They both went over the side of the bridge but miraculously managed to scramble to safety.*

*As motor vehicles became available, cream was hauled by road to Gympie and, later still, whole milk to Nestles' Factory. At one time three six-ton loads of milk per day went out of this little corner.*

*Now there are no dairy farmers left and the properties have reverted to cattle raising as the Widgee owners did before the land was divided.*

*In the Depression years my father and other farmers attempted fruit growing. The main crop was bananas. This was a failure because prices were so low, as little as a penny per dozen. Cattle raising has proved to be the most profitable for this area.'*

## 9. BOOINBAH BIRD SANCTUARY

The area known locally as the Booinbah Swamp is marked on early maps as a bird sanctuary. It was made a native bird and animal reserve under the wardenship of Mr Thomas Tansey of Lakeview.



*Booinbah Swamp - Boonara*

*(B Lawless)*



*Celebrating Bird Day at Booinbah Swamp*

*(J Heath)*

In lieu of his guardianship, the Government allowed him grazing rights to the reserve. This was a worthwhile concession because the surrounding land remained green in dry times long after other land had succumbed to drought.

According to a report in the *Brisbane Courier* (9 January 1926), all kinds of waterfowl, ducks, swans, geese and pelicans swam on its surface and frequented the land around it. Opossums were so numerous that there was insufficient room for them all in the trees surrounding the swamp. At that time thousands of these animals were reputed to be living around the swamp in hollow logs and stumps. It appeared that the old ones chased the young ones out of the trees. Koalas too were plentiful.

In the twenties Mr J E Heath, Head Teacher of Goomeri State School, transported all his teachers and pupils out to the swamp to celebrate Bird Day. He had as his guest speaker Mr A H Chisholm, Secretary of the Queensland Ornithologists' Association.

Today the swamp is no longer a sanctuary and years of drought have dried up much of the water. But when the rains come and the swamps are full, there is still a varied population of water birds around the area.

## 10. SHARE FARMERS AND WORKING MEN

From the beginning of dairying until its ultimate demise in the late forties and fifties, many farms could afford labour. Some families employed working men, many of them young migrant boys. For a time, Mr Jim Anderson acted as agent for the placement of English boys wishing to find work on farms. Others found their way independently to the area.

Wages were comparable to those paid to other workers but the work was strenuous and the hours long. An inexperienced boy of fourteen would usually be paid fifteen shillings a week and his keep, and those with experience could be paid as much as twenty-five shillings, depending on the ability of their employer to pay and their value as good workers.

Mr Tom Livingstone of Kilkivan came to Goomeri as a migrant boy and worked for several farmers. Mr J E Stanton taught him good farming methods, and Mr Bill Westaway taught him to build a good fence.

Some farmers provided houses and employed families. It was an accepted thing that wives and children helped with the milking. Here again wages, though not high, were comparable with those of city workers, but hours of work were long and life was not easy for the women and children.

Many farms, which would now be unable to provide an income for one family, supported the owner and a share farmer. The usual agreement entered into stipulated that both owner and share farmer divided equally the running expenses of the farm and profits, the owner providing the farm and the share farmer, the labour. As with the working families, wives and children constituted the work force for milking, tending calves and feeding pigs. Children would have to do several hours work a day before and after school.

Farmers who worked their own properties also needed their entire families to run the dairies and feed pigs. Often the children would drive to school in a horse-drawn vehicle, taking cans of cream with them to a railway siding or a pick-up depot.

Mrs Ellen Sadler, a member of the Kilvington family, gives a graphic account of her childhood as a share farmer's daughter:

*'My parents lost their farm at Hivesville during the Depression and came to share-farm at Tansey.*

*Some owners were loath to outlay money on repairs to machinery and upgrading the standards of dairy herds. Properties employing share farmers were usually large. Windmills needed to be maintained, cattle broke fences and got into neighbours' properties, pigs escaped from sties, noxious weeds had to be eradicated and straying stock rounded up. The share farmer's house was spartan, sometimes having no bathroom. Washing was done outside on a bench under a tree and tank water was scarce. Wood stoves varied in efficiency.*

Not much time was spent in the house as there was milking, haymaking and chaff-cutting to be done. Most share farmers had large families and found the houses provided a tight squeeze. They were constantly on the move and their possessions consisted of little more than a wash-up basin, which served many purposes, a battery wireless, some cupboards, a table and long stools, and perhaps wall-to-wall beds.

Children were up and in the dairy before dawn, hand milking, feeding 'poddies', catching the work horses, rounding up stragglers from the dairy herd, and washing up heavy cream or milk cans. These had a horrible habit of dropping on small cold toes on a frosty morning. Herds on these farms averaged 70 to 100 cows. The children would hurry home in the afternoon to repeat the morning routine. Older ones would have to care for their younger brothers and sisters while the mother worked outside.

Some children fed calves and chopped corn cobs and pumpkins for the pigs. The end of milking brought another wash up of greasy dairy utensils in lukewarm water, with a hairless brush and washing soda.

When cheese factories opened, the cans were sent back to the farm with evil smelling whey to be fed to the pigs. These had to be washed in very inconvenient circumstances.

The highlight of the day was listening to programmes on the battery wireless, if the static wasn't too severe.

Lunch at school was dried out Peck's paste sandwiches or occasionally jam, baked beans or peanut paste. Home-made butter was often rancid and used sparingly so as not to reduce the amount of cream that supplied the farm income. Milk was one treat that was never rationed. Breakfast consisted of the previous night's left-over vegetables, and sometimes a little mince fried up. The evening meal would be a big stew of steak or mutton chops or a topside roast with plenty of baked potato and pumpkin. Green vegetables were difficult to obtain and many families in drought time cooked pig weed. Dried apples and apricots, currants, camp pie, dried peas, lima beans and split peas helped to satisfy the appetites of growing children. If we looked pale, mother gave us Bidomac or Clement's Tonic and Senna tea to keep us 'regular'. Other treats were gramma pie, corn on the cob, and prickly pear fruit.

We started school at Tansey and then moved to the boarding house in Goomeri. At the time diphtheria injections were being given at the school, but when several children died from the use of multiple phial injections which became contaminated, even the doctor was worried about children being given the injections. Whooping cough and polio were rife at the time and school was closed for a while. Many children from the district were in Wondai Hospital at the time suffering from whooping cough and diphtheria.

After several more moves we went to live at Kinbombi. In 1937 newspapers became more available. My reading began with the Sunday Mail and the

*weekly episode of Bib and Bub by May Gibbs. Times were improving. The 'swaggies' who roamed the country at the height of the Depression, going from town to town to collect rations, were less frequently seen.*

*Money seemed scarce until after the war. Transport was by walking or horse drawn vehicles. After this we moved to Booinbah.*

*I left school prior to my fourteenth birthday, and spent my time mustering cattle and doing domestic work on a 445-acre farm. The family had no vehicle and seldom went to Goomeri. Sometimes clothes were bought from travelling salesmen or by mail order. Child endowment was often the only money a mother could call her own. We saw no doctor, dentist or hairdresser in years. Later we went to the Tansey pictures which were screened in the open air. We took our own fruit boxes for seats. If it rained the show was cancelled.*

*Mail day brought the paper and news of the outside world. Our mother squandered four pence a month on the Australian Home Journal. We also grabbed any papers that came our way. I can remember hiding behind the shed to read a copy of Truth which my mother considered unfit for young people. Much of what I read in it was beyond my understanding at that stage.*

*Mother believed in Pear's soap, about our only luxury. She came from a good home and had learnt to play the piano in her youth but never had time to discuss musical appreciation with us. Most of her life was sacrificed to our well being. Two of the family are highly qualified nursing sisters and the boys are at Gainsborough Lodge Horse Stud. The older members of our family moved from school to school in our young days. In later years my mother put her foot firmly down and refused to move off the last half-share farm where the family worked for twenty-three years.'*

Although the lives of share farmers were difficult, many stayed for years on the one farm, making a reasonable living and eventually saving enough to buy their own farms.

## **11. CHANGES SINCE THE THIRTIES**

The years from the beginning of the twentieth century to the end of the Second World War saw the rise and zenith in prosperity of the rural industries in the shire. Cattle grazing had recovered from the droughts of the early 1900's. Establishment of mixed agricultural farms saw dairying, pig raising, the growing of lucerne and other crops at their peak.

After the Second World War changes occurred - some of them nation-wide, others distinctively local. The war caused a shortage of labour as working men and sons of farmers enlisted or went to work in other essential industries. Some returned at the end of the war, but the lure of better wages and conditions attracted many workers into other industries. Inflation began to make itself felt, and people on the land struggled with rising costs which were not always offset with higher returns.

Farms began to mechanise instead of employing labour. Communications improved; country children in this shire obtained access to secondary education and many chose to work in other trades and professions. The old tradition of fathers passing properties on to their sons was, in many cases, broken.

Dairying is no longer a major rural industry, but the small number of farms remaining have modern machinery and herds culled and carefully selected for high milk production, transported to factories by bulk tankers. Local factories have been closed in the process of rationalising the industry. This trend is likely to continue further in the years ahead.

To remain viable, properties have increased in size. Many farmers, their wives and families, have undertaken full- or part-time jobs to obtain funds to keep their farming or grazing enterprises going. Drought and low prices for produce have created problems not only for the rural sector, but for the business sector of the towns and the people they employ.

Properties in the the Burnett section of the shire that formerly ran dairies have turned to the growing of cash crops - barley, sorghum, soya beans and wheat. Rising costs of production, fluctuating prices and bad seasons have made these less popular. Lucerne is still grown for the sale of hay and chaff and for reserve animal fodder. A number of farmers have established modern piggeries which are producing in a very scientific manner - a far cry from the old method of raising pigs on the skimmed milk left from milk separated for cream production. The farmer who runs a dairy or a piggery has to be well informed about modern trends in his industry, and to be prepared to outlay capital for modern buildings and equipment.

Since the 1880's, when the early pastoral holdings turned from sheep, cattle raising has become an important rural industry and is gaining in popularity. In the 1970's, a bad recession caused a nationwide setback to what had been a prosperous industry but in recent years cattle raising has once again become viable. Most graziers grow crops as supplementary feed for their herds and some have commenced lot feeding.

The future of the rural industries in Kilkivan Shire may well lie with cattle raising on properties that are becoming progressively larger. For the few dairy farmers that are left, there is hope if the industry can solve its problems on a nationwide scale. Piggeries have had their profits boosted by a fall in the price of grain, and continue to be popular with local farmers. Many have turned from growing cash crops to cattle raising because of rising costs and falling returns. But lucerne growing, using irrigation, has increased in popularity.

It is to be hoped that seasons and prices will improve sufficiently to allow those who value the quality of life in a rural environment to remain where they are, and enable their children, if they wish, to carry on the tradition of the family property.







## *Chapter 13*

---

### THE GROWTH OF KILKIVAN TOWNSHIP

#### 1. THE BEGINNING

The township of Kilkivan came into being with the first gold rush of 1868, after alluvial gold was discovered at West Coast Creek by six New Zealanders, about 7 km from the present site of the town. At the time this area was part of the large pastoral holding of J D Mactaggart.

An account of the development and demise of this early township is given in Chapter Four. By May 1869 the town was declining. The bank had closed and the town's population had dropped from approximately 5 000 to 500.

One of the first businesses was a general store conducted by brothers John and Mick Mackey. They also ran a post office and later an hotel at Rise and Shine.

The real revival took place with the discovery of the Rise and Shine Reef in 1874. This was located just south of the present township. West Coast Creek became a ghost town overnight. The new town was given the name 'Mount Neurum', but shortly after it reverted to its original name - Kilkivan.

Commissioner J O'Connell Bligh marked out the streets on the new site. Here John Beer built the first hotel. There was also Ashley Bright's Royal Hotel, which had been shifted from Mount Coora, and this included a general store. He was bought out by W G McKewan in 1883. Stores were also started by M Divine and J Wormald who were continually at odds with Commissioner Bligh, by then in charge of administering the goldfield according to the Goldfields Act.

These two business men reputedly tormented Bligh by defacing all official notices with unpleasant remarks. Although an unofficial post office had been run from Mackey's store, the first official post office was on a hill on the

eastern side of the town and the first post master was Mr Charles James. Mail came by packhorse from Gympie, Gundiah and Maryborough via Gigoomgan. The town also obtained the services of a resident policeman, Sergeant Cahill.

Kilkivan was used as an outlet for the quicksilver mine at Cinnabar, and the cobalt from Black Snake. A butcher's shop was run by Mr Bill Frazer, using cattle from Kilkivan and Widgee Stations. The original pharmacy was run by Mr Alex Gowan. His shop was also a depot for marsupial scalps for which the government paid a bounty.

Until the end of the century there was a large nomadic population of aborigines in the vicinity of Kilkivan. During the bunya season they travelled to Kabunga in the Manumbar area. Soon after 1900 they moved permanently to Barambah Settlement.

Although the Rise and Shine was abandoned soon after, the town continued to exist. It had become a commercial centre for the surrounding area. In the years that followed, more finds of minerals were made and Kilkivan proved itself the business centre for these, as well as for the growing rural population resulting from the selection of land for pastoral and agricultural purposes. It served the South Burnett as well as the Wide Bay areas.

Gayndah and Nanango were the closest inland towns to the district. With the extension of the railway from Kilkivan Junction (Theebine) to Kilkivan in December 1886, the future of the town was assured.

The terminus of the new line was at the site of the present sports grounds and most of the businesses gravitated to situations close to the railway station.

In 1885 the anticipated coming of the railway led to agitation for a divisional board with its centre at Kilkivan. The reason given was that this railhead made the town a logical centre for the proposed board. The proclamation of Kilkivan Divisional Board on 1 January 1888, was a further boost to the town.

The growth of the timber industry and the opening up of land for closer settlement resulted in the establishment of mixed farms, with dairying and the growing of lucerne and other crops. This all helped to assure the town's continuing progress.

## **2. THE TOWN OF KILKIVAN**

The town of Kilkivan was well established by the beginning of the twentieth century. In 1899, when work commenced on the railway extension, Kilkivan Station was moved to its present site. This affected the commercial rather than the residential section of the town. Businesses moved to more convenient places.

Business families either adapted to the changes, or moved on to other towns. Some selected or bought land. The changes that occurred make the history of the town very complex.



*Kilkivan - early 1900's*

*(McIvor family)*



*Bligh Street - Kilkivan*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*

One of the earliest families to come from Tiaro were the McKewans. They had a long standing association with the town until Mr Mick McKewan sold his grazing property in the 1950's and left the district. The McKewans owned a hotel, called the 'Railway', and a store opposite the first railway site - near the present location of Mrs Lahiff's house. Close by were a bakery, a blacksmith's shop and stables for horses. When the railway station was relocated in 1902, the hotel building was shifted to Goomeri.

Mr Percy Perrett's widowed mother had a fruit shop near the present site of the Police Station. When the railway was extended in 1902 she shifted her business to Goomeri siding.

John Coleman, who was a baker by trade, followed the railway line from Theebinc to Kilkivan as it was being built, supplying bread to the workers on the line. When he arrived in Kilkivan in 1886, he decided to stay and start a business. He did very well and sent for his sister, Margaret, who later married a miner, Alec McCarroll. Mr Coleman married Kate Murphy, who had worked for the Cogans, Kilkivan hoteliers. The families formed a long-lasting friendship. In 1911 Mr Coleman started a branch of his business in Goomeri in charge of which he put his niece, Minnie McCarroll and her brother, Clark. Eventually the Colemans sold both businesses and bought land at what is now called 'Coleman's Siding'.

The Kilkivan business was bought by Harry Zahnleiter and his brother-in-law Charles Scheinpflug. They called the business 'Kilkivan Mercantile Company'. It was on the site which that store occupies today. A drapery section was added to the grocery store. In 1943 the business was sold to Pearson Brothers - Roy who had married Eileen Downie, daughter of an early Kilkivan policeman, and Owen, whose wife was Meg Wason. They ran the business together until the death of Owen in 1974. Roy and Eileen continued until they sold out and left the district in 1978. This business is now owned by Mr Dale Seidenburg.

In 1906 Kilkivan Shire Council added its voice to that of the townspeople, in a plea to the government to have the Police Station shifted to a more convenient place. It was originally at the eastern end of the town opposite the present electrical transformer. There was talk of transferring the constable, which was locally unacceptable.

The townspeople considered that Kilkivan needed a new station-courthouse and a residence for the sergeant. By 1913 the Police Station was in Bligh Street. Constables Doolin and Tobin were two early policemen. In 1924 a CPS officer came once a week from Murgon to service the town. Other policemen have been Sergeants McMahan, Cook, Eggins, Cronin, Blankensee, McNaught, Genrich, Strohfeltdt, Sherlock, Lobwein, Lickorish, and Rankine. The Police Station and residence are now situated in Hall Street.

The Railway Station's detached refreshment room, built to the west of the station, was a very busy place, providing food not only for the travelling public

but for the local population as well. For many years the room was run by the Misses Florence and later, in turn, by Miss Rose, Mrs Dodd and Miss Gleeson.

The rail service was well patronised before the automobile came into general use. When the main night passenger train went through the town, it would have carriage after lighted carriage, quite a sight as it passed the sports grounds, gathering speed. Before 1913 the staff consisted of Mr Fewtrell, the night officer, and Mr Rawlings, the lengthsman. Mrs Rawlings tended the gates at the level crossing outside the town. Later, Mrs Ryan took her place until the crossing was left unattended. Mr Foster was the station master; Mr Wilson, the deputy night officer; Ivan Lake, the lad porter. These three remained at the station for a long time. Mr Foster until the Second World War. Mr Steele took Mr Wilson's place as night officer.

Railway returns for the month of July 1936 for Kilkivan Station were passenger tickets, 207; fares, £64; parcels, 418; goods, 930 tons; timber, 50 tons; general revenue, £445.

The first Colch was a stockman on Booubyjan Station. He moved to Kilkivan in 1890 and started a blacksmith and wheelwright's business. Mary Colch, the only daughter in a family of five, married John Baxter. Her brother, Pat Colch, followed his father's occupation. He was a very good blacksmith and the smithy, which was opposite the railway line near the baker's shop, became the hub of male social life.

Men would gather there to talk, catch up on the local happenings and even have a game of cards. Mr Colch was kept very busy. He carried on the business until he died. His brother, Albert, who had worked with him, continued after Pat's death, but closed down in 1942.

An early bakery, Salters, had a shop opposite the railway station. They had started very early and by 1915 were well established. The shop, bakery and nearby residences were destroyed by fire but rebuilt. In the 1930's the business was sold to Mr Moorhead, then to Mr Tully and later to Mr Redgen. After the war it was owned in succession by McKell and Wex, Messrs P Walsh, Hinds, Haack and Gray. The last owners sold out to a larger firm and the bakehouse was closed. In 1925 a second bakery in Rose Street was started by Mr Panitz. He sold to Mr Warren who sold to Mr Blakeway, the last owner.

In 1906 the Post and Telegraph office was located at the railway station. The Kilkivan Shire Council asked that it be transferred to a more central position. By 1913 the Post Office was on its present site.

Miss Jenkinson was the first postmistress. There were about a dozen lines on the telephone switchboard. Within a year business had increased and Eileen Jones was hired as an assistant until she moved to Brisbane, when Jack McKewan took her place. In 1925 Miss Jenkinson left to marry Mr S Salter. Her place was taken by Mr Geoff McCulloch.



*Salter's store and bakery*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*



*Post Office, Kilkivan - 1931*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*

Soon after this Kilkivan acquired a 24-hour telephone service. A number of new telephone lines were built, including one to Fat Hen Creek. Some of the locals worked night and week-end shifts on the telephone exchange. In 1936 Mr Foley became post master, followed by Mr Kemp and Mr White.

The next post master, Mr Ken Farrow, had started as a delivery boy. During his time, he improved and enlarged the building. His wife, Judy, is now post mistress. Pauline Jones (Mrs Fitzgerald) became telephonist in Mr Kemp's time as post master.

Mr Ted Dickinson, saddler, did his apprenticeship under Jesse Salter and worked in Tiaro as a young man. He came to Kilkivan and started a saddlery business in a double shop, leasing the second shop, which had previously been a fruit shop run by J Angel, to Mr McNulty, a draper, who had previously run his business in the billiard room of Mr Stewart's hotel.

The only opposition Mr McNulty had at the time was from Mr Hourigan, the representative of Cullinan's store in Gympie. The first Cullinan's traveller had been Mr Joe Hickey. He came once a week in a sulky to take orders. The double shop and the Federal Hotel with its hall were burnt down in the fire that had also destroyed Salters'.

Mr Dickinson, soon after, transferred his business to Goomeri. While in Kilkivan Mr Dickinson met and married his wife, Clarice, who had come from England to help her cousin, Mrs Salter, with her family of children.

Later the new baker's shop (Salters) was enlarged. Mr McNulty built a shop on the other side of the blacksmith's where he carried on the business until he died.

The Federal Hotel was a one-storey building with stables at the back and a hall on the western side. It was owned and operated by the Courtman family from 1915 to 1927.

The next owner was Mrs Smith, followed by Mr L Ryan until 1946. He sold to Mrs Dunn, who was followed by local owners C J Easguaghffe, Mr and Mrs Willis and Mr and Mrs Dimmick. Its name was changed to the Kilkivan Hotel-Motel in 1980, owners since then being Mr and Mrs Buckley and Mr and Mrs Hodgson.

Licenses since 1914 include Mr H J Williams, Mr and Mrs Vine, Mr J Burke, Mrs E Campbell, Mr J T Jensen, Mrs M Router, Mr J Dunn, Mrs Courtman, Mr M Higgins, Mrs M Hartley, Mr W Barron, Mr L Ryan, Mr and Mrs Rose, Mr C Anderson, Mr G Stockden, Mrs Brown, Mr C Bloss, Mr G Lichtnauer, Mr A Brindley, Mr and Mrs L Ryan, Mr A Edmunds, Mr J Parry, Mrs Crawford, Mrs Hermann, Mrs Lawrence, Mr P Ginnivan, Mr W O'Shea. Mr Hartley sold to Mr Bill Baron and Mrs Ryan in the early thirties. Some of the owners acted as licensees.



*First Federal Hotel*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*



*Second Kilkivan Hotel*

*(K Cameron)*



The early Kilkivan Hotel, the site of which is now a children's playground, was owned by Mr Tension, who at one time owned a property at Oakview. The first licensee was Mr Herb Stewart. This hotel was burnt down. It had carbide lights serviced by an outside tank. A new double-storey building was erected. The licensee swapped the goodwill with Mr Jackson for land at Oakview. Later licensees were Mr and Mrs Ryan, Mrs Wex, Mrs Neilson, Mr J Cowhey, Mr T Wright, Mr S Kenkon, Mr J Donaldson. Other owners included Mr P McPherson, Mr C Buchanan and Mr L Ryan. This hotel was closed in 1957.

Mr Bob Rayner had a boot and shoe retail and repair business. He resided in an adjoining building. In 1922 these shops were all burnt down. Mr Rayner built a new house on another site and a double shop in Bligh Street. In 1935 he closed down and shifted to Goomeri.

In the same year Mr P J Jones leased the second shop as a drapery and dress-making business. In 1938 this was burnt down and did not reopen. Another drapery building was run by McKell and Wex.



*Union Bank - Kilkivan*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*

The Union Bank (now ANZ) operated in a small building, close to its present site, with a staff of two - Mr Crowther (manager) and Mr Mortimer Mason (teller); then three - Mr Galloway (manager), Cliff Martin (teller) and Frank Nicholson (clerk).

Later managers were Messrs Greenwood and Kettle, and later staff included Tom Petrie, Jack Lee Archer, Claire Jones, Val Jones, Daphne Spencer. Tom Geddes, Frank Nicholson and Jack Lee Archer later returned as managers.

The butcher's shop was in Bligh Street on the eastern side of the present Civic Centre. An early butcher was Mr Dakin. Mr Hayes, the next butcher, had slaughter yards on the right hand branch of One Mile Creek in a paddock later owned by Mrs Wollmershauser. The yard was closed in 1918, when two children died of typhoid. Mr Ned Wason bought the business and slaughtered at Mudlo, his grazing property.

Mr Ernest Jones, son of George Hall Jones (previous owner of Kilkivan Station), had an estate agent's business. He also operated in Goomeri. Arostein and Davies, auctioneers and estate agents, had an office in the building known as the Mart - near the Kilkivan Hotel. There were cattle saleyards where the snack bar is now. Mr Vic Williams was their clerk and eventually took over the business. He was also a tax consultant.

The school shop on the corner of Bligh and Council Street was run by Miss Beer and later by Mrs McKewan. Mrs Eupene ran it until 1921, when it was closed.

Mr Hopkins was a carpenter. Jim Colch and Len Pye did part-time carpentry work. Jack Lundh later employed a gang of men and built many houses in Kilkivan. He retired in 1950. He trained Bill Scheinpflug as a carpenter before the Second World War.

A carrying business was established by Mr Bill Angel and was continued by Mr Chris Casey. It was sold to Gordon McKell in 1925. He changed from horse-drawn to motor vehicles. Because of health reasons, he was forced to sell to his brother Bill in 1931.

In 1919 new cattle sale yards were built adjoining the railway trucking yards. Mr Arthur Jones held highly successful cattle sales there.

Mr Wooster of Murgon started a cafe prior to 1921. Ruby Eupene (Mrs Clark McCarroll) was a waitress. It was in the building that had been vacated by the owners of Kilkivan Mercantile Company. They shifted to the present site of the Kilkivan cafe. Wooster sold to Vanereys of Murgon and went to Bundaberg. Mrs Eupene (mother of Ruby) bought the business from Vanereys. Later owners were Frank Houston and the Campbells.

A garage, Kilkivan Motors, was built for Mr Clark McCarroll. Mr Courtman was the first leasee. Later ones who worked it were Messrs Roy Stewart, Willmott, Ralph Payne, J Herbon and Rupert Batten. S D Engineering, started by Sanderson and Dawson, was sold to 'Blue' Bussell and Noel Batts.

Mr Bussell bought Mr Batts out and enlarged and improved the premises. It was sold to Denis Parker, but Mr Bussell retained an interest.



*Kilkivan - 1920's*

*(Miss Bishop)*

Up to 1926 Pagets' Travelling Pictures came once a month in a horse-drawn vehicle, carrying gear. At first it had carbide lights, then a generator. It screened on Saturday nights. In late 1925 Clark McCarroll leased the Kilkivan Hall, installed a generator and showed pictures. This was the greatest amusement in the town other than the occasional dance and the arrival of the night passenger train.

Mr McCarroll was forced to close down with the coming of 'talkies' and the Depression. The amount of profit made did not warrant the cost of new equipment. Eventually pictures started up again in the new School of Arts Hall. The last proprietor was Mr Jim Batts. He was forced to close down when the advent of television caused poor attendances.

Stockden and Warburton opened an auctioneer and real estate business in Hall Street in 1946. They ran cattle sales in the council dip yards on Rossmore Road and had an office and shop in Bligh Street. When they retired Mr Jim Ferrier continued the business until he sold to Gill and Spencer. They sold to Mr Kirby, who was succeeded by Kempson Faint.

In Mr Ferrier's time, his wife ran a mixed business in the shop beside his office. In recent years, in the same complex, a snack bar was opened by publican, Mr Buchanan. This is still operating. Mr Gordon McKell also ran an auctioneer and commission agent's business for some years.

In 1927 Mr Bill Angel sold his barbering business to Mr Stan Beer who retired in the seventies and closed down. After the Second World War, Mr Beer built a shop which he leased to his brother Frank who ran a drapery business. This was closed when he died.

The township of Kilkivan, one of the oldest towns in the area, served a very useful purpose for the surrounding country in the years before other towns were established, and the railway played an important part in the lives of local people. With better transport, and the post-war trend toward centralization, small towns have declined in population and many of their businesses are no longer viable.

Bligh Street is wide and edged with attractive flowering trees. The Shire Office and Hall are impressive buildings, immaculately kept. There are still some well kept commercial buildings where businesses or organizations operate - the RSL Club Rooms set in a park, The Kilkivan Mercantile Company, the ANZ Bank, the Historical Society, (housed in a former dentist's surgery), the cafe and garage, the post office, the hotel-motel, the complex containing the snack bar.

A drive around the town reveals well-kept homes, many of them the now fashionable 'Queenslander' type. Mixed with these are newly constructed pensioner units, a modern school complex and a police station, as well as sporting amenities. Kilkivan is small but it has the charm of a well-kept country town, an attractive place to live for those who wish to avoid crowded cities.

### 3. KILKIVAN SCHOOL OF ARTS

On 19 October, 1918, a public meeting was held to establish a School of Arts in Kilkivan. Those present at the meeting were: Messrs Godber (Chairman), Crowther, Williams, Roberts, Peters, Cogan, Cary, Lundh, Colch, Hammet, Buckley, P Jones, Dahlke, P Jones, Miss Sheridan.

A provisional committee was formed. James Cogan donated £20 and the bank guaranteed £100. It was agreed to look for a suitable site for a building. The committee consisted of Messrs Godber, Williams, Cary, Hammet (Secretary), Miss Mason Mrs Batts and Miss Sheridan. The annual membership subscription was to be ten shillings and six pence. It was agreed that donors of £10 or more should be given life membership.

Trustees were appointed - D L Jones, J Carey and Mr Hammet. Mr Williams offered a room for temporary use. Partitions were erected; six chairs were bought; seats were affixed to the wall; tables were lent. The Kilkivan Band was asked to organize a sports meeting for funds. By 8 May 1919, the building was ready to be opened. A book selection committee was appointed and rosters to work at the library were compiled. It was decided that the new School of Arts, which was being supported by Kilkivan Shire, should be a memorial to soldiers killed in the First World War.

A site was chosen close to the present shire hall in Bligh Street. Mr Schollick claimed that a School of Arts had been thought of thirty years before but had taken this long to come to fruition.

In December 1920 timber was ordered from Ross and Company. Mr Duffey of Goomeri was asked to do the plumbing. Mr G E Jones, local auctioneer, offered to rent a spare room in the building.

Returned soldiers were given free use of the reading room. A subsidy was obtained from the Department of Public Instruction. A discussion on the renting of the rooms resulted in Mr Stephens (a dentist from Maryborough) being accepted as a tenant.

The School of Arts was eventually taken over by the Kilkivan Shire Council when the new shire hall was built. A library occupies the new building. This is linked with the State Library Scheme as part of their network.

#### 4. THE KILKIVAN PEOPLE

There are some families still resident in Kilkivan whose histories are interwoven with the development of the town and its surrounding districts. It is impossible to separate history from the individuals who have helped to make that history.

The story of their lives also gives us an insight into how people lived in the early days of the area's development. It is therefore essential that as much as possible of the lives of people who lived in previous times, should be recorded before the people who remember it are gone.

Victor (Vic) Williams was the son of a Victorian Anglican clergyman. He already had brothers working near Maryborough and Oakey. When he first came to Queensland he worked in sheep country before settling in Kilkivan in 1911.

He formed a partnership with Aronstein as a commission agent. As well he was local agent for machinery and other agricultural products. Local grazier, Aaron Davi s, was a sleeping partner in the firm.

The office was in the old Kilkivan Mercantile building before it was burnt down. Where the Williams' house now stands on the eastern side of the railway, there were cattle yards. The business was very dependent on the prosperity of the local primary producers; profits rose and fell with the state of the cattle industry.

At the time Mr Williams opened his business, there was a great demand for agricultural machinery as many new farms were being established. The business closed down when sales dropped, but there were many big owners of cattle properties which ensured regular cattle sales where Ralph, his son, as a lad booked for his father.

Mr Vic Williams went regularly to Woolooga to do income tax returns, taking the local bank manager with him in a sulky. That gentleman sat with a revolver in his lap and insisted that no stops be made on the way. Mr Williams owned one of the early cars in the district - a Hupmobile.

Mrs Williams had been a teacher in New South Wales and Ralph wanted to follow in her footsteps. He was in the second group of pupils at Kilkivan State School to gain a State Scholarship under Mr White, the first headmaster to set pupils for this examination.

Vic Williams was a public-minded man. He was on the School Committee (secretary), a member of the Race Club and the Show Society. Mr and Mrs Williams had five children, three girls and two boys. One daughter, Mrs Blakeley, was widowed and lived in Kilkivan with her family. Her son, Beris, married Jill, daughter of long-serving Shire Clerk, Evan Keating.

After Ralph passed the Scholarship Examination he attended Gympie High School, boarding privately. In 1933 he graduated as a teacher and was sent to Sexton. During the war he taught at Cinnabar.

His mother acted as midwife at confinements in the district when women could not manage to get away to hospital. Ralph remembers having to drive his mother to such cases and wait outside while she delivered the baby.

One of the earliest arrivals at West Coast Creek gold rush was William Spencer. He had with him his wife Annie. She had been born Annie Dunhill in England and came to Melbourne with her artist husband, John Barton, in 1853. Emma Sara, their eldest daughter, was born in England in 1851, and a second child, Jane Amelia, was born in 1855 on the Victorian goldfields.

When John Barton died, his wife married William Spencer by whom she had six more children. The family travelled overland to Kilkivan with a dray pulled by two horses, an extra draught horse and two saddle horses. They arrived at West Coast Creek on 10 June 1868, having survived an arduous trip. Emma was fourteen years old when the family settled at Fat Hen Creek.

In 1875, at the age of 21, she married Samuel Edward Jones, a Welshman who had come seeking gold at the Rise and Shine Reef. He, like most of his countrymen, was a fine singer and sang in the choir at the Union Church. He also worked at the copper smelter and lived at Mount Coora. The mines eventually closed down as there was not sufficient money to pay the men. Samuel built a house in Kilkivan, to which he added as the family grew. The house was small but comfortable and was surrounded by a well tended garden. Samuel and Emma had seven children: Samuel, Elizabeth Annie (born at Mount Coora), Margaret, Alice, William, Percival, and Arthur Ernest.

Emma was always in great demand as a midwife. When a baby was due members of the family would arrive at Emma's door with a corn-fed horse for speedy travel. She went all over the district bringing babies into the world.

Sometimes she would be away for a week and the family at home had to manage as best they could. At other times she would have expectant mothers from out-of-town living in her house waiting for their babies to arrive.

For five years Elizabeth attended the Rise and Shine School on the bank of a creek close to the present rifle range. When she was ten, there was no teacher at this school, so her mother took her to Maryborough to board with an aunt. It was a long journey. They left Kilkivan travelling on a dray containing a load of 'empties' being returned to the liquor merchants. They stopped the first night at the Brooyar Hotel and the second night was spent at Mrs Orphant's at Gundiah. The next day they caught a train to Maryborough where Elizabeth stayed for two months. On the return journey she travelled with relatives by train to Kilkivan Junction (Theebine), walked to Miva and spent the night at Gesch's Hotel. From there they travelled in a goods wagon. The railway line was constructed but not officially open for traffic.

Elizabeth, being the eldest daughter, had to look after the home and family while her mother was away or otherwise occupied. She left school before she was fourteen to help her mother with a new baby.

When Elizabeth was not needed at home, she took a job as housekeeper to Mr and Mrs Hooker. They employed her for three years at ten shillings a week and her keep. The family became quite attached to the young girl and wanted her to go to Bundaberg with them, but her mother refused to let her go.

Elizabeth's father and grandfather taught her to dance. Weekly dances were held in the school which by then had a good floor. She went to all the balls except the Race Ball, of which her parents did not approve. The Hookers, for whom she worked, always saw that she was correctly dressed for every occasion and arranged transport, making sure she was home at a reasonable hour.

Elizabeth was always in great demand for her housekeeping skills, and often worked for other families who needed competent emergency help.

She vividly remembered when she was a small child, spending a holiday at Black Snake with her uncle and aunt, Mr and Mrs Willie Spencer. Mr Spencer carried her on a horse, sitting in front of him on a pillow. On another journey to Black Snake she rode on a bullock wagon with the Webb family, sitting on a load of goods destined for the hotel.

Elizabeth's eldest brother, Samuel Jones, married Kate Cary. Their children, May, Eileen, Eddie, Percy and William, grew up in Kilkivan. Her sister, Margaret (May) Router (Jones) was a good businesswoman. She and her husband ran a hotel and a draper's shop in Kilkivan. Alice Jones married George Angel. They had four children: Ivan, Lil, Olive and George. William became a school teacher. He died of typhoid in Mareeba. Percy married Catherine (Bebe) Williams. They had two children, Jeanne and Percy. Percy had a drapery business in Kilkivan and Bebe worked as a dressmaker in conjunction with the

shop. Arthur Jones was a great horseman, and at one time, owned a horse called 'Kilkivan Golden Boy', that he later sold to a circus.

Bernard Eupene had been born in Gympie. His father, Joe, worked in the Gympie mines. Andrew Fisher, a Gympie miner who later became Prime Minister, is reputed to have taught Joe and Alexander McIntosh to read and write at night after work.

The Eupenes also worked at the Cinnabar mine for a while. When they arrived in Kilkivan, Bernie was only thirteen years old. He worked at the Rise and Shine until it closed, then at Long Tunnel as the whim-horse boy. Mr Hooker, for whose wife Elizabeth worked, was his boss.

Bernie and Elizabeth rode to Gympie on horseback, to be married at the Methodist Parsonage. They built a new four-roomed house. Unfortunately for the young couple, Elizabeth's father died ten days after their marriage. They left their home and went to live with Emma (Elizabeth's mother) until Bernard took his family to Biggenden for a time. When they returned to Kilkivan, he and Elizabeth worked on a farm at Fat Hen Creek and then on Emma's paddock. Bernard eventually went bore-sinking with Arthur Jones, and the family moved to Kilkivan.

Emma Jones married a second time to Mr Woolmershauser. Ruby, daughter of Elizabeth and Bernard, was born in 1900. Elizabeth was a continual 'doer' of charitable works. Ruby, as a child, remembers being sent to nearby pensioners with presents of milk and puddings and cakes at Christmas time. Ruby left school at thirteen because her oldest sister, May, had married and help was needed at home.

Bernard Eupene was a kind, thoughtful husband and their home was one of the few at the time to have a rain water tank. Ruby often helped her father. She would harrow for him when he ploughed and would rise at four in the morning to snare opossums. Her Aunt Margaret skinned the animals and pegged out the pelts. The extra money was useful. She saved enough money eventually to buy herself a smart winter coat.

Ruby, at the age of fifteen, went to work at Wooster's cafe. She later went with them to Bundaberg where they also ran a cafe. She remembers waiting on tables at a welcome-home dinner given for Bert Hinkler. She also worked for a relative in Brisbane.

In 1931 Ruby married Clark McCarroll in the Union Church, Kilkivan. They lived in the house now occupied by their son, Dallas.

Clark had been born in 1895 on West Coast Creek on his father's farm. Alexander McCarroll was an Irish Protestant. His mother, Margaret Jane (Coleman), died when Clark was six years old. He was brought up by his uncle and aunt, John and Kate Coleman. Ethel, the eldest McCarroll daughter, kept house for her father until he married again.



When Mr Coleman established a branch of his business in Goomeri under the management of his niece, Minnie McCarroll, Clark helped his sister run the store. After their marriage, Clark and Ruby lived in Goomeri where Clark worked for the business that his sister Minnie and her husband, Mr Bill McIvor, had bought. He next worked in Wondai but returned to Kilkivan eventually to start a cream run to Gympie, which he sold in 1936 to the Deitz family. It is now owned by his daughter and son-in-law Dawn and Bill Choate. Clark also ran a picture show in Kilkivan until silent movies were superceded by 'talkies'.

Clark moved to Urangan where he loaded sugar on the jetty for several years. On his return to Kilkivan he worked for the Forestry Department at Kabunga, and later at the office in Kilkivan until his death at the age of sixty-five.

Ruby is the only member of the Eupene family still living in Kilkivan. Her son, Dallas, works in the Forestry. Annette is married to Col Weier. Her other daughter, Dawn, is married to Will Choate who now has the carrying business started by Clark McCarroll.

Four generations of the family on Ruby's side, and three on Clark's side, attended Kilkivan School.

Mrs Agnes Emma Lahiff was born Agnes Emma Jones in Maryborough in 1892. Her father, Richard McArtney Jones, had worked at Mount Joseph near Biggenden. From there he went to Elgin Vale Station, owned by the Porter family, to work as a stockman. He was well known in the district for his skill in stock work and horse breaking, and was an outstanding horseman. He also worked at Kinbombi Station.

He bought a few acres of land outside Kilkivan on Wide Bay Creek where he built a home and brought up his family. From there he would go to work on properties in the district. Often at mustering time he worked seven days a week. Stockmen of his calibre were always in great demand.

He had three sons. Charles Clarence, the eldest, became a Kilkivan Shire Councillor. William Richard, the second, won a military medal for rescuing wounded men under fire at Gallipoli. The third son, Ernest Samuel, served in the Air Force during the First World War. He returned and settled at Fat Hen Creek, married, and brought up a family of three sons and three daughters. One daughter, Pauline, who married Ian Fitzgerald, became the town's telephonist. She is secretary of the Kilkivan Historic Society.

After Richard Jones' death, his widow married William Spencer who, on his death, left her a paddock on Wide Bay Creek which Charles bought from his mother.

The Lahiff family came from Sydney. Mr Reg Lahiff was a returned soldier settler. He and his brother selected a block each at Fat Hen Creek. For a while Mr Lahiff drove a horse team. He took up dairying and banana growing on the block, now worked by his son, David, on Rossmore Road.

The children went to school at Rossmore, a very self-contained and neighbourly community in those days. Mrs Lahiff has lived in Kilkivan since 1955. She had attended Kilkivan School as a child and now is the sole survivor of all her generation.

The allotment on which her house stands was a miners' homestead lease. It was originally used as the site of a hotel, bakery, blacksmith's shop and stables before the town's business centre was moved to its present site due to the relocation of the railway station.

The three Wex brothers, George, Frank and Charlie, were active in the early Kilkivan timber industry. Members of the next generation ran early businesses in the town and several of them married into other well known Kilkivan families.

Regarding the family of Frank and Eva Wex (nee McCarthy), Jock died while young; George married Alice Eupene; Belle married Herb McKell who conducted an auctioneering business in Kilkivan; Tim married Lennie Bishop; Mary married businessman Frank Beer; Pat married Muriel Summers; Jean married Mick Jackson and lived in Brisbane; Terri married Norma Williams; Eunice married Sam Eupene; Esma married John Freney who had a selection outside Kilkivan.

The family of George and Jessie Wex are Eddie; Lexie who married Woolooga businessman, Bill Frazer; Ron, who became a drover; Len who became a detective, and Joan who married Terry Fraunfelder, teacher at Kilkivan Primary and Secondary Schools for many years. Mrs Wex died when her youngest daughter, Joan, was a baby.

Mr Charles Richard Truscott, JP, learnt his trade of carpentry in England. He emigrated to Australia and arrived in Wondai in 1910. He bought a block at Fat Hen Creek, Kilkivan, in 1913, and built houses there for Mr Dymock and Mr Reg Lahiff, and one in Kilkivan for Mr Harry Zahnleiter. He was employed by Mr Tait who was contracted to build one of the Kilkivan hotels, and was a first class joiner and cabinet maker.

He is most remembered as the first woodwork teacher to give lessons at the Kilkivan Rural School. Here he taught twice a week for twenty years until he retired to Caboolture in 1947.





## Chapter 14

---

### THE TOWN OF GOOMERI

#### 1. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOWN

The establishment of a siding called 'Goomeri' on the new line extended from Kilkivan through the South Burnett in 1902, set the position of a future town. But it was not until the Goomeri Land Sale in March 1911, that the town came into being. Prior to that time the only commercial enterprises had been a short-lived attempt by Mrs Perrett to start a general store in 1902. After a few months she closed the business down and returned to England. A hotel was run by Mr J A Slater for two and a half years on freehold land leased from Llewellyn Mander Jones. It was closed when the lease ran out.

Mr John Coleman, Kilkivan businessman, also started a store at the siding in the railway yard. From here he shifted into Mrs Perrett's vacated shop. By 1911 he had an established business on the site of the present police station. He sent his niece, Minnie McCarroll, and her young brother, Clark, to manage the Goomeri store.

Before the Goomeri Land Sale, an allotment (where Elders' Pastoral car park is now) was set aside to be purchased for the erection of a hotel. Mr Joe Murphy bought this block and shifted the building material which he had purchased from the Railway Hotel at Kilkivan. A hall was attached to this hotel, the Boonara Hotel. It served the community in many ways until other buildings were erected. Mr Rich was the next licensee. In 1926 he also, for a time, ran pictures in the Hall of Memory. His wife had a business in one of the hotel shops. This hotel changed hands many times and its licence was eventually bought by the operator of the Grand Hotel. By 1942 the building was still standing unlicensed and was used by the Nudgee Catholic Orphanage when the threat of Japanese invasion caused mass exodus from coastal areas. Eventually it was destroyed in a fire.



*Coleman's Store - 1911*

*(M Owens)*

Another early businesswoman from Kilkivan was Miss A E Beer who, at the land sale, bought the allotment in Moore Street on which the newsagent's shop now stands. Here she sold sweets, fruit and vegetables. Her niece, Isabelle Towner, (who later married Mr H Silburn) came with her and set up a post office in what was later to be the ladies' waiting room of the Goomeri Railway Station. She also sold newspapers, including the *Brisbane Courier*.

At that time the main business section of the town was at the southern end of Moore Street. A very wide Boonara Street fronted on to the railway line. It was not until 1924 that the land on the northern side was surveyed into blocks to be sold for building business premises.

Butler's Boarding House stood where the swimming pool is now situated. This large building provided accommodation for mill and timber workers and other single men in the town.

Coleman's Store was sold to Wise Brothers in 1914. Minnie McCarroll continued to work there until she married selector, Mr Bill McIvor. In 1916 Mr McIvor sold his property to the Schuler family and bought Crouch's store, situated where Angels now have their buildings. Wise Brothers were disappointed to lose a competent employee and to have her as opposition to them in business. The McIvors, for the rest of their lives, ran a very successful business which, at the height of its prosperity provided employment for a number of local people as well as members of their own family - Alec, Col and Ken and their wives.



*Boonara Hotel (J Brown)*



*Goomeri in 1920's (McIvor Family)*



*Northern end Goomeri - 1930*

*(L Naylor)*



*McIvor's Store - 1937*

*(M Owens)*

In 1927 they built the large store on the corner of Jones and Moore Street, now occupied by a discount furniture business. Here they ran a general store, selling groceries, drapery, furniture and hardware. Mrs McIvor also had houses built for rental. Mr Ken McIvor describes how his mother would sketch a plan of a house on the back of an envelope, take it to Mr Klumpp, the builder, and have it erected. They had a butcher's shop beside their store in Jones Street, then run by Mr Bill Westaway, shifted 150 yards to the other side of the store in Moore Street. This shop was later run by Mr Andy Mann and Mr Tony Argery. Eventually the business was sold and amalgamated with the other Goomeri butchery. McIvors also built a cream depot to accommodate farmers who had to bring their cream to town to be picked up by carriers.

In 1924, when the Kilkivan Shire Council agreed to survey the land on the railway side of Boonara Street into town blocks for business premises, the corner of Boonara and Moore Street was reserved for a post office. An early one had been located in Jones Street, with Mr Brestow as postmaster. The wooden building erected in Boonara Street was burned down in 1939 and replaced by the present brick structure. It also housed the telephone exchange until an automatic service was introduced in the mid-seventies. Early telephonists were Myrtle Hall (Mrs L Dickinson) and the Dahlke sisters.



*Goomeri Post Office, burnt down 1939*

*(J Stanton)*

When the first telephones in the rural areas of the district were installed, Messrs W B Lawless, J C Mayne and G E Jones acted as guarantors for the service. They were never called on as the service paid its own way. Goomeri was one of the first areas to have a party line system.

Mr Ray Morsch, the present post master, has seen many changes. When the post office lost official status he chose to stay on. He and his wife run it efficiently as a private concern. The telephone exchange has gone and the outgoing mail is sorted in larger centres but the post office still gives a delivery service to the town. Mailmen serve the rural community although their former routes have been, in some cases, amalgamated.

The Seccombe family built a shop on the eastern end of the new side of Boonara Street in 1924. This shop was destroyed by fire shortly after. On the site, Mr T H Spencer built offices and a garage, known to this day as 'Boonara Motors'. It was run for many years by Mr Howsan. His apprentice, Mr Les Trudgian, at various times ran garages in the town. His first business was the garage built by Mr Jim Anderson. After the war he also owned the garage in Moore Street with his brother Ron. When he sold this business, he worked for Mr Dav McDonald as a mechanic in Anderson's shop. Mr Hatchman has recently sold Boonara Motors after many years in business.



*First Grand Hotel*

*(D B Euler)*

Beside the Post Office the Grand Hotel was built in 1930 by Goan Brothers. The first licensee was Mr F Mitchell. This hotel was burnt down in a very tragic fire which broke out on Christmas Eve, 1939. This was one of the greatest tragedies that has taken place in the Kilkivan Shire. Eight people, including the licensee, Mr Parker, lost their lives and it cast a gloom over the Christmas celebrations of the whole district. The post office also was destroyed. Both buildings were replaced by brick structures which are still in use today.





*After fire destroyed Post Office and Grand Hotel - 1939*



*Boonara Street - 1930's*

*(J Stanton)*

T M (Terry) and F G Wise came from Victoria in 1914. The brothers bought Coleman's store which was sold to Higgins and Bourne in 1925. Mr F G Wise was blind but he remained a partner in the business interests. After the shop was sold they built the business premises now occupied by Supa Valu and the shops beside it in Boonara Street. They retained a number of rented houses and commercial buildings as well as several share farms in the district. After the Second World War, and the death of his brother, Mr Terry Wise sold these interests and left the district. Throughout the years he lived in Goomeri, Mr Wise was very active in local community activities.

Mr L Higgins and his brother-in-law, J G Bourne, established a business in Tingoora in 1920. They amalgamated with Slade and Company in Wondai and changed the name of the business to Slade, Bourne and Company of Wondai and Tingoora. In 1925 they purchased Wise Brothers store in Goomeri. The partnership dissolved after two years and became 'Higgins and Bourne, General Store, Commission Agents, Produce and Machinery Agents'. Mr Slade returned to Wondai and relinquished his Goomeri interests.

In 1929, Higgins and Bourne, handled the sale of twenty farms and a large number of cattle. An average of 120 tons of local chaff per month was bought from local farmers and railed away to customers all over the state. All types of produce except cotton and butter were handled. Their machinery section specialised in International Harvester Company, Dodge cars, Cooper's Dip and AMP Insurance.

The business was later split; Mr Higgins and his family took over the grocery and hardware section which he later sold to Mr Hamner who traded as a 'Cash and Carry' business. In the early 1940's it was bought by Mr Percy Perrett and run by Mr Perrett's son-in-law, Mr Jack Davis, trading under the name of 'Perrett and Davis'. In 1958 they sold out to R P and M E Perrett who shortly after sold to South Burnett Dairy Co-operative, now trading under the name of 'Supa-Valu'.

Mr Val Perrett, trading under the name of R P and M E Perrett, took over the hardware section that his father bought. Val, a graduate of Lawes Agricultural College, Gatton, was the first student to gain a state cadetship in horticulture from that college. When the business was sold to SBD in 1962, Val worked as stores manager of the three SBD stores.

Mr Bourne ran the auctioneering and agency section of Higgins and Bourne. After the Second World War this was taken over by his son, Gordon, who eventually sold out to Australian Estates. This enterprise had already bought out the business founded by Sealey Perrett, who was one of the first private stock and station agents in Queensland. Australian Estates established a branch of their firm in Goomeri when there was a number of local properties sold to farmers from Victoria in the early sixties. Sealey Perrett's sons, Bob and Mick, who had been running the business after their father's death, worked for Australian Estates until their retirement. Mr Adrian Calvert then managed the business which later was taken over by Elders Pastoral.

For a time there was also a garage beside Mr Bourne's shop which was run by Mr Bill Fearn who, at one time, had the job of repairing a light plane that crash landed near the town. Mr Les Hall, relative of the Moore family and former manager of Barambah station, as well as running his own property, a selection from Barambah, operated as a commission agent and taxi driver. He was a great public worker, being trustee of the Hall of Memory and a shire councillor for a time.

Mr J (Jack) Seears and Company acted as land, stock and station and commission agents. They bought and sold stock and property, an important function in a rural community. On Mr Seears' death the business was taken over by his son, John, who eventually worked in that capacity for the pastoral firm, Dalgetys. He was later transferred to Clermont.

Mr G E Jones, son of George Hall Jones, started a stock and commission agency in Goomeri in 1916. He also operated in Kilkivan and handled some large transfers of land in the district. The firm of Farmer and Clarke ran a branch in the town, Mr Cliff Norris being their main operator. In recent years Mr Boyd Hatton has opened an agency in Moore Street.

As far as can be ascertained, the town had a bakery in the early 1920's, and by about 1926, a second bakehouse was operating. For some time there was a third baker's shop which sold bread from Pratt's Murgon bakery. Some of the bakers include: Blakeways, Maudsleys, Kellys, Neilsons, Penders, Tarrants, Hartsrans, Butlers and Sharry, and Grays. The bakehouses were in Jones Street and Moore Street. Regal Bakeries of Gympie took over from Grays. Now all bread comes from neighbouring towns. In later years a newsagency was run from the Jones Street shop.

One of the earliest butchers' shops was owned by Mr Sealy Perrett and run by his brother in the building that later housed the Buffalo Lodge. Mr Perrett built the shop now used by the present Goomeri Meat Mart. It became the only butchery in Goomeri when Ansteys, who already owned a Tansey shop, bought the other business operating beside McIvors' Store. There were several butcheries started. Goan Brothers ran one in a shop at their hotel. Maudsley Brothers (Frank and Garnet) had shops at Goomeri, Boonara and Tansey.

Mr Jim Anderson came to Goomeri at the time of the Land Sale. He bought a property three miles from the town now owned by the Mollenhauer family. He worked the farm until 1932 and then put a share farmer on it. During that time he was agent for the placement of English migrant boys who wanted employment on local properties. The farm was sold to the present owners in 1942. He married a sister of Mr Bert Sadler.

Jim's brother, George, had a property at Boonaravale for some years. Another brother, David, was a mechanic. They built the buildings at the northern end of Moore Street now owned by Angels'. This complex included a garage at which David worked. The brothers were agents for Ford cars and farm machinery. Mr Jim Anderson built a hall close by in conjunction with Mr F C

Hoskins in 1927. At the time the trustees of the Hall of Memory and other sections of the public petitioned the council to prevent the new hall being used for entertainment. A debt was still owing on the Hall of Memory and the trustees felt that the town was too small to support two halls. The Council ruled that it had no power to interfere. On the opening night a concert was held, using the school forms for seating. Later that night the hall was destroyed by fire, thought to have been caused by an electrical fault, and the school was left with no seating. The hall was never replaced. For years Mr Anderson ran a produce agency, dealing mainly in locally produced chaff. This was sent by rail to customers all over the state.



*Anderson Brothers, Moore Street - late 1920's*

*(Mrs Anderson)*

He also bought and sold maize and pumpkins and acted as agent for Murrarie Bacon Factory. He was interested in gold mining and at one stage floated a company with other well known Goomeri residents, Dr Underwood, Mr Duffey and school teacher, Mr J Heath, to re-work the Lord Nelson gold mine on Boobyjan Station. This was an unsuccessful venture.

He invented a type of fibrous plaster made on glass, a very effective building material, which he manufactured in a factory behind his shops. But competition from larger concerns proved too strong and he made very little out of the venture. He started a small sawmill but it was closed down shortly after his death. His second wife, Irene, who had helped to run his various concerns, retained his buildings for many years and ran a drapery business in one of the shops.

She sold the buildings to the Angel family who operated a carrying business. Mrs Anderson remained in Goomeri until shortly before her recent death.

In Mr Anderson's building, Mr Joseph Owens, a newspaper reporter, for a time ran a printing business.

The first police station was built on the Police Reserve in Laird Street in 1918 and was manned by Sergeant Barker, who was followed by Sergeant Barbar. A CPS officer visited from Murgon once a week.

A new complex with Police Station, CPS office, courtroom and residence was built and officially opened in April 1930, by the Member for Wide Bay, Mr E H C Clayton, MLA, who was entertained at a dinner by the Goomeri Chamber of Commerce. At the time the station was manned by Sergeant Forry who had a motor bicycle and side car to travel around the district. These buildings are still in use. The station now has two policemen. For a while Goomeri had a full-time CPS officer but again it has reverted to being served by a weekly visit from a Murgon officer.

The South Burnett Cordial and Aerated Water Works, owned by Mr W E Parke, worked in the beginning under patent from Sawtells. Its first location was the present site of the police station. It was burnt down in a spectacular fire that sent gas cylinders flying about the town into some unexpected places. The factory was rebuilt in its present position at the far end of Jones Street and later sold to Mr A Finnemore. It still trades under the name of 'Finnemores' but is owned by Mr and Mrs Burton.

In the early days of the town, cafes were important. Country people came to town to shop or transact business, bought lunch and perhaps had afternoon tea with friends before returning home. Each Saturday night, after the pictures, which were well patronised, the cafes were full of people from in and out of town having supper. It was usually necessary to book a table to ensure that one would get a place.

There were several cafes in Goomeri for many years. The early business started by Miss Beer was sold to Black Brothers. Their first shop was burnt down but rebuilt. They traded for years as the 'Busy Bee Cafe', where they ran a cafe, fruit and confectionery shop and a newsagency. When they left the district the business continued to trade in this capacity until it was sold by Mr and Mrs Shaw. Since they sold out it has been run as the town's newsagency. Another early business was a refreshment room owned by Miss Downing and operated by her mother.

The Goomeri Cafe was first owned was Mrs Dickson. She sold out to Mrs Staples who had come to Goomeri with the Hammer family. Miss Flo Toop started work in Higgins and Bourne and continued to run the drapery section of Hammer's. She next worked in Mrs Staples' cafe. In 1942 she married Mrs Staples' brother, Mr McDonald, who worked in the Forestry.



*Downing's Refreshment Room*

*(L Yessberg)*



*Black Brothers, first cafe*

*(J Stanton)*

Flo (Mrs McDonald) ran the cafe for many years. When she sold out to Mr Tom George, he renovated the cafe and the adjoining shop which had been vacated by the chemist. Out of the combined premises he created a licensed restaurant, one of the first in the South Burnett. After he sold the business it continued under new ownership for a year but was finally sold and dismantled. It now houses a ladies' hairdresser and a boutique.

A cafe was run by Parkes in Moore Street for several years. It was destroyed in a fire in 1956 and never rebuilt.

The Boonara Cafe was built in Moore Street close to McIvors' Store. In 1930 this cafe was run by Mr A S Fleming and afterwards by Mr Tony Argery. This cafe even catered for functions and wedding receptions. It changed hands many times after the Second World War and was finally closed down in the 1970's.

In recent years two new businesses have been started on the southern outskirts of Moore Street - Shaw's Roadhouse and the Ampol Goomeri Roadhouse which also runs a caravan park. These cater for the travelling public as well as for local customers.

Mr Arthur Duffey came to Goomeri as a young man to start a branch of his family's plumbing business, already established in Murgon. He married Alma Ross in 1924 and built a combined home and business premises at the far end of Boonara Street. Mr Duffey, for many years, leased the Hall of Memory as a picture show until the advent of television. Mr Duffey's son, Ron, continued in the business after his father retired and the business is still operating.

Goomeri has had a number of builders. A Kopp and W Toop built the Hall of Memory. The most long-serving was Mr Fred Klumpp and his son, George. Mr Klumpp came to Goomeri at the time of the Land Sale and built many of the early houses and business premises.

A brother-in-law of Mr F Klumpp, Mr F Palmer, also built many early buildings. His sons Colin and Percy worked with him. They built a large hayshed at Boonara Homestead. J H Pohlman and Sons, building contractors, built shops in Moore Street between McIvors' and Andersons' buildings.

In 1919 there were only forty houses and buildings in Goomeri. By 1930 there were over 100 residences and shops. Between 1927 and 1930 about £40 000 was spent on new buildings in the town.

In later years Mr Reg Smith, Mr Geoff Stanton and Mr Glen Graffunder have been serving Goomeri as builders.

Mr Winston was a painter and decorator in the twenties and thirties. He painted the Hall of Memory when it was erected. Mr Albert Longhurst and Mr Frank Higgins worked for a while in this capacity. Mr Ted Keen has for many years worked in the district and, in later years, Mr Kevin Reck.

When the rural power lines were extended to the Kilkivan Shire in the early fifties, Mr Ian Williamson set up as an electrician in a vacant shop in Moore Street. He sold out to his employee, Mr David Johannessen, who currently runs the business.

One of the most important tradesmen in any town was the blacksmith. H Dahlke and Son established themselves as blacksmiths and wheelwrights soon after the land sale. They were well-known figures in the district for many years. The first shop was opposite the present show grounds. Mr Harry Dahlke was in great demand as MC for local dances.

Mr J Mayfield started a blacksmith's shop in Pohlman's building. Mr Dan Baillie took over the business and eventually sold it to Mr G Ciesiolka who ran it until it closed in the late seventies.

Mr F Porter opened an International Harvester Company Agency in one of Mr J Anderson's shops in the late 1940's. After a few years it was taken over by Mr Alec McIvor who in turn sold to the Zerner brothers. Their father Mr L Zerner, had bought a block of land at the Goomeri Land Sale, and put down the first bore in the area.

A panel beater, Mr G Hanwright, now runs a business in this shop.

The first pharmacy in the town was opened by Mr D Scott Hyslop in a shop next to the present site of Supa-Valu. For many years Mr Arthur Wright, son of one of the partners of Ross and Company, ran this pharmacy. When Mr T Cichero took over he shifted to new premises, a well renovated shop in Moore street. This is currently operated by Mr P Quigley on a part-time basis with his Murgon shop.

In 1935 Mr Bob Rayner shifted his boot and shoe retail and repair business to Goomeri where he worked until the mid-forties. It was carried on for a while by Mr Newcombe and after this, by Mr Oliver Toop in a small shop in the railway yards, previously used by an auctioneer.

Miss Margaret (Meg) Downing built a number of shops in Moore Street which she rented to tenants. This included the garage now occupied by Harris's Centre Place, fruit shop and snack bar. Early tenants of this garage were J G Smith, C J Wickson and G B Blakely, Trudgian Brothers, 'Digger' Perrett, B Rowland and A Wyatt. In the time of Smith's tenancy the garage was burnt down but later rebuilt. Miss Downing was the daughter of the head stockman on Barambah Station. Her parents retired to Goomeri where they lived in a house next to the bank building in Boonara Street. Until her marriage to Mr J Mackaway, she ran a taxi service. Later taxi drivers were Mr Hans Nissen and Mr W Heathwood, retired farmers, and Mr S Harris.

In 1926 Vanarey and Hellen opened a drapery business in Moore Street. This business was run very successfully by Mr Vince Hellen and his family until his death. It is now occupied by a discount store.



Mr C A Wimberley and Sons started a grocery business in 1923 in Moore Street, close to the railway line. The adjoining shop was used by them to store furniture. After the Second World War Mr Wimberley's sons sold out to Mr Ralph Raymond who ran the business in conjunction with his father's grocery shop at Boonah. After he closed down, the shop had a succession of tenants running mixed businesses. It is now occupied by a business selling and servicing motor mowers.



*Moore and Boonara Streets - 1930's*

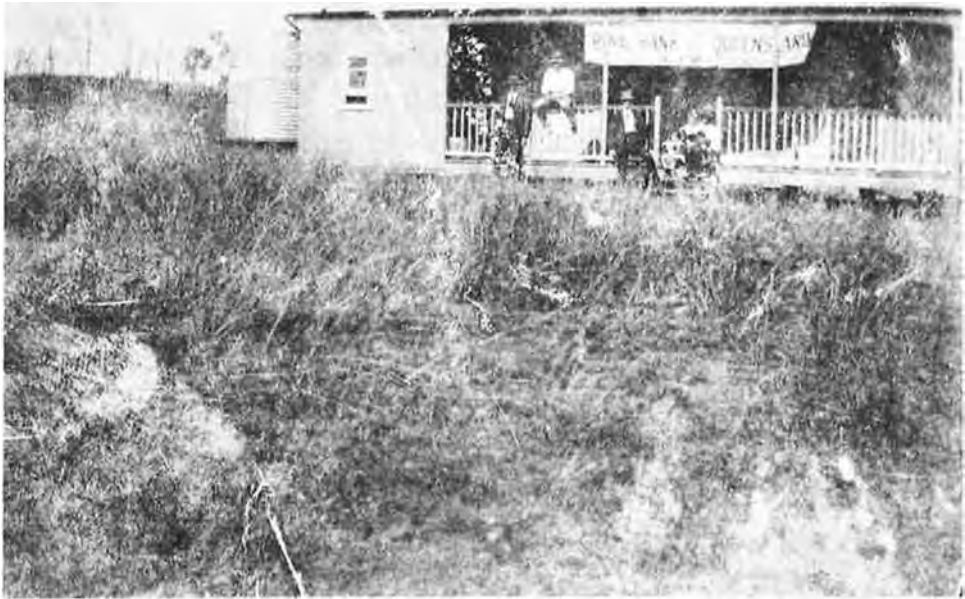
*(Y Young)*

Mr Roy Florence, member of a Kilkivan family, at first worked for Wise Brothers. He then opened a grocery business, Florence and Grensill, and later bought Mr Grensill out. When he closed down he went to work for Perrett and Davis until he died.

Mr A Theodore started an ice works in Boonara Street close to Duffey's. It was later shifted to the rear section of the shops that Angels now own. He closed down after the Second World War when refrigerators became popular. For a time he ran a skating rink.

For many years Mr Ernie Eisentrager ran a business in a room at the Boonara Hotel. He was a men's hairdresser and sold Casket tickets and tobacco.

There have been other business people - a tailor (Mr Carter), a dry cleaner, a ladies' hairdresser. For a while a Brisbane jeweller, Worfolde, ran a branch of its business in the town near the present site of Goomeri Electrical Service. Mr P Perrett ran a wood depot and a carrying service.



*First Bank in Goomeri - before 1920* (J Stanton)



*First National Bank in Goomeri - 1920* (A Stanton)

In 1932 Mr S Gatfield set up as a solicitor in the town. He remained until 1942 when he was directed by Manpower to Brisbane. Local boy, Mr Reg Hall, worked with him as an accountant and remained in Goomeri until his death. Since the war Mr Bill Roberts of Murgon, solicitor and tax agent, has visited Goomeri once a week.

Mr Ted Dickinson, who had worked as a saddler in Kilkivan, bought out a Goomeri business and started work in a shop close to the railway line in Moore Street. He built his own premises with residence on the northern end of Moore Street. His son and apprentice, Laurie, was only nineteen when his father died. Laurie set up a sports supplies business and earned a reputation as a saddler that brought customers from far afield. Both father and son taught at the Rural School, Kilkivan, until the advent of junior high schools in the area. After Laurie's sudden death the business was sold but later closed down.

At the time of the Land Sale the Royal Bank set up temporary headquarters in a tent. This bank later traded as the Bank of Queensland, the National Bank of Australasia Ltd, and is now the National Australia Bank. It set up its first building where the bank's residence is now. Later the bank was housed in a brick building beside a manager's residence. Today it is Goomeri's only bank. During the Second World War it was one of the first branches to take the new step of employing women. Two sisters Mildred and Jessie Wason worked there during that time.

In the twenties another brick building was erected in Moore street to house a branch of the Queensland National Bank. It closed at the outbreak of war. After the war the Bank of New South Wales opened a branch in this building. It was closed in the sixties. The building was used as a surgery for a visiting doctor until it was sold to a private owner.

Goomeri is not the busy centre it was from 1920 to 1950. After the war most of the buildings were modernised. The businesses that remain have been well maintained and well appointed. Few of the buildings remain vacant for long; some have been converted into houses. The business section of the town is now mainly centered in Boonara Street and the adjacent part of Moore Street on the south side of the railway line.

The approaches to the town from all sides are attractive. A motel, recently built by Mr and Mrs Alec McIntosh, stands where the doctor's residence used to be. The Hall of Memory is an impressive old building with well kept gardens around it. The triangular island opposite the Monument and the Dickinson Park are pleasant places for travellers to stop and rest. Most of the private buildings are old but attractive and well kept. Like Kilkivan it is a pleasant place to live and bring up a family.

## **2. GOOMERI HALL OF MEMORY**

There is no exact date available for the opening of the Goomeri Hall of Memory, but it appears to have been opened in the second half of 1926.

Around March of that year a public meeting was held and trustees were appointed - J C Mayne (Chairman), J E Stanton, C A Wimberley for the citizens of the town, A A Maudsley and T M Wise (Secretary) for the RSL. The trustees met twice at private houses and completed the following business:

- (i) Election of office bearers;
- (ii) Formation of a deed of trust for the land and building;
- (iii) Raising of funds for the erection of a memorial to soldiers who died in the 1914 - 1918 War.

J C Mayne, owner of Kinbombi Station, and his wife died within a few months of each other shortly after the committee was formed. James A Graham was appointed to fill the vacancy left by Mr Mayne's death on the board of trustees.

The Memorial Hall Building Committee purchased a store from Cuthbert Butt at Nanango for removal. It was erected on its present site by A Kopp and W Toop. The Hall Committee, formed to raise funds for the new building, did not expect to have permanent status and agreed to hand over their minute books to the trustees to be kept '*for all time*' when they should cease to function.

On 31 March, 1926, the committee met in the bank chambers. J E Stanton was president, J A Graham, Vice-President and C A Wimberley, Secretary-Treasurer. They decided to obtain a loan of £150 from the local bank.

The building must have been erected by May of that year. By then tenders were called for the lease, which was given to Mr A Rich for fifty shillings per week. He shifted his picture show from the Boonara Hall to this newly erected building.

A crow's ash floor, considered a very good surface for dancing, was laid down. The hall was painted by Ray Winston who was responsible for the leaf design surrounding the stage. The first curtain for the stage was made by Mrs Rich.

By September, it was decided to close in and partition the basement where Mr Rich obtained permission for Mrs W Toop to run a sweets stall in connection with the pictures.

The committee then turned its attention to the furnishing of the new supper room. Early in 1927 it was decided to run a concert-dance to provide funds for crockery.

In those days a player was required for the silent pictures. Doris Dahlke (Mrs McCallum) and Myrtle Wieland (Mrs A J Owens) performed this task.

A framed historical record of the war was purchased for hanging in the hall. Gradually as funds became available, more crockery and furniture was bought.

Mr Les Hall was elected as a new trustee in 1927. Because the debt hanging over the committee was £844, a special fund-raising committee was formed

consisting of Messrs J F Hayes, D Anderson, A Duffey, P M Perrett, J Ridley, A Rich, R McKillop, W Westaway, Ramsay, W Kimber, O Toop, W Toop and G Lock Snr.

In December 1927 the trustees transferred the lease of the hall to Mr A Duffey. There had been discussion about removing the Soldiers' Memorial from the site it then occupied opposite the post office in the park. In September, 1928, it was stated in the minutes that, *'as public feeling is not unanimous concerning removal of the Soldiers' Memorial to the hall frontage, that the Secretary advise the Council that the trustees do not approve of its request, but suggest that the original idea of the Council, to remove same to the intersection of the three roads be gone on with'*. (This would be its present site.)

To pay off the debt on the hall it was decided in December 1928 to run a Popular Girl Competition the following year. This was a great success. There were three candidates: Myrtle Wieland (Mrs A J Owens), representing the Show Society; Daphne Perrett (Mrs Digger Bourne), representing the Chamber of Commerce; and Elsie Dahlke, (Mrs O'Neill) representing the MUIOOF (Oddfellows' Lodge.).

The flag-pole on top of the hall each Saturday flew the flag for the ensuing week of the candidate who was leading in fund raising. (This flagpole was, in later years, struck by lightning and never replaced.) The candidates must have been very close in their rivalry and it was not until the final day that Myrtle Wieland was declared the winner.

A big sports day was held on Easter Monday, 1929, with a ball at night. The sports were preceded by a procession through the town from the Hall of Memory to the show grounds with the three girls in their respective floats: Myrtle Wieland in a white decorated car; Daphne Perrett as a red queen with maid and page; Elsie Dahlke in a *'huge blue ship'* with her pet billy goat in front and members of the Oddfellows' Lodge in full regalia marching behind her.

The total amount raised by the Popular Girls, the Sports and the ball was £845/3/6.

The RSL was meantime erecting the memorial plaques which still grace the wall. Each contains a photo of the dead soldier it commemorates, his name, number and branch of service.

A group of prominent citizens in the town, including Mr H Silburn, were not in agreement with having the hall as a soldiers' memorial. There was a move to sell the hall and build a School of Arts or memorial hospital or to convert the hall into a hospital.

Mr Duffey, who was leasing the hall at that time, was anxious to install equipment for showing 'talkies' and wanted some security of leasehold if he were to undertake such an expensive operation.

He said that the the Hall of Memory would be too expensive to buy for his purpose. He would rather build a cheap hall not meant for dances.

The move to replace the Hall of Memory as a memorial was not successful. Mr Duffey was given a ten-year lease, by the terms of which he had to act as car taker, wire the building for electricity, be responsible for the tuning of the piano and the care of the grounds. Mr Duffey equipped the hall to show 'talkies', and, in the 1940's, was one of the first operators in the country to install cinemascope.

Gradually over th years improvements were made to the hall. The verandah was closed in and partitions put up. In 1931 plans were drawn up for the addition of the supper room. It was fitted with a kitchenette consisting of sink, board, cutting up and serving counter, a partitioned drawer for cutlery, and tables. This part became known as 'The Small Hall' and was often used for small functions and meetings as well as for the serving of supper at larger functions in the main hall.

Later trustees included Messrs R M Sippel, Whatmore, W McIvor, G A Bourne, E A Sadler, W L Elliot and W Passmore. In 1935 it was agreed that the RSL should be allowed the hall at all times rent free. Walls were removed between the hall and closed-in verandahs, to make more room.

During the Second World War the basement became the storing place for 600 tons of emergency supplies. This was freighted by rail to Goomeri and transferred by truck to the rooms under police guard. At the time there was concern that northern and coastal areas would be bombed or even invaded by the Japanese. After the war this food was moved out and much of it had to be destroyed.

In 1946 a kitchen range was purchased and in that year Mr Duffey renewed his lease for a further five years. The basement was partitioned in 1947 to make a club and meeting room for the RSL.

After the Second World War memorial plaques, similar to those created for the dead of the First World War, were placed on the walls in memory of fallen soldiers. These were unveiled at a special memorial service held in 1950.

The Citizens Military Forces used the RSL room as a drill room and were allowed to use the grounds as a parade ground.

In 1952 Mr Duffey stated that television was having an effect on the film industry overseas and that this would eventually reach all parts of Australia. He therefore preferred his renewed lease to be for two years only. The pictures were shown at least once a week - sometimes more frequently and were still attracting good audiences. Mr Duffey was helped by Mr Les Trudgian who for years operated the projector and maintained it in good working order. Later Mr Duffey transferred his business to his sons, Ron and Les.



*Goomeri Hall of Memory*

In June 1967 the trustees wrote to the Kilkivan Shire Council asking that the Council take over responsibility for the hall. The Council agreed and the lease was handed over in 1971. The last meeting of trustees was held in July, 1971.

Since that date the kitchen has been modernised and a bar counter installed. The pictures have been discontinued but the hall has been used extensively for balls, cabarets, dances, concerts, weddings and dinners as well as afternoon functions. In fact, it is the hub of the town's social life. The RSL rooms provide a venue for that club's meetings and recreation nights. The 'Small Hall' is also often used for functions and meetings.

The Kilkivan Shire Council has maintained the hall in good condition. With its well kept grounds and gardens, it has become a landmark in the town, a well preserved building with a long history of town involvement.

### **3. THE GOOMERI PEOPLE**

Mr G E Jones, son of George Hall Jones, was a salesman and commission agent for many years. He was born on Boonara when his father was part-owner of that station and sent to Sydney to be educated. When he returned in 1882, he worked on Boonara until 1891, when his father sold his interests and bought Kilkivan Station. George Ernest Jones managed Kilkivan Station for his father after which he managed several other properties in the Burnett, but later returned to Boonara to work. In 1916 he set up as a stock and station and commission agent, doing business in both Goomeri and Kilkivan.

Another son of G H Jones, David Lacey Jones, was Kilkivan Shire Clerk for many years. He and his brother Aubrey bought Euroka Station near Eidsvold, which Aubrey managed. Aubrey married Miss Muriel Thompson and later bought Malvern, a small property eight miles from Goomeri (now owned by Maudsley Brothers). His son Bruce lived there for a time. Another son, Ralph, later came to live at Mount Maroomba, Goomeri with his mother, Muriel. The only member of this early pioneering family at present living in the shire is Ian, son of Bruce Jones, who lives with his wife Barbara and five children in the Boobyjan area.

In 1887, Henry Toop, a butcher by trade, selected land from Barambah Station in the Barker's Creek area. He was a ratepayer in the original Kilkivan Divisional Board but the property is now in Nanango Shire.

His eldest daughter, Ethel, married Sealey Perrett and Maud married his half-brother, Percy. Both families were very active in the town's early business life and some of their descendants are still living in the shire. Fred remained on the property which stayed in the family until 1960. Bill was a carpenter in partnership with Mr A Kopp. Oliver and Edith Toop never married and came to live in Goomeri where she set up a dressmaking business and he ran a boot repairing business.

Bert, a butcher, ran a shop for his brother-in-law, Sealy Perrett. Bert had a large family. Of these Arthur, Roland and Gordon served in the Second World War. After they returned, their uncle Bill set them up in a Gympie dry cleaning business. Stan married Amy Maudsley and ran a property with his father-in-law, Frank Maudsley, until he retired. Flo (Mrs McDonald) for years ran the Goomeri Cafe. Roland worked for Hammer's Cash and Carry.

Mr Percy Perrett came to Kilkivan with his parents at the age of six in 1900 when the family took up a selection on Oakey Creek. His father died when Percy was still a child, leaving his mother with her own family and a family from a former marriage.

As a young man Percy went to England with his mother and family where Mrs Perrett ran her own business. He returned in 1910 and did fencing for J C Mayne of Kinbombi Station. Later he joined his eldest half-brother Sealy, who had started a stock and station agency in Goomeri. His next job was on the planing machine and vertical saw at Ross and Company's sawmill.

During the First World War, Percy joined the AIF and served overseas in Egypt. After the war he worked with the Forestry for five years on silvaculture, logging operations and liberation thinning of trees at Black Snake.

For several years he worked with bullock teams and then went into the general carrying business, running a fire-wood depot in Goomeri. He bought cream and mail runs to Oakfield and to Manumbar, and purchased several businesses in Goomeri. These were run by members of his family.



Mr Perrett later sold his cream and mail runs to Mr Vince Weier. The grocery and hardware businesses were bought by South Burnett Dairy Co-operative Company.

Mr Perrett's brother, George, died of typhoid after drinking water out of the railway dam in the twenties.

Mr Fred Rawlings came to Kilkivan with his parents at the age of six months. His father was a railway employee and worked at the gate-house one-and-a-half miles from Kilkivan toward Theebine. Fred attended Kilkivan school from 1911 to 1919.

As a lad he worked on local farms and at Skyring's Sawmill for two years until 1924. In that year he joined the Railway Department. He was transferred to Julia Creek where he stayed until 1929 during which time his father had a bad accident, making him unable to work. Fred returned to Goomeri and worked until 1945 on the line between Goomeri and Coleman's Siding.

Fred married a local girl, Maureen Wood. Although the couple later went to live in Brisbane they are still frequent visitors to Goomeri and Kilkivan.

George and Rebecca Hall bought land on Boonaravale Road close to Goomeri in 1914. They lived in a tent until George built a one-roomed house in which the family was housed for two years while a permanent home was built from timber obtained on the property and treated at the local saw-mill.

Mr Hall worked as a ganger in the railway. Running the small farm was a family affair - with horses, cattle, poultry, bee-hives, and later, a dairy.

Mr and Mrs Hall raised a family of seven children. One boy, Reg, had polio as a child. He worked in Goomeri as an accountant and tax agent until he died in 1948.

Myrtle Hall became Goomeri's first telephonist, a position she held until her marriage to local saddler, Laurie Dickinson. Leila married Goomeri resident Charlie Ravey.

Mr Robert Downing came as a small child to Boonara Station where his father, Bartholomew Downing, began as a shepherd and ultimately managed a station for Baynes Brothers. Robert's first job was on Kilkivan Station. For a while he managed Manumbar Station where he gained a reputation as an expert horseman. After two years in charge of Glastonbury Hotel, he returned to the land and worked on Barambah as head stockman for twenty-five years.

He had seven years of retirement in Goomeri, living in the house next to the National Australia Bank. During this time, his wife ran refreshment rooms. His daughter Margaret, (Meg), was a wonderful horsewoman and had done stock work on Mount Stanley Station during the First World War. Meg worked for a while with well known horse and cattle dealer, Mr Billy Hayes.

After her parents retired, she bought shops in Goomeri and ran a taxi service. While driving for a film crew, making the movie, 'Romance at Runnymede' on Barambah Station, she met her future husband, Mr Joe Mackaway, who was working with horses in the film.

After their marriage they bought a property, Wattlevale, on Planted Creek Road. Their daughter Lesley (Yesberg) is still in the district. Son Tom recently sold the property and started a butchery at Nambour.



*Thomas Tansey - of Lakeview (Mrs F McIntosh)*



## Chapter 15

---

### SMALLER TOWNS AND COMMUNITY CENTRES

There are several reasons for the development of community centres in some parts of the shire. With the coming of the railway, sidings along the line acted as meeting places for people who used the rail for personal transport, or the railage of goods. Country schools often became the hub of the local community. Breaking-up picnics and other special events would bring together not only the parents and their children, but others who lived close by. Transport was slow and difficult and local stores, or hotels in strategic places, would attract community patronage.

With the coming of modern transport and communication and the dwindling of the rural population, these centres lost their importance. However, some have developed a very strong community spirit, which has outlived their demise as commercial centres.

#### 1. TANSEY

The locality of Tansey, which has developed into a small township, was originally known as Sandy Creek. The actual name of this water course is Boonara Creek. Originally there was a camping reserve nearby for travelling stock. There is hearsay evidence that races were held here as early as the 1860's, but no actual proof of this is available. A groom on Bonara Run, George Robinson Brown, is said to have met his death from a fall off a horse while racing at Sandy Creek.

When a state school was opened close by in 1916, it was given the name 'Tansey' after the early selector of Lakeview. From then on, the locality was referred to by that name.

Tansey Reserve was officially gazetted on 10 March 1922. Trustees appointed were Messrs J W E (Jim) Baillie, Richard Maudsley and A J Owens (Secretary).

The community immediately set about raising funds to erect a hall on the site. The main building was completed and opened in July 1926. Since then improvements have been added to the building - a verandah, a supper room and the CWA Rest Room. In recent times, the facilities of the supper room have been modernised.

The first tennis courts were on the western side of the sports oval, but they were later shifted close to the hall.



*Tansey Reserve (J Haas)*

The sports ground was cleared and has been in constant use. Campdrafts, combined with horticultural shows, have been held every year since the grounds were gazetted. An occasional drought year has caused their cancellation.

Races were also started in the early twenties, and were held every Boxing Day until they lapsed in the early 1950's, due to lack of office bearers. In recent years, picnic races in aid of local schools and the kindergarten have been held annually in March.

Later trustees of the grounds were Messrs J Rogash, J Nagel and M McKewan. A Hall Committee was also formed, on which the trustees and many other Tansey residents were active, including Messrs E Wason, J Mackaway, H Keune, and K Greer.

Cricket and football were also played on the grounds. Tansey Bowls Club was started in 1954. It has a good green, and a modern club room with facilities for entertaining members and visitors, and for holding functions.

On the southern side of the creek, a township sprang up. Mr Jack Kelly opened a store on the later site of the butcher's shop. When it was destroyed by fire, he built a new shop on the opposite side of the road, a great boon to local people before fast transport and good roads enabled them to shop further afield. In 1945, Mr Kelly built a hall close to the shop. Its main use was for holding concerts, in which Tansey and all surrounding small schools took part. These continued to be an annual event until most of the surrounding schools were closed.

The hall was also used by the Methodist Church for conducting church services, Sunday school and youth groups. Mr Kelly sold out to Hennes and Greer in the mid-1940's. In their time, the Tansey telephone exchange was incorporated in the store to do away with party telephone lines. It was closed when an automatic service was introduced. A post office was also run from this store, but it ceased to operate when the population of the surrounding district fell.

In 1945, picture shows were held in the open, outside Kelly's store. They were later held in the nearby hall. These were run by Mr C McCarroll and Mr J Batts of Kilkivan.

There had been a cheese factory at Tansey during the First World War but it was closed in the early 1920's. The second factory was started by the Maryborough Co-operative Dairy Company in 1942. This factory stayed open until the 1960's and boosted Tansey as a township.

A butcher's shop had been opened in the early 1940's by Mr Holding ,who ran it for many years. Later owners, the Ansteys, also had businesses in Goomeri. When it was owned by the Gaudrey family, they bought the closed cheese factory and converted it into an abattoir.

In recent years, the store, which changed hands several times, has been destroyed in a fire and not rebuilt. The butchery and the abattoir have been closed. A garage, started by Mr A Pointon, and now owned by Mr Fuller, is still serving local farmers.

Tansey is no longer important as a commercial centre, but retains its significance as a community centre with good sporting and social amenities.

## **2. CINNABAR**

Cinnabar became a distinctive locality in the mining era. When the railway was extended to the South Burnett in 1899, a siding was established in the vicinity. The sale of land from Kilkivan Pastoral Run resulted in an increase of the rural population. The area around Cinnabar Siding was, in 1909, surveyed into town blocks.



*Cinnabar Post Office and Store*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*



*Cinnabar Hall*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*

Cinnabar Siding was used by dairy farmers, who railed cream to factories. It was also used extensively for the trucking of cattle. The siding became a staff station. It was common practice for married couples to be employed by the Railway Department to operate small stations. The husband acted as linksman, keeping the line in repair, and the wife as station mistress.

The first station mistress was Mrs Turner. She was followed by Mrs Day, who was followed by Mr J Meaney.

During the First World War a cheese factory was opened close to the railway station. There was apparently a co-operative store attached to this factory. In the early 1920's, the factory and store were closed down. The population of the surrounding area was boosted by the ex-servicemen who settled in the area at that time.

A store to serve the local population was established by Hughes and Tennison. This was later owned by Mr J Kelly, who sold out and started a business at Tansey. For years, the Cinnabar Store was run by the O'Donnells, who had previously owned a farm in the neighbourhood.

It was bought by Mr Len Barsby in 1946. He had come to the Boonara area as a young man, to work for Mr 'Attie' McIntosh and had acquired a farm at Cinnabar, which he leased when he bought the store. At that time, there were twenty farmers bringing cream each day to the rail at Cinnabar.

In 1922, it was decided to build a hall. The Cinnabar Sports Reserve was gazetted in February 1924. Ten acres were set apart for this purpose, and a Cinnabar Sports Club was formed for tennis and cricket. The hall was used for dances, CWA meetings, church services, concerts and other functions. At one stage it was destroyed by fire but rebuilt later.

The railway was an important element in the lives of the people. Mr and Mrs Livingstone were married at the Sempf home; they caught the train at 'Grid 34 Cream Stop' to go on their honeymoon. The guard escorted them to the best first class carriage and they departed to the sound of crackers exploding on the line.

In recent years, due to the demise of dairying and the drop in local population, the store has closed down, the railway station has reverted to a siding which is seldom used, the hall was sold for removal and the sports ground surrendered and divided into small residential blocks.

Cinnabar, once a busy centre, has lost its commercial and social importance to the few surrounding property owners.

### 3. WOOLLOOGA

When the railway line was extended to Kilkivan in 1886, a siding was established at Woollooga, taking its name from the nearby Woollooga Pastoral Run. It became an outlet for local properties as far away as Widgee.

In the early 1900's, thirty teamsters hauled loads of timber from Widgee, Currjuli, Pine Mountain and Bongmuller Creek. At the time, there was no hotel, but the teamsters used the centre as a meeting place.

Although Woolooga was a rail outlet for nearby mines and timber, it was not until the influx of rural population, caused by the sale of Widgee and Woolooga Estates, that the town started to develop. Most properties had dairies, and cream was railed from Woolooga to the dairy factories.

Mr T Thomas, a miner from Gympie, bought the land where the town now stands, had it surveyed into town lots and resold it. In 1904, he built the first hotel, which was run by Mr Andy Frederickson. Mr Thomas had three daughters, Mrs Jones, Mrs Chamberlain and Mrs Bath. They and their husbands established some of the first business ventures in the town, as well as working selections. The first store was opened in 1909, by Mrs Jones, who rode to town and back every day from her father's selection, with her small child on the saddle. This business was carried on by the same family until the early 1970's.

By the time the first store was opened, Woolooga had become a staffed railway station, the first post office being operated in conjunction with it. Within a year there was an unofficial post office, run by Mr Jim Chamberlain, who had a business later owned by Mr and Mrs Bill Frazer. This shop sold everything from a needle to an anchor (the anchor was hanging in front of the shop) - drapery, groceries, hardware and produce.

Mr Jack Anderson, who owned a nearby selection, became the town's first blacksmith and wheelwright, and was noted for his skill in building sulkies. He travelled to work each day on a motor cycle. His daughter, Violet, married Mr Jim Knipe who was doing contract work for the council on the Widgee - Woolooga Road in the mid-1930's. The smithy was taken over by Mr Edwards, who ran it for many years.

The Railway Department employed a station master and night officer. It was a watering place for steam locomotives. Stories are told by timber men, about the difficulty experienced by heavily loaded goods trains in negotiating the steep gradient on the eastern side of Woolooga station. Logs would often have to be thrown off, and left for a future train, to enable the steep slope to be negotiated.

The Woolooga Hall was originally built by Mr Matthews. Recent owner, Mr George Sellen, has handed it over to a committee to manage as a community hall. There is no RSL in the town, but the local people have erected a roll of honour in the hall to commemorate the soldiers who fought in both wars. The town has its own Anzac Day commemoration in which the local CWA takes an active part.

By 1949, Woolooga had a hotel, a blacksmith, two general stores and a butcher's shop. These were well patronised by local people from the surrounding area, and rarely changed hands over the years.





*Jones' Store - Woolooga*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*



*Woolooga Hotel*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*

Woolooga has its own Masonic Lodge which was built in 1929. A rifle range was set up in 1931. The town has a very active CWA. Presbyterian and Catholic Churches were established very early. There is still a strong community spirit that sets this area apart from other places. The cricket pitch was laid down in 1916, and the tennis courts in the following year on the creek bank. The cricket club no longer functions, but the tennis courts, which have been shifted to the eastern side of the main street, are still in use.

The railway station has once more become a siding; in 1987, the post office closed down; no shops remain, but the hotel is run by Mr and Mrs Pat Walsh and Mr G Sellen. There is a newsagency where mail can be collected. Cattle sales are held close to the town every two or three weeks. These were started in the 1950's. Sometimes there are over 1 000 head of cattle sold to a large gathering of people.

#### 4. MANUMBAR

The social and economic life of the population around the two timber mills at Manumbar have been mentioned in Chapter Ten.

Another community centre developed close to the properties selected by Manumbar soldier settlers after the First World War. This became known as 'Manumbar Settlement'. No business centre was established here but a hall and sports ground were built and are still in use. There are a number of good horsemen in the area and the Manumbar Campdraft is still a yearly event.



*Manumbar Mill and Sportsground*

*(H Franz)*



## *Chapter 16*

### EDUCATION

The opening of schools in the shire has been influenced by the growth of centres of population. As these have changed, the schools have opened and closed with them. Population has been altered by several factors - the ascendancy or decline of industries on which local prosperity depended, the movement of families dependent on these industries and the availability of transport. In later years better roads and motor vehicles have resulted in the centralization of schools but early schools could only serve the families able to reach them by travelling on foot or on horseback.

In the early years of settlement there were no government schools. The children of the pastoralists were taught by tutors and governesses and sent to boarding school to complete their education. There were probably enough children on these stations to warrant schools, but free compulsory education was not available in remote areas. People who were literate taught their children to read and write, and, if they could spare the time, taught others. Mention has been made of a private school on Boonara Station where the children of station employees received instruction.

The first schools in most country areas were provisional schools. If a community requested a school, the government would ask for the number of children eligible to attend and an estimate of future children likely to be enrolled. The degree of permanency of the local population was also taken into consideration. Parents provided the building, and the government a teacher and basic equipment for the school.

However, in the case of some of the schools in the Kilkivan area, which would have been among the earliest schools in the colony of Queensland, the parents also had to find their own teacher and pay half his/her salary. Some of the teachers were either without initial training or were given a few months probation in other schools.



*Schoolhouse at Grieve's with governess*

*(E Dunn)*

The amount of effort and expense involved in obtaining these schools indicates how these local communities valued their schools and the chance for their children to obtain even a basic education. In rural areas schools often became the focal point for the whole community, and were regarded with great pride.

## 1. KILKIVAN

As early as 1875 the Government Board of General Instruction was asked for a school to cater for the children at the Rise and Shine Reef. The Board replied that if a suitable building could be provided and a teacher found the 'usual aid' would be granted - £70 toward the yearly income of the teacher, a supply of books and other school requisites.

The School Committee, which was formed in 1875, consisted of Michael Mackey, William Frazer, F McColm, John Beer, George Penny, William Spencer and Michael Cogan. A building was found and Miss Sabina Page, who had been teaching at Mount Coora, opened a school on 6 March 1876. The room was built of pine palings and had a rough slab floor, no windows, press, clock or blackboard. Thirty-five children were enrolled the first year. The township was growing and was named 'Mount Neureum'. Miss Oats, who was appointed in 1878, did not seem to be popular with the parents. She left and the school was without a teacher until Mrs Innes was appointed in 1879. When this lady was called away to visit a sick mother she left her husband in charge of the school.



*Kilkivan Provisional School - 1883*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*



*Kilkivan State School - 1913*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*

In 1881 the name of the school was changed to 'Kilkivan'. The population was increasing and, on the advice of Mr Stephens, the teacher at the time, a new school was built. While the change was being made the children had lessons at the local Sunday School. The building was completed in August 1882. It had an iron roof, four glass windows and a fine smooth floor that could be used for dances. But there were no desks or other school requisites.

By 1884 the parents had collected enough money to furnish the school with two shelves, a blackboard and stand, five forms, one small and two large desks and a table.

In 1887 plans for a new state school were approved at an estimated cost of £638. Local parents had to supply £136 of this before any building could start. On 28 November 1889 a government school at Kilkivan was opened. The attendance started at 41 and rose steadily to 108 in 1927, but were still housed in a building 48 feet by 17 feet with two verandahs.

In 1932, after much delay, probably because of the effects of the depression, another classroom and teachers' room were added. In 1950 remodelling of the building and partitioning of the main room were undertaken. Woodwork and leatherwork classes were begun in 1927 by two part-time teachers - Mr C Truscott and Mr E Denham - in a garage with an earth floor. Vocational classes for girls were carried out by Miss N Croft on an enclosed verandah room until a building sponsored by the Kilkivan QCWA was built and opened in July 1928. Children from other schools and from the Goomeri area attended one day a week. Mr Dickinson and later his son, Laurie, taught the boys leatherwork at the vocational centre.

Those children fortunate enough to obtain secondary schooling attended boarding schools or lived at hostels in Gympie or Murgon to attend high schools there. In 1959 a bus run to Murgon High School was established.

In 1964 a secondary department, attached to the primary school, was opened. For the first year Goomeri high school students also travelled once a week to Kilkivan to use the vocational centres. Accommodation for high school classes was cramped until the new building was opened in 1965. In the years following, other rooms were added to both the primary and secondary departments. A pre-school was opened in 1977.

Students now travel by bus to Gympie to attend the final two years of secondary school. The present modern facilities are a far cry from the slab hut of 1875.

## **2. CALGOA - RUNNING CREEK**

The Running Creek Provisional School was referred to as the 'Yorkie School' by local miner and landowner Mr Schacht. It apparently was also known as the 'Yorkey Mine School'. In later years it was called the Calgoa School.

The Running Creek School opened its doors on 23 October 1903. The first committee consisted of: James Saunders (Mine Manager), Chairman; Arthur Lovell Batts (Storekeeper), Secretary; William Tullock, Treasurer; John Hedges (Carrier) and Allen Braysher (Miner).

The building committee consisted of John Hedges, William Tullock, Adolf Dombrow and Arthur Batts. The school closed on 13 October 1909, when attendance fell to twelve. At that time the economic situation in the state necessitated the closure of all schools with an attendance of twelve or less unless the teacher would consent to accept less pay or the local people made up the difference with cheap board and lodgings and a subsidy on the teacher's salary.

Luckily for the school, local girl Therza Batts was willing to take on the job of teacher. She was given a six weeks' course in teaching at Kilkivan School and reopened Running Creek School on 11 April 1910.

The reprieve was short-lived. The attendance dropped to five, and the school closed on 11 October 1910.

Constant efforts were made to have the school re-opened, and the help of Mr Booker MLA was enlisted. The district inspector recommended that it be run as a half-time school with Oakview School which had an average attendance of nine at the time.

There was trouble between the two school committees. Mr Herbert Kitt, secretary of the Oakview School Committee, protested that his school warranted a full time teacher. The teacher, Mr O'Reilly, asked for a horse to convey him from Oakview to Running Creek. The Running Creek parents offered to go halves with the Oakview parents in buying one, but the Oakview people refused. They were prepared to supply a paddock for grazing the horse if the teacher bought one himself.

Mr O'Reilly commenced teaching at Running Creek on 1 July 1913. The school was closed at the end of the year because of low attendance, and Oakview once again became a full-time school.

The building lay unoccupied until 24 July 1916, when Mr J Lawrie asked if he could buy it. The school had been provided by the parents and they were allowed to decide on its fate. It was sold for £4 and the proceeds given to the War Fund. The contents were removed to Kilkivan School.

It was not until 1927 that there were again enough children in the area to warrant opening a school again. A new school, known originally as Burnside, but later as Running Creek, opened in 1927. This school operated until teacher shortages caused by the onset of war resulted in its closure in May 1942. The head teachers were: H J Brausch, C T Neal, T E Batts, J P O'Reilly, M E Costello, Mrs E R Taylor, M McKenn, M Boyle, F C Adams, M S Marten, G W Lyle, H Richards, L R Cook, and H M Risson.

Average attendance varied from ten to eighteen. It dropped to twelve and remained at that number until its closure in May 1942.

### 3. CALGOA STATE SCHOOL

Application was made by Mr A Bailey in October 1937 for the establishment of a school at Calgoa. There were considered to be insufficient children for the establishment of a state school but the right to a provisional school was granted.

The secretary of the building committee, Mr V T Batts, advised that a suitable building was being erected on Mr Heath's property. This was completed in February 1938 and the school was opened in April of that year. Miss Marie Stephens was appointed Head Teacher.

In 1951 departmental approval was given for a state school to replace the provisional school. Mr V Turner agreed to the excision of an area of 4 acres 13 perches from the Perpetual Lease property held by him. This land was set apart as a school reserve and the former school building from Brooyar was moved to this site. It was opened in February 1952 but was operative for only a short while. It was closed and the building shifted to Boompa in 1958.

The following particulars are given about the staffing of the school:

According to departmental records Margaret M Harris opened a school at Calgoa in January 1935. This was closed in May of that year. It was reopened as a provisional school by Marie Stephens in April 1938. The date of her departure is not given. She was followed by Antony S Madden who left in July 1941, when the school was closed. (This could have been due to war-time teacher shortage). When it was re-opened the next teacher was Patrick J Doyle, who left in 1951. He was followed by L C Anderson (1951 - 1953). It became a state school in February 1952 but was closed in December 1953.

### 4. WOOLOOGA

Woolooga State School opened on 27 January 1913. This school plans to celebrate its Jubilee on the Queen's Birthday Weekend, 1988. Among the names which appear on the first day roll of the school are: Sellen, Thomas, Smith, Barry, Spiller, Healy, Dawson, O'Shea, and Fittell.

Teachers were: Misses G Smith, A M Stoer, Blatchford (Mrs Dray), Messrs J O'Brien, B Crapp, W McMullan, J M Pettit (1931 - 1954), A Shuttleworth, A T Burrow, T H Genn, J P Flanagan, D J Skene, J J Bieron, J P Godfrey, A J Sanderson and the present teacher, B Simpson. The current enrolment is seventeen, but at times there have been enough pupils to warrant two teachers. These were local girls, Miss M Peek and Mrs E Barkle. During the 1930's there were, at times, over fifty pupils crammed into one small building. The school was built on high blocks and an area underneath was closed in with galvanised iron to provide extra space for the influx of pupils.





*Woolooga School (J Walsh)*

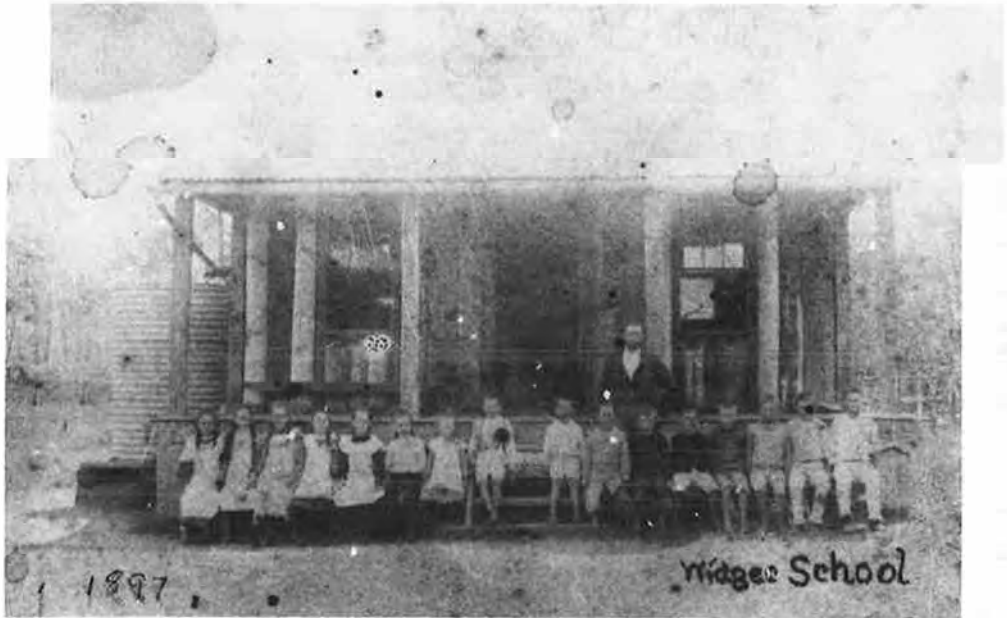
Except for a few months during 1985, the enrolment in recent years has been between fifteen and twenty. The new double teaching area was provided in 1985. Some of the former teachers married into local families. Their descendants still live in Kilkivan Shire.

A number of schools in the surrounding areas have closed in recent years - Running Creek, Carmyle, Upper and Lower Wonga, Sexton, Brooyar. Woolooga's enrolment was boosted by their closure.

The facade of the school has changed over the years. Originally there was a front verandah with a set of steps in the middle. Now the steps lead to a small porch. From here there is a door leading into the office. From the office is a door (the original one) leading into the old classroom, which is now a library and a Year 1 teaching area. The galvanised iron enclosure underneath has been turned into a store room, with fibro rather than iron walls.

## 5. WIDGEE

At a public meeting at Widgee on 14 December 1891, James Caulfield, John O'Donnell and John Shanahan were elected as a building committee to procure a provisional school for the twenty Widgee children requiring primary education. Some had previously been taught by the station tutors and governesses; others, by their mothers.



*Widgee School*

*(O'Donnell Collection)*

There were sufficient children to warrant the establishment of a provisional school, but the local population had difficulty in financing such a move. The country was in the midst of a depression and government assistance was difficult to obtain. The government agreed to give half the cost of the school building and furniture if it met specifications. The parents had to find the rest.

There was much altercation before a teacher was finally chosen. The parents preferred a male teacher because they thought this would result in better discipline. They also wanted someone 'unencumbered' because of the accommodation provided. Eventually Mr G W Lyons was found to be acceptable by both the parents and the Education Department. He was granted a salary of £80 per annum plus £3 special head teacher's allowance.

The school began in a cottage on Widgee Homestead used as sleeping quarters for five of the children of James Caulfield, head stockman. The children continued to sleep there at night. Mr Lyons took up residence in the quarters provided for him near the site of the school which was later built. This hut was fifteen feet by ten feet in size with a rear skillion and an iron roof.

The first-day pupils were: Elizabeth, George, Ada, James, Peter, Martin, William and Jane Caulfield; Peter McCartney; William and Margaret O'Donnell; Bath, James and Elizabeth Shanahan; James Broadbent and Beatrice Cotter. Some were older children who had never previously been to

school and had no particular wish to do so. They were difficult to control and the cane was often used. They frequently 'played the wag' and found other more congenial pursuits to occupy their time.

Eventually the school was built on the southern bank of Station Creek in a position that was generally convenient to all families and was opened on 2 July 1893. Following Mr Lyons, there were two more teachers, Mr E S Hill (1896 -1899) and Mr H McCullagh (1900 - 1906). After this the school was closed because of low enrolment.

However, later that year the parents wished to re-open the school with a female teacher, but the Department refused to allow this unless the parents paid a subsidy on the teacher's salary. Eventually a female teacher, Miss Murdoch, took the position. For a few years the school was kept open with 'borrowed' children, relatives of the local families who came to visit and attend school.

The school, which had a number of female teachers, remained open until the end of 1921. By then attendance had declined and the old slab school was permanently closed.

In May 1923 school was again resumed at Widgee in the newly-erected Memorial Hall until a building was moved from Diamondfield and erected on the present site in 1940. A verandah was enclosed to make a library room and extra classroom space was provided in 1952. In 1960 the school's enrolment had increased sufficiently to warrant an assistant teacher. In September 1961 more extensions were added.

The school remains open today, a modern building with its residence next door - a far cry from the first little slab building by the creek with its primitive teacher's accommodation.

## 6. ROSSMORE

In 1914 a reserve was set aside at the junction of Fat Hen and Sawpit Creeks for the building of a provisional school. At the time many of the people were new arrivals, still clearing land and living in temporary accommodation with the future prospect of building more permanent homes and planting crops in readiness for starting dairy farms.

A building committee was formed consisting of Messrs W Beer, C Wex, P Sebbens, J Mengel, A Dimock, W Walker, G Summers. Others who signed the application to have a school building were P Lahiff, A Richardson, S Pye, P Browne, C Truscott and C Spencer.

In October 1914, a letter was sent to local MLA, Mr C H Booker, asking him to use his influence to procure a school for the residents of Fat Hen Creek. The committee claimed that only four children out of fourteen were getting any schooling, of which two had to walk three miles and the other two, five

miles. A School Reserve had been granted, and the committee pointed out that the Crown land adjacent to this could possibly be thrown open for selection at a later date, swelling the population of the area.

When the school inspector was sent to assess the situation, the building committee went to great lengths to put their case. They had four children ready to start school and eleven more below school age which they considered adequate for the establishment of a provisional school. The inspector thought the numbers too low but regarded it as an area where a temporary Tent School might be erected. However, he expressed doubt as to whether all the new settlers would stay as they were suffering hardships and working under adverse conditions.

The parents, when approached, however, decided to build a provisional school. One had recently inherited some money which he was prepared to lend for the building of the school. Another offered to transport the necessary timber, while the others undertook to erect the building. This meant that the school could be ready by January 1915.

It was decided that the school should be named 'Fairfield', but as there was another school of that name, it was changed to 'Rossmore', said to be the name of the first teacher's home.



*Rossmore School*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*

Teachers who taught at the school were: A McMahon, 1916 - 1920; F White, 1920 - 1921; R McMahon, 1921 - 1922; E Neilson, 1922 - 1924; M Gormley, 1923 - 1924; G Doherty, 1924 - 1925; M Robson, 1925; M Fenwick, 1925 - 1927; V Garson, 1927 - 1932; A Dawson, 1932 - 1936; Mr R Bowen, 1936 - 1939; Mr M Howland 1939 - 1946 (RAAF from 1941); Mr R Connolly, 1941 - 1946 (military service from 1942); R Osborne, 1942 - 1943.

(The above is a list supplied by the Education Department).

The school was closed because of low attendance in 1943 and the children had to enrol in correspondence lessons. In October 1946 pupils were transported to Kilkivan School by bus.

## 7. OAKVIEW

Application to have a school at Oakview was made early in 1895. Mr J Angel wrote to the Department of Public Instruction informing them that a site had been found. This was described by a departmental inspector as 'a triangular piece of ground about one-and-a-half miles south of Oakview Railway Station at the junction of what is called the 'Three Chain' and 'Ten Chain' roads.

The land was owned by Mr G H Jones of Kilkivan Station. He had given permission for this land to be used, and a verbal assurance was made that the Kilkivan Divisional Board would raise no objection to the erection of a building.

The local committee had notified the Department that they intended '*to erect a hardwood weatherboard building with roof of palings covered with iron*'. Mr Angel had enquired about timber at the Gympie sawmill and was advised to obtain from the Department required specifications for such provisional school buildings '*with a view to the provision of suitable furniture for the intended school*'.

There were only eight children of school age in the neighbourhood at the time, two of whom were attending Kilkivan School. This did not warrant the establishment of a government school. The parents themselves were expected to find the building and contribute toward the teacher's salary.

The Oakview School was opened in 1895 as a provisional school. It stayed operative until 1914 when a shortage of teachers due to the war and low attendance resulted in its closure.

In 1918 it was reopened, using four-year-old children to boost the attendance. In 1936 a school building was brought from Kinbombi. This was used until its closure in 1964. The children were then transported to Kilkivan School by bus.

Those early days were well remembered for the school picnics which were happy meeting places for the surrounding community.

## 8. BROOYAR

The Brooyar State School operated from 1898 until 1940 when it was closed and the remaining children taken to Woolooga.

During that time the following teachers taught at the school:

Wood, Mary Gertrude; Elmay, Florence Maud; Fitzgerald, Kathleen; Dellar, Margaret Lucy; Bowen, May Gweneth; Fitzgerald, Geraldine; MacGregor, Margaret E; White, Vera; Klein, Edith May; Staines, Elizabeth M; Haugh, Arnold Robert; McCabe, Mary Bridget and Webster, Grace W.

(The above is a list supplied by the Education Department).



*Brooyar State School - about 1916*

*(P Fitzgerald)*

The following account of one young teacher's experiences in a small country school is typical of the conditions of the time.

A city girl, Margaret Ellen MacGregor, was appointed to Brooyar State School in 1921. As the school was in an isolated area the committee found board for her with Mr and Mrs Jose at the Boowoogum Railway Gatehouse. She had to travel two miles to school over rough roads on a bicycle until one parent lent a sulky and harness and another a quiet sulky horse. The teacher drove herself to school, taking the Jose children with her.

Miss MacGregor had twenty-five pupils, children of dairy farmers and timber workers most of whom rode horses to school. Flooded creeks often caused children to miss school. Break-up Day was always a happy occasion when the children gave a concert and received a book prize each. This was followed by a picnic lunch. These were greatly appreciated treats for country children.

The School Inspector often arrived unexpectedly (as was the custom in those days) to appraise the school and the teacher. He would travel by train to Boowoogum and from there by bicycle. He then continued on to Sexton School. In later years inspectors came to Kilkivan by train and hired cars to reach country schools.

In 1924 Miss MacGregor married a local grazier, Robert Fitzgerald, and remained in the district. When the Brooyar School was closed in 1940, the building was shifted to Calgoa.

## 9. CINNABAR

An early provisional school was opened at Cinnabar in 1896. It was situated on the old Boonara mail trail near the Oakey Creek turnoff. Not much information is available about this school as documents were unfortunately destroyed in a fire. Miss Rose Moessenger was one of the early teachers. Another teacher at this school was Mrs Perrett.

Cinnabar became a state school in 1916. First day pupils who were present at the Golden Jubilee celebrations held in 1966 were: Rose Davies (Mrs Waldock), Margaret Davies (Mrs Parnell), Harold Turner, Frank Whelan, Margaret Whelan (Mrs J Meaney), Percy, Robert and Jack Moreland, Grace Stafford (Mrs Cox), Les Keys, Joe Davies and Doris Turner (Mrs Turner). Others mentioned were Jack, Frank and Clarence Davies and William Turner. The school's first teacher, Miss M O'Donnell (Mrs N Murphy) was also present. Other teachers present were Miss Sedgeman (Mrs Haylock), Miss D Connelly (Mrs H S Davies) and Mr Graham Tainton who was principal at the time. Another past pupil who attended the Jubilee was Mrs Beer (Maureen Davies).

At the time Mr Gordon McGill was president of the Jubilee Committee. A past pupil himself, he has since remarked that when he attended the school he was the only pupil whose parents were not dairying at the time.

Other teachers who taught at the school were Miss Sedgeman, Mr Dwyer, and Miss Irwin, who was the longest serving teacher at the school. For many years the Barsby family boarded the teacher. Mr Ralph Williams taught at the school during the Second World War. During that time the highest attendance was forty-one in 1942 when there was an influx of people to the area due to a threat of a Japanese invasion. Mr Williams obtained permission for pupils in the highest classes to make a return rail journey to Kilkivan each week for lessons at the Rural School.



*Cinnabar School*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*



*Upper Cinnabar School - about 1924*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*



The school was closed in 1978 and the remaining pupils transported by bus to Kilkivan.

For a while there was a provisional school called 'Upper Cinnabar'. It was eventually closed and the building transferred to Booinbah.

#### 10. SEXTON AND CARMYLE

Sexton opened in January 1914 as a provisional school. It cost the parents £36/15/- to build and was located on a gravel reserve belonging to the Tiaro Shire Council. The first teacher was Miss Alice Greedy.

Early names on the register include Wilson, Ormes, Anderson, Lewis, Dawson, Weinheiner.

In 1920 it operated for a while as a part-time school with Miva. It is thought that the school became a state school soon after it reverted to its full time status. Mr Ralph Williams of Kilkivan taught at the school for several years, commencing in 1933.

The Carmyle School, only three miles from Sexton School, takes its name from the property 'Carmyle' owned by the Wilson family. Both schools were probably opened for the children of families who had acquired land from Woolooga and Widgee Estates. It is thought that both schools closed about the same time - in the early 1950's.

After the closure of these schools some children travelled to Woolooga School by train each day.

#### 11. UPPER AND LOWER WONGA

Both Upper and Lower Wonga Schools opened about 1915 and stayed open until the mid-1960's, when the children were transported to nearby schools by bus.

Miss Margaret McIntosh of Widgee Station attended Upper Wonga School during the time Widgee School was closed. The Walker family also attended this school.

Mr Fred Cecil, member of a local grazing family, taught there until 1915 when he enlisted in the armed forces. Another member of a local family who taught at the school was Mr Gerald Walker. At the same time his sister, Miss Beatrice Walker (Mrs E Dray) taught at Lower Wonga. It was difficult at that time to obtain suitable board for young teachers in the area. Mr McSweeney was teaching at this school in 1923.

Other names mentioned in connection with the school are George Harvey and Les Lenguich, who was killed in action.



*Lower Wonga School*

*(O'Donnell Collection)*



*Upper Wonga School*

*(J M Price)*

Besides Miss Walker, other teachers who taught at Lower Wonga School were Miss Kinnon, Mr Middleton, Miss Mollie Dixon (who married Mr Des Wieland of Goomeri West), and Mr Pat Wendt. Families who attended the school include the Dawsons, Spillers and Schmidts.

## 12. BROOKLANDS

Brooklands Provisional School was opened in 1933. It was built by well known Widgee selector, Mr Mick Shanahan, in a freehold paddock owned by Mr Peter McCarthy. The first teacher was Miss Liderman, followed by Miss Sykes and Miss Blunt. Families who attended the school were the Webbs, McCarthys, Shanahans, Cotters and Moores. The school closed in the early forties because of low attendance.

## 13. BOONARA

The first official move for schooling in the Boonara area was in the 1890's. There were several selectors with large families, including August Euler, his son, William, and the Maudsley brothers. Also, there were children whose parents were working on Boonara Station, including the Wallace family.

The Education Department agreed to the establishment of two part-time provisional schools - Margoo and Undaban. The parents provided the school buildings and the government, the teacher. Both schools were opened for use some time in 1896. Arthur Breeze Spencer was the first teacher. A young city boy, he was sent to take charge of his new pupils - country children between the age of six and seventeen, some lacking in previous schooling.

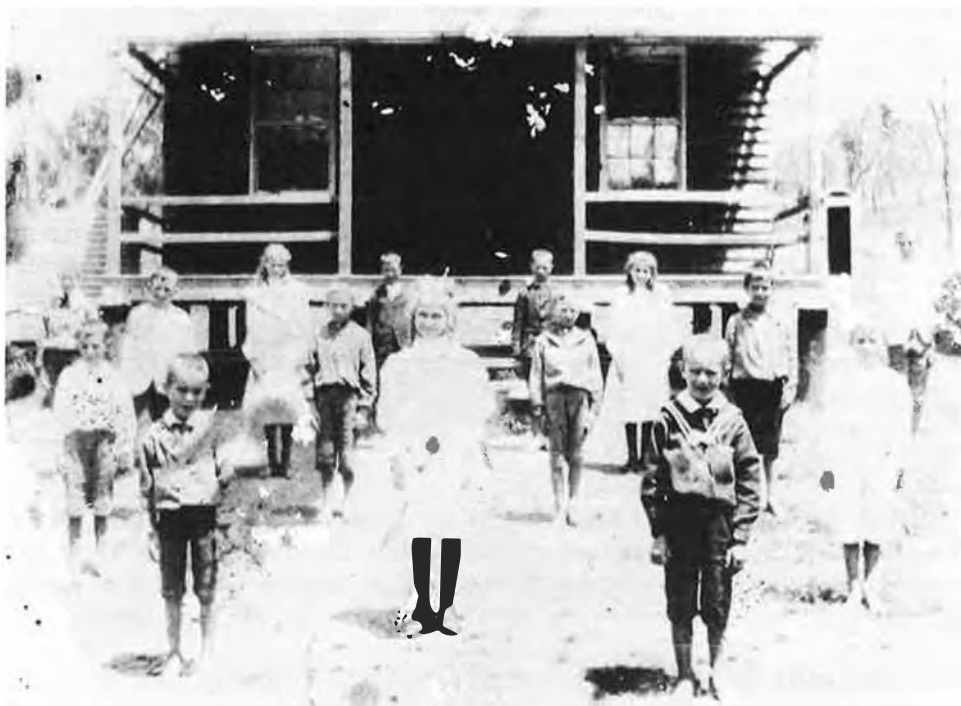
The two schools, six miles apart, were worked week about by the one teacher. The young children attended only one week in two. The older children attended both schools, often walking long distances. The predominant names on the earliest admission register were Maudsley and Euler.

In 1897 the first official teacher Mr H O Faulkner took over. In that year Frederick Nissen took the position of stockman on Boonara and his large family increased the attendance at the schools.

In the early years when the older pupils were much about the same age as their teacher, there are stories told of how the older boys would leave the classroom at intervals to smoke their pipes. They would snare opossums on the way to school and hang the skins around the walls to dry. They often missed out on holidays, because the letters authorising them would arrive too late.

However the schools continued and did not lack for pupils. Younger children of these families reached school age and new families arrived.

In 1901, it was decided to have the schools in a more central position. The site chosen was Waterfall paddock on Trinity and the name was changed to 'Boonara Provisional School'. In 1909 it became 'Boonara State School'.



*Boonara Provisional School*

*(D Logan)*

In 1913 a provisional school, Eulerville, was established on the property now owned by John Hatton. This was to cater for children too far from Boonara School. Again these two schools were operated on a part-time basis by the one teacher. In 1914 the school was transferred to its final site (where the home of Mr Phillip Lord now stands) and Eulerville was closed. Boonara School remained open until 1964 when falling attendances saw its closure.

#### 14. GOOMERI

Following the Boonara Land Sale in 1911 and the beginning of the town of Goomeri, a request for a school was made to the Department of Public Instruction. When town allotments had been sold, provision had been made for a future school.

Mr Joe Murphy, proprietor of the Boonara Hotel, offered his hall as a temporary building. A provisional school was opened on 5 February, 1912. Miss Robertson was the teacher-in-charge. On the first day twenty-one children were enrolled, three more arriving later.

A school was opened on 20 January 1913, on the site of the present residence. By then the attendance had increased so rapidly that an assistant, Miss Wagner, was sent. In 1914 a male head teacher, Mr J E Heath, took over from Miss Robertson.



*Opening Goomeri School - 1912*

*(D B Euler)*



*Goomeri School - about 1920*

*(M Dickinson)*

By 1916 the attendance had outgrown the size of the school. A new school was built, the front section of the first wing of the present school, to cope with 120 children. A new assistant, Miss A Gallant, arrived.

At that time the school grounds contained a number of dead trees, some of which were huge. The committee employed a man to fell the trees and chop off the branches. The children rolled the branches and smaller logs against the trunks and stumps of the larger trees and gradually burnt them.

After the clearing of the grounds, Mr Heath set out to make Goomeri a model country school. With a co-operative committee, the school soon had a tennis court, a piano, a well with a windmill and water system. The water was used to establish a garden and experimental project plots. Good pictures were bought to hang on the walls, as well as sporting material, saddle racks and drinking troughs for the horses.

In 1930 the Head Teacher's office and residence were built. In Mr Heath and Miss Gallant's long stay, the school choir competed in eisteddfods, and experiments in plant growing were carried out in co-operation with the Queensland Agricultural College and the CSIRO. The first experiment was with fodder crops, grasses and oil seeds, but later experiments were carried out with hybrid maize with attention to soil erosion.

In 1949 when Mr Heath retired, the school was well established. In 1955 a secondary bus run to Murgon High School began, bringing the chance of further education to many children who had formerly missed out. The horse paddock became a sports ground. The building of a second wing (now the library) was completed in 1959.

A decrease in rural population, better roads, and faster means of transport brought about the closure of small schools. More children from outlying areas were transported by bus to Goomeri School.

A Secondary Department was opened in 1964 to cater for students to Year Ten. More buildings were added. The second wing was remodelled as a library; a third wing was added for secondary classrooms; a vocational area was also built; and a large double open area wing was added to the primary school.

Pre-school education began in 1977 in the Kindergarten Hall. In 1980 the Goomeri Pre-school Complex was opened and caters for the children of Goomeri and out-lying schools. The latest addition to the school was the Administration Building which was opened in 1986. The former office became the Wide Bay Computer Resource Centre, run by former Goomeri teachers, Bill and Judy Banditt.

In 1962 the school celebrated its Golden Jubilee. On 17 October 1987 the school celebrated its Diamond Jubilee. Goomeri State School has seen many changes since the young Scottish girl conducted the first classes in the hall in 1912.

## 15. TANSEY

The Goomeri Land Sale in 1911 increased the local rural population to such an extent that in 1916 a school was opened at Tansey.

A group of German families, many of whom had children, arrived at Tansey in 1914. But the first moves for a school had come earlier from the graziers who had properties close by. Some of them had governesses for their children. They realized that such a growing community would justify the establishment of a school. A piece of land was set aside for a school which was to be known as Goondathaban. By the time the school was granted, the centre of population had shifted and the school was built on the present site several miles from the place originally chosen. It was named 'Tansey' after the early selector who owned much of the country in the area.

The leader of the movement to obtain a school was Mr Holtorf, whose children were among the first-day pupils. Nell and Alice Owens, youngest sisters of Oakfield farmer, Arthur Owens, were the first two admissions on the register. Most of the children were of German extraction and some could speak very little English. Other names that appear on the first day admission roll are Pustolla, Finner, Costar, Punzell, Groer, Mischke, Klein, Ludekie, Fischer, Barringhaus, Punzell, Seiler, Muir, Hornberg, Keune, Borchers, Fisher, Gurski, Rosenburg.

The school was a large one for the young teacher, Miss Balderson (later Mrs Howard), to handle and another teacher, Miss Clarkson, was sent to help her. After the war a male teacher, Mr Mead, became Head Teacher. He was an ex-soldier and ran the school as a military operation. He lived in a tent close to the school and later, when he married, bought a block of land and built a house nearby.

Mr L Olsen taught at the school during the Second World War and married Oakfield teacher, Miss Rutch. Miss Gladys Keune (Mrs Zielke), granddaughter of the leader of the German community and herself a past pupil, was the last female Head Teacher. The school at times had two teachers. The highest enrolment was fifty-eight. The opening of the Tansey Cheese Factory and the closure of nearby schools boosted the attendance.

In 1953, a second classroom was built and later in 1958 a library room was added and a residence built beside the school.

Due to closure of the Cheese Factory and declining rural population, the attendance has dropped. But the school seems certain of a permanent future as a very attractive one-teacher school.

## 16. ELGIN VALE

In 1899 a provisional school was started at Elgin Vale on Elgin Vale Station, then owned by J and A Porter. There were several large families of children

living close by - Porters, Hunts, Banks and Downers (the nephews and nieces of James Connors).

The teacher, Miss Sheridan, was an eighteen-year-old city girl. She was given a great welcome by the local families.

On the first day of school a father of one of the families arrived carrying a long stick '*to chastise his own unruly kids*'. Sixteen children were enrolled. Several of the children were twelve- and thirteen-year-olds and were attending school for the first time although they had been taught by their mothers at home.

Miss Sheridan found the children well-behaved and never had occasion to use the cane. Mr Alec Hunt, with his five brothers and sisters, was a pupil at the school. He remembered Miss Sheridan as a competent teacher, much loved and respected by her pupils. She taught at this school for over six years and left to marry James Connors Junior. The school was closed in 1906.

In 1927 a sawmill from Sefton was relocated at Elgin Vale. The school at Sefton was also transferred with its teacher, Miss Courtney, and many of its pupils whose fathers were to work in the mill. The school was closed again from 1933 to 1934 probably due to the temporary closure of the mill.

It re-opened in 1935, and from 1960 to 1962, the school had a second teacher. It finally closed in 1977, when the number of employees at the mill was cut considerably.

After its closure the building was bought by the Elgin Vale CWA for a rest room.

## 17. GOOMERI WEST

When a request came for a school for the Goomeri West area, there was local disagreement about the best site. Two opposing factions, one led by Mr J McGrath and the other by Mr M Higgins, prompted a visit from a school inspector.

Eventually a compromise was reached and a site chosen. The first Goomeri School was shifted at the community's expense. It opened in February 1920, with Miss Moura Josey as the teacher.

Because the original families had finished their schooling the attendance dropped to nine children in 1933 and the school was closed. A bus service was established to take the children to Goomeri School.

Families who attended the school were: Silburn, McGrath, Pearson, Bickles, Hayes, Hughes, Schuler, Morris, Higgins, Klumpp, Brockhurst, Bryant, Greer and Thompson.



## 18. GOOMERIBONG

Goomeribong Provisional School was established in response to the 'losing faction' in the fight for Goomeri West School. On the request of Mr McGrath who represented the 'Reid Group', the local MLA was petitioned saying that the parents were prepared to '*pay half the salary of a teacher if a school was built*' and stating that there were seventeen children to attend such a school.

The move was successful. Mr McGrath offered the front room of his house which had been in use for two years as a private school for his own children.

The school was opened on 10 March 1924 with Miss C B Beverage as teacher. It was closed from August to October of that year because of a measles epidemic. In April 1925 low attendance caused its closure for a longer time. It was reopened in September 1929.

On 3 May 1933 a new state school was opened on a reserve. It was closed in December 1936. Children from the Palmer, Latham, Shepherd, Nowland and Christensen families came to Goomeri School.

## 19. KINBOMBI

In December 1925 a committee was formed to press for a school at Kinbombi Siding. Twenty children lived within two or three miles and the employees of Skyring's Ltd, the sawmillers who were then erecting a mill at the siding, had twelve children. This mill was to replace one burnt down at Kabunga which had lost its school when the children of the mill employees left the area.

Lessons were commenced on the verandah of Mr Eales' house while a new school was being built. Furniture was brought from the closed Kabunga School.

The school was opened in June 1926. Miss Buckingham was the teacher. She later married Mr George Klumpp and taught for many years at Goomeri School after her marriage. Miss Buckingham boarded in Goomeri and rode a bicycle to school every day. Often the railway fettlers would give her a '*fast trip to work*' on one of their railway trolleys.

Families who used the school were McIntosh, Pearson, Horne, Spiller, Williams, Braddoir, Goodchild. Marvin Zahnleiter travelled by train from Coleman's Siding, arriving at 10.30 am and departing at 2.30 pm.

## 20. BARAMBAH

In February 1933, a school was opened at Barambah. There were nineteen children who had all been travelling long distances to other schools. The school remained open until 1941 when low attendances caused its closure. It was shifted to Johnstown. Families who attended the school included Palmers, Stockhills, Birchs, Stumms, and employees of Barambah Station, including some aboriginal families - among them, the Blighs.



*Opening Day at Booinbah School - 1928*

*(F Miller)*

## **21. BOOINBAH**

Booinbah State School was opened by Mr Frank Miller in May 1928. A group of soldier settlers in the area helped to boost the numbers. Families who attended the school included De Lesser, Stumm, McAuley, Lobiegeier, Wixted, Eustace, Teitzel, Hicks, McIntosh, Delamere and Webb.

The highest attendance of twenty was reached in 1933. By 1939 it had dropped to eight. But the fear of Japanese invasion in 1942 brought the attendance to sixteen. The school was finally closed in 1957. Pupils went to Tansey and Boonara Schools.

## **22. OAKFIELD**

The Oakfield Provisional School was opened in an old house on the property of Mr H M Graham in 1930 by its first teacher, Miss Rutch. Marion Graham (Mrs S Bandidt) was the first child to register at the new school.

Enrolments increased and it was decided to establish a state school. Mr A J Owens donated the land and the first Boonara School was shifted to this land.

Names which appeared on the register included Rogash, Graham, Geritz, Harrison, Weir, Beutel, Boonal, Kuhnel, McRoberts, Fingers, Owens, Lawless Pyne and Brown.



*Oakfield School* (M Owens)

Enrolments fluctuated over the years, the highest being twenty-two and the lowest, seven. When the school was closed, in 1951, children were transported by bus to Tansey.

### 23. DADDAMARINE CREEK

Daddamarine Provisional School was twenty-five miles from Goomeri. As there were enough children in the area the parents had no difficulty in obtaining a school. It was built by six of the families and situated on a reserve. Names that appear on the admission register include Beresford, Hatton, Nissen, Maudsley and Bennett.

In April 1931 the school was opened by the first teacher, Miss Lindholt. She arrived in Goomeri by train and was taken to her new home by the mailman. Her heart sank when she saw the school - *'unpainted weatherboards, 24 feet by 12 feet on high blocks; a front verandah and steps; a back door stepping into space; shutters and no glass windows'*.

However the warmth of the welcome she received from the people made up for her first disappointment. There were scant school requisites. She had to learn to ride a horse to and from school. Fifteen children turned up on the first day. None had previously been to school but some had had correspondence lessons. They were all very easy to discipline.

The school had four teachers and remained open until 1938 when it was closed for lack of sufficient pupils.

#### **24. BOOUBYJAN**

The first Booubyjan School was opened in October 1934. It had an enrolment of eleven children, seven of whom were Rileys. The first teacher, Miss Lucy Cook, married Mr Maudsley and remained in the district.

A new school was built and this was used until 1955. At that time the teacher, Miss Shirley Raymont (Mrs Nayler) taught school in the Booubyjan Hall until the former Oakfield School was moved and erected on the present site of the school.

This school was replaced by a new one in 1962, a modern building on low stumps with a classroom and library. In the grounds there is a play-shed for the children. Adjacent to the school is a residence.

In 1984 the school celebrated its Golden Jubilee with a day of reunion and a booklet of the school's history. In December 1987 the school was closed because there were insufficient children in the district to keep it functioning. The remaining pupils travel by bus to Windera State School.

#### **25. WATCHBOX**

The Watchbox State School was opened in 1936 for those children who had to travel long distances to Tansey or Boonara. It was largely due to the efforts of Mr Percy Maudsley that this was achieved.

The first teachers were Miss Josie Ryan (Mrs Grensill) and Miss Goodchild (Mrs E Heathwood). Male teachers included Mr John Butters, now Australian President of the Secondary Schools Principals' Association, Mr Frank Melit, well known in football circles, and Mr F Fowler, Wide Bay Regional Primary Staffing Inspector.

It closed in May 1967 when the attendance dropped to twelve. The children were transported to Goomeri by bus.

#### **26. MANUMBAR**

The Manumbar State School was originally two schools, Manumbar Mill School, which was situated near the mill, located about five miles from the Manumbar crossroads, and Manumbar Settlement School, across the road from the Show Grounds.

The first pupil at Manumbar Settlement School was Ernest Smith who was enrolled in July 1924. When this school closed in 1947 due to low attendance the pupils were sent to the Manumbar Mill School.

The Manumbar Mill School was held in the hall, but during the forties and early fifties there was a great influx of timber workers to the area, and a proper school was built. The first pupil enrolled in the Manumbar Mill School was Winifred Haas, daughter of the manager of the Manumbar Ply Mill, in April 1925.

The school closed in 1968 and the children were transported by bus to Gallangowan.

## **27. GALLANGOWAN**

Gallangowan State School was opened in 1940 with an enrolment of thirteen children, belonging to the families of local graziers and forestry workers.

First names on the register were: Burke, Franz, Beutel, Collard, Seib, Tibb, Wallace and Walker.

The closure of Manumbar Mill School meant that many families moved away. Some of these families moved to Gallangowan. This also caused the attendance to increase sufficiently to warrant an extra teacher and a new school. A school house was built for a married teacher.

Since the forestry enterprise has been scaled down a number of families have moved away and the school has lost its second teacher. High school students travel by bus to Goomeri.

## **28. MOUNT MARCELLA**

In 1958 a provisional school was granted to children living in the Ettiwyn area. The building used for several months was the schoolroom built for the Galloway children for correspondence lessons with a governess.

In June 1958 a state school was built on the property owned by Mr McAuliffe. There were twelve pupils under the care of Miss Freeman. The highest enrolment reached was twenty. Miss Bowman (Mrs A Graham) and Mr Eugene Hickey were two very talented teachers who trained children to take part in the Combined Schools Tansey Concerts that were held every year when there were so many small schools in the area.

The school closed in 1963 and the children were transported by bus to Boobyjan.

## **29. GOOMERI KINDERGARTEN**

The Goomeri and District Kindergarten Association was formed at a public meeting held in July 1960. In August of that year a kindergarten began operating daily in the QCWA Goomeri rest room with 19 regular attenders. Mrs White, a trained kindergarten teacher, ran it for the first year. Former teacher, Mrs Trudgian, followed her.

In September 1962 Mrs Irene Coleman took over. She ran the kindergarten for ten years. In July 1971 the Committee bought the former Assembly of God Church, which has housed the kindergarten ever since then and, for a time, also housed the Goomeri Pre-school. Mrs Joyce Graham followed Mrs Coleman for a short period. When she left to work as a teacher aide at the school, Mrs Coleman again took over, but finally retired in 1974.

In 1972, because of reduced numbers, classes were held only three mornings a week. In 1973 the enrolment reached a staggering sixty-three and the kindergarten again reverted to five mornings a week.

However, with the advent of pre-school education fewer children have attended and the classes are now held on three mornings a week. Most children in the district have attended 'kindy' and there have always been supervising mothers to help.



*Second Goomeri State School*

*(M Rawlings)*



## Chapter 17

---

### ORGANIZATIONS AND PUBLIC LIFE

#### 1. QUEENSLAND COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

There have been a surprising number of QCWA branches in the shire and all have been very active over the years.

##### Goomeri

The Goomeri branch of the QCWA was formed on 5 September 1924. A committee was set up comprising the following: Mesdames J P Lawless (President); Skene, (Secretary); R McKillop, W B Lawless, L Hall (Vice-presidents); L M Jones, A E Jones, H H Shadforth, C Eisentrager, V Micklethwait and Miss Downing.

Mrs Lawless was president for six years. The first objective was to build a rest room on land rented from the railway at £5 per year (later reduced to a half of that amount). The early meetings were held in the Boonara Hall. By December the branch had 140 financial members.

In July 1925, the rest room was opened by Mr W B Lawless who had lent the money for the room. As it was situated close to the railway station, the room was a great boon to mothers and children who were travelling by train. Goomeri was one of the earliest branches in the division to have its own rest room. It was gradually furnished with gifts from members.

The CWA gave its whole-hearted support to moves in the town to build and equip a hospital in Goomeri. With other branches, they worked to establish Oakholme, a seaside rest home for mothers and children at Pialba. After this home was built local mothers and children holidayed there, occasionally at the branch's expense. At that time country children did not enjoy the advantages that they take for granted today. For many years the CWA provided Christmas trees and toys for the surrounding country schools.

One year twenty-six children travelled by train to Torquay under the supervision of Mrs L Howard to enjoy a beach picnic.

Education was given support. The branch helped to obtain schools at Booinbah, Goomeribong and Oakfield.

Promising students were helped to obtain further education. One clever girl who later became a teacher at Goomeri School had her fees paid at Maryborough Grammar School. An annual bursary was founded for a local student who obtained the highest pass each year in the Scholarship Examination.

In 1926 a sub-branch was formed at Manumbar with a committee of Mesdames Lane, Franz, Geritz, Pointon, Williams, Horsfall and Miss Ruhl.



*QCWA room in Goomeri Railway Yards - 1930's*

*(J Stanton)*

In Mrs Shadforth's term as president, a library was established in 1930. There was no School of Arts in the town so this fulfilled a local need. It eventually comprised 3 000 volumes.

A Younger Set was formed in 1939 with supervisors Mesdames Higgins and Underwood. First members were Misses H Pearson, M Eales, M Neisen, C Gilcrist, J Mann, C Dickinson, M Wright, and I Maudsley. It was active for many years.



With the outbreak of war in 1939, the CWA threw its weight behind local patriotic efforts - supporting National Emergency Enrolment, Red Cross and Comforts Fund, and offering help to families of enlisted men when necessary.

A CWA member served on the Evacuation Committee of March 1942 when a Japanese invasion seemed imminent. The Air Board was allowed the use of the small verandah of the rest room as a plane-spotting station.

In 1954 a plot of land was bought in Boonara Street next to the Hall of Memory and the Rest Room was shifted to the centre of the town. Two rooms were added - one to house the library and one for use as a Baby Health Centre. The grounds were fenced and playground equipment was installed. When a kindergarten was started the rooms were lent for classes until the Association bought its own rooms.

The branch is still very active although with reduced membership. Throughout the years of its operation the CWA has supported every worthwhile cause in the town. In recent years an important activity has been participation in the CWA Music and Drama Competitions, both in the choral and drama sections. An early member, Mrs Dorothy Schienpflug, became QCWA state president.

In 1974 the branch celebrated its Diamond Jubilee.

### **Kilkivan**

In March 1926 a small band of women, some riding on horseback several miles, met in the Shire Council Chambers to form a branch of the QCWA. Mrs Galloway was the first president and Miss Cogan, secretary. The meetings were first held in the dance hall of the School of Arts. Later, a specially built room was added to the hall and rented by the association.

During the war (1939 - 1945) the branch co-operated with the Comforts Fund. A Younger Set had been formed in 1937. Every Anzac Day the Branch provides a luncheon for returned servicemen, their wives and families.

Many distinguished people were entertained - state QCWA presidents, governors and politicians - Sir Leslie Wilson, Sir John Goodwin, Sir John Laverack, Sir Henry and Lady May Abel Smith, the Premier (Sir Joh and Lady Bjelke-Peterson).

By the sale of the Kilkivan CWA Cookery Book and other fund raising methods the Branch purchased the old Council Chambers which were moved to their own allotment and opened free of debt on 6 June 1959. Today the well kept building, painted in the CWA colours, is a landmark in the town. Branch members have participated in knitting, crochet, cooking and handicraft demonstrations, as well as Music and Drama Festivals at state level. With a donation of £500 from the Cinnabar Hall Committee, an electric stove was purchased.



*QCWA Ladies - 1948*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*

The Younger Set has been disbanded because so many young girls have to find work in other towns.

The Branch has always been active in work for the welfare of the district. One of the greatest achievements was the establishment of a vocational centre at Kilkivan School for which the branch was largely responsible. This was of great benefit to school children throughout the whole of Kilkivan Shire. The rest room is also used by a Maternal and Child Welfare sister who visits the town weekly.

In 1986, the branch celebrated its Diamond Jubilee when Mrs V Livingstone wrote a short history of the Branch and its work. She also paid tribute to the late Mrs Belle McKell who worked tirelessly for the organization.

### **Elgin Vale**

The Elgin Vale Branch of the QCWA was formed on 9 July 1963. The inaugural meeting was held in the old Elgin Vale Mill Hall, which was used for meetings and functions until 1983. In that year the Branch purchased the closed Elgin Vale School from the Education Department. This building has been attractively painted in QCWA colours and furnished to provide a comfortable and pleasant venue.

Twenty-seven ladies attended the first meeting, most of whom immediately joined. The first President was Mrs B Neilson. She left the district seven weeks later and Mrs R V Lane was appointed to fill her place. She is now in her fourth term as president.

Other original office bearers were: Secretary, Mrs H Wilkes; Treasurer, Mrs E Martin; Vice-presidents, Mesdames B G Ryan, R V Lane, C Gentry and R Perkins. Over the years Mesdames P Sparkes, N Franz, and R H Richards have filled the position of branch president.

Membership reached the mid-thirties with twenty-one associate members, due to the increase in population in the area. Branch members have entertained several State and Divisional officers. They have been successful at State level in cookery, knitting and crochet contests, and have also received Divisional trophies for international work. Fund raising has been through international flower days, debutante balls in Nanango and catering for dances.

Monthly meetings are combined with craft work and other interests. On three occasions, a member has competed in the Queensland Countrywoman of the Year Competition. Help is given to aged people's homes, hospitals, and homes for crippled children at Christmas time. There are also social occasions for the enjoyment of members, their families and other people in the district.

The CWA Rooms are made available free of charge to members and residents who wish to hold parties, craft demonstrations or meetings. Several original members still hold membership. The branch currently has twenty members and two associates.

Elgin Vale is a surprisingly active branch which has achieved much in its twenty-three years of existence.

### **Woolooga**

Woolooga Branch of the QCWA was formed in 1925 with members from Woolooga, Wonga and Widgee districts. Later Widgee formed their own branch. The first president was Miss Kington. Early meetings were held in various places - private homes, the hotel, the local cafe or the hall.

In 1937 rooms were built on a block of land in Woolooga donated by Mr J Lawrie of Brooweena. A committee led by the president, the late Mrs Kathleen Walker (mother of the present holder of that office, Mrs Beatrice Dray), members, their husbands and local business people, worked to find the funds for the building of the room - over £900.

Thirty years later meetings are still being held in this room. It is also used by the Red Cross. The local play group mothers meet here with their small children once a week. The main source of income has been catering for local cattle sales at the Woolooga Yards.

An Anzac Day Service is held each year. During the war years, comforts were sent to local men in the armed forces. Pupils of the Woolooga State School take part in International Day each year and are given a Christmas party at the end of the year. A book is donated annually to the school library and a prize is donated to Kilkivan Secondary Department for Speech Night.

Commitments to other branch projects are met. In addition, many other charitable causes are supported with donations. Help is given in cases of disaster such as floods and fire.

In its sixty-two years of operation Woolooga has changed from a very busy town to a quiet country centre. But the QCWA has remained a focal point in the life of this community.

### Tansey

The Tansey QCWA was formed at a very well attended meeting on 7 August 1949. There were a number of CWA members from Goomeri Branch as well as local Shire Councillors P Kramer and H Bardrick. There is no list of the original attenders but office bearers appointed were: Mrs H M Graham (President); Miss M Kramer (Secretary); Mrs A J Owens (Treasurer); Mesdames E Wason, F McIntosh, Nagel, and Weir (Vice-Presidents); Mrs J A Logan (Press Secretary). Among the early promoters of the idea of forming a branch had been Mesdames Wason, Rogash and Teitzel.



*Tansey QCWA - 1950's*

*(J Haas)*

As many of the members came from dairy farms, the meeting time was fixed to start at 11.00 am. Mrs Shadforth of Goomeri Branch pinned her own President's badge on Mrs Graham and gave kindly words of advice at the second meeting. These early meetings were held in the Tansey Hall.

The branch's first project was to build its own room attached to the Hall and to establish a children's play area in the grounds. One of the special features of this branch from its beginning was the welcome given to mothers with young children who were catered for (as funds became available) with cots in the rest room and playground material.

By November 1950, Mr R P Stumm had donated stumps for the room and building was under way. The Rest Room was opened for use in June 1951. It has proved a boon for mothers and children attending functions at the community centre at Tansey.

The branch meetings were well attended. In the fifties there were fifty-eight financial members with meeting attendances of between twenty-five and thirty. A library was started in 1954 with Mrs N Graham as librarian. The branch gave financial support to CWA projects such as the Gregory Terrace Hostel for students and women and children travelling to Brisbane for medical treatment.

Local projects were continually supported, the main one being the Goomeri Memorial Hospital which was established by local community effort. The branch later presented the hospital with a humidity-crib in Centenary Year (1960).

Education was given encouragement. Opening and closing of schools and establishment of school bus runs were helped by letters to the Education Department. A bursary was established for secondary students.

Friendship was a special feature of the branch's activities. Letters were written to new arrivals and sick people, and plates were presented to new babies. People in distress, particularly from fire, were helped.

In recent years, Tansey members have competed at State level in the drama sections of the CWA Music and Drama Festivals. Because of the drop in rural population attendances are now lower than they have been in past years, but the branch continues to be very active.

### **Widgee**

A public meeting was called on 10 April 1940 by Mrs Oakes, President of the Gympie QCWA, to form a branch of the association at Widgee. Ten women attended and four apologies were received. Mrs Oakes explained the objects and aims of the QCWA, and it was unanimously decided on the motion of Mrs McIntosh to form a branch. She was elected President, Mrs Turner, Secretary and Mrs Wilson, Treasurer.

The president offered the use of her home for meetings until the Widgee Hall was available. Other members present at the first meeting were: Mesdames J and W Wilding, James, Hawkins, Truby, and Misses Hawkins and Wilding.

The first meeting was held on 8 May 1940 with thirteen members in attendance. Ten of these immediately became financial, giving the new branch a credit balance of £2/11/-. One of the members had lost her house in a fire a few days before this so the branch's first charitable act was to supply the unfortunate family with a large bundle of clothes.

By the end of the year, twenty-four members had joined and the branch was well established. Dances, tennis tournaments and other social functions were held to raise money.

The branch is now in its forty-eighth year and has a membership of twenty-two, active at all local social functions. There is also a Younger Set, the only one in the shire.

### **Calgoa - Running Creek**

The Calgoa - Running Creek QCWA was formed in the 1940's and operated for about ten years. Meetings were held in the local hall. For most of the branch's life the membership was between ten and twenty.

Mrs Gould was the first president. Other members were Mesdames Harris, Krause, Dombrow, Heath, Polley, Scheinpflug, Turner, Myers, Davies, Booth, Lewis and Rutherford.

Some members drove nine miles over bush roads to attend meetings. According to former member, Mrs Thora Turner, it was a very happy, active branch. Sports days and balls were held and branch members took part in most CWA activities. On special days, the meagre furniture in the hall would be supplemented with extra chairs, table cloths and other items from members homes.

### **Cinnabar**

The Cinnabar QCWA was formed in 1948. For some years after its inception it had an average of twenty-two members. Among the early office bearers were Mesdames L Barsby, P Nutting, and Hopf. Other members of the branch were Mesdames O'Neill, Davis, Sempf, Hewson, Cullen and Harold. The branch was opened by Divisional President, Mrs Podger.

Throughout its thirty-three years of operation the branch supported QCWA projects and monthly meetings provided happy social occasions for women of the district. Meetings were held in the Cinnabar Hall.

The branch was forced to close in 1981 when the membership dropped to five due to a decrease in the population of the Cinnabar district.

## 2. SHOW SOCIETIES

### Goomeri

Provision had been made for a show ground at the time of the Goomeri Land Sale in 1911. It had already been cleared when the first show was held and was first used as a sports reserve.

In 1925 a well attended meeting of farmers, graziers and business men of Goomeri expressed their desire to form a show society. With Mr J E Stanton as Chairman, it was decided to run a trial flower and vegetable show. This was very successful and made a profit of £170.

A show was held in 1926 with a prize schedule worth £300. It was opened by the local MLA, Mr Clayton. In 1927, the second show was opened by the Honourable B H Corser MHR, Federal Member for Wide Bay. Several local farmers had become breeders of stud cattle and exhibited their animals. The show also helped to publicise the prime lucerne chaff being made in the district at that time.

The second show was one of the best in the South Burnett at the time, with gate takings of £700. After the prize money was allotted, £40 credit remained. Judges came from distant localities. On the first night, a smoke concert was held to enable judges, exhibitors and other interested members of the community to meet and talk.

A smoke concert, a common form of entertainment at the time, was an all-male occasion. The one mentioned was always held at the hotel. The men sat around drinking, smoking and talking and conversation was interspersed with musical items.

The women of the town, led by Mesdames Higgins and Wimberley, provided the luncheon for the show. Members of the Show Society included J P Lawless (Patron); the Executive: J E Stanton (President); T M Wise, J G Bourne, A J Owens, H H Barsby, (Vice-presidents). All members could be on the Show Committee. Trustees of the Showgrounds were: J E Stanton (Chairman), T M Wise (Secretary), J G Bourne, A J McIntosh and W F Bandidt.

By 1930, pens for poultry, cattle and pigs had been erected, but no grandstand. Kilkivan Shire Council decided to erect a windmill, tank and stand on a bore to supply water. Pipes were laid to the cattle stalls.

The centre of the ground was to be used for cricket and football. When not in use for public entertainment it was leased by Mr S A Perrett who conducted cattle sales close by.

The annual Show Ball, held on the second night of the show, was considered for many years the social event of the year and was always well attended. The ball is still a popular occasion but is now held a week prior to the show.

The early Show Princess and Queen competitions have been supplemented by a Miss Showgirl competition, a State-wide contest sponsored by Queensland Country Life.

In the 1950's the ring programme featured horse events, including trotting races. In the 1960's - 1980's showground improvements have included a high safety fence around the main arena, rodeo yards and shutes, a secretary's office and toilet block.

In an attempt to attract more people to the show on Friday, an all breeds horse show was included during the 1970's, although this is now incorporated into the Saturday programme. A dog show and a wood chop have also been featured, but these are not current attractions. In recent years the main attraction in the ring has been the campdraft, with rodeo events providing excitement during the luncheon interval and under lights at night.

The stud beef section of the show, absent for a number of years, has recently been re-introduced, and the fat cattle show and sale on Friday has always been popular with cattlemen. Local exhibitors continue to support the pavilion and provide displays, but the rural decline is reflected in the quantity of produce exhibited.

### **Kilkivan**

The Kilkivan Show Society was formed in 1914 at a meeting called by Mr V P Williams and attended by twenty people. Mr Crowther was appointed President and Mr F Hopkins Secretary. There was a large initial enrolment of members.

The Society had an arrangement with the Kilkivan Race Club to hold the first show on its grounds. A very successful one-day show, making a profit of £100, was held in July 1914. Marquees were hired for luncheon booths. The two organizations continued to work together, half of the trustees of the grounds representing the Race Club and half the Show Society.

At that time Goomeri was still a very small centre and had no show of its own but it was not long before farmers in the district had organised an entry of produce from their district.

One of the first ring competitors was O Batts who won a prize for the best boy rider under fifteen years. A show pavilion, cattle stalls and pens were constructed. The schedule was enlarged and prize money increased. In 1915 Mr C J Booker MLA of Woolooga Station accepted the position of Show Patron.

In 1961 the Show Society decided to make the show a one-day event, combining it with a campdraft. In 1981 the Show was changed to a two-day campdraft with pony club events. Show displays are now largely non-competitive. In dry times, the campdraft is reduced to a one-day event.





(Kilkivan Historical Society)



Kilkivan Show - 1916



*Goomeri Show - 1928*

*(C B Euler)*



*Kilkivan Show Society Queen Competition*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*

### 3. LAPIDARY CLUB

A very keen group of enthusiasts formed a Lapidary Club at Kilkivan. This ran for a while in the fifties and sixties when there was a general interest in fossicking for semi-precious stones.

There were known gem fields in the Windera, Cloyna and Proston areas and the club often ran field days to these places. Mr J Batts was President. Other members were Mrs Batts, Mrs McKell, Messrs Peter Freney, Olzard and Crouch. As many as twenty members would go on a field day. The club had some Goomeri members - Mr and Mrs Col Wilkie and Mr B Beresford.

### 4. PROGRESS ASSOCIATIONS

In the early years of the Kilkivan Shire Council and its fore-runner, the Divisional Board, every change in boundary or grievance brought letters to the board or petitions to the Home Secretary or the board (Council). This must have taken a certain amount of public organization by way of meetings or at least some form of cohesive action on the part of ratepayers. Much time at the early meetings was spent in dealing with complaints about roads, bridges and creek crossings.

After 1900, there appears to have been a sufficient number of interested ratepayers to form progress associations. The first one to be mentioned in the Divisional Board's minutes was Mondure Progress Association.

In March 1906, the Wondai Progress Association expressed a desire for its own shire which it was to get before many years had passed. Other early associations were formed at Kilkivan, Tingoorra and Murgon.

By 1912, there is mention of Progress Associations at Windera, Manyung, Goomeri, and by 1914, Redgate. In 1917 Woolooga Preogress Association was making itself felt. In 1919 the Kilkivan Progress Association was asking for better streets in the town. Another such association was operating at Sexton. At Brooyar and Burnside there were Ratepayers' Associations which probably served the same purpose.

Kilkivan Progress Association appears to have worked diligently to further the town's interests. In 1923 members asked the Council to bring about a redistribution of shire divisions to give equal representation to each division, based on valuations of land.

In this they were at first unsuccessful, but later in the year some move was made in this direction, although the council's voting was by no means unanimous.

In 1930 they made the bold suggestion that the shire should have an aerodrome. The Council agreed to investigate the possibility.

## 5. KILKIVAN AND DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

For a few years the Kilkivan Progress Association lapsed. However, in recent years, a Kilkivan and District Development Board has been operating. The object of this board is to promote the district and gain improvements and amenities where they are needed. It is affiliated with the Cooloola Regional Development Bureau. Councillor Keith Batts is the president. The association has about fifteen members, a wide representation of different sections of the community. The Board succeeded in getting a visiting doctor to the town. One of the present objectives is having a national park declared at Mudlo Gap.

## 6. GOOMERI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Goomeri Chamber of Commerce was formed in December 1925, with Mr T H Spencer as President and Mr T Wise as Secretary.

Among other things they worked for better postal facilities for the town. They also approached local MLA, Mr Clayton, for a new police station and a court house which was opened in 1930. For this occasion, the Chamber of Commerce organised special celebrations in the town and a holiday was granted. An addition to the school was opened at the same time.

Before the Second World War a number of successful projects were undertaken. The Chamber persuaded Kilkivan Shire Council to take over responsibility for the Goomeri Cemetery and obtained a 3 000-gallon tank to hold well water at the show grounds; tree planting in the town was organised; and they were successful in having the town railway crossing improved.

The possibility of harnessing Kinbombi Falls for electric power was investigated. Nothing came of this move but the town obtained power in May 1940, when a switching-on ceremony was organised.

The Goomeri Chamber of Commerce has functioned continuously since the time of its inception, despite times when attendance was low and interest flagged. There was a time in the late fifties and early sixties when the town and surrounding district were beginning to feel the effects of change. Primary producers were having difficulties; nearby towns were competing for secondary industries and amenities; gradual moves toward centralization were affecting local businesses. The Chamber, in an effort to broaden its base, changed the name to 'Goomeri Chamber of Commerce and Progress Association'.

This new organization welcomed members from all sections of the community and attempted to take a positive attitude to the problems faced, particularly in regard to the Shire Council. Mr Val Perrett in his annual report as President made the comment:

*'I do not subscribe to the belief that our town's worst enemies are outside it. Our worst offenders are the 'knockers' within our own gates, who do nothing for the community except tear its reputation to shreds.'*

In the late fifties this organization set itself achievable goals: attracting new business ventures to the district; beautification of the parks; elimination of the railway dam; obtaining better roads throughout the district, a town water supply, sewerage for the town and procuring a location for a meatworks.

At this time, a free monthly newspaper, funded solely by advertisements and reaching every home in the district was started. It ran for a year and was discontinued when the Chamber felt it had served its purpose. The Goomeri Traders' Calendar also became a yearly event and has continued to this day. The yearly Chamber of Commerce dinners were started originally to honour distinguished guests, politicians and representatives of other organizations who had been invited to Speech Night at the Goomeri High School. They were later held early in the year with a distinguished guest to address the gathering after dinner.

Throughout the years a number of people have held office or worked for the organization. Among them are: Messrs T Wise, V Hellen, T H Spencer, L Higgins, C Wimberley, P M Perrett, V Perrett, A Duffey, J Anderson, A E Wright, A Finmore, C McIvor, D McDonald, T Cichero, H Brown, T George, J Davis and I Williamson. Women also played their part, among them Mesdames E Williamson, H Duffey and F Silburn.

## **7. UNITED GRAZIERS' ASSOCIATION**

The inaugural meeting of the Kilkivan Goomeri United Graziers' Association was held on 27 February 1941.

Members present at that meeting were Messrs R P Stumm, C A Spencer, C Baldwin, J McCarroll, W McKewan, V Payne, A and R Rockemer, Paul Stumm, R Stockden, G R Webb, F W Webb, W Cotter, R Conway, W McGill, N Warburton, E Fitzgerald, G Kennedy, C L Pyne, A Wilson, and J Clarke.

The first president was Mr R P Stumm. Later presidents have included Messrs E Fitzgerald, P Kramer, W McKewan, J Clark, J Galloway, R Francis, A H Lindley, I B Shaw and G McGill.

At the inaugural meeting a motion proposed by Mr G Kennedy and seconded by Mr E J Webb proposed that their delegate vote for compulsory membership for graziers with 300 head of beef cattle or 500 head of mixed cattle.

The branch has been continuously active since its inception. Mr R Francis was for many years on the South East Executive Council of the association.

## **8. GRAIN GROWERS' ASSOCIATION**

The inaugural meeting of the Tansey - Goomeri branch of the Queensland Graingrowers' Association was held in Goomeri on 13 October 1972. It was attended by Mr C Condon, (State Vice-president), Mr E Skerman (Oilseeds Committee Representative), and Mr G Houen (Association Administrator).

Sixteen local farmers were present. Office bearers elected were: Mr F McIntosh, (President), Messrs L Barsby and J O'Hara (Vice-presidents), and Mr D Yesburg (Secretary-Treasurer). Mr D McIntosh was nominated as the fifth member of the Executive.

The branch has been continuously active since its inception and has constantly raised matters pertaining to the welfare of graingrowers. Meetings are held quarterly and are usually attended by guest speakers.

## 9. LIONS CLUBS

### Goomeri

The Goomeri Lions Club Inc was formed in 1968 under the leadership of Mr Ray Scannell with twenty-six members, including Messrs P Thomas, M McKewen, W Silburn and H Stanton who are still regular attenders.

The fluctuating fortunes of the town have been reflected in the club membership which has risen and fallen over the years, with a present membership of eleven, four of whom are original charter members. Three of these have served as president on more than one occasion.

Help has been given to many local people and organizations, as well as state and national projects such as the Renal Research Centre at Princess Alexandra Hospital and the National Disaster Fund. A Lions Park was established near the swimming pool.

The longest running local fund raising function has been the Cent Sale for the Spastic Appeal which has been held every year since the club started to function.

For several years the Lions Ladies ran an opportunity shop to raise funds for community work. The Lions Ladies still meet several times a year, and assist the Lions Club with their functions and fund-raising activities.

The twice-monthly dinner meeting was originally held in the Boonara Cafe before being transferred to the Grand Hotel. It is now held in the CWA rooms and catered for by the Anglican Guild, who have also catered for the change-over dinners since the club began.

### Kilkivan

The Kilkivan Lions Club Inc received its charter in August 1985. It started with a membership of thirty-five, with Mr David Lahiff as first President. Other presidents have been Mr D Banks and Mr M Atthow. There are currently nineteen members.

The club has given help to Lions projects, the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal, the Cancer Fund Appeal and has assisted underprivileged people in

the community. An ambulance kit was bought for the town and trained nurse, Mrs Kathryn Fraser, has agreed to use this in emergencies.

The big project is the taking over of the allotment beside the Kilkivan Shire Hall as a Lions Park. This was a big project for which the council supplied the material and the club members did the work. A toilet block and picnic facilities were erected. This has been recently completed and was officially declared open at a special outdoor function.

## 10. DAIRY FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS

Dairy farmers' organizations in Queensland changed their names several times. From 1912 to 1922 they were called Farmers' Unions, and from 1922 to 1940, Local Producers' Associations. Since then they have been called Queensland Dairymens' Organizations. This last organization was voluntary until 1945 when it became a statutory organization, membership being compulsory for all dairymen.

From about 1910 on, a large percentage of the rural population were dairymen. Each locality had its Farmers' Union and, later, Local Producers' Association. There were branches at Manyung, Manumbar, Goomeri, Boonara, Boobyjan, Cinnabar, Brooyar, Sexton, Carmyle, Widgee and Wonga. Constant letters to the Kilkivan Shire Council about the state of roads and crossings bear witness to the activity of these branches.

Minutes survive of the Boonara Farmers' Union whose members, as far back as 1917 were writing to the Kilkivan Shire Council about such matters of local interest as the state of the roads and the rail service. This branch even raised funds and built its own meeting room at One Mile Creek, beside Boonara Cheese Factory. They had frequent debates and impromptu speeches and successfully fielded their own candidate, Mr J E Stanton, for the Shire Council elections.

In 1922, this association changed its name to the Local Producers' Association. There are mentions of such associations at Tansey, Manyung, Woolooga, Kilkivan, Cinnabar, Lower Wonga, Boonara, Sexton and Fat Hen Creek. These all appeared to be very active.

By 1940 these bodies had changed their names to Queensland Dairymens' Organizations. As the number of dairymen decreased and transport and communication improved, the number of such organizations in the shire decreased. Today there is only one QDO branch in the shire - the Goomeri-Tansey Branch - servicing the twenty South Burnett farmers. The three dairymen in the Kilkivan district belong to the Gympie organization.

## 11. PLAY GROUPS AND KINDERGARTENS

In Kilkivan and Woolooga there have never been officially constituted kindergartens but there have been several attempts to run play groups for young children.

The most successful and long-running was that organised by the guild of the Kilkivan Union Church.

The unofficial kindergarten ran every Tuesday from 10 am to 3 pm in the church. Most of the equipment - toys, sleeping mats, material for painting and modelling - were donated by members. Mrs M Olzard was the chief organizer. She was helped by other guild members and mothers on a roster system. It ran for fifteen years and ceased to operate in 1975 when pre-school education became available.

## 12. JUNIOR FARMERS AND RURAL YOUTH

The organization known as 'Junior Farmers' is now known as 'Rural Youth'. In the years after the Second World War there were Junior Farmers' Organizations at Kilkivan, Goomeri and Woolooga. At present there is a branch of the Rural Youth at Woolooga.

### Goomeri Junior Farmers

The Goomeri branch of the Junior Farmers was formed in 1963. It had a large membership in its early years. First president was John Hetherington. Other early members were Des Pampling, Ian and Elspeth Clark, Val McKewan, Shirley McLeod, Beryl Veritz, Marshall and L n Graham, Joan Rogash, Elwyn and Marjorie Euler. Advisors were Mr S Bandidt, Mr K Thompson and Mrs B Ogg.



*Goomeri Junior Farmers - 1954*

*(I Clark)*



Members attended leadership schools and the Royal National Exhibition in Brisbane. Goomeri Club was extremely interested in show work. Ian Clark was their delegate to the Goomeri Show Society. On several occasions the branch combined with others in the South Burnett to prepare exhibits for the RNA Exhibition in Brisbane. Richard D'Arcy and Ian Anderson were involved in this task. Gene Nayler, George Brown and Les Keune took part in public speaking and debates.

The club operated for ten years and finally disbanded for lack of membership. It restarted in 1984 and ran for a year with Junior Rural Youth from the school.

### **Kilkivan Junior Farmers**

The Kilkivan club commenced operation in the 1950's. Early members were John Nutting (who later became a state organiser), David Lahiff, Keith Batts, Jean McPherson, Doug and Betty Harwood, and Don Olzard. Supervisors were Mr and Mrs Hardiker, and Mrs Belle McKell.

This club did very well at public speaking and a debating team comprising Jean McPherson, Mal Jordison and Doug Harwood reached state finals.

The club continued and changed its name to 'Rural Youth' in the 1960's. Members at that time included D and L Hopf, Claire Batts and John Harold. At one stage a Junior Rural Youth Club operated for high school students.

In 1973 Jenny Batts won a trip to the Brisbane Exhibition and an exchange trip to Goolagong in New South Wales. She represented Queensland at an inter-state conference.

Because of the lack of jobs for young people in the country, the club closed down in 1976.

### **Woolooga Junior Farmers**

The Woolooga Junior Farmers commenced in 1954. Early members were Joan and Pat Sellen, Tony Spiller, Ken and Dawn Strohfeldt, Edgar and Jane Stancombe. Supervisors included Mrs Spiller and Mrs Frazer. Average membership was about twenty.

Monthly socials were held and members took part in debating and public speaking competitions, leadership schools were attended and delegates sent to state conferences. They also entered displays in the Gympie Show, obtaining good results for their efforts. This club operated for about ten years.

### **Woolooga Rural Youth**

The only branch operating in the shire at the present time is the Woolooga Rural Youth. This branch has been very active, holding social functions and taking part in debating and preparing club entries for the Gympie Show.

It started in 1984 with twenty members. Mr Terry Smith was the first President. Membership has decreased but the club is still operating.

### 13. MASONIC LODGES

#### Kilkivan

The Masonic Lodge in Kilkivan is the oldest in the shire and also in the area covered by the Wide Bay-Burnett Shires. It was formed in 1901, the foundation members being Messrs A Marshall, C M Jenkinson, F S Schollick, H M Whyte, J Wilson, W Barnett, W Robson, J Kier, R Jones and W Burbidge. Meetings were held in the State School until the Lodge built its own temple.

#### Goomeri

The Boonara Masonic Lodge at Goomeri was established in 1925 with nineteen foundation members. A property was bought in Boonara Street and a temple erected. The first master was Mr David Reid. This lodge has run continuously since and continues to have a large membership.

#### Woolooga

The Woolooga Masonic Lodge was established in 1929 and the Temple was built in the same year by Mr Tabke on land which was sold to the lodge in 1935 by Mr T Thomas for £5.

This has been a very active lodge. Mr Cliff Jones and brothers L and I McIntosh are long-serving members. At first the temple was illuminated by kerosene lamps hanging from the ceiling. These were all donated by early members. Later Mr Chamberlain, who lives close by, supplied light from his 32-volt lighting plant until power was connected.

### 14. BENEFIT LODGES

The following lodges had ritual and regalia similar to the Masonic Lodge, but they were primarily friendly societies, supplying benefits to members in the form of medical, hospital, pharmaceutical and funeral benefits. They also provided accident and sickness insurance similar to that now available from Workers' Compensation and were forerunners of the present health societies. After the lodges ceased to be active in local towns, most people retained their membership.

#### Buffalo Lodges (RAOB)

The Buffalo Lodge was active in Goomeri from the 1920's. The meeting room was a small building on the southern end of Moore Street. Members included Messrs H Keune, B Ogg, M Moreland and J Mackaway. When the lodge ceased to function the building was sold for removal to Kilkivan.

There was an early Buffalo Lodge in Kilkivan. It lapsed for a while but started again after the Second World War. It is known as 'Pride of Kilkivan, Number 830'. At present the Sitting Primo is Mr Len Barsby and Secretary, Mr B Baxter. Early members were Mr Herb McKell and Mr Arthur Sutton. The lodge takes part in social activities and local community efforts. They give help with the Historical Society's annual celebration of Australia Day.

#### **Oddfellow Lodges (MUIOOF)**

There was an Oddfellows' Lodge in Goomeri in the 1920's which appears to have continued its activities on into the post war years. In 1927 when the Popular Girl competition took place the lodge fielded Miss Elsie Dahlke as their candidate and members marched beside her car in full regalia in the final procession to the Goomeri Sports Ground.

The membership of this lodge was open to both men and women and at one time also had an attached juvenile lodge. Meetings were held in the Boonara Hall and later in the Hall of Memory. This lodge operated continuously until the early 1960's. When it closed, the remaining members were absorbed into the Murgon Lodge and are now members of Kingaroy MUIOOF.

The Oddfellows' Lodge in Kilkivan started about 1930 and lapsed in the 1970's when the population started to dwindle. Mr and Mrs Eric Turner and Mr Len Barsby were members. They still retain their membership, although meetings are no longer held.

#### **Protestant Alliance (PAFSOA)**

The Protestant Alliance Friendly Society of Australasia was started in Kilkivan in 1896 and ran continuously until 1972. Those who belong to the organization still retain membership.

The Alliance was very active after the Second World War. Foundation members include: Messrs W Beer, J Lake, C Spencer, F Hewson and B Eupene. Formal meetings and parades were held when state officials visited and the society provided many social activities for its members.

For a short time in the twenties this association also had a Goomeri branch.

### **15. KILKIVAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Kilkivan Historical Society was formed at a public meeting in July 1979. Mr M White was first President but left the district shortly after, and Mr Len Barsby succeeded him. Mrs Pauline Fitzgerald has been Secretary and Mrs Shirley McGill, Treasurer, since the inception of the organization.

At first documents and artifacts were kept in the Kilkivan Shire Library. Later, a room at the Royal Cafe was used.

In 1981 the members moved into their present building which they bought from Roach Brothers. It was originally built for Miss Ethel McCarrroll, who rented it as a dental surgery and a maternal and child welfare centre. It was later bought by Mr Harry Roach, who lived there for many years.

The society was helped by the Kilkivan Shire Council to meet the payments of the building. After two years, extensions to the building were made. Government help in the form of subsidised labour from the Government CEP scheme was granted. The society meets on the first Monday in each month and has an average attendance of thirteen members. In December 1986 the Historical Society organized a very successful function to commemorate the arrival of the railway in Kilkivan. An Australia Day function is run each year.



*Centenary of Railway to Kilkivan - 1986*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*

The society has a small band of enthusiastic workers who do a splendid job of collecting and preserving all aspects of the Kilkivan Shire's history.

## 16. THE RETURNED SERVICEMEN'S LEAGUE (RSL)

### Kilkivan

At a meeting of returned servicemen which took place on the premises of Jones Brothers in November 1918, it was decided to form a sub-branch of the RSL (or RSSILA, as it was then called).

The first official meeting was held on 29 March 1919. Mr A Perrett was elected President and Mr N Jones, Secretary.

Early meetings were held in several locations - the Kilkivan Hotel, the School of Arts and the Cinnabar Hall. Mr J J Mallon, who became president in 1921, worked to increase the membership until 1938. During that time the Memorial Park was built but it was not until the 1950's that the sub-branch decided to erect a Memorial Club Room.

Under the presidency of Mr Jack Carr, work was commenced on the new building in 1954. On 14 October 1955, the first meeting was held in the new club rooms.

The building was officially opened by Sir Raymond Huish on 10 September 1955. At that time, the secretary was Mr Evan Keating and the Treasurer, Mr Pat Wex.

Since that time the sub-branch has maintained a steady membership of twenty. The Vietnam War increased membership by four. Current office bearers are Mr Mike Webb, President and Mr Ivan Gower, Secretary, and membership is twenty-two. The Roll of Honour contains twelve names of the fallen from the First World War and six from the Second World War.

### **Goomeri**

Goomeri returned soldiers after the First World War formed a Diggers' Club. Mr W Heathwood and Mr Percy Perrett at first joined the Murgon sub-branch of the RSSILA. On 1 January 1926, the Goomeri sub-branch received its charter.

After the Hall of Memory was completed in 1927, a club room was built underneath on the eastern side. It is still in use today for meetings and social occasions. The club lapsed for a time before the Second World War.

In 1946 with an influx of younger men the RSL became very active in local community efforts. A ladies' Auxiliary also operated during this period. One of the major projects of the League was the establishment of the Goomeri Memorial Hospital.

All organizations in the area gave support to these fund-raising efforts with donations. The RSL members organized a 'Penny-a-Pop' Raffle each Saturday night at the pictures.

Anzac Day is celebrated each year with a morning wreath-laying ceremony at the Monument followed by a service in the Hall of Memory. Afterwards the RSL members invite all comers to the club rooms for morning tea.

Mr Gordon Bourne and Mr Jack Jenkinson have collected a register of servicemen and women from Goomeri who enlisted in both wars. These are to be placed on a plaque in the Hall of Memory and are to be unveiled in a service during the town's Easter Day Centenary Celebrations.

## 17. POLITICAL PARTIES

Before the Second World War both Goomeri and Kilkivan had branches of the Queensland Labor Party. This party had active workers and organizers, particularly among the timber workers. There are still party supporters in both towns but no organized branches.

At the same time a Douglas Credit Party had a large membership in Kilkivan and many of the local residents were members. They ran social events and even at one time, held a ball. This party had a significant state-wide membership at the time but is now defunct.



*Douglas Credit Party - Kilkivan*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*

In the 1970's a very active branch of the Young Country Party operated in Goomeri and had members from the whole shire. Young people took part in debates, public speaking and social activities. The branch ceased to be active when the number of young people in the shire dwindled in the late seventies. The Country Party, which is now known as the National Party, has officially constituted branches at towns in the shire, but meetings are seldom held.

## 18. JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Junior Chamber of Commerce operated in Goomeri from the mid-1950's until the late 1960's. Members travelled widely to inter-club meetings and state conferences.

Among the early members were Messrs W Silburn, E Williamson, G Dunn, W Bandidt and S Keune.

This organisation started the Goomeri Blood Bank. One major project was the gala celebration in 1961 of the Golden Jubilee of the 1911 Goomeri Land Sale.

The Jayettes, an affiliated women's organisation, was also very active for much of this time.

## 19. APEX CLUB

In 1987, a sub-branch of Apex started in Goomeri with seventeen members. The club holds a dinner meeting, monthly, at the Goomeri Golf Club .



*Kilkivan Hall and Library*

*(M Batts)*



## Chapter 18

---

### RELIGION IN THE KILKIVAN SHIRE

#### 1. THE ANGLICAN CHURCH

At the beginning of settlement in the Wide Bay-Burnett District clergymen were scarce. Worship was often conducted in private homes by laymen.

The first Anglican clergyman, to work north of Brisbane, was Rev E Tanner, who was licensed as 'Minister in the Districts of Wide Bay and Burnett River', stationed at Maryborough. He travelled as far afield in the district as time and conditions would allow. He resigned after six months' service.

There were two more ministers in the next four years. Following this, there were many changes and times when no minister was available.

When Kilkivan became a township, after the discovery of gold at West Coast Creek, it was incorporated into the Tiaro parish for thirty-four years. Saint Matthew's Church was dedicated on its first site in 1888. Rev C J Tatham was the vicar at Tiaro. Kilkivan remained in this parish from 1868 to 1902.

The church was moved to its present site in 1904. From 1903 to 1905 it was attached to the Gayndah parish and worked by the Bush Brotherhood. It was then transferred to Saint Andrew's, Gympie, for seven years from 1905 to 1912. Rev J H Steer worked Kilkivan with Noosa from 1912 to 1914, and continued to look after it when he and Kilkivan were transferred to Nanango parish in 1913. His parish included Murgon, Boonara, Goomeri, Barambah and Proston.

Saint David's, Boonara was dedicated in 1914, and the Church of the Epiphany Goomeri, in 1916.

In February 1919, the Parochial District of Murgon was formed with Rev R W Shand as vicar. This included Murgon, Wondai, Goomeri, Boonara, Kilkivan, Cinnabar, Sexton, Tingoor, Fat Hen Creek and Barambah.





*Opening of Saint David's, Boonara - 1914*

*(L Maudsley)*



*St Matthew's Anglican church - Kilkivan*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*

After ten years, two separate parochial districts were formed, Kilkivan and Murgon (1929). The parish of Kilkivan included Goomeri, Boonara, Manumbar, Woolooga, Fat Hen Creek, Sexton and Cinnabar. The rector, Rev Lee-Warner, lived in Goomeri.

In 1932, Kilkivan and Murgon parishes were again combined. These were made into one district and separated from Wondai. The Parochial District is still known as Kilkivan, although the rector lives at Murgon.

Saint David's, Boonara, the earliest church in the Goomeri district, was built on land donated by L M Jones. In 1948, it was shifted from its original position to a site close to Boonara Homestead, and included the burial ground of the Station. Gates were erected in memory of Jack Mander Jones who was killed in action in Singapore.

## 2. THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

It seems that early Presbyterian services in Kilkivan Shire were provided by Rev David Galloway from Nanango. Driving by horse and buggy, he visited the Union Church in Kilkivan and held church services at Barambah,

The work of organising a Murgon Charge started in 1924. Rev T W Smythe from the Presbyterian Church Extension Committee, and a former Queensland Moderator, was appointed to carry out this task. He took up his duties in March of that year. During March, April and May, he conducted services in KIngaroy. On April 27, he visited Murgon and conducted morning and evening services in the School of Arts.

The first official services in the Murgon Parish were held on 18 May 1924 in Goomeri at 3.00 pm in the Methodist Church and in Murgon at 7.30 pm in the School of Arts. There were prospects of building churches at Murgon and Woolooga.

The parish was geographically very large. During 1927, services were conducted regularly at Murgon, Goomeri, Woolooga, Tansey, Kinbombi, Sexton, Greenview and Wondai, and occasionally at Manumbar (*'at the request of Commission of Presbytery'*). The minister ran his own car, but the church paid his travelling expenses which *'were increased because of the state of the roads'*. He had travelled a distance of 3 050 miles in 1926 and 3 375 miles in 1927 in the course of his pastoral duties.

In January 1928, a new church was opened at Woolooga by Rev W H Waters of Maryborough. It was well furnished, with a good organ. A church had already been opened in Murgon. With furnishings, it had cost £300, of which £200 had been raised by the opening. £100 was lent by the Church Building Fund, interest free. Mr Hooke of Burnside was one of the original members.

Feeling that he had achieved his purpose, Rev Smythe left for Gympie in January 1928.

His place was taken by Rev Daniells. Goomeri people mentioned on the early committees of management, were Mr Jim Anderson and Mr W McIvor.

In July 1928, the matter of where the minister should live permanently was discussed. At that time the towns of Goomeri and Murgon were about the same size and Goomeri was more central in position. The minister was allowed to make the choice and he decided to stay in Murgon.

In Goomeri, services were held in the Methodist Church, until the Presbyterian congregation built their own church in 1955. When the Uniting Church was formed in 1977, this building was used by the new church, until the Presbyterians again decided to form themselves into a subsidiary of the Kingaroy Charge.

### 3. GOOMERI METHODIST CHURCH

At the time of the Goomeri Land Sale (6 March 1911), Rev E J Taylor of Wondai purchased two acres as a site for a Methodist Church - the site on which the Goomeri Uniting Church now stands. The Church acquired the block at the price of £32. Isles Love and Company, promptly returned half the amount, making the actual cost to the church £16.

The following year, the new minister, Rev J A Pratt, persuaded the congregation to sell off one acre of land (where Mr Stan Keune now lives) for £48.

Shortly after the sale, when the town began to grow, Rev Taylor commenced regular services in the Boonara Hall. By the end of 1911 a building fund had been established. In 1912 a National Fair was organised to raise funds. This was generously supported by people of all denominations. The proceeds made the building of a church a real possibility.

In 1915, the Murgon Home Mission Station was established with Rev James Moorehouse in charge. In that same year, the Goomeri Methodist Church was built by local builder, Mr F Klumpp. It was twenty-five feet by eighteen feet in size, with a porch. The cost was about £160. The church was officially opened on 30 August 1915. At the opening, Mr James Lawrie represented the auctioneers, Isles Love and Company. He was the son of a Presbyterian minister and was organist for several years.

Other pioneers of the church were Mr and Mrs W Doggerell, Mr and Mrs R Horne, Mr and Mrs F W Klumpp, Mr and Mrs Nickols, Mr and Mrs P Wright Snr, Mr and Mrs F Wright, Messrs J Klumpp and J Anderson. These people were not all Methodists. Mr Doggerell was secretary to the trustees, and in his spare time cleared the Church grounds.

The Methodist Church was the first to be built in Goomeri. As time went on, this church was used by other denominations. The trustees were happy to see it used in this way, because of the support they had received by all

denominations in raising money for the building fund. It was left to the trustees to work out a scheme for making the best use of their church for the worship of Christians of several other denominations as well as their own - Presbyterians, Baptists and Salvation Army.

In the early days of the town and closer settlement of the district, Methodists outnumbered members of other denominations, but this changed as the population of the district grew.

A Sunday School was started by Mrs Nickols and her daughter. This continued as a combined Sunday School until the other religions built their own churches.

In November 1933, the church building was lengthened by ten feet and a vestry in the form of a transept was added.

When the Uniting Church was formed in 1977, services were held in the Presbyterian Church, and the Methodist Church building retained for Sunday school and youth groups. However, due to some anomaly in property settlement, it was found that the Presbyterian building was not legally the property of the Uniting Church. The Methodist Church was once again used for services.

#### **4. THE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

On 25 September 1920, the first Lutheran Services in the Goomeri district were held by Rev A E Reuter of Murgon, in the home of Mr W Christiansen. At that time, Pastor Reuter worked a Murgon-Kingaroy parish. After this, services were held regularly in the homes of the Breitkreutz, Schuler and Pieper families. Goomeri was regarded as a preaching place until 18 November 1928 when the congregation was constituted. In 1932, it was affiliated with the United Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Australia, Queensland District.

For a number of years, services were held in the Anglican Church. As the congregation was growing steadily, a Lutheran Church was built by the members' own efforts. Saint Mark's Lutheran Church, Goomeri, was opened and dedicated on 1 March 1953, by president of UELCA, Queensland District, Dr M Lohe.

The church has been ministered from the Murgon Parish. It held its twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations in March 1978.

#### **5. THE BAPTIST CHURCH - GOOMERI**

The Baptist Church began in January 1920, with a prayer meeting in the home of Mr and Mrs F W Bowd. A portable organ was bought, so that it could be easily transported from place to place. For a while services were held in the Methodist Church. After the war, the congregation built its own church in Jones Street. However, because of dwindling numbers in the congregation the church was closed. In recent months, because of the arrival of new families, regular services have recommenced.

## 6. KILKIVAN UNION CHURCH

The Union Church is as old as Kilkivan itself. It celebrated its Centenary with a dinner and musical evening on Saturday, 20 April 1968 and a church service the next day. This church, which has been operating now for nearly 120 years, is a wonderful example of ecumenical Christian co-operation.

The church was formed on the goldfields of the first township of West Coast Creek in 1868. It grew from a gathering of Presbyterians, Methodists, Plymouth Bretheren, Anglicans, Baptists and Salvation Army members, who felt the need to gather together for united Christian worship.

Services were held in private homes with whatever clergy happened to be passing through the district.

The first church was built in 1880, where Mrs Eupene later had her home. It was a simple structure of palings with a shingle roof. Later, a slab building near the Regional Board's sub-station, was used for many years.

The present church building was originally situated at the eastern end of Bligh Street, and was opened on 24 June 1888. It was a day of great celebration, beginning with a march from the Union Church, to the present site of the Federal Hotel, for a picnic. The lease of the land was first issued on 1 May 1888 and was transferred from Robert Hunter to John Coleman, William Slater and H R Crowther as trustees on 8 January 1916.

The building originally cost £136 to build, but the debt owing on it at the opening was more than paid off by the offering collected at the first service. The land in James Street was given to the trustees by John Coleman and tenders were called for the transfer of the building. The property being a miners' homestead lease, the transfer was made to the three trustees.

Mr Hopkins moved the building by mounting it on a makeshift wagon drawn by bullocks. As it was being shifted, the building hit the side of the bridge over One Mile Creek and had to be left overnight, festooned with lights.

Some of the names associated with the church are: Hunter, Salter, Ray, Eupene, McCarroll, Scheinpflug, Jorgensen, Tooley, Penny, Batts, Harwood, Peters, Dempster, Crawford, Muir, Stephens, Bensen, Jones and Euler. From 1921 to 1962, trustees were: John Coleman, W Salter, H Crowther, C Scheinpflug, J Bateman, Godber, W Slater, A J Turner, A J Batts, W Olzard.

The Union Church has survived to the present day, a unique and independent body, relying on ministers of all denominations from nearby towns, to conduct Christian worship within its walls.

There appear to have been only three instances when ministers lived in Kilkivan. In 1903 Rev H Denny was appointed as a Methodist home missionary to the 'Kilkivan-Biggenden-Tiaro Home Mission'.

Two Baptist ministers were stationed at Kilkivan - Pastor E W Davison in 1911 and Rev Hodgson in 1938.

A Ladies' Guild has functioned for many years, being one of the mainstays of the church. A Sunday school has operated since early times.

The Union Church still operates today and is served by ministers of the Uniting Church who come regularly from Murgon to hold services.

## 7. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Kilkivan Catholic Church is known as Saint Kevin's. The resemblance to the word 'Kilkivan', which means in Gaelic 'Church of the Beloved', seems more than co-incidental.

The pioneer of the church was Dean Horan of Gympie. He rode on horseback, to minister to people of his faith on the gold-fields of West Coast Creek and the Rise and Shine Reef. Mass was held for some years in the coffee room of Cogan's Hotel.

When the gold rush ended, and the small town took on a more permanent stance, several Catholic families remained, and it was decided to build a church. A four-acre block in Rose Street was chosen as the site, and the small, but enthusiastic congregation set about clearing the timber. Because of the voluntary work of the church members, the church was opened free of debt.

This building was used by the congregation for forty years. In the 1920's it was decided to build a new church. In 1925, when Father McSweeney was assistant priest to Dean O'Flynn, a building committee was formed under the directorship of Mr R Conway and building of the new church commenced. It was opened in less than a year at a cost of £1 300, again, free of debt, and dedicated by the Archbishop in March 1926.

In 1927, Saint Kevin's was transferred to the parish of Murgon, under which it remained until 1942. In that year, it was transferred back to the Gympie Parish. It has remained in this parish to the present day.

The Catholic Church at Woolooga began in the 1890's when selectors were taking up land on the former large holdings of Widgee and Woolooga. There were a number of Catholic families in the area. At first, masses were celebrated at the Fitzgeralds' residence, Boowoogum, priests visiting regularly once a quarter. Among the early Catholic families were Dawsons, Dowds, Pembrokes, Bachelors, Gavins and McElhattons. Later, the homes of the Smiths and the Drays were used for religious gatherings.

By 1917, there was a small township at Woolooga, and a hall. It was here that masses were held. The congregation decided to build its own church. A site of half-an-acre was procured. Fund raising efforts were well supported by the whole community.



*Opening of Saint Kevin's Catholic Church, Kilkivan - 1926  
(Kilkivan Historical Society)*



*Opening of Catholic Church, Goomeri - 1920*

In 1920, the Church of Saint Francis Xavier was completed by local contractor, Mr M Hogan, to plans drawn up by Mr T Holden of Gympie. It was dedicated by the Archbishop on 7 March 1920. Father Patrick Murphy was the Gympie priest at the time. The money owing on the church was paid off by a collection taken up on the day of dedication.

In 1927, the church was transferred to the Murgon Parish, but in 1942 it reverted to the control of Gympie.

Priests from Nanango came regularly to Goomeri to celebrate masses in the Boonara Hall. When a new church was built in Nanango, the old building was dismantled and erected at Goomeri on its present site.

The church was opened on 21 March 1920. It must have been a great day of celebration for the Catholics of Goomeri. Permission was granted for a marquee to be erected from the southern side of Boonara Street to the railway fence, probably close to the town's only hotel and hall.

In its early days, the priests visited the town from Nanango. When Murgon became a separate parish in 1927, the church at Goomeri became part of this parish.

## 8. THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH

The German Apostolic Church has been mentioned in the chapter covering the German Community.

The first service was held on Finners' farm (now Wellocks'), Tansey, under an apple tree on 14 January 1914. It was not long before a church was built on the same farm. It was a simple structure of pine boards with an earthen floor.

In 1926 the present church was built by voluntary labour. Within a week the main structure was erected. It was lined and ceiled later. Boards from the original church were used as flooring.

There are still ten families attending the church regularly. The present pastor is Mr Graffunder.

The New Apostolics, a break-away group, erected their own church near the Tansey school in 1919. It was closed down and sold for removal.

## 9. ASSEMBLY OF GOD

In the early 1950's the congregation of the Assembly of God built a church in Barnes Street. They had a resident minister, Pastor Bonney.

When numbers attending this church dropped, the church was sold to the Goomeri Kindergarten Association and Pastor Bonney was transferred.





*Apostolic church, Tansey - 1964*

*(L Keune)*



*Goomeri Presbyterian Guild - 1930's*

*(A Buckingham)*

## 10. CHURCH GUILDS

Kilkivan Anglican and Union Churches each have Ladies' Guilds. The Catholic Church has a Women's Group. Once a year they have a combined luncheon and also join together for the Women's World Day of Prayer.

Goomeri Anglican Ladies' Guild has been operating for many years. Methodist and Presbyterian Ladies' Guilds combined to form the United Church Guild before the Uniting Church was inaugurated. There is now a Uniting Church Guild.

There are no women's guilds at Woolooga, but the churches here take turns in conducting the World Day of Prayer Service.



*First St Kevin's Catholic Church*

*(P Fitzgerald)*



## Chapter 19

---

### RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

#### 1. MUSIC AND DRAMA

The first mention of choral work is an early choir in the Union Church of Kilkivan conducted by Mr Hunter. It is possible that the number of Welsh people usually found in a mining area helped to swell the voices in the choir. Most of the choral work done in Kilkivan over the years appears to have been in the various churches. There were several groups of local musicians who played for dances and functions, among them the Spencers and the Zahnleiters. These were self-taught musicians but evidently did an excellent job in providing local entertainment.

In recent years the Webb Brothers - Fabian, Marius and Berard - have performed in a highly professional manner in the Country and Western Circuit, writing their own songs. In 1982, when their property, Thornside, celebrated its centenary, a Country Music Muster was held. This also celebrated the Webb Brothers twenty-fifth anniversary as Country and Western performers.

An early band in the Kilkivan district was formed by the residents of Rossmore. At the time this locality had a number of small farmers who had a strong community spirit centered on the local school. The town of Kilkivan itself also had a band at a very early date.

One of the first musical efforts in Goomeri was also a band. This must have been operating very early as photos of the opening of Goomeri School show the band among the crowd. Members of the band included Messrs Tom Dunn, Les Palmer, Walter Kimber, Sam Thurecht, Bill Murray, Harry Breikreutz, Syd Horne, Ted Grohn, Len Murphy, George Wieland and George Williams. The earliest band was formed from men who were partners in or employees of the sawmill of Ross and Company but, as the population of the town increased, this band included others.



*Goomeri's first band*

*(J Davis)*



*The Webb brothers*

*(O'Donnell Collection)*

The German Apostolic Church also had a band. When one couple, Mr and Mrs Neumann, celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary, the band played outside their house until it was time to do the morning milking. After milking, the whole congregation celebrated the occasion with a church service, after which they all returned to the Neumanns' home for dinner at which the band played practically non-stop.

In the early thirties the town of Goomeri had a choir. The conductor was Mr Eplire and pianist was local music teacher, Myrtle Wieland. Four of the men in the choir, Messrs George Lynton, Stan Culliford, Terry Wise and Ben Buckingham, formed a male quartet. At th time cars were beginning to appear in the district and many country people travelled into town each week for choir practice. One member, Mr Jim Logan, occasionally rode a horse in from Boonara.

The choir went to different towns to sing: Woolooga, Kingaroy, Kilkivan, Gympie. They even entered in the Queensland Eisteddfod when it was held in Maryborough. Although it did not obtain a place, some of its members were successful. Mr George Lynton, formerly a tenor with J C Williamson, Mr S Culliford, who had an untrained bass voice and could not read music, Mr B Buckingham, who entered in the champion violin solo all came second in their respective events. The choir was later conducted by local farmer, Mr Hooper.

In the 1950's the Tansey people formed a choir under the leadership of two teachers, Mr John Butters and Mr Ken Noon. Mrs Owens (Myrtle Wieland) was their pianist. Mr Butters and fellow teacher, Graham Steer, also sang duets. This choir contributed items to local concerts.

In 1960 the Goomeri Centenary Choir was formed to sing at local State Centenary celebrations. Conductor was Mrs Betty McIntosh, a professional singer who had sung on ABC radio and with the Handel Society in Brisbane. For many years this choir operated very successfully, doing three performances of Handel's *Messiah*, and musical comedies such as *South Pacific*. Mrs McIntosh also had a CWA choir which competed successfully in Music and Drama Festivals. In this they were joined by members from the branches in the Kilkivan area.

The Kilkivan Choir functioned from 1958 to 1970, led by Mr Ray Hardiker. Members met for practice in private homes or the QCWA Hall. Pianists during that time were Mrs Kilgour, Mrs Boys and Mrs McPherson. The choir had a number of enthusiastic members. They sang at functions in Kilkivan and nearby towns. The choir ceased to function when Mr and Mrs Hardiker left the district.

The women of Tansey QCWA have a very enthusiastic drama group, which has been functioning since the State QCWA Music and Drama Festivals began. This group is in great demand for performances at local functions.

Children's choirs have been conducted over the years. Mr Heath formed a choir in the twenties and took the children to perform in eisteddfods. Mr Col Bennett in the late fifties was also successful in competition at Kingaroy.

In the sixties Mrs Logan had a primary school choir that performed at local events and eisteddfods. Secondary School choirs also have sung at speech nights, concerts and eisteddfods where Mrs J Bandidt and Mrs M Wyatt have been responsible for many good performances.

When the large number of one-teacher schools operated around Tansey they combined every year to hold concerts. These commenced in 1945 and continued until a number of the schools closed down. Although the teachers and pupils worked under great difficulties they always had a combined choir and made the most of the talent available at the time. These concerts did much to weld Tansey into the community centre it has continued to be.

## 2. THE LIGHT HORSE

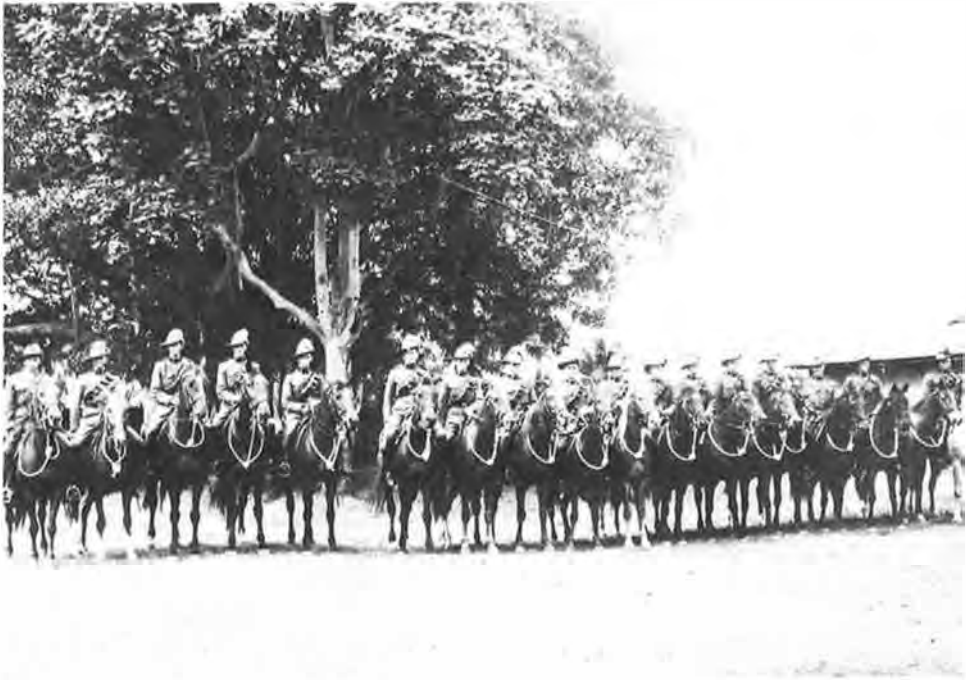
In 1927, The Fifth Light Horse Regiment (Wide Bay and Burnett Light Horse, Queensland Mounted Infantry), First Cavalry Brigade, formed a squadron at Kilkivan. The Honorary Colonel was Major-General the Honourable Sir William Glasgow KCB, CMG, DSO, VD. Sir William had links with the Kilkivan Shire. His brothers Samuel and Robert, and brother-in-law, R P Stumm, were all landholders in the Shire.

In 1929, A J (Jim) Batts was made a Lieutenant. He was promoted to Captain in March 1936. In that year a troop was established in Goomeri. There appears to have been liaison between the two groups although they met and worked separately. Captain Batts was in charge of both troops. Goomeri resident, Viv Anderson was made a Lieutenant in 1936 and took charge of Goomeri Troop. Until 1936 Kilkivan Troop was listed with Kandanga and Gympie as part of Headquarters Squadron. After the formation of the Goomeri Troop, both it and Kilkivan were under the one commanding officer and were listed with Kingaroy and Wondai to form C Squadron.

In both Kilkivan and Goomeri, training meetings were held monthly at the show grounds. Each member supplied his own mount. Uniforms and gear were supplied by the Army. Training camps were held periodically at Gympie, Maryborough and Caloundra. In 1940 a final camp of three months' duration was held at Beaudesert.

The great event in the history of Kilkivan Troop was the winning of the Lord Foster Cup. This was an Australia-wide competition. When the troop won the elimination contest for Queensland, they were highly praised by the judge, Captain R N L Hopkins for their '*excellence in manoeuvres and accuracy with the rifle and Vickers machine gun*'. He especially singled out Corporal Ray for praise.

The judging for the Australian finals of the competition took place on Sunday 30 June 1930. There had been heavy rain the day before. It cleared for the great day but left the ground a quagmire. But rather than forfeit the competition it was decided to hold the event. There was a good attendance of local citizens for the occasion.



*Goomeri Light Horse Troop - 1939*

*(M Pearson)*



*Kilkivan Light Horse Troop*

*(M Batts)*

Kilkivan carried off the cup with an outstanding performance. The judge, Colonel E M Williams, DSO, praised the troop highly for the turn-out of personnel and horses and their great horsemanship. He said they were the only troop judged where horses had been trained to stand still while personnel were mounting. In spite of the bad state of the grounds, they covered the course in the good time of 1 minute 23 seconds.

At night members of the Troop were the guests of Mr and Mrs M H Hartley at a victory party.

The presentation of the cup took place on Saturday 4 October of that year. The Governor, Sir John Goodwin, motored from Brisbane with the Chairman of Kilkivan Shire Council, Councillor R P Stumm. He was met outside the town and escorted in by the Kilkivan Troop. The Governor was entertained at a civic reception representing organizations and business interests from Kilkivan and Goomeri. This took place at the Shire Office. At night a civic dinner was held at Stafford's Hotel. At eight o'clock the Governor presented the Foster Cup to Captain Batts, the leader of the troop.

The celebrations finished with a military ball at which local debutantes were presented to the Governor.

The Light Horse continued to be active until war broke out when many of the members joined the AIF. In the later years the numbers in Kilkivan troop dropped away and those who remained combined with Goomeri Troop. Goomeri also competed in the Lord Foster Cup and the Prince of Wales Cup which was for horsemanship. Goomeri was known as a 'sabre troop'.

November 1941 marked the end of mounted cavalry. From then on cavalry units were motorised. The Light Horse in its original form was disbanded in July 1943.

### 3. THE NATIONAL HORSE TRAIL

The National Horse Trail is a bi-centennial project established for the benefit of horse riders. It stretches from Melbourne to Cooktown and has been mapped out to follow as closely as possible the paths taken by mailmen who travelled on horseback through the country in the nineteenth century.

The Kilkivan Shire co-operated fully with the project, and Councillor Keith Batts, who is interested in horse riding, is taking an active part in the establishment of the trail. It is meant to be used solely for walking and horseback riding. In time there will be maps showing the route, rest areas along the way, sign posts and feeder paths into the main trail. The Southern Queensland route follows old mail routes from Brisbane, Drayton and Nanango. Granite markers have been placed at shire boundaries. The trail enters from the Nanango boundary and crosses into the Tiara Shire. Councillor Batts estimates that the Kilkivan Shire section covers a path that takes about three days to traverse.



The route followed in the shire passes through Elgin Vale and Wrattan's Camp in the Manumbar area, Black Snake, past Rossmore, West Coast Creek, Woolooga, past the site of Brooyar Mail Change Hotel to old Miva in the Tiaro Shire. Maps and signs will be ready for this section in early 1988.

#### 4. GOLF

The original move for a golf course came about 1928 from three men who had played golf before coming to live in Goomeri. They were Dr Underwood, Bank Manager Arthur Heers, and Mr Andy Mann who had bought a butchery. They created interest among others and formed a committee. A site was chosen on Weivehurst, a property on the Manyung Road outside the town, then owned by Mr Alec Milne. Working bees were organised. Very few trees were cut down but stumps and stones had to be removed. Mowing was done with old agricultural mowers. The layout was interesting and unconventional.

Among the original members, other than those already mentioned were Messrs George Bourne, W McIvor, A Duffey, C Wimberley, A Wimberley, H Howsan, A Theodore, F Vidgen, O Hopf, E Hopf, W Boldery, E Eisentrager, C Walthall, J Seears, Gordon Bourne, A Wright, W Gordon, C Palmer, J Davis and G Grensill. Associates included Mesdames Underwood, Mann, McIvor, Eisentrager, Misses McCarroll, M Westaway, J Bourne, J Elliot and B Snowden.

Within two years it was decided that a permanent site for a golf course was necessary. In 1934 the Goomeri Golf Club asked for and received permission to make a new golf course on what had previously been the site of an old racecourse. This is the present location of the course.

A nine-hole course was pegged. Timber had to be cleared on the flat for the fairways and in the area of the club house. This was carried out under contract by two members, Ernie and Oscar Hopf. Walter Boldery donated timber for the first stage of the club house. Besides this much voluntary work was involved in making the course fit for use.

At first the clubhouse was very basic, but a great improvement on the temporary shelter of the former course. For carnivals it was still necessary to use railway tarpaulins for a luncheon booth and a bar.

Golf was a popular sport and the sustained membership has brought gradual improvements to the course. One great problem was a stony ridge on the Number 1 Hole. It was graded and covered with loam, but the stones worked their way through. The original fairways on the flat were too narrow. They were known to visitors as the 'goat tracks'. The good condition of the course today with its comfortable up-to-date club house (often used for local functions) is an indication of the ongoing enthusiasm of the Goomeri Golf Club.

The Kilkivan Country Club started in October 1985. Shire Engineer, Mr S Abercromby, called the first meeting. Mr Bob Hodgson was elected President and Mr Mike Fraser, Secretary-Treasurer.

A course has been laid out on the western side of Kilkivan, beside the Kilkivan-Tansey turn-off. Building of amenities is still in progress. The club has approximately sixty members.

## 5. CRICKET

It seems likely that cricket was played in the area from the early days of settlement. There was said to be a cricket pitch on the flat close to Boonara Homestead.

In the minutes of the Kilkivan Divisional Board, November 1893, it is reported that the Board members unanimously agreed to the use of their paddock '*for cricketing purposes*'. The Board was in favour of these grounds being '*available to the public for recreation such as school picnics and sport*'. In 1897 complaints were received about cricket being played on the Board's grounds on Sundays. These were upheld. The matter of Sunday cricket came up again in April 1904 when it was stated that under Section 42 of The Local Authorities Act of 1902, the playing of sport on Council grounds on a Sunday was forbidden.

After closer settlement increased the population of the area, each locality formed its own team. Matches were played periodically against visiting teams. Early wickets were probably rather make-shift for a start, merely being the chipping and levelling off of the flattest land available. Ant-bed wickets were an improvement. Concrete wickets came later, probably not before the 1920's. With the concrete came coir matting and later 'Kippax' matting (named after the famous cricketer). These helped to improve the wicket surfaces. The great improvement came with turf wickets in the 1950's. Now all towns have them.

At Cinnabar cricket was played on the hard level surface of the road on the Wide Bay Creek flat just past the present turn-off to Cinnabar. It was local custom for all traffic to turn off the road and make a detour while the matches were being played.

By the 1920's cricket was well established in the Wide Bay-South Burnett, with regular fixtures within associations and regular matches between associations being played. These involved visits to neighbouring towns, and to Maryborough and Gympie. In March 1922 the Woolooga Cricket Club wrote to the Council asking permission to put down a pitch. In the same year the Kilkivan Cricket Club was granted five acres of the town's recreation reserve on which to build a cricket pitch. In Goomeri the show grounds were used.

A team, made up of members of the German Apostolic Church called the 'Glenora Team' (after Mr F A Keune's property at Tansey) competed regularly. Many older cricket players will remember the happy social games played at Glenora. The cricket pitch was in a paddock close to the Apostolic Church. Members of the team were all churchgoers and Sunday games would not start until church was over. The local ladies served a sumptuous lunch under a grass-covered shelter and then the match would begin. Among members of this team were Messrs Keune, Barringhaus, Groer, Gurski, Wesche and Pustolla.



*Early Kilkivan Cricket Team (M Batts)*



*Goomeri Cricket Club - 1912 (J Davis)*

Social teams at Boobyjan and Daddamarine Creek played regular home games and matches between themselves and Tansey. There was also a 'Maudsley Team' of twelve Maudsleys drawn from the three families at Margoo, Trinity and Undaban.

At Manumbar there were six teams, including two from the mills. Mr Thomsett and his sons were all keen cricketers. Other teams were Elgin Vale and Gallangowan Settlement. Among the players at Manumbar, as well as the Thomsett father and sons, were 'Digger' Smith, Jack Parkinson, Phil O'Neill, Noel and Owen Horsfall, Jack and Tom Woods.

After the Second World War, because of a drop in population and better transport and communication, there was a complete reorganization of the playing of cricket in this area. Competition cricket was played in each local authority in the South Burnett and inter-shire games were played, the most important trophy being the Zanke Shield. Most games by this time were played on turf pitches. Some were left uncovered which made play on them interesting and varied and sometimes exasperating.

In this post-war period there were some good cricketers in the area. The Hopf brothers (Herb, Stan, George and Alan) played for Cinnabar and later for Kilkivan. The Baxter Shield, recalling the name of another well known cricketing family, was contested.

According to former Goomeri resident, Rennie Sippel, himself a cricketer of some note, administration played a large part in the success of cricket in the shire. This was done on a voluntary basis and much of the credit must go to Ernie Goodchild who was a shire resident before he moved to Murgon. He also presented the Goodchild Shield, the premier shield for competition in the Wide Bay area.

With such excellent organization and a wonderful cricket tradition it seems likely that the shire will continue to produce good cricketers.

There is a long list of players who have left their mark over the years. These include: Belmore Foster, Jack Dahlke, Jack Shanahan, George Bourne, Albert Rich, Les Palmer, Arthur Heers, Dr Underwood, Roy Seccombe and his three sons (Roger, Donald and Colin), Alec Stuart, Jimmy Dahlke, Jack Jones and Ces Walthall.

The Seccombe brothers also played for Queensland Colts and Queensland Country. Father Roy had the reputation of being able to handle the pace of Eddie Gilbert who was the fastest bowler in Queensland at that time. Ralph Raymond played for Queensland Colts, for Queensland in 1930 and for Queensland versus England in 1933. Digger Bourne played in a Queensland schoolboys' team in 1929, in Country Week and in an AIF team while on active service in the Middle East. Gordon Bourne played for Queensland Colts, Queensland Southern Tour in 1930 and Queensland Country versus England in 1933.

In the immediate post-war period there were more great achievers such as Rennie Sippel, Alec and Don McIntosh and Trevor Breikreutz. Rennie and Alec were also State Country Selectors.

## 6. TENNIS

It seems likely that tennis courts were among the earliest sporting amenities to be built. Every small locality in the shire had its tennis courts and very active tennis clubs played on them.

The Kilkivan Shire Council minutes of May 1917 record the application of the Woolooga Endeavour Tennis Club for permission to build courts in that town. They were in use by 1922. In 1924 it was decided to erect two on the water reserve at Rossmore School. In 1926 there is mention of the Manumbar 'Cheerio' Tennis Club. In 1935 courts were erected at Goomeribong. Tennis was played all over the shire and the number of clubs before the Second World War was numerous. Today there are courts at Goomeri, Tansey, Kilkivan, Woolooga and Widgee. These have lights for playing at night-time. Social and fixture matches (A and B Grade), are played between clubs.



*Tennis Club - Rossmore*

*(Kilkivan Historical Society)*

## 7. FOOTBALL

Kilkivan-Goomeri football team really put the shire on the map for team sports, from 1952 to 1972. This team produced players who played for Australia, Queensland, Queensland Country, Wide Bay and South Burnett, and had many victories, due to great team efforts and the will to win.

Other players of note were Bill McKenzie, brothers Col and Reg Smith, and Jimmy Sutton who also played for Norths Brisbane, and Denny Harwood and George Hellen, district and Wide Bay sides.

The team originally played in the Gympie competition and contested the final three years in a row, winning in 1958. In 1960, the side joined the South Burnett League and played in the final in 1963. In 1966, they won the premiership, coached by Errol Leiss and repeated the win in 1967, coached by Dean Purdy. Col Weier was captain-coach of the 1969 team which went through the season undefeated winning the final 16 to 4. Points for Kilkivan-Goomeri that season were 601 for and 77 against.

This team must have been the top side ever in the Wide Bay. With retirements and transfers this team was disbanded in 1972. People like Ken Farrow, Evan Keating, Bill von Blankensee, Keith Barkle, Ernie Smith and Bill Cronin must take a lot of credit for the success of the combined team. One notable performance in the history of the club was Reg Smith's six tries and nineteen goals in the one game.

No doubt one of the most exciting footballers playing for the combined team was flying winger Cyril Peters. He combined professional running with football. Playing for Queensland Country against Great Britain at Wondai, he scored the only try against the international side. He was given the ball by his Kilkivan-Goomeri team mate Len Weier and scored in the corner after a great run.

It was at professional running that Cyril was best remembered. He won many Gifts such as the Gold Coast Gift from 130 yards to 440 yards. A great athlete at Murgon High, he won the open 220, 440, 880 yards and the mile events, and was second in the hundred yard event. Cyril represented Queensland Schoolboys at Perth in the 440 yard race. At one stage of his career as a professional runner, he was hailed *'as one of the best in Australia and it was a pity he had not found more time to compete in the south'*. This statement was made after his win in the sprint double in the Gympie Gold Rush Gift.

The Weier family from Tansey contributed much to sport in the area. Lloyd played football for Kilkivan-Goomeri Club for three years and represented Wide Bay in 1957 - 1958, and also Combined Country Side. Norths, Brisbane, was his first club. He played there for five years during which time they won all premierships. He made the state side in 1962. He played for North Sydney for six years during which time he made the Sydney Firsts in 1965 - 1966. He toured New Zealand with the Australian side in 1965 and played two tests. In 1966 he played in the test against England. He finished his career playing for Norths, Brisbane.

Col Weier played for Murgon-Goomeri and Kilkivan-Goomeri football clubs. He went on to Redcliffe and played a big part in their premiership win in 1965. He played many years for this club and on his return to Kilkivan, he captain-coached Kilkivan-Goomeri. He also represented Brisbane and Wide Bay. Doug Weier was also a fine footballer.



*Woolooga Football Team - 1920's (J Knipe)*



*Kilkivan Football Team - 1927 (Kilkivan Historical Society)*



*Early Manumbar Football Team (P O'Neil)*



*Kilkivan-Goomeri Football Team - 1967 (Kilkivan Historical Society)*



He contributed much to the success of the Kilkivan-Goomeri Football Club. Len Weier played for Wide Bay against England, and contributed greatly to Wide Bay's performance. Vince, also a centre, played for the local club. All the Weiers were fine cricketers, Cec being the highest scorer on Goomeri turf wicket.

Bob Hagan received his early schooling at Woolooga and was helped in his future career by Mr Jack Pettit. He represented Queensland at Colt's Cricket against New South Wales. In Rugby League he represented Queensland seventeen times and played in two tests for Australia. Bob also played for New South Wales. He went to England where he captained Huddersfield for three seasons and also played for Other Nationalities in 1966.

On returning to Sydney, he coached Canterbury-Bankstown for two seasons, reaching the grand final in 1967. On returning to Queensland he played with Toowoomba who won the Bulimba Cup in 1970. He coached Norths, Brisbane, in 1973 - 1974. Bob is now part of a consortium of international footballers who are launching the Gold Coast Giants in the Sydney competition in 1988.

## 8. INDOOR BOWLS

Indoor Bowls Clubs are active at Kilkivan, Goomeri and Woolooga. The Goomeri Club was originally started by the Oddfellows and was continued later by the Anglican Guild. It now has its own independent club. This sport has a large following and inter-club visits are made. Competitions are played at night.

## 9. LAWN BOWLS

The Goomeri Lawn Bowls Association was started in 1948. The first President was Mr V Hellen. The green was built on the former site of Mr Fischer's farm where cotton used to grow. The well, sunk at that time, is still used at times for watering the green. The ground had to be drained before the green could be laid down.

The club house, built by Klumpp and Stanton, was completed the following year, with additions being made later. It was financed by the contribution of debentures by members. This is a very active club and has a large membership, taking part in competition with neighbouring clubs.

The Tansey Lawn Bowl Association was opened in 1955. This club started when most people in the district still ran dairies and the hours of playing were adjusted to suit the lifestyle of the majority of members.

The club now has a good green and a well-appointed club house. It is set in the Tansey Sports Reserve close to other amenities that the community centre provides and the rooms are often hired for other functions. Although the rural population of the area has decreased, the membership is still large and enthusiastic. Members visit other centres to play in inter-association carnivals.



*Goomeri Bowls Club House - about 1950*

*(J Davis)*

The Kilkivan Lawn Bowls Association was formed in 1977. Work commenced on the green which was opened in 1980. For the first year a tarpaulin was used as a club house until the present one was built. Mr B Baxter was first President. He was followed by Mr Len Barsby. The club has a membership of eighty men and fifty-two women and has an average attendance of forty players.

#### **10. RIFLE CLUBS**

The Kilkivan Rifle Club was formed in 1912. Some of the early members were: S Baxter, P J Colch, A W Davies, W F Dempster, G A Garden and P J Jones.

In later years a seventeen-year-old girl, Dawn McCarroll, shot seventeen consecutive bulls at 500 yards, a record for the club. The range is near the site of the old Rise and Shine Gold Reef. The club has operated continuously since its inception and is still active.

The Goomeri Rifle Club was formed in 1913. The range was erected on a reserve two kilometres from Goomeri near the Goomeri West turn-off.

It operated until about 1915 and lapsed until the early 1920's. It had its highest membership in the 1930's, with fifteen to twenty regular members. Shoots were held regularly and inter-club matches were arranged with clubs from Cordalba

to Wondai. Several members took part in the King's Shoot at Enoggera. It again closed down in 1940 and after the Second World War it had an unsuccessful revival. At that time Tansey formed a club and invited Goomeri to join them. This club has membership of male and female shooters.



*Kilkivan Rifle Club - 1927*

*(M Batts)*

Goomeri Gun Club was formed in 1955 at a meeting called by Messrs Hall, Pratt, Argerly, Launder and Ogg. The first shoot was at Mr B Ogg's property. The club had financial difficulties at first but soon overcame them. It ceased to function for lack of members.

## 11. THE GOOMERI SPORTS ASSOCIATION

The Goomeri Sports Association was formed in 1975 with the view of establishing a sports field in Goomeri, away from the Show Grounds which had previously been the venue for all sports held in the town.

An area on the western side of the swimming pool was selected. The site chosen belonged to several owners - the Goomeri Bowls Club, Mr and Mrs Shaw and the Kilkivan Shire Council. This ground was acquired, thanks to the co-operation of the previous owners. In 1977 the ground was levelled and graded, a cricket pitch and an underground watering system laid down.

The Football, Cricket and Basketball Clubs were represented in the association and good community co-operation was obtained. Support was given by the Lions Club, RSL, the Chamber of Commerce, the Show Society, and almost every

family in the town and surrounding rural areas including teachers and students at the school. The State Government subsidised the money raised. The facilities were opened by the Premier, Hon J Bjelke-Peterson MLA.

Councillor D McIntosh acts as secretary to the club which now works with the government officers in the area to provide funds when needed for recreational facilities.

A similar club operates in Kilkivan which is in the Gympie Division of the Recreational Council. Councillor Fabian Webb is the President.

## 12. SWIMMING CLUBS

On 3 December 1968 a public meeting of the Goomeri Pool Appeal Committee was held at which the Goomeri Amateur Swimming Club Incorporated was formed. Office bearers elected at the meeting were: W Elliot (Patron), R Scannell (President), I Williamson, T Cichero and S Bostock (Vice-presidents), D Morris (Secretary), and R Grensill (Treasurer). The Swimming Pool Committee donated \$400 to the club.

The club chose black and white as its colours. Membership is open to children, adolescents and adults. Members train three times a week and have a club meeting every Thursday night. The club competes against other clubs in the South Burnett for the Mobil Goodchild Shield, which it has held for several years. At the moment the club membership stands at seventeen families and ten single members.

In the past membership has reached greater numbers, but the future of the club seems secure. Mr and Mrs Morsch and Mrs H Duffey have worked hard for the club. Mrs V Hanwright manages the pool and the present secretary of the club is Mrs J Ryan.

Brett Hanwright has won medals at the Qld Secondary Schools' Boys' Titles.

A Swimming Committee was established at a meeting on 12 May 1981. The pool was financed largely by public fund-raising. The Education Department subsidised the pool for the use of school children but it is open to the general public.

The Kilkivan Swimming has no official caretaker although local community members take turns opening it to the public every day. A Swimming Committee was formed in 1981 to raise funds to establish a pool. The Education Department provided financial as well as moral support with the Regional Director of Education attending the first fund-raising function.

A Swimming Club was formed in 1986 and club members train three mornings and one night a week.

The President of the club is Kilkivan School Principal, Mr Peter Craig, Secretary is Councillor Norm Hanson and Treasurer, Councillor Keith Batts. Local policeman Sergeant Craig Robertson, is coach.

### 13. CAMPDRAFTS, RACES AND HORSE EVENTS

The history of racing in the shire is sketchy. There is mention of races before 1900 about which little firm evidence can be found. The remains of a race course exist at Fat Hen Creek spanning the properties that belonged to A L Batts and the Spencer family. It is probable that race meetings were held there in the very early days of Kilkivan town.

There was already a well organized Race Club at Kilkivan when the Show Society was formed in 1913. It was decided to use their grounds, which were situated on the the Kilkivan Racecourse Reserve - an area of sixty-three acres. There were three trustees for this reserve - T H Tennison, A W Davies, D L Jones. Three more trustees were added for the Show Society - A McCarroll, E P Hammet and H R Crowther.

The Kilkivan Race Club was very active at this time and was a registered race club. In recent years it has ceased to function.

An early race track existed about three kilometres from Goomeri, on the site of the present golf course. There was also another straight track closer to the town. It is possible that race meetings were held there, but little evidence exists of regular events taking place. Soon after the Tansey Reserve was gazetted, a Tansey Race Club was formed and races were held every Boxing Day until the early 1950's.

Mr E Wason and Mr J Mackaway were among the organisers. The races finally lapsed for lack of support. Since the early 1970's picnic races have been held in aid of the Tansey and Goomeri Schools and Goomeri Kindergarten. In recent times Tansey is the only centre where races have been held regularly.

There are early records of competent riders who performed at shows outside the shire and at the Brisbane Exhibition. One of the most interesting accounts is a letter written to Sarah Gallagher, later married to Arthur Lovell Batts. Andrew Fisher (who was later Prime Minister of Australia) lived and worked at Howard from 1885 to 1893. During that time he made arrangements for Sarah to travel to Brisbane by coach and ride one of his horses in the Brisbane Exhibition. The letter, written for him by 'Mr Lear' expresses the hope that Sarah will return with a 'blue ribbon'. Sarah's descendants, the Batts family, have been continuously connected with equine activities until the present day.

In later years (before 1920) Margaret Downing rode horses in local events from the time she was a young girl. She married Mr Joe Mackaway who was also a good rider and the family was connected with Tansey campdrafts and races for many years.



*Tansey Races - 1946*      *(J Haas)*



*Sarah Gallagher*      *(K Batts)*

The first Kilkivan Shows which began in 1914 had ring events. Shows did not begin in Goomeri until 1926 but previous to this sports days had been held to raise funds for various organizations.

In the early 1920's sports days were held from the time the Tansey Sports Reserve was gazetted. A Tansey Sports Club was formed and an annual sports day and campdraft has been held there since the mid-1920's. This function is popular and well patronized. The only times the yearly event has not been held have been during droughts.

In 1962 the Kilkivan Show became a one-day event with a campdraft and ring events held on that day. In recent years the campdraft has been extended to a two-day affair. Goomeri Show also has placed more emphasis in recent years on such events.

In the Manumbar area early campdrafts were held before the grounds were enclosed. Manumbar has traditionally been known for its competent riders, among them the Smith family, the Perretts, Elgin Hunt, Mike Lawler and Peter Maher. Campdrafts have been held at the Manumbar Sports Ground for twenty-five years. They are now held twice-yearly.

In recent years there has been an upsurge in popularity of campdrafts and other competitions associated with riding. The future of these sports seems well assured.

The Atthow family has had a long association with campdrafts and riding in the district. Mr Reg Atthow who, though not a resident of the shire, took part in early campdrafts and sports days at Tansey and Goomeri in the 1920's and won the open campdraft at Kilkivan in 1931; his son, Ralph, who now owns Karanoah, a grazing property in the Kilkivan area, won this event in 1957; Ralph's son, Michael, won the same event in 1971 and 1987. Mary-Ann, wife of Michael, is also a well-known rider. Ralph's grandchildren are already competing successfully in campdrafts and ring events.

Mr Reg Nissen of Goomeri attended the Melbourne Centenary Campdraft in 1934. Other well-known riders were the Stockden brothers, Roy and George. George competed successfully in horse events for forty-five years.

For many years polo crosse was played at the Tansey Sports Grounds and the club travelled extensively around southern Queensland. Members included Mike Lawless, Earl Rogash, Tony and Barton Lindley and Col Tierney. A club is presently active at Kilkivan. Active Riders are also at present operative in Kilkivan.

The Graham brothers, Liney and Frank, took part in trotting events, winning races as far afield as Brisbane Exhibition and competitions in Northern New South Wales. Liney's two sons, Lennie and Neville, won riding championships at the Exhibition. Goomeri resident Des Smith also competed successfully on the show circuit in jumping events, including the Brisbane Exhibition.



*Owen and Penny Perrett  
(P McAulay)*



*Tansey Sports - 1954  
(J Haas)*



*Margaret Downing (L Yesberg)*



Jack Perrett and John Smith of Elgin Vale were selected to ride before Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip at the Exhibition Grounds on 6 March 1963. They finished their performance by riding to the Royal Box, stopping their horses suddenly, doffing their hats and bowing to the Queen, to the delight of the royal couple and the audience.

Owen and Penny Perrett, brother and sister from Kabunga Station, had an illustrious career in horse riding. Owen Perrett started competing in local buckjumping competitions in 1927, at the age of twenty-one. In 1930 he won the Australian Championship Bullock Throwing and Tying, and in 1931 the Buckjumping Championship of Queensland, both at the Warwick Rodeo.

In 1932 Rev Father Costello presented Owen with a silver cup from the Goomeri Catholic Workers in recognition of the work he had done in giving exhibitions and competing in their sports days.

In 1932 he gave his first exhibition ride on horses that had not been ridden before. In 1934 he competed in a number of rodeos, known as the Chain Rodeos, the winners of which competed in the Centenary Rodeo at Maryborough. It was from this competition that winners were chosen to represent Australia at the Victorian Melbourne Stampede, a world championship event. Owen went to Melbourne to represent Australia. Unfortunately wet weather caused the cancellation of the carnival. However, he went to the Royal Easter Show where he competed against international visitors and gave exhibitions.

When he retired he retained an interest in campdrafts and rodeos and bred stock horses. He also judged events in shows.

Penny Perrett started competition riding at Goomeri Show in 1932. In 1934 she won the ladies' campdraft in Maryborough and was invited to Melbourne with her brother to the Centenary Stampede.

She became interested in bulldogging, introduced from USA, when she attended the rodeo events at the Centenary Celebrations in Melbourne. She and her brother were the first to practise bulldogging. They toured the country giving exhibitions until it became a recognised part of rodeo programs.

Penny also competed in The Royal Easter Show and did exhibition riding in conjunction with riders from USA and Canada. She was judged Best Lady Rider at the Brisbane Exhibition in 1940. She was still winning competitions up to 1958.

#### **14. NETBALL**

At a meeting held in 1985 it was decided to form a Netball Club for the girls of the Goomeri district. Councillor D McIntosh, Recreational Council Co-ordinator, offered assistance to the club. A subsidy was obtained for movable posts so that four courts would be available for competition on the Goomeri State School oval. A committee was formed with Mrs K Hood as President and

Mrs M Hall as Secretary. Goomeri teachers, Mrs Y Euler and Mrs R Thomas, play a large part in the organization of the club.

There are four grades of teams according to ages - (a) seven to nine years, (b) ten to twelve years, (c) thirteen to fifteen years, (d) open. In some grades there are two teams playing. The club has a membership of approximately fifty players and is part of the South Burnett Netball Association. Teams have been successful in competition with other South Burnett clubs and have also attended carnivals at Blackbutt and Yarraman.



*Goomeri Netball - 1987*

*(H Duffey)*

## 15. BASKETBALL

Basketball reached the height of its popularity in 1969 when there were a number of teams of school children and young adults playing from both towns. At that time the courts were in Kilkivan and teams from other places in the shire went there to play. Goomeri courts were built shortly after in the early 1970's. This sport is still played extensively. People connected with the early organization of this sport were John Cotter, Danny Harwood, Mrs B Morsch, Mrs Janelle Smith and Mrs Bev Turner.

## 16. GOOMERI AND DISTRICT PONY CLUB

At a meeting called by the Goomeri Lions Club in September 1972, a group of people interested in promoting the skill of horsemanship in young people decided to form a pony club, to be affiliated with the Pony Club Association of Queensland. The first office bearers were: A Calvert (President); Mrs J Bandidt (Secretary); W Bandidt (Treasurer).

It was decided to hold parades every second Sunday. The first parade took place on Sunday, 1 October 1972. Club records show that the Chief Instructors for the years 1972 - 1988 were R Hartwig, G Petfield, L Elliott, J Nethercote, J Bandidt, G Bell, J Plazina, S Hullock.

Membership over the years has fluctuated. Initially, the main support came from the grazing community, but this largely disappeared as many of these families left the district in the late 1970's - early 1980's. For a time attendance at rallies was meagre. However, in recent years the children of town residents and farmers have raised the membership to its current figure of twenty-five, and adult members now take part in club events.

An annual gymkhana is held at the Goomeri Showgrounds, and members travel to other centres to compete. Trail rides, jumping, dressage and campdrafting schools are also part of club activities.

Several members have competed at state level, including Tamzin and Ralph Hullock, Daryl Pearce, Garry Irwin, Huon Smith and Grant Bell. Robyn Walthall represented Queensland in campdrafting.

## 17. SPORTS ACHIEVERS

Barry Wright, in 1955 at the age of nineteen, was one of three Queenslanders in the Australian Rugby Union team that toured New Zealand. After he left school (Ipswich Grammar School) he was chosen to captain the unofficial Rugby Union team that toured Tonga. He was vice-captain in the Under-nineteen Queensland team in 1954 and played for Queensland against New South Wales and Fiji. In 1961 Barry eventually turned professional when he played for Norths in Brisbane.

In 1974, at the age of eight, Mark Kratzmann won the Under-10 Tennis Tournament at Milton. From then on he was to win every tournament he entered in for his age group. From age ten he was winning doubles and mixed events.

While at Toowoomba Grammar School, he was chosen by Tony Roche and John Newcombe to join their inaugural Elite Squad, sponsored by Custom Credit, at Barkers College, Sydney.

In 1980 and 1981 Mark won all but two of the Australian Singles and Doubles Titles. He also won nine American titles. In 1982, at the age of sixteen, he won the Australian Open Junior Championships. In his first season abroad, he won the Japanese Junior Singles and Doubles, and the French, British (Wimbledon), Canadian, and United States Open Junior Doubles. As a result he was named 'World Number One Junior Doubles Player' for 1983.

Playing in the four Grand Slam events, he won Wimbledon (defeating Boris Becker), US Open, and the Australian titles. He was named 'World Number One Junior Singles Player' for 1984.

Gai Kapernick, a high jumper, competed successfully in the Queensland Primary School Championships for four consecutive years ( 1979 - 1982). From 1983 to 1985 she obtained first place in the Queensland Secondary Schools Championships and in 1986 -1987, the Australian Age Championships. She is currently Australian under-19 years Champion woman highjumper. She represented Australia in the World Junior Championships at Athens in 1987 and attained sixth place.

David and Ian Moffit had their early schooling at Gallangowan. David, after playing Rugby League for Blackbutt, was selected to play for Queensland against New South Wales in 1977. He was offered a contract with Canterbury-Bankstown in Sydney where he played for four seasons. On his return to Brisbane he played for Western Suburbs. His brother, Ian, played A-grade cricket with Sandgate-Redcliffe and later played in English County Cricket.

Also from Gallangowan, Brett Plowman was selected in 1984 for the Queensland Secondary Schools' Track and Field Team. In 1985 he played in the Queensland Under-16 Rugby Union Team and the following year in the Open team. He toured New Zealand in the following year. He has been signed up by Canberra Raiders to play in the Sydney Rugby League Competition.

In 1987, young runner, Jenny Philp, won the State Cross-country Championship for thirteen-year-old girls at Ipswich and has been chosen to represent Queensland in the Australian Titles at Canberra.

Mr Ernie Smith in his youth was an amateur heavyweight champion boxer for Queensland. He was also a bulldogging and buck-jumping champion, being the first man to ride the notorious horse, Hell's Angel, to a standstill at Emerald, and to get the perfect score for campdrafting a cow and calf at Kilcoy. He scored 100 points.

Dick Marks, a former Goomeri school boy, is the Australian Director of Rugby Union coaching. As a young man he represented Australia in Rugby Union teams and travelled overseas with the team.

Graham Gordon was selected for the state primary school cricket team to visit Adelaide as a fast bowler.

Bob Kellaway began his career with the Kilkivan Junior League. After his family moved to Maryborough, he played for Wide Bay. In Brisbane he played for Souths, Brothers and Ipswich and in the State of Origin Match. He also played in England. Frank Melit, former Watchbox school teacher, played some of his football in the South Burnett. In Brisbane he played for Norths and later for Brothers, where he became president of the club.

Ralph Raymond, after a fine performance for Queensland Country against MCC, was selected for the Queensland team. Because of a transfer in his job to Central Queensland he was unable to continue with his cricketing career.

Michael (Mick) Polzin received his schooling at Goomeri and Murgon where he showed great promise as a sportsman. Michael, a medium pace bowler first attracted attention when he played in the Queensland Colts against New South Wales. Michael has played in Sheffield Shield matches and against the West Indies for Queensland Country. In his Shield debut against South Australia, he took eleven wickets.

In 1986 Michelle Brockhurst won the Queensland Junior Indoor Bowls Championship in Maryborough. In August 1987 she was runner-up in Junior Girls' Singles Australian Indoor Bowls Championship in Launceston, Tasmania.

Greg and David Breikreutz had great sporting potential, Greg in cricket and David in golf. Greg, a slow-medium left-hand bowler, played for Queensland Country against India. He was Country's best bowler. Playing for Wide Bay Zone against South Coast, he took nine for eighty-one. Playing for Queensland Country against New South Wales Country, he was clapped off the field by the opposition for his bowling performance.

David Breikreutz showed great potential in golf. At the age of fifteen he finished third in the Under-16 year championship and second in the Gary Player Junior Golf Classic. For two years he was Goomeri A-grade champion, and played in the State Junior Side. He won the Wide Bay Open Championship at Bargara as a seventeen-year old. He was twice South Burnett A-grade Champion. He was in the State Squad for six years and in the State Junior team for three years.

At the age of eighteen, Margaret McIntosh joined a Brisbane women's cricket club. In 1944 she was selected to play for the Queensland team. In 1946 she was in the Australian team that played against a visiting New Zealand team. The next year she captained Queensland country against England and played for Australia in test matches. In 1947 she won the Telegraph Blue, a women's award for outstanding sporting achievement.

Arch Brown, a good all-round sportsman, began his football career at Goomeri School and later played for Kilkivan-Goomeri. He has represented Queensland in four sports - Rugby League, surf lifesaving, professional running and karate. He represented Queensland Rugby League against New South Wales and France, and Brisbane in the Bulimba Cup competition. He went to Parramatta for five years. Altogether he played 215 first-grade matches. In 1964, at Pattamatta, he scored 39 tries and kicked 115 goals. Arch was winger and goal kicker. For fifteen years, between 1966 and 1981, he competed as a professional runner, picking up 21 Gifts of up to 130 yards. He also has a black belt for karate and has represented Queensland at National Titles. He has now taken up Veterans Athletics and has won eleven out of twelve races. Arch is now teaching karate and coaching a few runners.

Kilkivan Shire has an outstanding list of sports men and women. Some have excelled in local competition. Many have become famous in the wider world of sport.



## *Chapter 20*

---

### THE LATER YEARS

#### 1. MEDICAL FACILITIES WITHIN THE SHIRE

##### Doctors and Ambulance Services

It was not until after the First World War that medical facilities became available in the shire. There were many local midwives whose names have been scattered through the chapters already written. Some women were fortunate enough to travel to Maryborough and later, to Gympie for proper medical treatment.

Kilkivan has had no resident doctor except for Dr Long who was employed by a mining company for a short while, nor has it had a hospital.

Soon after Goomeri was established as a town, medical services were sought. The first doctor was Dr Helen Wood who secured a house and set up a large practice. She sold out to Dr Graham, who did not remain long. His successor was Dr Lash.

When Dr Underwood came in 1926 he had a new house and surgery erected on the present site of the Boonara Motel. He was the town's doctor until 1945.

Other doctors followed him in quick succession - Dr Walter Monz, Dr Grimmer, Dr Schultz, Dr McCabe, Dr Noonan, Dr Hamilton-Barclay, Dr Pike and Dr Wall. When the last doctor left, the town was served by visits from Murgon by Doctors Rowsell and Gangemi.

When Goomeri had resident doctors they visited Kilkivan regularly. Now Kilkivan is visited weekly by a Gympie practitioner, Doctor Harland. For a short time in the 1920's, Goomeri had an ambulance, a sub-branch of Maryborough QATB. The upkeep of a vehicle in the town proved too costly and the centre was shifted to Murgon. Goomeri was then serviced by Murgon QATB.

In February 1982 a public meeting was held to investigate the possibility of obtaining a sub-branch of Murgon QATB in Goomeri and a committee was set up for this purpose. The following were elected: Mr O King (President), Messrs G Dunn and A Lindley (Vice-presidents), Mrs M Lindley (Secretary), Mr R Harch (Treasurer), Messrs R Glasgow, J Reck and A McIntosh.

The car was presented to the Goomeri Ambulance Committee by Superintendent K Smith of Murgon QATB in October 1983. Honorary bearers were Messrs Ray Morsch and David Wyatt. Later they were joined by Mr George Woods. At present there is only one bearer, Mr Morsch, the others having left the district.

The ambulance was initially housed at the residence of Mr John Cotter. The new bi-centennial building, recently erected by Kilkivan Shire Council, houses the car and the meeting room. Mr Ray Morsch, the local Post Master, gives emergency first aid under the direction of the Murgon centre.

Kilkivan is in the Gympie QATB area. For years Mrs Eileen Pearson, a trained nurse, gave first aid in emergencies. The Lions Club has now bought an ambulance kit for use by Mrs Kathryn Fraser.

### Dentists

In the 1920's Mr Wilson, a Wondai dentist, visited the town regularly and gave dental treatment in the hall attached to the Boonara Hotel. His daughter, Mrs Gordon Bourne, is a Goomeri resident.

In the 1930's Mr Cecil Walthall had a resident dental practice. He left during the Second World War.

Goomeri was without a dentist until the 1950's when the Chamber of Commerce obtained the services of Mr Todd. He was followed by Mr Marles who sold out to Murgon dentist, Mr N Perkins, who made weekly visits to the town for several years. Goomeri has since been without a resident dentist.

For a time Kilkivan was served by Mr Stevens, a Maryborough dentist who came weekly. At the time he was owner of Kilkivan Station.

### Hospitals

In 1920 a maternity hospital was started in a dwelling at the northern end of Mactaggart Street.

The second hospital was in a house (burned down in recent years) close to Mr Sealy Perrett's residence at the southern end of Moore Street. It was here that Matron McKay nursed. This remarkable woman, previously an army nurse, had been decorated for her military services. At the close of war she did relief work in USSR and the Balkans. Matron McKay shifted into a house in Hodge Street, now owned by Mr and Mrs Ray Currie. It had previously been the home of Mr and Mrs F Wise. Here she worked closely with Dr Underwood.

Her hospital was for maternity cases but she gave emergency treatment to others. She sold the hospital and retired in 1944. Two other matrons, Sisters Dougall and O'Loughlin followed in quick succession. The hospital was closed in 1946.

In 1947 Matron Madge Henderson opened a private maternity hospital. She ran this successfully until 1949 when she closed it. At the time there was no hospital closer than Wondai.

The RSL led a move to build a community hospital. All organizations and individuals supported the move and in 1951 the Goomeri Memorial Hospital was opened in Dahlke Street. The building had been built from a residence removed from the property, Malvern, at Boonara.

As well as the money collected by fund raising, local residents funded the move with debentures. This was a well-staffed hospital, with maternity ward and operating theatre. The first baby born there, Theresa Barsby, daughter of Mr and Mrs Len Barsby of Cinnabar, was presented with a trophy when the hospital was opened by Sir Raymond Huish, State President of the RSL. The hospital was run by a committee representing the Goomeri and District Friendly Society. The longest serving Matron was Sister Cotter. It was closed in the late sixties because there was no resident doctor in the town. Since then the town has been without a hospital.

### **The Blood Bank**

The Goomeri Blood Bank was established by the Goomeri Junior Chamber of Commerce in 1955 in co-operation with Dr Pike. Mr Bill Silburn and Mr Stan Keune visited Dr Shaw, State Controller, and formulated plans for its operation. At first, arrangements were made to set up the unit at the hospital, but it was found that the smell of antiseptics made donors ill and caused disruption to nursing routine. In Dr Wall's sojourn, other locations were used, including his surgery and the RSL Club Rooms. The scheme was well supported and people came regularly from all parts of the shire to give blood.

When the Jaycees ceased to operate, the Red Cross took over the organization of the blood bank. Later it became a Lions' Club project. The scheme is still operating under Lions' Club sponsorship. The unit now operates in the ambulance rooms of the new Bi-centennial Building.

### **The State Emergency Service (SES)**

At a public meeting in Kilkivan in August 1975 it was decided to form a branch of the SES to cover Kilkivan Shire. Councillor E A Williamson was appointed local controller. When he left the district in 1976, his place was taken by Mr Ross Chapman, Shire Engineer, who served in that capacity until he also left the district in November 1984. Since then local grazier, Mr John Cotter has filled the position.





*Opening of SES Headquarters - Bi-centennial Building, Goomeri - 1987  
(J Cotter)*



*SES Rescue Training (J Cotter)*

The organization formed into two major groups. In June 1980, at a public meeting, Goomeri was formed into a sub-group of the main organization with Mr Reg Smith in control.

It now has fifty-four members who can be called on in local emergencies or disasters. These members, who come from all parts of the shire, give their time on a voluntary basis to train for action in any type of local emergency.

When the Bi-centennial Building was opened in Moore Street on 12 June 1987, this became the Shire headquarters of the SES. This building contains rooms for meetings and storage of gear. The Kilkivan SES has its base at the Shire Council storage depot.

### **The Blue Nurses**

The Blue Nurses started a centre at Murgon in 1974, covering the areas of Murgon, Wondai and Goomeri. In recent years the service has been extended to include Kilkivan. These nurses travel to the elderly and the sick, giving them the required care to enable them to remain in their own homes.

The present Nursing Supervisor is Sister P McGrath, former Goomeri resident. Other nurses who have worked in the area are Sisters J Sparkes, M Lindley and A Levic. The nurse at present working in the Goomeri-Kilkivan area is Sister Cathie Harding.

Local people who have served on the committee in recent years are Messrs P Stumm, W Silburn, P Quigley and Mrs P Shaw. Four years ago the Goomeri Lions Club donated a car for the use of Blue Nurses.

## **2. WAR MEMORIALS**

At Kilkivan, after the First World War, the area close to the railway on the western end of Bligh Street was designated a War Memorial Reserve. The RSL built their own club rooms on this land. The Kilkivan Shire Council has trusteeship of the park which it took over in 1931.

The Roll of Honour of servicemen who were killed in both wars hangs in the Kilkivan Shire Hall. Every Anzac Day, returned soldiers march from the the Memorial Park to the Shire Hall, where a service is held. Afterwards the CWA entertain returned servicemen and their families at a luncheon.

The first war memorial in Goomeri was erected on the triangle of land situated in Moore Street and was much smaller than the present one. In March 1924 it was proposed that the council take control of the 'Soldiers' Memorial Reserve', as it was then known, and enclose it with a fence. There was also a move to erect the figure of a soldier on top of the memorial and to place the structure on a solid base. A committee was appointed to check and update the names on the plaque. The Council, in 1928, proposed moving the Goomeri War Memorial to a site fronting the Hall of Memory, but the trustees of the hall objected.



*Peace celebrations, First World War - Goomeri*

*(D B Euler)*



*Soldier's Memorial Reserve, Goomeri - about 1920*

*(D B Euler)*

By June 1931, the council had decided to move the Memorial but eight years passed before this was actually completed. A Goomeri and District War Memorial Committee was formed to work in conjunction with the Council. A plan was drawn up by architect, Mr C Plant.

The new memorial - the present one - was built in a central position at the junction of Moore and Boonara Streets. It has given Goomeri the name of 'Clocktown' because of the clock faces which grace the top of the monument. Instead of the numerals, one to twelve, the words 'Lest We Forget' adorn the faces of the clocks. This was at the suggestion of local returned soldier, Mr Frank Everett.

The cost of the monument was £210, which was raised by public subscriptions, Anzac Day collections and the running of sports days. The Goomeri Light Horse played a leading part in these sports days.

Builders were Klumpp and Sons. The monument also has a plaque, taken from the original monument, containing the names of soldiers of the district killed in the First World War. The unveiling by Sir Raymond Huish, State President of the RSL, took place in November, 1940.

Opposite, in the triangular park, the old monument has been left as a cairn in honour of the district's pioneers.



*Memorial Clock - Goomeri*

### 3. KILKIVAN SHIRE COUNCIL 1922 - 1940

The Kilkivan Shire was subject to further changes in the 1920's. In 1923 a sub-committee was appointed to investigate the possibility of forming a fourth division to be excised from Division 1. By October 1923 this was officially gazetted.

In the election of 1927 the number of councillors was increased from two to three per division, making a total of twelve, with a chairman elected separately by the vote of the whole shire. This remained the rule until October 1933, when the number of councillors reverted to two per division. In that same year additions were made to the shire office.

The Council had also by this time purchased a motor vehicle for the overseer, had started to mechanise its working machinery, and by 1927 had a caterpillar tractor.

In 1933 there was again a move from the Goomeri Chamber of Commerce to form a separate Goomeri Shire, but this received no support from the Shire Council and lapsed.

### 4. THE SHIRE AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR

A number of men and women from the shire enlisted in the armed forces. Each enlisting man or woman was presented with a watch by the local community. Many others were directed into essential services for the war effort. In some cases men had their vehicles directed to such work and they themselves were enlisted by Manpower for road construction or other necessary work. The Moreland family had their timber trucks conscripted by the Allied Works Commission. Mr Jim Moreland took one to Blackall where he worked in this capacity. Mr Ernie Hoad, Tansey farmer, had his new Chevrolet utility truck commandeered.

The Kilkivan Shire Council had, in the years before the war, modernised its plant and equipment far in advance of most shires at the time. These were taken for the war effort.

The Red Cross and Comforts' Fund were very active in both towns. A special commendation was given to Mrs J G Bourne by the Kilkivan Shire Council for her tireless efforts for these organizations.

The entry of Japan into the war in December 1941 was keenly felt by the civilian population. In early 1942, when an invasion seemed imminent, women and children from coastal and northern areas were evacuated to inland towns. This caused an influx of people to localities where they felt more secure. Every available house was occupied.

Small schools were taxed to their limits with their attendances suddenly doubled. As the year wore on many people returned home.



*Kilkivan Shire Council - 1927*

*(W Bandidt)*



*Council Road Gang - 1929*

*(J Knipe)*

Evacuation committees were set up to survey what accommodation could be commandeered if withdrawal from other areas should become necessary. Each house was visited, its size and capacity to house extra people being recorded for possible future use. Fortunately there was never cause to make use of this information.

Troops were stationed in the area between Tansey and Goomeri and in the Manumbar - Barambah area for about eighteen months. After the war it was known that there had been a plan, in the case of invasion, to retreat to a position known as 'The Brisbane Line'. Whether the men stationed in this area were placed here for such an eventuality or merely resting between campaigns can only be surmised. Their arrival brought a further influx of wives and children.

The Goomeri State School was used by high-ranking army officers for meetings. While these were in progress, no civilians were allowed near the school, which was heavily guarded. It is thought that a number of the major Pacific campaigns were planned in the school office.

Teachers were also commandeered to spend their nights and weekends giving lessons in Maths and Science to Air Force reservists waiting for call-up. Air raid trenches were dug but they were, thankfully, never used.

All people, especially those living in the country, felt the effects of petrol rationing and often turned to bicycles or horse drawn vehicles for transport. Train services were frequently disrupted by troop movements. Local organizations volunteered to help with plane spotting; married women were expected to work so as to free men for the services or essential war work; it was everyone's duty to save and to buy war bonds or saving's certificates, to use resources sparingly and to refrain from talking of troop movements that might help the enemy.

Tea, butter, sugar, meat and clothing were rationed; many normal household commodities were impossible to obtain. An official permit was needed for interstate rail travel. A generation of small children grew up without dolls and teddy bears. For the first time it was socially acceptable for women to go without stockings which were kept for very special occasions. Formal evening wear was no longer required; war brides borrowed wedding dresses or were married in street clothes, and their wedding receptions (if any) were simple because of rationing.

There were no complaints about these inconveniences. The threat of Japanese invasion was regarded as a real possibility and all sections of the community were prepared to tolerate inconveniences and loss of liberty, knowing that people in other places were facing greater hardships and real dangers.

At the end of the war there was great rejoicing. The council gave an official welcome-home to returning troops. For several years this area like all others, battled with shortages of housing, essential material and replacements for

worn out vehicles for private and commercial use. Permits were needed to buy new tractors and farm material. But gradually the economy of the country and the lives of the people returned to normal.

The Red Cross continued as an organization in Goomeri after the war until the early 1970's. Mrs Hilda Burton was a very active member. When the Junior Chamber of Commerce ceased to operate the Red Cross took over the operation of the Blood Bank.

## 5. KILKIVAN SHIRE COUNCIL - THE POST-WAR YEARS

In September 1943 the tide of war was starting to turn and Kilkivan Shire Council issued aims and objectives for post-war planning. The following were the main objectives put forward for the future:

1. Town water supplies - to Kilkivan from Wide Bay Creek; to Goomeri from Kinbombi or Nangur Creeks.
2. Road works, giving better highways.
3. Closer settlement, involving the throwing open of Crown lands.
4. A re-forestation scheme for the district's timber resources.
5. A new post office in Kilkivan, similar to that in Goomeri.
6. An airfield for Kilkivan.
7. A subsidiary hospital to Gympie for Kilkivan.
8. Water conservation schemes at Woolooga, Wonga and Widgee.
9. Country killing of cattle at Woolooga in conjunction with the canning factory.

Goomeri Chamber of Commerce wrote asking the council to include in its list a public hospital and a voluntary fire brigade for Goomeri.

There was a move to cut up the land in Moore Street opposite McIvors' Store into blocks for sale as commercial sites. The town was divided over the move. The Boonara QDO and fifty-six town residents were against the move, while the Goomeri Chamber of Commerce and the Boonaravale QDO supported it. Evidently nothing came of it. This area is now known as 'Dickinson Park'.

In September 1945, Mr David Lacey Jones, long-serving Shire Clerk, died. He had held the position since 1905.

A new shire clerk, Mr Evan Keating was appointed. He retired in October 1979 after a period of thirty-four years of service during which he and his family became closely involved with the shire. In his term of office, Kilkivan Shire underwent great changes and Mr Keating was heavily involved with these, both in his capacity as Shire Clerk and as a member of the local community.

Two other long-serving employees worked for Kilkivan Shire Council in the post-war period. Mr J McPherson held the position of Assistant Shire Clerk for many years. He married Miss Mollie Stevens, daughter of a Maryborough dentist, who bought Kilkivan Homestead at the early Land Sale. Miss Stevens, herself, was a dentist who visited schools in the area in that capacity.



Mr McPherson was responsible for establishing the Kilkivan Shire Council Libraries.

Mr Jack Neal, son of a Widgee selector, started working for Kilkivan Shire Council in 1914. He rose to the position of ganger and ultimately became overseer. During the Second World War he had to cope with a shortage of manpower and equipment for essential maintenance work.

In the years following the war the Shire has seen some of its post-war objectives achieved.

The towns of Goomeri and Kilkivan had received electricity in 1940. It was not until 1952 that power was extended to rural areas.

The pool of plant and equipment the shire had acquired in the 1930's had been used for the war effort. The council had the task, at a time when machinery and motor vehicles were in short supply, of replacing the lost items. When the council called tenders for new bulldozers they received none, so acute was the shortage of machinery at that time. Experienced labour for council work was also difficult to obtain.

It was not until the mid-1950's that the shire began to bitumenize its roads to any great extent. In 1958 there were only a few small patches of sealed roads. From then on steady progress in both main and secondary roads has resulted in a large section of the shire roads being bitumen-sealed. It is a large shire geographically and the upkeep of its roads has been a massive task. Today our shire's main roads are well made and many of the secondary roads are also bitumen. In recent years new bridges, above normal flood levels, have been built over local waterways, replacing the old structures that had been such a boon to the settlers at the beginning of the century.

One of the first official duties undertaken by Councillor Noel Warburton when he came to office in 1958 was to officiate at the opening of the new Bell's Bridge over the Mary River. The financing of this bridge had been shared by three shires but Kilkivan had contributed the largest amount. It was declared open by Mr J A Heading, MLA.

Councillor Warburton represented the shire on a committee to obtain an aerodrome in the Gympie - Widgee - Kilkivan area. The initial site chosen was actually in the Kilkivan Shire, but the final choice was the present one of Gympie Aerodrome. There are several private airstrips scattered throughout the shire which are used by light aircraft mainly for agricultural purposes.

The new Council Chambers were in use during the term of the previous chairman, Councillor T H Spencer. These were opened officially on 30 May 1959 by Mr J A Heading MLA, in Councillor Warburton's time as chairman.

In November 1955 the Kilkivan Shire Council announced its intention to bring water schemes to the towns of Kilkivan and Goomeri.

It proposed to spend £150 000 on the Goomeri scheme. Because of a petition bearing 265 signatures of ratepayers objecting to the scheme, the council was forced to hold a poll of residents of Divisions 2 and 3, at which the vote was in favour of the scheme.

The Goomeri Water Scheme was officially launched in June 1960 at Kinbombi when Mrs Jim Anderson was given the honour of turning the first sod for one of the two 40 000 000 gallon capacity storage dams. Thirty years previously her husband, the late Councillor Jim Anderson, had expounded the theory that water could be fed by gravity from the Kinbombi area to Goomeri township, thus reducing the cost of maintaining a town water supply. The gathering was attended by the Kilkivan Shire Chairman, Councillor Noel Warburton and Councillors H Bardrick and W McIvor.

The water was officially turned on in Moore Street on 6 June 1961 by the Governor of Queensland, Sir Henry Abel-Smith, who with his wife, Lady May, spent two days touring a large area of the shire. He visited the timber forests and sawmill at Black Snake, the Forestry Reserve at Gallangowan, inspected cattle at Manumbar Station and lunched at Barambah Station. The party also stopped at Woolooga and Tansey to visit the schools in these areas and inspected a piggery run by Stanton Brothers. They attended a formal dinner arranged by the Kilkivan Shire Council, and a civic reception at Goomeri. Lady May also met members of the Kilkivan QCWA. The two-day visit of the popular vice-regal couple was a great success. They showed a keen interest in everything they saw.

Kilkivan Water Supply was officially turned on by the Premier of Queensland, Hon G F R Nicklin, MLA. The water for this supply is pumped from Wide Bay Creek to a dam on the western outskirts of the town. Before this scheme was constructed there had also been some opposition which had necessitated a poll. Some local residents had alternative plans, but the one in use now was accepted by the voters of the shire.

The two towns, Kilkivan and Goomeri, both had sewerage systems connected by the late 1970's in Councillor Alec McIntosh's time as chairman. There was no definite starting time for this. Buildings were connected to the system as pipes were laid. A final inspection was made in April 1972.

On 16 November 1968 the Goomeri Swimming Pool was opened by the Premier, Hon J Bjelke-Petersen, MLA. This pool was used by schools, the Swimming Club and private individuals in the whole area and has proved a great boon to the town.

The Kilkivan Swimming Pool was opened on 25 February 1984 as a combined effort by the local community, who raised \$40 000, the Kilkivan Shire Council, who contributed \$40 000 and the Education Department who gave a subsidy of \$60 000. It was officially opened by the Premier, Sir J Bjelke-Petersen. This pool is not only a well-appreciated amenity but also a credit to the people of Kilkivan who raised such a large amount of money towards its construction.



*Goomeri Swimming Pool*



*Opening the Bi-centennial Building, Goomeri - 1987*

*(J Cotter)*

One of the biggest projects undertaken since the Second World War was the building of the new Shire Hall and Library in Kilkivan, at a cost of \$88 213. The new building was opened by Hon J C A Pizzey MLA, Minister for Education, on Saturday, 9 December 1967. It is an imposing structure in well kept grounds on the southern side of Bligh Street.

It was opened at a night function which had among its guests Mr Gill of the State Library Board. The library service is free to the community and is linked with the State Library Service.

A library was also opened at Goomeri, at first a sub-branch of Kilkivan, but later independent. This was housed in a vacant shop until 1987 when the Shire built a new building in Moore Street as a bi-centennial project. This building was opened in 1987 and houses the library, the ambulance and the SES.

There are a number of Rural Fire Brigades scattered throughout the shire. The Goomeri Fire Brigade was functioning early in the town's history as a bucket brigade. An early building was erected near the railway dam to enable water to be pumped from there in case of fire.

The Fire Board in Goomeri was inaugurated on 26 September 1962. Government nominees were the Chairman of Kilkivan Shire Council, Councillor N Warburton, Councillor A McIntosh, Mr E C Heathwood and Mr P C Lord. Representatives of the contributory insurance companies were Messrs R C Raymond, C W McIvor and D W Trudgian. Shire Clerk, Mr E Keating was appointed returning officer.

The Chief Fire Officer appointed was Mr A Finnemore. Chairman of the Board was Councillor N Warburton, with Councillor A McIntosh as Deputy Chairman, and Mr E Keating as Secretary. The present Chief Fire Officer is Mr Reg Smith.

On 17 December 1974 it was decided to hold a meeting to form a voluntary fire brigade to serve the towns of Kilkivan and Goomeri. The first fire officer was Mr Rex Brown of Kilkivan.

The Goomeri building was opened on 29 October 1966 by Hon J Herbert MLA, Minister in Charge of Fire Services. It is situated in Dickinson Park. The Kilkivan Fire Station is situated on the northern side of Bligh Street close to the Council Chambers.

In the post-war years, the Kilkivan Shire Council can look back on the objectives outlined by them in 1943 with a feeling of achievement. Some of their aims have proved unrealistic in the present day climate of rising costs and centralization. However, the two towns and the districts that surround them have a number of amenities that match those of larger centres - rural electric power, automatic telephone service, bitumen roads, libraries, good recreational amenities, sewerage and water supplies in the towns, well appointed halls, fire services and an active SES for our protection, and well kept streets and parks that entice passing travellers to stop.

Some of these services come from other bodies; others are the result of community effort. However the Kilkivan Shire gives encouragement to local projects and can be justly proud of its own achievements during the past forty years.

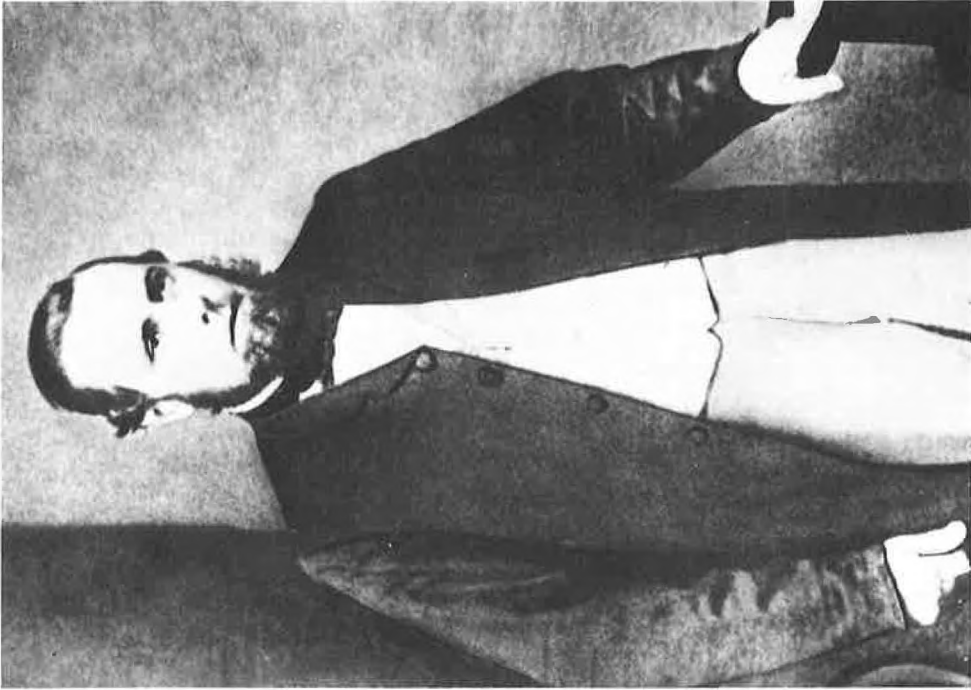


*R Hullock competing at the Qld Pony Club Championships - 1987  
(S Hullock)*

*Part 2**Chapter 1 By J Dale***WIDGEE STATION****1. FIRST LEASES****The Toths**

*William Butler and Atticus Tooth were two of twelve children born to William Headley and Ann Tooth of Barracks Farm near Cranbrook, Kent, England. Mrs Tooth and eight of her children, including William and Atticus, migrated to New South Wales in 1841, in the barque 'Lalla Rookh'. William Headley Tooth had preceded his wife and family abroad, but mysteriously disappeared. Mrs Tooth and her family settled on the Hawkesbury near Camden. It was presumably from there that the Tooth brothers planned their pastoral exploits in Queensland. Members of the Tooth family were most prominent in many aspects of Australian history, especially early pastoral development and other commercial enterprises.*

In 1846, the Widgee district's first settlers, the Tooth brothers, overlanded cattle to Wide Bay from New South Wales. The droving expedition struck disaster when 1 500 head of stock, including 25 horses and a team of bullocks, were lost en route. The Tooth brothers had moved north in the wave of new settlement which followed the depression of 1842 - 1843. This movement had been given further impetus with the more favourable terms of leasehold tenure promulgated by the New South Wales Colonial Office in 1847. Under such terms, Wide Bay was classified as being in the unsettled districts, in which runs could be held by a fourteen year lease. The Tooth brothers, identified as W B Tooth and Company, apparently followed the spread of settlement from the Upper Burnett, where the first runs had been taken up in the early 1840's, to Wide Bay. Eventually, suitable grazing land was found at Widgee Widgee, south-west of the areas which had been held by John Eales in 1842 - 1843, but were forfeited because of serious problems with the aborigines. W B Tooth and Company first tendered for a run in the Widgee Widgee district in February 1849. However, this tender for 46 080 acres was declined.



(A Hunt, Kent Brewery)

William Butler Tooth



(A Hunt, Kent Brewery)

Atticus Tooth

It is evident that W B Tooth or his employees knew the country for which they tendered and may have already had the use of the country. The Toths' Widgee holdings originated as two runs, Basin of Weeje Widjie and Orange Tree, tendered for in October 1849. The runs comprised 16 000 acres and 15 000 acres respectively, with grazing capabilities for 600 cattle each. Tenders for Orange Tree and Basin of Weeje Widjie were accepted in March 1851, for leases of fourteen years. Adjoining runs of Bald Hills, Glastonbury, Brooya and Reserve, all of similar sizes to the original runs, were successfully tendered for in 1853.

Unlike most of the early runs in the Wide Bay - Burnett, which were originally stocked with sheep, the Widgee Runs were stocked with cattle. In 1850, the Wide Bay District was carrying 21 057 sheep and 868 cattle. Tooth and Company's cattle numbers must have been prominent in this figure. By 1852, the Widgee Widgee Runs carried between 4 000 and 5 000 cattle. Tooth and Company also experimented in agriculture, with the result that a successful wheat crop was produced in 1853. Tooth and Company left their Widgee Runs in the hands of an overseer, William Taylor. After his marriage to Lucy Ann Harris in Sydney, in 1850, W B Tooth and his wife made their home at Darling Point, Sydney. This remained their main home for many years. Apparently, W B Tooth's pastoral interests in Wide Bay and his emerging pastoral interests in other districts, such as his later extensive holdings in the Maranoa, Albert, Leichhardt, Lower Darling, Clarence, Wellyla, Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and Darling Downs districts, meant the returns were sufficient for him to act as an absentee landlord.

Tooth and Company's holdings were not the only runs in the district. The near northern runs of Walooga and Wonga had been successfully tendered by others in September 1849. In the south-west, J and A Mortimer later acquired Manumbar which adjoined the runs of Gobongo and Toomcul, two further holdings in the name of W B Tooth. The latter runs were the subject of a boundaries' dispute between the squatters concerned. The problems were eventually settled in Tooth and Company's favour in 1855 by the Wide Bay Commissioner of Crown Lands, Arthur Halloran. There had been considerable further speculation by other squatters in tenders for runs within the district. These, however, were eventually declined as the results of inspections by the Commissioner of Crown Lands.

In 1852, William Butler and Robert Tooth (wealthy cousin of W B Tooth) acquired the Woonga Run from its lessee. In the same year, the other Widgee Runs, Basin of Weeje Widjie, Orange Tree, Bald Hills, Glastonbury and Reserve were transferred to the new partnership. By this time, Atticus Tooth had ventured out to acquire runs in his own name.

With his cousin's financial boost to the Widgee Widgee Runs, W B Tooth's interests there were successfully expanded. This expansion came at a time of prosperity and great demand for cattle in the southern colonies. It had become profitable to drive cattle there, to take advantage of the rapidly increasing southern market prospects, which were resulting from the gold rushes.



What may have become a serious problem in regard to disposal of surplus stock was overcome in this manner.

In 1856, W B Tooth decided to forsake his interests in Widgee Widgee and concentrate on his holdings in other districts, chiefly on the Darling Downs, where he purchased Clifton. As well, he later held extensive lands in the Maranoa district. His interests in the Widgee Widgee Runs were transferred to his cousin Robert. The new owner purchased Walooga in 1857. Robert also appointed a manager on Widgee Widgee and continued to reside in Sydney, where his chief financial involvement was as part-owner of the Kent Brewery. Robert Tooth's father, Robert, first a hop merchant in Cranbrook and later a brewer in London, was a younger brother to William Headley. Another brother of Robert Snr, John, in partnership with his brother-in-law Charles Newham had started the Kent Brewery in Sydney in September 1835. Three sons of Robert Tooth Snr, Robert Jnr, Edwin, and Frederick, ventured to New South Wales in 1843 to assist their uncle in the brewery. After the retirement of the original partners, the brewery traded as R and E Tooth.



*Frederick Tooth*

*(A Hunt, Kent Brewery)*

## 2. THE ABORIGINES

Life at Widgee in its first few decades of white settlement was not without its hazards. There were numerous depredations made by aborigines around Widgee Widgee in the 1850's. Skinner, author of *Police of the Pastoral Frontier*, tells how in October 1850, the overseer at Widgee Widgee, William Taylor and one of his men, Daniel Driscoll, had gone to a nearby creek in response to a false

message given by an aborigine. There they were surrounded by hostile natives. Taylor opened fire, and they escaped to a hut, at which many spears were hurled. Further shots dispersed the mob, who, on this occasion, killed many cattle. Murphy and Easton, in *Wilderness to Wealth*, claim that the long-standing enmity between whites and blacks in the Widgee district seemed to be caused by a motiveless massacre of a Widgee shepherd on the Brooyar part of the run. John Murray, the original occupant of Woolooga, much closer to Brooyar than Widgee, stated on 21 December 1850, that he and his men lived daily in peril of their lives from the aborigines of the Euro Euro, Widgee Widgee, Boppool and Fraser Island tribes. In that year, he had two shepherds killed and 600 sheep driven away, another man speared whose horse was killed under him, while a further 1 000 sheep had been taken off and destroyed. This prompted his forfeiture of the holding.

On 27 April 1852, William Taylor, overseer at Widgee, wrote to Lieutenant Marshall of the Native Mounted Police requesting their assistance, as he was obliged to be absent from the station periodically, for the purpose of taking cattle to Wide Bay. The aborigines took advantage of his absence to attack and scatter the cattle remaining on the station. The following July, W B Tooth wrote that his Widgee Widgee Station was the only cattle holding for miles around, carrying 4 000 to 5 000 head of cattle. He added that the Native Mounted Police patrols were completely ineffective in lessening the incidence of natives spearing his cattle.

On 15 October the same year, William Taylor once again wrote to Lieutenant Marshall. He explained his predicament as follows

*Widgee Widgee Ocktober the 15, 1852.*

*Sir*

*I ham sorry to troble you but the Blacks ar very troblesum and ar Killing the cattle a gain I found a beast with a spear in it and the remains of a nother witch they had kilid. I hope you wil com over as soon as you can make it convenint.*

*Your Obedent sirvent  
William Taylor.*

Trouble was still to be encountered in February 1854, when Commissioner of Crown Lands, Halloran, wrote that in Widgee Widgee district the blacks were committing serious depredations, spearing cattle and stealing sheep. He added, however, that there was a section of the Native Mounted Police at Yabba to keep them in order.

A report, dated February 1856, refers to aborigines frightening off and spearing cattle on the Glastonbury Run, while a month later, William Powell of Walooga Station wrote about threats from aborigines who intended to drive off sheep and murder all the whites on the station.

The Native Mounted Police sought unsuccessfully for these offenders, who Powell noted were frequently on Widgee Station.

W B Tooth once stated that he had never lost a man killed by aborigines but had lost many cattle killed by them. It is evident that squatters such as the Tooths and their employees forced the aborigines from their stations. White vigilante raids on aborigines were not uncommon in the district, especially after aboriginal depredations. The management of Widgee Widgee was even responsible for keeping an enforced black labour camp which comprised a number of inoffensive Manumbar natives. The scandal of this system was exposed in 1861. It is interesting to note the different philosophies of squatters with respect to aborigines. Two extremes were evidenced by the neighbouring holdings of Manumbar and Widgee Widgee. Whereas the natives were usually discouraged or hunted away from Widgee Widgee in the 1850's and 1860's, at Manumbar, the Mortimers encouraged their presence and cared for them. Significantly, there are no recorded aboriginal depredations against the Manumbar management. Many squatters, such as the Tooths, would only agree to let the aborigines on their Stations when the Native Mounted Police were in the area. Unable to keep the peace between the warring parties, the Native Mounted Police became pledged to protect the squatters' interests, as was the case in the Manumbar Massacre of 1861. By the 1860's, European influence was such that some aborigines were employed successfully as stockmen on Widgee Widgee.



*Widgee Widgee Station*

*(Queensland Museum)*

Such were some of the most unfortunate and tragic occurrences in the early days of Widgee. The tragedy, as it was in too many other areas of Australia, was in the misunderstanding between white settlers and the lords of the old land, the aborigines. In general, neither side was prepared to understand the other; to the white settlers, the aborigines who perpetuated depredations had to be punished. This retaliation was achieved through the efforts of the Native Mounted Police which, forsaking its original aim to keep the peace, became pledged to protect the squatters' interests. Regular patrols of the Native Mounted police were not possible, and once a patrol passed through a district it took but a short time for hostilities to recommence. When the Native Mounted Police proved ineffective, acts of retribution by the squatters seemed to be the only course of action. Understandably, very little was recorded about the squatters' acts of punishment, but the indication from the evidence presented here is that such murderous reprisals were not simply infrequent, isolated cases.

Robert Tooth also acquired two Darling Downs stations, Goomburra and Jondaryan, from Patrick Leslie. These were later sold to Kent and Wienholt. Other pastoral holdings in Queensland included many runs in the Maranoa and Warrego districts. Robert Tooth was also, for several years, a member of the Board of Directors of the Bank of New South Wales and President of the Bank in 1862. Both Robert and William Butler Tooth were members of the Legislative Council of NSW in the 1850s. Robert was a representative for Sydney, while his cousin represented the United Pastoral Districts of Wide Bay, Burnett, Maranoa, Leichhardt and Port Curtis. Three other members of the family served in the legislatures of New South Wales and Queensland.

### 3. END OF FIRST LEASES

#### J C White

Early in the period of tenure of Robert Tooth at Widgee Widgee, a change-over from cattle, to what may have appeared to be more profitable - sheep rearing - was effected. The rapid development of the wool exporting port of Maryborough made it easier to transport wool to markets, and was certainly a key factor in this change. By 1863, however, it was realized that climatically, cattle were much better suited to the area. The value and demand for cattle had also increased dramatically, making them a much better economic proposition. The change-back to cattle was not achieved without problems. In 1863, J C White, formerly manager of R Tooth's Darling Downs and Widgee Widgee holdings, secured a licence to occupy the Carrington Run, which adjoined Widgee Widgee. White mortgaged his run to Robert Tooth for £30 000 and purchased 10 000 head of cattle and 4 000 head of horses. However, White's cattle developed the dreaded pleuro-pneumonia and were wiped out. Carrington was subsequently taken over by Robert Tooth in 1864. White had been born in Ceylon in 1809, where his parents held property. As manager of Jondaryan, White was responsible for the construction of the Jondaryan Woolshed, now a popular tourist attraction. Also in 1863, Robert Tooth was forced to mortgage the Widgee Widgee holdings to Robert Cran of Ipswich, for

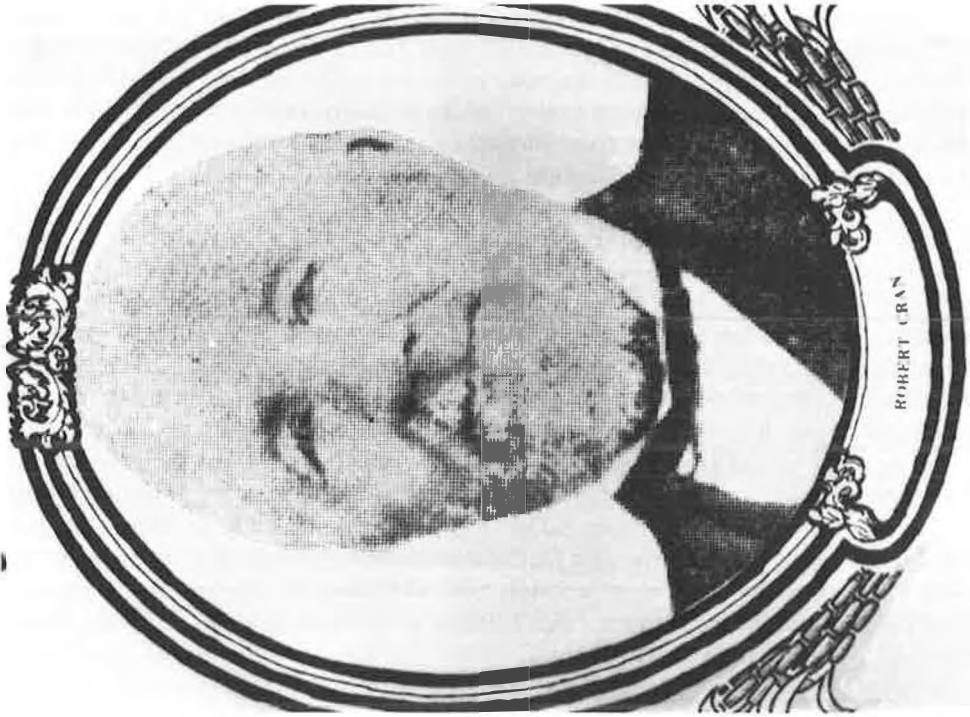
£12 500. At this time, their stock included 10 000 head of cattle and 400 horses. During the 1860s, Nicholas Edward Nelson Tooth, another cousin of Robert Tooth, and son of John Tooth, founder of the brewery, worked on Widgee. He later became the senior partner in the Vulcan Foundry in Maryborough. He was mayor of Maryborough on three occasions as well as being Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Burrum division from 1893 - 1902.

#### **Horse Trainer - Thomas Mullaly**

Also in 1863 - 1864, J C White supervised the construction of the Yengarie boiling-down works, near Maryborough. This was to prove a valuable point of disposal for surplus stock. Yengarie later came under the control of Tooth and Cran, who enlarged the works to produce meat extract for export. Robert Cran's financial input into the company was evidently necessary to assist with the change-over to cattle at Widgee Widgee, and to effect the alterations at Yengarie. It also provided a stimulus for the introduction of new, imported horse stock to Widgee Widgee, so as to improve the quality of horses on the station. A horse trainer, Thomas Mullaly, whom White had known in Sydney, was also appointed and it is probable that at this stage, the extensive station horse-yards were also constructed. Mullaly, who was born in Camden, near Sydney, was under contract to J C White for £6 a week, (house and food provided), and took charge of the horse section at Widgee as stud master, handler, trainer and rider early in May 1864. Mullaly's skill as a horseman was illustrated on one occasion when White visited Widgee and met the manager of Kilkivan Station. A buckjumping competition was arranged between Tom Mullaly and a Kilkivan rider. Despite the fury of the buckjumpers, neither rider was thrown, but Mullaly was pronounced winner of the prize money totalling £100.

In Warwick, in September 1864, Tom Mullaly married Mary Cassidy whose family were workers on Jondaryan. Several members of the Mullaly family were born at Widgee, and as such, were amongst the first white children born in the Gympie district. When a draft of blood horses was broken in, Tom Mullaly and two other jackaroos would drove the horses through what is now Gympie, to Brisbane. There, the stock were placed on a boat for Sydney, where they could be sold for lucrative prices. During this period, at times, there were up to 8 000 head of mixed cattle yarded in the Widgee home paddock. After their departure from Widgee, the family settled first at Monkland in Gympie, before selecting land at Kybong, south of the goldfield. Whilst at Widgee, Mrs Mullaly, who was on her own except for her two small children, was badly horned by the house cow. Displaying her strength and pioneering spirit, she stitched the wound herself, shut the children in a room and went to bed. The nearest doctor was in Maryborough some 60 miles away. As a precaution to alleviate such situations, the station management supplied medical books and first aid remedies to all employees.

During the 1860's, John Betts, brother of T E H Betts who started the Glastonbury Hotel in 1870, was employed on Widgee. The two brothers and their wives had arrived in Brisbane from Deal, Kent, England in 1859.



*Robert Cran  
(Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection)*



*Tom Mullaly, horse trainer  
(Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection)*

They worked on Felton Station on the Downs, before John worked on Jandowae and then Widgee. His daughter, Sarah Ann Betts, was born at Widgee on 5 September 1863. After leaving the district, John Betts became a carrier and worked on the construction of the Ipswich to Toowoomba railway. With the discovery of gold at Gympie, the brothers accompanied J C White prospecting in the Nanango district. After this unsuccessful venture, John and his family returned to England.

By 1867, however, the economic depression which followed the droughts of 1863 and 1868 and the spread of pleuro-pneumonia were causing serious problems for many landholders, including Tooth and Cran, at Widgee Widgee and Yengarie. The discovery of gold at Gympie in 1867, and the subsequent gold rush, wrought immense changes to the whole area. Demand for and prices of cattle increased dramatically. Traffic to and from Gympie and the incidence of prospectors in the area also increased. The impetus was however, too late to save Tooth and Cran from their financial troubles, which had greatly worsened during the continuing 1867 - 1869 drought. In May 1868, Widgee Widgee was assigned to the Bank of New South Wales. At that time, the runs were stocked with 14 000 head of cattle and 400 head of horses.

#### 4. CONVERSION TO FREEHOLD

##### **Broadbent and Company**

In August 1869, the second stage of the Station's history commenced when the leases of the original Widgee Widgee Runs expired and the nine runs were consolidated and brought under the provisions of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1868. (120 300 acres were resumed for the purpose of selection.) In theory at least, the resumption made available extensive areas for intending agriculturists and small-time pastoralists, many of whom should have been ex-Gympie miners who wished to settle on the land. The remaining 34 708 acres continued to be held by the Station under a new lease.

The Station was sold to John Broadbent and Daniel Williams in March 1872. Broadbent acted as manager, and resided at Widgee, while Williams, who was the financial backer, lived in Sydney, and later returned to his native England. Significantly, John Broadbent was the first part-owner of Widgee to reside on the station permanently. Broadbent, the son of a prosperous merchant was born in Saddleworth, Yorkshire, in 1820. In 1839, he left England for the Australian colonies on board the sailing ship 'Drumore'. After the ship was dismasted and blown helplessly about the Indian Ocean, contact with another ship was made and the vessel was brought safely to Sydney.

Broadbent worked as a stockman on the Monaro and as a storekeeper outside Auckland in New Zealand. He subsequently became overseer of a station in the Burnett and then as manager of Teriboo Station on the Condamine. In 1856, Joshua Peter Bell persuaded Broadbent to take over the management of Jimbour, on the Downs. He then assumed control of Robell on the Burnett. It was there that he pioneered the ringbarking of trees to increase the production of grass.



*John Broadbent*

*(Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection)*

Mr Moffatt, the Treasurer of the infant state of Queensland, persuaded Broadbent to become the Chief Inspector of Stock for Queensland. At this time, he was fully involved in checking the entire border of Queensland and New South Wales for diseased sheep entering Queensland. This most responsible job meant that for days on end, Broadbent hardly left the saddle. Broadbent once again took over Jimbour before moving to Widgee Widgee.

Broadbent and Williams purchased Widgee Station (as it had commonly become known) at a time when the cattle industry was expanding rapidly. This expansion was due to the impetus given to the industry by - the Queensland gold rushes (particularly that of Gympie); the succession of good seasons during the 1870's, and the development of an important market for preserved beef overseas. From 1872 until the early 1900's, Widgee was worked as a fattening property in conjunction with Broadbent and Williams' Mondure Station in the Burnett.

The new owners sought to consolidate their position, chiefly through the acquisition of freehold property. However, the Land Act set a definite limit on the area of land which could be selected by the pastoral tenant, under the right of pre-emption. Broadbent and Williams soon reached this limit and resorted to the process of dummyming to further increase their freehold.

Their scheme continued under the provisions of the Land Acts of 1868, 1876 and 1884. At least fifteen dummy selectors have been identified in the Widgee district from the 1870's to the 1890's. Further land was taken up by the station owners purchasing properties which had been selected by independent settlers. Over 40 000 acres of freehold was acquired by the use of these two methods.



In 1876, the remaining Widgee leasehold was resumed, but after a protest from Broadbent and Company, a new lease of 55 square miles was granted for a period of five years at the annual rate of £2 per square mile. Further resumptions gradually reduced the station's leasehold until 1898, when the last lease expired.

The fraudulent process of dummyming came under close scrutiny with the 1878 Select Committee on applications for Land on the Widgee Creek Timber Reserve. In 1877, the accusation was made that Broadbent had influenced the Land Commissioner in Gympie to have a large Timber Reserve proclaimed, so as to exclude several intending, independent settlers from taking up selections in the area. In due course, it had been pointed out by the intending settlers that the proposed reserve did not contain suitable stands of timber to warrant it being proclaimed as a Timber Reserve.

The reaction from Broadbent and Company involved a successful petition from his dummies and friends to have the area proclaimed as a Camping Reserve, much to the fury of the intending settlers. Although it exposed the extent of dummyming on Widgee Station, the Select Committee did not recommend any action with respect to the Widgee owners. The failure to proceed with any punitive action in relation to the allegations of dummyming, raised before the Select Committee, may have been associated with the fact that three of Broadbent and Company's dummies (in name only) were members of the Legislative Council in Queensland.

### **The Caulfield family**

One of Broadbent's chief dummies was James John Good Caulfield, who arrived on Widgee with a mob of sheep from the Tooths' western properties in 1864. Caulfield dummied thousands of acres for the Station over nearly thirty years. Caulfield was an exceptional horseman and the stories of his rides are now legendary. In the 1860s, before the time of Gympie, the quickest form of communication between Widgee and the outside world was provided by Jimmy Caulfield riding to Dalby, Toowoomba or Maryborough, as the case may be, to despatch a telegram.

On one occasion when he ventured to Toowoomba for that purpose, he returned, job completed in such a short time, that the Manager of Widgee, Erasmus Winter Jackson, thought that he had been forced to abandon the trip. In July 1867, when Jackson was gored by a bull, Caulfield assisted in first aid treatment and, in fact, basic surgery, before riding to Maryborough to summon a doctor. By the time the doctor arrived, about a day later, Jackson was recovering.

Jimmy Caulfield married Ellen Standen in Gympie in 1893, and they eventually had fourteen children. The family lived on one of Caulfield's dummy selections, Woogaloom at Woonga, until they were flooded out in 1890. They then moved to occupy two cottages near the main Homestead - so big was the family. As they grew up, the Caulfield boys were conscripted to work for

the station. One of the boys, Martin, was expelled from the Widgee Provisional School in 1900 after knocking the teacher off his feet. He then went to work on the station, and after the best part of a year had received no pay.



*Mr and Mrs Caulfield*

*(Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection)*

At Christmas time, the station manager, Mr J P Voss, handed Martin a well-earned cheque for £2/10/-. Mr Caulfield received a double ration on which he was supposed to feed his family. Understandably, the children had to learn to live a good deal off the land. They were even known to raid the turkey settings of the station owner, Mr Broadbent, and, when caught, sometimes felt the sternness of his hand.

However, the lives of the Caulfields were not without tragedy. Clara Caulfield died of consumption in November 1903. George died next, in April 1905. His death came as a result of being kicked on the head by a horse in the preceding January. The tragedy was made a threesome when Percy Caulfield died from consumption in November the same year. George Caulfield's accident followed not quite four months after another accident in which a stockman, Lloyd Williams, died instantly, when his horse swung him into a tree. Nineteen years earlier, in November 1885, Martin Carroll, a cousin of Jimmy Caulfield, had been killed in a similar accident to that of George Caulfield. Such accidents were always dreaded in those days, and were only too frequent in the district. Following James Caulfield's retirement as head stockman, in 1906, that position was taken over by William Edward Cotter. The Caulfields then settled at Chestnut Grove, Woolooga.

## 5. CLOSER SETTLEMENT

The struggle between the Station and the independent selectors continued well into the 1880's, but gradually a small nucleus of independent agricultural and

pastoral landholders settled in the district, indicating the commencement of the third stage in the Station's history.



*Branding at Widgee Station - 1904 (L Cecil)*

The process of this closer settlement was enhanced considerably by the Divisional Boards Act of 1879, and chiefly through the provision of better access roads and bridges within the new Widgee Division. Despite the boost to independent settlement, particularly after the Crown Lands Act of 1884, the Board was dominated, in many respects, by John Broadbent, its second Chairman. Broadbent exercised considerable electoral control in the Division, by means of the prospective votes of his dummies.

After the cattle slump of the late 1870's, the better seasons and the improved export markets promoted economic recovery in the early 1890's. In March 1882, Widgee Station was carrying 190 head of horses and 6 900 head of cattle, but notably fewer stock than were carried in the 'open range' days of the 1860's leasehold.

The death of Daniel Williams, in 1885, caused the transfer of his share in the partnership to the trustee of his will, Peter McPherson MLC. (Both McPherson and Forest had been two of Broadbent and Company's key dummies - in name only).

The reputation of Widgee bred horses and cattle was maintained virtually throughout the Station's entire history.

Record turn-offs in cattle were recorded from the mid 1860's onwards. In that decade, for instance, up to 8 000 head of mixed cattle were often seen yarded in the home paddock. In later years, as many as 5 000 'fats' were turned-off in a year; 1 000 prime beasts pastured in one 5 000 acre paddock; and a mob of 3 000 store cattle turned-off from another 5 000 acre paddock also in a year.

The droughts and economic depression of the middle and later 1890's also had their effect on the station. The brief recovery brought about by the breaking of the drought in 1886 was followed by plummeting prices, just as another dry spell commenced. The situation was further aggravated by the financial crisis of the 1890's. By November 1892, Broadbent and Company took out a mortgage for £70 000. At that time, the Station comprised 45 923 acres. The debt was paid off in October, 1901, by which time there were 8 000 head of cattle on the station: both remarkable achievements, considering the many problems encountered by the pastoral industry in the 1890's.

In July 1895, John Broadbent left Widgee, and the freehold was transferred to William Forest and Peter MacPherson as Trustees of the late D Williams. Mr J P Voss became station manager. After residing for a time in Brisbane, Broadbent then purchased and settled on Booral, near Wandoan, where he remained until his death at the age of 95 in 1915. The station once again functioned under an appointed manager. In September 1902, the trustees became Peter MacPherson and Arnold Wienholt.

The latter was a grandson of Daniel Williams. The 1890's had generally been problem years for the cattle industry. The financial crisis had left many pastoralists deeply in debt. This problem was compounded by the succession of poor seasons, culminating in the disastrous 1901 - 1902 drought, and the rapid infestation of the cattle tick. Stock numbers on Widgee Station plummeted from 1901 to 1904 to an all-time low of 4 000 head of cattle. But, by 1905, a recovery was under way, with the numbers reaching 8 266. The numbers remained fairly steady for the rest of the station's life.

### **Arnold Wienholt**

Before the 1901 - 1902 drought, large numbers of bullocks had been bought, fattened and turned-off annually, to be sold in the Brisbane markets or to the meat preserving companies, or to be shipped, frozen to Europe on the owners' account. After the drought, up to 1905, no store bullocks had been bought. The station-bred cattle supplied all the 'fats' turned-off in that time. The improved overseas beef markets from 1905 onwards provided an important boost to pastoral properties such as Widgee Station.

The station's plight in the 1901 - 1902 crisis and the subsequent years, during which control of the cattle tick was fought, was greatly assisted by the new part-owner/manager, Arnold Wienholt. Wienholt, a veteran of the Boer War, had been carefully trained to take on the general management of the extensive Wienholt family pastoral interests. Widgee Station was his first management position in the company. In his short stay at Widgee, about four years, he

contributed greatly to the development, both of the station, and the district in general. Wienholt conducted experiments into the value of inoculation of cattle against redwater, and supervised the construction of the station's eight dips as an attempt to control the tick menace. Wienholt's research into the tick menace was of considerable assistance to the other settlers in the district, who were also confronted with the same problem.



*Arnold Wienholt* (Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection)

The station stock was then made up of between 6 000 and 7 000 shorthorn cattle, about 2 000 of which were cows. Widgee continued to be worked in conjunction with Mondure Station as a fattening property. Great interest was aroused in 1908, when Wienholt brought to Widgee three magnificent blood stallions, Thor, Borghese and Kilwinning, which he had imported from England. These fine animals were used to improve the already famous Widgee horse stock.

Being intensely interested in physical fitness, Wienholt patronised two main sports at Widgee. He introduced boxing to his stockmen and produced a promising protege by the name of Jack Spicer, who fought a number of successful fights in Kingaroy, Kilkivan and Gympie. At times, when there was no urgent work, Wienholt would announce half a day off and arrange a boxing tournament among his stockmen.

He was also responsible for establishing the Widgee Cricket Club, donating to the club all of the necessary materials for the game. The team soon became quite formidable. During 1901 - 1902 season, for instance, the Widgee Cricket Club and the Endeavour Cricket Club from Kilkivan had scored two wins each. They agreed to play a deciding match at Widgee on 8 June. At the end of the first innings, the scores were level at 35 runs. Following lunch, Widgee

compiled a total of 73 runs, while Endeavours were dismissed for a mere 15 runs. Members of the Wienholt family were amongst the earliest pioneering pastoralists of Queensland. The direct family lineage can be traced back to Germany in 1570. The family of merchants moved to Wales in 1742, thus beginning the British branch of the family. An uncle of Arnold Wienholt, his namesake, was the first member to settle in Australia, in 1846, taking up Maryvale on the Darling Downs. Edward Wienholt, Arnold's father, arrived in Queensland in 1851 and was the partner of William Kent in Jondaryan, which they purchased in 1858.

The Wienholt brothers, Arnold Snr, Edward, John, William and Arthur formalized a partnership in 1869. At this time, their properties included Maryvale, Fassifern, Rosewood, Blythdale, Bungil Downs and Beddebango. By the 1880's, the partnership had become the Wienholt Estates Company. Additional properties held by the company at this time included Rosalie Plains, Turampa (Tarampa?), Degilba, Mt Hutton and Mt Abundance. After the death of Daniel Williams, the properties of Boothulla, Arabella, and Grassmere, in addition to Widgee, came under the control of Edward Wienholt, the deceased's son-in-law.

Arnold Jnr was born at the family property Goomburra in 1877. He was educated at Wixenford Preparatory School at Wokingham in Berkshire, after the family moved there in 1884. There he became a friend of Winston Churchill. Wienholt later attended Eton, where he developed his splendid physical fitness which was a great asset to him throughout his life.

Wienholt returned to Australia in 1896 to train as a jackaroo at Jondaryan. With the outbreak of the Boer war, he refused a commission, and raised and equipped at his own expense a troop of mounted bushmen, which became part of the Fourth Queensland Imperial Bushmen's Contingent. For his service in South Africa, Wienholt was awarded the Queen's medal and clasp. On his return from the war, Wienholt took over the management of Widgee.

After his departure from Widgee, Arnold Wienholt left the station in charge of a succession of three managers, Charles Gall, Richard Barton Thornton, and Harry Webb. Wienholt was then only an occasional visitor, as he assumed control of the Wienholt Estates Company. Wienholt later undertook control of the family company. In 1909, he became the State member for Fassifern, a seat he later held as an Independent from 1930 - 1935. In 1913, he was narrowly defeated by the then Prime Minister, Andrew Fisher, for the Federal seat of Wide Bay. He held the Federal seat of Moreton from 1919 - 1922.

After his defeat by Fisher, Wienholt journeyed to Africa where he gained experience as a lion hunter. Wienholt later served with distinction as a scout in World War I, as a war correspondent in the Abyssinian war and again as a scout in Abyssinia during World War II. Wienholt also wrote several interesting books on his African exploits. He died in action as the leader of a secret mission which was to prepare Abyssinia for the return of the exiled Emperor Haile Selassie.

## 6. SALE TO THE GOVERNMENT

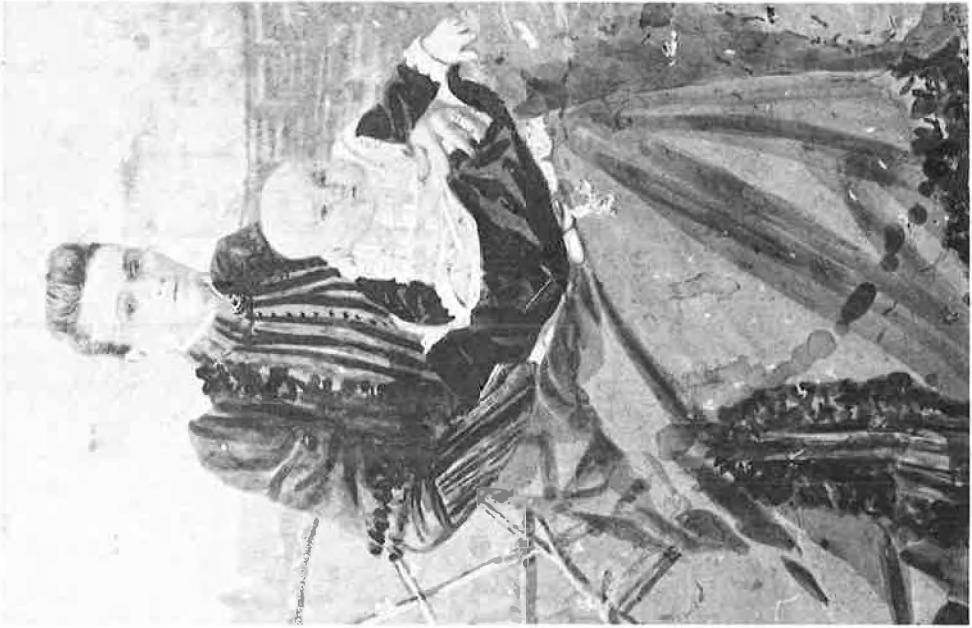
In the light of the rapidly expanding agricultural industries in the district (particularly dairying), it became apparent that more profitable use could be made of the station land if it was opened up for agricultural settlement. The success of the nearby Woolooga Repurchased Estate in promoting agriculture, after its acquisition by the government and availability for selection in 1906, evidently encouraged the government to consider Widgee Station for repurchase. Wienholt Estates realized that their investment in the good-quality agricultural land at Widgee could be more profitably converted to the acquisition of much larger Western pastoral holdings. Eventually, in 1910, Widgee Station was sold to the Government for £94 407/10/- under the Closer Settlement Act of 1906. It then comprised 46 991 acres broken into twenty-two paddocks for cattle, and several smaller paddocks for horses.



*Widgee Homestead about 1905*

*(Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection)*

When William Cotter Jnr took up work at 22/6 a week on Widgee Station in 1910, the end of the station was not far off. Speculation that Widgee would be sold to the Government had been growing ever since 1902. From 1910, the cattle reared or fattened ready for sale were mostly driven across the Mary River to the railhead at Curra, north of Gympie, for trucking to Brisbane, as the days of droving cattle overland to Brisbane were over. In this way, many of the Widgee cattle (mainly Hereford and Shorthorn cross) bearing the still famous Widgee brand U7U, were disposed of, in readiness for the sale of the northern half of the station. All breeding had long since ceased.



*Mrs Mary Cotter with son Bill - 1894  
(Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection)*



*John Spicer and wife - 1880's  
(Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection)*



The final stage in the history of Widgee Station ensued. Once all the cattle had been removed, the former station lands were agisted to the Bell Family from Coochin Coochin. Bell's cattle were later gradually withdrawn as the various portions of the Estate were selected. In due course, on 27 April 1911, the northern half of Widgee Station, termed The Widgee Estate, including the paddocks, Top and Bottom Macpherson's, Sloan's, Homer's, Peter's, Spicer's, Brooyar, Adams', Goothan, Bongmuller and the Pre-Emptive, was thrown open to selection. In 1912, Bill Cotter Jnr, and another Widgee stockman Cyril Lewis, drove one of the last herds of horses from Widgee to deliver them at Jondaryan, where Arnold Wienholt had further property.

When young Bill Cotter returned to Widgee (he was reared on his father's selection which adjoined the Widgee homestead block), the station had ceased operations completely. The southern portion of the station, consisting of 20 266 acres including the paddocks Top and Bottom Wonga, New Paddock, Hut Paddock, Weiner's Paddock, Homestead Paddock, Purebred, Little Widgee, Widgee Creek Paddock, Black Prince and Gumtree was ready to be thrown open to selection on Thursday, 22 August 1912, at 11 o'clock. This portion of Widgee had been sold to the Government for £38 297/3/-.

## 7. END OF AN ERA

So ended an era which had begun with a bitter fight for supremacy over the native population, and ended with the opportunity for many more free settlers to make Widgee their home. Gone forever were the remarkable days of the Widgee Widgee which had always been famous for its magnificent horseflesh: where in the 1860's 8 000 head of mixed cattle were often seen yarded in the home paddock; where as many as 5 000 'fats' were turned off in one year; where 1 100 prime beasts had been pastured in one 5 000 acre paddock and a mob of 3 000 store cattle turned off from another 5 000 acre paddock in one year. A new era of excitement, progress, prosperity and sometimes disillusionment was about to begin.

Widgee Station, as was the case for many of Queensland's larger pastoral holdings was greatly affected by the variable economic trends inherent in the pastoral industry. It survived eight changes in ownership or trusteeship over its fifty-three years, through four distinct stages of operation. The first stage, in the period of total leasehold land tenure, commenced with a bitter fight for supremacy over the native population. This stage also involved significant experimentation to establish the most suitable use for the land.

Beef cattle rearing was eventually found to be more suitable than sheep rearing and agriculture. The second stage involved the conversion of some station land to freehold and the associated more intensive use of the smaller areas. The second stage also involved a bitter dispute, this time between the vested interests of the station management and the would-be small-time agriculturists. The station contrived to prevent these would-be settlers from acquiring by selection the much coveted former station leasehold. In the third stage, the station and the smaller landholders, who had gradually settled in

the district, co-existed throughout the troubled economic times of the 1890's, the great drought of 1901 and 1902 and the advent of the cattle tick menace. In the final stage, the successful emergence of agriculture in areas surrounding the station prompted its acquisition as a Repurchased Estate. This was necessary so that more intensified use could be made of the station's area to support a large number of prospective agriculturists.

Bearing in mind the fact that Widgee Station was made available to agriculturists after 1910, it is somewhat ironical that this was so, after there had been such a bitter struggle between the intending agriculturists and the station management of the 1870's and 1880's. However, in those early years, the ideals of the station management were very different from those of 1910. Survival for the partnership of Broadbent and Williams in the 1870's and 1880's was only possible by their freeholding large areas of the land available for selection. In 1910, for the Wienholt's Estates Company, pastoral survival was viewed as being more promising by investing in other areas of Queensland. Nevertheless, Widgee Station's considerable contribution to the development of the pastoral and agricultural industries in the Wide Bay area is clearly defined.



#### References in Order of Mention

Mr Lucas Tooth, information supplied for J D Dale, 1980.

Kelly, G. (1978) *Atticus Tooth - One of the Kennedy Men*, Bowen Historical Society, 10 November 1978.

Deutscher. *The Cattle Industry of Queensland, 1840-1890*.  
B.A. Thesis, University of Queensland, 1959 pp 5-6.

Buettel, N E. (Ed) *A History of Maryborough* - Maryborough Historical Society 1976 pp 36-37.

Chief Commissioner for Crown Lands. *Tabular Register of Lands Open For the Selection of Pastoral Runs and of Tenders Received*, Queensland State Archives, CLO/10 February 1848 - March 1855.

Commissioner for Crown Lands, Wide Bay, *A Register of Runs in the Pastoral District of Wide Bay in the 1850's* - Queensland State Archives, CLO/N12, folios 11, 15.

Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, *Votes and Proceedings, Select Committee on the Murders by Aborigines on the Dawson River*, W B Tooth examined, 23 June 1858, John Oxley Library, pp 880-882.

Tooth, W B. Commandant Native Police, Wide Bay. *Letter*, 25 July 1852. Queensland State Archives N.M. P/5.

Historian, *The Tooths of Old Clifton Station; When W.B. Tooth held the Gympie Gold Lands. The Steering Wheel and Society and Home*, November 1 1937. Series Pioneering Queensland Families, Number 55, John Oxley Library. p 42.

Taylor, W. Lieutenant Marshall, Native Mounted Police, *Letter*, 27 April 1852, Queensland State Archives, NM. P/5.

Chief Commissioner of Crown Lands, *Accepted Tenders for Runs etc, 1 January 1856 - 31 December 1859*, Archives Office of New South Wales, 2/1941 ff 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 32, 33, 34.

Commissioner for Crown Lands, Wide Bay to Mortimer and Anderson, Gobongo. Copy of letter in letter book, 17 January 1855, Queensland State Archives CCL 3/61 55/6, f 5g.

Gazette Printing Service, Bideford, North Devon. *The History of the Tooth Family* printed for private circulation. Copy held by Kent Brewery Museum, Sydney, pp 3-14.

Skinner, L. E. *Police of the Pastoral Frontier - Native Police 1849-1859*. University of Queensland Press.

Murray, John. *Deposition of John Murray before R P Marshall, JP*. 21 December 1850 at Walooga, reel A2. 23 frames 852-854, John Oxley Library.

Taylor/Marshall. 27 April 1852, NMP/5, Queensland State Archives.

Tooth/Commandant Native Police. Wide Bay, 25 July 1852, NMP/5, Queensland State Archives.

Taylor/Marshall. 15 October 1852, NMP/8, Queensland State Archives.

Halloran/The Chief Commissioner Crown Lands. Sydney. February 1854, NMP/5, Queensland State Archives.

Hutchinson/Halloran. 16 February 1856, reel A2.36, frames 792-794, John Oxley Library.

Powell/Halloran. 18 November 1856, reel A2.36, frames 792-794, John Oxley Library.

Mortimer, F and A/The Honourable Colonial Secretary. 3 April 1861, 61/908, COL/A14, Queensland State Archives.

*Queensland Electoral Roll. 1866 - 1867, Number 761*. Wide Bay Electorate, Queensland State Archives.

Murphy, J E and Easton, E W. *Wilderness to Wealth*, Brisbane. W R Smith and Paterson Pty Ltd, 1950 p 261.

Mortimer, J and A to Colonial Secretary. Queensland, 7 October 1861. Queensland State Archives 61 / 2612.

Mortimer, J and A to Colonial Secretary. Queensland, *Letter*. 3 April 1861, Queensland State Archives, 61/908, COL/A14.

Dale, J D. *Widgee - in the days of Widgee Station*, The Royal Historical Society of Queensland Journal, Vol. X, No 3 1977, (Brisbane, 1978) p 112.

Woodrow, S to J Dale. 30 September 1975.

White, J C. *Reminiscences*, 20 November 1892.

Kent, Mrs Gwen, nee Williams. (Granddaughter) *Reminiscences*.

Cran, Robert to Tooth, Robert. *Register of Mortgages, Book 3 No. 203*, 2 February 1864, Queensland State Archives.

Buettel, N E (Ed), *A History of Maryborough*, Maryborough Historical Society, 1976, p 171.

Mullaly, J. *Reminiscences*, typescript, February 1967. Document in possession of Mr C Mullaly, Gympie, pp. 1-2.

*Marriage Certificate*. 2 September 1864, held by grandson Cyril Mullaly, Gympie.

*Obituary*, Mrs F W Dean, nee Sarah Ann Betts. GT, 11 October, 1922.

Johnston, W D. *The Call of the Land. A History of Queensland to the Present Day*, Brisbane, The Jacaranda Press, 1982.

Register of Mortgages, Book 7, No. 172. *Robert Tooth Assignment upon trust for sale to the Bank of New South Wales*, Queensland State Archives.

Undated Newspaper Article, *A Hardy Nonagenarian, John Broadbent of Booral* - part of his daughter's scrapbook, held by his granddaughter Mrs L Graham, Buderim.

Woolgar, W. *Gympie and District Farming and Grazing Industries*, The Gympie Times, 1904, pp 37-38.

Broadbent, J to The Under Secretary, Public Lands. Letter and Notations there attached, 23 December 1876. Queensland State Archives, LAN/AF 1143.

Broadbent, John and Williams, Daniel, issued to - *Pastoral Lease in Settled Districts*, witnessed 16 March 1880, Queensland State Archives, LAN/AF 1143.

Voss, J P - Manager of Widgee Station / Land Commissioner, Gympie. Letter 7 August 1897. Queensland State Archives, LAN/AF 1143.

Queensland Legislative Assembly, *Reserve on Widgee Creek*. Queensland Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly Vol 1 pp 133-157, 1877.

Queensland Legislative Assembly. *Report on the Select Committee for Land on the Widgee Creek Timber Reserve, Together with the Minutes of Evidence and Proceedings of the Committee*, Brisbane, 1878, p 3.

Dale, J D. *Dummies of Widgee Station*, Unpublished Manuscript, 1979, p 3.

Cecil, H F. *Interview* with J D Dale, 1974.

Obituary, Mrs E Caulfield.

Cecil, Mrs M I, *Interview* with J D Dale, 1975.

Pedley, I. *Winds of Change*, Gympie, Widgee Shire Council, 1979, p 30.

Clerk of Petty Sessions, Gympie. *Memorandum* to Chief Inspector of Stock and Brands, Gympie Historical Society Collection, 82.256.

Broadbent, J, Forest, William and MacPherson, Peter. *Bill of Mortgage Trustees Late D Williams, Mortgagors, Commerical Banking Company, Sydney, Mortgagees*, Queensland Titles Office, Document Number 264728.

*Post Office Directory, Index*. John Oxley Library, 1901.

Queensland Titles Office, *Endorsement, New Title*, No. 82399a, Register Book, Vol 778, f 191.

*Post Office Directory, Index*, John Oxley Library, 1905.

Cameron, J. *A Review of the Pastoral Industry of the State of Queensland Since 1865*, Queensland Geographical Journal, Vol 21, No 7, 1905 - 6 pp 1-13.

Wienholt, W F F. *Sirumataw, The Man Whom the Lion Bit*, Unpublished biography of Arnold Wienholt, pp 10-13.

Cotter, W. Brisbane. *Interview No. 1* with J Dale, 1972.

Gympie Times, *Gympie and District Farming and Grazing Industries*, John Oxley Library, pp 37-38.

Cotter, W. Brisbane. *Interview* with J Dale, 1972.

Spicer, J. Kandanga. *Interview* with J Dale, 1977.

Welch, Mrs M A. Late of Redcliffe (formerly Dale). *Interview* with J Dale, 1973.

Gympie Times, 14 June 1902.

Dale, J D. *An Important Queensland Centenary : Captain Arnold Wienholt*, unpublished typescript, 1977.

Dale, J D. *Arnold Wienholt*, Gympie and District Historical Society Quarterly Journal, April 1984, p 16.

Number 1603, *Electoral Roll of Queensland 1910, Kilkivan District*. EL/55, QS.

*Part 2**Chapter 2*      *By J Dale***THE EARLY SELECTORS OF WIDGEE****1. INDEPENDENT SELECTORS**

By the end of the 1870s there were numerous independent selectors claiming portions of what had been the Widgee leasehold. At this stage there was considerable settlement, commonly by ex Gympie miners, along Glastonbury Creek. Closer to the Head Station there was intense opposition to intending selectors. The Station was intent on securing as much of the best areas of land as freehold, to replace its ever decreasing leasehold. Conflict between the independent selectors and the station management was quite serious in the late 1870s. The process of dummyming, by which the station used the names of its employees or other local intending property owners to acquire freehold property and subsequently transfer it to the station, was the source of much ill feeling within the district.

**The Meakin and Hillcoat Families**

The first independent selectors to settle on the upper reaches of Widgee Creek were members of the Meakin family at Wodonga, where they first selected land in 1877. The original selector, James Meakin Jnr transferred the land to his father James Meakin Snr in 1882. Another block selected by William Meakin in 1878 was similarly transferred. The Meakins were considerably isolated from any other settlement or settlers, but reared stock and produced cheese, which they sold in Gympie.

In May 1887, both portions were purchased by Catherine Ellen Hillcoat, wife of John William Hillcoat of Gympie. The latter held land also at Ashle and Wolvi (east of Gympie), and, in the early 1870's, had been manager of the Hope Crushing Battery at the Black Snake.

Harold John Burke Hillcoat, son of William and Catherine Hillcoat, and his wife Margaret settled at Wodonga in 1891. Their family of nine, Ivy, Gertie,

Mabel, Nona, Charlie, Perce, Claude, George and Jack grew up around the wilds of Wodonga. Perce was tragically killed in a fall from a horse in 1908.



*Wodonga Homestead about 1915*

*(G Hillcoat)*

The Hillcoats lived very much off the land, seeking pigeons, turkeys, native bee hives, bunya nuts, raspberries, passion fruit etc. The family continued cheese making for a period of time and always kept an extensive vegetable garden for home use. When the Gympie butter factory opened, they joined the other settlers in the locality as cream suppliers. Jack Hillcoat and his sons George and Claude subsequently added to the family's Wodonga holdings. Being a distance of ten rugged miles from the nearest school, that of Widgee, it was not practical for the children to attend. As a result, a tutor or governess was employed.

About 1902, Jack Hillcoat, as H J B Hillcoat was commonly known, started building a new homestead. The eventual six room building, built in three distinct stages, was constructed of a variety of building materials - vertical slabs, split weatherboards, circular sawn weatherboards, crosscut sawn boards, split shingles, and galvanized iron. In recognition of its unique structure and its importance as an example of early settlers' architecture, the Widgee Historical Society relocated the building on the Widgee Hall and Recreation Committee's grounds in 1978.

The building, since restored, has been listed by the National Trust of Queensland. The building was officially opened by Hon Clarrie Miller MHR, member for Wide Bay in 1981.





*Harold and Margaret Hillcoat  
(Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection)*



*Charlie Hillcoat  
(Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection)*

Around 1911, the Hillcoats began timber getting and transported red cedar and later pine logs from Wodonga to Woolooga railway station. George Hillcoat took over the bullock team when he was about 12 years of age. All of the Hillcoat boys were expert horsemen and were very successful in camp drafting events. For instance, at a Glastonbury Campdraft about 1911, Charlie won the first four places on four different mounts. Both Charlie and Claude Hillcoat served in France during World War I. Charlie was killed in action.

### **The Webb Family**

George Slator Webb, grandfather of the famous Webb Brothers, country and western singers, was born in Ross, County Meath, Ireland about 1845. Webb worked as a timber-getter and carrier in the Gympie-Kilkivan district and settled at Black Snake about 1871. When he was timber-getting from the foot of the Black Snake Range and carrying into Gympie, he discovered that some of the surrounding land was available for selection. As a result, he selected his first portion of Thornside in 1881. Webb lived in Gympie for a period of time, until a homestead was constructed on Thornside. The family then moved to reside there, where they dairied. Meanwhile, Webb continued his timber-getting from the Black Snake Range. By the time his first two Thornside properties were purchased in March 1889, Webb was ready to acquire the Black Snake Hotel, to which he and the family shifted.



*W S Webb in front of Black Snake Hotel  
(Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection)*

Thornside and the blocks added to it between 1897 and 1917 were then used as grazing blocks, and chiefly managed from Black Snake. The Webbs also acquired extensive land holdings known collectively as Mt Mia around the Black Snake. George and his wife Mary Jane Webb had eight children, Georgina, who married Thomas Tansey of Lakeview, near Goomeri, Henrietta, who married William Thomas Williams, Henry Bevan, William Slator, Maria Eliza, who married Jack Leahy of Manumbar, Edward Robert, George Slator, who died at 10 months of age, and Thomas Wilson. When they married, all of the Webb menfolk built homes within sight of the hotel building. George Webb, like so many of his contemporaries, expected his sons to work for a pittance, with the distant incentive of inheriting his property. Eventually, the boys rebelled and persuaded their father to include them in a family company - G S Webb and Sons. After George Webb's death in 1927, the company was split up. Ned and Tom Webb remained at Mt Mia with the balance of the property transferred to them as separate title holders. Bevan Webb was given his share in the form of £3 000 cash and 300 head of the best Mt Mia stock, and purchased Lakeview, the former Tansey property. This comprised about 15 000 acres of the choicest grazing land in the Goomeri district. Bill Webb was allocated most of the Thornside property, and went to reside there with his family.

### Bill O'Brien

Bill O'Brien, eldest son of Tom O'Brien, selected land on Station Creek, Widgee, in 1885. Tom O'Brien selected his first land at Eel Creek, near Gympie in the early 1870's. At a later stage, he also selected land at Kilrush, Windera. When he sold out there, he is reputed to have come into the hotel at Kilkivan and placed his sale cheque worth £10 000 on the counter, requesting change. At that time, there would not have been that much money in the whole town! Tom O'Brien eventually retired to Gympie.



*Tom O'Brien*

*(Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection)*

Bill O'Brien, a long-time employee of Widgee Station, was falsely accused of being a station dummy. He did, however, freehold his original selection. In 1892, Bill married Mary Molloy who had been a cook at Widgee Homestead. In 1888, Tom O'Brien also selected land at Widgee. This property, known as Bouganvilla, was eventually taken over by Bill O'Brien and his family. In the early 1900's, Bill O'Brien also worked for J P Lawless at Winderera. Bill O'Brien was most interested in rearing and training race horses. His prize stallion, Wampoo, was quite successful in Brisbane and was still winning races at local picnic meetings when he was sixteen. Another horse, Trivette, a chestnut mare, won an important race in Brisbane about 1911. Other horses which O'Brien trained included Silver Bait, Bardent and J P (named after J P Lawless). Another brother, Patrick, selected land at Widgee in 1906, but later returned to live in Gympie.

### The O'Donnells of Traquair

Owen O'Donnell learned the extent of the Widgee Station freehold when he was engaged fencing for the Station. This knowledge, coupled with his appreciation of local maps, convinced him that land just north of the Station Homestead was available for selection. The land, selected in some seven portions by Owen O'Donnell and his children, Agnes, later Mrs Henry McCullagh, Isabella Una, William, Frank and Mary became known as Traquair, after the estate in Peeblesshire Scotland where Owen O'Donnell met his wife Agnes, formerly Nicol. Owen O'Donnell was born in Braade, Donegal, Ireland, in 1841, and ventured to Scotland to secure employment in the late 1850's. This he obtained on the Traquair Estate, the big property on which is said to be the oldest inhabited house in Scotland. Owen and Agnes O'Donnell emigrated to Queensland, newly married in 1865. After a few years in which Owen worked as a carrier, they moved to Gympie, where he established himself as a mine owner. This proved quite rewarding and by 1884, he was able to afford a holiday back home to Ireland and Scotland. In 1889, the O'Donnells selected their first land at Widgee. Owen continued to work in a Gympie mine during the week, while he and his eldest son Frank walked out to the property most weekends to get it established. The family moved on to Traquair early in 1890 and started dairying.

### Life on Traquair

Traquair, as was the case for many of the early properties in the shire was virtually a self-sufficient unit. Facilities which surrounded the homestead included a blacksmith's shop, dairy, bails, butcher's shop, stables, store and garden. The buildings were constructed, by the O'Donnells themselves, using timber cut in the pit saw gully or vertical slabs split out with a mall and wedges, all work done on the property. The main homestead consisted of three bedrooms and a sitting room, none of which was lined or ceiled, and a front verandah. The house was roofed with galvanized iron. The main building was linked to the detached kitchen and store-cellar by means of an elevated walkway. This rear building was constructed of vertical split slabs and was roofed with split shingles.



*Owen and Agnes O'Donnell and Family  
(Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection)*



*'Traquair' - O'Donnell's home - 1920's  
(Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection)*

In the early 1900's, an additional two rooms, extended front verandah, and side verandah were added to the main building. The extensions were possibly constructed to accommodate some of the children of Janet Dale, the O'Donnells' eldest child, who stayed at Widgee to boost the dwindling numbers at the school. A new homestead was constructed beside the original in 1912. The old homestead, which had been badly attacked by white ants, due to the fact that the O'Donnells had heard nothing of the preventative measure of stumpcaps, and had not used them, was demolished. The front section was however rebuilt behind the new home to act as a kitchen.

When the old O'Donnell couple died, Agnes in 1919 and Owen in 1927, both were buried on the property. The property was sold to the McIntosh family in 1975. In 1979, many of the O'Donnell descendants pooled funds to have a headstone placed over the graves. A family reunion was organized on the property for the occasion when the stone was blessed by the Parish Priest of Gympie, Rev Father Pat Kenny. Moves are underway at the present time to restore the historic Traquair Homestead.

### **John Shanahan and the McCarthy Family**

John Shanahan, a native of Listall, County Kerry, Ireland, was a Gympie miner who settled on the land west of Gympie. After he married Johanna McCarthy, he selected a small block on Amamoor Creek but soon relinquished this to select a 1 280 acre property on Station Creek in 1885. This was later divided between Shanahan and his father-in-law James McCarthy.

James McCarthy was born in County Kerry, Ireland, in 1833, and emigrated to Victoria in 1855. After settling at Beechworth, he operated an inn and coach service and married Mary Marthy in 1862. In 1872, Jim McCarthy tried his luck in the Palmer Gold Rush. Disappointed on the Palmer, he returned to Beechworth, where he sold his interests and moved to the Gympie Goldfield. McCarthy, like so many others, including his son-in-law, failed to make his fortune and decided to settle on the land, in this case on Glastonbury Creek in 1876.

The McCarthy family comprised four girls, Johannah, Mary, Margaret, and Norah and five boys, Michael, James, Daniel, John and Peter. The Widgee property, which became the family home about 1888, was called Deadman, after the grave of a prospector who had been buried there some 15 years before it was selected.

Like most of the other early Widgee selectors, the McCarthys dairied and produced butter. Later, cream was carted to Woolooga, from where it was railed to the Silverwood Butter Factory in Ipswich. When the Silverwood Dairy Company opened a branch in Gympie, the cream was sent there. This company was eventually taken over by the Wide Bay Co-operative Dairy Association. During the 1890's, Deadman was also used for breeding and rearing horses, some of which were supplied to the Queensland contingent engaged in the Boer War.



*John Shanahan*



*Bat Shanahan*

Further selections around Deadman were made by Michael, Peter and James McCarthy Snr and Jnr. In 1897 and 1898, James McCarthy and his sons John and Michael each selected a block on the Tableland near Kinbombi. These blocks were used for fattening purposes. Eventually, most of the property was taken over by Peter McCarthy.

Shanahans' property, Glen Maggie, was the home for John and Johanna Shanahan who had nine children - Bartholomew, James, Lizzy (Mrs McFarlane), Jack, Mary Margaret (Mrs Brophy), Michael, Kathleen, Patrick and Hannorah (Mrs Keneally). John Shanahan continued to work in the mines while his wife and family operated the dairy. Johanna Shanahan and her sister Mary Cotter took turns once a week taking butter to Gympie that the McCarthy, Cotter and Shanahan families produced. This was sold to the shops in town. John Shanahan would return from his work in Gympie most weekends and was given the butter to sell in town after his return journey.



*Peter McCarthy and family in buckboard  
Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection)*

Further land adjoining Glen Maggie was selected by Bat Shanahan and Jim Shanahan. Other land, known as Arranmore, and used for fattening purposes, was selected around Kinbombi. At this time, the land at Widgee was used for breeding purposes. The fruit from the orchard at Shanahans was much sought after by the locals.

John Shanahan was great friends with Owen O'Donnell. They would frequently meet at Traquair to discuss politics and the contents of the papers. The Shanahan children and their cousin Maggie Hanrahan, who stayed at



Glen Maggie for two years, delighted in staying with O'Donnells where from time to time, they were welcome guests, particularly when Station creek flooded while they were at school, meaning they were unable to return home for a few days.



*Peter McCarthy feeding calves  
(Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection)*

### **The Cotter Family**

As was the case for Bill O'Brien, William Cotter who selected the original portion of his property, Beatrice Vale, immediately to the west of the Station homestead block in 1887, was employed on the station. Cotter, whose father was another ex Gympie miner, lived his early life on the family selection up Glastonbury Creek. He married Mary McCarthy, sister to Johannah Shanahan in 1887. Mary Cotter built up and managed the dairy herd while her husband was engaged in station work. Further land was transferred to Cotter from his father-in-law, James McCarthy, and brother-in-law, James McCarthy Jnr. Additional fattening lands at Kinbombi were transferred to Mary Cotter from her brother John McCarthy in 1906. In 1911, Cotter and his neighbours, Peter McCarthy and Owen O'Donnell, were successful in convincing the Department of Lands to reduce their rents from 9 pence to 5 pence per acre per year.

As the nine Cotter children grew up, they assisted their mother on the dairy. Before the advent of cream separators, the milk was placed in large shallow trays and the cream skimmed off to be made into butter. Bill Cotter purchased a Mellott separator about 1901. About the time Widgee Station was cut up, Cotters ceased dairying at Widgee.

The Widgee land was used as breeding country in conjunction with the fattening land at Kinbombi. This land was later taken over by Jim Cotter.

### **The Mulhollands of the Groggy**

Adam Mulholland, one of the first freehold settlers in the Gympie district, selected an Agricultural Farm at Widgee in November 1886. When the property was inspected by the Crown Land's Ranger in 1890, he noted that the selection was partially fenced but was otherwise secured by precipitous ranges, hence the name The Groggy. This was transferred to Adam's son, William Andrew (Bill) Mulholland in 1892. Bill Mulholland selected another block (a selection forfeited by Henry Joseph) near The Groggy, in October 1890. This property was used by Bill Mulholland and his brother Jim for rearing steers until they were old enough to be sold and fattened. On occasions when the brothers could not tend the needs of their stock, or needed assistance, the Hillcoats of Wodonga were employed to see to their needs, especially dipping. Mulhollands were the classic absentee selector landlords, who managed to retain the selection rights to their properties for years without at any stage fulfilling the residence qualifications. Jim Mulholland resided on his dairy farm at Scrubby Creek, while his brother lived in Gympie, where he worked as a miner. Perhaps special consideration was given on account of the rugged nature of the country, which would make the property undesirable by other intending selectors.

### **The Goldbergs**

William Andrew Mulholland sold The Groggy to Haris Goldberg, a Gympie tailor of Polish descent, in 1906. This rough mountainous block was difficult to utilize and was judged as being inferior country. The Hillcoats continued to manage the property and stock when the Goldberg menfolk could not be present. In those days, the property was a six hour journey from Gympie. About 1910, Ben and Jim Goldberg started dairying on The Groggy, and took turns week about with Hillcoats in carting the cream down to Widgee Creek, where it was collected by Teddy Betts, the cream carter, and taken into Gympie.

## **2. ABSENTEE LANDOWNERS**

### **Bennetts, O'Sullivans and Crosses**

Other absentee owners of land at Widgee included Michael Bennett and William O'Sullivan, farmers and goldminers from Glastonbury, and their brother-in-law, Edmond Cross, a Gympie mine manager. The O'Sullivan brothers applied to select their first portions, near what was originally known as Quandong Creek, in October 1889. Both portions were freeholded in 1896. The O'Sullivan brothers worked out a unique utilization of structural resources. The brothers, who were both competent carpenters, actually demolished the kitchen from their family home at Glastonbury and re-erected it on one of the blocks at Widgee. After the property was inspected by the Bailiff of Crown Lands, and the building was listed as one of the conditional improvements on

the block, it was demolished again and erected on the second block, which was just across the road. In due course, the building was also listed as an improvement on the second block, despite the objections of the Bailiff. The well-travelled kitchen was eventually returned to Glastonbury.

Another block, known as Pine Hut, so called because of the 12 feet by 10 feet hut built there, was near Sawpit Creek. After the arrival of the cattle tick menace, the O'Sullivan's commissioned another brother-in-law, Jim Bentley from Glastonbury, to construct a dip on the property. Bentley was responsible for the construction of many cattle dips throughout the district. Edmond Cross selected his Shingle Hut paddock in November 1892.

To fulfill the residential qualifications of selection, Cross' wife Margaret and her young family stayed on the property intermittently, especially when there was some likelihood of the land being inspected. Cross usually joined his family at weekends. The family eventually settled at Glastonbury. Numerous dealings between the O'Sullivan brothers and Edmond Cross with the Widgee land followed. Cross also took over adjoining leasehold land, known as The Soaker. Both Cross and the O'Sullivan brothers used their Widgee land for fattening stock and rearing weaners. Shingle Hut became the traditional starting off point for groups climbing Widgee Mountain. This became a popular pastime, particularly after the opening of the Widgee Estate. Michael John Cross, son of Edmond, also selected land in the locality.

### **Philip Browne**

When Philip Browne selected a portion in the foothills of the Black Snake Range in November 1884, he apparently had little idea of the nature of the isolated, rugged countryside. When he realized his mistake, Browne attempted unsuccessfully to have his selection cancelled. Accordingly, Browne, his wife Margaret and their three children, Mary, Catherine and Philip Jr, moved from Gympie to reside on the Station Creek property. The youngest member of the family, Margaret, was born afterwards. By the time the property was purchased in 1888, the Browne family had returned to civilization in Gympie and was residing on Wickham Street, Surface Hill. The Station Creek property was sold to a neighbour, G S Webb, in 1915.

Phil Browne, who was educated to university level, was a native of Meelin Newmarket, County Cork, Ireland. When he became tired of study, he emigrated to Queensland and was eventually employed as an accountant and book keeper in Gympie. He married Margaret Agatha Leahy. Before moving to Widgee, he was employed by Pat Lillis, an early Gympie property, mining and share speculator.

Browne also took up property between Glastonbury and Gympie, which he used to provide stock for a number of butcher shops operated by him. Around 1900, the Brownes moved to Glandore near Kilkivan. Phil Browne also held nearby properties of Leahyville (named after his wife), and Corroboree, both of which were worked with share farmers, and 800 acres on the opposite side of

Kilkivan. Browne, being a professional man, was far from typical of the early selectors in the district. The manner in which he eventually established himself as a prominent landholder, after very uncertain beginnings, indicates the degree to which the abundance of opportunities could be utilized.

### **The Woosters of the Grange**

William Wooster selected The Grange, which consisted of two portions downstream and across Station Creek from the Widgee Homestead in October 1887. This property was supposed to have been selected by Wooster as a dummy when working for the station. Wooster, who had dummied two previous blocks at Wonga, decided to claim the Station Creek property as his own, much to the annoyance of the station manager, John Broadbent.



*Ernest Wooster - timbergetter  
Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection)*

By 1912, William Wooster was joined on his dairy farm with his son Frederick William, an ex Gympie miner, his wife Alice and several members of the family. One of the sons, Fred Jnr, served in France during World War I and married Marcelle Kellerman, sister of Annette Kellerman, famous swimmer and screen star of the early 1900's.

Another son, Bert, was killed in action in France during World War I. Pearl Wooster married Frank Clarke, who also died in the war. Fred Wooster Snr was an avid photographer, and is responsible for the photographic record of many early Gympie and Widgee scenes.



*Cow bales at 'The Grange'  
(Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection)*

### **The Harvey, Purcell and Dray Families**

Thomas Kelynack Harvey married Jane Standen, the sister of Mrs Ellen Caulfield and settled at what became known as Harvey's Siding, near Curra. Another selection was held near the junction of Bongmuller and Wide Bay Creeks. T K Harvey selected three adjoining blocks around Widgee between 1892 and 1905, although no family members permanently resided on the land concerned.

Michael Purcell, who selected land on Widgee Creek near O'Leary's Crossing, near what was later Bell's Bridge, had eleven children, two of whom were born dead and were buried on the property. George Soanes, a neighbour, also lost a child, a boy who died from sunstroke. He was buried alongside the two Purcell children. Patrick Dray, a native of Kilkenny, Ireland, selected land at Curra originally, and moved to a larger property on Bongmuller Creek around 1910. The eight members of the Dray family included Kate and Mollie who both became nuns, Tommy who became a Christian Brother, Jim, Jack, Ted, Patrick, and Mark.

### **3. PIKE'S VINEYARD**

An important centre of recreation for many of the people of the shire was Pike's Vineyard near Boowoogum in the parish of Brooyar, near the Brooyar Outstation of Widgee Station.



*Thomas K Harvey and Family  
(Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection)*

Acacia Vale was started by John Thomas Pike, and was carried on by his two sons, John Edward Pike and Thomas John Pike. John Thomas died 25 December 1910 and was buried on the property with his wife, who had died some years previously in 1900. With the death of old Mr Pike and the subsequent advent of World War 1 and its associated difficulties in connection with farm labour, the vineyard and wine making lapsed. Contributing factors were the departure in 1913 or 1914 of Thomas John Pike, who went to Brisbane, and the fact that about 1913 a tram ran over the foot of John Edward Pike who stayed at Acacia Vale. This left him a partial cripple.

Edward Lister Pike, the eldest child of John Edward Pike and Marion Millicent Lister, recalled being told that at one time, the Pikes grew strawberries as well as grapes. Vinegar was also made. Gympie was the main outlet for most of the farm's produce. The wine was made in a shed out the back of the homestead. The shed, now without the original shingle roof, still stands on the property, the homestead of which was occupied by Mr Stewart Pike, youngest son of John Edward. The wine, mostly bottled, and grapes, were usually sold from the shed. Frequently, the visitors would drink the wine on the property. A large clothes basket full of grapes would cost half a crown. The wine was a very potent product. Edward Pike remembered one of his brothers, putting his head under a tap on a cask so as to catch the drops of wine. Even from the small amount of wine he imbibed in that way, he became very tipsy.

At times, the visitors to the vineyard would decide to have a game of cricket. This, they would play on the reserve below the site of the Brooyar School, just across a creek from the vineyard. Occasionally, a keg of wine would be brought across there and put on a stump for distribution. As well as the other produce, grapes were also cased, labelled and sent away by train according to the orders received for them. Another outlet for the grapes was the train at Woolooga. The Pikes were allowed to board the train when it stopped in Woolooga, and go along it selling grapes. Another local resident named Darvie Lewis also had a small vineyard, but did not sell grapes.

From the many areas of the British Isles, the selectors who settled on the resumptions of Widgee Station established their homes and reared their families. It was not until the dairying industry became established, however, that many of the properties became viable. The emerging beef trade also influenced many selectors to change to beef cattle rearing. The difficulties experienced by the early settlers, especially the womenfolk, were great. In several cases, the wives of selectors, from financial necessity, stayed on the properties with their children, while their husbands worked in Gympie. It was a lonely and dangerous life, but in many cases formed the foundation of many of the shire's most prosperous properties.



## References

### Interviews with J D Dale:

Mr E G Janke  
 Mr J P and Mr K McCarthy  
 Mr W J Cotter  
 Mrs M A Welch - nee Dale  
 Mrs M Greenslade - nee Hanrahan  
 Jim Mulholland Jnr  
 Claude Hillcoat  
 W E Mulholland  
 Mr A C Goldberg  
 Mrs K F Bourne - daughter of J Bentley  
 Mrs Mary Weise - daughter of Edmond Cross  
 Philip Browne Jnr  
 Mrs Lillian Edwards - nee Purcell  
 Mr Mark Dray

### Queensland State Archives

File 1734, Lan/AG 329.

Register of Selectors and Lessees of Land, p 2783. Agricultural Farm 1634 LAN/P248.

Register of Selectors and Lessees of Land, p 2783. Agricultural Farm 1695 LAN/P248.

Agricultural Farm 766, LAN/AG.

Register of Selectors and Lessees of Land, pp 2240, 397,703, Agricultural Farms 1093, 1222, 1102, LAN/P.

Agricultural Farm 1093, LAN/DF 2273.

Agricultural Farm 5764, LAN/DF 2405.

Selector File 4849, LAN/DF 2381.

Selector File 3674, LAN/DF 2353.

Transfer Agricultural Farm 49 [4849] LAN/DF 2381.

Agricultural Farms 312 and 313, LAN/DF 2259.

Agricultural Farm 556, LAN/DF 2263.

Agricultural Farm 4099, LAN/DF 2376.

#### **State Titles Office**

Volume 735, Folio 64.

#### **Unpublished Manuscripts**

Dale, J D. *Wooster*.

Dale, J D. *Harvey Family History*.





*E G Booker inspecting Woolooga - 1906*

*(The Queenslander)*



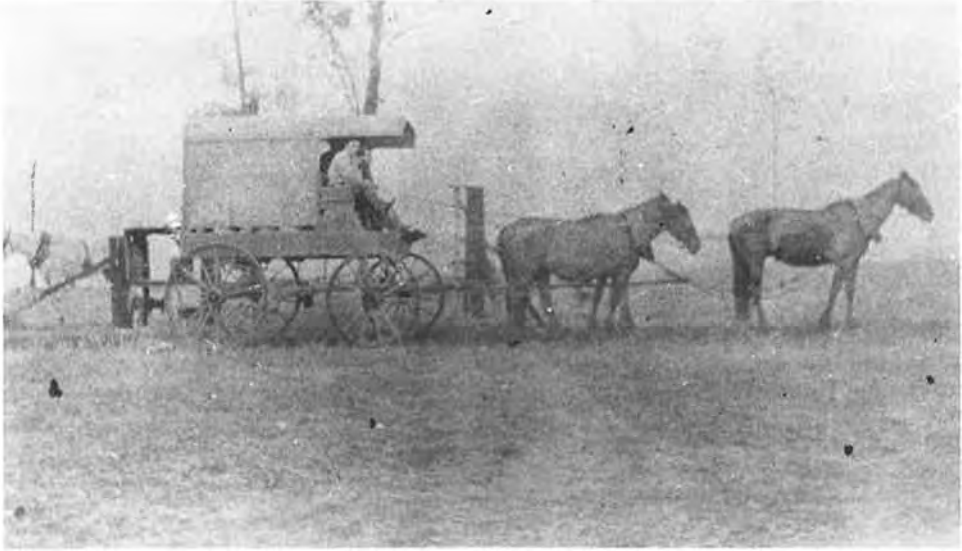
*George Harvey's property 'Wonga Park' - 1907  
(Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection)*

*Part 2**Chapter 3*      *By J Dale***THE POST STATION ERA****1. FURTHER DEVELOPMENT**

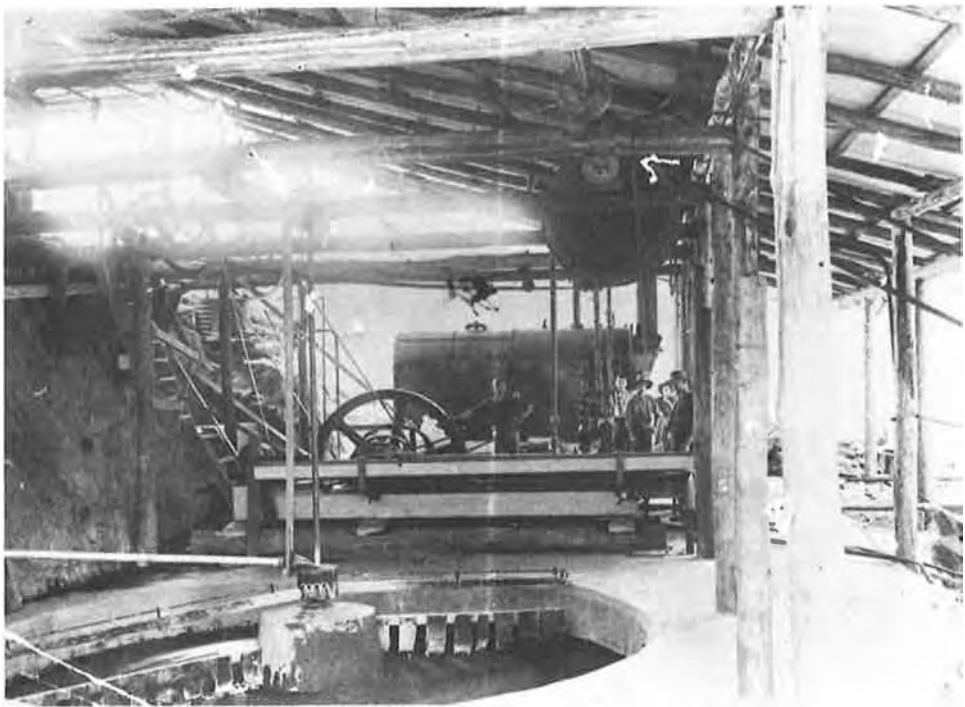
The Woolooga Estate comprised four main sections, totalling 19 392 acres 9 perches in area. Each of these sections bordered Widgee Station land. Two sections, one to the east on the Mary River and Widgee Creek and the other divided by Woonga Creek, were held under the name of the Queensland Investment and Land Mortgage Company Limited. The other portions, one surrounding what is now Woolooga Township and the other north of Wide Bay Creek in the Parish of Miva, were held under the name of the British and Australasian Trust and Loan Company Limited.

The release of the Woolooga Estate about 1906 prompted much settlement around Woonga. Settlers included George and William Harvey, John Herbert Cecil, F E Walker, George Leach, Frederick Fleming, Evan J David, (a former Widgee Station stockman), John Dray and Thomas S Cahill. Other selectors on the Estate in the Parish of Brooyar included Patrick Smith, Thomas Thomas, John Andrew Morrison, John Bambling, Frank Spiller, George James Olsen, and Anderson Bambling. Selectors in the Parish of Miva included Thomas Dawson, William George Currant, Alexander Wilson, and William Wilson. Charles Joseph Booker of Woolooga Station repurchased four portions of the Estate from the government. Booker also maintained an informal tenancy of the unselected land.

George Harvey, son of Thomas Kelynack Harvey from Harvey's Siding, selected two blocks from the Woolooga Estate, the second of which he called Wonga Park. He eventually settled on this property and commenced dairying. J H Cecil's property, Newington was applied for in May 1907, as part of what was known as the Woolooga Closer Settlement Estate. When the property was inspected in March 1909, Cecil's father, J E Cecil, a former Gympie miner, was listed as the selector's agent.



*Ernie Smith - Cream run 1920's  
(Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection)*



*Ernest Smith's gold mine - Widgee Creek  
(Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection)*

The property had in fact become the home for John and Louisa Cecil and five of their six surviving children. Two of the sons married two of the daughters of Jimmy Caulfield. Jack, the selector of the Wonga block, married Alice Caulfield, and Fred, who became a schoolteacher, married May Caulfield. Fred rode his bicycle as transport to and from work when he taught, for a period of time, at Upper Wonga State School, before he enlisted for military service in World War I. Another son, Les, learned to cycle in the district, and was later a Queensland champion cyclist, as well as holding the world record for seven days continuous cycling.

In 1910, Widgee Station was sold to the Queensland Government, as a Repurchased Estate. It was re-surveyed, and with additional Crown lands added, was re-opened for selection in two portions, the northern portion on 27 April 1911, and the southern portion on 22 August 1912. Many new settlers took up portions of the Widgee Estate.

Selectors on the northern portion included R W A Radecker, Jas, E and M D Mitchell, Sophia Carrant, Francis E Birt, A, John and J A Bambling, Jas, D J and William Thomas Caulley, C Anderson, William Harvey, A Dawson, M Purcell, Harold Brook, H O A Schmidt, A B Cobham, William Gilchrist, G Dow, William Eastaway, C H Noreiks, J Hayes, William Andrew Bishop, Edward Dray, Roland John Kington, Henry Hughes, G L, S J and Harry Shepperson, E K Burton, R B Waugh, R H Stark, Hans Hansen Petersen, I C Anderson and E M Smith. Early selectors on the Brooyar portion of the Estate included Frank Earnest Staples, J R Turner, William McAuley, Beasie Smith and T F Herlihy.

When he came over from the Brisbane Valley to inspect the northern part of the Widgee Estate, Billy Bishop travelled to Woolooga by train. There, he was met by Jean Caulfield (later Mrs Mick Hogan), and was accompanied by her back to the Caulfield's Woolooga home, Chestnut Grove. Using Caulfield's as a base, he rode over much of the Estate. He later made his Woolooga selection at the Gympie Lands Office on the day the Estate was opened. There were some 30 to 40 aspiring selectors at the office on that big day.

Three months later, he rode over with horses from Harlin on the upper Brisbane River to establish his selection. He then went to Brisbane to purchase dairy cattle, and commenced dairying on the block. The bales and yards were constructed first before a house. The first residence on the block was a tent, then followed a slab hut and finally as finances allowed, a substantial house. During the week, to earn extra money, before he started dairying, Bill Bishop cut logs for Bob and Jack Spiller between Wodonga and Myravale. These were carted to the railway station at Woolooga. He would return to work on his selection at the weekends.

During this period, Jack Baxter was hauling timber from about six miles up Bongmuller Creek. There were no houses at Woolooga at this time, however, Mrs Jones had just opened a store there. The Platt family selected nearby to W A Bishop. Mr Platt was a railway employee.



*Sam Benstead's Homestead - 1918  
(Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection)*



*Vehicles on Benstead's property - 1918  
(Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection)*

About 1912, a man named Thomas constructed the first hotel at Woolooga. The first licensee was a man named Murphy. Kewins' property, Bonnie Greene, which they took over in 1916, near the Widgee-Woolooga turn-off, was held originally by Hughes and then Cobb. Jim Wise kept a butcher's shop about half a mile away. Nearby, Joe Johnson resided. An English immigrant, he later became a councillor for the Kilkivan Shire.

Ernest Myles Smith, a former mine engine driver from Southside, Gympie, selected a portion on Widgee Creek in 1912. Ernest and Elizabeth Smith and their five children moved to Widgee in a buckboard drawn by a roan mare. The household goods were brought out from Woolooga railway station by a bullock team driven by Bill Jones. As a start to the dairy, E M Smith purchased 15 head of dairy cattle from Joe Currant at Sexton.

Initially, the Smiths made butter and delivered it to Harveys, from where it was transported to the Woolooga store. Later, another settler, Otto Schmidt, carried their cream to the the rail at Woolooga. Later still, Smiths, Churchills and Bennetts took turn about on a weekly basis delivering the cream. Backloading of items from Woolooga was a valued secondary role of the carriers. Nearby, Arthur Jensen from Cooran settled Hill View also in 1912. He and his father Christian, a native of Copenhagen, Denmark, who settled in the same area, divided their dairy herd from Cooran between the two blocks. Arthur Jensen married Ruby Smith in 1915.



*Ernest Myles Smith and Family - 1900  
(Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection)*

Hans Hansen Petersen, son of A H Petersen, selected a portion of the Estate adjoining two of his father's selections near the junction of Glastonbury Creek and the Mary River. On his selection Hans Petersen dairied, milking over 100 cows, and had a horse-operated whim separator. He employed boys to operate the whim. At times, the boys would go to sleep, or likewise the horse. When started again, in a rush, the cream would certainly be well mixed!

Selectors on the southern portion included George Pratt, Billy Want, William Byrne, Harry Pahlow, James Joseph Reid, Arthur Ingram, Sam Benstead (land transferred later by Harry Finch), Frank and Sam Finch, Joseph Charles Cole, Cotter Brothers (Upper Widgee), Graham, Gilbert and 'Curley' Webb (Upper Widgee), George and Roy Treeby, Paul Janke, John Goodman Jones, Paddy Power (who took over property originally selected by Talbot), A E, J H and W E Wildey, William Cook, C E Portas Jnr, William Neal, Larry Hogan and Emile Francis Gerber. Other selections were taken up by members of older Widgee families. These included those of Mick Cotter, and his father William Cotter. Other early selectors on the Estate included Jack O'Keeffe, Ted Mills, Jack and Charlie Moreland from Kilkivan, Joe Blackburn and Bob Bogue. Harry Pahlow, a bachelor, was also a teamster. Arthur Ingram apparently came to Widgee from Croydon where he was a clerk for Burns Philp. He later acquired land at Boobyjan, after selling his Widgee land to Dave Barclay.

Frank and Sam Finch from Green's Creek, east of Gympie, worked together on their Little Widgee Creek blocks, where they ran Illawarra dairy cattle. Frank Finch operated one of Widgee's larger dairies, milking about 100 head. William Byrne, a former Ipswich coal miner, his wife Ellen and their seven children settled on what had been the Widgee Station farm, which they named Oakbank. John Herbert Wildey, another Ipswich coalminer followed his brother Bill to Widgee. For a period of time, they worked their dairies on shares.

By contrast with most of the working class early selectors, Emile Francis Gerber was a professional person. Gerber, a Sydney dentist, who had wanted to be an engineer but had been forced into dentistry by his parents, selected a portion of the Widgee Estate, which, in 1912, he named Lynette Vale. Returning south, he married Viola Augusta Henriques in Melbourne in December 1912. Apparently Mr Gerber attended Gatton College to gain farming experience. Before the property was fenced, the cattle would roam everywhere! Eventually a dairy and piggery were started on the property. When Emile Gerber commenced irrigating his cultivation with a pump and movable irrigation pipes, one neighbour, Billy Want, who was not accustomed to such innovations, thought him mad! Emile Gerber had several share farmers on the property over the years. The Gerber Homestead was the venue for Catholic church services before the construction of the present church. An early mission service was held there as well.

Joseph and Ellen Cole and their two children, Sidney and Mary, emigrated to Australia from England in 1913. They settled on a block of land which they named Creek Farm adjoining the Widgee Homestead block, and until their own

home was constructed, lived in the old station stables. In 1915, another daughter, Ada, later Mrs David Wright, was born in Gympie. The Coles commenced dairying and rearing pigs, which were sold in Woolooga. For a few years, the Coles grew cotton, which they baled and carted to the rail head at Woolooga. The late Mrs Ellen Cole was clearly one of the most dynamic and outstanding characters in the district, where she lived until a few months before her death in 1979 at the age of 104 years. A day to remember was her 100th birthday party celebrated at the Widgee Hall in June 1975. Mrs Cole was an active member of the Widgee CWA for over 30 years, and was still cooking and making jam when she was over 100. Mrs Cole was a staunch supporter of the Methodist Church. In her latter years, regular services were held in her home at Widgee. Her philosophy for her long life was expressed in verse :

*'The span of life can be prolonged at will,  
the healing is within not without'.*

The degree to which family members co-operated and conspired to secure the much sought-after Widgee land is clearly illustrated in regard to the dealings of the Treeby family at Widgee. Alice Maude Treeby of Munbeamma and Laurel Lodge, Southside, Gympie, put in the names of several of her sons to select land on the Widgee Estate. Only one of the brothers, George, aged 16 years at the time, was successful. George and his brother Roy went to the property which they named Coo-ee in 1914. Camping in a tent, they started dairying and raising pigs. About 20 acres of country was put under cultivation. After working there for about twelve months, the effects of a serious drought made life extremely difficult.

The call to arms in the Great War eventually lured five of the Treeby brothers, including George and Roy. The brothers virtually went 'on strike' until their mother gave permission for them to enlist. The property was maintained by two of the brothers who had stayed home. Mrs Treeby successfully balloted for an adjoining block in the name of her son Fred, who was subsequently killed at Polygon Wood. After the war, Harry Treeby selected a block and purchased another. At this stage, Treeby Brothers, comprising Mrs Treeby, Roy and George, was formed. Numerous dealings involving cash settlements and the swapping of cattle for blocks of land followed. Edward Washington Treeby, the father of the Treeby boys, did some training as an engineer in England before emigrating. At one time he was engaged to install machinery in a mine on Fat Hen Creek.

J J Reid was a Gympie mine manager when he selected his land, Fairfield, at Widgee. Mrs Reid, formerly Mary Agnes O'Keeffe, whose family were early settlers at Glastonbury, moved out on the property with her two children, Jimmy and Gladys, in 1913. Mrs Reid started dairying with 28 cows, while her husband continued to work in Gympie and visited his family at weekends. The neighbours, George Pratt and Billy Want, constructed the dairy and fenced Fairfield. George Pratt later took over from Teddy Betts as cream carter, transporting the cream from Widgee to Gympie. Dave Bermingham was another early cream carter. Larry Hogan later acquired the cream run.



Billy Want and George Pratt came from Mitchelton in Brisbane. At the time when the Widgee Estate was opened, they were working at Kilcoy. After successfully balloting for their respective blocks, in Gympie, they headed out to inspect the country. With only one bicycle between them, both men took turns riding and walking out to Widgee. Every so often the bike was left at the roadside for the walker! George Pratt married Mary Fraser from Two Mile, Gympie. They later settled in the rugged Basin country, south of Widgee. Billy Want worked a season cutting cane around Nambour to make enough money to fence his selection. Billy Want remained a bachelor and semi-recluse. He died in his humpy at Widgee when he was over 90 years of age.



*Jahnke's Homestead - 1917*

Paul Janke Snr, a tailor for Cribb and Foot at Ipswich, successfully applied for land at Widgee in 1915. The family, comprising Paul and Marie Janke and four of their children, moved to Widgee in August 1915 to take up residence on their selection of 526 acres. A son, Paul Jnr, a plumber, and his cousin Frank Weiland had by this time virtually completed the homestead. The family travelled by train to Woolooga, from where they set out for Widgee with their own transport of two saddle draught horses and a small cart. The furniture, which had been transported from Ipswich with the family, was moved to the home by a neighbour William Byrne in several trips. By the time their dairy was properly established, Paul Janke had one of the largest dairies in Widgee, milking 120 head.

The settlement of many areas of the Shire is clearly remarkable because of the diversity in the backgrounds of the various settlers. In this regard Widgee was no exception. In considering all the selectors of the Widgee Estate, it was the Goodman Jones family which, more than any other, emphasised the differences amongst the various selectors.

The four boys of the family distinguished themselves in the district as refugees from the wild-west-like atmosphere of Chile, where their father, Don Juan, held a diplomatic post. The family consisted of Don Juan Goodman-Jones and his children, Gerald, Frederic, Leo, Archie and Winifred. Mr Goodman-Jones was a native of Wales, but most of his children had been born in Chile.

Once their cattle herd was established, the Jones started dairying. Later they conducted cattle sales on the property.

The younger boys of the family certainly caught the attention of their neighbours by their traditional dress, complete with six-guns and ponchos and especially their most unusual methods of working. For instance, they were the centre of attention, when they yoked up a team of bullocks in the South American fashion, around the horns. The team was used for all purposes, including ploughing and cartage.

The Jones' first fences were also considered to be most unusual. The posts were put in the ground complete with bark. Wire was then stapled to the posts. The scene became most unusual when the posts in damp places began to sprout shoots and leaves. The Jones boys were always very keen to use their revolvers. The Homestead was in fact riddled with bullets fired by them in fun or even in anger.

It is true that one of the boys attempted to shoot another brother. The bullet barely missed the victim's heart and put him in hospital for a considerable time. On the more jovial side, they had been known to hold mock hold-ups of people taking short cuts through their property.

While the Jones were at Widgee, the Homestead was destroyed by fire. On that fateful day, only Fred and Archie Jones were at the Homestead. Gerald had already left the district. Leo, who married a neighbour, Margaret O'Donnell, was working on McCarthy's farm on shares, while Mr Jones and his daughter were in Gympie. At the crucial time, Archie was training two horses near the Homestead on the racetrack. Fred was bringing the cows down to be milked.

As he passed the dipyards, he was astonished to see heavy black smoke billowing from the Homestead. Away he galloped to see if he could save anything. The building was doomed. Fred managed to brave the flames to rescue a few meagre family possessions. About a mile away, at Cotters' Homestead, Bill Cotter Snr, who for many years worked on Widgee Station, noticed the smoke. Riding up to a nearby hill, he also witnessed the spectacle of loss and destruction, a bitter blow to all in the district.

The homestead block was sold to the McIntosh family. Donald and Minnie McIntosh came to live there in December 1921. The flats were stumped by hand in preparation for ploughing. In the first few years, over 100 cows were hand milked until such time as they could afford milking machines.

The late Mrs Winifred Irene Power, widow of Paddy Power, was clearly a legend in the Gympie district. Mrs Power was for 53 years reputed to be Australia's only woman telephone office keeper. When she retired at the age of 81, in November 1975, she was by far the oldest serving switchboard operator in the country. Her retirement was prompted by the introduction of an automatic exchange to the district.

Mrs Power was born in Ballarat, Victoria, and married Paddy Power in Brisbane in 1916. Paddy Power purchased a selection at Widgee in 1919. Mrs Power took on the exchange after being recommended by local residents. In 1951, she actually conducted the exchange from a tent in her yard for a period of six months whilst her house was being rebuilt. For all those years, Mrs Power was a vital link between the residents of Widgee and the outside world. Her service and dedication to duty has been unsurpassed in the district. In 1970, her hard work was recognized when she was awarded the British Empire Medal and received a congratulatory telegram from the then Prime Minister, J G Gorton. The medal was presented to Mrs Power in Brisbane by the Governor of Queensland, Sir Alan Mansfield, after which a civic reception was held in her honour at Widgee. Mrs Power died in June 1977. Her name has been perpetuated in the form of Winifred Power Park, a resumption of the original Power property, which now forms the focus of Widgee's community sporting gatherings, and the W I Power stand at the nearby camp drafting and rodeo grounds.

When the Widgee Estate was broken up, William Neal, who had previously settled on the Diggings Road at Glastonbury, selected a portion of what had been a part of the Pure Bred Widgee paddock. After the death of his first wife, William Neal married Honorah Manion. The children from the second marriage included Dorothy, Aubrey, Francis, and Herb. The family settled on their Widgee property, Woonclooma (up on a hill) in 1918, where they moved into a house constructed by Herb and Charlie Adams.

Ernest Hawkins selected his block at Widgee in 1915. He and a friend, Ernie Rand, camped on Neals' land as they felled the heavily timbered scrub and forest. Ernie Hawkins married Christina Tomkinson in 1916. The newly-weds came to live at Widgee, staying for a time with Harry Pahlow, until their first residence, a simple slab house with a shingle roof, was built. Ernie and Christina Hawkins had the fortune of starting off at Widgee with a dairy herd given to them by Christina's father as a wedding present. The friend, Ernie Rand, who held land later taken over by Blackburn, paid the supreme sacrifice during the Great War.

Jim and Frank Cotter took up land at Widgee in 1915 and travelled from Ipswich to live there in January 1916. Their father, Thomas James Cotter, held the lease of a property near Swanbank, about six miles out of Ipswich. The stock from this property - cattle, horses, ponies and blood horses - were railed to Gympie and taken out to their Widgee property which was named Arylie, after the suggestion of Alec Wilson of Myravale. This name was later changed to Adina. The Cotter brothers started dairying with about 50 head of cows. The brothers camped in a tent until Jim, a carpenter, constructed the first section of the house.

Around Wonga, Bergvelds selected what had been the Hut paddock in the station days. This was later sold to Walter Schacht, grandfather of Madonna Schacht, the famous tennis player. Nearby, Reuben and Len Kington from Kilcoy, both selected portions, as did Frederick McPaul.

Reuben Kington sold out about 1926 and moved to Monto. Bill Horsefall came originally from a sugar farm near Nambour. Before they settled at Wonga on land bought from Bill Cotter about 1919, Henry and Eleanor Warhurst and their eleven children were very much a part of the district as timbergetters. Until they took the property at Wonga, the family had several temporary dwellings in the locality, depending on where Warhurst was working. The Wonga property was quite close to the Upper Wonga School, which was opened in response to the influx of settlers with children in the locality.

Another property on Little Widgee Creek was purchased from Bob Bogue. Frederick George and Rosanna McPaul came to Queensland from the Bega district of NSW. After a stay on a farm near Pittsworth, they moved to their selection Roselands, at Wonga. The job of fencing the block, establishing the dairy herd, and building the four-roomed slab cottage was daunting, as it was for so many of the settlers. This became the home for their twelve children. Other selectors at Wonga included the Tones and Phillips families.

Most of the new settlers began dairying to satisfy the demand from the Gympie butter factory (Wide Bay Co-Operative Dairy Association) for cream. Many of the early settlers (pre 1911) were still dairying, although a few larger land holders had commenced rearing beef cattle. In conjunction with dairying, most of the farmers began pig rearing. One farm, that of Janke's, had over 400 pigs, including 30 sows with up to 200 piglets at any one time. Pig sales at Woolooga were quite an event in the pre 1920's and early 1920's.

For a few years there were terrific yields for the settlers. However, by the end of World War I, many of the farmers were finding the times very difficult, especially with droughts and low prices, and sought a decrease in their payments on land being selected. This resulted in the Royal Commission into the Widgee Estate, after which payments were reduced by extending the period of lease before freeholding or changing the tenure to PLS (Perpetual Lease). Sam Benstead, from Tiaro, who selected two blocks adjoining Reids, was eventually forced off the land, after losing many cattle in the drought of 1918 - a casualty of the hard times.

Benstead went to the extent of shifting cattle towards the coast in search of feed, then back to Amamoor where it had rained, before his return to Widgee. The land was subsequently taken over by the late Harry Finch. The Bensteads then operated the Woolooga Hotel. The Cotter brothers lost about a dozen cattle in the big drought of 1918 - 1919, despite having plenty of well water. About this time, Billy and Frank Cotter shifted some 80 head of cattle from Cotter Brothers property to Frank's selection on Barambah Creek, near Murgon. This was a resumption of Windera Station. Only the milkers were left at Widgee.

Around the years 1925 - 1926, banana growing was very profitable. Groups of Finns grew bananas at Greenrock and at Ernie Hawkins' farm on Hawkins Road. At Hawkins', they operated a sawmill to produce cases for the bananas, which were usually carted to Brisbane for sale. One local identity, Mr Mick Cross, is

said to have profited a phenomenal £1 500 from 5 acres of bananas in one season. By 1927, however, the market for bananas was gone, and large scale growing had ceased. In the scrub country, in the late 1920's and early 1930's, McIntoshes persevered with bananas when Guy Mead, who had recently emigrated from Somerset in England, maintained one plantation behind O'Donnells. The plantation was set up with a flying fox cable from the mountain to the flat below where a packing shed was constructed.

By the 1940's, grain growing and the growing of root crops had become an important supplement to dairying. Ted Cater, from the Darling Downs, is reputed to have been the first to use a combine harvester at Widgee. Mark Carlson is said to have operated the first header in Widgee, producing grain to cart to Kandanga for use as pig meal. Falling grain prices in the 1950's prompted many Widgee farmers to rear vealers, which at this stage were worth up to £14 each. Grain prices improved in the 1960's and early 1970's, and local production increased. Eventually, by the late 1960's, dairying collapsed, and the main livelihood of many residents was swept away.

The Queensland Government's Amalgamation Scheme of the early 1970's was introduced to assist farmers and graziers to purchase neighbouring properties, and so increase the likelihood of their viability. A number of local farmers began using the feed lot system on a small scale, but beef producers were badly hit by the slump in prices of 1974 - 1975. As a result of the larger holdings, more of the local residents were able to begin rearing vealers. By this time, pig rearing had been phased out because of the problems of disease. As well, the growing of grain and root crops had also been drastically reduced.

The latest development in the district has been the subdivision, into the Widgee Country Housing Estate, of land held by the Lenorco Pastoral Company (formerly O'Briens, Wildeys, Cross and Mrs Win Power's). The blocks, mostly 50 to 100 acres, sold quite well and have promoted renewed housing construction and increased land usage in the locality. A similar situation arose with the subdivision of the Wodonga country near the headwaters of Widgee Creek. This has brought many new families into the district. Over the years, the use of land in the locality has changed greatly. Widgee has been the home for many diverse families. It is significant that descendants of many of the earliest families are still residents in the district.

## 2. TIMBER

Even before Gympie had been settled, the timber resources of the locality were being exploited. Once the available red cedar was cut out, use was made of the extensive reserves of pine. Millions of superfeet of pine were hauled by numerous bullock and horse wagons from the scrubs at Greenrock, Sawpit Creek and Wodonga to Woolooga railway station. An estimated 20 million superfeet of pine was carted from Sawpit Creek scrub alone. In the 1920's, Harry Coop operated the first timber truck in the locality, while Coop's Sawmill was established in Bill Cotter's paddock near the old school.



*Horse team crossing Bongmuller Creek - 1915*

*(H Warhurst)*



*Hillcoats' bullock team, Hillcoats' Road - 1915*

*(G Hillcoat)*

Stewart Gordon, Jim Fraser and Kenny Blair loaded logs at the Woolooga railway station probably in the early 1920's. Harry Poole was an early station master at Woolooga.

Around 1910 - 1920, there were up to 26 teams of bullocks or horses pulling timber to Woolooga. Jack Warhurst, who had a property up Bongmuller Creek, was an older brother of Henry Warhurst and carried timber from his home area to Woolooga. Early Widgee timber getters included Ernest Wooster, Jack and Bob Spiller, Billy Dunn, Billy Teague, McKewin Brothers, Matt Bambling, Lou Madden, Fred and Jack Stegger, Snowy Godwin, George Gorlic, Walter Schacht, the Hillcoats and William Chapman. Around 1920, timber from Greenrock was sold to Russell and Company in Brisbane. Several timber-getters, including the Warhursts, Fred, Albert and Alf Schmidt and George Gorlic, stayed for extended periods on the Wonga Reserve, probably during the first World War years. Much of the other timber went to the Maryborough mills, especially that of Wilson and Hart.

Fred Smith's sawmill, which he bought as a case mill at Southside Gympie in 1931, was rebuilt in John O'Keeffe's paddock at Little Widgee in 1934. This was sold in 1944 to Alfredsons. The mill was later shifted to the banks of Widgee Creek opposite the Hall and Recreation Committee's Sports grounds. The timber industry in the locality began to decline from the 1960's. In recent years, large strands of State Forest have been planted in the district. Pine thinnings were milled at Woodlands Sawmill, Monkland, Gympie, while hardwood, largely the results of controlled felling in Yurol (one of the largest surviving bastions of natural hardwood in Queensland), was milled at what formerly was the North Coast Sawmills, Cooroy.



*Alfredsons' Sawmill houses - Widgee  
(Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection)*

### 3. MINERALS

The Widgee District is endowed with traces of many minerals, including gold, silver-lead, asbestos, copper, zinc, mercury, iron, nickel, peacock ore and talc. However, no local mineral reserves have ever proved commercially viable. The initial promising reports of silver-lead at Mt Victor proved misleading. The area has been well prospected and numerous small mines tried and abandoned, such as those of Greenrock and Wodonga. Mt Victor was known originally as the Widgee Silver Lead Claim and was first worked by Jack Halloran, Bob Downing and Bert Betts. For a period of time, Bill O'Donnell and John 'L' Sullivan worked Mt Victor, (around 1917 - 1918). Camped on the flat below the mine, they were regular visitors at Cotter Brothers, collecting dated newspapers in order to catch up on events in the outside world. Alf Jones, Lord Mayor of Brisbane (1934 - 1940) had a team of men at Mt Victor for about six weeks in 1930. Ernie Janke worked with Jack Halloran in his Sawpit "show", where they were getting 12 ounces of silver to the ton. Wages were £3 per week with a deduction of 10/- for shares in the mine. Around 1905 - 1910, the O'Sullivan brothers from Glastonbury dug a 25 feet vertical shaft on their own land at Quandong and found promising traces of osmium. About 1918, a Gympie syndicate comprising F I Power, W J Crosse, Dr Cuppaidge, V H Tozer and Mr Carey leased about 160 acres behind Mt Victor on Yurol lease, but found little mineral in commercial quantities. The Widgee reefs had been fragmented in the geomorphological formation of the area, and all attempts to find the mother reefs in fact proved fruitless.

E M Smith and his son Tommy established a goldmine and a head battery on his Widgee Creek property in the 1920's. The mine appeared quite promising until the reef disappeared and the shaft collapsed during a period of wet weather. Jack Soanes worked in a goldmine on what was later Kewin's Woolooga property. For a period of time, this drew about three ounces to the ton from a tunnel, but like so many others soon cut out. Another miner named Tabke had similar results from an open-cut mine on the same property. There were two extensive tunnels in Shepperson's nearby property. Although these produced very fine quality gold, it proved difficult to treat. About 1918, Tabke and Eupene worked another 'show' up Bongmuller Creek, where they put in a tunnel about 120 feet long. Five hundredweight of copper ore was sent away, but did not prove to contain worthwhile mineral contents.

### 4. RECREATION

Throughout the many years of settlement at Widgee, the local industries, the means of land use and consequent local occupations, have changed and diversified extensively. From the late 1880's, a healthy community spirit developed. This was illustrated in regular district gatherings and community ventures over the years, e.g. local cricket matches, dances, tennis games, race meetings, campdrafting events, and of course the very popular and successful Bushmen's Carnivals. The first Widgee Cricket team was formed by Arnold Wienholt in the early 1900's. Early matches were played in the Station homestead paddock, next to the school.





*Shooting expedition - about 1912  
(Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection)*



*Mrs Wooster and Ruby in buggy - 1908  
(Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection)*

With the opening of the Estate in 1911 - 1912, numerous tennis courts were constructed and were well used. Races were held on the homestead when the Goodman Jones family lived there. These were held in conjunction with dances at night. From the earliest days of the school, in 1893, it was a venue for local dances.

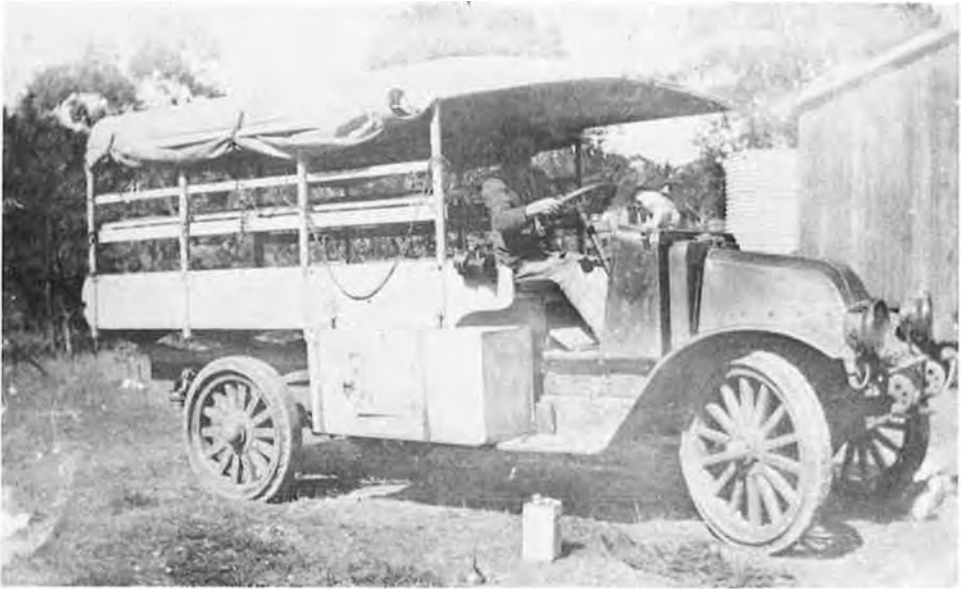
The races were revived as fund raisers when the community began planning the construction of the local hall, since the ageing school building proved to be inadequate for the accommodation of sizeable crowds. William Cotter called a meeting of local residents to discuss the possible construction of a hall. Present at the meeting on the banks of Widgee Creek, below where the hall was eventually constructed, were Ernie Hawkins, Harry Pahlow, Jim Reid, William Cotter, Jim Cotter, Donald McIntosh, Frank Finch, Billy Wildey, M B O'Sullivan, Ernie Janke, Peter McCarthy, Bill O'Donnell, Fred Wooster, Mr Ingram, Larry Hogan and Paddy Power. The building committee consisted of Harry Pahlow as Chairman, J E Reid as Treasurer and Jim Cotter as secretary. Races were held alternately at the Homestead and on Powers' property. Also, campdrafting competitions commenced about this time for the hall's fund raising. George Hillcoat is reputed to have won the first campdrafting event at Widgee. The local hall, constructed in 1923, has been an important focal point in the district. The hall was opened by the Member for Wide Bay, Mr Clayton. Such was the crowd on opening night, that the building was paid off with the proceeds from the event. Another most important joint community venture has been the school. Throughout its 95 years, the school has reflected the condition of the district. Its steady growth and progress is sound testament to the success and general progress of the Widgee district.

In the early 1900's, hunting was a popular pastime at Widgee. For instance, people would come out from Gympie to hunt kangaroos with dogs in the Upper Widgee - Gumtree area. William Byrne was a keen kangaroo hunter. One afternoon, his dogs killed a 6 foot 6 inch specimen in Janke's back paddock. Archie Bradley, the famous boxer, came out frequently to hunt roos with Ivan O'Brien. The Hillcoats of Wodonga maintained quite a lucrative business by shooting whiptails, snaring possums and selling the skins.

## 5. TRANSPORT

Important transport connections remained with the cream carters. Early carters who travelled to the railhead at Woolooga included Bill O'Donnell, Bill Keightley, Bill Foster, who was probably the first to put a truck on the run, and Bill O'Brien. After selling his cream run, Ernie Smith operated a service car from Southside to Widgee and Woolooga and back to Gympie.

At times, he carried up to seventeen passengers in the vehicle - a Chandler. Bill Cotter was the first resident at Widgee to own a motor vehicle. This vehicle, a Buick, turned over on Dead Horse Pinch, the slope in front of Harry Finch's home. All the occupants were conveyed to Gympie Hospital. Henry Warhurst Snr later used his 1926 Dodge as a taxi.



*Motor Cream Run - 1923*

*(F Smith)*



*Opening of Widgee Creek Bridge  
(Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection)*

The Widgee Creek bridge was constructed in 1930. The Main Roads Department called tenders for both the Widgee and Station Creek bridges. Ted Wright was the successful tenderer in both cases. The 45 feet poles used in the Widgee Creek bridge were cut in Mick Shanahan's Widgee property. The iron bark piles for the Station Creek bridge were cut by Bill O'Donnell at the base of Mt Misery. Timber used for the girders was spotted gum. The timber for both bridges was carted by Harold Warhurst. Piles were driven by a 13 hundredweight cast steel piledriver.



## References

### Interviews by J D Dale

Mrs J Price - daughter of G H Harvey  
 Mr W A Bishop  
 Mr Myles Kewin  
 Harold Warhurst  
 Mrs Ruby Jensen - nee Smith  
 Mr Jack Petersen  
 Mr Aubrey Neal  
 Mr Guy Mead  
 Mr Harry Finch  
 E G Janke  
 Mr James Byrne  
 Mr W Byrne  
 Mr Ford Wildey  
 Mr N L Rankin  
 Mrs A N Wright  
 George Treeby  
 Miss G Reid  
 Mrs George Pratt  
 Mr Leo Goodman-Jones  
 Mr Fred Goodman-Jones  
 Mr W J Cotter  
 Mr and Mrs Tom Hawkins  
 Mr Henry Warhurst  
 Mr Jim Benstead  
 Mr Fred Smith  
 Mr E Smith  
 George Hillcoat

### Documents

Reference to Map, Parish of Brooyar, County of Lennox, Sheet 2, March 1912, Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection.

Statistics Concerning Woolooga Estate, Votes & Proceedings, Vol 2, 1907, p 621.

Agricultural Farm 3093, Selection Papers. LAN/DF 2329.

Reference to Map - Parish of Brooyar, County of Lennox. March 1912, Queensland State Archives, DC/41912.

Reference to Map - Parish of Widgee, County of Lennox, October 1933, Owen and Agnes O'Donnell Collection.

Cole, Mrs Ellen. Original Manuscript presented to J D Dale.

Widgee School History - pp 88-89.

Telegraph - 16 June 1977.

## *Postscript*

When Kilkivan Divisional Board was formed, the town of Kilkivan was the focal point of the district. There were no towns closer than Gayndah, Gympie and Nanango. Now there are two small towns with very little to weld them into a cohesive unit.

Yet since the Second World War the shire has acquired many of the amenities that larger centres enjoy. There are still very active community centres, not only in Kilkivan and Goomeri but in other small localities.

The one unifying factor that we have is our history. Few shires in Queensland would have such a varied and interesting past as Kilkivan Shire. This book is longer than it was intended to be, but there are still some sections that have not received adequate attention.

My family spent their Christmas holidays proof-reading and editing the book in our last frantic rush to meet the printer's deadline. As my youngest daughter recently drove through Kilkivan she said that she looked at the town with new eyes after reading so much of its history.

It is my wish that this book will make every one of us look at our Shire of Kilkivan 'with new eyes'.

*Dulcie Logan*

Romley  
GOOMERI  
10 January 1988



# Appendix A

## OFFICERS OF THE KILKIVAN SHIRE

### 1. SHIRE CHAIRMEN 1888 - 1988

First elected	Name	First elected	Name
29 Feb 1888	G H Jones	07 Mar 1889	G H Jones
08 Mar 1890	G H Jones	25 Feb 1891	J Broadbent
23 Feb 1892	J Broadbent	07 Mar 1893	L M Jones
27 Jun 1893	G H Jones	30 Jan 1894	G H Jones
27 Feb 1895	G H Jones	29 Jan 1896	G H Jones
27 Jan 1897	G H Jones	02 Feb 1898	W B Lawless
25 Jan 1899	H Moore	28 Feb 1900	L M Jones
30 Jan 1901	H Moore	26 Feb 1902	A E Jones
25 Feb 1903	J P Voss	04 Nov 1903	W B Lawless
24 Feb 1904	L M Jones	03 Mar 1905	L M Jones
Feb 1906	L M Jones	30 Jan 1907	W B Lawless
29 Jan 1908	J A Slater	24 Feb 1909	L M Jones
09 Feb 1910	T H Tennison	08 Feb 1911	W B Lawless
31 Jan 1912	N Jones	05 Feb 1913	I J Moore
04 Feb 1914	F S Schollick	03 Feb 1915	L M Jones
05 Apr 1916	F S Schollick	04 Apr 1917	I J Moore
13 Feb 1918	W B Lawless	12 Feb 1919	F S Schollick
04 Feb 1920	F S Schollick	03 Aug 1921	W B Lawless
04 May 1927	J E Stanton	May 1930	R P Stumm
May 1933	J E Stanton	May 1936	T H Spencer
May 1936	T H Spencer	May 1943	C C Jones
June 1949	T H Spencer	May 1958	N Warburton
Apr 1970	A F McIntosh		

### 2. SHIRE CLERKS 1888 - 1988

Name	Commenced	Left
D McFie	29 Feb 1888	27 Mar 1889
A Douglas	27 Mar 1889	04 Jun 1890
G H Simpson	01 Jul 1890	01 Mar 1905
D L Jones	01 Mar 1905	03 Sep 1945
E G Keating	01 Dec 1945	17 Aug 1979
J P Cuddihy	20 Aug 1979	07 Mar 1986
R C Currie	08 Apr 1986	to date

## 3. SHIRE COUNCILLORS 1908 - 1988

Name	Commenced	Years	Terminated
Armstrong W G	Jan 1908	2	N/R Feb 1910
Aronsten Max Oscar	Apr 1916	3	N/R Feb 1919
Anderson James E	Aug 1921	6	N/R May 1927
	May 1943	6	N/R Jun 1949
	Jun 1952	.5	Dec Dec 1952
Abel William J	Jul 1924	3	N/R May 1927
Broadbent James M	Feb 1888	5	Res Jun 1893
Booker C J	Feb 1900	1.5	Res Aug 1901
Bandidt William F	Feb 1918	15	N/R May 1933
Birt Peter J	Jul 1924	3	N/R May 1927
Baxter John H	May 1936	10	N/R May 1946
Baker Harold G	May 1955	4.5	Res Dec 1959
Bardrick Harry G	May 1955	3	N/R May 1958
	Jun 1959	1.5	Res Dec 1960
Batts Keith A	Apr 1973	3	N/R Mar 1976
	Mar 1982		
Barsby Leonard A	Jun 1952	3	N/R May 1955
	Dec 1959	13.5	N/R Mar 1973
	Mar 1976	6	N/R Mar 1982
Chippendale Mr	Jul 1890	1	Res Sep 1891
Cotter William	Feb 1919	2.5	N/R Aug 1921
	May 1927	6	N/R May 1933
Caulley David J	May 1927	22	N/R Jun 1949
Christiansen Wilfred V	May 1933	6	Res Jun 1939
Davenport F H	Feb 1888	1	N/R May 1889
Davies Aaron W	Aug 1921	6	N/R May 1927
	May 1930	3	N/R May 1933
	Jun 1939	4	N/R May 1943
	Jun 1945	1	N/R May 1946
Dickens Robert J	May 1946	8	Res Jul 1954
Dimmick Gordon J	Apr 1970	6	N/R Mar 1976
Everett R F	May 1946	2	Dec Aug 1948
Elliott William L	May 1961	12	N/R Mar 1973
	Mar 1976	3	Res Jan 1979
Farmer Francis A S	Jun 1949	9	N/R May 1958
Fitzgerald Robert p	May 1955	12	Dec Jun 1967
Glasgow Samuel H	Apr 1916	17	N/R Apr 1933
Graham Lionel T	May 1955	6	N/R May 1961
	Apr 1965	.33	Dec Aug 1965



Name	Commenced	Years	Terminated
Galloway John P N	Sep 1965		
Hunter J M	Feb 1888	2	Res Jun 1890
Hooker Brian	Aug 1890	2.5	N/R Mar 1893
Hester S L	Mar 1893	.25	Res Jun 1893
Hodge Robert S	Mar 1909	1	N/R Feb 1910
Heathwood Walter G	May 1930	13	N/R May 1943
Hall Leslie A	May 1930	9	N/R May 1939
Hooke F M	May 1939	10	N/R May 1949
Harch Reginald	Mar 1976		
Hanson Norman R	Nov 1987		
Jones Llewellyn M	Mar 1892	28	N/R Mar 1920
Jones George E	Mar 1893	3	N/R Jan 1896
Jones George H	Feb 1888	3	Res Feb 1891
	Jun 1893	6	Dec Sep 1899
Jones A E	Sep 1899	4.5	N/R Feb 1904
Jones Norman	Feb 1904	9	N/R Feb 1913
Johnston Joseph W	May 1924	3	N/R May 1927
Jones Charles C	Jul 1924	25	N/R Jun 1949
Kernshan J	Feb 1890	.5	Dec Jul 1890
King F M	Jan 1907	1	N/R Jan 1908
Kraemer Percival V	Jun 1949	4.5	Res Jan 1954
Knight Graham S	Jan 1979		
Lawless J P	Mar 1889	.2	Res May 1889
Lawless William B	Mar 1891	36	Ret Apr 1927
Leahy John M	Apr 1916	5	N/R Aug 1921
Latham William A	Dec 1952	2.5	N/R May 1955
Lindley Anthony H	Apr 1973	3	N/R Mar 1976
Lahiff David J B	Mar 1976	11.75	Res Nov 1987
Moore Isaac	Apr 1890	4	Res Jul 1894
	Sept 1904	22.5	N/R May 1927
McKewan M	Jun 1893	6.5	N/R Feb 1900
McKewan W E	May 1946	9	N/R May 1955
Moore Hugh	Jul 1894	10	N/R Feb 1904
Mackrell J C	Feb 1902	1.5	Dec Sep 1903
Mackrell F L B	Dec 1903	3	N/R Feb 1906
	Feb 1910	1	N/R Feb 1911
McLucas A	Jan 1907	1	N/R Jan 1908
McIntosh Donald M	Feb 1949	15.5	Dec Nov 1964
McIvor William	Jul 1956	5	N/R May 1961
McIntosh Alec F	May 1961		
McIntosh Ian Donald	May 1967		
McIntosh Donald A	Apr 1970		

Name	Commenced	Years	Terminated
Norris Robert R	May 1955	1	Res Jul 1956
Nagel John E	May 1958	1	Res Jun 1959
Nahrung A E	Dec 1964	2.5	N/R Jun 1967
O'Brien Arthur R	May 1955	6	N/R May 1961
Osborne Norman L	Apr 1916	2	N/R Feb 1918
Owens Arthur J	May 1927	6	N/R May 1933
Power F	Feb 1888	1.25	N/R May 1889
Perrett Sealy A	Aug 1921	25	N/R May 1946
Peters Frederick W	May 1927	3	N/R May 1930
Pearson Olaf	May 1927	3	N/R May 1930
Platt Matthew	May 1930	9	N/R May 1939
Perrett Percival M	May 1939	6	Res May 1945
	Sep 1948	4	N/R Jun 1952
Porter J G	Jul 1954	1	N/R May 1955
Portas Harold A	May 1958	9	N/R Jun 1967
Rose Thomas	Feb 1888	4	N/R Mar 1892
Rogash John H	May 1946	3	N/R Jun 1949
	Jun 1952	3	N/R May 1955
Single Mr	May 1889	1	N/R Jun 1890
Slater J A	Jan 1907	3	N/R Feb 1910
<b>Sturran Robert Pride</b>	Feb 1919	10	N/R May 1930
	May 1930	3	N/R May 1933
	May 1943	3	N/R May 1946
Stanton John Edward	Feb 1920	10	N/R May 1930
	May 1933	3	N/R May 1936
	May 1943	2	Res Jun 1945
Spencer Thomas Herbert	May 1927	3	N/R May 1930
	May 1936	7	N/R May 1943
	May 1945	1	N/R May 1946
	Jun 1949	9	N/R Jun 1958
Stanton John Allan	Jun 1949	3	N/R Jun 1952
	Jan 1954	1.5	N/R May 1955
Sippel Rerald Mervyn	Dec 1960	12.25	Ret Mar 1973
Stephen H C	Aug 1967	2.5	Ret Mar 1970
Tansey Michael	May 1889	4	N/R Mar 1893
Tennison Thomas H	Feb 1906	13	N/R Feb 1919
Voss J P	Jan 1896	8	Res Nov 1903
Wienholt Arnold	Dec 1903	6	N/R Feb 1910
Wheatley Walter Merton	Aug 1921	2.75	N/R May 1924
Wildey William Francis	May 1927	3	N/R May 1930
Warburton Noel Edwin	May 1946	6	N/R Jun 1952
	May 1958	12	N/R Mar 1970
Williamson Edward A	Apr 1973	3	Ret May 1976
Webb Fabian Paul	May 1967		
Zillman Adolf	May 1961	4	Ret Mar 1965

## Appendix B

---

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

#### 1. TIMBER RESERVES

##### Timber Reserves in the Kilkivan Shire:

T R 26	Mudlo	1768ha
T R 185	Booubyjan	905ha
T R 416	Brooyar	2428ha
T R 494	Kilkivan	288ha (close to town)
T R 502	Mt Clara	78ha

Timber reserves are managed purely for timber.

Res No	Name	Parish	Area
67	Grongah	Grongah	9130
74	Nangur	Nangur	1813
138	Kabunga	Manumbar	331.8
210	Benibi	Benibi	2649.8
215		Benibi	2586.3
220	Oakview	Kilkivan	4340
255	Wigton	Waroon	4294.6
259	Ban Ban	Ban Ban	133.4
298	Gallangowan	Gallangowan	4980
355	Cinnabar	Kilkivan	388.5
535	McEuen	McEuen	427.3
536	Charlestown	Charlestown	265.9
546	Kandanga	Kandanga	2233.9
612	Jimmy's Scrub	Kilkivan	890.3
632	Marodian	Marodian	8920
639	Wrattens	Manumbar	15870
673	Elginvale	Monsildale	12900

Some of the reserves span more than one parish. The parish containing the largest areas of reserve involvement is listed.

State forests may be used for other purposes than preservation of timber but are strictly controlled by the Forestry Department.

*Courtesy of Mr Bob Baldwin - State Forestry Office, Murgon.*

## 2. CONVERSION TABLE

Currency, Weights and Measures are those in use at the time.

Currency: 12 pence = 1 shilling, 20 shillings = 1 pound (£1)  
= \$2 at the date of currency conversion in 1966.

Distance: 12 inches = 1 foot, 3 feet = 1 yard = 0.914 metres;  
22 yards = 1 chain = 20.117 metres;  
80 chains = 1 mile = 1.609 kilometres.

Area: 1 acre = 0.405 hectares; 640 acres = 1 square mile  
= 2.590 sq km.

Volume: 1 gallon = 4.536 litres.

Weight (avoirdupois): 16 ounces = 1 pound = 454 grams;  
112 pounds = 1 hundredweight;  
20 hundredweight = 1 ton = 1.016 tonnes.

Weight (troy): 24 grains = 1 pennyweight, 20 pennyweight  
= 1 ounce = 31.1 grams.

Timber: 1 super foot = 1 cubic foot = 0.0283 m<sup>3</sup>.



# References

## CHAPTER 1

- Bleakley, J W, *The Aborigines of Australia*. Brisbane, Jacaranda, 1961.  
 Howitt, A W, *The Native Tribes of South East Australia*. London, Macmillan, 1904.  
 Langevad, G, *Some Original Views around Kilcoy Book 1*. The Aboriginal Perspective, Vol 1 No1, Archaeology Branch, Queensland.  
 Mathew, J, *Two Representative Tribes of Queensland*. London, Unwin, 1910.  
 Petrie, C, *Tom Petrie's Reminiscences of Early Queensland*. Brisbane, Watson Ferguson, 1904.  
 Tindale, N B, *Aboriginal Tribes of Australia*. Canberra, Australian National University Press, 1974.  
 Government Department, Department of Community Services - Queensland Anthropology Branch. McQueen, R W D.

## CHAPTER 2

- McMenn, W G, *Allan Cunningham, Botanist and Explorer*. Melbourne, University Press, 1970.  
 Petrie, C, *Tom Petrie's Reminiscences of Early Queensland*. Brisbane, Watson Ferguson, 1904.  
 Russell, H S, *The Genesis of Queensland*. Sydney, Turner and Henderson, 1902.  
 Stewart, F and M, *Biggenden's Beginnings*. Self-published, 1981.  
 McKinnon, F, *Early Pioneers of the Wide Bay and Burnett*, in Historical Society of Queensland Inc. Journal Vol III.  
 Mitchell Library:  
 NSW Government Dispatch of Burnett, J C, Vol 53, 1846.  
 NSW Government Gazette, Perry to Sir Charles Fitzroy, No 111, Sup, 29 Dec 1846.  
 Hogan, J F, *The Gladstone Colony*. London, Fisher Unwin, 1898.

## CHAPTER 3

- Bernays, C C, *Queensland Political History During Sixty Years*. Brisbane, Queensland, Government Printer, 1919.  
 Bull, D B, *Short Cut to Gympie Gold*. Brisbane, F H Watson, 1982.  
 McCarthy, P H, *The Wild Scotsman*. Melbourne, Self-published.  
 Cilento, R, *Triumph in the Tropics*. Brisbane, Smith and Paterson, 1909.  
 Marriot, E W, *Thomas West of Barcom Glen*. Bowral, Barcom Press, 1982.  
 Murphy and Easton, *Wilderness to Wealth*. Brisbane, Smith and Paterson, 1950.  
 Logan, D, ed, *History of Education in the Goomeri area*. Gympie, Reid, 1976.  
 Nairn, Ted et al, *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. Melbourne, University Press.  
 Skinner, L E, *Police of the Pastoral Frontier*. St Lucia, Queensland University Press, 1975.  
 Stewart, G and F, *Biggenden's Beginnings*. Self-published, 1981.  
 Bloxome (unpub), *Letters, Historical Notes*. Oxley Library.

Queensland State Archives:

C04/A14, *Letters - J and A Mortimer*.

Kilkivan Historical Society:

*Cuttings - Kilkivan Station, Cuttings - Johnny Campbell*.

## Unpublished Memoirs:

Green, C, (K H S).  
 Lawless, Mrs M, (Lest I Forget).  
 Nahrung - (ed A Nahrung).

## Family Papers:

Lawless, B R, (Boobyjan and Windera).  
 Sparkes, J, and Rookwood, J, (Sparkes of Manumbar).  
 Mctaggart, D, (Kilkivan Station).

## Articles:

Reed, J F, *Land Settlement in the South Burnett*. Historical Society of Queensland Vol III, Part 1 - 6.  
 Lawless, E, *Clement and Paul Lawless*. Paper to Queensland Historical Society, 20 August 1959.

## Newspapers:

Queenslander. 5 February 1931.  
 Brisbane Courier. Supplement, *Epic of Adventure (Boonara)*.  
 24 January 1931.

## Information:

Barambah - J Hall, R Francis.  
 Boonara - D Mander Jones, J Brown.

## Queensland Parliamentary Library:

Moroney, T, *Electorates and Their Representatives for the Area of Queensland Prior to 1859*.

## CHAPTER 4

Murphy and Easton, *Wilderness to Wealth*. Brisbane, Smith and Paterson, 1950.  
 The Webb Families, *100 Years at Thornside*. Family History, 1982.

## Queensland Department of Mines:

Ball, G C, *Report of Yorkie's Field and Marodian Gold Field and Copper Field*. 1902.  
 Rands, W H, *Report on the Geology and Mineral Resources of the Districts of Kilkivan and Black Snake*. Queensland Government Mining Journal, Geological Survey Reports.

## Newspapers and Periodicals:

Nashville Times, Gympie Times  
 Maryborough Chronicle  
 Brisbane Courier - Extract from Various Reports on Kilkivan Mineral Field.

## Unpublished Theses:

McKechnie, P, *Cobalt Mining, Diggers and Dreamers*.

## Other Sources:

Kerr, J and R, Notes on Mining.  
 Murray, P, Planted Creek Mine.  
 Lawless, B and E, Lord Nelson Mine.  
 McArthur, J, Cinnabar.  
 Cirson, Mrs, Cinnabar.  
 Lahiff, D, Contemporary Mining at Kilkivan.  
 Cooloola News Bulletin.  
 Kilkivan Historical Society.

## CHAPTER 5

Murphy and Easton, *Wilderness to Wealth*. Brisbane, Smith and Paterson, 1950.  
 Pedley, I, *Winds of Change*. Gympie Times, 1979.  
 Marriott, T W, *Thomas West of Barcom Glen*. Bowral, Barcom Press, 1982.

## Queensland State Archives:

WOP/N12 - *Ratepayers Barambah Divisional Board*.  
 LAN/AF100 - *Resumption, Boobyjan and Winderera*.  
 LAN/AF97 - *Barambah Run*.  
 LAN/AF98 - *Resumption, Boonara*.

## Family History:

Calquhoun, M, *My Family Chronicle* (Briggs).

## Interviews:

Dunn, Mrs J and Paterson, Mrs M, (Grieve Family).

## Kilkivan Historical Society - Family Histories:

Fitzgerald Family  
 Hunter Family  
 Mackrell Family  
 Moessenger Family  
 Ray Family  
 Zahnleiter Family

## Information - Families:

Banks Family -	G Knight
Batts Family -	K Batts
Connors Family -	B Lane
Dray Family -	E Dray
Elderfield Family -	F Elderfield
Euler Family -	Y Euler
Glasgow Family -	M Walthall
Hewson Family -	J Dale
Hunt Family -	J Dale
Lawless Pyne Family -	B and E Lawless
MacFarlane Family -	A Knox
Maudsley Family -	B Roach, B Palmer, L Maudsley, P Cooper
Porter Family -	D Porter
Tansey Family -	Maryborough Chronicle, Webb Family History

Wason Family - D Wason, M Pearson, J Haas  
 Westaway Family - N and B Warburton  
 Wilson Family - J Cotter

Nanango Shire Council Archives.

## CHAPTER 6

Kilkivan Historical Society:

*Kilkivan Railway Centenary*, 1987.

*Dickabram Bridge Centenary Booklet (1886-1986)*. Pialba,  
 I and R Mactaggart and Co, 1986.

Charlton, F J, *Report on the Continuation of the Kilkivan  
 Railway to Gayndah*. 1884.

*Reports on the Correspondence to Queensland Legislative  
 Assembly*. Route of Kilkivan to Maryborough - 1885.

Information:

Kerr, John and Ruth, *100 Years of Railway at Kilkivan*.  
 Queensland Railways Historical Collection.

Newspapers:

Gympie Times.

Maryborough Chronicle.

Queensland State Archives:

COL/043 - Letter re Railways.

## CHAPTER 7

Bernays, C C, *Queensland Political History During Sixty Years*. Brisbane,  
 Queensland Government Printer, 1919.

Pedley, I, *Winds of Change*. Gympie Times, 1979.

Queensland Parliamentary Library:

Moroney, T, Queensland Government Gazettes.  
 31 July 1986, 31 December 1987.

Queensland State Archives:

COL/OU3 - *Order in Council* (Queensland Parliament).

WOR/N23 - *Petition*.

WOR/N12 - *Letters - Divisional Board - Petition*.

Kilkivan Shire Council:

Minutes Books.

Nanango Shire Council Archives.



## CHAPTER 8

Murphy and Easton, *Wilderness to Wealth*. Brisbane, Smith and Paterson, 1950.

Kilkivan Historical Society:

*Kilkivan Land Sale*.

Information - Families:

Davies Family -	M Beer, K Davies
Cahill Family -	M Cahill
Franz Family -	H Franz, Family Papers
Gentry Family -	C Gentry
Gallagher and Lewis Families -	K and M Batts
Heathwood Family -	E Heathwood
Lobegeier Family -	G Brown, O Dorse, .D Hicks
Caulfield Family -	J Schuler
Schollick Family -	F Schollick
Moreland Family -	A Moreland
Walker Family -	J Walker
McIntosh Family -	Gympie Times
Stockden Family -	G Stockden

Queensland State Archives:

LAN/AF98 Particulars of Land Resumption.

Kilkivan Shire Rate Books.

## CHAPTER 9

Kingaroy Herald. 10 March 1911, courtesy J Davis.

Queensland State Archives:

COL/043 Maps and Clippings.

## CHAPTER 10

Thurecht, Joan, *Thurecht Family History*.

Newspapers and Periodicals:

*The Colonist*. Maryborough Chronicle, 20 March 1980, courtesy W Banditt.

Department of Forestry:

D Baldwin (Murgon).  
 D Scarr (Murgon).  
 D McCarroll (Kilkivan).  
 V Williams (formerly Gallangowan).

## Interviews:

B Baxter	J Brown
G L Spencer	B Olzard
M Pearson	H Franz
P M Perrett	J Davis
J Knipe	A Lane
W Knox	J Mackie
P O'Neill,	M Owens
A Duffey	J Allen
A Moreland	C Birch

Kilkivan Shire Council Minutes.

## CHAPTER 11

Kilkivan Shire Council Minutes.

## Queensland State Archives:

WOR/N12	<i>Letters - G H Jones, I Moore. List of Ratepayers. Petition.</i>
COL/043	<i>Proclamation - Queensland Government Gazette. Newspaper Clippings - Wondai Times.</i>

## CHAPTER 12

Kilkivan Shire Council Minutes.

## Department of Primary Industries:

Dairy Factories - Managers  
South Burnett Dairy Co-op Co Ltd.  
Maryborough Co-operative Dairy Factory.

## Newspapers:

Brisbane Courier - 18 October 1924, 9 January 1926, courtesy T Wixted.

## Information Supplied by:

E Sadler	G Anderson
W Bandidt	L Keune
C Lehmann	M Owens
J Shorten	H Maudsley
R Barsby	T and V Livingstone
G Brown	B Palmer
G Knight	W Lahiff
A Lane	M Moxey
S Hetherington	

## CHAPTER 13

Kilkivan Historical Society:

*Clippings and Documents, List of Publicans,*  
courtesy Licensing Commission.

Interviews and Information Supplied by:

P Fitzgerald	R McCarroll
R Williams	G Stockden
P Perrett	K McIvor
B Baxter	A Moreland
M Batts	A Lahiff
R Truscott	

Kilkivan Shire Council - Minutes.

Kilkivan School of Arts - Minutes.

## CHAPTER 14

Newspapers:

Maryborough Chronicle 26 March 1930.

Hall of Memory - Minutes of Trustees.

Davis, J, Press Clippings and Information.

Information Supplied by:

K McIvor	P Perrett
F Rawlings	M Dickinson
L Yesberg	G Bourne
W Bandidt	I Anderson
F McDonald	A Duffey
S Silburn	

## CHAPTER 15

Tansey Sports Grounds - Minutes.

Kilkivan Shire Council - Minutes.

Kilkivan Historical Society - Papers and Documents.

Information:

K Greer	A Owens
J Haas	C Lehmann
L Barsby	T and V Livingstone
J Stockden	B Roach
V Knipe	J Schuler
T Jones	

## CHAPTER 16

Logan, D, ed, *History of Education in the Goomeri Area*. 2nd Edition, Goomeri State School, 1987.

Education Department Archives.

Kilkivan State School, *Jubilee Booklet*.

Widgee State School History, *Ninetieth Anniversary 1892-1982*.

Kilkivan Historical Society.

Information Supplied by:

B Dray	J Cotter
J Birt	M McIntosh
J Walker	B Roach
E Williams	T Jones
K Fitzgerald	F Webb
M McIntosh	

I wish to thank all who helped me to find information about the small schools in the Kilkivan District.

## CHAPTER 17

QCWA:

Local Office Bearers and Minutes Books.

Calgoa-Running Creek QCWA - Mrs T Turner.

Cinnabar QCWA - Mrs L Barsby.

Goomeri Show Society:

Maryborough Chronicle, 20 March 1930.

Kilkivan Show Society:

R Atthow, L Barsby.

Progress Association:

Kilkivan Shire Minutes.

Kilkivan Development Board:

A Batts.

Goomeri Chamber of Commerce:

Minutes and Press Clippings.

United Graziers Association:

R Francis, G McGill.

Grain Growers Association:

Minutes.

Lions Clubs:

Goomeri - P Thomas,

Kilkivan - M Atthow.

Dairy Farmers Organizations:

Minutes - Boonara QFU,

Department of Primary Industries.

Kilkivan Kindergarten:

M Batts.

Junior Farmers and Rural Youth:

I and V Clark      B Olzard

Mrs Walsh          K Batts

P Walsh.

Masonic Lodges:

Easton and Murphy, *Wilderness to Wealth*.

Buffalo Lodge:  
     B Baxter.  
 Oddfellows Lodge:  
     Mrs E Turner, J Davis.  
 Protestant Alliance:  
     D Choate.  
 Kilkivan Historical Society:  
     Mrs F Fitzgerald.  
 RSL:  
     G Bourne, M Webb.  
 Political Parties:  
     J Baxter,  
     Kilkivan Shire Council Minutes,  
     Kilkivan Historical Society.

## CHAPTER 18

Richards, Ven H R, *Glimpses of the Past*. (Lecture on the Anglican Church in the Wide Bay Area), courtesy of Mrs B R Lawless, 1971.  
 Kilkivan Historical Society, *Clippings and Booklets on the Union, Catholic and Woollooga Churches*.  
 Presbyterian Church, *Minutes of the First Committee*, courtesy of Rev Williams, Uniting Church.  
 Heath, J E, *History of Goomeri Methodist Church*, courtesy of B Greer.  
 Goomeri Catholic Church:  
     Mrs I Coleman  
     Kilkivan Shire Council Minutes.

## CHAPTER 19

Golf:  
     G Bourne  
 Cricket:  
     R Sippel, A McIntosh  
 Netball:  
     Y Euler  
 Swimming:  
     Goomeri - J Ryan  
     Kilkivan - K Batts  
 Basketball:  
     J Cotter  
 Bowls:  
     J Davis, L Barsby.  
 Horse Events:  
     R Atthow, P McAuley, M Batts, A McIntosh.  
 Football:  
     A McIntosh.

## Information Supplied by the Families of:

B Wright,	M Kratzmann,
G Kapernick,	D and I Moffit,
B Plowman,	J Philp,
E Smith,	D Marks,
G Gordon,	B Kellaway,
R Raymond,	M Polzin,
M Brockhurst,	G and D Breikreitz,
M McIntosh,	A Brown.

## Rifle Club:

K Farrow.

## Light Horse:

Mr C Millar MHR, and Defence Library, Canberra,  
Clippings - M Batts and Kilkivan Historical Society.

## Goomeri Sports Club:

Minutes.

## Centenary Horse Trail:

K Batts.

**CHAPTER 20**

Kilkivan Shire Council: Minutes.

Davis, J. Clippings and Information.

Warburton, N. Clippings and Information.

Kilkivan Historical Society: Clippings and Information.

Ambulance: R Morsch.

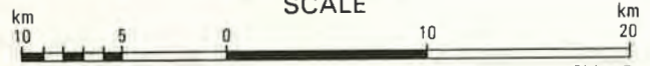
SES: J Cotter.



# SHIRE OF KILKIVAN



SCALE



Prepared by the Department of Mapping and Surveying for the Kilkivan Shire Council

