

**This folder contains  
Section 3 Part A**

**Community Groups and Businesses**

Conference Centre  
Old Post Office  
Gardiner Family  
Fire Brigade  
Tennis Club

**Back to Bonny's Community Photo Collection**

**Each part is in a separate folder.**

**These are currently being rotated monthly in Bonny Hills between the Surf Club and the three cafes.**

Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4	Section 5	Section 6
<b>Pioneers</b>	<b>Family Stories</b>	<b>Community Groups and Businesses</b>	<b>Recreation: Culture and Sport</b>	<b>The Changing Face of Bonny Hills</b>	<b>Back to Bonny's Celebrations 2018</b>
<u>Part A</u> Suters and Descendants Prout Family Early Land Subdivisions Newton/Dobson Family	<u>Part A</u> Litchfield family Latham Girls Robin Dobson Memories Bob Bulley Family Gai Fowler Memories Claire Webber Memories Bill Shelly Travis Allen Display Liz Lloyd James Artwork	<u>Part A</u> Conference Centre Old Post Office Gardiner Family Fire Brigade Tennis Club	<u>Part A</u> Little Beach Theatre Skate Park Physical Culture Club	<u>Part A</u> Birpai/Thomas Dick John Oxley Paradise Article Bartletts Beach Bob Bates Photos	<p>This section is currently being compiled.</p> <p>It will contain photos from the Back to Bonny's Day 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 2018</p> 
<u>Part B</u> Bartlett Family	<u>Part B</u> Carney/Sharkey Family McCudden Family Bennett Family Yonon Family	<u>Part B</u> Bicentennial in BH Top Shop Landcare Garden Centre CWA Community Hall Plaza Tavern	<u>Part B</u> WBH Surf LS Club Mal De Mer CH Junior Boardriders MNC Girls Surfriders	<u>Part B</u> Rainbow Beach John Phillip Subdivision Classic Waves Bob Bates Photos	

If you have photos or stories you would like to add to this collection please contact  
Kathy Regan on [kathyregan@bigpond.com](mailto:kathyregan@bigpond.com) or 0457930557

## History of the Methodist Church and Bonny Hills Youth Camp, 1959-1977

The first recorded church service in Bonny Hills was a Methodist service held in the open air, (circa.)1959, on [opp. the Camping Ground & Bonny View Store] on the corner of Graham Street and Ocean Drive.

The Minister was Rev<sup>d</sup> Wyville Thomson, from Port Macquarie. Because of his leadership in mobilizing volunteers and securing donations, he was the driving force in establishing the Bonny Hills Youth Camp and Training Centre.

### The Bonny Hills Youth Camp and Training Centre

The Youth Camp (presently St Francis Retreat Centre) was built on land generously donated to the Methodist Church by the family of William Charles Welsh (Broken Hill). The transfer is dated 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1957. Construction began with the laying of a Foundation Stone in August, 1960.

The Centre was built largely by voluntary labour, using milled timber and buildings being brought from other places and reassembled as two dormitories and a dining hall. The vision to benefit youth across the North Coast was supported by many businesses, church congregation and individuals.

Worship services, along with the youth events were conducted by guest leaders and Methodist Ministers from Port Macquarie and Wauchope as well as lay preachers on occasions.

Ministers who led these services as visiting preachers were: Rev<sup>d</sup> Wyville Thomson, Rev<sup>d</sup> Lindsay Miller. Revd Bruce Westbrook, Rev<sup>d</sup> Ross Lay, Rev<sup>d</sup> Alan Palmer, Rev<sup>d</sup> John Weston, Rev<sup>d</sup> Vic Neideck, Rev<sup>d</sup> David Bakhsh and Rev<sup>d</sup> Tim Gee.

On 6 August, 1966 a Caretaker's cottage was officially opened on the site. It was given to the Methodist Church by Mr Fred Beavis to make way for the Mid Pacific Motel (cnr Short and Clarence Streets). Originally located on the eastern side of the Camp site it was later moved to northern side and named the Bonny Cottage.

In April 1977, to honour the founding of the Youth Camp, a plaque was placed in a large rock at the Youth Camp centre, as a tribute to the inspirational work of Rev<sup>d</sup> Wyville Thomson.

### Inauguration of the Uniting Church 22 June 1977.

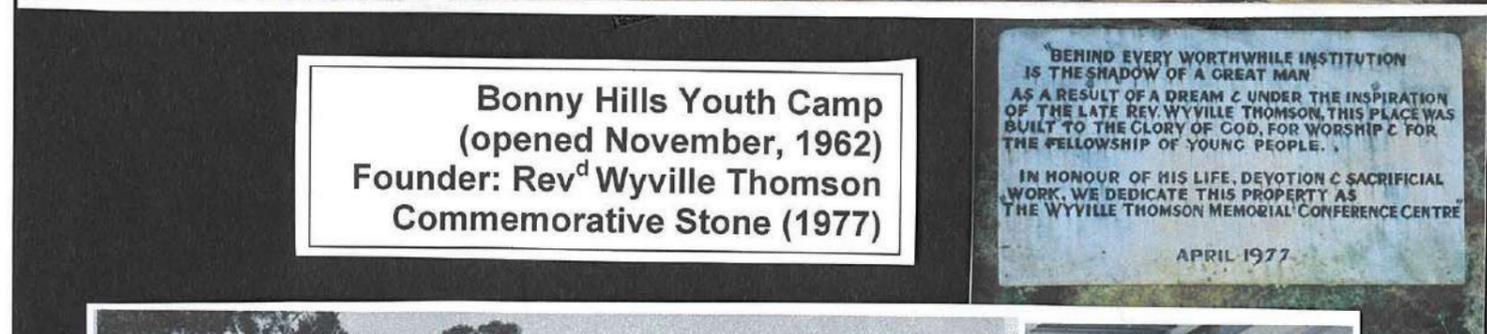
In 1977, the (Australian) Methodist, Presbyterian And Congregational churches united as the Uniting Church in Australia.

The property came under the Mid North Coast Presbytery, UCA. The Presbyterian Church in Port Macquarie had voted to remain a continuing Presbyterian Church.

The Hastings and Camden Haven areas would comprise three UCA Parishes – Port Macquarie (with Rev<sup>d</sup> Vic Neideck- former Methodist), Wauchope with Rev<sup>d</sup> Eric Main- Presbyterian) and Laurieton Parish, [Laurieton, Bonny Hills and Kendall] (with Rev<sup>d</sup> Tim Gee- former Methodist, was transferred from Wauchope).



First Church service in Bonny Hills (Methodist) (Circa 1959-'60) In front row, Mr & Mrs Cyril Prout and daughter, Helen (Mrs Helen Smith)



Bonny Hills Youth Camp (opened November, 1962) Founder: Rev<sup>d</sup> Wyville Thomson Commemorative Stone (1977)

"BEHIND EVERY WORTHWHILE INSTITUTION IS THE SHADOW OF A GREAT MAN AS A RESULT OF A DREAM & UNDER THE INSPIRATION OF THE LATE REV. WYVILLE THOMSON, THIS PLACE WAS BUILT TO THE GLORY OF GOD, FOR WORSHIP & FOR THE FELLOWSHIP OF YOUNG PEOPLE."

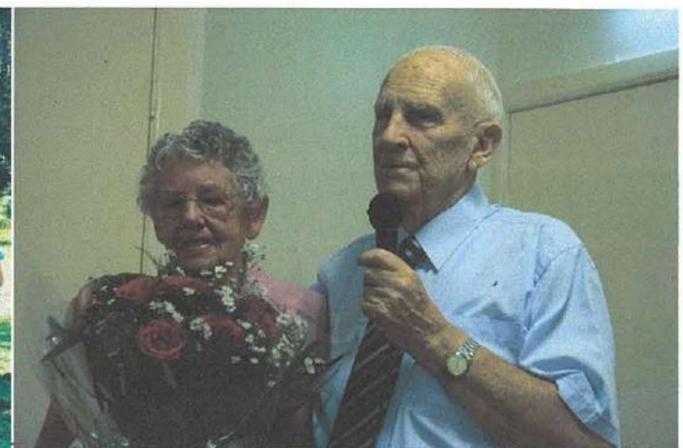
IN HONOUR OF HIS LIFE, DEVOTION & SACRIFICIAL WORK, WE DEDICATE THIS PROPERTY AS THE WYVILLE THOMSON MEMORIAL CONFERENCE CENTRE

APRIL 1977

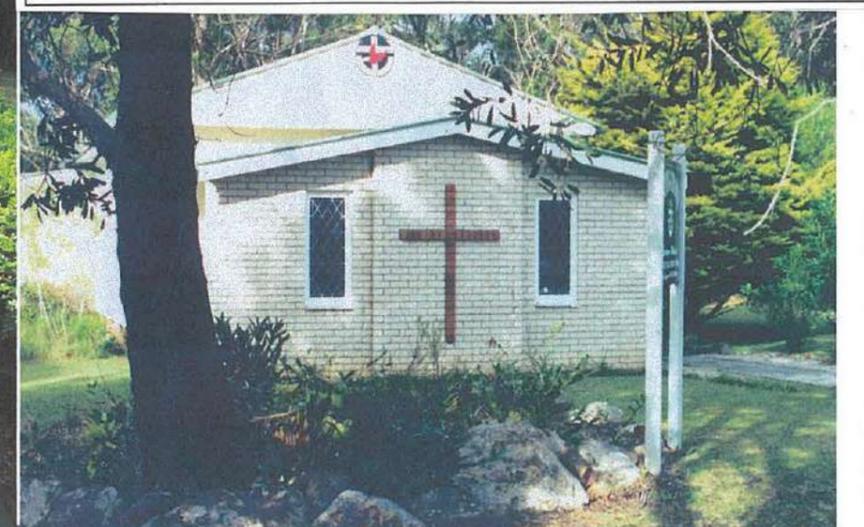


## History of the in Bonny Hills Uniting Church and Conference Centre from 22 June 1977.

- 1977** (22<sup>nd</sup> June) The (Australian) Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches unite to become the Uniting Church in Australia.
- 1981** (June) The Uniting Church (NSW & ACT) Board of Education takes over responsibility from the Uniting Church Presbytery of the Mid North Coast. The '**Youth Camp and Conference Centre** is subsequently re-named the '**Bonny Hills Conference Centre of the Uniting Church**'.
- 1983** (January) The former Presbyterian Church Hall (Lake Cathie) is purchased and transported by road to the present site to become the Bonny Hills Chapel. All the work was done by voluntary labour)
- 1984** (18 February) The Bonny Hills Church is dedicated by the Rev<sup>d</sup> Frank Butler, General Secretary of NSW Synod assisted by Rev<sup>d</sup> Ossie Kadel, Presbytery Chairperson and Rev<sup>d</sup>. David Robinson, Parish minister. New seating was designed at Wauchope and assembled by George Poulton and Wilf Boyle.
- 1987** A major upgrade of the site is completed with the renaming as the **Uniting Church Conference Centre Bonny Hills** (The Ivan Meldrum Hall is opened)
- 1999** The **Hastings Council** (now Port Macquarie/Hastings) proposed *Saltwater Place* as road into the site. Representation by Mrs Marie Westbrook, with strong support, had it renamed **Thomson Place** (in memory late Wyville Thomson)
- 2004** (July) An additional meeting room was purchased from Austam Homes, Tamworth. Additional requirements by Hastings Council and subsequent delays added to the cost beyond the original estimates.
- 2007** (April) The Congregations of the Camden Haven and Port Macquarie, jointly raised \$13,000 to sponsor drought affected families from the Ivanhoe area to stay for a week at the Bonny Hills Conference Centre.
- 2009** (February) The Congregation of Laurieton-Bonny Hills becomes lay led.
- 2010** Now a single Board, the Synod Uniting Mission and Education Board rename the site as **Uniting Venues, Bonny Hills**
- 2014** The Uniting Church Synod planned to sell the site including the Chapel. A service of closure of the Bonny Hills congregation took place on 29<sup>th</sup> March. The Laurieton-Bonny Hills Congregation continued at Bold Street, Laurieton.
- 2015/6** The property is purchased by the Catholic Diocese for the St Agnes Parish.



(Top) Bonny Hills Uniting Congregation 1996  
 (Mid left) Teacher, Jenny Schouten & Class, 2002  
 (Mid Right) Marie & Rev<sup>d</sup> Bruce Westbrook, 2012  
 (Lower left) Bonny Hills Uniting Congregation, 2014  
 (Lower Right) Uniting Church (after relocating), 1984



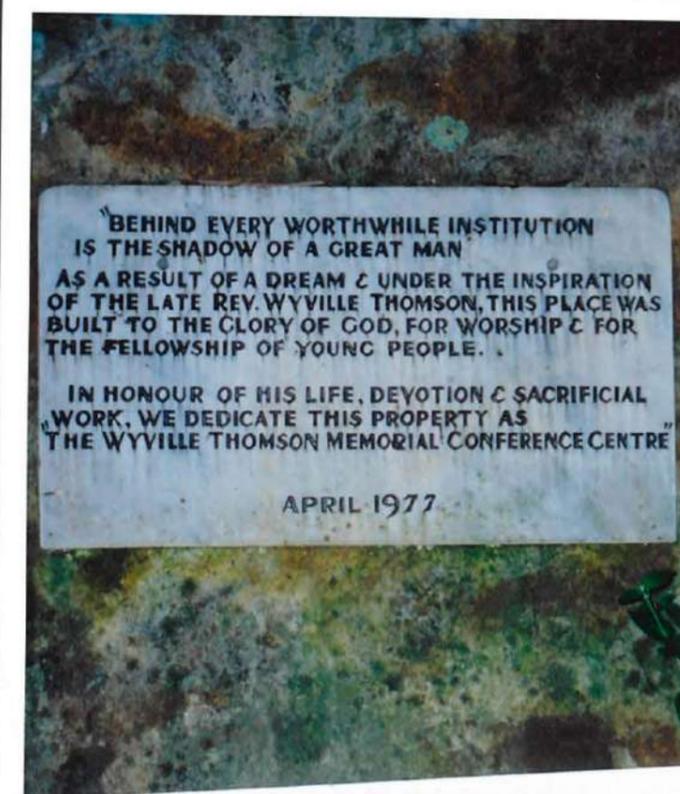
**Rev. Wyville Thomson**  
 leads the first Methodist service  
 in Bonny Hills on a block of land  
 on the corner of Ocean Drive &  
 Graham

# The Bonny Hills Youth Centre & Uniting Church

Methodist Youth Hall 1960s



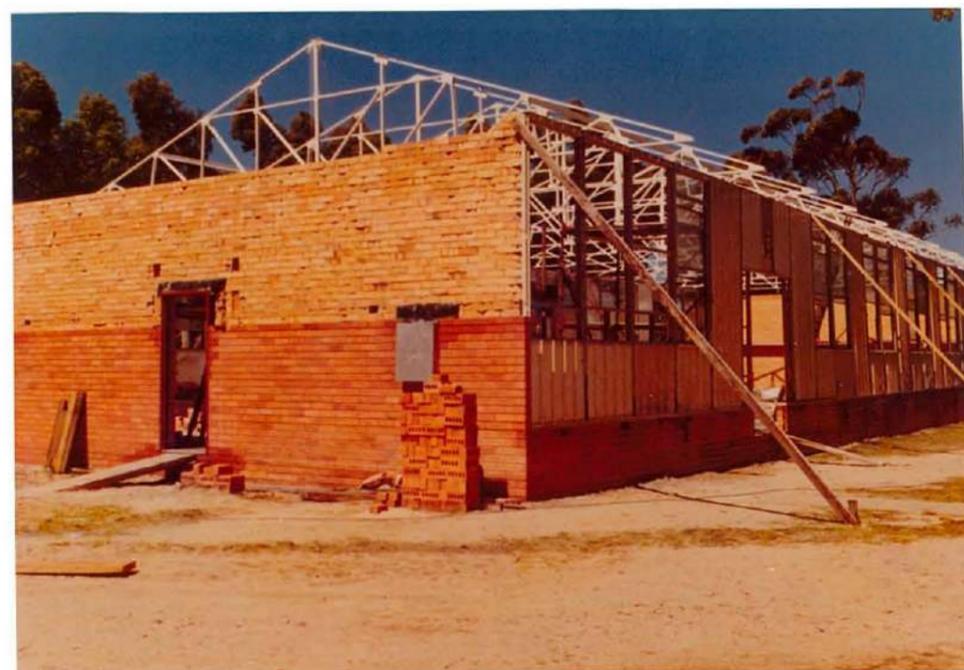
Foundations Stone laying ceremony  
 Bonny Hills Youth Camp 27/8/1961



**The Bonny Hills Youth & Training Centre**  
 Official Opening 17/11/1962

Opening of the Methodist Youth Centre  
 Rev Wyville Thomson 1962

Youth Centre renamed  
**The Wyville Thomson Memorial  
 Conference Centre**



**The Ivan Meldrum Hall** construction 1985 - this was an all-aluminium framed building relocated from Camden. The frame had been made from aluminium that had been melted down from former WW11 fighter planes.

**Trustees & Uniting Church Synod staff** finalise the agreement for new governance arrangements 12 July 1986



**David Sexton, Ivan Meldrum & Ted Mason** at the opening of the Ivan Meldrum Hall 1986

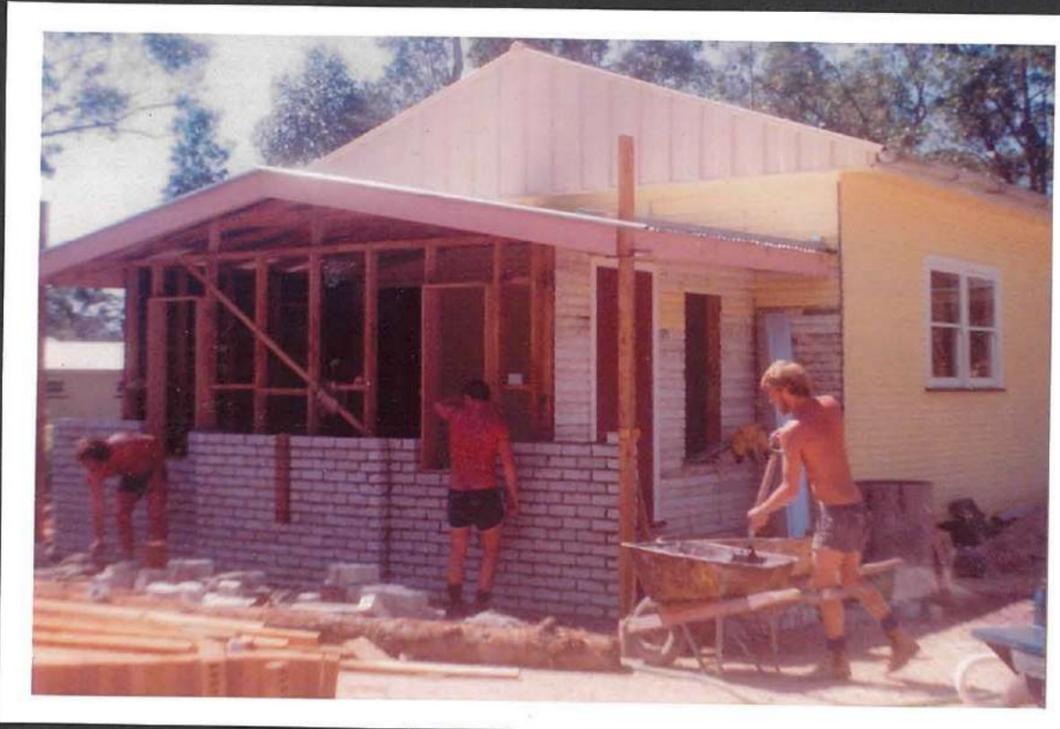
**Dr Geoff Cummins** Meldrum Hall opening 1986

**School Band performing at the Ivan Meldrum Hall opening** 1986

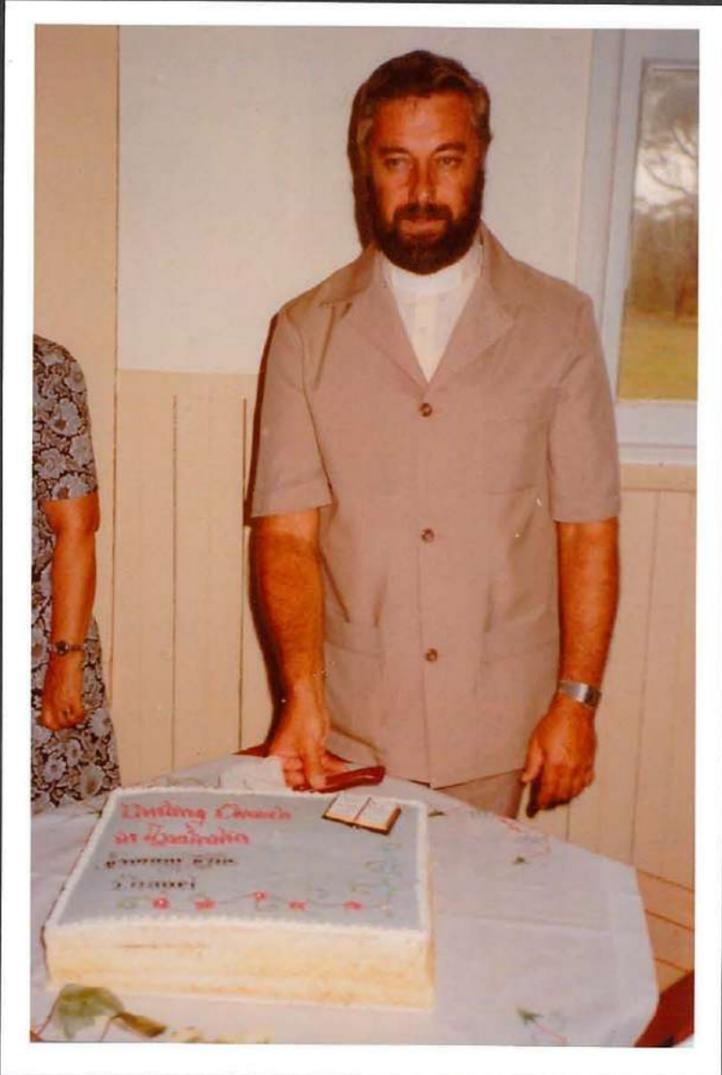
# Bonny Hills Chapel



Hall purchased & re-located  
January 1983



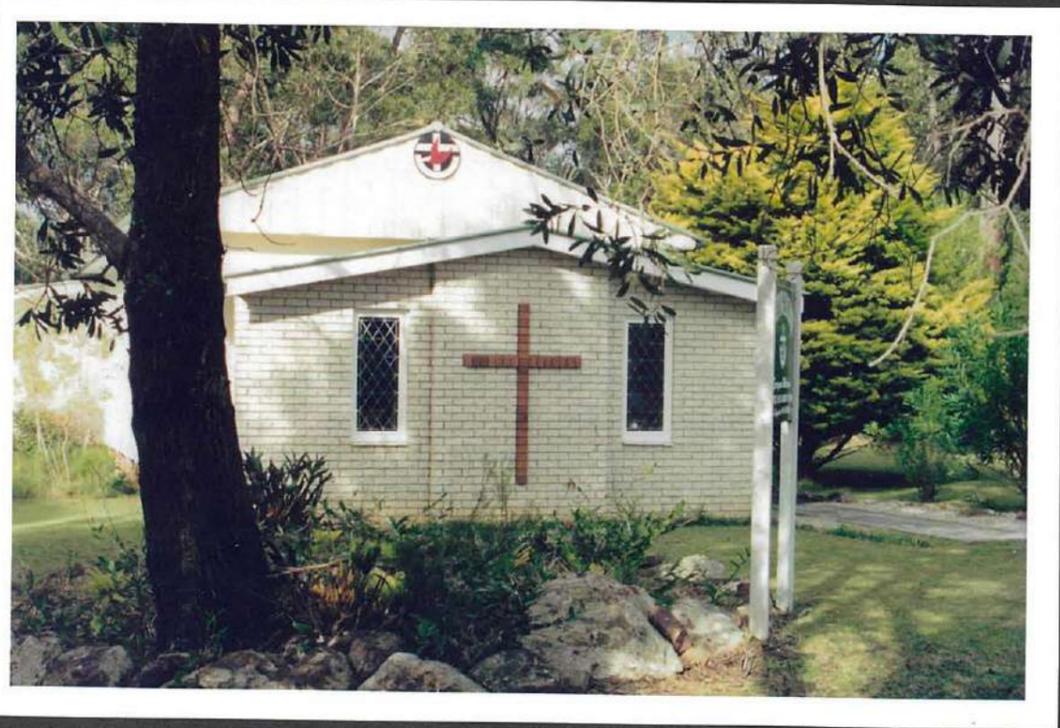
Work on the vestry & kitchen 1983



Rev David Robinson with Celebration Cake



Rev Frank Butler dedicates Bonny Hills Chapel



Chapel & gardens January 1985

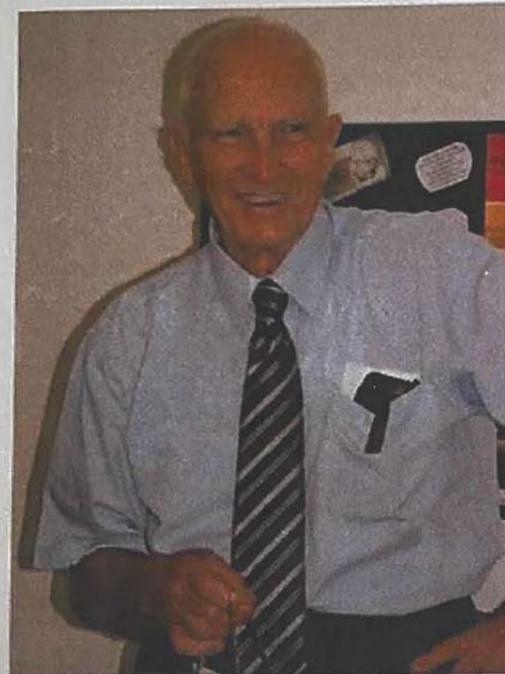


Bonny Hills Uniting Church Congregation  
1997



Helen & Greg Christie  
Lay Presiders of the Sacraments

BRUCE WESTBROOK  
28.9.1928 - 12.8.2017



MARIE WESTBROOK  
29.3.1931 - 26.9.2017



1947	Lot 48 probably now 990 Ocean Dr	Land offered to Methodist church	A D Sutters land initially offered for church building but not built on as larger site chosen
1960	Rev Wyville Thomson	First church service in Bonny Hills	Held on block of land on corner of Ocean Dr and Graham St behind shop Rev Thomson actively sought donations and support for Bonny Hills youth centre
1960	Bill and Iris Welch	Land gifted to Methodist Church	7.5 acres gifted for permanent site to establish a camp for youth programs
1961	Albert Eggins	Drew up plans and donated shed	Plans for Mess hall, kitchen and storerooms. Donated shed for site. Also acquired were a progress hall from Hibbard and a house from Port Macquarie
1961	27 <sup>th</sup> August	Laying of foundation stone	Work commenced on the site and Bill Welch's son Denis handed over the gift of the land
1962	4 <sup>th</sup> Oct 17 <sup>th</sup> Nov	First camp Official opening	Named the Bonny Hills Youth Camp and Training Centre. Centre used for Crusader camps, church youth and family camps and school bookings.
1963	Rev Thomson and others	Church services at the centre	These were held monthly in the mess hall. Services continued here till building of chapel in 1983
1966	6 <sup>th</sup> August	Official opening of caretakers cottage	This had been moved there the previous year from Clarence St in Port Macquarie
1971	Noel Emerton	Methodist Church received deeds	Main person establishing the Conference Centre after the Methodist Church received the Deeds. He coordinated working bees, arranged for 8 tons of fibro sheets (which he must have paid for because the trust didn't) for the lining of the hall and cabins and was very much involved in arranging for the Meldrum Hall (see below '86)
1972	Rev Noel and Alma Mansfield	BH Christian Summer camps established	Facilities upgraded and wider publicity of the venue for church and community use. Families coming for summer holidays invited to assist in work parties, shared leisure and special worship activities. This continued for 41 years. Rev Mansfield was responsible for bookings and overseeing summer camps till 2000.
1975	Brian and Janet Wilson	First Cartakers/Managers	. Brian had a trade as a panel beater but did odd jobs at the centre and Janet catered for the camps.
1977		Centre re-named	The Wyville Thomson Memorial Conference Centre
1983		New church First service	Extensive donations in time and material allowed the relocation of the Presbyterian Church hall at Lake Cathie to become the Bonny Hills Chapel.
1983	John & Marilyn Stone	Resident Manager	Continued as manager until 2010
1986	David Sexton		remodelled the blocks from 3 to 6 cabins per block
1986	Mr Ivan Meldrum	Dedication of new recreation hall	Mr Meldrum located a pre-fab all-aluminium building in Camden which had been made from melted down WW2 fighter plans. This was reconstructed at Bonny Hills and became the recreation hall, leaving the previous hall as a dining hall. The new building was named the Ivan Meldrum Hall.
1987		Centre re-named	Now The Bonny Hills Conference Centre of the Uniting Church. Extensive upgrade
1998		Tennis court and pool	New additions
1999		Thomson Place	The road into the conference centre named in honour of Rev W Thomson
2000	Mrs Kylie Seal (nee Mansfield)	Summer camp	Mrs Kylie Seal took over management of the BH Christian Summer camps
2001		Additional land	Land and house on the west side of Thomson Place purchased for centre
2001	Rob and Jenny Schouten	KUCA groups	Establishment of Kids in the UCA (KUCA) monthly Friday night and weekly Sunday groups as part of the church. Activities often had to be conducted outdoors
2004		New building adjacent to church	Transportable building from Tamworth for use as hall for church groups. Decking and store room completed by volunteers.
2006	Steve Schouten and Ian Antequil	Bonny Hills Church Youth Group	Establishment of this group within the church
2006	Nathan & Sarah Smith	Assistant Manager	Moved into second manager's residence
2007		Anniversary for camp	45 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the site and 35 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the BH Christian Summer Camp
2009		Anniversary for Church	25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bonny Hills Church Congregation
2009		Centre re-named	Now Uniting Venues, Bonny Hills. Renaming in line with other centres
2010	Nathan Smith	New manager	John Stone retired
2011		New buildings for camp	4 transportable 2- bedroom cabins located adjacent to assistant managers residence
2013/5	End of centre with Uniting Church	Sale	The Conference Centre sold and the Bonny Hills Church included in this sale.



**Noel Emerton**  
One of the first trustees  
in 1971



**Some of the first families to come to the centre – taken 1982.**

**Back Row:** Diana Emerton, Noel Emerton, John Bonsor, Christine Newman, Romney Newman

**Middle Row:** Noel Mansfield, Ian Richardson, Bill Nelson

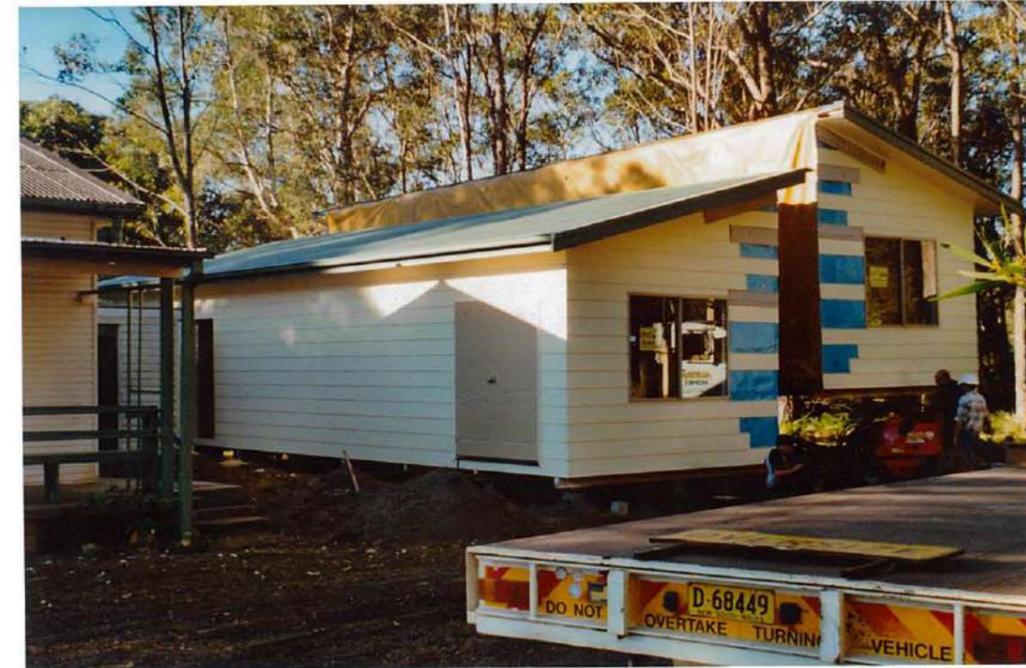
**Front Row:** Leanne Emerton, Lyn Emerton, Marg Bonsor, Alma Mansfield, Robyn Richardson, Beth Nelson

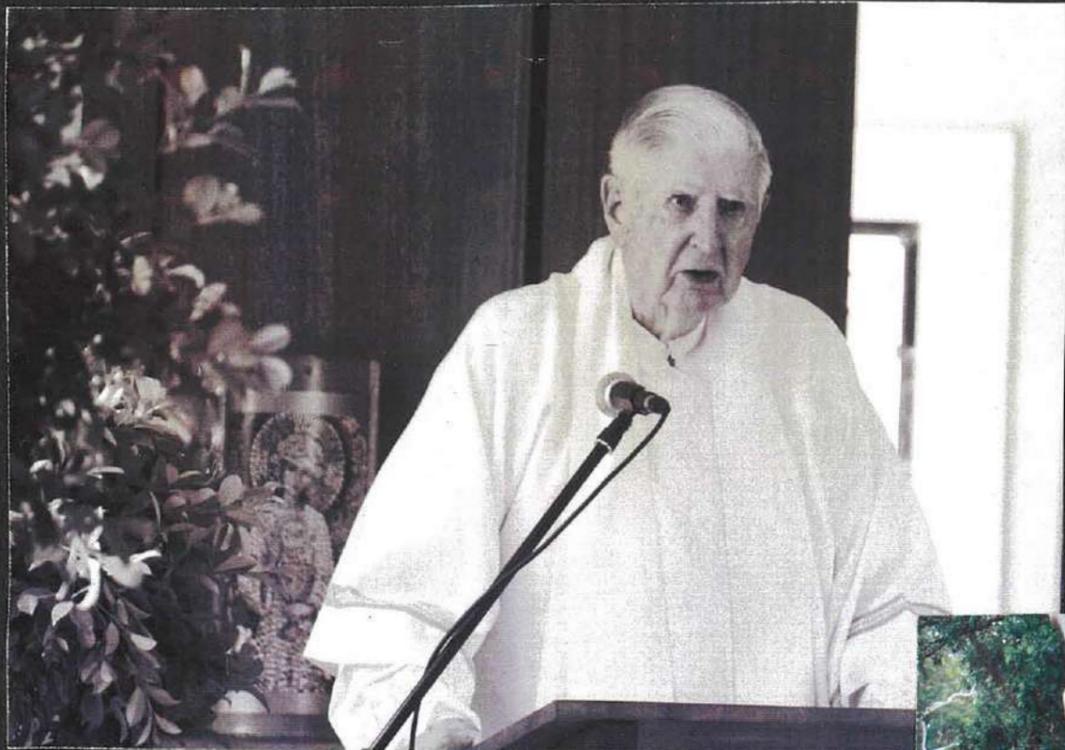
Jenny and Rob Schouten  
leading KUCA groups 2001

# Children & Youth Activities at the Conference Centre



The arrival of the church hall  
2004

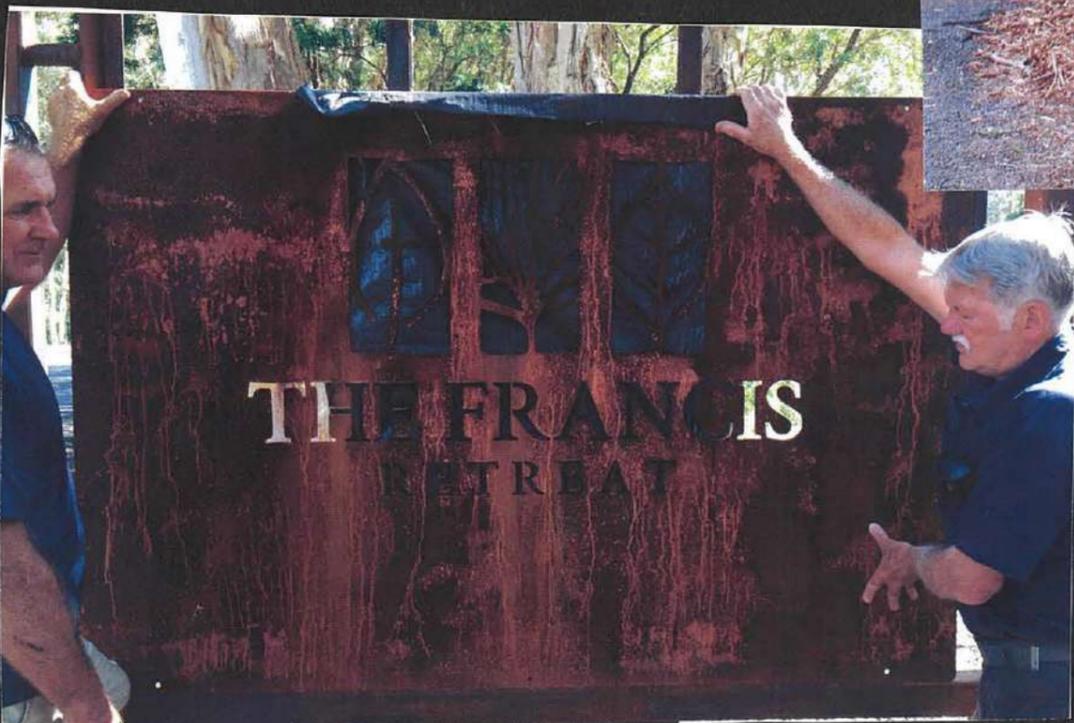




Fr Leo Donnelly at the opening of  
The Francis Retreat 2015



Joady Castles (Manager) and Adam  
Spencer (CEO)  
At the opening of The Francis Retreat  
2015



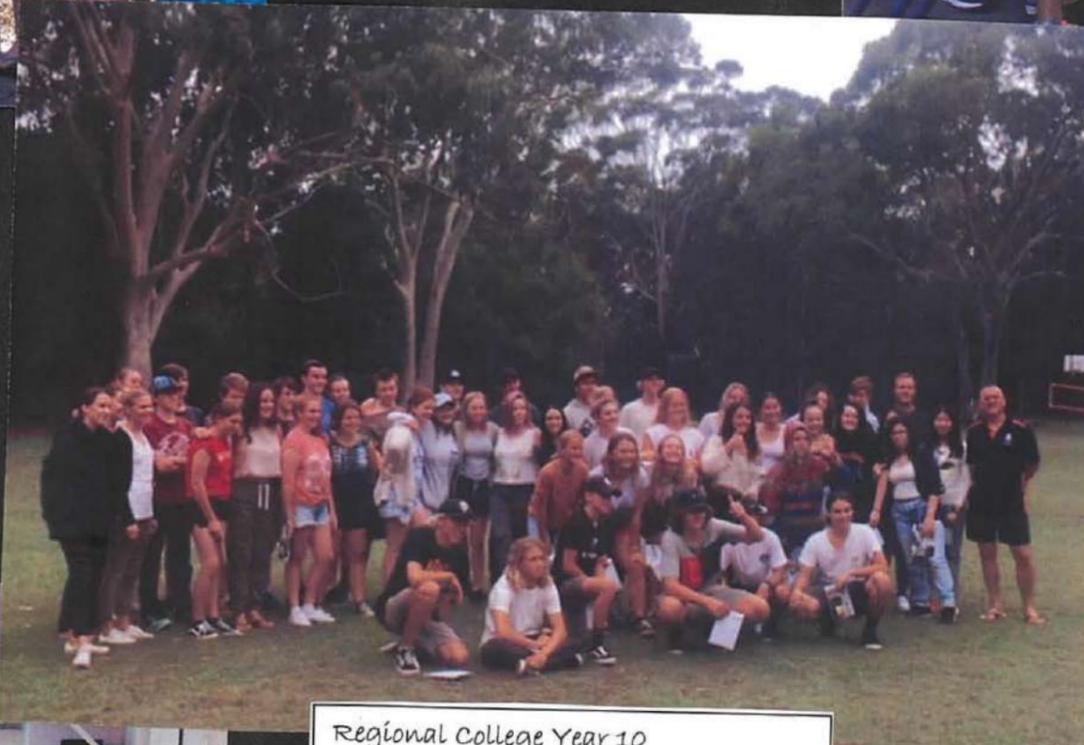
Renovations begin 2015



Seale Christmas Family Holiday



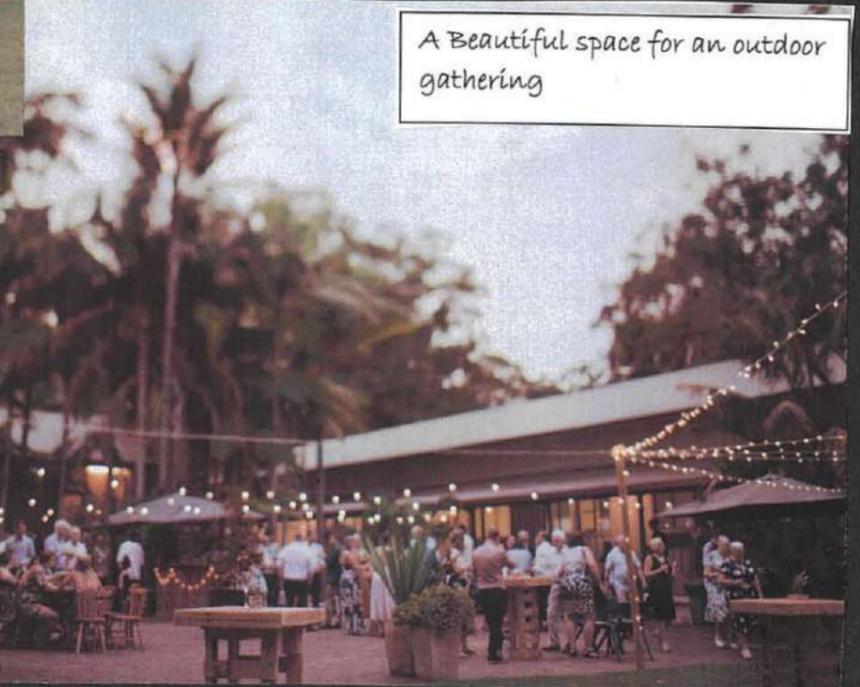
St Joseph's Primary, Paint Your Town



Regional College Year 10



St Agnes Parish Leadership Team



A Beautiful space for an outdoor gathering



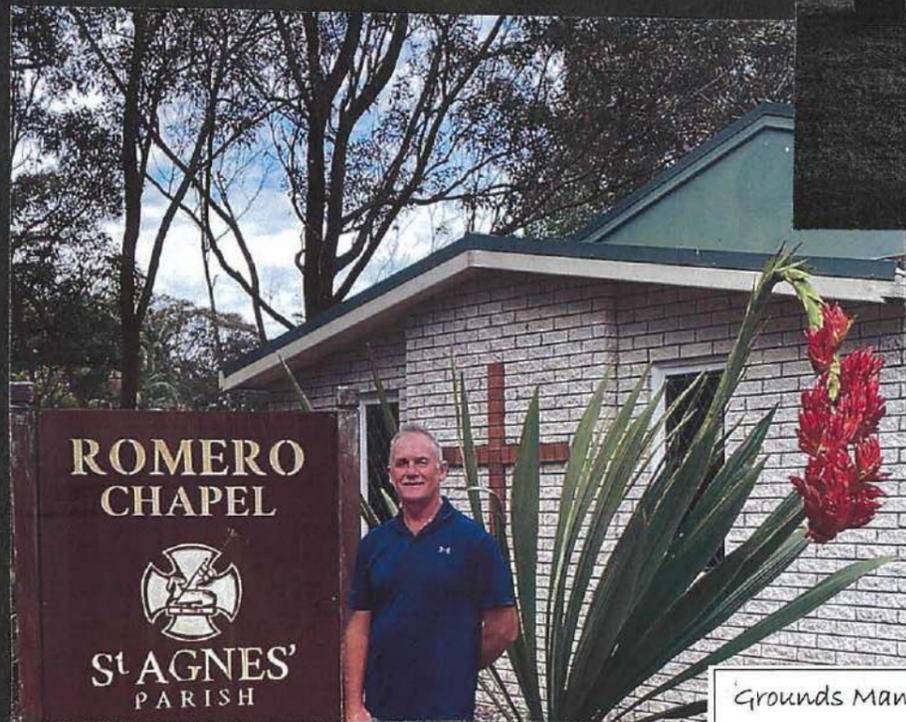
The Labyrinth was created in 2018



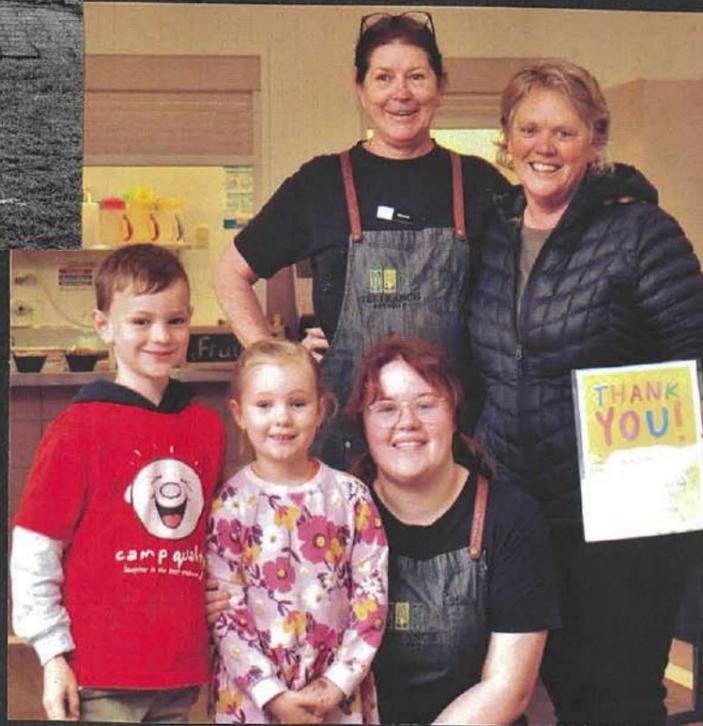
Part of our kitchen team Jess and Sharon. Our secret ingredient is Love



McQueen Family Wedding



Grounds Manager Peter  
The Green Thumb behind our lush gardens



## Bonny Hills Church of Christ -a brief history

In the 1960's, inter-denominational services were being held at North Haven Community Hall

From 1967- Pastor Roy Greenhalgh began services in private homes. These were supported by the Taree Church of Christ congregation. It was decided that these continue as weekly services at the North Haven Community Hall.

From 1974- The congregation affiliated with Churches of Christ NSW and began to grow a fund to purchase land at 1060 Ocean Drive, Bonny Hills while maintaining the Opportunity Shop at 83 The Parade, North Haven.

Over 29 years, the serving Pastors have included

1990's Pastor Earle Martin, Pastor Neville Parish and Pastor David Eagling  
2001 Pastor Ross Brinkman.

**The Chapel was opened and dedicated to the glory of God 11<sup>th</sup> May 2003**

Leaders & participants at the opening were Pastor Ross Brinkman, Alan Davy(Sec), John Morris (Past Conf. President '01-'03), Tom Hunziker, Helen Mottee, Rev Syd Gissing, Mrs Judy Yard, Joshua Brinkman, Timothy Parish, Marcia Hunziker & Neville Parish.

Serving Pastors continued :

2001-2007 Pastor Ross Brinkman with his wife, Di-Brinkman

2008-2009: Guest roster of ministers and lay preachers

2009: Pastors Phil and Di Priest;

2010-2016: Pastor Matt Cathcart and Josh Brinkman

2017 Pastor Matt Cathcart & Pastor Vic Smith.

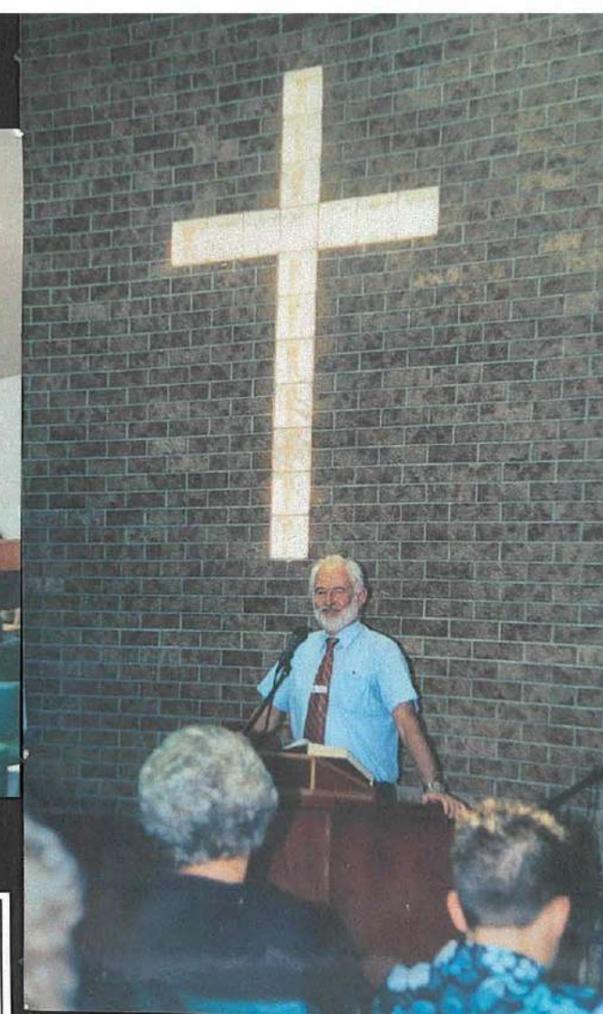
The Congregation was recognised as having a very strong music and preaching ministry. It was renamed the Bonny Hills Community Church within the Churches of Christ in NSW & ACT. As with many churches in 2018, it had to cease public worship for a short time especially as singing was a high risk means of spreading Covid 19 viral infection.

In 2021 the property was renamed a Community Centre and the opportunity provided for other church denominations to hold worship services there. The Anglican Church, Camden Haven Parish now conduct their Bonny Hills Sunday morning services in this Centre.



**churches  
of Christ**  
in NSW & ACT

*Unity. Restoration. Life.*



Photos from the day of the Opening,  
11 May 2003.  
Worship Centre and sanctuary.  
Pastor Ross Brinkman, and  
Section of the congregation during the Service.



## Bonny Hills Post Office



**The Berrigan family** outside BH Post Office in about 1948. Albert and Violet with daughters Daphnie and Betty and son Dallas.



**Dorothy Lalor** recently chatted about memories of her time in Bonny Hills.

Eric and Dorothy Lalor bought the Bonny Hills Post Office from the Berrigan's in about 1953. Dorothy recalled that when the Melbourne Cup was being broadcast over the radio she would turn it up very loud so people could gather around to listen.

Eric drove the bus, taking children to Laurieton School. He would also pick up shopping for Bonny Hills residents while he was there, often being asked to collect an order from Bucton's Butchers.

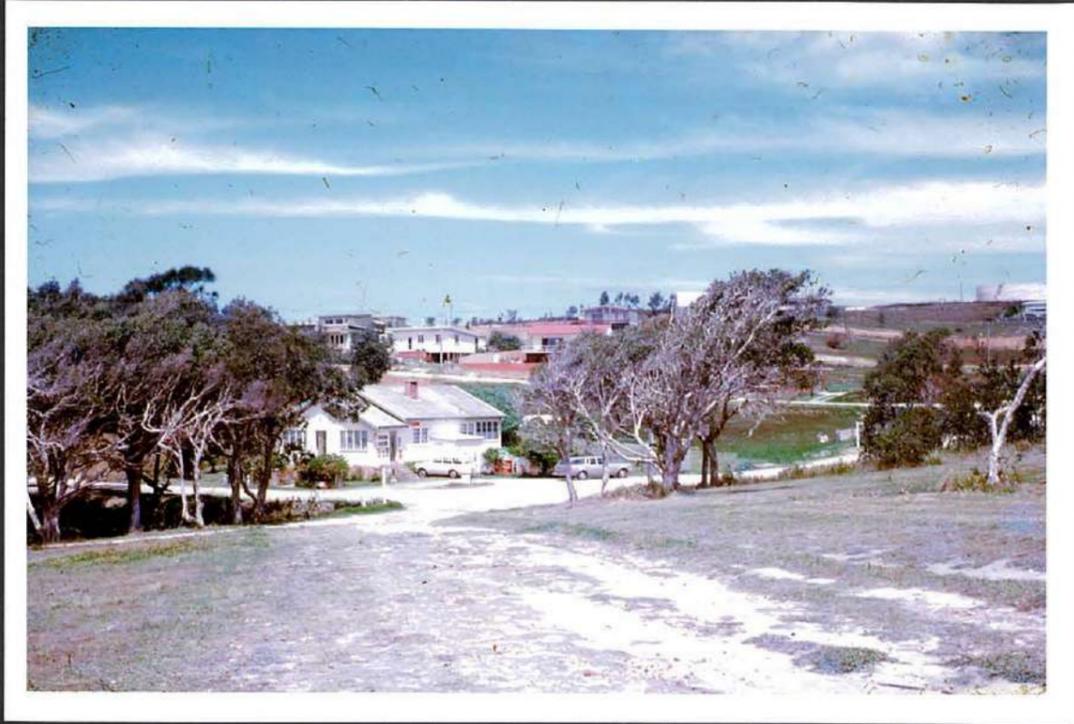
**Bill and Pat Stallebrass** bought the Post Office from the Gardiner Family in 1978. As more permanent residents settled in Bonny Hills it became viable to have a mail run and Bill became the first mailman in Bonny Hills.



**Jim Newman** delivering the mail before he was given his bright safety uniform. Jim started the job as Bonny Hills postie in Feb 1998, so he has been delivering our mail for 20 and a half years.

After a period of time within the Plaza complex the Post Office was taken over by **Jon and Sharon Slater** and is now situated within the Ocean Drive Realty building.

**Bonny Hills Post Office Store  
Purchased by Col & Heather Gardiner 1970**



Bonny Hills Post Office Store 1970



# Bonny Hills Post Office Store



Col, Heather & Graeme Gardiner 1970



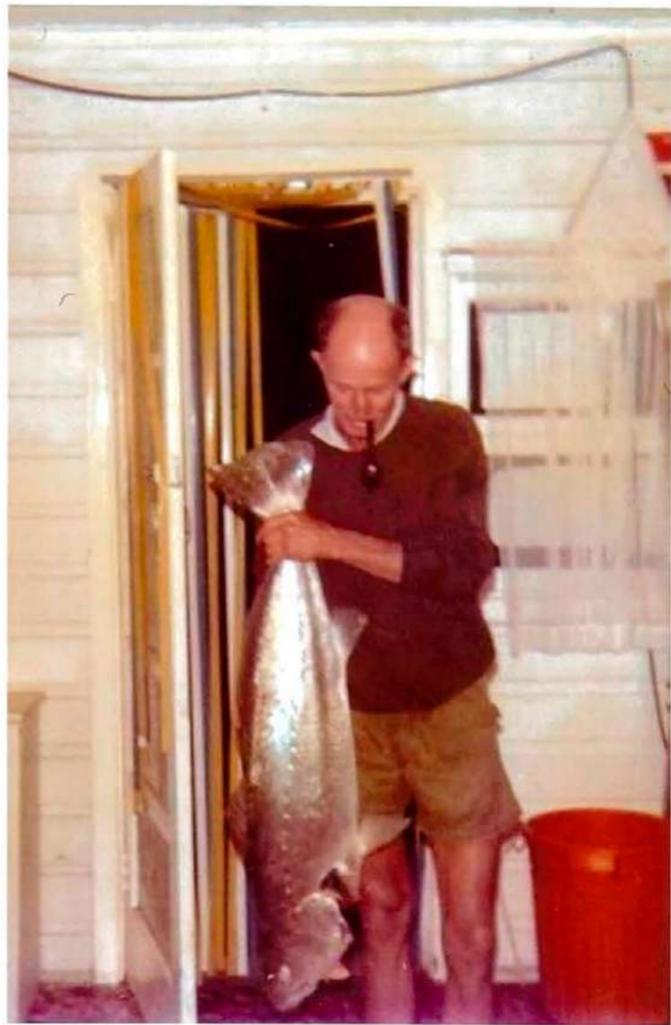
The Post Office was a popular gathering place for some of the local boys



Graeme & Peter Gardiner



Stephanie & Cameron East



The Post Office had a record board for best fish, this a sample of one bought in



Malcolm Fowler



Dick Smith with surf boat named after him



Dick Smith & Doug Thornton

Peter & Geoff Gardiner



Col Gardiner with Bob Mudge in boat



Col Gardiner



Graeme Gardiner



Ann-Maree (Gardiner) Bonner

# Bonny Hills Real Estate

Owned & operated by Col Gardiner approx. 1977 to 2000



Original Bonny Hills Real Estate 1977 (approx.)



2<sup>nd</sup> Version of Bonny Hills Real Estate mid 80's



Heather Gardiner cheering Olympic Torch 2000



Heather Gardiner with Pat & Bill Stallebrass & friends waiting for the Olympic Torch in 2000

# Bartlett's Beach



Bartlett's Beach & reserve when camping was allowed



Bartlett's Beach



Red weed at Bartlett's Beach



**BONNY HILLS RURAL FIRE BRIGADE – THE EARLY YEARS – 1958 to 1998**



*Brigade treasurer, Mr Charles McLean, foreground left, hands over a cheque for the brigade's contribution towards the cost of purchasing the fire truck and shed to, at right, Hastings Shire President, Cr. Bill Poole. In the centre is brigade captain, Mr Les Latham.*



*The handing over ceremony was followed by afternoon tea in the fire shed. The new fire truck in the background had plenty of admirers.*

1958-1975

Ernie McCudden was Fire Permit Issuing Officer and Vice Captain of the "Bonny Hills Fire Brigade". He had 3 steel knapsacks and a couple of rakes. He would get volunteers to help if there was an outbreak of fire in the area. He also had a 'water spout' (standpipe) which could be connected to the newly-installed Council water supply.

If Ernie was VICE CAPTAIN, does anyone know who was CAPTAIN??

Pre-1970

In later years Ernie was helped by Maurie Tosh, Henry (Harry) Klumpp and another resident

– DOES ANYONE KNOW THIS MAN??

1973

Les and Daphne Latham build a house and Les joins the Brigade.

1975

A large fire threatens the western edge of the village.

March 1977

The Brigade is officially re-formed. CAPTAIN: Errol Lewis  
DEPUTY: Les Latham

SECRETARY: Michael Weston      PERMIT OFFICER: Errol Lewis

VOLUNTEERS: Lindsay Klumpp, Ces Symons & Fred Holt

April 1977

Extra volunteers join the team: George Poulton, Eddie Kent, Ted Harris, Charles McLean and David Swift.

October 1977

A large fire escapes from a Forestry Commission hazard reduction in the Queens Lake State Forest. It is pushed towards Bonny Hills. The fire crosses Ocean Drive (formerly "Tourist Road") and threatens the Youth Camp (now The Francis Retreat). The volunteers work tirelessly over a period of hours and stop the fire with strategic back-burns and 3 knapsacks, 1 length of hose and some rakes.

- November 1977 Fundraising for equipment begins.
- 1978, 1979, 1980 Raffles, cake stalls at the Post Office, Donations, Bar-be-ques at the beach, charges for clearing vacant/overgrown blocks of land (\$10 normal block, \$15 fenced) raise funds.
- April 1979 A site chosen for the "Fire Shed".
- June 1979 Equipment List produced: 12 McLeod Tools, 6 Brush Hooks, 2 axes with handles, 3 'Firebug' control torches (drip-torches), 2 standpipes, 1 standpipe reducer, 3 1 1/2 inch hose, 3 1 1/2 inch fine hose (?), 5 torches without batteries, 9 knapsack sprays, 1 metal knapsack spray, 11 white helmets, 1 large first aid kit and 10 pocket first aid kits.
- October 1980 The Fire Shed is built. The Brigade had raised \$1000 to pay for their share of the \$6000 needed to construct it, with the balance paid by Hastings Municipal Council and the NSW Bush Fire Council.
- November 1980 Official opening of the Fire Shed and hand over of the ex-Forestry Commission International ACCO fire tanker. Eric Bohlsen joined the Brigade at the opening day.
- April 1981 The Brigade started its' annual 'roadside collection' fundraising.
- 1982 A hose drying pole was generously donated by Bonny Hills Progress Association's Joe Koefed.
- 1983 A "break-glass" was installed on the front of the Fire Shed to automatically sound the fire siren.
- 1984 RECORDS MISSING
- 1985 The Annual Garage Sale was started
- 1986 The Fire Shed's septic tank was removed and we joined the 20<sup>th</sup> century by having sewerage connected. There is first mention of a full-time Fire Brigade Station for Bonny Hills and Lake Cathie.
- 1987 The Fire Shed became a Fire Station by the members building an extension to house a meeting room and kitchen. Yellow overalls

# WOMEN PLAY VITAL ROLE IN FIRE CONTROL

Women have an important role to play in fire fighting in rural areas, according to the fire control officer for the Hastings and Camden Haven regions, Mr Ron Cross.

He said they were able to play this vital role because they were often at home during the day when a fire was most likely to threaten.

Mr Cross was speaking at the handing over to the Bonny Hills brigade of a fire truck and shed, located in Jungarra Crescent.

He told the 50 residents and invited guests at the ceremony on Saturday he had conducted a number of sessions to explain the use of fire fighting equipment to many of the women in the shire's 23 active brigades.

"There are many women among the 400 members of the volunteer brigades," Mr Cross said.

"They are playing a bigger and bigger part in the operation of the brigades.

"It was a dreadful sight to see the bodies of the five deadfire fighters at Waterford last week.

"But, if you saw the pictures on TV you will have seen that women were there after the tragedy working alongside the men."

He said it was much better for women to take the time to learn the procedures and how to use the fire fighting equipment than to lose their homes through ignorance.

Brigade captain, Mr Les Latham opened the proceedings by welcoming those present, who included members of the Lake Cathie and Kendall volunteer brigades and the Laurieton Town Brigade.

## Welcome

He welcomed residents, the Shire President Cr. Bill Poole and Mrs Poole, and deputy President, Cr. Bob Woodlands, and made apologies for Mr Bob Hatton, of the NSW Bush Fire Council, Port

brigade station captain, Mr Earl McGinty, brigade captain, Mr Ken White, Mr Fred Holt and Laurieton brigade captain Mr Bruce Porter.

Mr Latham said brigade members had been working towards the shed and fire truck for almost three years.

Burn-offs of overgrown land in the village were a source of revenue, as well as door-knocks and letters to property owners seeking financial assistance.

Brigade treasurer, Mr Charles McLean said it had taken a serious fire in 1977 when the youth camp on the outskirts of the village had been threatened to prompt the re-activation of the volunteer brigade.

A core of local men, headed by Mr Errol Lewis, the reformed brigade's first captain, began the task of raising the necessary local contribution.

Their efforts raised slightly more than \$3000, aided

by contributions of \$100 from Cr. John Abi Saab, a \$150 discount on the cost of the timber used in the shed from Herons Creek Timber Mill and the provision of the sign outside the shed by the forestry commission.

## Cheque

Mr McLean presented the shire President with a cheque for \$1530, representing the brigades share of the cost of the truck and shed.

The shed was built at a cost of \$6000, while the International truck, formerly in service with the Forestry Commission was purchased for \$6400.

The cost was met by the Shire Council and the NSW Bush Fire Council.

Cr. Poole said the brigade had been given a good start by Mr Lewis and his work had been carried on by Mr Latham.

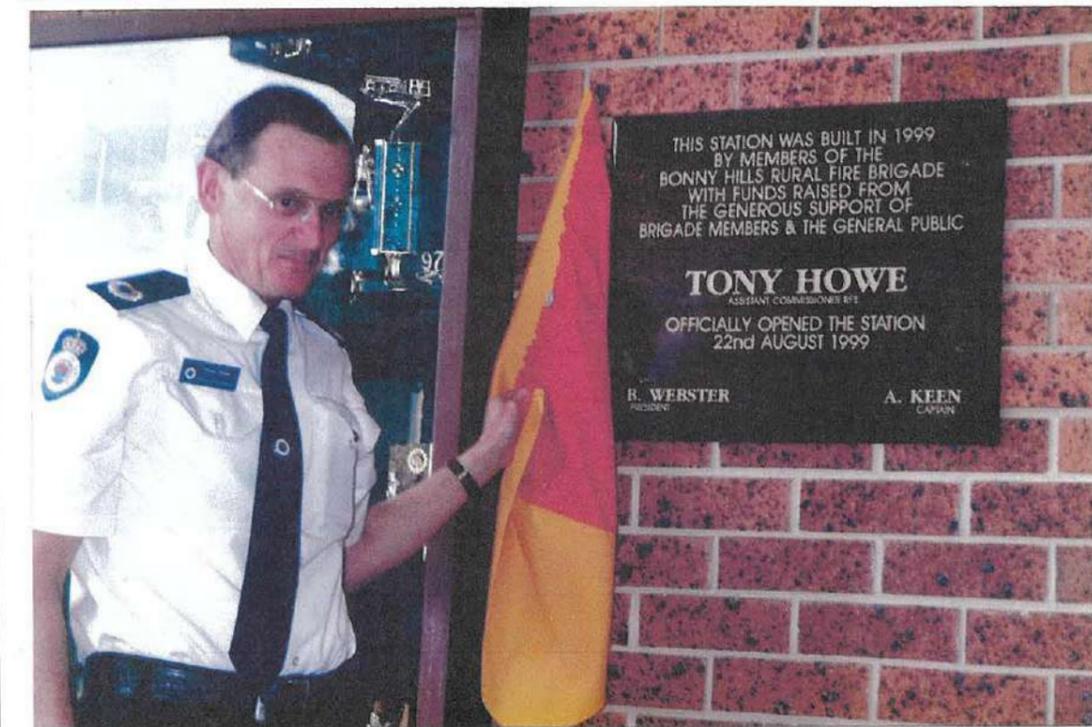
Cr. Poole encouraged young people to join the brigade and others in the Shire.

"Bush fire fighting is an

Continued Page 35.

for firefighting were issued. Basic Firefighter training modules were introduced.

- 1988 Crew Cab fitted to the International tanker. "Field Days" (championships) start.
- 1989 Modifications made to the tanker.
- 1990 Paging system introduced. Privately owned Land Rover was painted red and used as a personnel carrier.
- 1991 First "out-of-area assist". We sent a composite crew to Moonbi Range fires (Tamworth) in HQ Isuzu. A telephone was installed in the Fire Station.
- 1992 After winning the Hastings Field Day, Bonny Hills competes at Regional competition in Newcastle.
- 1993 The Fire Tanker continues to be modified with extra lockers, bar lights and newer equipment.
- 1994 House fire at Lake Cathie where a resident was killed. Better protective clothing for firefighters was needed.
- 1995 Firefighter falls through fibreglass skylight on roof. Luckily Tanker was just below. Steel mesh now fitted under new skylight. Group Captains appointed. Turnout Coats and 'Elkhart' nozzle ordered. Double fatal MVA at Bonny Hills.
- 1996 LUSC donates TV to Station. House fire in Bonny Hills – response time: 4 minutes, extinguished: 7.5 minutes.
- 1997 HCoA Community Trust Fund donates \$2500 for new radios. RFSa formed. Fundraising push for new Fire Station and replacing 1970's Fire Tanker. "Out-of-area" strike team sent to Coonabarabran.
- 1998 A new Fire Station is being built around the old station. Gary Downes, a local builder and member of the Brigade, agrees to act as project manager. Members of the Brigade volunteer as labourers. Firefighter Nick proposes to Emma-Lee at the November meeting (she accepted!) "The Plumbing Supply Co." donates plumbing supplies worth thousands of dollars to the Brigade for their new Station.
- 1999 Bonny Hills sent to Sydney following severe hailstorm affecting Eastern Suburbs. The new Fire Station is completed. Value placed at \$100,000 with most of funds being raised by the Brigade, and thousands of man-hours spent by them on construction.



Opening of  
Fire Brigade



Les Latham, Sam Cross, Johnston, Bill Poole, Charles McLean, Lindsay Blumhardt, Max White, Doug. Ross



CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

*This is to Certify*

that in accordance with the provisions  
of the BUSH FIRES ACT, 1949

Mr. L. LATHAM  
(whose signature appears hereon) has  
been appointed by the COUNCIL

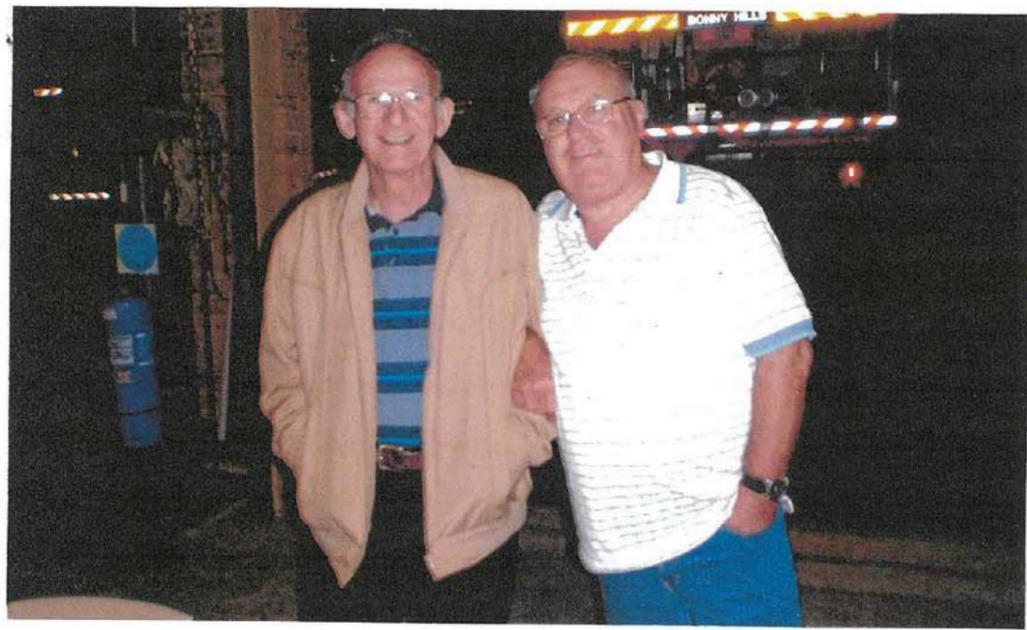
as CAPTAIN of the  
BONNY HILLS Bush  
Fire Brigade.

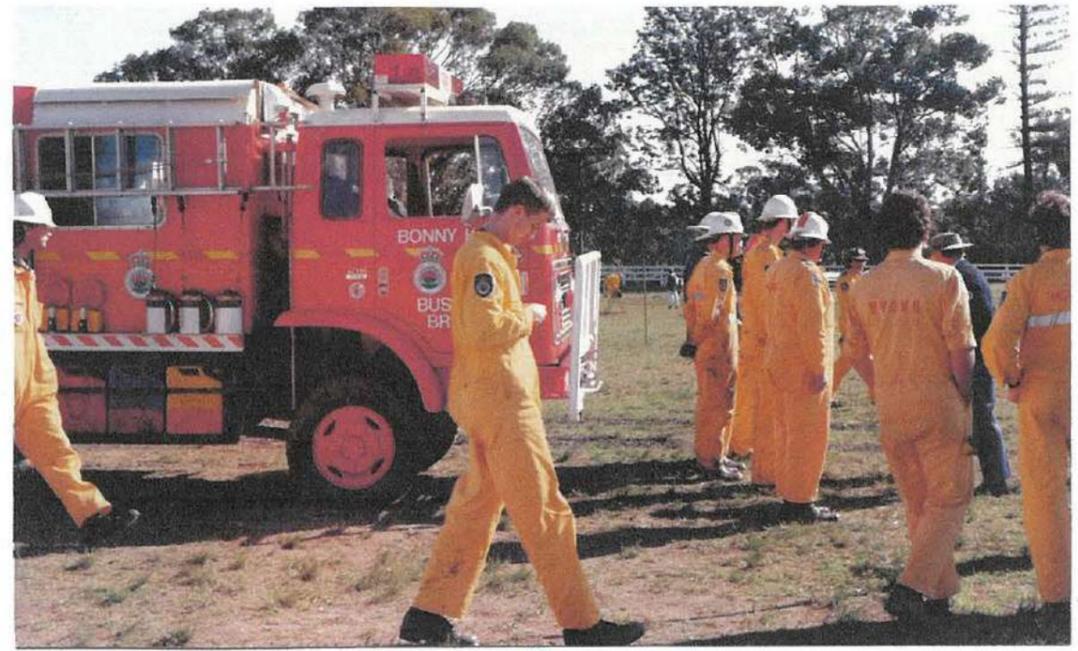
Dated at PORT MACQUARIE  
this TWELFTH day  
of OCTOBER, 19 81

On behalf of the Council.

Signature of holder *L. Latham*  
Clerk.

(The Certificate must be returned to the Council  
upon termination of office.)





## Bonny Hills Tennis Club

A meeting was held in September 1977 to set about establishing a tennis club at Bonny Hills. With the release of Crown land and a monetary grant from Hastings Shire Council and with the dedication of a group of hard-working, tennis-loving local residents, two clay courts were established at Bonny Hills in 1980 and the Bonny Hills Tennis Club was formed. The Official Opening Day, October 12, 1980, was a gala affair with an exhibition match.

A Sea Eagle in flight - a marine bird, prolific in the area - was adopted as the club logo in 1980 and is still worn on the Club shirts today

The enthusiasm of the founding members was boundless, organising many fund raising activities. American tournaments, barbecues, beach picnics, raffles, street stalls at the old Post Office, Christmas hampers and family Christmas parties helped to bring the wider community together as well as raising much needed funds for the continuation of the Bonny Hills Tennis Club.

The courts were concreted in 1986 and later changed to Plexipave in 1994 using a grant from Hastings Shire Council. The Club was affiliated with Hastings District Tennis Association in 1987.

Without the vision and commitment of these Club founders players would not have such a beautiful venue and such comfortable facilities for their enjoyment of tennis today. These courts are dedicated to some of those founding members - Mr and Mrs L. Latham and Mr and Mrs L. Klumpp. The Championship Board was donated by R & V Sedon.

Throughout the years, the continued support and generosity of Club members have been evident in the procuring of both structural and material necessities for the clubhouse and courts through various fund raising activities. Synthetic grass was used to resurface the courts in 2003 and the floodlighting renewed in 2007. A timber deck added in 2009 has further enhanced the area. Regular working bees have maintained the clubhouse and surrounds in excellent condition.

Carrying on the tradition of fellowship and friendship sport and community spirit Bonny Hills Tennis Club Incorporated welcomes new members and Juniors and encourages beginners to attend the coaching classes. Ladies' mid-week and Saturday competition and mixed Monday evening competition continue and an active social group plays on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Visitors are welcome to hire the courts.

# HISTORY OF BONNY HILLS TENNIS CLUB



Site For Courts after Clearing



Fund raising BBQ, Rainbow Beach  
Les Latham and Lindsay Klumpp



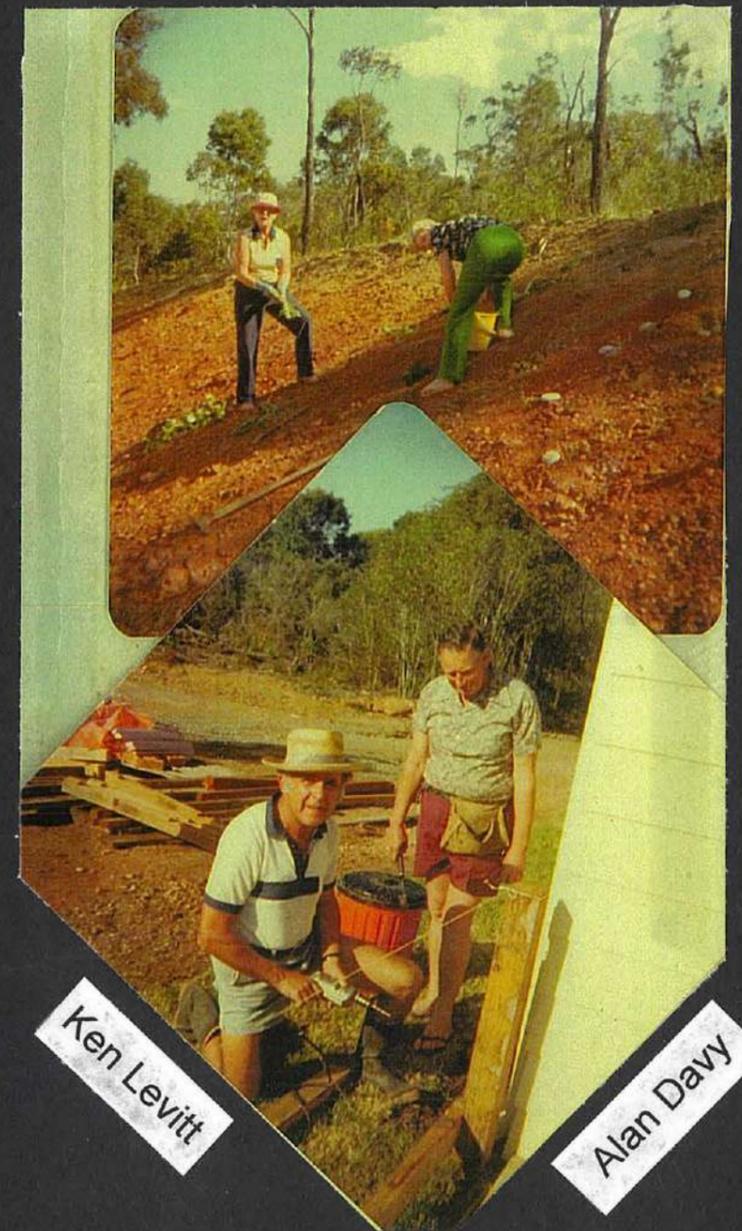
Preparation of Courts

# BH Tennis Club

From newspaper articles and written history

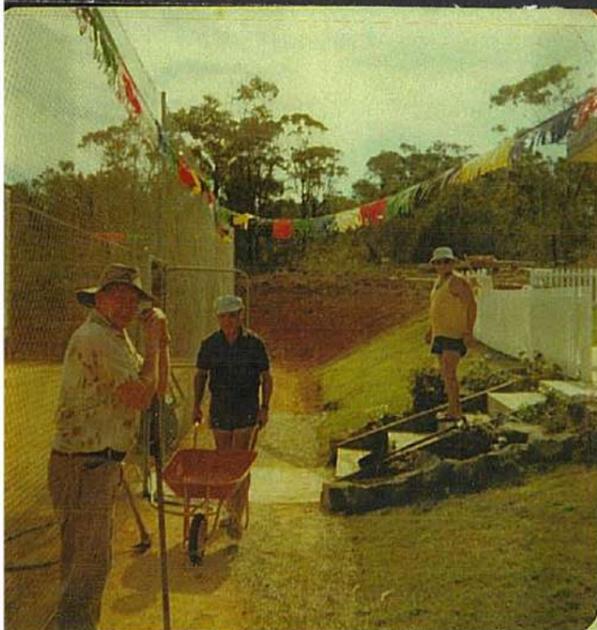
			Tennis games played on a court at the caravan park (located on the right hand side of entrance to park)			
1959-62	Mr Ernie McCudden		Tried to form a BH Tennis Club – not successful because not enough permanent residents			
1976	BH residents used LC courts		BH players used the courts at Lake Cathie			
1977 Sept	Meeting held		Meeting held to set about establishing tennis club			
	Land and funds		Application for land and courts submitted to council Release of Crown Land, Council grant, fund raising by local residents			
	Committees prior to opening	President Secretary Treasurer	1977 -78 Roy East Les Latham Betty Klumpp	1978 -79 Lindsay Klumpp Les Latham Betty Klumpp	1979-80 Lindsay Klumpp Les Latham Betty Klumpp	1980 -81 Bev McIntosh Les Latham Clive Henley
1980 16 October	Club house and 2 courts opened		Gala day with exhibition match			
1980	Club Logo		Sea Eagle in flight			
	Lighting installed		Council grant			
1986	Courts concreted					
1987	Affiliated		Affiliated with Hastings District Tennis Association			
1994	Courts Plexipave					
2003	Synthetic grass					
2007	Floodlighting renewed					
2009	Timber deck added to club house					

WORKING BEE HELPERS

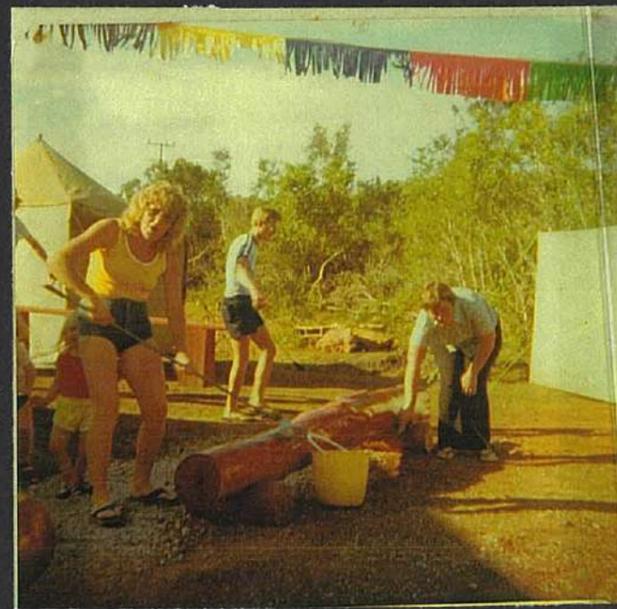


Ken Levitt

Alan Davy

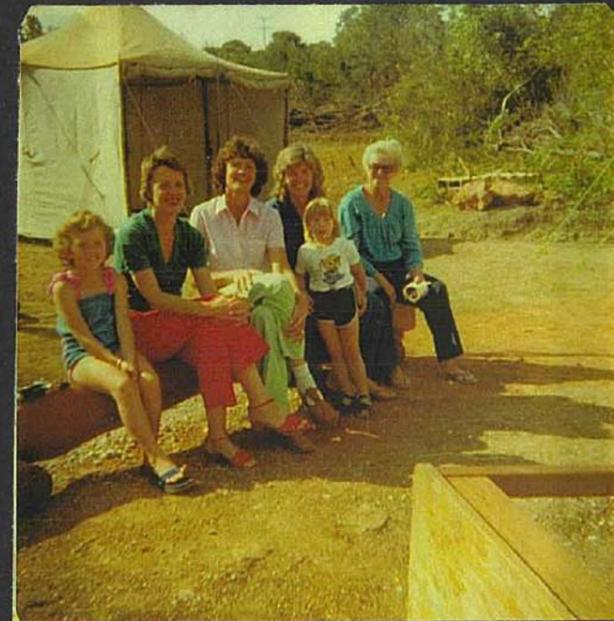


Col Gardiner Lindsay Klumpp



Bev McIntosh

Sheryl Gardiner



Jenny Thompson, Daph Latham, Norma Dwyer



Placing poles for court lighting  
State Electricity Commission  
Co-ordinated by Geoff Mascord  
Crane driver Bill Jennings



## TENNIS OPENING A BONNY TIME

*Progress continues its march ahead in the Bonny Hills region of Hastings Shire. Last Sunday over 100 people gathered for the official opening of the Bonny Hills Tennis Clubhouse and two new courts.*

The ceremony was performed by Shire President Cr. Bill Poole who was accompanied by Bonny Hills by all three A Riding members of Hastings Shire Council, Cr. Patti Flack, Cr. Ray Cook and the Deputy President Cr. Bob Woodlands.

The crowd of locals was swelled by the many visitors from the Wauchope area and a relaxed atmosphere, resembling a fete, predominated the day's proceedings.

Spectators were treated to an exhibition match switched from the usual status and once again had several local stars acting (or was it looking) like someone they aren't.

Leading roles were played in this international clash by a couple of "fairy interesting" ladies Billie Jean and Rennie.

More on the serious side, Tennis Club President Mrs. Bev McIntosh told her audience that Hastings Shire Council contributions had amounted to about \$16,000.

Club members had also raised some \$1500 towards the cost of the amenities.

Festivities surrounding Sunday's opening raised \$1000 for club funds. These have been earmarked for the provision of lighting. Mrs. McIntosh said this would require about \$8000.

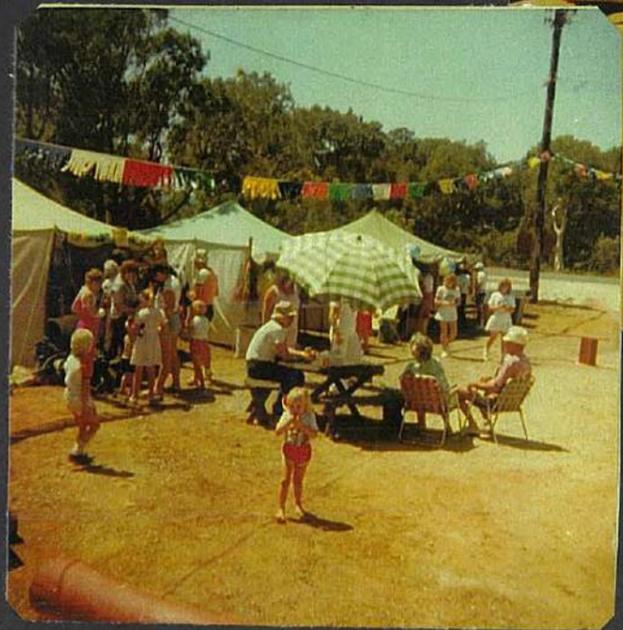
Tennis has been played by locals at Bonny Hills since 1976, using established courts at Lake Cathie. Residents formed their own club on the advice of Cr. Woodlands. An application for land and finance was subsequently made to Council.



PICTURES: Top, "Billy Jean King" and "Rennie Richards" with Lisa McCarthy and Rebecca Yonon; Left, the models who presented the latest in tennis fashions prior to the official opening; Below, Les Latham (Sec.), Bev McIntosh (pres.), Clive Hendley (treas.), Crs. Ray Cook, Bob Woodlands, Patti Flack and Bill Poole; Bottom a portion of the large crowd attending the opening.



## HISTORY OF B.H.T.C.



OPENING DAY  
CELEBRATIONS





Kurt Carney helping dad, Ron place lines.



THE CLUBHOUSE



# Tennis players adding new 'string' to their sport

Bonny Hills' two tennis courts have undergone a transformation in recent weeks and members will soon be able to play on maintenance-free all-weather surfaces.

The new syn-pave surface courts will be reopened on Sunday week—to the delight of the club's 120 members.

Working bees have been undertaken over the past five weeks in preparation for the concrete pour and the final surfacing.

Much of the work has been by voluntary labour and the club has expressed its appreciation of the 'slaves' and to Jim Ramsay who has been in charge of concreting.

The last concrete pour was undertaken on Monday morning after workers spent considerable time on the courts over the weekend.

The cost of the work is about \$21,000, for which the club has raised \$10,000. A sport and recreation grant of \$7,750 was attracted and the club has borrowed \$4000 to enable the work to proceed.

The saving on maintenance will help the club repay its loan commitment.

The club's long-term plans include the provision of two more courts and plans for the siting of these have been completed.

Club secretary Mrs Janet Hellyer said all members were eagerly looking forward to completion of the all-weather surfacing.

1994

## Gazette Sport



Preparing the final section of the two Bonny Hills tennis courts for concreting at the weekend were Jim Ramsay, David Akers, Mick Trotter and Jim Rochester. The concrete pour took place on Monday and the syn-pave surface will soon be added. The courts will be open for play on July 20.

**This folder contains  
Section 3 Part B**

**Community Groups and Businesses**

Bicentennial in BH  
Top Shop  
Landcare  
Garden Centre  
CWA  
Community Hall  
Plaza  
Tavern

**Back to Bonny's Community Photo Collection**

**Each part is in a separate folder.**

**These are currently being rotated monthly in Bonny Hills between the Surf Club and the three cafes.**

Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4	Section 5	Section 6
<b>Pioneers</b>	<b>Family Stories</b>	<b>Community Groups and Businesses</b>	<b>Recreation: Culture and Sport</b>	<b>The Changing Face of Bonny Hills</b>	<b>Back to Bonny's Celebrations 2018</b>
<u>Part A</u> Suters and Descendants Prout Family Early Land Subdivisions Newton/Dobson Family	<u>Part A</u> Litchfield family Latham Girls Robin Dobson Memories Bob Bulley Family Gai Fowler Memories Claire Webber Memories Bill Shelly Travis Allen Display Liz Lloyd James Artwork	<u>Part A</u> Conference Centre Old Post Office Gardiner Family Fire Brigade Tennis Club	<u>Part A</u> Little Beach Theatre Skate Park Physical Culture Club	<u>Part A</u> Birpai/Thomas Dick John Oxley Paradise Article Bartletts Beach Bob Bates Photos	This section is currently being compiled.  It will contain photos from the Back to Bonny's Day 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2018
<u>Part B</u> Bartlett Family	<u>Part B</u> Carney/Sharkey Family McCudden Family Bennett Family Yonon Family	<u>Part B</u> Bicentennial in BH Top Shop Landcare Garden Centre CWA Community Hall Plaza Tavern	<u>Part B</u> WBH Surf LS Club Mal De Mer CH Junior Boardriders MNC Girls Surfriders	<u>Part B</u> Rainbow Beach John Phillip Subdivision Classic Waves Bob Bates Photos	

If you have photos or stories you would like to add to this collection please contact  
Kathy Regan on kathyregan@bigpond.com or 0457930557



## **Bonny Hills Flag**

**Designed and Made by Faye Lennon,  
an artist who was living in Bonny Hills.  
Used at the Bicentennial Celebrations  
on Rainbow Beach Reserve in 1988.**

### Bonny Hills Bicentennial Celebrations

The **Starr, Akers & Gleeson families of Rodley Street** were the instigators of the Bonny Hills Bicentennial Celebrations which grew from a planned street party to the crowd of 1500 who enjoyed the day at **Beach Reserve on Sun 24th January, 1988.**

Strong support from the community and volunteer organisations (in particular the Bush Fire Brigade and Wauchope/Bonny Hills Surf Life Saving Club) made the day a great success. Fun activities included Square Dancing, races, a sand modelling contest, fire fighting technique demonstrations coupled with entertainment by the Hastings Municipal Band, the Bicentennial singers and Camden Haven Square Dancers and augmented by **Mrs Mahala Klump** playing old favourites on the piano.

A **Bicentennial Medal** was purchased and provided to all children attending funded by generous donations from the community.

A flag raising ceremony formed part of the formal proceedings of the day. This followed the official opening by **Alderman Daphne Johnson** and included the National, Hastings, Bicentennial and **new Bonny Hills flag** (designed and made by **Faye Lennon** of Bonny Hills for the bicentennial Year).







One of the Hastings area's oldest residents, Mrs Mahala Klumpp, centre, presented the Bonny Hills Bicentennial Committee with a certificate of official endorsement this week for a party it has organised for January 24. Mrs Klumpp, who has lived at Bonny Hills for 30 years, was asked by the chairman of the Hastings Bicentennial Community Committee, Ald. Ray Cooper, to present the endorsement certificate on his behalf. Mrs Klumpp is nearly 96 years old and is the oldest resident of Bonny Hills. She presented the endorsement certificate on Monday afternoon to Mrs Mary Gleeson, left, and Judy Akers of the Bonny Hills Bicentennial Committee. The party will be held on Sunday, January 24, at the Bonny Hills Reserve.

## Bonny Hills bi-centennial party



Organisers of the Bonny Hills bicentennial activities presented the profits as well as supporters plaques to two local volunteer organisations at North Haven Bowling Club recently. From left, Bob Smith (Bonny Hills SLSC president), Jill Trotter (secretary), Gary and Lorraine Starr, Mary Gleeson, Mike Gleeson, Judy Akers, Eric Bohlsen and Beryl Bohlsen (Bonny Hills Bushfire Brigade) and David Akers (at rear).

The Bonny Hills bicentennial party celebrations evolved out of an original "street party" for the residents of Rodley Street which grew to a community party at the Beach Reserve.

In discussion it was decided that resident children should

be given a bicentennial medallion as a memento of the day and year, so sponsorship from local business people was sought to cover the cost of these medallions. At first it was thought this might not cover the cost of the medallions, so it was decided that a donation of \$1 per household, regardless of how

many children involved, would be sought. The majority of the people petitioned were quite happy to give the dollar and many people gave more.

Two local voluntary bodies were asked to help on the day with demonstrations, organisation of games for the children etc., so the committee

decided that any surplus money should be donated to them.

We also invited the Port Macquarie Hastings Municipal Band, the Bicentennial Singers and Camden Haven Square Dancers to assist with entertainment, and happily they all did so and

Continued on Page 10

## Bonny Hills party

Continued from Page 6

were very well received by the crowd of approximately 500 who turned up on the day.

Ald Daphne Johnson gave an opening speech and the children who were winners of a competition to colour our advertising poster raised the four flags — national, Hastings, bicentennial and the new Bonny Hills flag which was designed and made by Faye Lennon of Bonny Hills for the bicentenary year.

We would like to thank our many sponsors for their financial help and would also like to thank the Hastings Bicentennial Committee for all their advice and assistance, as well as for the loan of the four flagpoles. We were pleased to see many of that committee in attendance on the day, and were also pleased to see the Mayor and Mrs Woodlands

On Friday, April 29, at North Haven Bowling Club, the Bonny Hills Bush Fire Brigade and the Wauchope/Bonny Hills Surf Life Saving Club were each presented with a cheque for \$250 and a supporters plaque (supplied by the Hastings Bicentennial Committee) courtesy of the Bonny Hills Bicentennial Party Committee — the families Starr, Akers and Gleeson, of Rodley Street, Bonny Hills.

## Bonny View Store 1986 – 2000

### Memories written by Kerry Salt (Nelson)

**Russell and Kerry Salt** relocated from Walgett as newlyweds to purchase the Bonny View Store on 5th July, 1986, from the Antram family (Brian, Doreen Melissa & Michael). It took some time to settle into the busy life of the shop and to get to know the locals, who welcomed us into their beautiful village.

The **original shop** was fairly 'rustic' with a dirt floor up the very back of the bottle shop and the whole roof leaked like a sieve in heavy rain. Buckets catching drips was a common sight. The SES had to come and put tarps on once when we had torrential rain. The old wooden cool room was quite dangerous because if you were in there and someone closed the door, there was no way out. Kerry found that out the hard way!

As there was no **takeaway food** we introduced Timbertown pies and Hero rolls, which proved very popular. At first we had to drive out to Timbertown at 5.30 am to collect the pies, but after some time they were delivered to us.

The birth of our children, **Khloe** (1987) and **Bryce** (1990) made life much busier, but with the help of family and friends we managed. Russell's parents **Ethel and Archie** moved to Bonny Hills in 1988, which was a great help. Archie came up every day to pump petrol and have a beer in the afternoons. Ethel cooked trays of biscuits for us to sell. These were extremely popular and literally sold like hot cakes.

The shop was a real meeting place, known as the **One Tree Pub**, as Lou Manton called it (because of the one tree that was out front). There was always someone having a beer and a chat. On Friday afternoons we provided hot snacks (frankfurts and sausage rolls) for the boys that sat out front having a drink. There was always someone having a chat with us or others in the shop. I remember somebody referred to the shop as the **Hub on the Hill**.

We gradually made improvements over the years, like new petrol bowsers, diesel bowser, a roof over the bowsers, new fuel tanks and in 1990 the bottle shop was renovated.

In 1995 we made **massive changes** which only took about 4 months to complete, thanks to the expertise of Peter Ruming. The residence and shop were demolished and we operated the whole business out of the bottle shop while the new building was erected. Russell slept on a fold up bed in the bottle shop for that period because the building wasn't secure. The building as it is now, with the takeaway and residence on the top was the result of this project. We began operating out of the **new building** on Christmas Eve, 1995.

Obviously we employed more **staff**, as up until then we operated with minimal staff. Christine Burgess was our first full time employee and then Robyn Passmore, who was still with us when we sold to David and Stephanie in December, 2000. Robyn is a true legend and I'm sure she is held in high regard by all who have met her. She helped our business run smoothly and we couldn't have survived without her. We were fortunate to employ other amazing staff like Denise, Tina, Christine, Sue and many others.

Over the years we met some wonderful people, both locals and those who were regular holidaymakers. Some of those people are sadly no longer with us, but many still reside in Bonny Hills. Far too many names to mention, but I'm sure they know who they are.

I have so many **fond memories** of our 14.5 years at the Bonny View Store and far too many stories to tell here. A piece of my heart will always be in Bonny Hills.

## The Top Shop



Old Shop about 1995. Single storey just before rebuild



# New proprietors at Bonny View Store



Kerry-Anne and Russell Salt, the new proprietors of the Bonny View Store.

Russell and Kerry-Anne Salt are the new proprietors of the Bonny View Store at Bonny Hills. The couple took over the business on July 5.

Russell has worked for the past 12 years as a wheat farmer and contract harvester as well as running a bulk grain haulage business, from his home town of Walgett.

The continuous drought, no great returns for the long hours away from home and the soaring cost of fuel and spare parts all contributed to his decision to make a break away from the farming life and settle on the coast.

"Transporting the headers up to Queensland each year for the summer crop, takes a lot of time and expense," said Russell.

"Sadly, one bad drought followed another, with only a year's respite, so many farmers in New South Wales are facing the same problems," he continued.

Kerry-Anne, who originally comes from a small town near Gunnedah, previously worked in Browns Jewellery shop at Gunnedah and moved to Port Macquarie when the firm opened a branch at Settlement City, 18 months ago.

After marrying in February, the Salts were keen to buy both a home and business on the coast, and the Bonny View Store provided the opportunity to satisfy both these aims.

Russell and Kerry are currently making changes to provide even more convenience for customers.

Hours have been extended to an 8am start and 7.00pm close while during the summer months, closing will be further extended to 9.00pm.

Takeaway food has now been introduced with hot pies, sausage rolls and Hero rolls, now supplementing the convenience grocery lines, ice-creams, drinks and newspaper sales, customers are familiar with. Video hire will also soon be available, while further extensions are planned for the future.

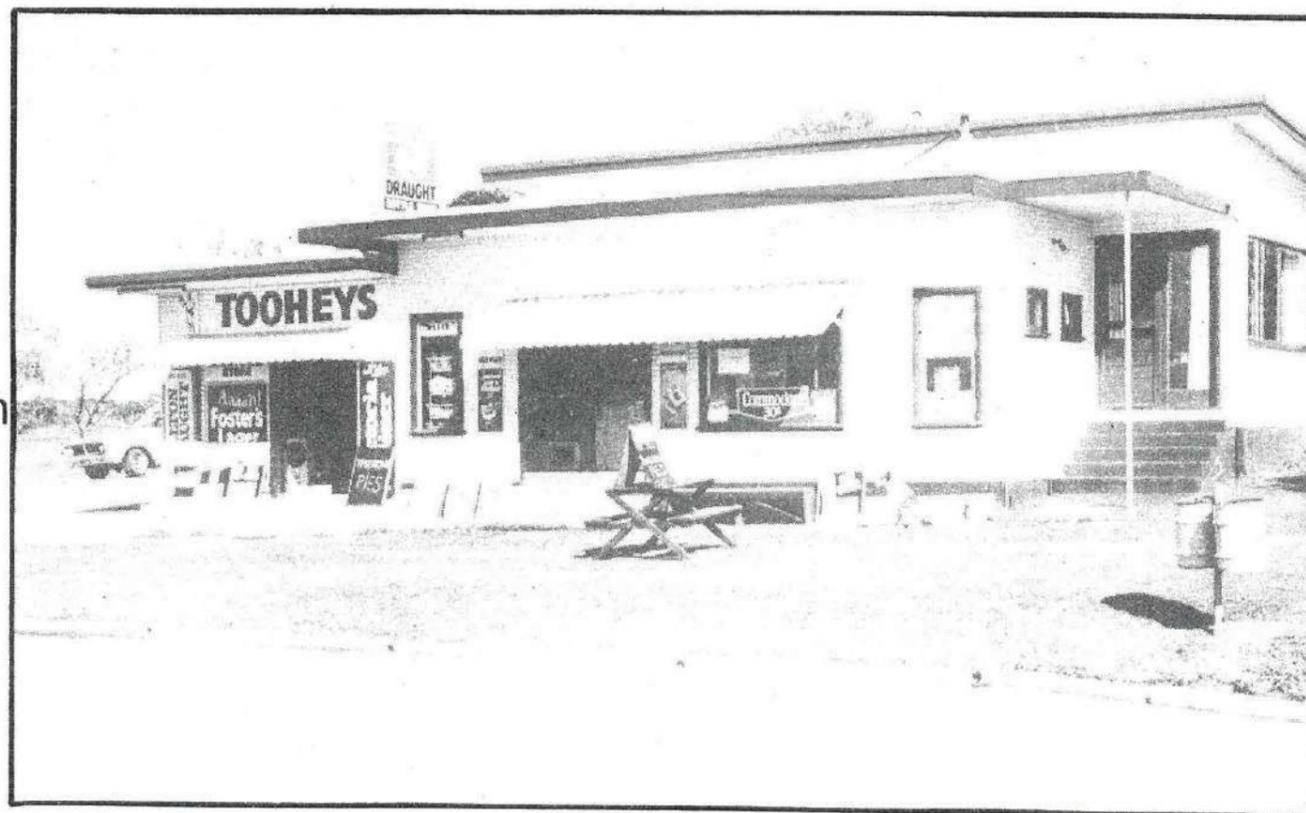
Russell is enjoying the challenge of running the business situated on such a magnificent part of the coast.

When not working behind the counter, Russell enjoys water skiing, Rugby Union (he played for 10 years at Walgett but prefers the sideline these days) and his main love, horse-racing. He owns three race-horses, one having won its first race at Narrabri, while the other two are being prepared at Port Macquarie for their first races.

## Under New Management

the

# BONNY VIEW STORE



★  
General  
groceries

★  
Timbertown  
Pies

★  
Hero  
Chicken  
Rolls

★  
Discount  
Petrol

★  
Bottle  
Shop  
Bargains

★  
TWIST TOPS  
\$13.60  
carton

★  
CANS  
\$18.60  
carton

★  
4 LITRE  
WINE CASKS  
from \$4.99

PROPRIETORS RUSSELL AND KERRY SALT

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK FROM 8am to 7pm

Ocean Drive, Bonny Hills - 85.5273

"Your friendly, local, general store"



Digger the dog was always babysitting Bryce



Digger was the shop mascot.



Archie Salt (the other shop mascot) in the old shop reading the form guide



Big fuel spill of 1994. A memorable Friday afternoon. Ocean Drive closed and traffic diverted around Panorama Dr.

New items introduced into the shop  
Takeaway food and Ethel's popular homemade biscuits





Chris Burgess about 1992  
First full time employee



Santa arriving at the shop on the fire engine was a highlight for many children in 90s. Each child received a bag of lollies, ice block and drink from Santa (Peter Wilson).



Robyn Passmore and Bryce.  
First Melbourne Cup Dress up Day.

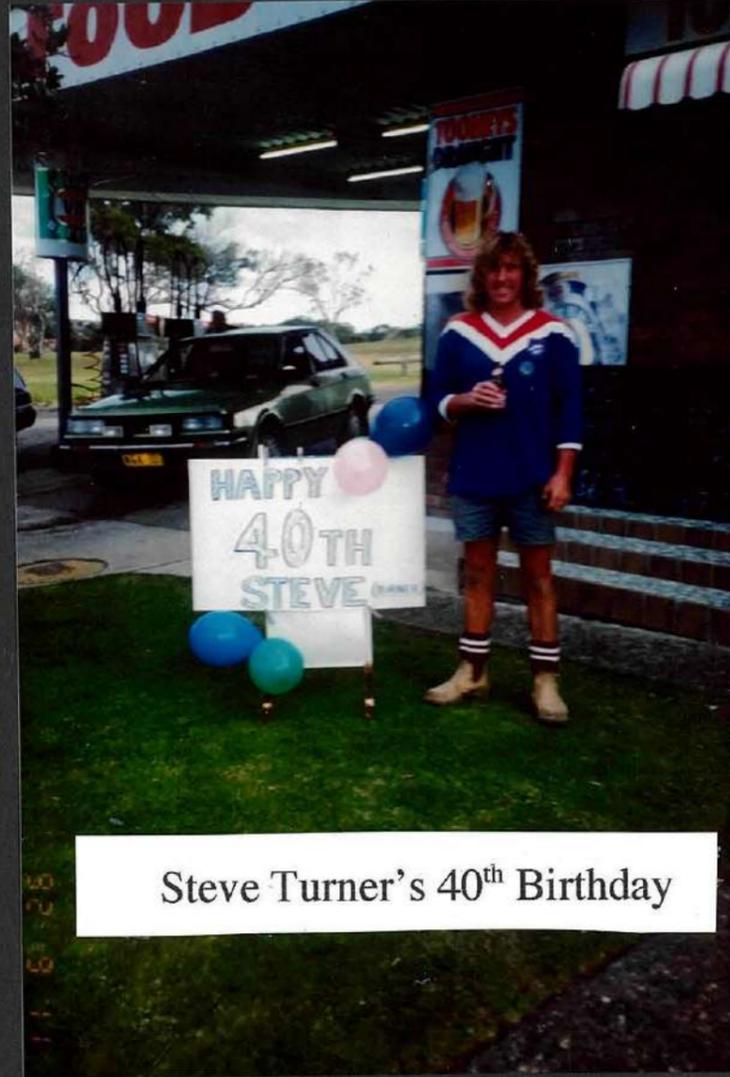


Dress ups, champagne and nibbles on Melbourne Cup Day.  
Kerry held a few of these in the shop.

Some of the locals, drinking at the One Tree Pub.  
(Named for the one tree out the front)



Ron



Steve Turner's 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday



Barry Melville and Russ



Louis Manton and Archie Salt





New building in progress.  
Peter Ruming and crew did a fantastic job.



All shop trade continued from the bottle shop during the rebuild.  
Nobody seemed to mind and it was business as usual. 1995





The famous sign "Russ you won't know yourself"



The new shop and residence above opened Christmas Eve 1995



Last staff party, 2000

## Looking after our natural environment

Acknowledgement is made of the extensive work done by **John Kennedy** and his team in the 1990s undertaking **eradication of weeds** and **Identification and labeling of the unique vegetation** in the creek area around Spooney's Bay.

John initiated the **building of the first bridge** over the creek and worked with the team during the construction process.



## Bonny Hills Landcare Group

### Rutile mining and Landcare

Rutile mining commenced in the Camden Haven in the 1960s.

There were 2 sites....

1. A large plant behind Short/Sharkeys Beach
2. A larger plant behind the dunes at the 4 WD track on Grants Beach.

Unfortunately, there was no rehabilitation plan for the restoration of the dunes and the Department of Agriculture recommended that a South African plant, bitou bush, be used for this purpose.

By the 1980s this invasive weed covered about 80% of the coastal dunes on our mid north coast, extending far beyond the area of initial planting.

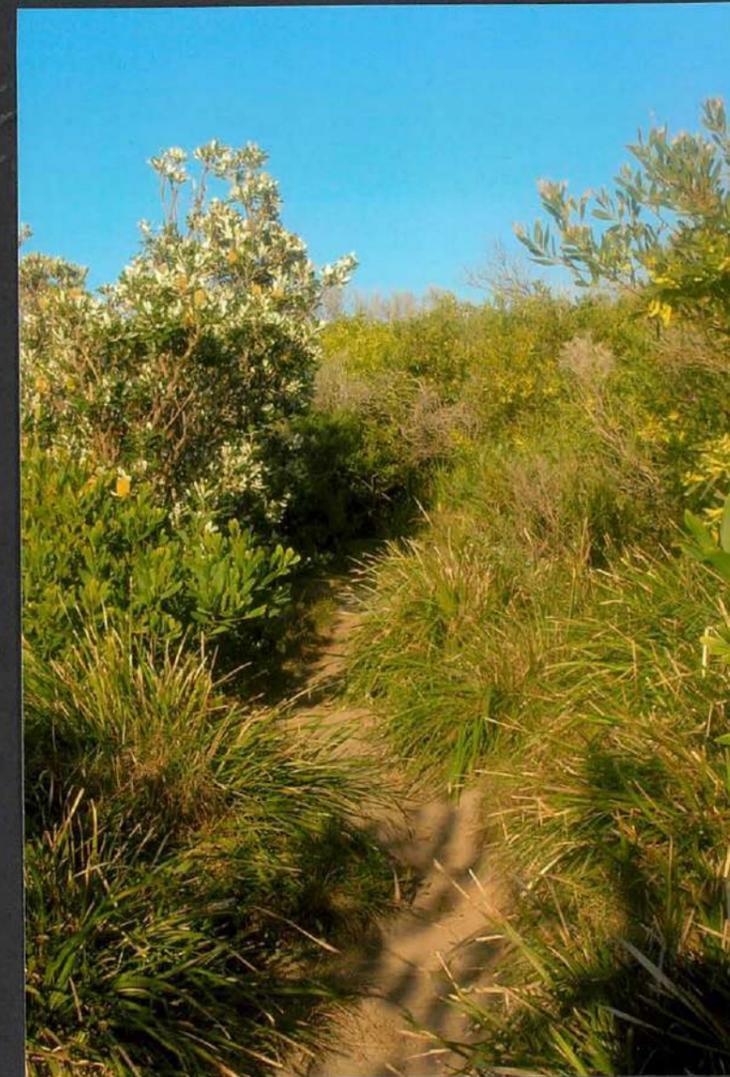
In 1993, Fred & Judy Love began removing the bitou from the tracks on Grants Head.

With the support of PMHC, the area worked finally extended from Middle Rock to North Haven.

In 2004 a Bonny Hills Landcare group was formed with at times, a membership of up to fifteen, and extensive work was done by volunteers.

Work continues to this day but age & infirmity limits activities.

Judy Love President BH Landcare group.



Tracks on Grants Head after clearing





Around Honeysuckle Road  
Before clearing above and left  
After clearing below

Grants Head  
Before above  
After below



**2010 Rainbow Beach weeding project**

Area from Duchess Creek north to Middle Rock. Undertaken by Landcare volunteers in conjunction with Wildthings and St Vincents Foundation. Work consisted of removing dense infestations of weeds in the littoral rainforest, including some massive Bitou, thickets of Lantana and dense stands of Senna, along with other invasive weeds such as Asparagus and Indian Hawthorn. Council has now taken over the area and are doing a good job of keeping it mostly weed free.



Towards Middle Rock Before above  
After below



# Bonny Hills Garden Centre

The original Bonny Hills Garden Centre was established by Keith Hogan and Anthony Cummins on McGilvray Road in 1989  
Work on the current site on Ocean Drive was commenced in 1993  
Photos show initial stages of construction for the current Bonny Hills Garden Centre



From this.....

.....to this!



## Bonny Hills CWA – A Brief History

The inaugural meeting of the Bonny Hills CWA was held on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2002 with 15 members signing up.

The first Executive comprised:

President – Mrs Delma Robson

Vice President – Mrs Elizabeth Dixon

Secretary – Mrs Marge MacDonald

Treasurer – Mrs Joy Ward

**Meetings** are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. As members wanted to meet more frequently, weekly handicraft meetings were initially held in the President's home, now in the **Community Hall**. This became the permanent place for CWA meetings, made more convenient with the inclusion of storage space.

Funds are raised from selling home-cooking and handicrafts at 3 street stalls each year in May, September and December. These funds support CWA initiatives at home and overseas.

In Australia	Internationally
Educational Grants /scholarships	Training for women in 3 <sup>rd</sup> world
Emergency and Disaster Relief	Indian clinic for women
Rural Projects eg Rural Drs Bursary	'Seed' money for women's projects
Cancer support programs	Clean water initiatives

Social activities include pot-luck meals, bus trips, river cruises, beach BBQ where partners are included.

One of the most important aspects of CWA is the **development of women**. Members participate in International, cultural, and agricultural studies as well as cooking and handicraft competitions.

**New members** as always welcome in the Bonny Hills Country Women's Association of NSW.



Representatives of Bonny Hills CWA



Bonny Hills CWA



Companionship through Craft



International Day



Another amazing CWA meal!



Bus trip to Yarras  
Olive Farm and Koree Island Herb Farm  
Oct 2005



Partners join in some activities too



International Day

## The Bonny Hills Community Hall

The local community needed a public meeting spot in the village. Both the tiny fire-shed and the tennis clubhouse weren't large enough.

Community Spirit was really alive in our village back in the early 1980's when the residents' group pushed for a Hall to be built where it now stands. The building was intended to be used for religious services, arts and crafts, community functions, children's play centre, senior citizens', professional groups and performing arts.

Difficulties arose because of a disagreement with the Department of Lands as to the proposed site and the \$45,000 initially set aside by Council was diverted elsewhere.

However, by 1984 the Progress Association had managed to secure "wage pause grants" enabling local workmen to be employed for 4 months and requiring completion by the end of June that year. The cost was \$80,000.

The Bonny Hills Progress Association Community Hall Committee comprised of Bruno Koch (Builder), Colin Day (Architect), Mrs Frances Hoad (Secretary), Mrs Heather Webb (Treasurer) and George Pulton (Building Liaison Officer).

As reported by the Port News 3 August 1984, the hall was complete and only awaiting sewerage connection before it could be officially opened.

The Hall has been, and still is, a greatly valued community asset, managed by a local hall committee in conjunction with the Port Macquarie Hastings Council.

The groups who use the hall have been steadily growing as the area expands.

The Hall stands proudly alongside the skate park, children's playground and a soon-to-be completed half netball court.



The Bonny Hills Community Hall was opened in 1984

Evidence of a creative community spirit  
from the youth of Bonny Hills  
under the guidance of Liz Lloyd James

MUFFLERS  
at  
JTS-NRMA  
KEW  
6559 4088

Distributed throughout Laurieton, North Haven, Kaw, Kendall, Bonny Hills, Lake Cathie, Lorne,  
Stewarts River, Herons Creek, Coopernook and their surround  
57 BOLD STREET, LAURIETON, 2443. PHONE 6559 8397, 6559 8035. FAX

March 13, 2002

## "Feeling of belonging"



Emma Ramsey, Simeon James (designer), Bridgette Cullen and Sally Butler are some of the youth participants in the "Stop the Scribble" public art project at Bonny Hills. They are pictured with local artist Elizabeth Lloyd James in front of the recently completed mural erected on the wall of the Bonny Hills Community Centre.

As part of the PCYC "Stop the Scribble" campaign, co-ordinated by Snr Constable Bruce Gould, local youth have added their artistic flair to public art projects in Wauchope, Port Macquarie and Bonny Hills.

The Bonny Hills project under the supervision of local artist Elizabeth Lloyd-James features a design by Simeon James who reiterated the thoughts and brief of Merran Morrison in November 2000 for Hastings Council concerning public art.

"Bonny's" is about our local place being important to our youth. The art work not only shows the onlooker where to go, but how we live in this town. It gives an insight to the development and activities which are fundamental to both residents and visitors. Socially, culturally and economically, it is the uniqueness of Bonny Hills which is very much alive," said Elizabeth Lloyd-James.

"This public art hopes to offer youth pride of place and a positive feeling of belonging, which is important in these times of globalisation. Bonny Hills youth regularly use the skatepark which the mural overlooks with its message of 'you are important - you belong here!'"

The mural, in the form of an illustrated town map, has been erected on the side wall of the Bonny Hills Community Centre. This follows last year's project, again involving Elizabeth Lloyd James and local youth which saw a sporting theme mural erected on the Laurieton Sporting Fields dressing room wall, providing an attractive and colourful addition to a plain brick wall.

Youth participants involved in the Bonny Hills project included Simeon James, Sally Butler, Brett and Kate Holman, Emma Ramsey, Bridgette Cullen, Hamish Clark, Olivia and Tessa Halle, Jai Kennedy, and Olivier Stacey.

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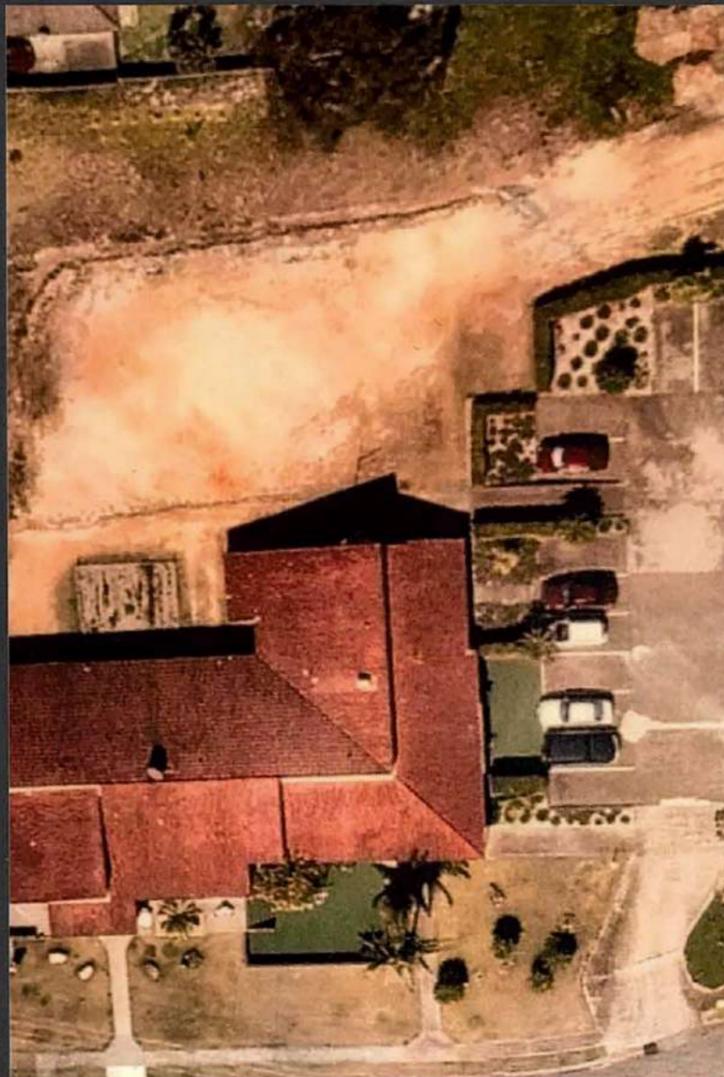
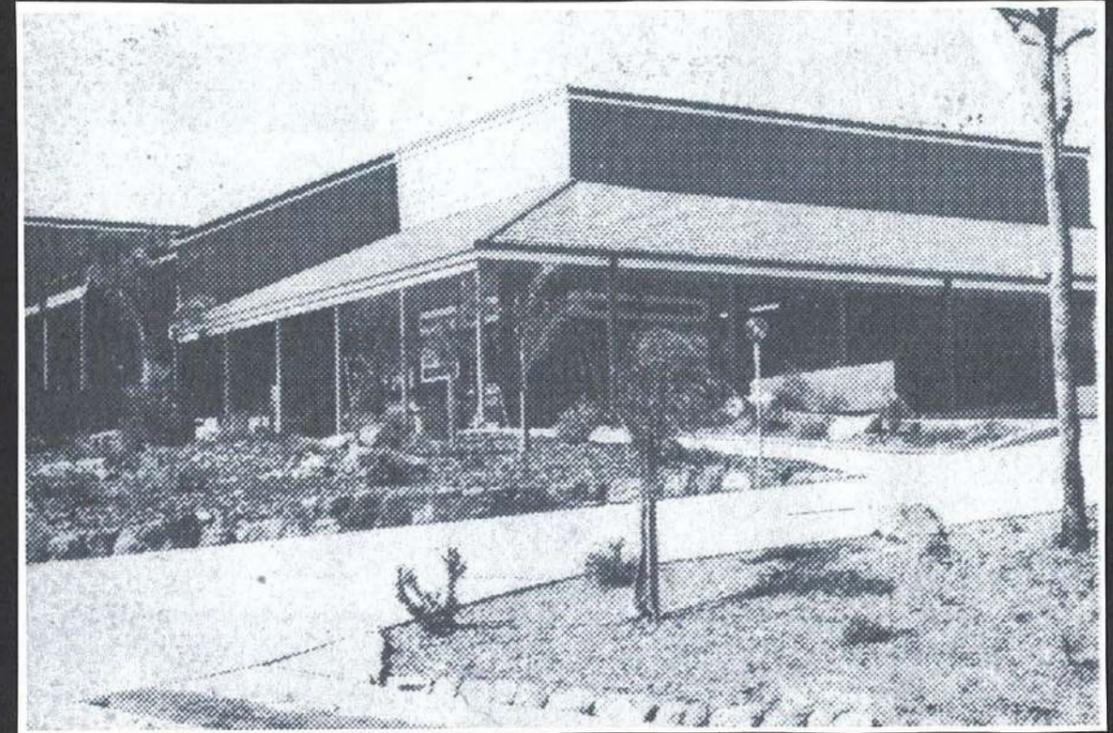
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# Bonny Hills Shopping Plaza 1986

The Bonny Hills Shopping Plaza was built by local man Basil Gaudry. The first take away was opened in 1986 by George and Fae Smurthwaite and family. Over the years many businesses have operated from the shops which form the Plaza. A bakery, vet, hairdresser, hardware, clothing retailer, clothing manufacturer, real estate, gift store and gym and have all operated from the Plaza at different times, with the addition in recent years of a grocer and cafe.



CAMDEN HAVEN COURIER, WEDNESDAY, JAN 1, 1986



George and Fae Smurthwaite with daughter, Helen (centre).

## Top Tucker Takeaway

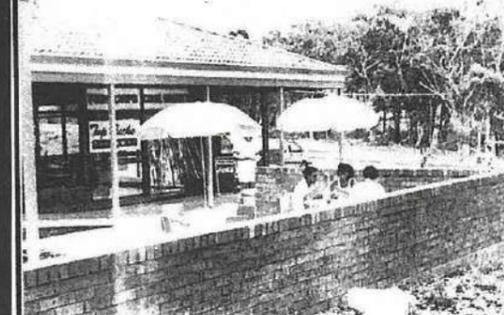
Fae & George Smurthwaite — Proprietors



- ★ Fresh Chickens
- ★ Hot Chips
- ★ Hamburgers



- ★ Sandwiches
- ★ Fruit Sundaes
- ★ Cold Drinks
- ★ Fresh Bread Daily



Or use our courtyard facilities and Eat in Comfort

Shop 4, Jungarra Crescent, Bonny Hills

# Bonny Hills Tavern 1996

## Start to \$1.2m tavern

CONSTRUCTION of the \$1.2 million Bonny Hills Tavern began last Thursday, with the project expected to be completed in October.

Situated in Ocean Drive, the single storey tavern will be an "ultra modern" tavern with the exterior finished in textured concrete, according to developer Mr Steve McEvoy.

McEvoy Constructions, who built the Valla Beach and Crescent Head taverns, is building the tavern.

Mr McEvoy said between 30 and 40 people would be involved in the construction of the tavern.

He also said he thought the Bonny Hills Tavern would eventually be well accepted in the local community, regardless of initial opposition to the tavern.

The proposal had been the subject of concern from some residents during its development application period.



Port News 4.4.1996

Underway: Earth clearing works at the site of the \$1.2 million Bonny Hills Tavern which began last week.



Port News 13.9.96

Date set: The Bonny Hills Tavern is well on the way to completion.

## Beer taps will turn on at tavern within 12 weeks

DEVELOPERS McEvoy Constructions have targeted November 30 as the official opening date of their Bonny Hills Tavern.

But, said Mr Chris McEvoy, should the recent spate of fine weather continue then that date could even be brought forward to mid-November.

"It's all very weather dependent but at the moment November 30 is the day," he said. "Everything is going according to plan and every stage is progressing as we hoped."

With the roof just about on and internal work progressing nicely after five to six largely rain-free weeks Mr McEvoy is confident the \$1.1 million tavern will be of huge benefit to Bonny Hills.

"Even at this stage we're using as many local people as we can, as many tradespeople as possible are based in Bonny Hills from haulage contractors to carpenters and bricklayers.

"Then, of course, there will be permanent employment generated when it is fully



Up she goes: Peter Becroft of Bonedry Roof Tiling of Laurieton, gets to work at the Ocean Drive site.

operational," Mr McEvoy said.

Mr McEvoy, who along with his brother and partner Steve built three similar hotels on the coast, believes the Bonny Hills version will be the jewel in their crown.

"Everyone who has seen the others has said that this one is in a prime position and capable of doing the best of the lot of them," Mr McEvoy said.

The Ocean Drive site may not have been the McEvoy's first

choice — a site closer to the beach was preferred — but since overcoming some initial problems the McEvoy's have certainly warmed to their task.

"Meeting some of the council's demands wasn't easy but we've done all they've asked and there hasn't been any negative reaction from anyone so far," said Mr McEvoy.

"Really we couldn't have asked for a better site. Ocean Drive here is just about like a

highway so there will be a lot of passing traffic. Then unlike our other taverns there's no residences at the back so that makes life easier for everyone."

The McEvoy's have signed the tavern's lease over to a Sydney man who, with a silent partner with more than 15 years experience in the industry, will run the operation.

"He's a family man with young children who will be ideal for the job," assured Mr McEvoy.