

OLD LANDMARK BEING DEMOLISHED

There remains today, in the main street of Beechwood, a small number of buildings of varied age which link the 1980's version of the township with the colourful days when it was the thriving headquarters serving the pioneering families opening up the timber and dairying industries west of the Wauchope town.

One of the later of these to be erected, the now closed blacksmiths shop, which has stood on the lower side of Beechwood Hotel for over 60 years, will soon be nothing more than a memory.

The building is scheduled to be demolished under the

direction of the Hastings Municipal Council.

The present owners, Esma and Eric Waldron have already begun this work.

Beechwood's last smithy's shop was operated for its entirety by the late Lyel Shoesmith.

Shoey passed away eight years ago, aged 82 and from the time he established his shop until his death, he carried out some form of work in the premises.

Harry Shoesmith Snr. and his family moved from the Manning to their Frasers Creek farm at Beechwood in 1910. Young Lyel first worked with his father in a smithy shop rented from Mr. P. J. O'Neill.

That was the building which eventually became the last Beechwood Bakery.

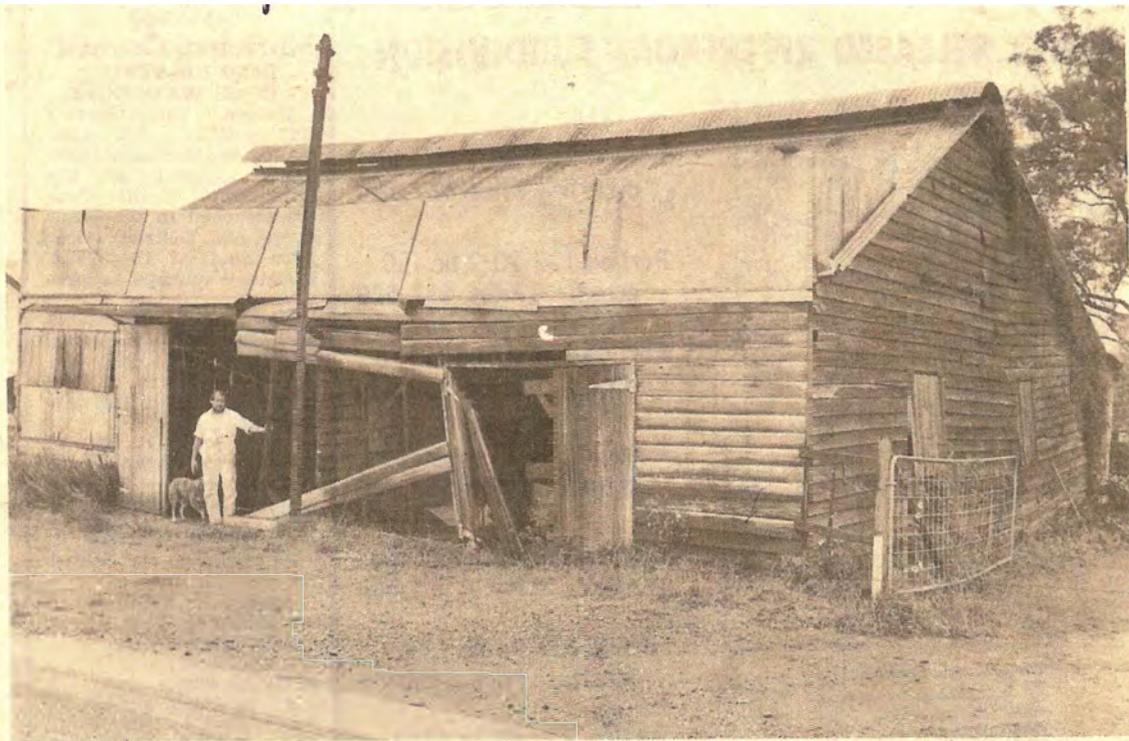
To enable him to continue as a blacksmith, Lyel purchased three blocks from P. J.

He built his shop on the present site and set up business for himself.

He specialised in gigs for trotting ponies and serviced the transport trade with the manufacture of sulkies and buggies among his other work as a smithy.

When the business eventually closed in 1974 much of Lyel's blacksmith equipment eventually found its way to the Timbertown project.

Lyel had a brother Roland who was also a blacksmith.



The present owner, Mr. Eric Waldron outside the old smithy's shop at Beechwood. Demolition work is already underway.

He operated a business in Mackay for many years.

Beechwood Red Cross report a successful December appeal day held last week.

Among the visitors in attendance at the BBQ and taking part in the various competitions which followed was a party brought over from Port Macquarie by Mrs. Ena Thompson.

Debbie Ostler took home a bed doll donated by Betty Pritchard.

The final meeting for the year was held on Tuesday and the occasion was also the chance to hold the branch Christmas party.

Red Cross is now in recess until February and takes this opportunity to convey thanks to the staff of the Gazette for their help and co-operation through the year. Compliments of the season is extended to them

and also the general public who have generously supported Red Cross work during 1981.

The local cricketers needed only 17 overs to put paid to the chances of visiting club Port RSL in the match on Beechwood ground last Saturday.

Terry Hollis turned in 3/17 when RSL were bundled out for 39 runs.

Dennis Stanton and George Hubbard made welcome returns to the side and made sizeable contributions to the score.

Dennis topped the list with 32, Hubbard 21, Paul Ylias 26, Mark Thompson 27 n.o. and Ross Blythe 21 were all among the runs in the local's 9/155.

James Sparrow seems to be well out of form and is due for a good score.

Results of last week's tennis matches, Faulks 35 d

Fowler 29; Ostler 39 d Hollis 25; Corcoran 34 d Kirwan 30; Rankmore 35 d Bird 29; Roods 35 d Flanagan 29.

Draw for next week which will be our last week until 25-1-82.

Mon. 14-12-81 Kirwan v Witchard; Tues. 15-12-81, Everson v Roods, Lindsay v Rankmore; Wed. 16-12-81, Bird v Hollis; Flanagan v Corcoran; Thurs. 17-12-81, Fowler v Ostler; Faulks v Lulham.

Beechwood cricket team to play Laurieton at Kendall on Sunday: T. Hollis (c). P. Ostler, B. Holland, R. Laurie, M. Thompson, R. Blythe, G. Hubbard, J. Sparrow, S. Ylias, D. Bowerman, S. Monkley.

Football Club's Bridge to bridge

The B.F.C. will stage a bridge to bridge boat race on Sunday 20th December. The

race, between Bains Bridge and the Wauchope Railway Bridge, is open to everyone over the age of 18. The main condition of the event is that all craft is to be either man or wind powered. No motors allowed.

Classes will be decided on the morning of the event. No limit will be put on the size of craft or the number of deck hands. It's a matter of get there as quickly and as easily as you can.

A family bar-b-que lunch and afternoon tea has been planned, which will include pillow fights over the water, tug-of-war, water polo and a few other games. This will all take place at the ski ramp at the river end of Cameron St., where you can also witness the finish of the race.

No need for entry forms. Tura up on Sunday 20th with your craft. More details next week.

From:
The Hastings
Gazette.

10/12/1981

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WAUCHOPE BRANCH

LSVF-Beechwood

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GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION

Port Macquarie - Hastings
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B E E C H W O O D .



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WAUCHOPE BRANCH

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BEECHWOOD:

Reference: R994.442 MOY.

*The town got its name from the beech abounded in the area.

The main impedient to Beechwood's growth was the Hastings River.

Early in 1890's a new roads engineer arrived in the Hastings Valley... he used ballast from ships at Beechwood wharf to build a stone crossing 3' at Cameron's Fall. The result excellent...a flood washed part of it away...continued to deteriorate. Reported that Mr. Francis Marchment trying to make a crossing, was washed out of his sulky. Beechwood Progress was formed to add strength to influence the government on the bridge.

The district in addition to Beech had forests of rosewood, tallwood, cedar, blackbutt and turpentine.

When the Beechwood Hotel was built there were horse and cattleyards, up to 40 horse and bullock teams and blacksmiths in the town.

BEECHWOOD HOTEL:

Burned to the ground in 1924. Temporary structure known locally as "Tin Trunk" hastily erected using galvanised iron salvaged from the pubs old roof. The present hotel can claim to have been trading continuously for some 96 years.

Reference:

1904 Mr. P. J. O'Neill donated land in Beechwood on which a School of Arts would be built (This building renovated during recent years and still being used as a Community hall 1978).

1905 Beechwood School of Arts built and opened.

1837 The first land grants in Beechwood district were:
Ackroyd, Cross, Morton, Frzer and Parker.

1838 A schedule from the Department of Lands lists the early settlers in this area as being:-

John Spencer John Baxter Andrew Baxter Merv Patterson
William McMillan John Neville

BEECHWOOD HOTEL,

BEECHWOOD,

IS NOW OPEN

FOR THE

Accommodation of Travellers

AND OTHERS.

The Best of Everything.

Nov 14 1888

Grand Demonstration.

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM L.O.L. will celebrate the 5th NOVEMBER, at BEECHWOOD, on 11th NOVEMBER, by a TEA and AFTER MEETING, when addresses will be delivered.

Admission 1s. 6d., children 1s. Tea at 2.30 p.m.

Nov 1888 G. LINDSAY.

A PUBLIC TEA-MEETING

WILL be held at the PROTESTANT HALL, BEECHWOOD, on NOVEMBER 2ND.

Tea on the Tables at 3 p.m. 1882.

Admission—Adults, 1s. 6d.; Children, 1s.

J. STONEHOUSE,

Practical Watchmaker,

BEECHWOOD.

All Repairs Neatly Executed.

August 1888.

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BEECHWOOD:

- 1869 July 16 Beechwood School was opened as a half-time school with Huntingdon, with Mr. Kendall Hume, as teacher.
- 1870 John Neville took up first free selection in what is known as Beechwood.
- 1874 In August, Beechwood became a Provisional School. Ryland Justinian Payne began as the first full-time teacher on October 10 1874.
- 1878 Roman Catholic Church was built at Beechwood at approx. this time. A new Church was built in 1957.
- 1882 Beechwood School became a Public School.
- 1890 Mrs. P. J. O'Neill J.P. established the Beechwood Hotel.
- 1892 Thomas Suters and family moved into the newly erected residence at Beechwood Public School.
- 1902 Beechwood Roman Catholic Church opened.

Ref.

SCHOOLS:

REFERENCE: Museum.

Beechwood Public School 1869 - 1930.

Public education in Beechwood began in 1869, but the history of education in the area goes back to 1866. Beechwood school grew out of the earlier education activities in the area.

1866: Presbyterian Denomination School at Huntingdon but some of the children of Beechwood who lived close by this school attended it.

By July 16 1869, Mr. Hume informed the Council of Education "I began the school at Beechwood today".

1872: Mr. Hume resigned because of ill health. The school was then without a teacher for sometime due to difficulty of persuading one to come to Beechwood.

Following 2 years battle between families living in the northern and southern side of the river.

May 1872:- "northsiders" requested school to stay where it was.

Oct 1873:- "southerners" requested school be moved to their side. Reasons.

1. Twice as many children on south side.
2. Numbers on north side dwindling.
3. Site proposed more central.
4. Half time teacher on the South side and would not be cut off by "fresh".
5. Southerners willing to provide residence.

1874:- Southerners and northsiders united and applied for a Provisional School.

Patrons: Andrew Calvin.

Hugh McKay.

William Trotter.

They described the present Half-Timbe School, as:

1. Wood slab building, followed and shingled, with first floor glazed.

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WAUCHOPE BRANCH
BEECHWOOD (2)

Schools cont., Beechwood.

2. 24' by 14' wide and 8' high.
3. Accommodate 25 to 30.
4. In good repair.

On 10th October, 1874 Mr. Pyland Justinian Payne began operating the Provisional School at Beechwood.

1883: Petition asking for the erection of a new building to replace the old...on account of its delapidated condition.

By 1885 the new wood building was finished. No residence attached. Old building authorised...to be pulled down and used by teacher for firewood.

1869 - 1880 - fees not much above 3 pence per child per week to maximum 1/- per family. Fees paid to the teacher for his own use.

After 1880 - fixed rate of the above charges were paid to the teacher, who in turn paid into Consolidated Revenue.

Public Teacher - 1895. (Likened to apprentices aged 13 - 16. Served 4 years.

1917: New building erected. Old building sold for £31 at auction. Next year land resumed and in 1920 an extra 2 acres was not finalised until 1925.

From 1922 - 1927 constant pressure to have additional buildings and repairs done. The school consisted of a new building 1917 and old wooden building (1885). However the school was bordering on going back to 1 teacher.

1928: average attendance dropped from 50 to 40.

NEWS, AUGUST 11, 1888.



Department of Public Instruction,
Sydney, 31st July, 1888.

TENDERS FOR TEACHER'S RESIDENCE.

TENDERS are invited for the erection of a
Teacher's Residence at the Brombin Public
School, near Huntingdon.

Plans and specifications may be seen, and forms
of tender obtained, at the office of the Department
of Public Instruction, Sydney, and at the Brombin
Public School, on application to the teacher.

Tenders, endorsed "Tender for Teacher's Resi-
dence, Brombin Public School," must be lodged
with the Under Secretary, Department of Public
Instruction, at or before 10 o'clock a.m. on Mon-
day, the 27th August, 1888.

The Minister does not bind himself to accept the
lowest or any tender.

JAMES INGLIS.

BEECHWOOD

The school was situated approximately ten kilometres north-west of Wauchope. It was half-time with Huntingdon from August 1869 to May 1874. It was provisional from September 1874 to September 1882, when it became a public school. As early as 1837, officers from the Port Macquarie penal settlement received grants of land. Many free settlers arrived after 1862, making a public school a necessity.

After considerable agitation, the Minister for Education sent an inspector to select a suitable site for a school. When he raised the question of a name for the school, the parents pointed out that the opposite side of the river was Rosewood and as there were many fine beech trees in this area, "Beechwood" would be an appropriate name. The inspector agreed and the name remains today.

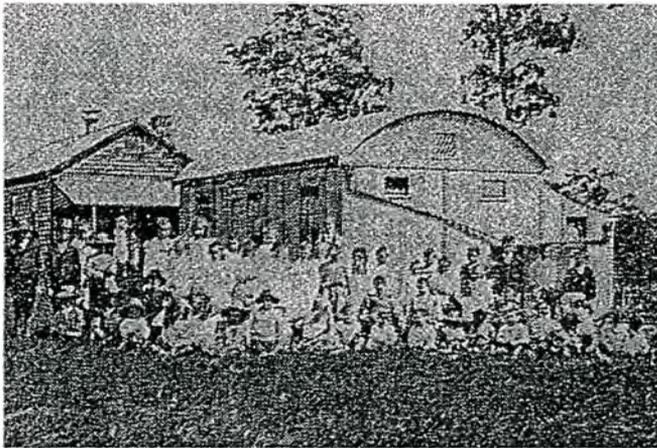


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The first school was a Presbyterian school at Huntingdon. In July 1868, a request for a provisional school was unsuccessful. However, a half-time school resulted from another application. Teacher, Kendall Hume, suggested a school across the river on the northern side. A half-time school was established when groups of at least ten children were guaranteed at each location. The school became provisional in 1874. There was much argument between north and south families as to the site of the school. It was built on the north side. Children from the south side crossed the river by punt, supervised by the teacher. The building was to be twenty feet long and ten feet broad, built of slabs with a slab floor, two windows, a fireplace and a shingled roof and completed in 1885.

Payment of fees was an ongoing difficulty. The fees were set with a fixed rate of threepence per child and a maximum of one shilling per family. One parent explained his lack of payment thus

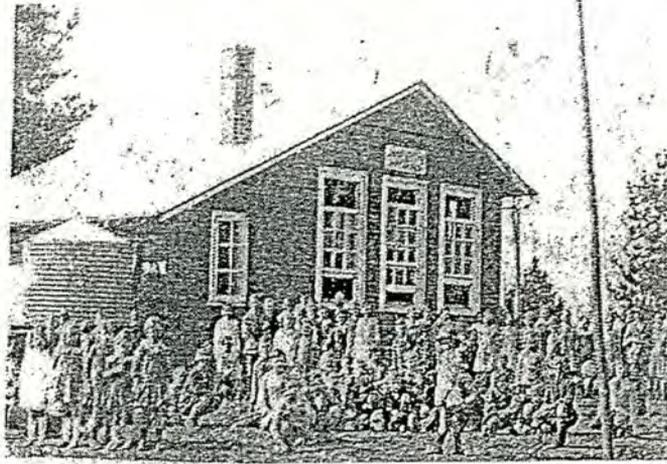
" the reason I can't send the school money is because I has as mutch (sic) as I can do to get a bit to eat for them if you will take railway sleepers I can make it" - yours truly
It was humorous but true.



Beechwood School in 1895 was a round roofed building

In 1917, a new building to cope with increased attendance was erected. The opening of a convent school in Wauchope, plus the shift in population, better roads, transport and educational opportunities in larger centres led to the closure of many one teacher schools. Between 1943 and 1968, Pappinbarra, Pappinbarra Junction, Brombin, Lyddington, Ellengrove and Bellangry were closed. Pupils from these schools transferred to Beechwood and the increased attendance meant new buildings, improved grounds and modern equipment, making Beechwood one of the most attractive schools in the district.

John Shaw, who had taught at Pappinbarra Junction, became Principal at Beechwood. This was in 1969, the school's Centenary year. John Shaw left an indelible imprint on the school. He received the Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 1987 for his services to the school and its community.



Beechwood School in 1917

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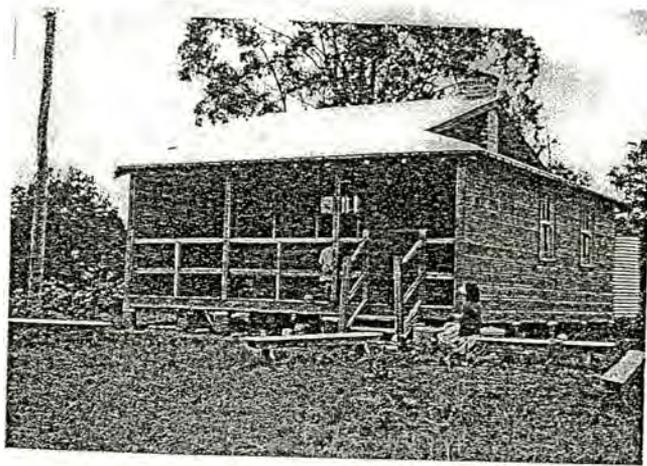


LSVF-Beechwood

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MORTONS CREEK

This school was located four miles from Beechwood. It was subsidised from 1926 until 1928; provisional from May 1929 until November 1957 and a public school from November 1957 until December 1973.



Mortons Creek School

On September 7 1907, a request was made for a part-time school at Mortons Creek. However, there was no school with which it could share a teacher. Also, the number of children was not sufficient to maintain a school.

From: Walker, A (2006) Barefeet and Blackboards. Port Macquarie Historical Society.



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A provisional school opened in May 1929 in a building on Percy Trotter's property. There were three teachers, A Grainger, G Walsh and A Stanton. Mr L O Martin MLA advised that the Department of Education had approved the establishment of a provisional school as enrolments were in excess of fifteen. Although the actual building had been approved to be built on two acres of land, funds were delayed. Mr Trotter, at his own expense, extended the existing classroom and added a veranda.

In February 1933, Dave Olsen's tender of six hundred and fifty pounds for the erection of a new school was accepted. The school was officially opened in May 1933 by Mr L O Martin MLA and Minister for Justice. The Chairman of the P&C, Mr AC Roods (Crow) welcomed the one hundred and fifty guests. Mrs Martin distributed books to each school pupil to commemorate the occasion and every child received sweets.

Mr Clarrie Goldthorpe was appointed the first teacher. In the early years teachers who did not have cars boarded with local families. One teacher, however, arrived with a tent, which he pitched in the schoolyard. Families who attended were Lyne, Nyberg, Pead, Roods and Trotter.

Declining enrolments, the average attendance had fallen to seven point six and the enrolment was ten, meant the closure of the school in December 1973. The pupils travelled by bus to Beechwood School. The school building was sold and converted to a private residence and is still occupied



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THE GIANT FIG TREE STILL KEEPS WATCH

When I first came to live on the Hastings, Bain Bridge, Cameron's Falls and Cowdery's Fig Tree were everyday sights.

So too was Cowdery's Bay.

By **SAWLUST**

Like most youngsters of my age, I was particularly mindful of the changes which were occurring in my life, and was most pre-occupied with the transition of becoming a farm boy instead of a city slicker.

From those days of dirt roads and no power, I have crossed Bain Bridge many, many times; sometimes on foot, on buses and as an adult driving a car. I have no

doubt I could do it blindfolded.

Until I actually moved in to Wauchope to live in 1968, I had rarely seen Bain Bridge flooded from the town side approaches.

As a young schoolboy, I often visited Cameron's Falls, or should I say the site of the falls. Even in those days of the 1948-52 era you could walk over the river using the remains of the crossing. I well recall the river,

immediately below the falls and above Bain Bridge, a quiet, peaceful spot known to us as Cowdery's Bay.

Also vivid in my memory is the old roadway, which wound down the hill from near Zac Cowdery's bails and up to Beechwood Road on our side of the river.

Washed away

Today there is no longer a Cowdery's Bay. The flood of 1954 not only washed away

the last family rowing boat we were to own, but broke through the bank from the falls into the bay.

This was my Intermediate year at school and the area was a popular swimming hole for 15-year-olds. The bank, about four metres, had four or five large trees. The first channel was less than two metres wide, but very deep.

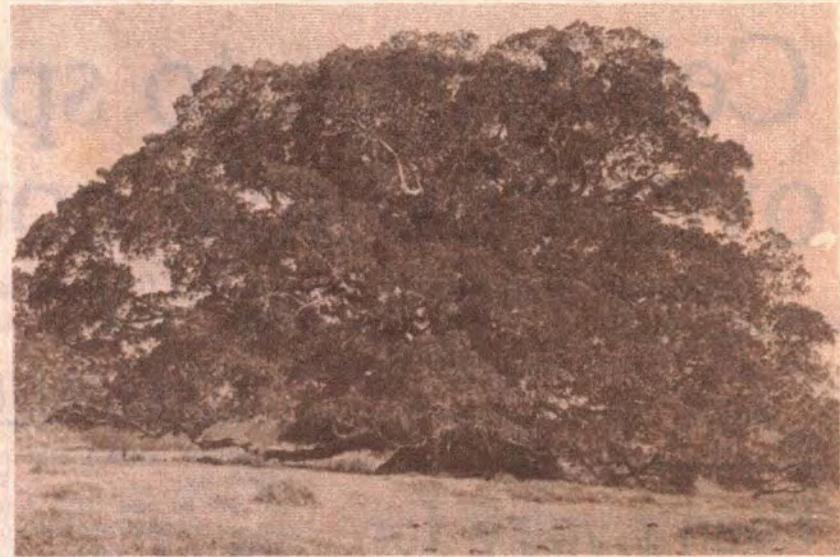
In the years that have followed, the channel widened with every flood and gradually became the main course of the river. The trees were destroyed by erosion and today there are no visible signs of Cameron's Falls near the water.

Cowdery's Bay is now the main waterway and only Bain Bridge and the giant fig tree remain.

Throughout the 1880s, mail was delivered to Beechwood from Port Macquarie by way of Ennis. By 1890 Mr. P. J. O'Neill had established himself in Beechwood and was making his presence felt in that centre.

The need for a crossing up river from Ennis was obviously emerging. In 1891, the road from Wauchope to Beechwood was opened via Cameron's Falls. It connected with the Beechwood-Ennis road.

Camerons occupied a 600 acre farm known as Crosslands. This adjoined



Cowdery's fig tree, which hasn't changed in its appearance in over 50 years.

Letterewe at that time. Later, part of Crosslands was to become Cowdery's and another McKay's, where I was raised.

In the period leading to the opening of Cameron's Falls, I have read where Alexander Bain, of Letterewe, to perpetuate the name of old neighbours and fellow pioneers—the Camerons of Crosslands.

In the early years of the 20th century, the battle to have a bridge across the Hastings occupied much of the time of the prominent citizens of both Wauchope and Beechwood.

Cameron's Falls also made the news, from time to time, as the following calendar of events will indicate:

August 15, 1903— Falls washed out by a fresh 10 days good then another fresh—a bridge is needed.

October 17, 1903— Cameron's Falls again in flood. P. J. O'Neill and Ayers the dentist having narrow escapes.

February 6, 1904— Cameron's Falls are unrepaired. People suffer great inconvenience going 17 miles to cross. There have been some narrow escapes.

April 23, 1904— Cameron's Falls are closing. People warned they cross at their own risk. A Mr. Davis almost drowned at the Falls.

August 19, 1905— P. J. O'Neill and his wife had a miraculous escape crossing Cameron's Falls. A bag containing a large sum of money was washed out of the buggy, but found the next day.

October 28, 1905— Francis Marchment was washed over Cameron's Falls and nearly drowned. Messrs. Scott and Gardiner, fishing down stream, saved him.

December 2, 1905— Mrs. P. J. O'Neill, niece and child with Miss Feeney went over the culvert at Cameron's Falls.

The Hastings was eventually bridged in 1907, the site chosen not far down stream from Cameron's Falls.

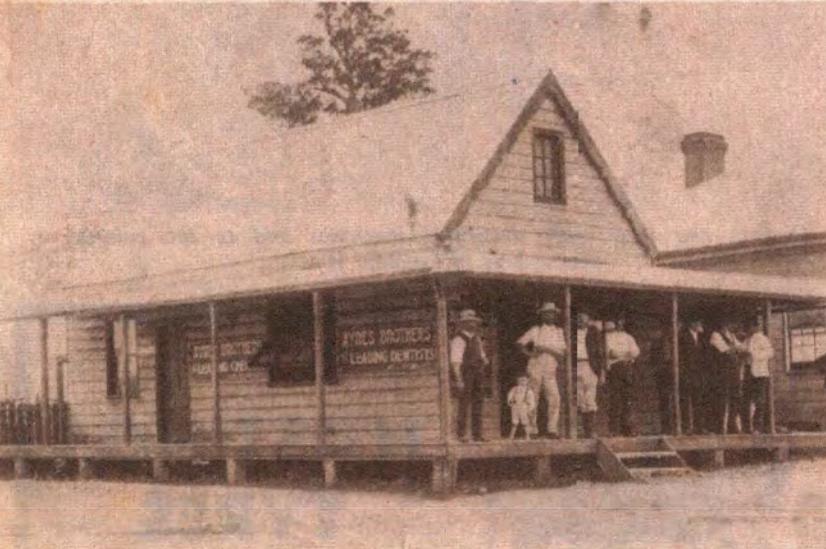
The bridge had a splendid railing which, after constant flood damage, was finally removed in the 1950s.

Zac Cowdery has lived many years in the shadow of the giant Moreton Bay fig.

As a youngster, Mrs. Cameron, then in her 80s, told him of the tree being as it is when she came to live at Crosslands.

It has not changed in appearance during his lifetime either and today watches over the travellers of Beechwood Road and Bain Bridge, just as it did the pioneers who crossed the

From: The Hastings Gazette "Colonial Week Supplement", 1981



One of the Ayers brothers, Wauchope dentist in 1903, escaped along with Beechwood resident P. J. O'Neill, the misfortune of being washed over Cameron's Falls in 1903. The river was in flood at the time. P. J. O'Neill later became the first President of the Shire of Hastings.



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Social

Meeting Date: 18/12/2006 - Social

Item 15
DM (F&CS)

BEECHWOOD TENNIS CLUB - REPLACEMENT CLUB HOUSE

DA 2006/0601

The Beechwood Tennis Club has made a Development Application to demolish their existing Club House and construct a larger structure to cater for the clubs present and future needs. As the club is located on Council land and is a non-profit organisation providing an essential community service, Council is able to exempt the development from Water DSP Levies.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council determine that the development of a Tennis Club House by the Beechwood Tennis Club is an essential community service for the purposes of Council's Development Contribution Assessment Policy.
2. That Council exempt Development Application No. 2006/0601 from the payment of development contributions.
3. That Council delegate authority to the Director Finance & Corporate Services to determine applications for exemption under Council's Development Contribution Assessment Policy. Further, that Council's Policy and Delegated Authority Registers be updated accordingly.

Discussion

Beechwood Tennis Club has submitted a Development Application for the replacement of their existing shelter with a larger and more practical building for the clubs activities. As the new building is substantially larger than the structure to be replaced, water charges are applicable under Council's Water DSP. However the development could be considered to be exempt under Council's Contribution Assessment Policy, which states:

"Development by non-profit organisations on Council owned or controlled land is exempt from the payment of development contributions, provided that the Council determines that the development is for an essential community service.

Exempt development under this clause is not included in the calculation of demand under Council's Development Contributions Plans or Development Servicing Plans. Any shortfall in contributions resulting from exempt development is to be met by the relevant Contributions Plan or Development Servicing Plan."

The site of the proposed structure is on Council land and the Beechwood Tennis Club is a non-profit organisation, providing an essential community sporting and social service, thus meeting all criteria of the above clause and on this basis is recommended for exemption from development contributions.

Consultation

The DA is of a minor nature and Council's notification policy does not require applications of a minor nature on Council land to be advertised.

Alignment With Strategic Direction

To encourage non-profit organisations to provide access to a range of services and facilities, recognizing the importance of social well being and ensuring a safe, inclusive and equitable community.

Planning and Policy Impact

The proposal is in accordance with Council Policy.

Financial & Economic Implications

The total contributions for Beechwood Tennis Club Building that Council will forgo are \$502.30.

There are likely to be a number of similar applications each year that will need to be reported Council and it is recommended that Delegated Authority be given to Council's Director of Finance and Corporate Services on these matters.

Options

Council could choose not to exempt the development.

LSVF -
Beechwood-10

**Record: 1**

Title: Only shop in town is for sale
Authors: DENIS GREGORY
Source: Sun-Herald, The (Sydney); 15/10/2006
Abstract: A GENERAL store that has served a small Mid North Coast village for almost 120 years is up for sale.
ISSN: 1038-3425
Accession Number: SYD-5BRA0554U3SVZU0P9AP
Database: Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Edition: First, Section: Domain, pg. 51

Only shop in town is for sale

MID NORTH COAST AUCTIONS

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By DENIS GREGORY

TWO PHOTOS: TEST OF TIME: The shop has served the village of Beechwood, near Wauchope, since 1887. COFFEE BREAK: The veranda is just the spot for a cuppa.

A GENERAL store that has served a small Mid North Coast village for almost 120 years is up for sale.

The shop, with its attached residence, and now with a popular cafe, offers opportunities for those who want a quieter lifestyle but still fancy the challenges of running a business.

On a block of about 3000 square metres in Beechwood, it has been the only shop in the village of 400 people since 1887.

Beechwood is about 10 minutes' drive north of Wauchope and about 25 minutes west of Port Macquarie.

Raine & Horne Wauchope has the property for sale for about \$820,000, plus stock at value.

Selling agent Barry Thompson said the general store, with its coffee shop and takeaway food outlet, had provided a steady income for the owners.

Mr Thompson said it served the locals as well as visitors, and described it as a solid investment.

The store interior is modern and has a renovated gourmet kitchen. The residence has views over the Hastings River.

It has an in-ground swimming pool as well as extensive paved areas for outdoor entertaining.

Mr Thompson said real estate in Wauchope and the surrounding district had gone through a lull, but the market was strengthening with a growth in first home buyers, people moving around within the Hastings area from larger blocks to smaller properties and people opting for a slower lifestyle.

"Wauchope still has a country feeling with less hustle and bustle," he said.

"It has all the services and the added advantage of being only 15 minutes from Port Macquarie and its beaches, bigger shops and specialist medical services."

Mr Thompson said prospective buyers in the area had a wide choice, with three- and four-bedroom brick houses selling from about \$300,000 to \$320,000.

"Older-style weatherboard or fibro houses start around \$200,000 and although some might need renovations, these are options for first home buyers."

Wauchope, often referred to as the "heart of the Hastings", was established in the 1830s, is an important dairy farming centre.

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## 6.2 Beechwood

Beechwood village is located north west of Wauchope. The village and "Downs" area has a population of 425 persons (2001 census data). The village incorporates community and service facilities including a primary school. The village has developed along Beechwood Road and includes a strip of 2(v) Village zone. Development within the village zone is heavily constrained by effluent disposal requirements because the village is not currently serviced by a sewerage system.

There are approximately 94 rural residential lots located within a 2km radius from the village. These lots were created between 1983 and 1996. There is also existing rural residential development in the Rosewood area to the south. However, this area is separated from Beechwood village by the Hastings River.

Opportunities for rural residential subdivision nearby Beechwood village are constrained due to potential flooding, areas of prime agricultural land and some vegetated areas particularly to the north west.

Council is currently investigating the provision of sewerage services to the village. It is also acknowledged that some growth of the village should be allowed for when sewer is available. While there is no urban growth strategy for Beechwood, it is anticipated that expansion of the village could occur immediately to the north of the existing shops and Wade Park. Land to the south of Beechwood Road, behind the shops, is constrained by a gully.



LSVF

Beechwood-8

# Early days in Beechwood

(Written by Mrs. H. Rae Young, President, Wauchope Chapter of the Hastings District Historical Society)

Speaking of the Jubilee issue of the "Hastings Shire Gazette" brings us to mentioning the Golden Jubilee — June 5, 1977, of the Beechwood Methodist Church (1927-1977).

In writing of his early days in Beechwood, Mr. W. Neville mentioned: "My brother John took up the first free selection in what is known today as Beechwood. I joined him there in 1871. As time passed, more families settled round about, and a school became a pressing necessity.

"After considerable agitation the Minister for Education sent an Inspector to select a site and make preliminary arrangements for establishing a school.

"That gentleman raised the question of a suitable name for the place.

"It was pointed out to him by the parents that the opposite side of the river was called Rosewood and that as there had originally been a lot of fine Beech trees on my brother's property, Beechwood would be an appropriate name. The Inspector

adopted the suggestion and Beechwood the place remains to this day."

It had been written earlier that: "The estate now known as 'Rosewood' on the Hastings River at that distant date bore the name of Treachery Plain because four men were speared through while cutting cedar. Afterwards it was again known as Cedar Party Plains and finally obtained the name 'Rosewood' in the 'thirties (1830's)."

Beechwood's first Public School opened in 1869 with Mr. Kendall Hume as the first teacher. However, the history of education in the area goes back to 1866.

At that time there was a Presbyterian School at Huntingdon and for some time a number of Beechwood children living close attended school there.

The late Mr. A. H. Fowler wrote in 1973: "When I was twelve years old, our family moved to Beechwood. At that time (1894) Beechwood was a boom town. Thirty bullock teams passed through on their way to the wharf and as each team had a log-faller and there were many sleeper and girder cutters, a Canadian Lumber Camp would have nothing on Beechwood in those early days . . . the biggest part of the sailing vessel trade would have been in Beech and Cedar timber . . . even in my time a great deal of Beech and Cedar was shipped from the Hastings, although all the great softwood brush flats had long ago been cleared where the good cedar trees grew.

"As old cedar-getters disappeared a new timber-getter appeared, the girder and sleeper-cutters, which was a big industry

in the beginning of this century.

"Two blacksmiths worked at Beechwood and were kept busy from sunrise to sunset repairing trucks, chains and gear for bullock wagons.

"Saturday night was a rip-roaring night at the Beechwood Hotel. I would say nowhere would there have been bigger or stronger men than at Beechwood at the time . . . the tug-o-war team had never been beaten."

In 1882 the Port Macquarie News and Hastings River Advocate reported: "ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, Beechwood" . . . "A meeting of the congregation was held to consider paying off the debt on the church, an amount of £34/2/1 . . . It was decided to buy a harmonium, \$12 having been collected for the purpose. Mr. J. Neville offered to supply shingles for the vestry, and Mr. William Neville offered to draw the sleepers, it to be built by voluntary labour."

The Golden Jubilee celebrations at the Methodist Church at Beechwood are reported separately to these notes.

Mrs. Susie E. Avis, of Northgate, Queensland, wrote during the week concerning "the writing about 'Wildfels' Hospital and Dr. William Begg". She commented:

"I am pretty sure Nurse Minnie Gardiner was responsible for it (hospital) . . . she only had an obstetric certificate and that's what she meant it to be, but Dr. Begg sent all his patients there and she was able to cope because she was a good nurse and a wonderful person.

"She trained at Crown Street Womens' Hospital getting no wages and paying £50 for her year's board. I don't know when she started her hospital but I was with her as a nurse in 1918 . . . Dr. Begg went to Jerilderie — it must have been 1919. Dr. Humphries came next . . ."

Port Macquarie News, Thursday, June 16, 1977



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BEECHWOOD



LCVF  
Beechwood-4

## **Naming of Local Areas**

Beechwood - Was named after the white beech trees found in the vicinity.  
Named after Beech trees on the Neville's property.

### **Beechwood Flag**

This flag has the Niggerhead Beech Tree from which Beechwood was named. It is superimposed on a white background. There are two black lines shown on the bottom half of the flag. The thick line represents the Hastings River and the thin line the Pappinbarra River. These flow either side of Beechwood.



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LSVF-

Beechwood - 3



**FAMILY AFFAIR:** Cheryl Schubert, Janet Monkley, Kay Monkley, Graeme Way, Robyn Law, Don Monkley, Kym Smith, Jim Monkley, Beryl Smith, Duncan Law, Thelma Steel and Joyce Way attended the celebration service for the restoration of the Beechwood Uniting Church on Sunday.

## Beechwood church packed for restoration celebration service

ALMOST 100 people attended the celebration service for the restoration of the Beechwood Uniting Church on Sunday.

Guests included former ministers, Bruce Westbrook and David Taylor while the Camden Haven Choir provided a number of hymns.

During the service a hymn book cabinet, which was donated by Joyce Way and her family and built by Colin Eldridge, was dedicated. The church was also beautifully decorated by

arrangements of flowers courtesy of award-winning floral artist, Kay Fowler.

The church was restored in co-operation with Mitch McKay from the Hastings Council with Rev John Queripel and Virginia Adlide providing the local knowledge and input.

A small working party started fundraising with events including garage sales, fashion parade, ball, Christmas puddings, chocolates, tea towels and street stalls held over the past 12 months.

The money, coupled with grants assisted in the work being carried out on the heritage-listed church.

The service was used not only to celebrate the restoration work at the church but also to thank the tradespeople involved in the completing the task.

The church was originally built by the Methodist congregation in 1927 for 656 pounds (\$1312). Presbyterian services were held in the church on the fourth Sunday of each month.

These two denominations combined to form the Uniting Church in 1977, and the church has been in continuous use since 1927.

The builders were Bruce Secombe, Arthur Turnbull and Jack Bain.

The foundation stone was laid by Edwin Suters in 1926. The pulpit was donated by the family of George Way in 1928. The offertory table was donated by Sarah Way and the christening font by Lee Noakes.

Prior to the church being built, services were held in the hall which is at the back of the church.

The church has been a significant part of the lives of many families in the Beechwood and Wauchope areas over the years.

Some of the names associated with the church in the early days included Allibone, Andrews, Bartrim, Bird, Blanch, Bubb, Campbell, Coombes, Dark, Everingham, Fowler, Glyde, Graham, Hennessey, Hollis, Hurrell, Jay, Jones, Kirkman, Konovas, Laimore, Lindsay, Lyne, McKenzie, McPhail, Manning, Mathers, Monkley, New, Nicoll, Pead, Polly, Poulton, Robinson, Searle, Secombe, Shoemith, Smith, Suters, Tarrant, Thompson, Trotter, Turnbull, Wallis, Way, White, Williams and Woodlands, to name a few.



**FORMER AND CURRENT:** Former Beechwood Uniting Church ministers, Bruce Westbrook and David Taylor with Rev John Queripel at the celebration service for the restoration of the Beechwood Uniting Church on Sunday.



Beechwood -2

LCVF

Dec 1 2000

BEECHWOOD POST OFFICE HISTORY

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POST OFFICE - BEECHWOOD  
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## BEECHWOOD POST OFFICE HISTORY

In 1873 residents of Morton's Creek and neighbourhood unsuccessfully petitioned for the establishment of a post office. Leading signatures on the petition were those of Robt. Campbell, John Cameron, Donald Cameron and George E. Parker.

The nearest post offices were about four miles distant at Ennis and Huntington. The postmasters at these offices did not consider a new post office necessary, and estimated the population of the place as comprising eight to ten residents.

The postmaster at Ennis suggested that a mail could be carried by horseback from Ennis, but a boat would be needed to cross the Morton's Creek.

A. Calvin who appeared anxious to become postmaster claimed that the road from Ennis to his house was a "Govt." road on the west bank of the Hastings River, and that his place was about 12 chains from where the road crossed the creek, and "also the head of the navigation where all the families of this part ship their grain to market, and receive their supplies."

Representations continued, and included another petition forwarded in 1877.

When residents nominated Mr Andrew Calvin as postmaster, he advised that his son was willing to carry

the mail twice a week, to and from Ennis, for £15. 0. 0 p.a.

In the meanwhile a letter signed by other residents nominated Mr John Neville of Beechwood for appointment as postmaster, and claimed that his place was the most convenient and central for the neighbourhood.

The matter was decided when R. B. Smith M.P. supported Calvin's nomination as postmaster.

Post Office

A post office was established under the name of Morton's Creek on 1st February, 1878, in charge of Andrew Calvin, farmer.

Calvin nominated as sureties Robert F. Campbell, farmer of Gowrie, Ennis, and William H. Newell, farmer of Morton's Creek.

In 1881, John J. Fenn and some other residents were endeavouring to have the post office moved to Beechwood, in charge of John Neville, near the Public School.

Following a visit by the postal inspector, approval was given for the transfer of the office to Beechwood.

Postmaster Calvin forwarded his resignation in October, 1882.

Despite counter petitions against the removal of the office it was decided to appoint John Neville postmaster

on 1st December, 1882.

Arrangements were made for mail contractor G. H. Rowsell to extend his service between Port Macquarie and Ennis to Beechwood, twice weekly.

John Neville became postmaster, and the office was moved to his premises on 1st December, 1882. His sureties were James Summerville, farmer of Orange Grove, Huntingdon and James W. McIntyre, grazier of Morton's Creek.

Change of Name

In June, 1888, postmaster Neville forwarded his resignation and nominated Albert Edward Dark, a storekeeper, as his successor. Neville also said :

"I might be allowed to suggest that the name of this office be changed to Beechwood, as this is a rising Township, and is not situated on Morton's Creek."

A. E. Dark was appointed postmaster on 1st July, 1888, and at the same time the name of the office was changed to "Beechwood".

Actually Dark commenced duty on 5th July, 1888.

Telephone

A telephone was connected at the post office on 29th December, 1888, making it possible to send and receive telegrams.

A petition from residents asked in 1895 that the post office be given official status so that it could be conducted away from the store.

As an official office was not warranted, the petitioners were asked if they could nominate a postmaster who would conduct the office apart from a business.

In the meanwhile an opposing petition asked that the post office should be allowed to remain where it was.

Mr John O'Brien offered to conduct the post office at his residence about half a mile westward from the Public School, but this position was considered to be too far from the School. Most of the letters for residents were collected by the children on their way home from school.

At the time the post office was conducted in a small room adjoining Darke's store. The public were served through a window, opening on to the verandah.

In June, 1905, an application from the Progress Association to have the post office opened between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. each evening was unsuccessful.

Money Order facilities were extended to Beechwood on 1st March, 1906.

John C. Dark became postmaster on 1st September, 1911, following the resignation of A. E. Dark.

A Branch of the Commonwealth Savings Bank was established at the post office on 18th August, 1913.

Telephone Exchange

A telephone exchange was opened on 15th January, 1915. The first list of telephone subscribers available is that which appeared in the directory for May, 1915, as follows :-

- " BEECHWOOD.  
(9 a.m. to 6 p.m.). Daily (Sundays and Holidays excepted).  
3 Bartrim, A. J., Blacksmith  
2 Halford, John, "Beechwood Hotel"  
Rollands Plains 1 Herbert, G. H. N.  
4 Graham, D., Koree Island  
1 Nicholl, H. B. "

When John Dark resigned in 1916, Mrs Nancy A. Bartrim was appointed postmistress, and the office was moved about one quarter of a mile to her premises.

Mrs Bartrim took over the office on 9th June, 1916.

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N.B. Information on telephone and telegraph history may be available from the Historical Officer, Telecom Australia, GPO SYDNEY, Box 5333, NSW 2001.

LSVF - Beechwood  
Post Office - 1

# Three fundraisers planned for heritage-listed church

PLANNING for fund raising activities for the restoration of the heritage-listed Uniting Church at Beechwood continues.

The organising fund raising committee has three events planned for the coming months with the first to be held on Saturday.

This event will give residents the opportunity to see some unique items including tea towels, porcelain, pottery and antique displays.

A guest speaker, Rex Nicoll, is an antique specialist and his speech will be informative.

The fund raiser will be held in the Beechwood Uniting Church Hall on Saturday from 2pm.

Entry is just \$5 and a delicious afternoon tea will be available.

For more enquiries contact Kay on 6585-6180, Dot 6585-2065 or Bev on 6585-3136.

The remaining two fund raising events are being planned for May.

The first is a Mother's Day stall to be held outside the Hastings Co-operative Supermarket on Saturday May 13.



**RESTORATION:** Tom Cooper and his team have been busy working on the roof of the heritage-listed Uniting Church at Beechwood. The restoration committee has planned another three major fundraisers for the church.

This will be followed by a Beechwood Ball - a combined fund raising ball with the Wauchope Bonny Hills Surf Life Saving Club and the Beechwood Uniting Church Restoration fund

raising committee.

the ball will be held on Saturday May 27 and bookings and tickets are available from 6585-6610 or 6585-6253.

Hastings Gazette  
2nd March 2000

Uniting Church Beechwood

LSYF - Churches -

Uniting Church

Beechwood - 1