

NANDI/ KUPUNN/ BROADWATER

**The background, establishment, rise and decline
of one rural community within the Darling
Downs area of Queensland.**

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STYLE

Australian English as presented in the Macquarie Dictionary has been used throughout.

All quotes have been reproduced exactly, including grammatical and spelling errors.

In line with the Australian National Placenames Survey and the Macquarie Dictionary, 'placename' appears as one word except where two words have been used in quotes and in titles such as 'The Queensland Place Name Committee'.

Names of pastoral runs, freehold estates, selections and farms have been shown in italics.

The adaptation (for simplification purposes) of published maps has involved the deletion of information unrelated to this study or supplied elsewhere.

Miles, kilometres, acres and hectares are all used according to source material.

SUMMARY

Whilst the fortunes of wealthy squatters and politicians have been traced in detail through official sources, the fate of 'ordinary' settlers on the Darling Downs has been somewhat overlooked. The concerns of one small community are addressed here, mainly through the 'unofficial' sources of knowledge that were identified by the British historian, Raphael Samuel. These include oral accounts and written memoirs from former residents, placename origins and family and community histories.

An analysis of the placenames given by explorers, squatters, surveyors and ordinary settlers during the 19th century sheds new light on the concerns of the first Europeans on the Darling Downs, and provides a background to the study of the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district and its community. The residents themselves describe life during the early days of the 20th century, on both the dominant freehold estate, *Loudoun*, and on the small selections nearby. Struggles with the environment, and the hardships of two World Wars and the Great Depression are recounted from the viewpoint of the ordinary resident in a close-knit and interdependent farming community. The effects of the post World War II era, which saw extensive land clearing, the fragmentation of the community and the intrusion of agribusiness interests, are also outlined. The personal accounts are enhanced by a collection of photographs from the 1870s through to the present day, and a selection of maps. The memoirs of ordinary people are underpinned by official records and newspaper accounts, and can be set in the established historical framework. The personal experiences of settlers in that one small community help to facilitate a deeper understanding of rural Australia, as it is today, and its development through many generations.

SIGNED STATEMENT

This thesis contains no material that has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the thesis contains no material previously published or written by another person, except when due reference is made in the text of the thesis.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'D. Lehner'.

Dale Lehner

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I am grateful for the encouragement of my supervisors, Duncan Waterson and David Blair, whose profound knowledge and judgement in their respective fields was invaluable during the preparation of this thesis.

Duncan Waterson shares my enthusiasm for the history of the Darling Downs, and David Blair introduced me to the study of placenames.

I would like to thank the Dalby Family History Society Inc. for their interest in my research and unfailing support. The co-operation and warm-hearted encouragement from present and former residents of the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district was most appreciated. Special thanks are due to Len Lane, Pat Lane, Phyllis Lane, 'Whitey' Torenbeek, Ken Smith and Heather Tweedie who generously gave their time for recorded interviews, and to Charles Martin for his detailed letters. Joan Hohnke helped to unravel land ownership in the district, and many people shared memories and loaned valuable documents and family photographs.

I extend my gratitude to Bill Kitson and Ian Hutchings from the Department of Natural Resources, Brisbane, for their invaluable help. The Australian National Placenames Survey group at Macquarie University consistently provided encouragement and practical help, many thanks.

My heartfelt thanks go to my family and friends for their generous practical and moral support. Ross Wylde-Browne enhanced some of the fading photographs and adapted old maps to my requirements. My husband, Brian, was a willing driver and photographer on field trips, and grew to share my interest in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district and its residents. I look forward to my sons and grandchildren discovering their connections with the district through this thesis.

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Photographs are acknowledged with the following codes:

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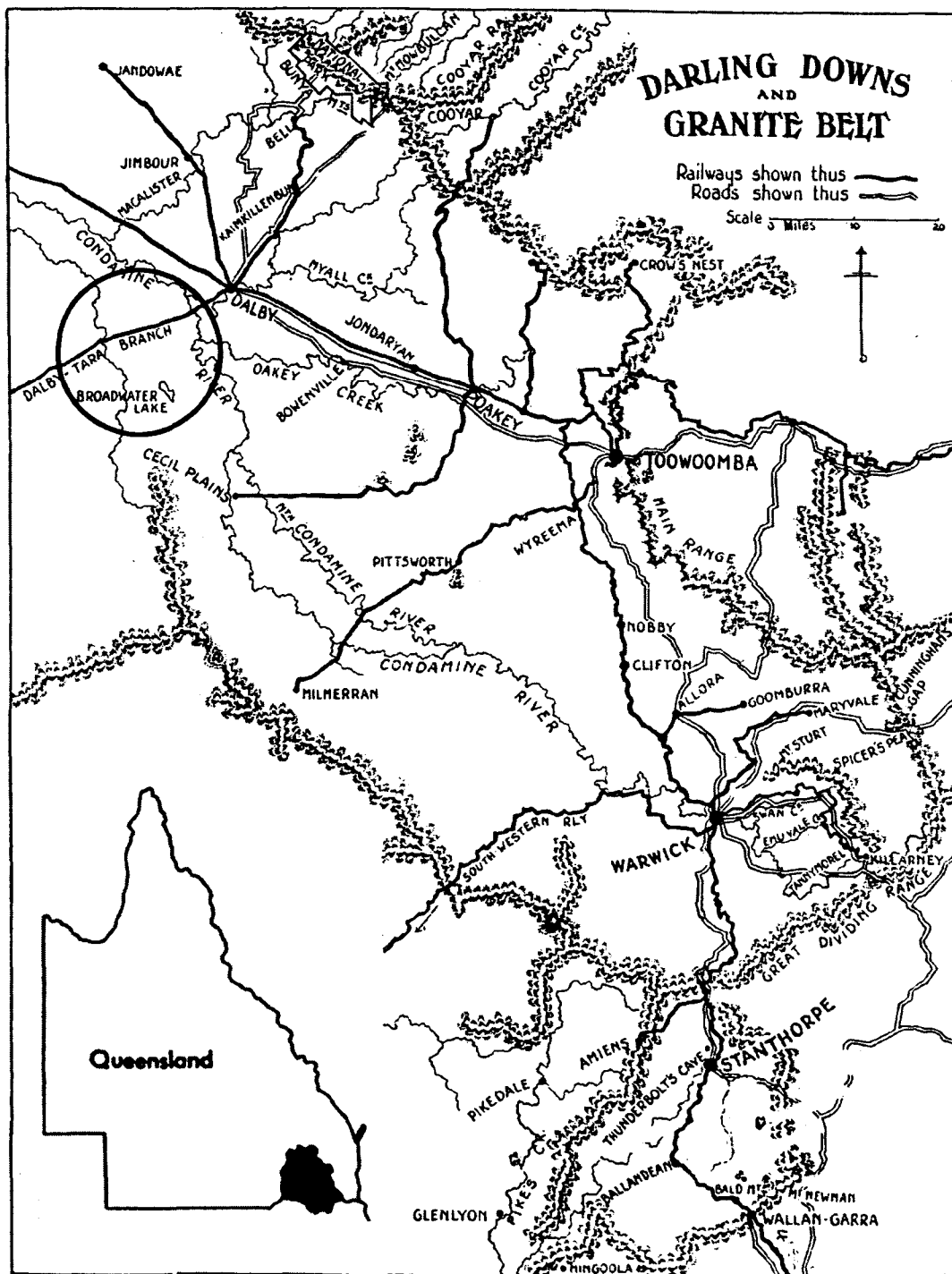
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Locality Map of the Darling Downs adapted from a 1930s Tourist Guide
(National Library, Canberra)

Note the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district, approximate boundaries circled in the top left hand corner. The watercourses in that section are the Condamine River (right) and Wilkie Creek (left). See also Lake Broadwater, and the Dalby/Tara railway line.

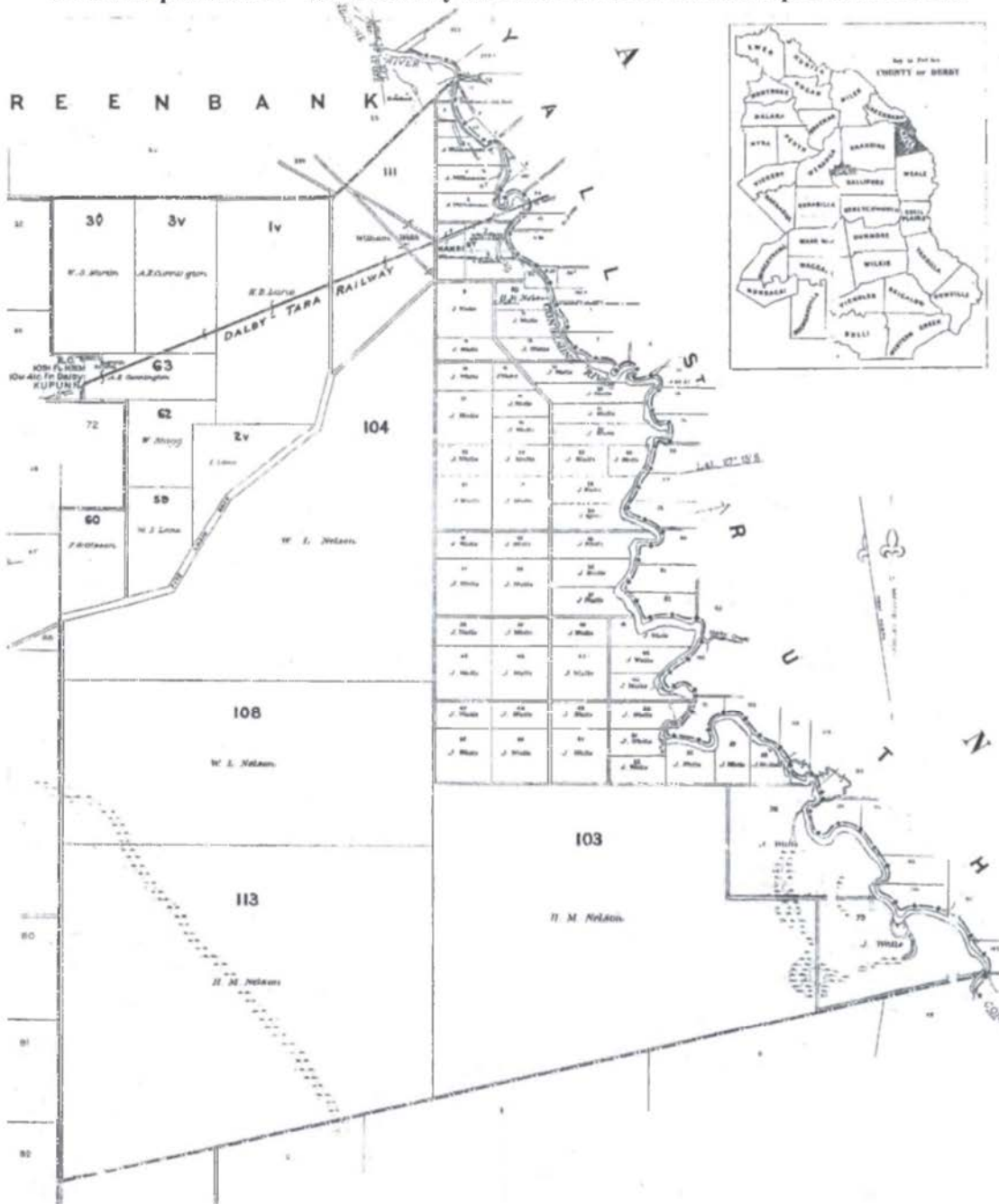
This is a detailed historical map of the Dalby district in Queensland, Australia. The map shows a network of land parcels, many of which are outlined in black. A prominent thick black line runs from the top left, through the center, and down towards the bottom left, possibly indicating a major road or boundary. Several smaller rectangular boxes highlight specific land parcels, including one labeled 'DALBY' in the center and another labeled 'DALBY' in the top left. The map is labeled with various geographical features and landowners. Key locations include Dalby, Dalby Plains, Cecil Plains, Jindalong, Cumkillenbar, and Tummaville. Rivers and creeks shown include the Jindalong River, Cumkillenbar River, and the North Branch of the River. Landowners mentioned include Watson & Reibach, Russell & Taylor, and Gore Brothers. The map is signed 'Captain Vignoles' at the bottom left.

Note the boundary outlined between the Settled District (right) and Unsettled District.

See also *St Ruths* (Aberdeen Co.) and *Daandine* (Wilkie) Pastoral Runs, top left.

PARISH OF HILL (COMPLETE)

Note – Early Parish Maps typically show the name of the *first* selector or freehold purchaser - after survey and subdivision from the pastoral leases.



Adapted from Department of Public Lands Map, Parish of Hill, 1917.

See also Appendix, Tables D and E

Almost the whole of this parish (avoiding areas of dense scrub) was acquired by Hugh Muir Nelson and his partner John Watts for *Loudoun* station in the 1870s.

Note: The Condamine River forms the boundary with the Parish of St. Ruth (right).

Loudoun homestead is on Portion 10 with the Nandi rail siding close by.

The Lane, Cunningham, Martin and Staggs selections appear, top left.

Part of the Long Swamp is evident through Portions 108 and 113.

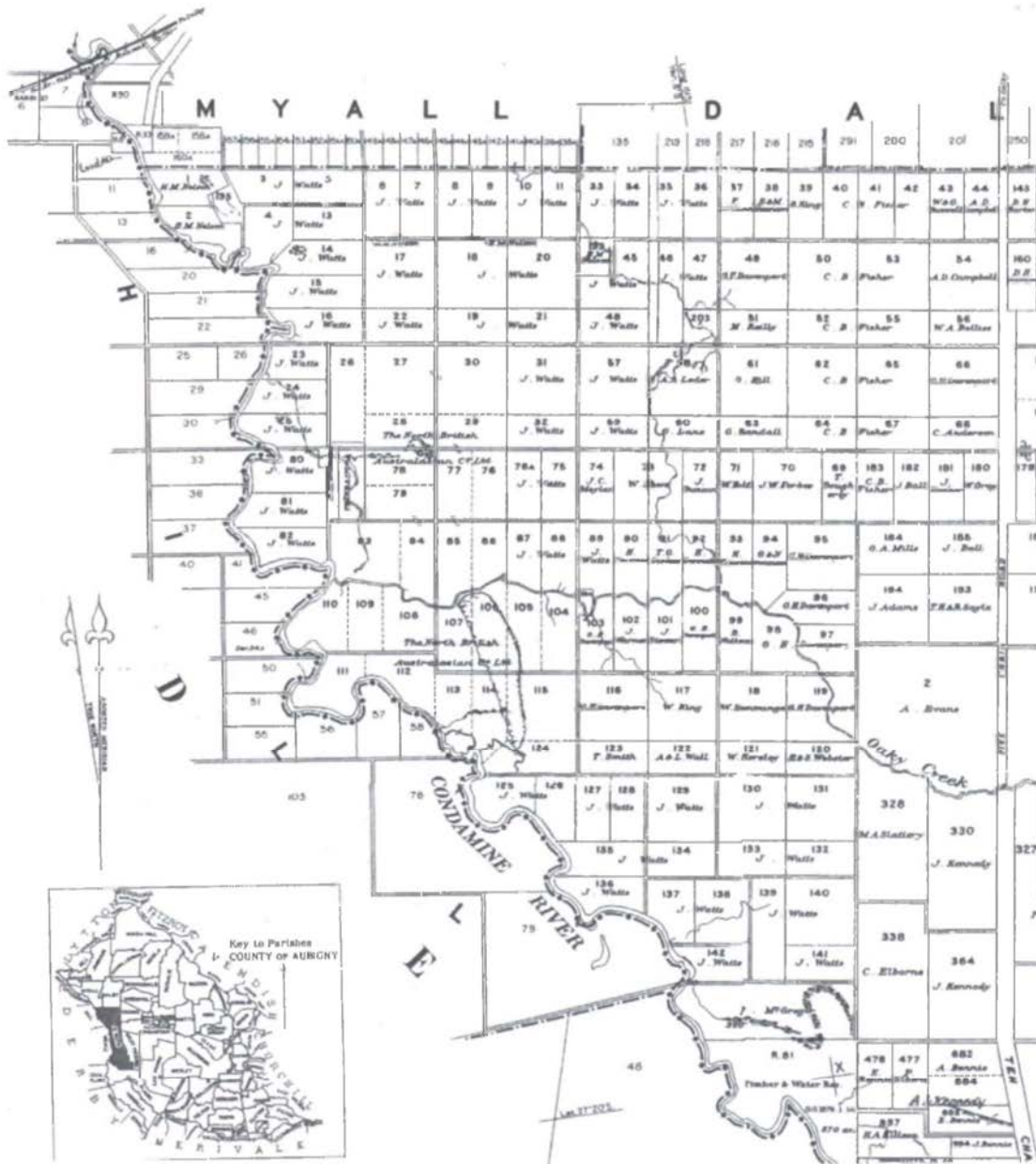
This is a detailed historical map of a section of the Town of New York, showing property lots, streets, and landmarks. The map is oriented with North at the top. A grid of letters (S, C, R, E, N, B, A, N, K) and numbers (1-100) is overlaid on the map. Key features include the 'Bear - Duck Runway' on the left, 'St. John's Church' in the center, and various property owners' names such as 'John A. McManis', 'William J. Murphy', and 'John Michael McManis'. The map also shows the 'New York Canal' and 'New York River'.

See also Appendix, Tables D and E

Note: Lake Broadwater, bottom right. The Broadwater Road forms the parish boundary and once marked the division between Daandine and St Ruth pastoral runs.

The Dalby-Tara Railway is shown with (from the right) Kupunn, Duleen and Ducklo sidings. The Five and Ten Chain Roads across Wilkie Creek and Clay-hole Gully became the Moonie Highway.

SECTION - PARISH OF ST RUTH



Adapted from Department of Public Lands Map, Parish of St Ruth, 1922.

Parish of Hill, County of Derby joins on the left.

Loudoun station extended to this side of the Condamine River (see many small portions in the name of J. Watts and H.M. Nelson, top left and along the river). Details in Chapter 8. See also portions, top right, that formed part of Davenport and Fisher's estate, OK.

Note also the Bennie/Elborne selections (bottom right) taken up around 1880 by the forebears of James and Ralph Bennie of the Broadwater Road area, (Parish of Daandine). The experiences of the Bennie family are outlined in Chapter 9.

INTRODUCTION

In 1988, when awareness of the Australian past was heightened due to the two hundredth anniversary of European settlement, Duncan B. Waterson identified a complaint made against professional historians such as himself. It had been suggested that some areas in Australian history were neglected, including 'the submerged majority of inarticulate workers and women',¹ and Waterson accepted that there was some truth in the charge. Maurice French made a similar point in the introduction to the first volume of his history of the Darling Downs. He describes his approach as 'history from above', based on 'squatters' memoirs, newspaper accounts and official records', and says that:

An analytical 'history from below' must wait until the genealogists and family historians have recovered many more individual transported, assisted, and free immigrants from the mass obscurity of history.²

Influenced largely by these comments from Duncan Waterson and Maurice French, this study is primarily a detailed investigation into the small community that developed in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district during the early days of the 20th century. A post World War II decline followed a period of establishment and growth, until today the possibility of imminent disappearance looms. The study encompasses the concerns of the mostly large selector families, including the joys of life in a close-knit community, the inherent anxiety due to isolation from medical and other services, and the constant struggle to make a living in a difficult environment.

The Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district, of approximately 120 to 150 square miles, lies on the black soil plains of the Darling Downs, south west of Dalby. Aborigines lived undisturbed in the area until the mid 19th century when squatters from the south extended their claims for pastoral leases onto the Downs. The lands of the district were part of two great pastoral runs, *St Ruth* and *Daandine*. The huge leased runs had themselves almost disappeared by the 1880s after the new Queensland government (formed after separation from New South Wales in 1859) instigated legislation to subdivide the land and make it available for purchase. Despite the government's closer settlement initiatives, which were intended to encourage a class of 'yeomen' farmers, much of the choicest land quickly went to the powerful former squatters and other members of the elite. For example, James Taylor, the lessee of *Cecil Plains*, withheld huge areas of that run from selection while he held the Lands portfolio in the Queensland Government –1868/69/70. The land was 'suddenly sold off to Taylor himself in 1870'.³

Nevertheless, many small land portions were eventually surveyed and made available on attractive terms for selection by ordinary settlers. During the early days of the 20th century the construction of the Dalby/Tara branch railway saw small portions of land released around rail sidings at Nandi, Kupunn, Duleen and Ducklo. A community of new 'selectors' and small freehold farmers grew up to the west of *Loudoun*, the huge freehold estate taken up by Hugh Muir Nelson in the 1870s.

Before embarking on a detailed study of the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district, settlement of the area will be viewed in its wider context as part of

the Darling Downs. An examination of the period from the early 1840s to 1859, during which squatting leases were taken up all over the Downs, will provide a background to later settlement of the particular district under review. The arrival of the squatters and some issues arising from the clash of Aboriginal and European culture will be considered, along with the history of the two pastoral runs most relevant to the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district. The establishment of *Loudoun* station will also be traced. This background information will be followed by a micro study of the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater community, beginning with the arrival of the earliest selector families.

In the late 1970s Maurice French acknowledged that ‘amateur’ contributions to historical research were receiving some recognition as the quality improved.⁴ We see from his statement quoted on page 1, that French has confidence in the skills of researchers such as genealogists and family historians and values the detail they can uncover. Maurice French’s opinions in this regard are aligned with those of British historian Raphael Samuel who denies that history is the ‘prerogative of the historian’ or even ‘as postmodernism contends, a historian’s “invention”’. History to Samuel is ‘a social form of knowledge’.⁵ In this study the basis for entrée into the past is provided by the people Raphael Samuel refers to as the ‘great army of under-labourers, handmaidens, and scribes, who, in any given period, are the ghostly presence in historical work’.⁶ Samuel is critical of the ‘hierarchical view of the constitution of knowledge’ in which the professional historian filters knowledge gained principally from archive based research, down through academic papers and learned journals into textbooks, and thus to students. He points out that this approach sidelines biographers (‘because

their subjects are literary rather than historical, or because they opt for narrative rather than analysis'), antiquarians, local historians, the compilers of oral history and other contributors to the 'Unofficial Knowledge' of history.⁷ The resources used in this examination are principally those sanctioned by Raphael Samuel including: placename origins, old photographs, local histories, family histories (along with many tales that have been passed through generations), and the memoirs of ordinary people in the form of oral history interviews and written personal accounts.

An analysis of placenames (both past and present) will be used to provide a fresh look at the Darling Downs region as it was during the 19th century, particularly in relation to the mindset of the explorers who discovered and mapped the area, and the squatters who followed them. Interesting trends that emerged during the early 20th century will also be considered where appropriate. Raphael Samuel cites placename origins as a valuable resource in historical research, and it is an area that needs further investigation in this country.⁸ With British placenames in mind, Samuel says, '...the legends and histories which grew up, often in the guise of etymology, around them, have produced a vast literature from which it would be possible in some cases to trace stories back to their original source...'.⁹ Such 'vast literature' does not exist in Australia, but with our comparatively recent history the origins of our placenames are more easily retrieved. Official documents, local histories and other resources have been examined for this investigation, and the origins of many Darling Downs placenames have been unearthed in a quest to understand the people who chose those names.

A large and varied collection of photographs, including some from as early as the 1870s, adds an additional perspective to knowledge of life in the district. The pictures provide information that cannot be satisfactorily conveyed in words, enhancing personal accounts and giving clear evidence of the changing landscape. Raphael Samuel cites his own shock discovery of 19th century photographs after years of studying that period. He was 'quite unprepared for a history which involved "ways of seeing", and took the world of appearances as its point of departure'. The photographs added a new dimension to his notions of Victorian England, which Samuel acknowledges had been 'entirely literary', and changed some of his perceptions of the period.¹⁰ Photographs must be used cautiously for, as Samuel soon discovered, there are many ways that their subject matter can be misrepresented.¹¹ Paul Ashton, in his photographic history of farming in Australia, warns also that 'any number of photographs collected together can tell only part of a larger story'.¹² After due consideration of possible flaws, however, the power of a visual image from the past is very strong as we will see in this study. Susan Sontag pinpoints the 'force' of a photograph when she says that 'it keeps open to scrutiny instances which the normal flow of time immediately replace', in what she calls a 'freezing of time'.¹³

The interests of the people of the rural Darling Downs were, for a considerable period, tied principally to those of their (mostly large) families. Many of the pastoral runs and large freehold estates, as well as the later selections and small freehold farms, were actually family businesses. On the smaller landholdings it was usual for all family members to contribute their labour. This was perhaps most evident on the family operated dairy farms, where even very young children had a part to play though it may have been

only collecting eggs or firewood. Older family members, including school children, attended to twice daily milking and the cultivation of feed crops. Even with the involvement of large pastoral companies and banks, a family was frequently employed to oversee the practical farming and grazing. Share farming was another way families could support themselves, working a farm for the landowner and sharing the profits. Thus it is mostly through family groupings that the lives of the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater residents are examined. Fortunately interest in compiling family histories increased considerably during the Australian Bicentennial celebrations of 1988. Research since then has been assisted by the ready availability of computer technology and improved access to archival material. The findings of 'family historians' have assisted in piecing together the lives of many ordinary people who lived on the Downs. In this study some of them from the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district will, to borrow Maurice French's term, be 'rescued from the mass obscurity of history'.

All interview subjects and authors of the principal written accounts of life in the district were over seventy years old when they recalled events from the past, and most were well into their eighties. Concerns about the reliability of such memories were overcome in several ways, the most important consideration being, of course, that former residents in that age group were the only people with the required knowledge. The subjects for interview were chosen carefully for their interest in the early days at Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater and for their ability to recall past events. Paul Thompson, seeking to find support for the use of oral accounts as a valuable historical resource, investigated the reliability of recollections from older people. He concluded that 'interviewing the old, in short, raises no

fundamental methodological issues which do not also apply to interviewing in general', and points out that it is 'the recent memory which is first affected' in ageing humans. He says further, that a phenomenon recognised by psychologists as 'life review' commonly follows retirement with a 'sudden emergence of memories and a desire to remember'. This includes a 'diminished concern with fitting the story to the social norms of the audience' hence bias is less of a difficulty.¹⁴ Thompson cites a case, which is particularly appropriate to this study of a small rural community. An eighty-year-old Welshman was asked in 1960 'for the names and occupiers in 1900 of 108 agricultural holdings in his parish'. When his answers were checked against the parish electoral list, 106 proved correct'.¹⁵

Nevertheless, care has been taken to gather and cross-reference first hand accounts from a substantial number of former residents. These include five recorded interviews, seven written memoirs and much correspondence with interested individuals. Newspaper reports, land records, maps, and other official documents underpin the personal recollections and establish the context in which the accounts are examined. The origins and history of townships, schools, major buildings and pastoral holdings have provided the subject matter for much recent research, which has proved immensely valuable in underpinning and confirming the residents' stories.

Information about the Aborigines of the district, the history of *St Ruth* and *Daandine* pastoral runs and the establishment of *Loudoun* station have been put together using a mixture of official records, newspaper accounts, land documents, old photographs, archival letters and personal reminiscences. Recent oral history interviews and written personal accounts cover

experiences of life in the Dalby area in the latter days of the 19th century, and within the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater community from its establishment in the early days of the 20th century. Through these accounts it is possible to gain a picture of life on the huge freehold estates that were the province of wealthy owners, managers, overseers, and a large community of station workers with their families, as well as life on the small selections.

Though surviving members of the original selector families in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district acknowledge that money was short, the work physically demanding and comforts few, they almost universally place an emphasis on the positive aspects of the period. It is clear that complaining about difficulties was not part of their culture. However, despite the positive slant it soon becomes clear from their stories that ‘the good old days’ were not all good. Periods of great difficulty, including two World Wars and the Great Depression, fell during the time span covered by the residents’ accounts. From their childhood memories they highlight the delights of growing up in the country with farm animals for pets, the companionship of their neighbours, and the assistance given willingly within the community in times of adversity. They show pride in achievements and a stoic acceptance of the hard times, often using humour as a way of coping with misfortune.

Irony, similar to that featured in Steele Rudd’s On Our Selection stories (which were well known through the popular Bulletin and later publication in book form), is evident in some of the tales.¹⁶ The selectors who started from scratch on the black soil plains of Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater could easily identify with Steele Rudd’s Dad, Mother, Dave and siblings who were in a similar position some years earlier. Thus we have ironic tales including

the particular love for a dangerous, unreliable horse, the mean destruction of the best Christmas pudding at a picnic gathering, and the regular (almost scheduled) drunken fights outside local dances where alcohol was forbidden. On the other hand there was the pathos of a tale from one former resident who recalled the need, when he was a small child, for the family to eat his pet goat in order to 'put food on the table'.¹⁷ Comic incidents highlighting the idiosyncrasies of local residents provided much entertainment and are still remembered with glee. A sense of loss more profound than mere nostalgia, for the old landscape now changed beyond recognition and the close-knit community to which they belonged, is clearly evident in accounts from many of the former residents.

Encouraged by Maurice French's comments that the addition of a 'history from below' is required to complement his trilogy covering the history of the Darling Downs, the objective of this work is to explore the means of providing that history through a detailed study of one district and its community of ordinary individuals. In a broader sense it is intended that this examination of a small farming community will contribute to an understanding of the culture of rural Australia as a whole, and its development from early European settlement through to the present day. It provides, also, a look at the rural roots of many contemporary city dwellers and goes some way to explain the post World War II exodus of their forebears from the land.

¹ Duncan B. Waterson 'The Darling Downs, Changing Patterns and Altered Perspectives, 1920-1980' in Queensland Geographical Journal, 4 series Volume 3, 1988, p.43. Note: the other areas were the 'Aboriginal past' and 'environmental damage'.

² Maurice French, Conflict on the Condamine: Aborigines and the European Invasion, Darling Downs Institute Press, Toowoomba, 1989, p.xii.

³ Enid Fletcher in 'James Taylor: Squatter and Townsman' - (with reference acknowledged to the Australian Dictionary of Biography) - in Downs Voices ed. Peter Putnis, Darling Downs Institute Press, Toowoomba 1978, p.75.

⁴ Maurice French, 'Local History on the Darling Downs: A Review Article' in Downs Voices ed. Peter Putnis, Darling Downs Institute Press, Toowoomba, 1978, p.116.

⁵ Raphael Samuel, Theatres of Memory, Volume 1: Past and Present in Contemporary Culture, Verso: London, 1994, p.8.

⁶ Raphael Samuel, p.5.

⁷ Raphael Samuel, p.4.

⁸ The Australian National Placenames Survey has been set up at Macquarie University in recent years and has begun this mammoth task, which is estimated to take decades.

⁹ Raphael Samuel, p.11.

¹⁰ Raphael Samuel, pp.315-8.

¹¹ Raphael Samuel, p.334.

¹² Paul Ashton with Kate Blackmore, On the Land, A photographic history of farming in Australia, Kangaroo Press, Kenthurst, NSW, 1987, p.12.

¹³ Ibid, p.7. Source, Susan Sontag, On Photography, Penguin, Ringwood, 1980.

¹⁴ Paul Thompson, The Voice of the Past. Oral History, Oxford University Press, London, 1978, p 113.

¹⁵ Ibid, p.103.

¹⁶ Tales of family life on a selection near Toowoomba, were written by Arthur Hoey Davis under the pen name of Steele Rudd. They appeared in The Bulletin in the 1890s but were gleaned from Hoey's experiences as a child during the period 1875-85. The stories were published as a collection in 1899. Butterss, Philip, Introduction to Steele Rudd, On Our Selection, Imprint Classics Edition, ETT Imprint, Watsons Bay, NSW, published by Collins, Angus & Robertson, 1992.

¹⁷ Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, ed. Dale Lehner Keep Your Hat on Charlie, You're in Australia Now. Published by Dale Lehner, Sydney, 2001, p.29.

Chapter 1

Toponymy in Queensland and on the Darling Downs

An examination of the actual method of placenaming in Queensland, followed by an analysis of the names chosen by the first explorers and settlers on the Darling Downs is covered in Chapters 1 to 3. These investigations are intended to give a fresh look at the earliest years of settlement on the Downs and provide a background to later settlement including that of the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district. An overview of property names chosen by the selectors and small freehold farmers, who made up that small community from the early days of the 20th century, is included for the purpose of comparison.

The study of placenames (toponymy) encompasses an awareness of the value of their origin as an historical resource. An interest in toponymy grew in Queensland during the early part of the 20th century and it has been possible to assemble details about the origin of many Darling Downs placenames from recorded information. There are still some gaps to be filled but the information collected for this study allows clear trends in naming to be identified.

Placenames are essentially a series of name sets given to geographical features and settlements at various times by different groups of people. For example, in England several name sets in different languages were created during Celtic, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Viking and Norman occupations. The Romans called the island *Britannia*. Later the country became known as *Angle-land* and the area ruled by the Danes was *Danelaw*. Geographical features on the Darling Downs had names given by the Indigenous

inhabitants before the arrival of Europeans – for example Wilson’s Peak was known as *Jirramun*.¹ In fact it is likely that important landmarks had more than one name because of the language differences between tribal groups. Unfortunately, most of those original names have been lost.

With the spread of European settlement onto the Downs, more sets of names overlaid the Indigenous ones. It is the name choices made by those settlers that form the focus of this investigation. The fact that names of Aboriginal origin were a frequent choice is an important aspect of the examination, but a detailed linguistic study of Aboriginal languages is a specialist field best left to experts. Comment here will be restricted to the recording of known or published information and speculation as to why such choices were made, rather than an in-depth linguistic examination of the actual Aboriginal words.

The act of placenaming can be regarded as part of the colonising process, but it was also a practical necessity. Important geographical features were named by early explorers and placed on official maps thus enabling settlers to navigate through the newly available land. When ‘squatters’ took up pastoral leases it was compulsory that a name be recorded with the Crown Lands Office of New South Wales. In addition to official placenames a more detailed unofficial set evolved as the settlers filled in the gaps. This was necessary for communication in the day-to-day lives of a scattered population. Essentially each pastoral run had its own internal and informal set of placenames, such as the sandy creek, the horse paddock or the bald hill, usually descriptive of appearance or use. This was an obvious necessity on the runs, which were typically from twenty-five to 100 square miles in

area. The practice carried on to the later freehold estates. Such detailed naming (or micro-toponymy) within individual runs is recorded on an old map of *Bon Accord* station, which had been assembled from parts of the old *St Ruth* Pastoral Run in the 1870s. The map clearly shows: Horse, Pony, Condamine, Sundown, Dales and Rookes Paddocks.²

Places named unofficially often preserved information about the ordinary settler rather than the influential squatter or politician who appeared so frequently in official names. Dales Paddock on the *Bon Accord* map referred to land selected originally by William Dale a farrier and dairyman, who emigrated from Leicestershire, England in 1855. After he died in 1875 his executors held the land until 1891 when it was taken over by George Morris Simpson and incorporated into *Bon Accord* station. Thus some local history was preserved with the continued use of Dale's name.³ Similarly, the Wicks family of the Kupunn district has expanded their landholdings since they first arrived in the district in 1947, and the family knows two of the farms they acquired over the years by the names of former owners -*Troyahn's* and *Mathies*'.⁴ Isabelle and Brian Laffy have also named their landholding near Ducklo, *Laxtons*, after a former owner. In this way some residents of the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district are consciously preserving its past history.

Much earlier, the spot where squatters Hodgson and Elliot first camped on their pastoral lease *Eton Vale* in the 1840s became known as the Drummers Camp. Thomas Hall records that it was twelve miles from where the head station was later established. Hall says, 'The locality was called "Drummers Camp", because the owners had a shepherd in charge who had previously

been a drummer in the British Army'.⁵ A run called *The Drummers*, in the vicinity of *Eton Vale*, is mentioned as a boundary of *Peel's Plains (Felton)* in 1848 and is no doubt the same place,⁶ although it is not listed individually as a pastoral run name in the Government Gazettes. A newspaper column from about 1925, 'Echoes of the Past' by Ben Bolt, gives more details about the Drummer.⁷ It is claimed that he was an assigned servant named Bough who was 'mercilessly flogged for absconding from the hired service of Hodgson and Elliott'. 'Ben Bolt' is careful to point out that authorities in Scone ordered the flogging, without the knowledge of Hodgson and Elliott.⁸ It is unlikely that an official name would have honoured such an individual during the early period of settlement, but 'The Drummers' certainly seems to have been well known by word of mouth.

Many unofficial names were eventually granted official status.

Unfortunately, whilst there are now innumerable Spring Creeks, Sandy Creeks and Bald Hills, many placenames of historical interest have been lost. Indeed 'Drummer's Camp' may never have become official, and does not appear in any form in the current list of names from the Queensland Department of Natural Resources. Paddock names, though well known locally for a time, fade into oblivion when land changes hands and people move on. James Johnston, who was involved in toponymic research in Scotland in the 1930s, contends that the origin of placenames stands to history in somewhat the same relationship as the study of fossils stands to geology.⁹ 'Drummers Camp' and 'Dales Paddock' are two of those 'fossils'. Such stories and others like them can help us to gain a better understanding of the ordinary people who first settled the Darling Downs.

Whilst the study of Australian placenames cannot be considered anything like an exact science until the majority of names and their origins have been found, certain trends are already evident in Darling Downs naming. It is fortunate that the ad hoc naming, encountered to their frustration by surveyors, mapmakers and the like who were trying to establish a stable 'official' set of names, gives the historian a wonderful field in which to delve. By examining these 'fossil' remains of our history, we are able to unravel some threads of the past and gain an insight into the way our forebears thought and lived.

A History of Placenames in Queensland

In the early 20th century there was growing concern regarding the loss of detail about Queensland history. A sense of urgency was expressed by a well known surveyor, Hector Munro, who said in a letter to the Brisbane Courier that many of the early pioneers had died and it now remained 'with the second generation to record their exploits', of which they had but a second-hand knowledge. Munro had a particular concern about the loss of information about placenames, which he expressed in the same letter:

Mr. Hector Munro, of Nanango, writes deploring the apparent lack of interest shown by some of those who, having a first-hand knowledge of the origin of the names of various places within the State of Queensland, do not add that knowledge to the public stock, and thus help to build up an authentic history of the people of the state.¹⁰

In a 1930s Bulletin from the Queensland Place Names Committee, Professor H. Alcock of the University of Queensland also expressed a strong view on the value of placenames as an historical resource:

No matter where, in a suburb, in a country town, in a dairying or a pastoral district, along the coast or on a mining field, the names of

hills, gullies, properties, and so on tell the story of the changing landscape, of settlement, of success or disappointment, of hope and achievement. It is preeminently the human side of history that is there embodied and there is no part of history more valuable.¹¹

In the same Bulletin, E.T. Holdaway of the Lands Department Survey Office gave a different perspective on the need for historical knowledge about place names. He described the difficulties government departments have in gathering accurate information regarding names and locations for the publication of maps:

It must be remembered that originally these names were handed down by word of mouth, then reproduced over a period of years, on sketches and plans by various explorers, pioneers and members of the field staff, and that these names are reproductions from aboriginal words, foreign names, names of trees, names of early settlers, names of fish and anything else that the general public desired to perpetuate in this way. It can be understood why many differences exist in departmental records.¹²

The reasons for an ordered naming system have changed little from those described by Alcock and Holdaway in 1938. In a recent document, Ian Hutchings, Principal Cartographer (Place Names) Queensland, described similar views now held within the Department of Natural Resources. He says that the importance of geographical names lies in their cultural and heritage value as well as their necessity in a reference system for transportation, communication and emergency services. He explains that an ordered system of geographical names is essential in the provision of unambiguous designations for populated places and physical features. Such names are necessary for correct reference in resource development and planning, and as important elements for reliable maps and charts, and

academic and scientific publications.¹³ A society without placenames is difficult to comprehend. Ernie Hills gives an insight into a community without the signposts we take for granted – although in this instance established as a desirable wartime security tactic. He describes his confusion on arrival in Townsville as a railway worker during the Second World War: ‘All place names had been removed, even railway stations, making it hard for ‘newies’.¹⁴

Thus the two major reasons people have studied the origin of Queensland placenames have been for the preservation of the cultural history attached to the names, and as an aid in the establishment of an unambiguous official set of placenames. The concern here is mostly with the former, although there is no doubt that all findings will automatically assist with the latter. The two objectives are entwined in a manner that draws historians and geographers together with a common purpose.

In a quest to reveal ‘the human side’ of the history of that part of Queensland, a detailed examination of placenames in thirteen Darling Downs shire and town districts¹⁵ has been compiled for this investigation and will be referred to, along with some interesting examples from outside the nominated shires. The names given to pastoral leases on the Downs before 1859, and other samples, will be analysed in the hope of finding a pattern in the name choices that will add to our knowledge of the early settlers. Before embarking on this exercise, however, an understanding is necessary of the method used for placenaming in Queensland since the first European settlement. Guidelines issued by the various bodies with this responsibility over the years are outlined below. It will become clear that the

names given before any form of official control reveal far more about the early settlers than those chosen within defined guidelines. Nevertheless the guidelines themselves reveal a great deal about general thinking in a given period.

During his expedition beyond the northern boundaries of settlement in 1827, Allan Cunningham named the Darling Downs in honour of Governor Ralph Darling. He named many other natural features after government officials and useful contacts, all carefully noted in his journal. Thus the first official European placenaming began in the area. As settlement followed, a rather ad hoc system evolved which caused problems in later years. E.T.Holdaway rather plaintively described some of these problems from his perspective in the Lands Office in 1938:

Different names have been given, at different times to the same feature, and different features have been given the same name; thus adding to the confusion. The repetition of names is so serious that when reference is made to a particular feature, it is necessary to accompany the statement with a map and mark the feature referred to.

Attempts to correct these differences within the department and with other departments require a considerable amount of searching through records, and there are still some cases of difference in spelling.¹⁶

In the early days of European settlement several competing influences were at work renaming a land that had already been named by the Indigenous inhabitants. Keith Kennedy, President of the Anthropological Society of New South Wales (1933-4), pointed out in a foreword to a collection of Aboriginal names, what must have been obvious to the European settlers:

Before the coming of the white man every natural feature of Australia was known to its native owners, and had an appropriate name in one or other of the dialects of their melodious language.¹⁷

Significant features, such as mountains visible from a great distance, or rivers flowing through the lands of many different tribes, may well have been given names in more than one language.

Explorers like Allan Cunningham, Ludwig Leichhardt and Thomas Mitchell (who was also Surveyor-General) named, in a relatively orderly manner, the natural features they came upon. These mountains, hills, plains and watercourses became signposts on the 'highway' to the new land. The squatters who followed them were required to name their pastoral runs, and it was convenient to name geographical features on their own run if only as a means of giving directions to stockmen and shepherds.

Counties and parishes were established for the purpose of Land Title administration. The counties were not political entities in the Australian colonies as they were in England, and parishes had nothing to do with the churches as is sometimes thought. The counties in New South Wales were named initially in a manner described as re-creating 'the county map of northern England', quite different from 'the official policy of adopting Aboriginal nomenclature' for natural features,¹⁸ encouraged particularly by Thomas Mitchell with his instruction in 1828 to surveyors to use 'native names'... 'when they can be ascertained'.¹⁹ Many aristocratic and military figures with connections to the colony were also honoured in county names and it seems that for such official land divisions names with connections to the mother country were considered desirable, even though Indigenous names were acceptable or even preferred for natural features and settlements. Some early county names on the Darling Downs given by

Thomas Mitchell were the very European *Churchill, Cavendish* and *Aubigny*.²⁰ After 1860 (when Queensland had become a separate colony) there was a trend from 'elitist' naming of the counties, 'to those more in keeping with a growing sense of Australian nationalism',²¹ but this is not evident in the Darling Downs area where county names had already been given.

The parishes within the counties frequently followed the boundaries and names of established pastoral runs. 'In 1878, the General Direction for the Guidance of Surveyors laid down that where practicable the area of parishes should be about 25 square miles. The run blocks were 25 square miles, so apparently it was planned that parish boundaries should follow block boundaries'.²² Pastoral runs feature strongly in the names given to parishes on the Darling Downs. Many runs were bigger than the prescribed size, and additional parishes were required. These were frequently given the names of local squatters and politicians. Thus we see parishes on the Darling Downs named Macalister (the member for Ipswich in the first Queensland Parliament, and later the Premier) and Vickery (a wealthy landholder). The old *Daandine* run is featured with the Parishes of Daandine and Wilkie (surname of the first leaseholder).

Whilst all the parishes in the Downs district were named well before 1899, the following information about parish naming is of interest in relation to the use of Aboriginal names. In a letter to Mr. Holdaway in the Survey Office, Brisbane dated 25 May 1945, Mr. C.F. Parkinson, Draftsman in Charge of the Cartographic Branch from 1899 to 1911, wrote that the names of parishes were 'given originally in a happy go lucky way by the chief

draftsman or next in charge', but that after his own appointment he had marked the remaining part of Queensland in a systematic manner. Parkinson had 'obtained as many native names as possible from various sources', and got others 'from Directories etc.' He had been 'careful not to duplicate the names'.²³ We see that in his quest to give Aboriginal names when at all possible, Parkinson was forced to use what amounted to any source at all. Many Aboriginal names for parishes would thus have had no bearing whatsoever on the district to which they were allotted.

Government officials systematically surveyed and named small settlements as well as some prospective town sites in likely locations such as river junctions. Later railway officials named the stations and sidings on their ever-growing rail network. This process legitimised numbers of unofficial names, whilst in other cases completely new ones were introduced to an area. Frequently these were of Aboriginal origin (but not necessarily relevant to the district), or the names of early settlers and government officials. Descriptive names were best avoided because of the danger of repetition.

By the turn of the century (and Australian Federation) the Royal Geographic Society in Queensland was well aware of the problem such uncontrolled naming had created. 'Between 1905 and 1911 several Councils had made requests to various Queensland State Government Ministers suggesting that a Board of Geographic Names be established. The Society's proposals were rejected in each instance'. A Place Names Committee was at last formed in July 1922, only after the President of the Society, Sir Matthew Nathan (Governor of Queensland), suggested that: 'the Society cooperate with the Historical Society of Queensland in a movement to collate information

concerning the origin and meaning of place names in Queensland.’²⁴ Sir Matthew may well have been projecting a British interest in placenames that rose in the 19th century and was ‘carried to new heights’ by the ‘Place-Name Society, founded by Stenton and Maurer in 1922’.²⁵ A document, ‘A History of the Place Names Committee’ was compiled in the late 1950s by an unknown author, and gives an overview of the rather optimistic goals as well as the problems encountered by the new group. In a letter to the Home Secretary, Sir Matthew stated the object of the committee:

...that the final result of their labours will be a full and accurate account of the names of all the places and natural features of Queensland’.²⁶

The compilation of a gazetteer index was also a priority. The allocation of new names was at this time a State Lands Department responsibility after earlier negotiation between State and Commonwealth Government bodies. Following Federation the Prime Minister had in 1902 drawn to the attention of the Premier of Queensland ‘the many instances of towns, situated in different States, bearing the same name’. The Prime Minister’s suggestion that the Post Master General (a Commonwealth Department) be consulted when a new name was to be given, received a sharp reply from the Queensland Minister for Lands. He pointed out that it was already ‘the custom’ to refer to the State Surveyor General who examined the published lists of Post Offices etc. before a new place was named. By 1910 it was generally agreed that the responsibility for placenaming would remain with the Lands Department in each State and that an exchange of name lists between the States would occur regularly. However, ‘no definite statutory authority was vested in the Surveyor General or the head of the Lands Department.’²⁷

That first committee consisted of Sir Matthew Nathan as Chairman and representatives from three State Government Departments, (Public Instruction, Public Lands, Home Secretary) plus members of the Historical Society and the Royal Geographic Society (Q). Sir Matthew Nathan was the driving force behind the committee and no doubt his position as the State Governor carried much weight. Maurice French reported that in 1923 Sir Matthew requested a systematic investigation into the origin of Queensland's placenames, which was carried out by William J. Gall, Under Secretary to the Home Department, but that his report had 'not yet been discovered'.²⁸ It may have in fact been absorbed into the Committee's records.

In the Committee's 'Fourth Report' the difficulty in dealing with names of Aboriginal origin was addressed, using the 'Condamine' River as an example. Allan Cunningham named the river 'in compliment to the officer who is Aide-de-Camp to His Excellency the Governor', (Lieutenant de la Condamine, H.M.'s 57th Foot).²⁹ 'Doubt is impossible as to the origin of the name....'. However, the Committee was informed that it meant:

... "house on the stream" from *gundi*, house, and *maian*, waterhole; and indeed both those words are found in Ridley's vocabulary of the Kamilaroi – the very tribe which once occupied that district; moreover, in the accompanying list of place names we find the word *gundamaine*, and the derivation *gundi maian*, which may easily be taken as a form of *Condamine*.

The rather desperate question was asked: 'What relationship is there between the *De la Condamine* of history, the *Condamine* of the maps, Ridley's *Gundamaine*, and both the *gundi* and the *maian* of his

vocabulary?'.³⁰ The relationship between Aboriginal languages and European languages was to prove an ongoing headache for researchers. We see that further comment made in 1925 is currently applicable, even though much work has been done in recent years to retrieve knowledge of Aboriginal languages by consultation with native speakers:

Even when we run no chance whatever of a name's being derived from any but an aboriginal source, many obstacles are still in our way before we can find a trustworthy and complete interpretation; for where are we to look for it? Few white men have ever known more than mere fragments of the language of the blacks; and few of these know enough of other languages to measure the deficiencies in their knowledge and to realize how many and how different the aboriginal dialects were, how intricate and peculiar were their grammatical devices and how unlike the English vowels or consonants were the sounds uttered by the blacks.³¹

The Committee lapsed shortly after Sir Matthew Nathan's return to England in late 1925 and had ceased to function by 1928. The findings of the group (origins of 2500 names on cards, which probably included Gall's research) were preserved by Professor F.W. Cumbrae-Stewart at the University of Queensland and were taken up by a new committee some years later.³²

The Royal Geographic Society developed a new committee in 1934 with strong support from the University of Queensland. Professor F.W. Cumbrae-Stewart resumed his position as Chairman for two years. In 1936 Sydney May was 'surprised to receive a request to attend a meeting of the Queensland Place Names Committee as second University representative, Professor Alcock being chief member'.³³ Professor H. Alcock became the Chairman with representatives including the Deputy Director Posts and

Telegraphs (Mr. Corbett), the Surveyor-General of Queensland (J.P. Harvey), Main Roads Commissioner (Sir John Kemp) and the Railway Commissioner (P.R. Willis). Thus a Commonwealth Department was represented at a senior level with the inclusion of Mr. Corbett.

In 1937 Sydney May was appointed Honorary Secretary of the group, which he says had been meeting in a 'desultory fashion'. 'The departmental heads were too busy for regular meetings and in most cases a deputy from the Department concerned attended'.³⁴ It appears that Sydney May contributed to the revival of interest in the Committee due to his obvious enthusiasm. We see that he was still writing about placenames in the late 1950s. The Committee became more active in March 1938, with the first of a series of Bulletins. In the second edition Professor Alcock emphasised that the Queensland Place Names Committee was a voluntary body. 'Its members are such either ex-officio or by limited cooptation.' However, the group enjoyed 'the ready cooperation of governmental authorities, the University of Queensland, and many public officials, learned societies and individuals.' In 1939 Sydney May reported that:

... a larger meeting was called of all interested in the work. Among matters discussed were:

- (1) The more effective use of the Committee in its work and authority.
- (2) Consideration of duplication of names, particularly such as Sandy, Rocky, Oaky, Spring Creek etc.
- (3) The erection of obelisks and plaques on historical spots. ...³⁵

In a long newspaper article at the time, which informed the public of the revitalised 'Place Board', Marjorie Hunter supported the need for such a group:

There is urgent need, young as our State is, for the compilation of some record of such a kind. Already in some centres considerable confusion exists regarding the origin of the town name. As the years pass the history and origin of many of the State's names will go, with the passing of the pioneers, into the obscurity from which there can be no recall.³⁶

The objectives of the Committee were set out again as follows:

1. To prepare, publish and maintain an index of the names of Queensland places and to ascertain their origin, meaning and history.
2. To list unsuitable or duplicated names and to suggest to the appropriate authorities suitable substitutes.
3. To collaborate, when invited, with the competent authority or authorities in finding suitable names for places previously unnamed.
4. To assist in standardising the spelling and pronunciation of Queensland place names, using for the latter purpose the International Phonetic Alphabet.³⁷

Perhaps the second and third objectives are the most interesting for this investigation. They required the committee to suggest names 'considered suitable', and some of the criteria used to choose such names can be deduced by its decisions.

The Aboriginal language was a strong influence on some of the changes made during World War II as outlined by Sydney May. None of the examples he gives were from the Darling Downs, but were in North Queensland where military preparations against the Japanese threat were intense. There was much railway activity at the time, new stations were being established and others renamed to avoid confusion. Sydney May cites *Byellee* as a new name accepted for the railway station, Boyne Valley Junction. It was the name of the Aboriginal tribe in the vicinity. Another railway name change was *Koolachu* between Proserpine and Bowen, from

the confusing Red Hill used extensively elsewhere. *Koolachu* is cited as the native name for the swamp poplar, much in evidence in the locality. Other Aboriginal words connected to the appropriate area were used for new places: *Walkamin* (local tribe near Emerald End) and *Myubee* (local name for emu, many of which were seen from the train by troops in the area near Mt. Isa). Sydney May reported that eventually 'the war caused the Committee to lapse and it finally was disbanded about 1950'.³⁸

The records of the Committee including work on a gazetteer, and placename meanings and origins with about 4000 names completed on a card index system were held in the Compiling Section of the Survey Office from 1949. 'The Officer-in Charge of the Cartographic Branch succeeded Mr. Sydney May as Secretary, and the Surveyor-General became Chairman of the Committee. The Committee was a large group with wide knowledge and responsibilities. It included representatives of the Postmaster-General's Department, Railways, Main Roads and Lands Departments, the Department of Health and Home Affairs, the Surveyor General, the Department of Mines, the Under Secretary, Chief Secretary's Department and the University Professor of History and Economics.'³⁹

The Queensland Place Names Act of 1956 brought the Queensland Place Names Board into being, and both the Board and the Queensland Place Names Committee under government control. The Surveyor-General became 'ex-officio' chairman of the two.⁴⁰ Sydney May now became a member of the new Place Names Board as the delegate from the Royal Geographical Society of Australia.⁴¹ The Board issued instructions concerning the Principles of Place Naming and the types of names favoured.

The Committee, with twelve members, a Chairman and a Secretary was a large advisory body providing local knowledge, historical expertise and administrative experience to the Board. Committee members were available for sub-committees set up as necessary by the Board.⁴²

The Board was given the necessary authority to prevent indiscriminate adoption of place names in Queensland and it became the final decision-maker when agreement regarding naming could not be reached by negotiation. Some of the functions of the Board were designed to avoid misspellings and varied pronunciations, misconceptions in historical discoveries and confusion in the overlapping of names for areas.

Importantly, we see the instruction confirmed by the Board, to perpetuate the 'euphonious aboriginal words, which help to give special character to our place names'.⁴³ J. Atchison says that the preference for Aboriginal names had been formalised previously, 'at a meeting of Australasian surveyors general in 1912' and even earlier at an Inter-Provincial Geographical Conference, Melbourne, in 1884, well before Federation.⁴⁴

The popular use of Aboriginal words as placenames had occurred from first settlement of the Darling Downs, well before the days of any official naming body, and it seems that the practice was always encouraged in official circles. However, it is significant that the Place Names Board saw fit to reinforce this practice many times with more and more detailed guidelines as in (a) below and the following instruction concerning euphony. One suspects that officials feared some names of Aboriginal origin had purported meanings that were not appropriate, and some pronunciations were similar to unsuitable English words.⁴⁵ Surveyor General, Sir Thomas Mitchell, had

already tackled the issue of very long Aboriginal words, which caused great difficulty for cartographers, as early as the 1829 with a set of guidelines.⁴⁶

Instructions on the principles of placenaming from a 1967 directive were as follows:

- (a) Names of aboriginal derivation or association; it is emphasised that the meaning must be appropriate.
- (b) Names which have some local significance.
- (c) Names which have some historical background, e.g. those of explorers, early settlers, notable Australians or events.
- (d) Names derived from English words descriptive of the Place, which must, however, be apt and not readily applicable elsewhere.

A further instruction directed:

Consideration is given to the euphony of the word whether aboriginal or Anglo-Saxon, and to the confusion which may arise from duplication or similarity with existing place names. Except in special cases, the adoption of names of living persons is generally avoided.⁴⁷

The Principles of Placenaming approved at a Board Meeting on 15 October 1969 stipulate that 'Names of Aboriginal origin or association, from a dialect spoken in the relevant area and of appropriate meaning' be preferred for adoption.⁴⁸ It is particularly evident in the naming of railway stations and sidings that this was certainly not always done in the past. Names purported to be Aboriginal in origin were used indiscriminately with no relevance to the local area. This is not meant as a criticism of railway officials for in most cases information about local dialects was no longer available. The desire to use Indigenous names left little choice but to use suitable known Aboriginal words, whatever the source. There is a suspicion too that some purported Indigenous names were 'made up' to sound Aboriginal by local residents, or by officials attempting to comply with instructions from 'head office'.⁴⁹

The control of placename allocation was gradually tightened towards the end of the 20th century as their importance for communications was recognised. The Queensland Place Names Act of 1981 abolished the Place Names Committee and the Place Names Board expanded. In 1988 the Board was abolished and the determination of Place Names assigned to the Surveyor-General.⁵⁰ A further review from 1992 resulted in the Place Names Act 1994, which gave power to the Minister for Lands and subsequently the Minister for Natural Resources, to assign placenames. In this context a 'place' is defined as being an area or geographical feature, whether natural or artificial and does not include roads, bridges, dam walls, canals or buildings. A complex process now ensures that the minimum of confusion occurs with existing names by avoiding duplication and similarity. Checks are made that the new name is culturally appropriate, particularly with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander names. The public is notified of any placename proposal. The final step after Ministerial approval is the appearance of the new name in the Government Gazette, and in any newspapers that carried the original proposal. A Place Names Database is maintained within the Department of Natural Resources and a Gazetteer of Place Names is available for inspection or purchase by the public.⁵¹ The Committee of Geographical Names of Australasia (C.G.N.A.) meets regularly, bringing those with geographical naming responsibilities throughout Australia and New Zealand together to discuss matters of common interest.

The guidelines issued by the 1938 Committee, the aims of the 1956 Board and the Principles for naming from 1969 all mentioned above, were designed to bring order to the disarray of the ad hoc system under which so

much of the state was named. In many districts this desire for official control was all too late. Most of the natural features and settlements on the Darling Downs were already named before the end of the 19th century. The area west to Dalby was well settled by the 1860s and further west to Miles by the mid-1880s (if somewhat sparsely).⁵² Many railway lines were completed by the turn of the century with station and siding names in place: Toowoomba 1867, west to Miles by 1878, south to Clifton by 1869 and south-west to the border at Goondiwindi by 1908.⁵³ This was long before the formation of Sir Matthew Nathan's first Committee in 1922.

Thus, whilst great care is taken now with new names, very little care was taken in the early days to avoid the pitfalls the current system so neatly sidesteps. It must be noted here that government bodies responsible for the railways, post and telegraph offices and land sub-divisions each took some care in name selection: the weakness of the system lay in the lack of a body to coordinate all concerned. Another problem lay in word of mouth naming, where an unofficial name was known locally before any official body reached the area. This was probably the greatest cause of name duplication. As late as the 1950s unofficial naming was known to occur.

In spite of the co-operation that obtains between the Surveyor General and other Departments, Local Authorities etc. instances still occur when names are bestowed without reference to this Department, or are referred after the names are an established fact, resulting often in unsuitable and inappropriate names.⁵⁴

The period of rather chaotic naming, which became such a headache for officialdom, is a blessing for historians. It is the very weakness of the early system that is responsible for the rich variety of placenames on the Darling

Downs. As we will see, these names reveal some of the 'human side' of its history.

¹ From J.M. Fraser, formerly of the Survey Office Brisbane, in correspondence to the Survey Office dated March 1931 – Queensland State Archives SRS444/1, Item 8.

² The undated map of *Bon Accord* Station held by the Dalby Family History Society is pen and ink on cloth. It was drawn during the period 1891 - 1930s, probably to assist with subdivision.

³ Information regarding William Dale from the Dale Family Tree compiled by June Pickering, with additional information from Rob Parsons of Dalby and from Stella Matheson Drake in her privately distributed Roberts Family History, 2002.

⁴ Letter from Barbara Wicks to Dale Lehner, 20 May 2002.

⁵ Thomas Hall, The Early History of Warwick District and Pioneers of the Darling Downs, Toowoomba, 1926 (?), p.20.

⁶ NSWGG, 2 August 1848, p.949.

⁷ Ben Bolt is a pseudonym for an unknown journalist active from at least 1912, to the 1920s. He was author also of the Early History of Toowoomba Turf Club, Toowoomba, 1925.

⁸ Column reproduced in Janet Kershaw, Repose With Achievement, Orange, 1974, p.23.

⁹ James Johnston in the Introduction to Place Names of Scotland, D. Douglas, Edinburgh, 1934.

¹⁰ Article 'Place Names, Early Pioneers' from the Courier newspaper, Brisbane - date unknown but estimated as late 1920s by Bill Kitson, Curator of the Queensland Lands Office Museum and an acknowledged expert on early Queensland surveyors. Bill Kitson says that Munro's Camp in the Bunya Mountains north of Dalby is named for him. Munro was known also for his pioneering survey work on the Russell River, Northern Queensland. He died in 1931. Chris Ashton says in Wambo, The Changing Face of Rural Australia (p.23) that 'Munro lived and worked in the Burnett River area for 40 years'.

¹¹ Queensland Place Names Committee, Bulletin, No.3, June 1938, p.2.

¹² *Ibid*, p.3.

¹³ Ian Hutchings, How Queensland Does It, Dept. of Natural Resources, 1998, p.1.

¹⁴ Ernie Hills, 'The Thin Black Lines', Newsletter, Toowoomba Historical Society Inc., October 2002.

¹⁵ Shires of Cambooya, Clifton, Crows Nest, Dalby (Town), Inglewood, Jondaryan, Millmerran, Pittsworth, Rosalie, Stanthorpe, Toowoomba (Town), Wambo, and Warwick.

¹⁶ Queensland Place Names Committee, Bulletin No.3, June 1938, p.3.

¹⁷ James R. Tyrrell, compiler Australian Aboriginal Place-Names and Their Meanings, Simmons Ltd, Sydney 1933, foreword by Keith Kennedy.

¹⁸ J.F. Atchison 'The Counties of New South Wales', The Australian Surveyor, March 1980 Vol.30 No.1, pp.33-4.

¹⁹ Matthew Nathan (Chairman) & F.W.S. Cumbrae Stewart (Vice-Chairman), 'Fourth Report of Committee on Queensland Place Names', Period to 30 June 1925, p.2. – Qld State Archives SRS444 Item2.

²⁰ A letter dated 8 March 1946 from the Under Secretary, Dept. of Lands in Sydney to J.H. Hornibrook, Hon. Secretary of the Oxley Memorial Library of Queensland, gives information about Counties named before separation in 1859. The Under Secretary concludes that the three Counties mentioned were among others on a map submitted to the Legislative Council of New South Wales by Sir Thomas Mitchell on 15 June 1847. Copy of letter held by Department of Natural Resources, Brisbane. (Note: Aubigny has both French and English connections eg. the Earl of Arundel, was William d'Aubigny in 1176. – Information available on World Wide Web, search Aubigny.)

²¹ J.F. Atchison in 'The Counties of New South Wales', The Australian Surveyor, March 1980 Vol.30 No.1, pp.33-4.

²² From a document titled 'Areas of Parishes' Batch 150, initialled CHG 20.9.5-(?), held by Dept of Natural Resources, Qld.

²³ C.F. Parkinson, Draftsman in Charge of the Cartographic Branch from 1899 to 1911, letter to Mr. Holdaway in the Survey Office, Brisbane dated 25 May 1945. Copy of letter held at Department of Natural Resources, Brisbane.

²⁴ Bulletin, Royal Geographic Society of Queensland, May 1990, p.5.

²⁵ Raphael Samuel, Theatres of Memory, Volume 1, Verso, London: 1994, pp.11-12.

²⁶ 'History of Queensland Place Names Committee', March 1958 p.1, author unknown. Queensland Archives – Location, RSII 2820 A/71630.

²⁷ Ibid

²⁸ Maurice French, Conflict on the Condamine, Darling Downs Institute Press, Toowoomba, 1989, p.124.

²⁹ From Allan Cunningham's Journal – 6 June 1827. Reproduced in Henry Stuart Russell, The Genesis of Queensland, Sydney 1888, p.107. Also available at the Mitchell Library, Sydney on microfilm.

³⁰ Mathew Nathan (Chairman) & F.W.S. Cumbrae-Stewart (Vice-Chairman), 'Fourth Report of Committee on Queensland Place Names' – Period to 30 June 1925, p.3 – Qld State Archives, SRS 444/1, Item 2.

³¹ Ibid

³² Bulletin, Royal Geographic Society of Queensland, May 1990, p.5.

³³ Sydney May in 'The Vagaries in Place Naming' read before the Historical Society of Queensland, 29 October 1940.

³⁴ Sydney May, 'Queensland Place Names and Obelisks', Local Government, Vol 52, No.6, June 1957, p31.

³⁵ Ibid

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- ³⁶ Marjorie Hunter, Sunday Mail, Brisbane - day and month obscured, 1938.
- ³⁷ Queensland Place Names Committee, Bulletin No.2, May 1938, p.2.
- ³⁸ Sydney May, 'Queensland Place Names and Obelisks', p.31.
- ³⁹ 'History of Queensland Place Names Committee', March 1958, p1 author unknown. (Queensland Archives – Location, RSII 2820 A/71630), p.2.
- ⁴⁰ Bulletin, Royal Geographical Society of Queensland, May 1990, p.5.
- ⁴¹ Sydney May, 'Queensland Place Names and Obelisks', p.32.
- ⁴² 'History of Queensland Place Names Committee', p.4.
- ⁴³ Ibid
- ⁴⁴ J. Atchison, 'Eton Vale to Bamaga – Place, Geographical Names and Queensland', J.P. Thompson Oration, 15 May 1990, Queensland Geographical Journal, RGSQ, 4th Series Volume 5 1990, pp.1 - 27. (Source, M. Aurousseau, 'The Writing of Native Place-Names in Australian Territories, South Pacific, Volume 10, No. 3, Jan. – Feb. 1959.)
- ⁴⁵ Though Bum Bum Creek, which is presumably of Aboriginal origin had not been rejected. It was named in 1965 by the Place Names Board probably formalising an unofficial name – Source, Dept. of Natural Resources, Place Names Details Report, 27 July 1999. Note that A.S. Kenyon supported the use of Aboriginal words as names for residences and said that unlike the Melanesian and Polynesian, the Australian [Aborigine] 'was not given to obscenity, though with characteristic naïveté and directness of expression he was not reticent in regard to natural habits'. Kenyon lists some words that should be avoided. Foreword in Justine Kenyon, The Aboriginal Word Book first printed 1930, this edition with foreword 'The Speech of the Australian Aboriginal' 1951, p.4.
- ⁴⁶ J.F. Atchison, Guidelines for Research in Australian Placenames 1982? p.23 – Mitchell Library Q910.3072094/1.
- ⁴⁷ Instructions were attached to a memorandum from A.J. Coward, member of the Post Office Historical Society & member of the Queensland Place Names Committee - to the Director, Posts and Telegraphs, Brisbane. Dated 17 September 1967.
- ⁴⁸ Policy Book, Queensland Placenames Board. 'Notes for Meeting 15 October 1969' – Queensland State Archives SRS444 Box 1 Item 1.
- ⁴⁹ There are many intentionally 'manufactured' Aboriginal sounding names in Australia, including 'Nullarbor' which is actually Latin based. There is also the case of 'Wattanobby' in the Wyong district, NSW, which was discussed at length by Philip Clark on ABC Breakfast radio, 6 November 2000. A request had been made to change the name to Chapman Gardens to honour the original landowner. The local Aboriginal group was unable to verify that Wattanobby was of Aboriginal origin. Philip Clark wondered whether in some cases the Aborigines themselves made up [amusing] names to make fun of the Europeans. John Twidale's property near Millmerran on the Darling Downs was named *Duddawarra* after a family property near Little Hartley in New South Wales. He has been told that it means Dead Water (lagoon) in an Aboriginal language, but he thinks it was probably from Pidgin English – a possible source of other 'Aboriginal' placenames.

⁵⁰ Royal Geographical Society of Queensland, Bulletin, May 1990, p.5.

⁵¹ Ian Hutchings, How Queensland Does It, Queensland Place Names Process, 1998, pp.1-9.

⁵² 'Buxton's Squatting Map', 1864 and Queensland Run Maps, 'Darling Downs – Sketch Map Showing the Surveyed and Unsurveyed Runs', Surveyor General's Office Brisbane, 1883.

⁵³ Railway information from Joan Frew, Queensland Post Offices 1842 – 1980 and Receiving Offices 1869 – 1927, Self Published, Brisbane, 1981.

⁵⁴ 'History of Queensland Place Names Committee', March 1958, p.1- author unknown. Queensland Archives – Location, RSII 2820 A/71630.

Chapter 2

An Analysis of Darling Downs Placenames 1827 - 1859

When the expansion of European settlement spread to the Darling Downs new placenames inevitably overlaid the existing named landscape of the Indigenous people. The examination of two significant samples of names given during the period between discovery of the Downs in 1827, and Queensland separation from New South Wales in 1859, demonstrates the link between toponymy and history.

The first sample is of 146 names given to pastoral runs on the Darling Downs as they appeared in the NSW Government Gazettes from 1843 to 1859. The second is a representative sample containing forty-six documented pre-1860 names for natural features such as watercourses, mountains, valleys and plains. A few creeks are in both samples because they became the name of the run; otherwise the names are different. An explanation of the criteria used, and a summary for each sample follows immediately. Tables detailing all the information gathered for the samples are in the Appendix.

Sample One

The first sample of names for pastoral runs (as listed in NSW Government Gazettes between 1843 and 1859) includes names for leaseholds from what were originally two areas known as the Settled District and the Unsettled District. Together they became the Darling Downs Pastoral District in 1843 when Christopher Rolleston was appointed the first Commissioner of Crown Lands, Darling Downs. (See Appendix A) The Leslie Brothers were the first to claim land on the Downs in 1840, starting a rush of other claims. Many

names for major runs taken up between 1840 and 1842 are also included in the sample covering 1843 – 1859; they are mentioned in the later Gazettes when there was a change of ownership or a boundary dispute.

Occasionally a degree of speculation has taken place regarding the name origin where no concrete information has come to light. For example, *Miamba* and *Cobblegum*, names for pastoral runs, are counted as being of Aboriginal origin although no documentation can be found. They are very like other names known to have Aboriginal inspiration. Similarly names where the origin is fairly clear, like the Scottish connections of *Glengallan*, have been put into the appropriate category. Overall, however, the majority of placename categorisations are based on some form of documentation. *Bodamba* has been documented as an Aboriginal word indicating high stony country, and Braemar from *Braemar Forest* is certainly a village in Scotland. This is acknowledged as a common sense rather than a scientific approach, given due consideration that it is over one hundred and fifty years since these names were registered and little new information can be expected to come to light. Some name origins are ambiguous and care has been taken to indicate with ‘(?)’ that speculation has taken place in allocating a category in the following summary.

As already pointed out, toponymy cannot be anything like an exact science until the majority of placenames and their origins have been found. Because we are looking only at trends, an error of judgment in the allocation of a few names to particular categories in the summary will have little effect on conclusions. For clarity, however, those with the more uncertain origins have been separated within the table.

The leases, so fundamental to the history of the Downs, were regarded as a temporary measure by the authorities, designed to open up new land to settlement. Leases of Crown Land were granted to settlers (known as squatters), who could find a run not already spoken for, and could transport a flock or herd of the prescribed size to it. A.G.L. Shaw pointed out that ‘the run did not have to be paid for but the stock did’. Often to get around that stipulation Shaw says that ‘a common arrangement was the system of “thirds”, by which a capitalist supplying stock would get a third of the profits.’ The squatter was then required to build huts, out-stations and sheep yards.¹ The leases were typically for a period of ten years but were frequently renewed or extended, though squatters were often deprived of part of the land at each renewal. Government intention was to resume part of the land as the leases expired, and survey these sections into small selections that ‘ordinary’ settlers could develop as ‘Conditional Purchasers’. The matter of land subdivision will be dealt with in more detail in Chapter 8 *Loudoun Station*, and Chapter 9 *The Selectors*.

It appears to have been compulsory to register a name for each run when the squatter made application for lease. C.F. Parkinson, who was appointed Draftsman in Charge of the Queensland Cartographic Branch in 1899 (and it is assumed had previous experience in the Branch), recalled that: ‘If no name was suggested the Officer in Charge of the Pastoral Occupation Branch would give one. They were really only of a temporary nature as several would be amalgamated and given a station name and later when resumed would be surveyed into Grazing Selections’.² It would not be surprising if that Government body gave some names for administrative

expediency as early as the period under investigation here. Necessarily there would have been some difficulty for lessees to think of names that had not already been used, and no doubt duplication occurred due to isolation and communication difficulties. It is assumed from the sheer variety of the choices, that the majority of leaseholders chose the names for their runs.

The temporary nature of some of the names for leases, as explained by C.F. Parkinson, is one reason they have not all survived (some not even to a 1883 Lands Department Map). In a very fluid process the boundaries of the runs changed for various reasons. Many were renamed as they changed hands and are known to have had several different names, whilst others were absorbed into larger runs and never heard of again.

Nevertheless, even with the flaws outlined above, the list examined here serves as a significant sample of run names and gives an insight into the concerns of the settlers in the period under review. Fortunately, as we saw in the chapter on the history of placenaming in Queensland, names with historical significance were later officially favoured and revived. Some run names from this list have been preserved as settlements and railway stations, and as previously stated the parishes frequently followed the run boundaries and used the same name, thus many names remain in use today.

Table B in the Appendix is a list of the surnames of pastoral run owners, compiled for easy reference because sometimes this information is pertinent to the choice of name. For example, an analysis of the 100 surnames listed in this table (each name is counted only once, despite ownership of multiple runs during 1843-1859), 56% are the names of families in Scotland,

although some of these names are not exclusive to Scotland. The next largest group is of English names with 27%, with the remainder a scattering of French, Welsh, Irish, Cornish and Flemish in ones and twos only.³ From this information we would expect to see a large group of Scottish inspired names for the runs. Some runs were named directly for the lessee, as in *Lang's Land* for Gideon Scott Lang.⁴

Summary of Table A, Pastoral Run Names, 1843 – 1859

(See Appendix for complete Table A)

Aboriginal Origin Documented	Aboriginal Origin Probable	Total
Ballon, Beauaraba, Beeboo, Bengalla, Billa Billa, Bodamba or Bodumba, Boondandilla, Boorado or Booroondo Creek, Burrando, Chinchilla, Coomanda or Coolmunda, Coollomalla, Cooloomallee or Cooloomally, Coorangah or Cooringah, Cumkillenbum or bar, Daandine, Darr, Darroon, Durah, Gnoondoolmally, Goombungee, Goomburra, Gundewindah, Jimbour, Jinje Jinje, Jondaryun, Miggigaroo, Myall Creek, Myall Grove, Talgai, Nundubbermere, Tchanning, Tulburra, Tummaville, Upper Wyonbilla, Waar Waar, Wallan, Wanoo or Warroo, Warra Warra, Wee Wee, Wieambilla, Wombo Forest, Wondul or Woondul, Wongongera, Yamo, Yandilla, Yoolburra	Binbian Downs, Caliguel, Canaga, Cobblegun or Cobblegum, Culgara, Dooduggan Creek, Goodar, Gowrie, Karugu, Kaywanna, Miamba, Morromby, Picurdah, Talah, Terica, Tiereyboo, Urie, Watnal	
Total – 47	Total - 18	Total - 65

Names from European Places Documented	Names from European Places Probable	
<i>Scottish</i>		
Braemar Forest, Dunmore, Glenelg, Stornoway	Ellangowan, Glengallan, Strathmillar (possibly a made up Scottish sounding name), Winton	
<i>English</i>		
Alderton, Clifton, Eton Vale, Felton, Stanbrook, Stonehenge,	Bromfield, Haldon, Hookswood, Liddelldale, Pilton, Westbrook (or perhaps 'Discriptive?')	
<i>Other</i>		
Rosenthal (German)		
Total – 11	Total – 10	Total – 21
Names from People Lessee's Own, Family, or Agent's Name	Names from People After Another Person	
Blythe Land, Cecil Plains, Gideon Land, Lang's Land, Pikedale, Pike's Creek, Scott Land, Wilkie's Creek	Canning Creek, Canning Downs, Charley's Creek, Condamine, Irvingdale, Jones River (?), Kogan Creek (?) May be from an Aboriginal tribe in the district, the Kogai), MacIntyre Brook, McIntyre Creek, Maryvale (?), Millar's Valley, Parish's Downfall (?), Peel's Plains, Rosalie Plains (?)	
Total – 8	Total – 14	Total – 22

Descriptive Names Emotive	Descriptive Names Appearance, Location, Flora, Fauna etc.	
Burning Thirst, Fairy Land, Gladfield (?), Speculation, Starvation Camp, Vexation, Maryland (from Merrylands)	Bentland (?), Bridgewood, Brush Creek, Canal Creek, Crow's Nest (?), Dogwood, Emu Creek, Greenbank, Junction, Lagoon Creek Downs West, Monday Creek, North Branch, Mosquito Creek, Oakey Creek, Palmy Creek, Pelican Station, Prairie, Retreat No.2 (?), Scrubland, Seven Oaks, Stockyard Creek, The Heads of the Yarrell Creek, The Swamps, The Unwatered Ridges, The Western Creek, Whetstone, Wild Horse Paradise	
Total – 7	Total – 27	Total – 34
Others		
Gamma (a letter of Greek alphabet) Rogan (probably mis-spelling of Kogan), St Ruths, Swithland (may be a person's name, a placename or a made up name)		
Total – 4		Total - 4
	GRAND TOTAL OF NAMES	146

Sample Two

This sample contains pre 1860 names given to natural features for which origin details were available. (See Appendix for complete Table C.)

Summary of Table C Names for Natural Features - pre 1859

Documented Aboriginal Origin	Total
Bunya Gully, Myall Creek, Warrego River	Total - 3
Names from European Places	
<i>Scottish</i> - Mount Rubieslaw, Teviot Falls <i>English</i> – Nil <i>German</i> - Rosenthal Creek	Total – 4
Names from People	
<i>Government Official or Influential Friends:</i> Condamine River, Darling Downs, Dumaresq River, Mount Dumaresq, Hodgson Creek, Kent's Lagoon, MacIntyre River, McPherson Range, Millar's Valley, Mount Mitchell, Mount Beaufort, Mount Cordeaux, Mount Sturt, Peel's Plains <i>Family or Friends:</i> Bracker Creek, Mount Huntley, Dalrymple Creek, Charley's Creek, Rodger Creek, Thane's Creek, Treverton Creek	Total – 20
Descriptive Names	
<i>Emotive:</i> Mount Abundance, Perseverance Creek <i>Appearance, Location, Flora, Fauna:</i> Canal Creek, Canal Ponds, Chain of Ponds Creek, Dogwood Creek, Emu Creek, Freestone Creek, Gap Creek, Grass Tree Creek, Graymare Creek, Lookout Creek, Oakey Creek, Ruined Castle Creek, Saddle Hill, Sandy Creek, Sugarloaf, Tabletop Mount, Tent Hill Waters	Total - 19
	TOTAL - 46

Comments on the Two Samples

Placenames with Aboriginal Origins

Names inspired by Aboriginal languages make up almost half the total of the pastoral run names in Sample 1, (65 from 146, making up 44.5%). Apart from the major consideration that the use of an Indigenous word assisted in the choice of a unique name as required for registration purposes, one can only speculate as to why this practice was so prevalent. The use of Aboriginal names for natural features is not evident in Sample 2 despite early official encouragement in the colony, and we will see that Downs explorers in this period tended to name for their patrons and other worthy people. Sir Thomas Mitchell in his role as Surveyor General had tried to make the use of known Aboriginal names compulsory, with an instruction on the official forms issued to all surveyors for their monthly reports from 1828: 'Native names of places to be in all cases inserted when they can be ascertained.'⁵ Mitchell also issued a set of instructions in 1829, 'to establish conformity in the spelling and pronunciation of native names as well as to avoid the printing of long names which are by no means desirable on maps'.⁶ Rev. Dr. John Dunmore Lang (who was the influential founder of the Presbyterian Church in Australia and the future member for Stanley in the NSW parliament) had mused in poetic form about the choice of names being given in the colony. The following extract is from Dunmore Lang's poem written in 1824, the main thrust of which is to ask for more thought in the choice of placenames. In this section he indicates approval for Indigenous names, although further on in the poem it becomes clear that his greatest personal preference is for names that suggest freedom, liberty and virtue - particularly those linked to Britain:

I like the native names, as Parramatta,
And Illawarra, and Woolloomoolloo;
Nandowra, Woogarora, Bulkamatta,
Tomah, Toongabbie, Mittagong, Meroo;
Buckobble, Cumeroy, and Coolingatta,
The Warragumby, Bargo, Burradoo;
Cookbundoon, Carravaiga, Wingecarribbee,
The Wollondilly, Yurumbon, Bungarribbee.
Dr John Dunmore Lang (1824).⁷

It has been suggested that John Dunmore Lang was later able to use his influence in naming the town of Allora on the Darling Downs using a word from the local Aboriginal language, and thus demonstrate his genuine fondness for such names.⁸

The use of Aboriginal words for pastoral runs was by no means confined to the Darling Downs region. F.W.B. Woolrych took the trouble to record many 'native names' in the early 1860s after he observed that:

The present names of many of the sheep and cattle stations or runs in the pastoral district of the Lachlan have been derived from the original names of the 'camping places' of the blacks.⁹

Fortunately Woolrych had gathered names in the early 1860s from an English-speaking Aborigine of the appropriate language group, resident in the district for over twenty years. Thus his research is probably accurate. However, Luise Hercus pointed out in her paper, "Is it really a Place name?" that there is a great deal of doubt regarding the authenticity of so called Aboriginal placenames:

... they are unpredictable: we can never guess what a place was called. We can also never be sure we are right about a place name unless there is clear evidence stemming from people who have

traditional information on the topic. In the absence of such evidence we have to admit we are only guessing.¹⁰

Most of those in use now are probably Aboriginal words chosen by Europeans as placenames, rather than the original Aboriginal name for that place, although there are a few exceptions usually for prominent natural features.

The authenticity of Aboriginal names will always be questionable due to the communication difficulties between the Indigenous people and Europeans. There were misunderstandings regarding word meanings and pronunciations as well as confusing crossovers between languages. Europeans did not always appreciate the multiplicity of Aboriginal languages, whilst the diverse nature of English, with settlers from many parts of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales (and from all levels of the social scale), caused confusion among the Aborigines.

W.S. Ramson noted that the pidgin developed in New South Wales and Queensland included many Port Jackson Aboriginal words and convict slang, and was used as a means of communication in all areas. He says that the English the Aborigines were acquiring was not 'of a very respectable character'. There appears to have developed in the Port Jackson area a 'third language', used for most communication between colonists and Aborigines. It was adopted by those colonists who moved inland or north and south along the coast from Sydney as an appropriate means of conversing with Aborigines, whether they spoke the Port Jackson language or not.¹¹ Ramson gives an example taken from Thomas Mitchell's journal, of the confusion

that this situation caused. In an entry for January 2, 1832, Mitchell described an attempt to converse with Aborigines in the Liverpool Plains district:

The string of low slang words which the natives nearer the colony suppose to be our language, while our stockmen believe they speak theirs, was of no use here. In vain did Dawkins address them thus: *What for you jerran budgerry whitefellow? Whitefellow brother belongit to blackfellow.*¹²

The use of Aboriginal names on the Downs was initially inhibited not only by communication problems due to language difficulties, but also by the strained relationship between the white settlers and the original inhabitants. Arthur Hodgson, one of the first squatters, pointed out in an account of his memories from those days that:

Pioneers experienced considerable difficulty in giving native names (for the most part euphonious) to their discoveries. It was considered unsafe to hold any intercourse at first with the natives who were wild, numerous and hostile. This fortunately wore off in time.¹³

Thus it was seldom an option to simply ask the Indigenous people for their name for an area, and continue to use it.

Sometimes the request for a placename was not understood and the answer to a completely different question given inadvertently in reply. We see in Table C (in the Appendix) that the naming of the Warrego River on the Western Downs has a query over its meaning. A.A. Morrison says that, although Sir Thomas Mitchell named the *Warrego* River using direct information from an elderly Aboriginal woman (with the assistance of an Aboriginal member of his expedition, *Yuranigh* who came from another area), in an attempt to preserve a local name, he may have made an error.

Morrison says that Archibald Meston, who had collected meanings from many Aboriginal languages, contends that the word *Warrego* means *bad*.¹⁴

At other times the location was confused and the name of the wrong place could be recorded. Woolrych says:

The hill called Bobbera is one of the most conspicuous landmarks in the county of Harden; but the name properly belongs to another hill...The early settlers in fact applied the name to the wrong hill...¹⁵

It has even been found that names considered authentic long-standing Aboriginal placenames were in fact Indigenous pronunciations of English words. Mrs. P.E. Lahey was a granddaughter of 'Alford of Drayton', the founder of one of the first villages on the Darling Downs (Drayton). She described how her grandmother would 'ask the blacks what they called the place and the nearest she could get was Toowoomba, so she always headed her letters Toowoomba, and when her son Harry Alford was born in Toowoomba, he was the first white child born in Toowoomba ...'.¹⁶ There are several suggestions as to the meaning of Toowoomba¹⁷, including an adaptation of the English name, "The Swamp" to Tchwampa by the Aborigines, thence to Toowoomba by Mrs. Alford. We see here a possible example of a crossover between languages, with the Aborigines adopting the English placename and the Europeans taking up the Aboriginal pronunciation, mistaking it for the authentic native name. Another case is the (suggested) change from Domville to Tomville to Tummaville due to the Aboriginal difficulty in pronouncing the 'D' sound in Domville Taylor's name.¹⁸ The name appears to have developed purely through communication problems and, like Toowoomba, is possibly not the original Aboriginal name for that place, but one adapted from the English language.

However, some of these supposed inaccuracies have been stoutly defended. Firstly, there is a possibility that there could be an element of truth in some names regarded as doubtful. Also there is a view that even if a name is not accurate it does not matter, the important principle of using a word from an Aboriginal language as a placename remains the same.

If we apply Luise Hercus' information, *Warrego* may well have been the local name for the river, even if it did mean *bad*. She says that some names, which look like 'silly mistakes arising from lack of communication', may in fact be genuine and gives examples. A dry lake in the far northeast of South Australia, 25 kilometres from the Queensland border, is called *Etamunbanie* which means 'you go that way (while I go this way)' in Yawarawarrka language. 'It is very tempting to think that a Yawarawarrka man, accompanying the surveyor to this rather desolate and wind-swept spot, got tired of going around with him and used this opportunity of saying so.' However, 'the actual explanation of the name is quite different'. Luise Hercus goes on to give the known derivation of the name, which comes from an important Aboriginal myth from the Lake Eyre basin regarding two groups of emus.¹⁹

There is a view that though Mitchell's efforts in giving Aboriginal names were remarkable, considering his difficulties, accuracy was a matter of luck. An example, *Amby Creek* illustrates this point. The Queensland Place Names Committee reported in 1925 that:

Mitchell tells us in his 'Tropical Australia' when and why he named it so [Amby Creek]; he gathered from the words and gestures of a

terrified native that such was the name by which his tribe knew it; and so he adopted it.²⁰

However, though it could be substantiated that *ambi* meant 'little girl', in the language of the local Kogai tribe, and it was confirmed by an Aboriginal at the Taroom Settlement, that *amby* meant 'gin', some questions still remained.

These two translations sufficiently agree for us to accept them as indicating the existence and general sense of a word of approximating sound, which was used by Mitchell's native; but how did he understand Mitchell's question? Did he give the explorer his name for the creek? Did he, as Mitchell seems to suggest, explain that it was tributary (a little girl, a gin, a daughter) of the larger Culgoa, or rather Maranoa? Or was he expressing some anxiety of his own about some woman of his tribe then in the direction at which he was pointing?²¹

Paul Carter quotes a comment made by Brough Smyth in 1878 about names Mitchell gave on his Third Expedition to districts in Victoria:

There is tolerably plain evidence that he either misunderstood his own supposed interpreter, or was grossly deceived by him, in the fact that scarcely one of his native names of localities in this colony has been verified.²²

But Carter dismisses such inaccuracies as unimportant because there was no 'shared space in which translation could occur'.

Quotations were from the beginning quotations out of context: there was no way of authenticating them, no shared authorities. There is then nothing paradoxical about, say, Mitchell's eagerness to obtain aboriginal names and the superficiality of his inquiries.²³

The zeal with which Indigenous names were embraced by the squatters far exceeded their desire to name runs for a homeland, for oneself or a family member or friend or even to attempt to describe the holding. We can

speculate that the young squatters (many in their early twenties) had thoughts of the future rather than the past, and wished to cement their tie to the new land by choosing a name new to them, and appropriate to the land. European names may well have appeared incongruous to the first settlers on the Downs when applied to such a different landscape. Indeed some of those settlers may have had colonial experience in places like India, and grown accustomed to using local rather than imposed placenames. It is clear that names from Aboriginal languages were regarded by many as euphonious, original and attractive.

Whilst the notion of a land belonging to no one, *terra nullius*, was the official view underlying the settlement of Australia, it is evident that the Darling Downs squatters were well aware of an established Indigenous population who had already named the landscape. Significantly the attempt to continue using those names is a clear acknowledgement of the existing inhabitants, and any inaccuracies in the actual names does not diminish this underlying principle. The early squatters who chose Aboriginal names for their pastoral runs commenced a trend that continues in the area to the present day. A glance at the map of the Darling Downs reveals the use of Aboriginal languages in placenames as perhaps its most significant feature, the one that distinguishes it from a map of anywhere in the world but part of Australia. Many of those names are the very ones chosen originally by the first settlers on the Downs, preserved or revived by succeeding generations.

Another interesting point is that in more recent times Queensland has shown far less interest in the use of Aboriginal names than New South Wales and Victoria. In a comparison carried out by Malcolm M. Prentis in the 1980s,

the overall figure is only 19% in Queensland compared with 53% (NSW) and 46% (Vic.); those percentages are much more like the 44.5% for the pastoral runs on the Darling Downs in the mid 19th century. It seems from Prentis' study that the desire for Aboriginal names in Queensland declined after settlement spread north and further west from the Downs. The percentage of Aboriginal names in Queensland may have increased since Prentis' comparison was completed, but such a marked difference is unlikely to have been entirely redressed within that timeframe.²⁴

Names from European Places

It is surprising that there were not more names in the two samples recalling places in the European homeland. The number of Scottish names does not balance the strong Scots contingent of early settlers. Discovery by Allan Cunningham and initial settlement by the Leslie brothers, led strong Scottish influences on the Downs. The Scots were not necessarily the largest group of early settlers, but for a time in the early 1840s they formed a significant group of squatters – approximately 30% according to Ron Douglas who wrote a history of the Scots in Toowoomba.²⁵ As a consequence they had the power to bestow placenames. Contrary to the Scottish Allan Cunningham's practice of honouring those who supported his explorations, the hardy Scots who opened up new country on the Downs frequently chose Indigenous names for their leases. We see William McKenzie's *Nundubbermere*, Ernest Dalrymple's *Goomburra* and Neil Ross's *Warroo*. George Gammie actually changed the Scottish *Stornoway* to the Aboriginal *Talgai*.

The Scots were not prejudiced against using names from places other than Scotland. The Leslies chose to retain Cunningham's name for the area they

settled, *Canning Downs*, which honoured a former English Prime Minister, and Patrick Leslie and Ernest Dalrymple chose the name of *Tannymorel*, the only Irish name recorded in the tables. As already stated, names conferred by Cunningham were more in honour of influential people than Scottish places. He did however name Teviot Brook on 6 August 1828, after the Teviot River in Scotland. Some of the people he honoured were Scottish, for example Peter Macintyre and Duncan McPherson.

Jennifer Harrison, when considering reasons for their migration, suggests that the Scots have always been wanderers and adventurers and were prepared to live and work under very hard conditions.²⁶ Ron Douglas says that 'Because of the harsh life and lack of opportunities, also the shortage of available land, which was being monopolised by a diminishing group of wealthy land owners in Scotland, the Scot with a desire to progress, had a very justifiable and compelling reason to emigrate'.²⁷ Maurice French explains in more detail the reasons for the initial migration to the Darling Downs of one group of young men from Aberdeen where a 'regional, industrial and agricultural revolution' occurred in the 1830s.

Meatworks, textile factories, iron foundries, ship-building yards and banks appeared but the most significant developments occurred in the improvements in cattle breeding for English markets. A great amount of capital was aggregated in private hands and became available for investment.

The result was that the 'landed gentry' or, as French says more accurately, the 'down to earth farmers', found that their agricultural efficiency deprived their numerous sons of a living on the family estate. Tenant-farmers and labourers also found difficulties in 'making ends meet':

One solution to this problem of wealth and unemployment was the emigration of both capital and people to the colonies. Indeed, between 1837 and 1842 there was a surge of both government-assisted and privately sponsored migration from Aberdeenshire to Australia.²⁸

The Scots from Aberdeen included the Leslie brothers and Ernest Dalrymple. After the initial interest from Scots migrants there was another increase in the 1880s and again after 1910. However, the English component was always the largest proportion of immigrants to Queensland.²⁹

Malcolm D. Prentis has analysed Scottish placenames in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. He says that they can be categorised into three groups. Using examples from the Darling Downs, they are: placenames from Scotland (Teviot Falls), derivations from Scottish personal names (MacIntyre Brook) and new coinages using part or all of a Scottish name (like Strathmillar or adding 'Glen' to almost anything). With the use of various sources, Prentis compiled a table comparing a selection of placenames in the three states. The findings for Queensland are:³⁰

Aboriginal (19%) English (38%) Scottish (13%) Irish (3%) Welsh (-) Other (8%) Non-Specific (18%) and Unknown (-). This reveals a slightly higher incidence of Scottish names in Queensland (13% as against 10% in the other two states).³¹

An ethnic breakdown is not available for the ticket-of-leave men, former convicts (emancipists) and poor immigrants who accompanied the squatters as shepherds, stockmen and domestic workers, but most would have been English, with the remainder from other parts of Britain. There is mention of an occasional 'Chinaman cook' (for example at *Mangoola* by Oscar de

Satge)³² and there were some Chinese shepherds on a few of the runs, but the main influx of Chinese was after 1859 and to the goldfields rather than to the Downs. The Chinese do not feature in placenames before 1859 and even today there is only an odd name like 'Chinaman Gully' in Inglewood Shire.

During the period before 1859 there were few Irish immigrants in Queensland but they came in significant numbers later in the 19th century. The Gores of *Yandilla* were an isolated case, from a wealthy family in Northern Ireland. The Anglo/Irish Gores settled on the Downs in the 1840s and chose *Yandilla*, generally thought to be an Aboriginal name meaning 'running water', for their pastoral run although it may be an obscure Irish name. Jennifer Harrison explains that, due to late settlement, Queensland missed the 'large numbers of poverty stricken famine victims' and that there was no 'direct influx of Irish convicts'.³³ However an Irishman, Dr Jacob Meade Swift, arrived in Sydney in 1850 and went to Moreton Bay as Health Officer in 1851. He settled in Dalby in 1857 and moved further west to Condamine in 1859. Dr. Swift was a well-travelled man related to Jonathan Swift of Gulliver's Travels fame, and had spent time in Scotland and Germany before migrating to Australia.³⁴ He is representative of the trickle of Irish migration to Queensland before 1859, which also included the Gores. The main thrust did not occur until after separation from New South Wales, and the lack of a strong Irish influence before separation is reflected in the placenames. Ironically the only Irish name in the sample, 'Tannymorel', was given by the Scottish squatters Leslie and Dalrymple for its description of the landscape, and means 'bend in the creek'.

One German, Frederick Bracker, influenced two placenames, *Rosenthal* and Bracker Creek, but Jennifer Harrison describes the German influx as a trickle before separation.³⁵ Frederick Bracker had been in New South Wales since 1829, and was drawn to the Downs by his knowledge of sheep. Bracker arrived in the 1840s and at the time his name was given to a creek. He named the pastoral run he managed (for the Aberdeen Company) *Rosenthal* after a town in Prussia. Bracker took up some country for himself and gave it the name *Warroo*, which is Aboriginal in origin. Representative of a few other early German immigrants was a Dr. Wuth who settled in Dalby in 1859. He upset the incumbent Irishman, Dr. Swift who was known to have a problem with alcohol, and Dr. Swift left town heading west to Condamine.³⁶ J.C. Heussler, the Queensland Immigration Agent in Germany, instituted a vigorous immigration program after 1859. Between 1862 and 1873 several German ships left Hamburg, Cuxhaven and Bremen bringing immigrants to the colony.³⁷ German farmers were a great success on the Darling Downs, admired for their agrarian skills as well as their stability, and as a result they prospered. They were renowned also for their large family groups. Duncan Waterson points out that by 1891 there were only 1,295 Scots born settlers on the Downs. 'There were then only half as many Scots as Germans...'.³⁸

Undoubtedly the majority of settlers on the Darling Downs before separation from New South Wales were English, but many were 'ordinary' settlers without the power to bestow names, and in the period to 1859 placenames honouring England and Scotland were about equal in number. Often places were named after a birthplace in England, like Drayton, Felton and Clifton. Alternatively the new area was considered similar in appearance to an area

in England, like Dalby (village in a valley, although this would require some imagination in that flat landscape!). Many more English names appeared after separation in 1859 when the number of migrants increased and this is evident in Prentis' figures. Jennifer Harrison points out that immigrant agents and lecturers worked for the Queensland government in Britain attempting to attract farm and agricultural labourers to the new colony.³⁹ Migrants came from all districts in England in a mutually beneficial way. For example, the agricultural workers from the south of England supplied a need in the colony, whilst emigration was seen as 'a remedy for surplus population of the southern counties' and preferable to 'permanent settlement' in crowded towns.⁴⁰

Places Named for People

In the period under discussion it was somewhat rare to bestow your own or a relative's name on a place. Henry Stuart Russell perpetuated a name from his mother's family, when he called his pastoral run *Cecil Plains*. Her name was Cecil Charlotte Russell. Also Dr. Miles from the Warwick district named Mount Huntley for his father-in-law. It may not have been considered 'gentlemanly' at the time to use your own name. Cunningham did not name features for himself though his name is now common on the Downs. Others gave Cunningham's name in his honour, for example the Leslies appear to have named Cunningham's Gap.⁴¹ The Darling Downs, named by Cunningham for Governor Ralph Darling in 1827 was not proclaimed until 1839 when Sir George Gipps was in office. Possibly Darling did not wish to be involved in honouring himself, although administrative problems are the probable cause for the delay.

Pikedale is obviously named for the owner, Captain John Pike, as are Gideon Scott Lang's group of *Gideon Land, Scott Land and Lang's Land*. In these cases it is possible that the owners simply could not think of a suitable 'unique' alternative. But there could be other reasons; Pike's agent may have named his run, and Lang's stay on the Downs was but short lived and considering the names temporary perhaps did not give them much thought. Several creeks were named for the nearby landholder, for example Thane's Creek, Dalrymple Creek and Wilkie's Creek, and we could assume that identification rather than self-aggrandisement was the motivation.

Cunningham's tendency (and that of others) to name important places after powerful officials illustrates a dominant issue from 18th century Britain - the unofficial but undeniably strong system of patronage. Under this system the powerful were expected to dispense favours and the less fortunate were expected to seek them. Roy Porter looks at this issue:

In the power-seat peers dribbled out offices of state to reward the loyalty of friends, family and clients, and buy off the disaffected... In 1762 John Boscawen Savage was made an ensign in the 91st Foot regiment at the age of two.⁴²

In fact the wealthy upper classes provided employment for a large percentage of the middle classes:

Thousands of master-craftsmen and small manufacturers made their living primarily out of the Quality market... Directly and indirectly, the livelihoods of artists, poets, architects, designers and tutors lay in the palms of the Great.⁴³

Thus a large group in society was imbued with the need, often for their very survival, to curry favour with the rich and powerful.

There was of course the other side of the coin, the expectation that the wealthy had an obligation to assist those beneath them. The favours dispensed from above were sometimes grudgingly bestowed and there was often a self-serving motivation as Porter explains.

...grandeest stage-managed a more studied theatre of power: conspicuous menace (and mercy) from the Judge's bench; exemplary punishment tempered with silver linings of philanthropy, largesse and selective patronage; a grudging and calculating display of *noblesse oblige*; 'This is the day of our fair', sulked Sir Joseph Banks in 1753, 'when according to immemorial custom I am to feed and make drunk everyone who chooses to come, which will cost me in beef and ale near 20 pounds'.⁴⁴

It is interesting to note that the namesake of the Joseph Banks, mentioned in the quote above, became a revered figure in Australian history and a patron of Allan Cunningham.⁴⁵ We have an example of Cunningham's personal experience of the patronage system in England:

The son of a Scottish gardener, Cunningham had turned his back on a London legal career for training as a botanical collector at the famous Kew Gardens where he came under the patronage of the "Father of Australia", Sir Joseph Banks.⁴⁶

W. G. McMinn describes Cunningham's tenuous position in a society where class was important, and how it made him particularly needful of support. It is known that he had prepared a list of names of worthy people 'to be disposed of' on geographical features on at least one of his journeys. Cunningham neither sought nor received anything more than 'thank you' from officialdom. Other explorers such as Thomas Mitchell and Charles Sturt were richly rewarded, Sturt with a large land grant in 1834, by way of a

special exception to the land regulations. What did make Cunningham 'indignant' was the importance placed on his duties in the kitchen garden at Government house (which were part of his role as Government botanist at the Botanic Gardens in Sydney), rather than on his broader scientific interests. He resigned in disgust, an ill man due to the consequences of the strenuous explorations of his youth. Cunningham died in 1839.⁴⁷

As we see in Table C, both Ludwig Leichhardt (Hodgson Creek and Kent's Lagoon), and Sir Thomas Mitchell (Mount Beaufort) carried on Cunningham's tradition at times, although Leichhardt also named Charley's Creek after his Aboriginal guide, and Mitchell encouraged and used Aboriginal names. The Leslie Brothers, as previously mentioned, continued with Cunningham's *Canning Downs* after George Canning, former Prime Minister of England. Canning was a family connection of Mrs. Patrick Logan, and significantly Captain Logan was the Commandant of the Moreton Bay colony during Cunningham's explorations. Thus Logan's connections, particularly after his death on an exploring trip in the colony, may have considered it an insult if the name had been changed, and the Leslies were perhaps wary of upsetting influential people.

Descriptive Placenames

Descriptive placenames can either describe the landscape and its flora and fauna, or can indicate the emotions engendered by the place. Sometimes they even hint at a story. Descriptive names form one of the largest groups of present day place names, and cause problems with repetition. There are for example: four Spring Creeks in Stanthorpe Shire, four in Warwick Shire, two each in Rosalie Shire and Inglewood Shire, and one each in Clifton,

Jondaryan, Pittsworth and Wambo Shires. As explained earlier, current guidelines avoid such repetition.

The use of descriptive names is one obvious method of place identification. They are particularly useful for natural features where an indication of the vegetation like Grass Tree Creek and Oakey Creek, or the shape of a mountain like Saddle Hill, Sugarloaf and Mount Tabletop, can be useful in identifying landmarks and confirming location. One assumes that *Greenbank*, *Scrubland* and *The Swamps* offer a physical description of the particular pastoral runs, with identification as the primary motive for the choice. Some names hint at strong emotions, both positive and negative, like *Fairy Land*, *Burning Thirst* and *Starvation Camp*. Emotive names are more prevalent for land holdings than for natural features, and they obviously refer to a story attached to the land more than to its appearance. Some natural features do have stories attached to their names though they are more obscure, like *Bringalily* (a creek – ‘bring a billy’), *Quart Pot Creek* (after one had to be retrieved), or *Lord John Swamp* (confusion reigns as more than one story is in circulation!).

Summary of Findings from an Analysis of the Two Samples

The above analysis of names given to pastoral runs and natural features before 1859, helps to give an understanding of the Europeans who first settled the land that became the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district a little more than half a century later. The examination enhances and confirms much of what is already known about the history of the Darling Downs and sheds a different light on some aspects of this early period of settlement. Perhaps the most surprising finding has been the large number of Aboriginal

words chosen as placenames. Given that these probably reflect in only a minor way the original placenames used by tribal Aborigines, it is significant that such names were chosen willingly by the white settlers with no official policy other than vague encouragement to influence such name selection. As has been noted in Chapter 1, a strong official preference for Aboriginal names came in the late 19th century and early 20th century, evidenced by the naming of railway stations and sidings. The use of Aboriginal names gradually became a matter of policy, with official directives and strictly defined guidelines.

The use of names of influential people is not surprising given the social structure of the times. We see in the sample that many natural features were named for influential people, often by explorers who needed the patronage of powerful officials. Pastoral leases tended not to be named in this way unless it was to perpetuate a name given earlier, such as *Canning Creek* (Cunningham). Aspects of the patronage system continued on the Downs in an adapted form. A notable example is the case of James Hunt, manager of *Daandine* station from 1867 to at least 1883, who personally undertook the education of an employee's son from the age of eleven. With James Hunt's help Henry Bassett Lane became head stockman on the station at eighteen years of age.⁴⁸ We have seen that the use of personal and family names was not significant, and this is difficult to understand when identification was the major purpose in naming a pastoral run. The temporary nature of some leases may be the reason lessees did not want to commit their own name, and there was the chance of duplication. It is possible that good manners precluded the self-naming of natural features, and it was perhaps more

‘gentlemanly’ to defer to others. As we saw in Chapter 1 the use of names of living people has been discouraged since official guidelines were instigated.

Descriptive names will always be a major category and probably began simply as a way of distinguishing one place from another, for example when there were two creeks or several hills on a pastoral run. The problem with descriptive names nowadays is repetition, which can have serious repercussions when location needs to be identified in an emergency. Nevertheless a broad idea of the way the land appeared to those who named it in the 19th century can be deduced from descriptive names given during that period.

Names from a European homeland were to be expected in the early years of settlement. In these samples the numeric distribution from various homelands gives an idea of the ethnic mix of those in a position to bestow place names, though not necessarily of the population. The absence of Irish and German names in the early years confirms that migration of those settlers, and there were many, occurred later than 1859.

¹ A.G.L. Shaw, The Economic Development of Australia, Longmans, Green and Co.Ltd, Croydon, Victoria, Fourth Edition, 1960, p.51.

² C.F. Parkinson, letter to Mr. Holdaway of the Survey Office dated 25 May 1945, copy held by the Department of Natural Resources, Brisbane.

³ Analysis of supplied list of names by William T. Noble in March 2001. He is preparing a dictionary of Australian surnames for publication.

⁴ Evidencing the ephemeral nature of the leases it should be noted here that after claiming land to lease in 1850, Lang returned to Sydney. In 1851 ‘while he was preparing for his return to occupy his northern runs, gold was discovered and all transactions in stock were at an end.’ Lang did not return and, ‘in 1856 he became Member for Liverpool Plains in the Legislative Assembly’. – Hector M. Ferguson, compiler,

History of Tara and District with Addenda 1840-1960, 1961- authorized by The Tara Shire Council – references quoted for details about Lang are a Sydney newspaper article, 7 January 1857 and a Melbourne journal of 4 May 1917.

⁵ Matthew Nathan (Chairman) & F.W.S. Cumbræ Stewart (Vice-Chairman), 'Fourth Report of Committee on Queensland Place Names', Period to 30 June.1925, p.2. – Qld State Archives SRS444 Item2.

⁶ J.F. Atchison, Guidelines for Research in Australian Placenames 1982? p.23. – Mitchell Library Q910.3072094/1.

⁷ This extract reproduced as a frontispiece in Australian Aboriginal Place-Names and Their Meanings, compiled by James R. Tyrell, Simmons Ltd, Sydney, 1933. A much longer extract in Placenames Australia, March 2002 with comments from the editorial committee regarding Dunmore Lang's preferences.

⁸ Queensland Place Names Committee Bulletin No 9, August 1940, authority Donald Gunn: Leslie M. Slaughter in newspaper article – name of newspaper and date not endorsed, but possibly Brisbane Telegraph series 'Why it was named' from 1971-1975 with its source Brisbane Truth 1959.

⁹ F.B.W. Woolrych, 'Native Names of Some of the Runs Etc. in the Lachlan District', Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Society of New South Wales, 1890, No.24 pp.63-70. – Read by John F. Mann before the Royal Society of NSW, June 4 1890.

¹⁰ Luise Hercus, 'Is it really a Place name', presented at the 'Interdisciplinary Workshop, Place-names of Indigenous Origin in Australia' – ANU Canberra, 31 October 1999.

¹¹ W.S.Ramson, 'Aboriginal Words in Early Australian English', Southerly, A Review of Australian Literature, No.1 1964, p.56.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Arthur Hodgson, 'Australia Revisited 1874-1889', a paper prepared to be read at a meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute, London 15 April, year not given. Paper held in the Mitchell Library, A3249.

¹⁴ A.A. Morrison, Qld University History Department, whose mother was born in the district, was quoted in the Brisbane Telegraph 4 April 1975 p.43 (in an article on the naming of Wanko railway station in the Warrego District). Morrison is also the author of other material including 'Liberal Party Organisation in Queensland before 1900', Journal of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland Vol 5 No.1 1953.

¹⁵ F.B.W. Woolrych, p.69.

¹⁶ From the papers of Sydney May, titled 'Queensland Place Names'- held by the Royal Historical Society of Queensland. They were given to the Society in May 1962.

¹⁷ See Maurice French, Conflict on the Condamine pp.122-131 for a detailed run down of possibilities.

¹⁸ John Twidale, Millmerran Historical Society in a report to Dale Lehner, October 1999, and Department of Natural Resources Place Names Report, 28 July 1999.

¹⁹ Luise Hercus, 'Is it really a Place name'.

²⁰ Mathew Nathan (Chairman) & F.W.S. Cumbræ-Stewart (Vice-Chairman), 'Fourth Report of Committee on Queensland Place Names'.

²¹ Ibid

²² Bough Smith, Aborigines of Victoria, Melbourne 1878 p12, quoted in Paul Carter, The Road to Botany Bay, Faber and Faber, London, 1987, p.329.

²³ Paul Carter, The Road to Botany Bay, Faber and Faber, London, 1987, p.329.

²⁴ Malcolm M. Prentis, The Scots in Australia, Sydney University Press, 1983, pp.278-9.

²⁵ Ron Douglas, The Braw Manawdgie 'The Fair Society', A History of the Toowoomba Caledonian Society and Burns Club, Part I: Antecedents 1870-1911, 1986 for the 75th Anniversary of the Society, p.1.

²⁶ Jennifer Harrison, 'The People of Queensland, 1859-1900: where did they come from?', Journal of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland, Vol XIII, No6 May1988, p.196.

²⁷ Ron Douglas, The Braw Manawdgie ... p.1.

²⁸ Maurice French, Conflict on the Condamine: Aborigines and the European Invasion, Darling Downs Institute Press, Toowoomba 1989, p4.

²⁹ Jennifer Harrison, 'The People of Queensland, 1859-1900: where did they come from?', p.196.

³⁰ Using the Interim Gazetteer of Queensland Place Names, Qld Lands Dept. 1963 as the major source.

³¹ Malcolm M. Prentis The Scots in Australia, Sydney University Press, 1983, pp.278-9.

³² Oscar de Satge, Pages from the Journal of a Queensland Squatter, Hurst & Blackett Ltd, London, 1901, p.44.

³³ Jennifer Harrison, p.194.

³⁴ Florence Brennan (nee Swift), compiler, The Swift Family Reunion – 1850 to 1990, Self Published 1990, p.6.

³⁵ Jennifer Harrison, p.196.

³⁶ Florence Brennan (nee Swift), p.6

³⁷ Jennifer Harrison, p.196.

³⁸ D.B. Waterson, Squatter, Selector and Storekeeper: A History of the Darling Downs 1859-93, p135. Source Census of Queensland, 1891, Birthplaces.

³⁹ Jennifer Harrison, p.193.

⁴⁰ W.A. Armstrong 'The Flight from the Land' in G.E. Mingay, The Victorian Countryside Vol.1, Routledge & Kegan Paul, London 1981, p.128.

⁴¹ From the papers of Sydney May, titled 'Queensland Place Names'- held by the Royal Historical Society of Queensland. They were given to the Society, in May 1962.

⁴² Roy Porter, English Society in the Eighteenth Century, Allen Lane, London, 1982 p.76.

⁴³ Ibid, p.86.

⁴⁴ Ibid, p.81.

⁴⁵ He was probably Joseph Banks the second who had a “solid and respectable, if unspectacular, career”. His son Joseph the third died in his early twenties, still unmarried. The younger brother William was the father of the famous botanist. Lyte, Charles, Sir Joseph Banks, A.H. & A.W. Reed, Sydney, 1980, p.9.

⁴⁶ Maurice French, Conflict on the Condamine: Aborigines and the European Invasion, Darling Downs Institute Press, Toowoomba, 1989, p.3.

⁴⁷ W.G. McMin, Allan Cunningham, Botanist and Explorer, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1970, p.110 – 121.

⁴⁸ Obituary, Henry Bassett Lane, Dalby Herald, 4 August 1939.

Chapter 3

Conclusions from the Investigation into Placename Choices in the Darling Downs Region

The names that selectors and small freehold farmers in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district gave to their properties (1900 to 1950) will be compared with early pastoral run names (1840 to 1859) in an attempt to pinpoint similarities and differences in the concerns of residents during widely separated time frames. A brief look at the naming of settlements finalises the placenames research and will be followed by an outline of conclusions drawn from the investigation.

Comparison of Darling Downs Pastoral Run Names 1843 to 1859 with Property Names in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater District 1900 to 1950.

An overview of the names freeholders and small selectors chose for their properties after the turn of the 20th century indicates that they mostly followed the trends set by the early squatters as outlined in Chapter 2. We see similar concerns for the landscape, and the Aboriginal influence remained strong (though more contrived). European influences declined, represented by only a few names, mostly Scottish.

Hugh Muir Nelson set the tone quite early when he chose to indicate his Scottish background by naming his freehold estate, *Loudoun*, in about 1870. The name *Duckponds*, for a quite large freehold property pre-empted in the 1870s by Ebenezer Vickery, evolved from an unofficial descriptive name for a part of the *Daandine* run. Most of the first small landholders from around 1910 followed Vickery's lead and chose names with local relevance. Many

were descriptive of the landscape and vegetation, some with strong Aboriginal influences. Thus we see: *Belah Park* (Belah/Aboriginal name for a type of native tree) and *Carbeen* (Carbeen/Aboriginal name for the Moreton Bay Ash Tree) from the Lane family, *Brigalow Park* (Brigalow/Aboriginal name for a native tree) and *Woodstock* from the Bourkes, and *Lakeview* from the Bennies. There were some Scottish sounding names such as *Stratheden* (or *Strathmoor*) chosen by the Staggs. *Rhodesia* from the Morriseys seems incongruous until it is revealed that Paddy Morrisey had obtained Rhodes grass seeds brought from South Africa from a neighbour's mother (Mrs Martin) and had grown the grass for years as stock feed.

Aboriginal influences remained strong and we see in the 1920s and 1930s from the Lanes: *Myola* (an Aboriginal word chosen from a list of possible names for the National Capital); and *Memerambi* (the Aboriginal word for a scrub tree - name transported from the Nanango district where Isabella Lane grew up). *Menangle* (believed to be Aboriginal for swamp) was chosen for another of the Lane properties. The Wilson family imported an Aboriginal word from another district (northern New South Wales) with *Cavanba*.

The landscape and outlook also remained popular themes. Frank Miller chose *Wilkie View* in the 1930s - describing his outlook over Wilkie Creek, and in the 1960s Max Schultz chose *The Overflow* - for the overflow from the Condamine River on his land. Morris Lane continued the vegetation theme when *Whitewood* (a small local tree) was subdivided from *Belah Park* in the 1930s. The Fergusons, who were of proud Scottish extraction, chose to describe their outlook with *Flowerdale* and *Riverview*. European

influences, though not strong, are evident even today with *Hereward* (an Anglo-Saxon given name), where the Von Pein family has been established since the late 1930s. The name was given earlier by the Hasses, another German family. A much smaller *Loudoun* has a large sign displayed by the present owners, Roy and Heather Westaway, who are very interested in the past history of their land. Jack Klemm has no idea why a previous owner named his property *Caliente*, though he heard it means ‘hot’ in Spanish.

There was a similar mixture of names for the subdivided *Loudoun* land after the late 1930s. Although there is no information available about the origin of the names, some can be categorized roughly into: Aboriginal – *Kooyong* or *Cooyong*, *Birubi*, *Awaba*, *Kyilla*, *Karee*; descriptive of the landscape – *Timberline*, *Riverview*, *Mayfield*, *Lemon Grove*; Scottish sounding – *Loch Eaton*, *Glen Idol*; and English sounding – *Ellerslie*, *Arundel* and *Windermere*. Thus the preference is largely for Australian themes, particularly landscape descriptions and Aboriginal words. A unique name was still desirable to avoid confusion, and mention of local vegetation was probably excluded at this late stage to avoid duplication. Nowadays a numerical system for mail deliveries and a named road network have reduced the need for landholdings to be identified by name, although many proudly display signs.

As mentioned earlier the Wicks family refers to the properties they acquired from other families after World War II by the former owner’s name, with *Mathies* and *Troyahns*, and Brian and Isabelle Laffy have continued to use *Laxtons* in memory of a previous owner. The Wicks also have *Derna*, which

John Wicks named after a beautiful village he saw during his war service near Tobruk, a name transportation of direct historic significance.

The naming of landholdings was not always taken as a serious business, and we saw some light-hearted irony with a few names selected by the early squatters such as *Speculation* and *Wild Horse Paradise*. One of the Lane properties was eventually given the name of *Lanefields* after being referred to as 'the Scrub Paddock' for years. Jim Lane and his family renamed a property they purchased - from the pessimistic *Lingerandie* (Linger and die!) to *Memerambi*. There was also another rather barren block across Wilkie Creek fondly known as 'the Goanna Farm' but officially as *The Ten*, referring to its size. The telephone book for 1939 reveals that one of the McKees' properties at Duleen, was known as *Whoopee*. Ralph Bennie's place was *Wacco*, but has been renamed with the Scottish *Cumbræ Park*. A property held by the Bartsch family was *Lingerlonga*.

It is clear from the study of names given to landholdings that the strong awareness of the Indigenous inhabitants and of the Australian landscape demonstrated by the first squatters on the Darling Downs continued with the selectors and small freehold landowners that followed. A sprinkling of European type names remained, along with a few more light-hearted choices. This is demonstrated in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater examples from the turn of the 20th century, and later when subdivision required many more names. The original pastoral runs are still well known in this district, the names retained as parishes, settlements or landholdings. The continuity offered by old names and newer ones chosen with the same mindset, demonstrates an awareness of the past and a connection between those who

first gained a living from the land on the Downs and later farmers. The fear is that this continuity will be lost with the advent of agribusiness interests. Smaller named landholdings are gradually being obliterated as ever-larger cleared paddocks meet the requirements of modern agricultural methods. Only recently (2003) Warikirri Agricultural Trusts purchased *Whitewood*, which was established in the late 1930s; the name sign and residence were removed and the land ploughed over.

Naming of Settlements

Thus far we have looked in detail at early names for land holdings and natural features, and it will be of some relevance to the mindset of the early settlers to have a brief look at aspects of the naming of the first settlements. They were few in the early years and official naming occurred most often at the time of survey, the name often suggested by the surveyor or his superiors. More people were party to the choice of name for a settlement than for runs or natural features, and consultation and debate could be heated at times. In many cases a small settlement had gained an unofficial name by word of mouth, sometimes the name of a traveller's inn or a river crossing point, and name changes were not always popular as the settlement grew in importance.

Warwick, one of the major towns on the Darling Downs along with Dalby and Toowoomba, was founded after government instruction in 1847 by Patrick Leslie, and gazetted in the same year. The surveyed land was auctioned in mid 1850. The settlement was first known as Canning Town (probably because it was near the Leslies' *Canning Downs*), then the Aboriginal name 'Goorogooby' was suggested, before the official naming as

Warwick. There is some debate as to why the name 'Warwick' was chosen and suggestions include the following: from a fictional figure based on the Sixth Earl of Warwick, in a novel published when Patrick Leslie was in Britain in 1843,¹ a compromise after the rejection of the Aboriginal *Goorogooby* - acknowledging a different Aboriginal local name *Waring* - fortuitously similar to 'Warwick',² or simply after Warwick in Warwickshire, England, possibly because it was the hometown of Sir Arthur Hodgson, a friend of the Leslies who had taken up *Eton Vale*.³

The smaller town of Inglewood provides another example of name changes and confusion. Inglewood was surveyed and named in 1862. It had previously been known as Browne's Inn, after an establishment set up conveniently for travellers on the bank of MacIntyre Brook. Records at the Department of Natural Resources show the origin of the name as a compounded Aboriginal word, *ingol* indicating the cypress pines on the north bank of the river, and the English 'wood'. However, a Brisbane Telegraph article suggests that the name is possibly a variation of the descriptive 'angle wood', and describes the conflict that occurred some years after the survey. In 1906 there was a move to establish a different name when the railway authorities gave an Aboriginal inspired name 'Parainga' to the town station. As already discussed, the Railway Department frequently chose Aboriginal names for stations and sidings and had been encouraged to do so. However, in this case 'angry residents pulled down the name sign and held out for the name of their choice – the existing town name of Inglewood. Eventually the department complied with their wishes'.⁴

Some towns honoured politicians and important landowners in a direct way. Thus we still have Bowenville, named for the first Queensland Governor, and further west, Miles for William Miles, Minister for Public Works and Mines (1883-87), who owned the freehold estate *Park Head* in the Dalby district.⁵ There were few names in the samples analysed that we can confirm were given by rural workers and other 'ordinary' people. However, it can be assumed that there were many names known by word of mouth that were not officially recognised until much later, particularly those for features on pastoral runs. Station workers would need to name landmarks for identification in their day-to-day work, to avoid confusion on runs usually exceeding twenty-five square miles. An example of the rejection of an official name in favour of a pre-existing local name is the case of 'Nobby', named for 'Nobby's Crossing' on the old *Clifton* run. The official name of Davenport (after wealthy landholder and politician G.H. Davenport) was given in 1900 when the town was surveyed by C. Twisden-Bedford, but was changed by popular demand in 1931.⁶ The railway station had already been named 'Nobby' years before.⁷

As we have seen, names inspired by Aboriginal languages were popular before 1859 in the identification of pastoral runs, and early Surveyor General, Sir Thomas Mitchell had tried to make the use of known Aboriginal names almost compulsory during his time in office. Indigenous names were used also for settlements, many derived from the old runs (like *Cooyar* and *Kaimkillenbun*), but others were chosen specifically for a settlement. A town surveyed in 1859 was given the name 'Allora', chosen by the Rev. Dr. John Dunmore Lang, Member for Stanley. The first Land Commissioner for the Darling Downs, Christopher Rolleston, chose the name 'Cambooya' for

the settlement near the *Eton Vale* where he made his headquarters.

Toowoomba has much controversy surrounding its origin, although it is generally agreed that the name is of Aboriginal inspiration, taken up by a Mrs. Alford in 1852 when she asked some of the indigenous inhabitants what the place was called. What it means in the local dialect, or whether it is in fact an Aboriginal pronunciation of 'The Swamp' (the earlier name for the settlement), will probably never be known.⁸ In this case a name with Aboriginal connections won over 'Worcester', the preference of James Taylor who owned most of the town land.⁹

As we would expect there are many settlement names taken from British towns and villages. Drayton was originally known as The Springs. It was re-named by Thomas Alford when he set up a trading post there in 1842, after his birthplace, Drayton in Somerset, England. The original Aboriginal name for the springs is believed to be 'Chingerrie'.¹⁰ Other settlements were given clearly British names but often the reason is unclear. Captain Perry, the NSW Surveyor-General, had a town site surveyed that was unofficially known as 'Myall Crossing', 'Myall Creek' or 'The Crossing', in 1853. He re-named it 'Dalby'.¹¹ The Governor of New South Wales formalised the new name in 1854.¹² The Post Office name then needed to be changed from Myall Creek to Dalby.¹³ There are several 'Dalbys' in Britain so we cannot guess and it does not appear to be documented anywhere, which one if any the town is named for.¹⁴ Some of the pastoral runs were named for British towns, and the settlements that grew up on the runs retained the name. Thus we have Clifton (John Melbourne Marsh's birthplace) and Felton (Charles Mallard's birthplace).

In the years after separation from New South Wales many town names celebrated the immigrants who arrived in great numbers in response to the Queensland Government's recruitment programs. Turallin (in Millmerran Shire) was named after a town in Ireland. Murlaggan (in Pittsworth Shire) has Scottish origins. Many migrants were from Germany, resulting in a rush to change some of the names lauding German people and places when World War I broke out. For example in Rosalie Shire 'Bismarck' was changed to 'Maclagan' in 1916, pointedly honouring an Australian military commander rather than the German 'Iron Chancellor'. The same happened with many German street names in Toowoomba including the change from Kaiser Street to Belgium Street in December 1914.¹⁵

Overall, the naming of settlements was more complicated than the earlier name selection for pastoral runs and natural features, largely because of the numbers of people involved. The choices came mostly from the existing runs, European connections, politicians and important locals. Indigenous influences are still evident through the re-use of run names, and some new Aboriginal type names were either coined or retrieved.

Conclusions - Darling Downs Placenames

Clear trends can be identified from the study outlined in Chapters 1, 2 and 3 of general placenaming practices in Queensland, and more specifically, of the placename choices made by settlers on the Darling Downs. The trends in naming help to provide a background to the settlement of the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district within the Darling Downs.

The European explorers who undertook such challenging journeys of discovery were adventurous and inquisitive men. In contrast to their adventurous nature, however, they were conservative in their name choices. They chose placenames with two important considerations in mind: the officials and patrons who made their explorations possible, and the new land that confronted them. The explorers were products of 19th century Europe and their concerns, as reflected in their choice of placenames, reinforce this background. They were accustomed to a class system, with patronage an accepted part of their culture. The new landscape and its economic possibilities for the colony were also at the forefront of their thinking. The earliest explorer on the Downs, Allan Cunningham, was certainly in need of patronage and most prone to honouring individuals. One is hard pressed to find any other type of name that he gave – ‘Little Hill’ is one. In the Darling Downs region Ludwig Leichhardt honoured some local squatting families (Kent Lagoon, Hodgson Creek) and his Aboriginal guide (Charley Creek), and described the vegetation (Acacia Creek, Dogwood Creek). This was typical of his further explorations north and west but there he used a little more imagination at times (Skull Creek and Four Archers). However, like Cunningham, Leichhardt gave few names with Aboriginal influences. Surveyor-General Thomas Mitchell’s explorations merely skirted the Darling Downs area. He certainly honoured individuals (Fitzroy Downs), and described the landscape (River Head Range), but he had also a strong preoccupation with Indigenous names, which he used where possible, for example Amby River and Maranoa River.

The squatters, who followed in the steps of the explorers, were seeking their fortune in a new land. Often financed by families in Britain, their purpose

was to establish a profitable venture in the colonies. Like the explorers they were aware of the new landscape and its economic possibilities. They were also particularly conscious of the Aboriginal population who sometimes posed a threat, and whose knowledge of the land they envied. Whilst the explorers merely passed through the area and reported their findings, the squatters actually settled on the land and lived side by side with the Indigenous people. Thus we see many Aboriginal names for the pastoral runs, along with those descriptive of the land and its flora and fauna.

Maurice French says that the survival of Aboriginal names on the Darling Downs 'may well have been inadvertent and fortuitous', suggesting an unwillingness on the part of the Europeans to preserve known Indigenous placenames. He points out that whilst in many cases 'the native place-names were never known, or never verified'; in other cases 'the legacy of the Gooneburra has been deliberately diminished by the conquerors'.¹⁶ However, this investigation reveals that the squatters as a group, showed a remarkable willingness to embrace Indigenous names in the period up to 1859. We have seen too that officials such as Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell (well before the 1840s), railway officials (from the second half of the 19th century), and the Place Name Committees and Place Name Boards of the 20th century, were all sympathetic to the use of Aboriginal placenames (though guidelines were established to minimise confusion). It is indeed true that Allan Cunningham and Ludwig Leichhardt ignored the possibility of Indigenous placenames, and that some known Aboriginal names were passed over for settlements. It is remarkable, however, when one considers the conflict on the frontier and nearly impossible language difficulties that so many Indigenous 'words' have been saved as placenames. Undoubtedly the

attempt to save them has been clumsy. The 'words' have frequently been used out of context with little regard for particular language groupings, but there does not appear to have been any deliberate over-riding strategy to diminish 'the legacy of the Gooneburra'.

There were a few names that recalled ties to European homelands, but the young squatters frequently preferred names connected with their new home. The workers, rather than the squatters and officials, often did the word of mouth identification necessary for the day-to-day organisation of the run. These names recognised land use or key meeting places and grew out of practical considerations. A few had interesting stories attached, like the naming of Cherry Gully.¹⁷ Many of these 'unofficial' names were cemented by word of mouth and later formalised. Of course much 'micro-toponymy' (the naming of small local features) has been lost. In a recorded interview Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek said he had no idea why a paddock near *Loudoun* station was always referred to as 'Simm's Paddock' during the 1920s and 1930s. In discussion on that point at a Dalby Family History Society meeting in May 2003, Malcolm Wilson said he recalls 'Simms' as a kind of unseen bogeyman figure from his childhood, and understood that 'Simms' was a drover. Indeed I found afterwards that Ray Humphrys mentions a Silas Syms who had been a shepherd in the early days of settlement and by the mid 1860s was in the Dalby district 'to try a different occupation', because fencing was doing away with the need for shepherds.¹⁸ Thus with the help of long time residents some old names can be retrieved and explained.

The railway department favoured Aboriginal names and those honouring pioneers and politicians, but was wary of descriptive names because of the danger of repetition on other rail lines. Stations and sidings were often given the name of an existing settlement, and this provided an opportunity for unofficial names to be legitimised. The categorisation of settlement names shows no clear-cut trends. A whole group of residents needed to be satisfied and there was often argument, change and compromise. Such conflict shows that a placename was considered an important indicator of community concerns, but removes the certainty that the chosen name was in the end always truly representative of them.

After the turn of the 20th century most of the selectors gave their small landholding a name for convenient identification. The impulses behind their choices were somewhat similar to those of the early squatters. In the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district descriptive names including those featuring vegetation or outlook were a popular choice and there were still many Aboriginal names retrieved from various sources. Some names were transported from other places within Australia rather than from Europe as had occurred in earlier times. The trend to honour important people was no longer so strong as social democracy gathered strength, and a rule excluding living people from recognition eventually did away with the motivation to curry favour.

Overall, the placenames on the Downs depict many influences; a strong Aboriginal flavour with various European strands (English, Scottish, Irish, German etc.). After the first explorers bestowed names for reasons aligned with the patronage system, local themes became strong, particularly those

concerned with the landscape, flora and fauna, and grew more dominant as Australian born residents outnumbered migrants. Some names appear to have an interesting story attached to the choice but unfortunately many of the tales have been lost, thus leaving some placenames like Baking Board Creek, Banshee Creek, Crinoline Plain and Lucky Valley Gully, that appear incongruous. Such mysteries are part of the charm inherent in the placenames of the Darling Downs, as we try to uncover the 'human side' of the area's history.

¹ Maurice French, A Pastoral Romance: The Tribulation and Triumph of Squatterdom. A History of the Darling Downs Frontier, USQ Press, Toowoomba 1990, p.232.

² Radcliffe Brown, 'Notes of Totemism in Eastern Australia', Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute 59 (1929) pp403 - 4 – quoted in J.G. Steele Aboriginal Pathways in Southeast Queensland and the Richmond River, University of Queensland Press, St Lucia Qld, 1984, p.44.

³ Jan Ward-Brown, Rosenthal, Historic Shire, Rosenthal Shire Council, Warwick, 1988, p.495.

⁴ Brisbane Telegraph series 'Why it was named' 18 October 1971.

⁵ Waterson, D.B., 'Miles, William', Australian Dictionary of Biography Vol.5 Melbourne, 1974, pp.250-51.

⁶ Queensland Government Gazette, 21 March 1931, p.1515.

⁷ As shown in Nomenclature of Queensland Railway Stations, February 1914, held at Qld. Archives.

⁸ See Maurice French, Conflict on the Condamine: Aborigines and the European Invasion, Darling Downs Institute Press, Toowoomba 1989, pp.122-131, for a detailed run down of possibilities.

⁹ Enid Fletcher, 'James Taylor: Squatter and Townsman' Downs Voices, ed. Peter Putnis, Darling Downs Institute Press, Toowoomba, 1978, p.74.

¹⁰ Sydney May, 'The Move to the West', Local Government Vol. 52 No.6 June 1957, p.32.

¹¹ Stewart Jack, A History of Dalby and District, privately distributed, estimated date of compilation 1940s, p.3.

¹² New South Wales Government Gazette, 14 March 1854.

¹³ Joan Frew, Queensland Post Offices 1842-1980 and Receiving Offices 1869-1927, Self Published, Brisbane, 1981, p.251.

¹⁴ The possibilities are discussed at length in an article in Dalby Herald, 27 November 1931.

¹⁵ Many of these are outlined in the Toowoomba Chronicle, 13 March 1986.

¹⁶ Maurice French, Conflict on the Condamine, p.121.

¹⁷ After a sherry barrel fell off a wagon and broke. Recounted in Jan Ward-Brown, Rosenthal, Historic Shire in section, 'Place Names'. Source Joe Goodwin.

¹⁸ Ray Humphrys, Bonyi-Bonyi, Life and Legends of the Bunya Mountains, Wyndham Observer, Nanango, Qld, 1992, p.27.

Chapter 4

Photographs

It is possible to enhance our understanding of the early settlers of Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater by examining some of the photographs depicting their lives. Raphael Samuel recounts his awakening to the value of Victorian photographs in his study of that period.¹ He recalls that it had not occurred to him that photographs would be available. When he stumbled upon a collection of ‘mug-shots’ of nineteenth-century convicts he was quite taken aback.

The men were clean-shaven with not a sideburn to be seen. The women (I think there were two of them) were bonnetless. The faces were disconcertingly ‘human’ or to put it more precisely, vulnerable. It was difficult to think of them as cosh-carriers – the role assigned to them in Dickens – still less as the ‘dangerous classes’....

Some photographs he came upon of street scenes revealed a quite different and less boisterous London than he had imagined from written accounts,² and added a new dimension to his notions of Victorian England.³

The street-sellers, so far from wildly gesticulating at the masses, as they did in nineteenth-century word-pictures of Saturday night market, were quietly attending to individual customers, very much in the manner of more contemporary West End barrow boys.

Professional photographs were available in Australian cities from the 1840s. It was not, however, until the early cumbersome ‘wet plate’ process was replaced in the 1880s by a more portable ‘dry plate’ method, that rural areas became easily accessible to photographers. During the 1980s Paul Ashton and Kate Blackmore investigated the history of farming in Australia with the aid of a collection of early photographs. Many aspects of rural life are pictured in widely scattered areas of Australia. They show some marked

similarities with activities in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district and help place it in context as part of the wider Australian farming experience.⁴

Also in the 1980s Duncan Waterson and Maurice French collaborated to compile two pictorial histories (one featuring Queensland; the other the Darling Downs) in which a collection of photographs illustrates, enhances and confirms the text, showing a detail beyond the scope of the written word.⁵ The pictorial record of the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district contained within this study offers a more detailed examination of a vastly smaller area than either of the Waterson/French publications, representing something more like a 'core sample' compared with their broader overview of Queensland and of the Darling Downs.

The Dalby Town Council's Centenary of Federation publication, Girls, Goats and Glass Bottles, provides an excellent pictorial record of Dalby, a town that played a central role in the lives of the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater residents. It is described in the Foreword as being, 'more like a family photo album than a pictorial history'.⁶ There are photographs of many of the townspeople and places mentioned in the personal accounts and interviews that form the major part of this investigation.⁷ It contains, however, little material from either the actual Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district or the residents themselves. Chris Ashton's well illustrated Wambo, The Changing Face of Rural Australia, published by the Wambo Shire Council in 2003, also encompasses the district under examination but touches on it in the context of the wider Shire area and the scope for detail is constrained.

In a broad sense a photographic record can enhance and confirm known facts, allowing us to become ‘eyewitnesses to the historical event’.⁸ More importantly for this study, they allow us into the everyday lives of the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater residents. We can actually follow the lives of some residents from youth to old age, visually tracing their triumphs and hardships. It is possible, also, to note from a series of pictures taken at a particular location the gradual environmental changes of the past one hundred years. A large collection of photographs relevant to the history of the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district has been compiled for this study, including some from the 19th century. The largest and most detailed group comes from the families who took up selections in the district around the turn of the 20th century. Recent photographs complement those from the past.

Of course we cannot accept photographs entirely at face value. There is a natural tendency to ‘put one’s best foot forward’ for a photograph, and a photograph can be manipulated in various ways. Raphael Samuel says he was disconcerted by the belated realisation that ‘in our ignorance of the artifices of Victorian photography, much of what we reproduced so lovingly and annotated (as we believed) so meticulously, was fake – painterly in origin and intention even if it was documentary in form.’ He cites the example of:

...‘Poor Jo’, an alleged photograph of a shivering street boy, in which every last detail was bogus (Rejlander [the photographer] paid a Wolverhampton boy five shillings for a sitting, dressed him up in rags and smudged his face with the appropriate soot).⁹

Alan Davies and Peter Stanbury point out in their account of the photographic image in Australia that 'one might be tempted to think that the endless parade of wooden portraits produced in the nineteenth century is proof of a Victorian lack of humour, but the truth is different and can be found in the technical difficulties of early photography.'¹⁰ Some of the early photographs collected for this study are not quite 'painterly in origin' like 'poor Jo', but nevertheless could be misleading. Early formal studio portraits with the subjects dressed in their best attire (and with studio furniture and props) do not depict the everyday lives of the residents. However, the pictures are relevant in that they do show the standards they aspired to, and reached on a few formal occasions such as weddings and infrequent visits to Toowoomba or Brisbane. It seems that like the true 'Victorians' of the mother country from whence most of them or their immediate forebears hailed, the residents of Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater strove for 'respectability' or at least the appearance of respectability, independence and even prosperity and this stretched into the Edwardian or Australian post-Federation period. Respectability of course did not mean the same to all, and was clearly entwined with honesty and reliability in that small community. Geoffrey Best's description of Victorian respectability includes other aspects that were also influential:

Respectability was a style of living understood to show a proper respect for morals and morality; usually it meant some degree of formal Christianity, but you could be respectable and value your respectability without being Christian. Independence came to nearly the same thing in practice; it meant such an accommodation of expenditure to income as would make possible the respectable style of life; it proceeded from the premise that it was immoral (viz., for Christians, unchristian) to depend on any but your own resources....¹¹

Photographs from the Lane family cover a span of well over one hundred years. William and Mary Lane settled at *Daandine* station in 1867 and their descendants remain in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district to the present day. It is fortunate that such a large pictorial collection had been preserved within the family, though scattered and sometimes unidentified.¹²

Photographs from other family groups combine to illustrate the shared experiences of the community.

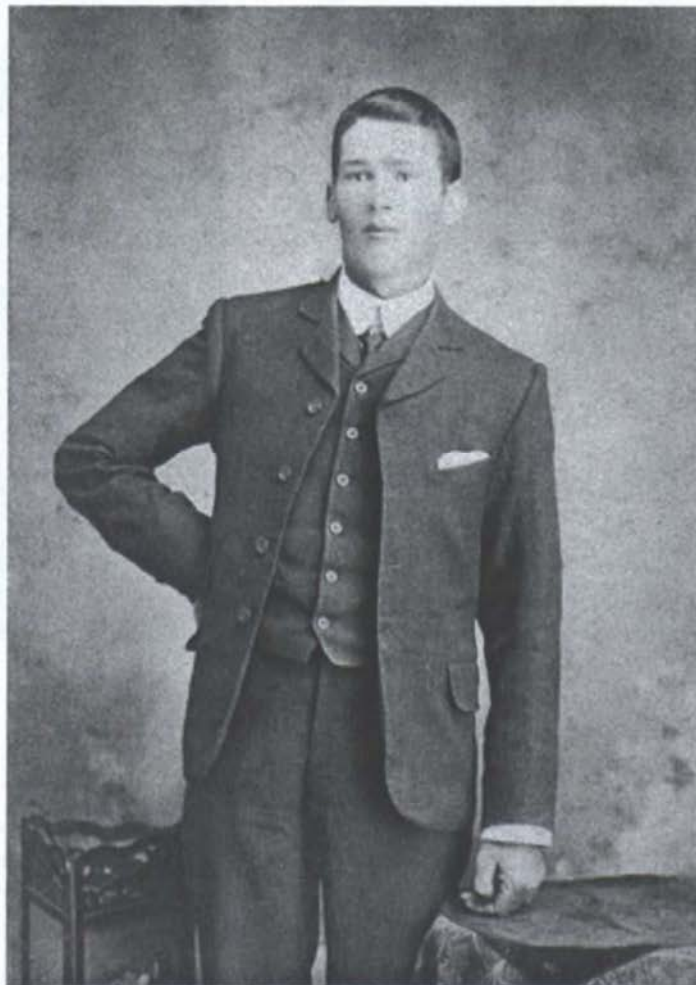
Photographic Depictions of Early Residents of the District.

In the late 19th and early 20th century photographic opportunities were limited in country districts like Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater. Most surviving pictures from that period were taken in studios during visits to Toowoomba or Brisbane, and usually marked a particular event. Informal photographs were taken on rare occasions, perhaps a travelling photographer visited the district for an important occasion, or a business associate from the city arrived at one of the large stations equipped and willing to oblige.

Fortunately some studio portraits in the collection can be compared with informal photographs of the same people, giving a more balanced view. The results are quite startling. Sombre subjects in the formal photographs are typically represented as belonging only in city drawing rooms - the men with hair, moustaches and beards neatly trimmed and wearing suits and high collared shirts - the women with elaborate hairstyles and fine but often impractical clothes. The stiffness of the studio portrait disappears in the informal pictures, even though a need for immobility during the process remained at least until after World War I. We see a more realistic depiction of life in the district, particularly when the subject appears in an everyday working environment or a relaxed social situation.

Contrasting photographs show Morris Bassett Lane, a stockman on *Loudoun* station, in both formal and working environments. The formal portrait dates from about 1902/4 when he was eighteen to twenty years old.¹³ The most revealing aspect of this portrait is Morris Bassett's gnarled stockman's hand, which no studio setting and three-piece suit can hide.

A formal
portrait of
Morris
Bassett Lane.
(est. 1902/4)



The second photograph from a few years later shows him at work in the stock yards at *Loudoun*, completely relaxed and in control even though the young horse he is 'breaking-in' looks apprehensive, its legs stiff as it leans slightly away from him. We see the typical workman's clothes of the period

– riding boots, hard wearing trousers with braces, a shirt with sleeves rolled up and a small brimmed hat – probably an old ‘town hat’



Above left: Morris Bassett Lane at work in the stock yards at *Loudoun* station.

Above right: Henry (Harry) Francis Lane in a formal studio portrait and lower right, at a picnic.



Pictures from the same period of a young Henry (Harry) Francis Lane (Morris Bassett's much younger half-brother), also give entirely different views of his life. In the much better quality portrait (from about 1906) he is around five years old, and dressed in a shiny silk suit with white collar (probably provided by the photographer). He was posing for a formal family portrait in a studio, most likely in Toowoomba. The smaller photograph has been extracted from a group picture of a picnic on the shores of Lake Broadwater a few years later. Henry Francis is wearing practical light cotton shorts and a collarless shirt, possibly made by his mother, with a junior version of a man's hat. The picnic was for station staff and the entertainment of important visitors, so dress for the young boy was probably a version of what we would now call 'neat casual'. He looks quite wary in the formal portrait but very relaxed in a more familiar environment at the picnic.

From about the mid-1920s when improved technology was more readily available, informal pictures of the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater residents were not so rare and many survive in family collections. Whereas there may be only one or two formal portraits of a particular subject from the 19th and early 20th century, giving the impression of stern formality, a wider range of photographs gradually allowed a more balanced look at the life of the residents. We even have some people clowning for the camera in a way not considered appropriate in photographic studios. Whilst the formal portraits gave a clear record of the subject's physical appearance, the informal ones revealed something of personality and lifestyle.

A formal (rather painterly) studio portrait of Eber Lane.

From about 1930.



This photograph from the same period can be compared with the portrait above. It gives a quite different impression of Eber as he clowns with his brothers, Alf and Len. He shows off his riding skills in a comical fashion, his hat at a peculiar angle.

There have been some changes in fashion; note the absence of braces, and Alf's tall crowned and large brimmed hat. Len is wearing shorts and socks from the uniform of his school in Brisbane.

A Picture Can Tell a Story

The actual timing of a photograph or the particular combination of people in a group can be extremely significant. Of course one can plan for a record of an important occasion like a wedding or twenty-first birthday, but some photographs acquire an added significance in retrospect for what they convey. There are some pictures in the collection from Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater that have far more meaning for a variety of reasons than their mere surface representation.

An old and slightly damaged group photograph taken on the steps of *Belah Park* homestead in about 1917 is significant for the record of life at that time: the homestead architecture, the furniture on the obviously much used veranda; the lace curtains at the window; the work boots lined up neatly; the clothes worn in a non-formal situation and the casual presence of the dog.

However, when events at the time are considered, the combination of the group and their demeanour provide additional insights. In the back row, looking rather solemn, are Henry Bassett Lane at about sixty years old and his much younger brother William John Lane, about forty-five. The difference in age is not obvious because William John was at that time suffering from an incurable illness. Shortly after the photograph was taken he sold his adjoining property *Carbeen*, and moved into Dalby. He chose to take his own life in 1919 to spare his wife and daughter from the anguish of his lingering death. Syd Lowery, on the left in the middle row looks a shadow of the man he was in another picture a mere seven or so years earlier – thinner, more hunched and minus a large black moustache. His fragile appearance is explained by service in World War I. He was in the 2nd Light

Horse from December 1914 and had returned home in mid 1916, presumably injured.¹⁴ Syd was regarded as an additional family member at *Belah Park*, and Whitey Torenbeek recalled that Henry Francis (Harry) Lane (with the dog) often spoke kindly of Syd in later years.¹⁵ Next to Syd, Henry Bassett's wife Isabella looks quite sombre and Cecelia (William John's wife on the right) is much thinner and care worn than she appeared in earlier pictures. Seated between them Ruth Mary (daughter of William and Cecelia) is a glowing girl of about seventeen, probably unaware of her father's illness. In the front row Irwin Hasse, from a neighbouring German family, appears quite at home with his friends, Henry Francis (Harry) and James William (Jim), sons of Henry Bassett and Isabella Lane. The fact that Syd Lowery had recently returned from war service does not appear to have had any effect on the family friendship with both Syd and Irwin Hasse. The Hasses were well liked in the district and this photograph bears witness to the fact that German involvement in the War did not overrule the family's standing in the community.



Back: Henry Bassett Lane, William John Lane
 Centre : Syd Lowery, Isabella Lane, Ruth Mary Lane, Cecelia Lane
 Front: Irwin Hasse, James William Lane, Henry Francis Lane (est. 1917)



Left: Syd Lowery
 about 1910.

Right: William,
 Cecelia and Ruth Lane
 about 1907.



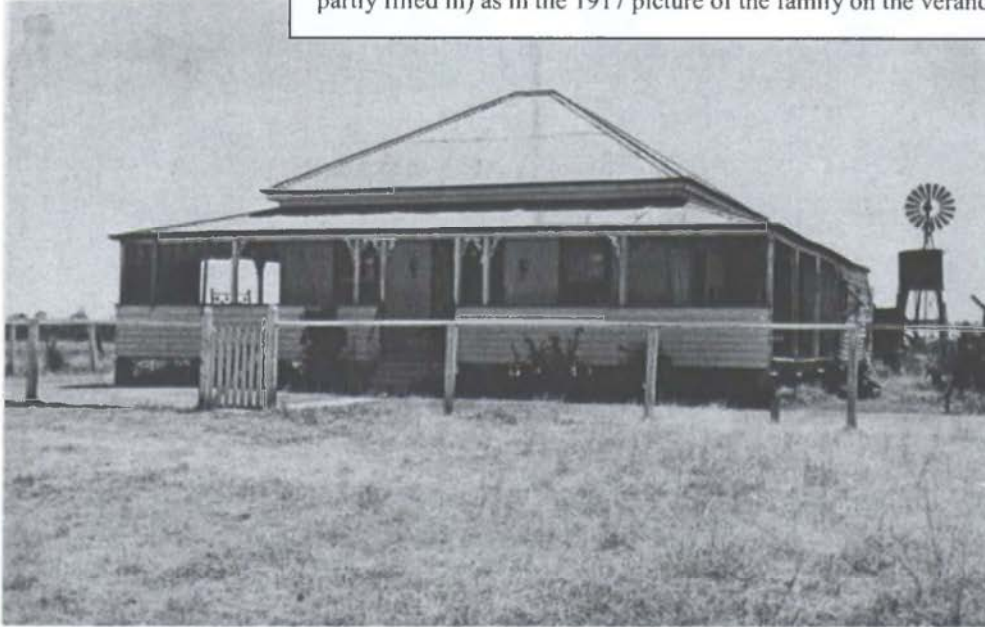
A photograph from a much later period encapsulates the feeling of the community in the early days of World War II. Lewis and Prue Wilson are pictured with their sons John (Jack) and Malcolm. Jack is proudly wearing his new Air Force uniform. Young Malcolm looks overcome with excitement at the sight of his big brother in uniform, and about to leave for the conflict. In contrast Prue seems most unhappy, no doubt apprehensive for Jack's safety. Lewis looks proud but also sad. He had served in World War I and had some idea of what Jack faced. The Wilsons exhibit the mixed feelings of the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater residents at that time. They were both fearful for and proud of their sons and daughters in the services.



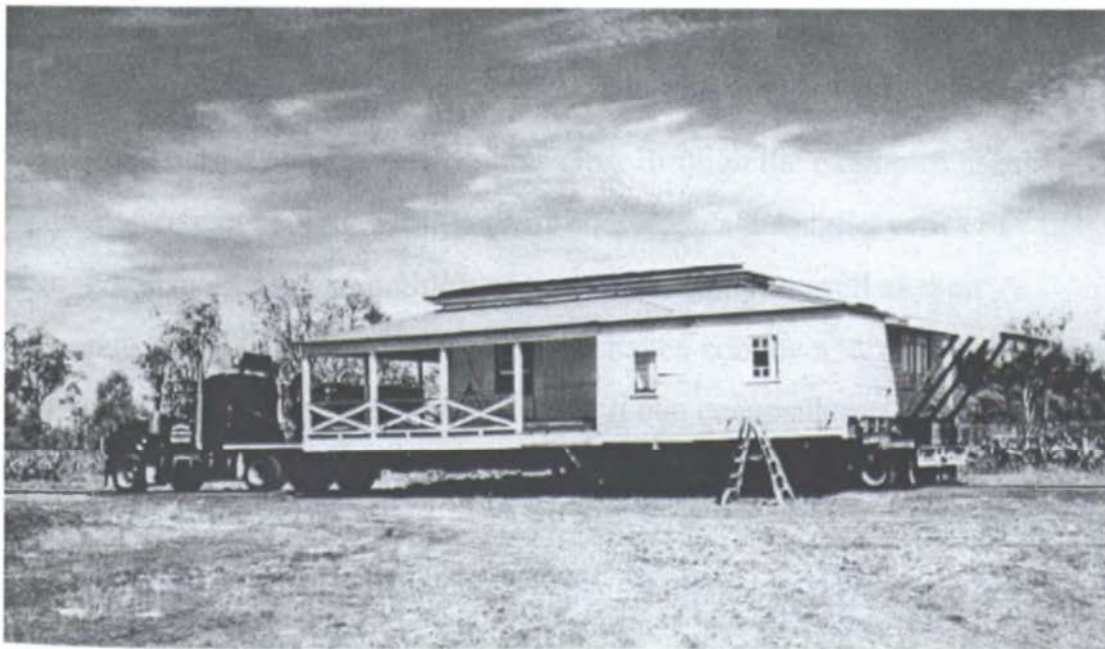
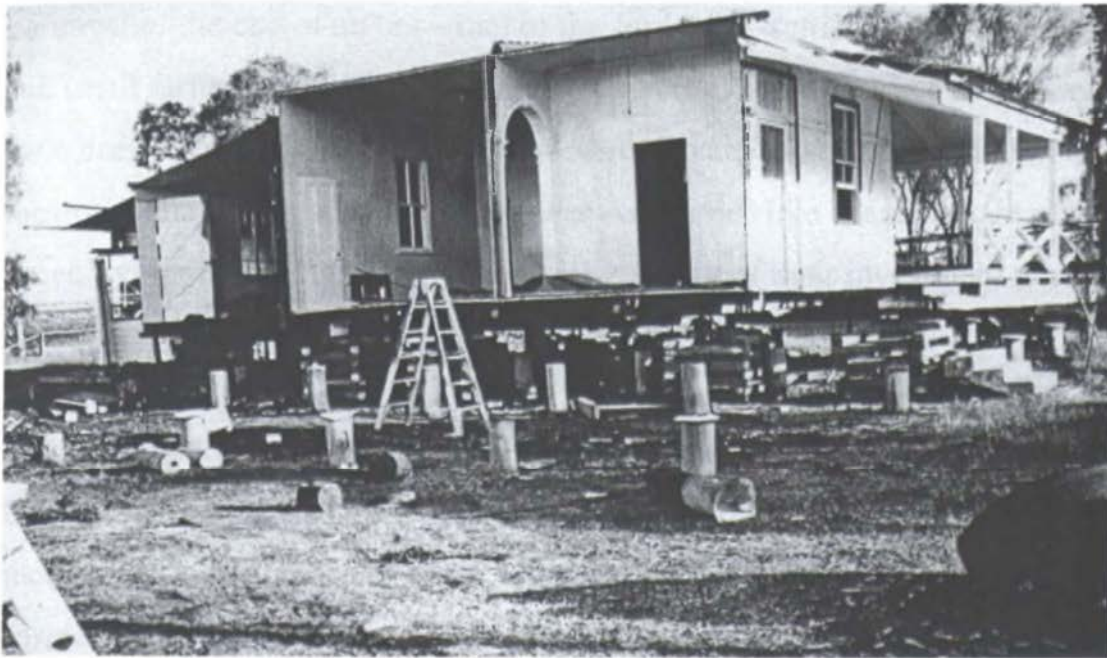
The Wilson family in 1941 on the day Jack left for service in World War II.

Quite by accident another set of photographs provides a visual motif for the decline of the small family farm in the district and the intrusion of huge agribusiness concerns.

Belah Park homestead in 1958/60, showing the same veranda (now partly filled in) as in the 1917 picture of the family on the veranda.



The well-maintained homestead complex Warakirri Agricultural Trusts took over in 1999. Note the homestead veranda on the right has been remodelled once again.



The dismantling of the *Belah Park* homestead built by Henry Bassett Lane shortly after 1910.

In the group of pictures above we see superficially, the dismantling and removal of one old building. However, they are strong images with an inherent violence, giving the photographs added significance as a visual

portrayal of the end of an era – that of the ‘ordinary’ settler in the selection and small farming period. Many of the pre-World War II houses in the area have been removed to make way for ploughed paddocks. The population of the district has declined and agribusiness companies like Warakirri are of necessity more interested in the financial viability of their investment than the history of their new acquisitions.

In the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district the 20th century perhaps fittingly came to an end just as larger financial and agricultural interests gathered momentum in the take over of the old small farms. An historic homestead, severed down the middle and loaded for removal, is emblematic of recent irreversible changes in the district. A small consolation is that the building was not destroyed but sold and re-erected near Kingaroy.

Conclusions

The power of a visual image becomes clear through the examples in this chapter. We can become familiar with individuals through a series of photographs, learning something of their personality as well as their appearance. A particular picture may by chance convey a turning point far more successfully than the written word. It can encapsulate a period of change and the emotions surrounding it. Visual images bring past landscapes to life as we have seen with pictures (from 1917, 1950s and 1990s) of *Belah Park* homestead. A series of photographs is valuable in respect to environmental changes as will be more evident in later chapters, particularly in respect to *Belah Park* and Lake Broadwater. The background landscape in photographs of individuals is a revealing aspect that is sometimes overlooked. For example, a quite detailed picture of *Loudoun* station as it was during the 1920s and 1930s can be assembled from the background

shown in photographs of the Lane family who lived there. The photographs reproduced in this study support the recollections of former residents and clearly illustrate environmental changes through time.

¹ Raphael Samuel, 'The Eye of History' in Theatres of Memory. Vol. 1, Verso, London 1994, pp.317-333.

² From Thompson and Smith's, Street Life in London 1877, which was reprinted in 1973 by E.P. Publishers, Yorkshire.

³ Raphael Samuel, pp.315-7.

⁴ Ashton, Paul with Blackmore, Kate, On the Land. A photographic history of farming in Australia, Kangaroo Press, Kenthurst, 1987.

⁵ Maurice French and Duncan Waterson, The Darling Downs: A Pictorial History 1850-1959, Toowoomba, DDIP 1980: From the Frontier: A Pictorial History of Queensland, UQP, 1987.

⁶ Barry Copley, compiler and editor Girls, Goats and Glass Bottles, Dalby Town Council, 2001. Foreword by Warwick Geisel and Ross Thornton.

⁷ The churches, the garages, the hotels, Connelly's Chemist shop (p.56) and the Café Majestic (pp.54-5)

⁸ Raphael Samuel, p.319.

⁹ Raphael Samuel, p334 – his information came from several sources including Edgar Yoxall Jones, Father of Art Photography, O.G. Rejlander, 1813-1875. Rejlander, a Swede, had been a painter - his pictures were 'exercises in narrative art'.

¹⁰ Alan Davies and Peter Stanbury, The Mechanical Eye in Australia. Photography 1841-1900, Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 1985, p.1.

¹¹ Geoffrey Best, Mid-Victorian Britain 1851-1875, Fontana Paperbacks, London, 1979, pp.279-80.

¹² I have spent some time gathering, identifying and copying, with permission, pictures from various branches of the family. The collection was quite scattered, photographs obviously shared in the past among family members during the division of deceased estates. Some pictures were still at *Belah Park*, some in Dalby, Brisbane, Sydney, and even in the Murray River area, New South Wales.

¹³ Morris received a gold watch and chain for his twenty-first birthday, which he would have been wearing had he attained that age. The watch was given to his youngest son Len Lane after his death.

¹⁴ Details from Australian War Memorial data base, www.awm.gov.au

¹⁵ Telephone conversation Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek with Dale Lehner, 2002.

Chapter 5

The Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater District: an Outline

The story of settlement in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater area encompasses many issues common to the whole of the Darling Downs, including the dispossession of the incumbent Aboriginal population by the land hungry squatters of the mid 19th century, the gradual break up of the huge leased pastoral runs, and the advent of large freehold estates. The Selection Acts of the 1860s and the Closer Settlement Acts of the 1880s (including government buy-back schemes) allowed small farmers to purchase surveyed portions of land by time payment, and ‘ordinary’ settlers began obtaining their own land in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district from around the turn of the 20th century.

The Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district is southwest from Dalby on the fringes of the black soil plains that stretch west from the ranges to the Dalby area, and peter out in the Western Districts. The Condamine River (on the east) Wilkie Creek (on the west) and Lake Broadwater (to the south) form the approximate boundaries of the district, with the fringes of the old *Greenbank* station to the northeast. The Moonie Highway, developed from an old stock route, almost bisects the district, and the Dalby/Tara/Glenmorgan railway line crosses north of that major road. (The district can be identified, as a whole and in sections, on several maps within this volume. See Table of Contents for page numbers.)

Several rail sidings serviced the area from about 1910 when the branch railway was constructed.¹ Nandi and Kupunn are, respectively, seven and ten miles from Dalby. The Duleen siding is not far from the rail crossing

over Wilkie Creek, and the line extends over the creek to Ducklo. The Indigenous names given to the rail sidings preserved an awareness of the original Aboriginal inhabitants. Occasionally artefacts, bora rings and tree markings confirmed that prior ownership.²



The steam train crossing a dry Wilkie Creek between Duleen and Ducklo during the drought of 1946. Pat Lane's family were having a picnic at the 'pump hole' – the only water left in the Creek, when he took a photograph of the train with his mother's Box Brownie. Water was pumped to a tank at Ducklo station to top up the steam trains on their way through.

The most visible changes from the mid 1800s to the present day were brought about by alterations to the way the graziers and farmers made a living. Grazing of sheep, beef cattle and horses was the main pursuit on the pastoral runs and the later freehold estates. On the small selections of the 20th century, centred mainly in the Kupunn area, dairying was introduced to supply the butter factory in Dalby. Attempts at agriculture began with Rhodes grass and other feed crops for the dairy herd. Calves were raised for market, and the pigs kept on many dairy farms took advantage of the large quantities of surplus separated milk.³ Some families continued to specialise in beef cattle, particularly on the larger landholdings in the area between the Broadwater Road and Wilkie Creek. The huge freehold estate *Loudoun*, which had been established in the

early 1870s, continued with sheep and wool production until the mid 1930s when it was subdivided. Many smaller properties ran a few sheep for the wool clip and for fat lambs. Farmers on the subdivided *Loudoun* land were among the first in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district to take up wheat growing and others followed suit. After the 1970s wheat was gradually overtaken by cotton and feed crops such as sorghum, barley and oats. These pastoral and agricultural changes were accompanied by extensive land clearing, which brought about significant differences in the appearance of the landscape.

The Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district was originally the home of an Aboriginal tribe believed to be the *Barunggam*. The people are sometimes referred to as the *Yemon*. When European settlement began this land became part of a network of huge leased pastoral runs. The term ‘squatter’ was applied to the lessees of the runs who typically had a backing of family wealth and/or influential connections.⁴ A few were self-made men like James Taylor of *St Ruth* and *Cecil Plains*, who was a former stockman and boasted that he had never read a book in his life. He was not a ‘gentleman’ squatter like some, but ‘a rather bluff and rough personality’.⁵ Initially the squatters’ employees were poor immigrants and ex-convicts. There were never serving convicts on the Downs, thus no supply of plentiful cheap labour was available. Although this was often a problem for the squatting fraternity, many a poor immigrant was given a start towards a better life due to the shortage of labour.

The most notable runs for the purposes of this study were *St Ruth* and *Daandine*. *Greenbank* station to the northeast and the mighty *Jimbour* still further north and east were important influences on the district. As leases for the holdings expired, part of the land was resumed and thrown

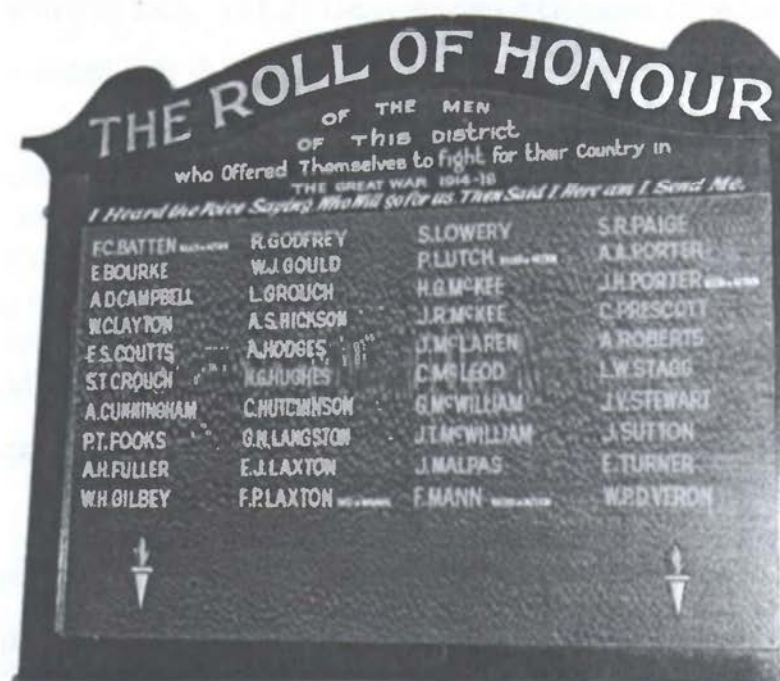
open for selection in smaller portions. The Queensland Government passed a series of Land Acts after separation from New South Wales in 1859, which were aimed at gaining control of land distribution. In a manner that was sometimes questionable, powerful squatters managed to secure the freehold of much prime land for their own grazing interests. The Land Acts were designed to achieve closer settlement and increased agricultural productivity for Queensland by attracting small farmers. 'Homesteaders' or 'yeoman farmers' were the often-used equivalent American and British terms for the Australian small selector. The huge leases held by the first squatters dwindled in size and importance and were mostly gone by the 1880s. The squatters gained the freehold of much of the best land from their former runs by using pre-emption rights, and many created large estates. Small selectors took up surveyed land offered to them on attractive terms. The freehold of selections could be obtained after a generous period (up to twenty years and extensions were possible, although ten years was usual), providing certain residence and development requirements had been met, along with annual payments towards the purchase. A considerable quantity of surveyed land was sold at auction too, providing revenue for the Queensland government. This land usually fell into the hands of a few wealthy individuals.

Loudoun station was the most powerful influence in the district from the 1870s to World War II. In the early days of the 20th century a tight knit and interdependent community of small landholders was established nearby. The selectors had been on their land only a few years before World War I (1914-1918) began. There was a surge of patriotism demonstrating close links to Britain from a population with recent ties to 'home'. Many of the older generation had been born in Britain and their offspring were brought up with tales of the 'mother country'. Young men

of the required age were available for military service from the typically large families. According to the Roll of Honour displayed at the Kupunn War Memorial Hall, forty men from around Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater enlisted for service. Five of those men died, and others returned with lasting ill affects. (See Appendix, Table F for details of those listed on the Honour boards at the Kupunn War Memorial Hall, WWI and WWII.) Residents were touched by the war in other ways too. Emily Lane, who lived on *Loudoun* station with her husband Morris Bassett Lane, lost her brother Fred Hart. Albert Cunnington (of Toowoomba) moved to the district to be near his three brothers after serving overseas, but his health had been destroyed and he died quite soon afterwards. The few families with German connections in and around the district such as the Hasses (from *Hereward* on the fringes of Greenbank Parish), and the Torenbeeks (who arrived in 1919 and had a German mother), suffered little of the persecution rife in some districts both during and after the War. They were well known and highly regarded in the community. As noted in Chapter 3, the rush to change German inspired placenames to more patriotic ones was an indicator of the strong anti-German feeling in Australia, and evident in sections of the Downs.

After the war there were no land resumptions in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district for ‘Soldier Settlement’ initiatives, although nearby *Cecil Plains* was ‘bought by the Queensland Government in 1917’ and much of it was ‘cut up into farms’ for returning soldiers.⁶ After World War II a few land portions between the Condamine River and the Broadwater Road were resumed for returning soldiers, and other land was under consideration for resumption - much to the consternation of some residents.

The first war had provided an unexpected chance for travel and broadened horizons for some of the young people in the isolated community, but the Great Depression that followed in the late 1920s and early 1930s had quite the opposite effect. People were tied to the district with few opportunities for change. The population remained relatively static until the major disruption of World War II and its aftermath. There were many reasons for a gradual decline in community bonds after the Second World War. These included a reduced need for rural labour due to mechanisation and 'modern' farming methods, and an end to isolation with improved transport and communications.



Roll of Honour at the Kupunn Hall (1914-18)

Vegetation and Landscape

The landscape at the time of first European settlement consisted of flat grassy black soil plains with scattered Box, Apple, Moreton Bay Ash and Belah Oak stands. The land on the western edge near Wilkie Creek had areas of brown soil and some sand ridges.⁷ There were areas of dense

brigalow and tea-tree (or ti-tree) scrub near Lake Broadwater and in what became the Kupunn district. They were quite a feature of the Downs and appeared on Buxton's Map of the Darling Downs in 1864, as the only areas of dense scrub west from Toowoomba and north of a rugged stretch in the *Western Creek/ Woondul* area. Allan Cunningham, Ludwig Leichhardt and Oscar de Satge recorded their impressions of the landscape in and around the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district before pastoral enterprises and intensive agriculture had begun to alter its appearance.

In 1827 Allan Cunningham observed the district (which is at around lat.27.2 degrees S, long. 151.1) from an elevated position some 70 miles distant.⁸ He noted that the land was flat and wooded:

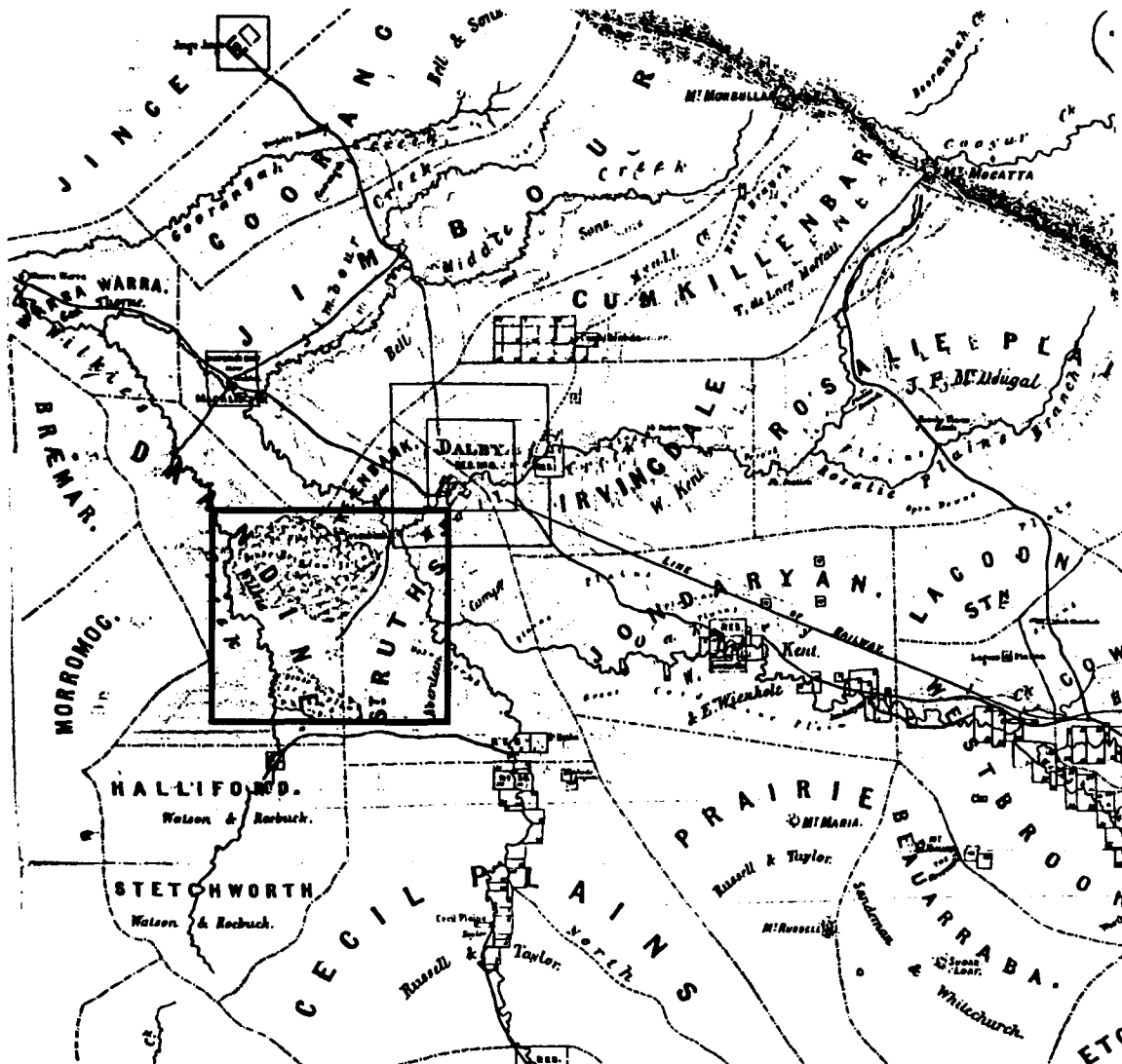
Directing our view beyond Peel's Plains to the north-west, an expanse of flat, wooded country met the eye, being evidently a continuation of those vast levels, which we had frequently observed, in the progress of our journey, extending to the westward of our line of route, and which, it was now perceived, were continued northerly at least to the parallel of 27 degrees.⁹

The wooded area he described almost certainly included the dense brigalow scrub between the Condamine River and Wilkie Creek.

Ludwig Leichhardt visited *Greenbank* station in 1844, shortly before his departure from *Jimbour* for Port Essington, and again in 1848. Mrs. Stewart, a daughter of Hugh Ross who held *Greenbank* at the time, was just two years old when Leichhardt called in 1844. He was well known to her family and clearly remembered by Mrs. Stewart.¹⁰ In the journal for his explorations in 1844, Leichhardt gave a detailed description of the vegetation he saw on the plains during his advance towards *Jimbour* from the southeast:

The plains, as we passed, were covered with the most luxuriant grass and herbage. Plants of the leguminosae and compositae, were by far the most prevalent; the colour of the former, generally a showy red, that of the latter, a bright yellow. Belts of open forest land, principally composed of the box-tree of the colonists (a species of *Eucalyptus*), separate the different plains; and patches of scrub, consisting of several species of *Acacias*, and of a variety of small trees, appear to be the outposts of the extensive scrubs of the interior.¹¹

Leichhardt journeyed to the northeast of the dense brigalow scrub shown on Buxton's Map but it is clear that he knew of it, ('outposts of the extensive scrub of the interior') and may have glimpsed the scrub as he travelled through the grassy plains of *Greenbank* and *Jimbour*.



Section of Buxton's Map, 1864 showing dense scrub southwest of Dalby, between Wilkie Creek and the Condamine River .

In 1855 Oscar de Satge, (who by 1869 had become M.L.A. for Clermont) travelled from the *Glenlyon/Mangoola* district in the south to Dalby which was just 'a store and a couple of public houses'. He travelled through:

...what was then the cream of the Darling Downs, quite unfenced and only partly stocked. It consisted chiefly of rolling plains, growing barley, kangaroo and oat grasses, that grew in some cases as high as a mounted horseman, but which the heavy stocking of after days has long since extinguished.¹²

That description is of land to the southeast of the area under consideration, as de Satge journeyed through *Yandilla*, *Cecil Plains* and *St. Ruth* runs. He continued on to Dalby and *Jimbour* through that area described by Leichhardt eleven years previously. By this route he avoided the dense brigalow scrub of the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district.

The untouched expanse of lush, colourful native grasses, trees and scrub has been irrevocably changed over the years by grazing and agriculture. Great changes to the grasslands due to 'heavy stocking' were obvious to de Satge as early as 1901 when he wrote the above description. The dense brigalow and tea-tree scrub of Lake Broadwater and Kupunn has almost disappeared but for an area in the Conservation Park around the lake. Huge cultivated paddocks with cotton, sorghum and other crops cover the land. Homesteads built by the selectors shortly after the turn of the 20th century were hidden from view by trees and scrub, lending an air of mystery. Depending upon one's point of view there was privacy - or isolation. The few remaining residences are now exposed on one vast cleared plain, the paddocks fringed by scattered remnant trees. These changes in the landscape have helped to alter the social dynamics and way of life in the district.

Brigalow trees (*acacia harpophylla*)
below - remnants of the old dense scrub,
and a River Red Gum (*eucalyptus*
camaldulensis) left.



Far left: Belah Oak (*casuarina cristata*).
Centre: Box Tree (*eucalyptus populnea*).
Right: Moreton Bay Ash (*eucalyptus tessalaris*).

All photographs on this page were taken in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district in 2002 – identification of the trees by Pat Lane, a retired farmer from the district and a former member of the Society for Growing Australian Plants. He acknowledges confirmation from a friend at the Forestry Commission.

It is important in this overview of vegetation to mention, because of its strong impact on the district, the devastating prickly pear infestation that swept across much of eastern Australia. A Mr. Easton of *Billa Billa* near Goondiwindi quite innocently introduced the pear to Queensland in about 1860, as an ornamental plant. He wanted to make a hedge to keep out the dingoes, and in addition he thought that the fruit would keep down scurvy among the shepherds.¹³ In 1900, 4,000,000 hectares were affected in Queensland and by 1920 this had grown to 23,000,000 hectares.¹⁴ Thomas Brennan, who lived on the outskirts of Dalby from about 1870, believed that he knew how the pest was spread in the local area. He recalled that Mr. Hughes, who planted a hedge of pear to keep local boys out of his orchard, had introduced the pest to the Myall Creek area near town. Subsequently a big flood had spread it everywhere.¹⁵

The spread of the pear was of huge concern and much discussed in political circles. In 1910 comments from Senator James McColl were published in the Dalby Herald. He had seen the problem in Queensland and had afterwards visited the United States to attend a Dry-Farming Congress in Wyoming. Senator McColl acknowledged that the prickly pear had been 'allowed to over run and impair' much land in Queensland. He also pointed out somewhat defensively that a reward had been offered for its eradication and that infested land was granted on merely nominal terms.¹⁶ On the State level, too, attempts were made to encourage development of affected areas. Attractive conditions, including long leases, were offered to prospective settlers assisted by an initiative from a local independent member of state parliament:

Joshua Thomas Bell, a private member of parliament introduced a new form of tenure into our Land laws, in order to induce settlers to tackle the problem of extirpating the prickly pear pest.¹⁷

The pear had become quite a problem in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater area by the turn of the century. Jack Bennie, whose family property is near Lake Broadwater, recalled that selection was conditional upon control of the pest when his father James Bennie took up the land.

Our property *Lakeview* was selected by my father in 1911 and designated by the Lands Department as a Prickly Pear Development Selection. Conditions of selection included the gradual control of the pear and this was checked on from time to time by a visit from a Crown Land Ranger.¹⁸

The original Bennie selection (Portion 94, Parish of Daandine) was granted under the Land Act of 1910, which imposed what proved to be impossible terms in return for seemingly attractive concessions. James Bennie was required to occupy the 1211 acre land portion and agree to ‘effectually eradicate one fifth of the prickly pear upon the Selection’ each year during the first five years, which would be rent-free. The land was then to be kept ‘absolutely clear of prickly pear’ during the remaining ten years of the purchase period, with a rent of just over fifteen pounds per annum. Thus, the agreed purchase price was a total of about one hundred and fifty pounds, at two shillings and six pence an acre.

The Prickly Pear Land Act of 1923 imposed equally impossible conditions. Land values had dropped considerably from 1910, reducing the selector’s debt to something more attuned to his capacity to pay. By 1927 (at the end of the original purchase period) James Bennie’s land was re-valued at only nine pence per acre, retrospectively from 1911. Fortunately it was agreed that the total purchase price be reduced to forty-five pounds, eight shillings and ten pence – less than one third of the original sum. This left only about five pounds, ten shillings of the purchase money to be paid - James had managed forty pounds during the term of the lease. This all seemed very fair, but an impossible condition

was still attached to the otherwise favourable terms - the whole of the prickly pear was to be destroyed in one year (although no rent towards the purchase would be charged during that period).¹⁹

It was very difficult to make a living from land with a heavy infestation of pear, and often there were patches of dense scrub as well. Certainly in the northern section of James Bennie's Portion 94 there were large areas of dense brigalow.²⁰ In the 1920s James Bennie requested the lease of more land in the vicinity because his 1211 acres was 'but a living area' - presumably indicating that whilst he could gain enough income to live, it was difficult to fund development and meet purchase requirements.

The main method of controlling the pear was with the use of arsenic pentoxide as a spray, or with stabbers that could be used from horseback. Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek recalled his father's battle with the pear in the late 1920s on the family's 320 acre scrub selection at Kupunn, and the threat of forfeiture held over the small landholder:

Dad would buy this rotten poison in bulk tins, mix it with water and spend long days poisoning pear, mostly by himself as there weren't too many volunteers for a job like that. Every few months a land ranger would come from Dalby to see how much work had been done. Dad would walk him far into the scrub back and forth across the poisoned patch hoping that in doing so it would seem twice as much and he would get a good report.²¹

As is well known, the problem of the prickly pear infestation was solved in the early 1930s due to the introduction of the Argentinian insect *Cactoblastis Cactorum*. The credit for that must go to Alan Parkhurst Dodd who was born in Brisbane, the son of an entomologist. As an employee of the Commonwealth Prickly Pear Board, Dodd was sent to Argentina to collect the larvae of the *Cactoblastis Cactorum*. A

successful distribution followed, the practice of storing eggs in quills ensuring that there were enough for everyone.²²

Richard Hutchinson (son of Bill Hutchinson – Portion 52, Parish of Daandine) could remember being given a half dozen sticks [quills] of *Cactoblastus* eggs by the Prickly Pear Ranger, Mr. Gordon, in the early 1930s. The ranger was passing through Kupunn on the train and distributing eggs along the way: ‘Prior to this Richard’s father was thinking of taking up two blocks that backed onto the Moonie Highway, but didn’t because his father thought he would “go mad” trying to control the pear. These blocks could be purchased for the cost of fencing them about \$1 [equivalent] an acre.’ The price escalated considerably once the pear was controlled.²³

By 1936 there was cause for rejoicing according to an item that appeared in the local newspaper under the heading ‘Reclaimed Prickly-Pear Lands’:

On looking back over the past ten or twelve years it is astonishing to realise the great transformation that has taken place in Queensland over the vast area that was then regarded as irretrievably lost to prickly-pear.²⁴

Small clumps of pear can still be seen in the district but local farmers say that as soon as the plant reaches a reasonable size it dries up and dies. It is considered wise to keep a few plants so that the *Cactoblastus* insect will remain in the area. Steps are taken to spray the pear if the spread appears to be gathering momentum. Another pest in the area (though nowhere near as serious as that of the prickly pear) has been the Bathurst burr. It was a particular menace during the height of the pastoral period because the burrs would collect in the sheep’s wool, spreading the pest

further and reducing the value of the fleece. Typically the burr plant was tackled by hand with a simple hoe - another unpopular job! An article in the Dalby Herald 18 September 1931 reported on the search for an insect like the *Cactoblastis* to control the Bathurst burr. However, there was not to be another miracle like the demise of the prickly pear.²⁵



Scattered prickly pear near Lake Broadwater in 2001.

From residents' accounts, a trip into town on seven to eighteen miles of tracks crossed by the flood prone Condamine River and Myall Creek was quite a journey in earlier times. The district could become quite isolated. There are no mountains or even hills, and floodwaters could spread and sit for weeks at a time turning the black soil into deep sticky mud. Len Lane (who was born in 1921) said there was a paddock at *Loudoun* station where he grew up that was laughingly called 'Mountain Paddock'. He said that if one looked really carefully, a slight rise was discernible in the flat plain.²⁶ W.Oxnam, in his geomorphological description of the

landscape around Lake Broadwater, confirms Len Lane's picture of the flat terrain:

Local topography is generally flat. A gravel ridge curves around the northern and eastern parts of the lake. The ridge is about one kilometre wide. A person walking along its low flat spine would hardly notice that it was a ridge.²⁷



Looking along the rail line towards Nandi, the flat landscape is covered by floodwaters as far as the eye can see. One telegraph pole is just visible on the left above the tree line. (1930s)

The bank of the Condamine River lined with large trees, during floods in the 1930s.



As well as the Condamine River and Wilkie Creek there are two intermittent water supplies in the area: the Long Swamp which runs diagonally through the district from the Moonie Highway (starting a few miles east of Wilkie Creek) almost to Tipton, and the Lake Broadwater Overflow which delivers excess lake water northwest to Wilkie Creek.

Wildlife

V.J. Wood and F.A. Allison say in their investigation into the mammals at Lake Broadwater that:

For almost a century the changing status of the Australian mammal fauna went virtually unrecorded, as a result we can only guess those species which may have been found in certain districts.²⁸

That comment is probably true of all wildlife in the district, not just the mammals, but nevertheless it is possible to gain some idea of the species common in the area from residents' accounts of interaction with the wildlife. There are several mentions of kangaroos, wallabies, possums, pademelons and more, in accounts of the early days of settlement. See Chapter 6 for an amazing newspaper report of an Aboriginal kangaroo hunt; and the *Daandine* squatter J.P. Wilkie's mention in a letter to the police of native animals, which he says would not provide enough food for the large numbers of Aborigines gathering on his land and threatening his stock.

Mr. A. William Chambers, a former butcher born in 1865,²⁹ had many memories of the district before the turn of the 20th century. He recalled a kangaroo hunt on *Loudoun* station during the time of Hugh Muir Nelson's ownership (1870 –1892):

Sir Hugh Muir Nelson was the first owner of Loudoun, and I often had to go out there for cattle. I remember on one occasion he issued an open invitation to Dalby to come out to Loudoun to a big hunt. Kangaroos were in abundance on the plains, and were eating down the Loudoun grass to the detriment of his sheep. And it was decided to make a big round up. Hundreds of the big marsupials were dispatched that day, and we finished up with a big dinner at Loudoun that night.³⁰

In the early 1960s Pat Lane had many experiences with wildlife when he was land clearing. Once a koala fell out of a tree he had knocked down:

The first thing I knew, there was a grey ball flying out about thirty yards in front of me. It was a Koala who landed unhurt, like a cat, on all fours. He hit the ground and looked back at me as much as to say, 'Boy! I've been through a few storms, but never one as bad as that'. He shot up another tree and I thought, 'Righto, Billy Blue Gum, that one's yours – I'll keep away from it'.³¹



A. William Chambers was buried in the Dalby Cemetery. (Photographed.2003)

At that time it was a fairly general practice to leave patches of scrub for the wildlife and for soil conservation and this is evident in aerial views of the district. However, the patches left in the 1960s have now been considerably reduced.³²



Aerial view of Orana from 1997 (held at the time by Mariee and Jack Callaghan) looking towards Whitewood. Note the few clumps of remaining scrub in the distance.

Protected wildlife could cause problems. One day in the mid 1960s Pat Lane was working at home on *Myola*, about half a mile from the house. He saw the distinctive green utility belonging to the local police sergeant drive up:

Old Mac as we called him, was not noted for his friendliness and he definitely did not make social calls. I racked my brains wondering what was wrong, as I had filled out my agricultural statistics which the police had to chase up in those days, all my vehicles were registered and roadworthy, so it really had me beat, what the heck could he be after...He climbed into the ute and started heading up the track to me. When he got out, he said in his usual gruff manner, 'Are you Pat Lane?' I said, 'Yes I am'. He said, 'I was told you had some koala bears on your property.' I said, 'Yes, I have'. He said, 'You've now got another one'. Apparently one was on the loose in town and someone had rung old Mac about it. He went and caught it and of course, it had clawed the hell out of him – his shirt was ripped, and his arm was bleeding. He had it in a bag and we got it out, near a big box-tree and untied the bag...Old Mac said, 'Yes you mongrel, you're protected – should be me that's protected.'³³

Len Lane says that in general the wallabies liked the scrub and the kangaroos preferred the open grasslands. Kangaroos were common in the 1920s when he was a boy on *Loudoun* station and he recalled that his family had a pet they reared from a joey. When the animal was full-grown it jumped the home paddock fence and joined the local herd, but it would visit occasionally.³⁴ Whitey Torenbeek remembers that there were many wallabies in the Kupunn scrub when his family lived there in the 1920s, and takes a little poetic licence in describing what he had heard of their numbers in earlier times. He says that in the mid and late 19th century the scrub was a big problem to the workers on *Daandine* station. During mustering time it was a good retreat for the cattle:

It was also a haven for the millions of scrub wallabies that bred up under cover, and ate the best grass outside. Whatever the cause,

the station people constructed a huge six foot paling fence the entire length of their side of this scrub – about twelve miles!³⁵

Many present and former residents of the district remember seeing the remnants of that fence and say that there are probably some palings still lying around. Whitey's family needed to leave the district for a few years due to a very dry season in 1924 and he and his brothers were very worried about their pets:

Our pet wallabies we let loose with a red ribbon around their necks so the shooters would not destroy them.³⁶

According to Wood and Allison, koalas, sugar gliders, brushtail possums, eastern grey kangaroos, wallabies, several species of bats and more, were still found in the Lake Broadwater area in the 1980s.³⁷ A current Visitor Information leaflet for Lake Broadwater Conservation Park mentions two small marsupials also found in the park, the yellow-footed pouched mouse and the common marsupial mouse. Listed too are 'the eastern grey kangaroo, red necked wallaby, swamp wallaby, koala, brushed-tailed possum and echidna' along with water rats, bats, snakes and turtles. Naturally the numbers vary according to the species, the seasons and the climatic considerations that affect the availability of food. On a recent visit I saw a group of more than thirty kangaroos near Lake Broadwater, and locals Jack and May Bennie say that there is plenty of water in the park for them even though the lake has been dry during most of 2003.

Reptiles, particularly poisonous snakes, are mentioned frequently in accounts of life in the district. Whitey Torenbeek has many stories about the poisonous Death Adders, Red-bellied Black snakes and the Common Brown snakes that were on the family property at Kupunn in the 1920s and 1930s and marvels that he knew of only one person, Bill Bourke

Junior (Bee), who was bitten by the numerous and lethal 'adders'.³⁸

Bee's sister May confirmed the tale:

... the boys had been swimming in the tank and were coming inside in their bare feet and Bee stood on a death adder, it bit him on the ankle bone. Pop cut the bite, someone else sucked it and they raced him to the Doctor.³⁹

Even in the 1950s the snakes posed a significant danger and many women, who were alone at the homesteads for most of the day, had learned to deal with them. Greg Lane recalled seeing a large black snake at *Whitewood* homestead in the early 1950s. He was a small boy of about six or seven and actually jumped over the snake while running to tell his grandmother, Emily Lane, a very proper and well-groomed woman then in her late sixties. She was busy hosing the garden with bore water, and moved quickly to kill the snake with the end of the hose, much to Greg's amazement.⁴⁰ There are still many snakes in the district.⁴¹

Another point of interest was the bird life. May Laffy (nee Bourke) recalled that emus were a problem when the Bourke family built their first house at Kupunn, in around 1910.

When the house was just built, Mum told me that while they were waiting for the windows to be finished, the emus used to poke their heads in the windows and were always making a nuisance of themselves.⁴²

Such large numbers of wild emus have disappeared from the area but there was still an odd one roaming the district in the 1960s. Pat Lane had an encounter with one that chose to join his family at *Myola* homestead. It caused considerable damage to the carefully tended garden and became quite unpopular. After a couple of weeks the emu adopted their neighbour, Bert Williamson, when he was ploughing his paddock next

door. Bert's wife Dulcie, in turn, organised to donate the emu to 'a bloke who wanted to breed them'.

The fellow turned up with a wool pack and a lad about 16 years old. He told the lad that he would catch the emu and the lad could throw the wool pack over the emu and they would have him. Vic caught the emu all right – but the lad threw the wool pack over both of them. Vic told me later that he was inside the pack with the emu kicking, pecking and squarking – with Vic trying desperately to get out. Anyway, he eventually got the emu in the pack, put him in their ute and took him home – much to everyone's relief.⁴³

A. William Chambers acted as a 'sort of gamekeeper' on *Daandine* station in the late 19th century when he was employed there as a butcher. He recalled that duck shooting was a popular sport, and huge flocks would come in from the west after a heavy fall of rain. Mr. Webb (the manager) was 'an ardent lover of shooting and one of the best field shots I ever saw'.⁴⁴ Chambers mentions also wonga pigeons, quail, scrub turkey, geese and swans.⁴⁵ The frequent mention of the Duckponds area on *Daandine* station and the later naming of a freehold estate in the area as *Duckponds* confirms Mr. Chambers' account of the birdlife. In fact, according to Chambers, Wilkie Creek was once known as Duckponds Creek.⁴⁶ One is inclined to ponder over the naming of a rail siding near Wilkie Creek as 'Ducklo'. According to local legend the ducks did fly low, especially along Clay Hole Gully. Ducks often flew into a nearby shearing shed roof when it shone like an expanse of water in the light of the moon, providing on occasion an unexpected 'duck dinner'.⁴⁷ The connection between these events and the name of the siding is unknown. May Laffy recalled that during the many floods when she was young (around 1920) residents who ran out of meat because the Condamine River had cut the community off from town could always count on wild

duck. '...there were 1000s of them. Pop [her father Bill Bourke Snr.] would shoot them.'⁴⁸

Lake Broadwater is the focal point for birdlife in the district. Malcolm Wilson says that a comprehensive survey of birdlife at Lake Broadwater was carried out over five years as a Bicentennial Project in 1988. The lake is also part of the Murray-Darling Basin Waterbird Project, which began at the lake in May 1994. From these counts, 'it was suggested that under reasonable conditions, Lake Broadwater and surrounds could be home to 10,000 to 20,000 birds of forty to fifty species.' It is an important drought refuge and the 'congregation of birds' during drought is very high.⁴⁹

The early settlers found the waterways contained an abundant supply of fish, and Murray Cod, Yellow Belly and Jew Fish are mentioned by many of the residents. Fishing still remains a popular pastime although the supply has diminished considerably. Fresh fish was a welcome change of diet for the settlers at any time but was particularly welcome during the 1930s depression years. Whitey Torenbeek and his brothers would often fish in Wilkie Creek: 'Very often we came home with a feed of yellow-belly or jew fish.'⁵⁰ Frank Miller, who held *Wilkie View* (Portion 103 in the Parish of Daandine) on the western banks of Wilkie Creek from the early 1930s, says that George Painter (Portion 100, Parish of Daandine) caught a forty-pound Cod in Wilkie Creek years ago. Although Bernie and Linda Wilkie (until recently the owners of *Wilkie View*) allowed Frank Miller to fish in Wilkie Creek whenever he liked, 'The European Carp have taken over now and it is impossible to catch a fish.' However, Frank says that there are good fish in the ring tanks on the cotton properties that go in for irrigation.⁵¹

When the population was smaller and transport more difficult, people were never turned away from favourite fishing spots. However, over the years difficulties arose and fishing on private property needed to be regulated. The following notice from the Dalby Herald in 1936 exemplifies one aspect of the problem:

Special Notice: Owing to the abuse of privileges hitherto extended to anglers and also owing to the fact that dynamite has been used recently by fishermen, rendering holes useless for stock, it is notified that no further permit will be granted for fishing in any waters on the Daandine Estate. Anyone acting in defiance of this order, or trespassing on any part of Daandine will be prosecuted. The Manager, Daandine.⁵²

Frank Miller also had problems:

I never stopped anybody fishing and found most of the fishermen decent people. (Everybody seemed to catch fish.) I caught a few using nets and they got their marching orders. (I wouldn't tolerate nets.) I had the windows shot out of a wool shed up the creek and holes through the roof. Another night fishermen went into the wool shed and camped. It was a cold night and they lit a fire in a tin and burnt a hole in the floor of the bale loading ramp.⁵³

In a fish survey of Lake Broadwater undertaken during the mid 1980s, Raymond Leggett explains the connection between the Lake, the Condamine River and Wilkie Creek. During flood times the lake overflow runs into the Wilkie, which in turn flows into the Condamine. Thus the same fish could be expected in all three waterways. The Murray Cod and Yellow Belly (Golden Perch) were no longer evident in the lake although Leggett says that a regular supply of fingerlings could establish a sport fishery if desired. Unfortunately the introduced species of Carp and Goldfish were in large numbers along with the Mosquito Fish, which lives on the 'eggs and fry of our native species'.⁵⁴

Consideration must also be given to introduced species that have prospered in the district. The brown hare has long been common. Fortunately rabbits have not been a problem due to extensive barrier fences. Although they both feed on pasture intended for stock, rabbits were a much more serious problem than hares for graziers. Unlike hares the rabbits live in burrows that were a constant danger underfoot for men on horseback and for stock.

The Aborigines have often been credited with introducing the Dingo to Australia, but more recent evidence suggests that they were brought into the country later 'with parties of Asian seafarers'.⁵⁵ Dingoes were once common in the area and a 'dogger was appointed to the Broadwater-Duleen-Kupunn district in 1949, following advice by the local Dingo Destruction Committee. Dingo drives continued in the district up to 1967.'⁵⁶ The dingoes caused havoc in the flocks of sheep, killing and maiming the animals. It was not uncommon for them to tear pieces of flesh from fleeing animals. A heartbroken farmer would find many of his animals injured and disfigured after a short attack perhaps by only one dingo.

A report in the Dalby Herald in 1947 described an incident involving one of the local residents:

Dingoes are giving a lot of trouble around Dalby, and have driven many men out of sheep during the past two or three years, according to Mr. Vic McPhie.

Mr. J.P. Wormwell ('Pinkie'), now 78, and one of the best, if not the best, of the hard-riding cattlemen who battled with pear, brumbies and scrubbers down the Moonie in the good old days, was responsible for a marvellous feat of horsemanship when he ran down and killed a large dingo bitch, stated to be a three-quarter bred Alsatian, at Greenbank, a couple of weeks ago.⁵⁷

Pat Lane says that the incident was well known around Kupunn where the Wormwells had links with the local Bourke family through marriage (Bill (Bee) Bourke Jnr. married Pinkie's daughter, Jean). Pat, who was about sixteen years old at the time, says he heard that Pinkie Wormwell hit the dingo on the head with his stirrup iron as he rode past it at full gallop.⁵⁸



Mr. and Mrs.
Pinkney
Wormwell in
their later
years.
*John Oxley
Library,
Brisbane.*

Frank Miller had many problems with dingoes on his return from World War II:

I was having trouble with dingoes on 'Wilkie View' so Fred Rokesky and I went up to Halliford where the dingoes were coming from. (Fred Rokesky had a property up the Wilkie and he had to trap all the year round to run sheep). [Portions 14 & 98, Parish of Daandine] He was an expert dingo trapper. I learnt the

trade. A dingo is cunning and you have to be a bit more cunning to trap them. We found plenty of dog tracks and set traps and waited at a dam for a dingo to come for a drink till dark. We camped the night. Next morning we had a dingo in a trap. A previous owner of Halliford had Alsatian dogs and they mated with the dingo and they were just as cunning and were a bigger and stronger dog.⁵⁹

Frank Robson supports Frank Miller's comment about hybridised wild dogs. The wild dogs now in the high country in NSW and Victoria are described as 'superdogs'.⁶⁰ Frank Miller later gained assistance from the Government to tackle the dingo menace when a Check Dingo Barrier Fence was gazetted. He was given the netting but had to supply posts and labour to erect it.⁶¹ There are more foxes than dingos in the area now because of a dingo barrier fence on the boundaries of *Duntroon*, south and southwest of Lake Broadwater.

Brumbies (wild horses) were also a pest at one time. Frank Miller had a problem when he lost his saddle horse to the brumbies in the 1930s. After a period of three weeks during which he was 'grounded' and had no alternative but to carry twenty-five pounds of corned beef and six loaves of bread from Ducklo railway siding, he grew quite desperate:

I fenced a horse paddock along the creek. A limb fell over the fence and my saddle horse got out with three brumbies that were running in the paddock. Bill Brown lent me a saddle horse to get my horse but as soon as the horses seen me they would take off at a gallop and probably wouldn't stop till they got to the other end of the paddock, two miles away. There was no way of catching her in standing scrub country. In disgust I took the rifle and shot one of the brumbies and would of shot the other two and could of caught my mare. But in the scrub it was impossible to get the sights on them. I left the gate open on the Moonie Highway and one morning the horses were out on the road and I managed to get them into the yards at Duckponds over the creek and caught my saddle horse.⁶²

Feral cats and feral pigs are common in the Lake Broadwater area.⁶³

Feral pigs in the district provide 'pocket money' for some of the locals who have found a market for the meat in Germany.⁶⁴

In general terms it can be deduced that wildlife was abundant in the district in the early years of settlement but it is assumed that hunting (on a larger scale than had been carried out by the Aborigines), the culling of animals regarded as pests, grazing, land clearing and agriculture have considerably reduced the population of native animals, birds and fish even though some crops have provided an additional food source.

Numbers always varied according to climatic considerations like drought and flood and the status of Lake Broadwater, which dries up completely from time to time. In addition many introduced species have prospered and become pests. They compete with native wildlife for food and some, particularly feral cats, prey on the small indigenous animals.

Climate and Weather

The climate is one of extremes. The average rainfall is between 600-700 mm a year, although the word average can be misleading. Drought and flood are frequent with stories of the raging Condamine River common in personal accounts from the residents, along with tales of bush and grass fires, thunderstorms and hail. The deep and sticky black mud of the wet times is replaced in drought, by soil with deep cracks which are often home to poisonous reptiles. Whitey Torenbeek describes the dangers this created for his large family in the 1920s:

Snakes were around the house a lot, mostly red-bellied black ones and the death adders. Someone would spot a reptile and yell 'snake' and it would soon be disposed of for safety sake. One day Dad took after one that vanished into a deep crack in the black soil that had opened due to the dry weather. He could just make out

where it was a couple of feet down. He called out to Mum to bring some boiling water. She had no hot water but instead a pot of hot soup – something for our tea perhaps. Anyway Dad, armed with the hot soup, knelt over the hole in the ground and promptly poured it down the snake’s refuge. Peering closely to observe the result he was almost hit in the face by the emerging snake. Reeling back and muttering his favourite Dutch swearwords he was able to avoid being bitten only because the snake was instantly dead on hitting the ground.⁶⁵

There were similar incidents in the 1950s for Alf Lane’s wife and daughter at *Whitewood*: ‘...there are cracks in [the] ground big enough for a snake to go down. Lil, Rita and a pup got mixed up with one tonight and [the] snake got away.’⁶⁶ Alf’s wife, Lil, was bitten by a snake at one time and lost her sense of taste and smell for many years.⁶⁷

Whilst the Condamine River flooded regularly enough for the Nandi/Kupunn dairyfarmers to invest in a rowboat in the 1920s to transport their cream to Dalby,⁶⁸ Lake Broadwater is known to dry up completely for periods of some years. When he was a young stockman at *Daandine*, Henry Bassett Lane (whose life is discussed in detail in Chapter 9, The Selectors), first saw Lake Broadwater in the early 1870s. His grandson remembers well what he said about the lake in that period:

He said that it was full then, but it had gum trees dotted through it up to eight inches thick, so it must have been dry for at least 10 to 14 years before it filled, as gum trees do not come up in water.⁶⁹

This information seems to cast doubt on claims the locals say are sometimes made by well-intentioned ‘greenies’ that the lake dries up because of land clearing, which had certainly not begun in earnest during the 1870s. It seems that the lake has always been prone to such dry periods.⁷⁰ Hopefully, in moves begun in the 1920s and 30s, the extensive land clearing in the district has been counterbalanced by the preservation

of an area around Lake Broadwater. The Lake Broadwater Association purchased fifteen hectares bordering the lake's western shore from *Loudoun* station in the 1930s. This was taken over by the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service, a further 855 hectares purchased, and the whole area gazetted as an Environmental Park in 1981 and then as a Conservation Park in 1994⁷¹ Rainfall in the district has been low for the last twelve to fifteen years, with no flooding since 1981 to balance dry periods. It is impossible to gauge whether this is due to 'climate change' or merely part of the pattern of drought and flood.

Nearby *Jimbour* station was the first property in the vicinity to use a windmill to raise subterranean water. In fact the first windmill in Queensland was erected there in 1887.⁷² It was not long before *Loudoun* followed suit with two huge American-made windmills (on Portion 108, Parish of Hill).

Mr. C.J. Waters described one of the two wooden mills, which were still on the former *Loudoun* land he acquired in the 1930s. The mill had the name, 'Steel Star, made in Indiana, U.S.A imprinted on the fan'. The legs and fans were timber and the arms to hold the fans were originally cedar, but the 'crown wheel to which the arms were fitted was a magnificent piece of moulded cast iron with a 3 inch shaft running on wooden bearings... Even after 50 to 100 years, the wear was hardly noticeable and smooth as silk'. Unfortunately the mill had been twisted out of repair by a violent windstorm because the fans were 'slow to turn out of the wind'.⁷³ Initially the mills pumped water from old style wells about three feet square that were dug by hand and lined with timber slabs. Digging the wells was a dangerous job and they were difficult to maintain, often requiring a man to be lowered down to water level. This was

claustrophobic for the repairer who would also need to be on the lookout for snakes.



One of the old Windmills on former *Loudoun* land, photographed in 1942. Note the trees and thick scrub in the background. *From Mr. Allan Woolley of Dalby - the boy standing on the cross-stay.*

Later, windmills with bore holes were the normal method of tapping into the underground water. Many carried the famous 'Southern Cross' brand, made in Toowoomba. The Torenbeek family constructed a windmill in about 1930 after years of anxiety about their water supply. Whitey's father Charlie had often been desperate enough in dry spells to collect

water (secretly after dark) from tanks at the school or the hall. Luisa Torenbeek, her health destroyed by the hard life, had already taken her two young daughters and left the district before the mill was established near the homestead:

The men put the casing down the bore-hole next morning. The windmill, tank and troughing came and it was all erected by about six of our good friends along with Bill, Snowy and Dad of course. They were all happy to see us have such a good improvement. We soon had a tank full of very good water. It was clean and soft and fit to be used in the house. What a pity it wasn't done when Mum was around. Things may have been very very different. It didn't matter any more if the little house tank went dry. The cows and horses all came to drink and would stay close around the water. The little windmill had the tank full up at all times.⁷⁴

Pat Lane put in a bore and windmill at the homestead on *Myola* in the late 1950s. He too required some welcome assistance from obliging neighbours. After several days during which the first bore hole collapsed due to an overnight downpour, he and his mate Ginger (Don Cook) struck limestone:

After a day or two of going nowhere, our neighbours Tom and Ernie Rodgers got to hear of our predicament and came over to tell me that they had a very heavy boring tool that would smash the limestone up and if I liked to bring the truck over to their place, I could have the loan of it. God certainly gave us great neighbours around Kupunn in those days.⁷⁵

They found water at eighty-five feet and 'you could have heard us yell miles away'. Pat and his wife, Aileen, were then able to have the garden they had set their hearts on.

Bushfires were a danger in dry times and were known to sweep through the district. Frank Miller was in the army preparing for embarkation to the Middle East when he received news of a fire that had raged through his property, *Wilkie View*. He was granted a short leave to investigate:

I picked up the Courier Mail and my name was on the front page. There had been a bush fire which started in Harley Young's property, jumped the Moonie Highway, went through Wilkie View and Grimleys and it never stopped till it got to Broadwater burning some cattle on the way... It had burnt about half the property but the feed position was O.K. All of the neighbours and Jim Bell had a saw mill at Ducklo and he took all his men over and they managed to save half the property. It rained soon after and there was no problems.⁷⁶

Ferocious storms were frequent enough for residents to fear that their timber houses would collapse. Many of the houses were built by the early selectors in the first two decades of the 20th century, and were often unlined. By the 1930s they had become rather unstable. Because of the depth of the rich black soil all the houses were built on stumps, and today a brick house, even in Dalby, is unusual – and built on a concrete slab supported by stumps. Because of this method of construction, houses were often moved around, or sold and shifted from property to property. It was quite common for settlers getting established in the Kupunn district to buy a second-hand house and move it to their land.⁷⁷ Pat Lane's parents had reason to be anxious when he was a child in the 1930s:

The old high house in which we lived must have been very old indeed. I can remember my parents' concern when a storm was brewing. On its stumps of eight or ten feet high, it would rock and shake and carry on, when the storm broke.

Pat remembered that one night when a storm was on the way, he and his sister were sent to his grandfather's new one-room cottage (known fondly as 'The Shanty on the Rise', although the 'rise' must have been minimal!) on their property *Memerambi*, because his parents thought it was safer. 'They stayed in the old house and rode the storm out'. A new and stronger house was built in 1937 although much of the old one was

recycled: 'Grandfy [Sam Hutchinson] and Dad [Jim Lane] pulled the old place down, board by board, and salvaged what they could'.⁷⁸

Whitey Torenbeek recalled an isolated but destructive 'whirlee wind' he saw in 1922 when he was five years old:

One day in the summer before I started school and there was only Mum, Amy and myself at home, Mum had the whole place open trying to keep cool. It was in the middle of the day, and Mum had made a special lunch for us two youngsters. We liked bacon and eggs so that's what it was. Sitting at the kitchen table we were just about to tuck into this delicious meal as only kids can do. Suddenly there was a hell of a roar and rush of wind as a giant whirlee struck the house. We must have been directly in its path. I don't know how the old house stood as it was pulled and buffeted by that whirlee. The whole interior was covered in dirt and cow dung thrown up from the nearby dairy yard. We rushed outside to find things strewn about the place in all directions and the savage wind twisting down the paddock amongst the trees doing its best to pull them out of the ground. ...It was a big story to tell Dad and the older boys when they came home. They had to re-erect gates and rails and nail back roofing iron that had come adrift. So much damage can be done in a minute by those enormous whirlee-winds.⁷⁹

The economic consequences of such brief and destructive storms could be considerable for hardworking farmers, particularly when they had crops in the ground. In an account that appeared in a rural newspaper in November 1996 of a hailstorm that struck the Kupunn district, John Lane described how the 'Halloween Hail Storm' destroyed his barley crop. 'He said the storm caused the most damage to his property "Carbeen" in almost 40 years... The hail was the size of marbles and there was a lot of it'. The storm also damaged crops on nearby properties. Phil Lane from adjoining *Belah Park* described the storm as '17 minutes in which his family went from being comfortable and having a reasonable crop to back to being cockies again'.⁸⁰ I asked Mariee Callaghan who was on nearby

Orana at that time about the storm. She and husband Jack had also lost their crop in a matter of minutes – ‘\$30,000 to nothing’.⁸¹

V.J. Wood and M. Ward, in an examination of the climate of the Lake Broadwater area, say that the Downs region is ‘renowned for rainfall variance and records indicate the patchiness of rainfall over even small areas of a few square kilometres’. This is particularly evident with isolated rain bearing thunderstorms during the summer months. They say that ‘records of thunderdays at Lake Broadwater from June 1983 to May 1987 averaged 42 annually’. In the same period the average maximum temperatures reached the mid-thirties and the average minimum fell to six degrees Celsius. In contrast to the hot summers there were thirty-three frosts at Lake Broadwater between 1984 and 1987.⁸² Leichhardt’s journal contains mention of the frosts he saw in 1844. He wrote that the elevation of the Darling Downs, (which is 1800 to 2000 feet):

...renders the climate much cooler than its latitude would lead one to suppose; indeed ice has frequently been found, during the calm clear nights of winter.⁸³

History

It will become evident that since European settlement the two major issues in the history of the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district are both land related: land acquisition and the economic development of that land. European ‘ownership’ first occurred in the 1840s when dispossession of the incumbent Aboriginal population began. The huge pastoral runs in the district were leased from the New South Wales government until Queensland separation in 1859. Officials attempted to regulate settlement without discouraging pastoral development, which was so important for the economic independence of the colony. However, the sale of Crown Land was itself an important source of revenue. The pastoral leases were

reduced in size over the years, firstly by Queensland Government intervention designed to promote denser settlement, and later by economic factors. Later, a trend to divide even small selections among children who had worked on them as part of the 'family business' made many small freehold farms even smaller, although some families followed the English tradition and only the eldest son inherited.

It is somewhat ironic that the downsizing trend is now being reversed with evidence of a growing shift to 'agribusiness' in rural Australia. Many family enterprises in the district have expanded considerably. The farmers believe that to survive they must 'get big or get out'. Barbara Wicks from the Kupunn district commented that most people who were in the district thirty years ago have 'either sold out, retired or expanded'.⁸⁴ Warakirri Agricultural Trusts, a Victorian superannuation investment company, purchased around 3000 acres of adjoining land in 1999 from several families who had been in the Nandi/Kupunn district for generations. In 2003 they have added at least another 500 acres and locals believe they are probably looking out for further expansion. (See Table E in Appendix) The farms have been combined into one agricultural operation with cotton as the principal crop.⁸⁵ Warakirri own and operate a number of properties in three states: Victoria, NSW and Queensland, including one in the nearby *Jimbour* area. Typically they 'invest in dry land cropping farms on a geographically diversified basis.' Investors in the Trusts are Superannuation Funds.⁸⁶ Warakirri say their holdings are of 'sufficient size to benefit from economics of scale with the application of best management practice'.⁸⁷

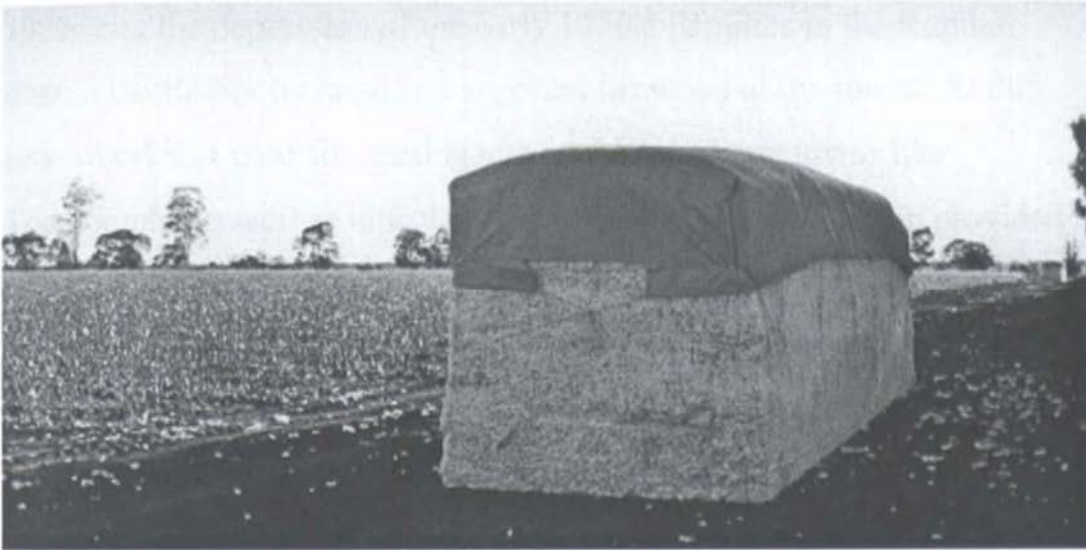
This trend does not however, represent a return to the 'good old days' of the huge stations, which supported large communities. Warakirri's

holdings are much smaller than the old pastoral leases and large freehold estates, and unlike *Loudoun*, *Bon Accord* and others, such new enterprises do not need a community of workers to live on the property. They are also entirely 'Agricultural' rather than 'Pastoral' in their pursuits. Typically a manager resides on the land to oversee operations and there are perhaps one or two employees. Contractors (frequently from outside the district) do the bulk of the agricultural work with giant machinery. Modern transport and communications have ensured that the farmer's life is no longer isolated, and all services can be obtained in the towns and cities.

Warakirri try to attract quality managers, 'by providing opportunities and a career in professional farming for younger people with limited access to capital'.⁸⁸ This contrasts with the old method of gaining a 'career' in farming, by working and training on the family farm and eventually taking it over. Just as large pastoral companies took over many of the first leased runs after they were reduced in size during the 1860s and 1870s, usually for economic reasons, there is a growing trend for the family farm to be taken over by a large company rather than passed down within the family. This is due partly to problems in making smallholdings profitable, and partly to the many alternatives now available for the farmer's offspring.

Another important factor in the history of the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district is that of land clearing. As previously discussed, what was originally pastoral land with scattered forest and large patches of dense scrub has been transformed into an expanse of enormous cultivated paddocks. One local explained that planting and harvesting with huge machinery is best done in long sweeps, and trees and fences hinder the

long runs. Water management has seen the introduction of irrigation to some of the farms. Large ring tanks with earthen walls have become a feature of the landscape,⁸⁹ although dry land cotton farming is also common.⁹⁰



After the harvest of a dry land cotton crop on Rob and Marie Cook's land, 2002. The cotton modules are ready for transport.

At first the clearing process in the district was slow. The Queensland Government was not initially successful in its attempts to encourage a 'yeoman' farming class, and the powerful squatters with their grazing interests reigned supreme. Charles Coxen, a well-known squatter, was the first parliamentary member for the district. He, like others with grazing interests, was strongly against free selection [that is selection before survey],⁹¹ and it took until the 1870s for the small farmer to be offered surveyed land in a reasonably fair and attractive way, and even later in the area under consideration. A survey map of Portion 1, Parish of Daandine dated 1904 (the *Duckponds* area, which had been pre-empted from *Daandine* in the 1870s), shows that a large area of 'fairly grassed'... 'open box forest' was already ringbarked at that time.⁹² It took the advent of the railway branch line in 1910 for the selection process to gather momentum in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district. Struggling

selectors tackled the Kupunn scrub with axes, but only scratched around the edges of the dense belah, brigalow and tea tree.

Much more of the clearing was done during the drought years of the early 1920s and the depression of the early 1930s. Families in the Kupunn district cut timber by hand and supplied firewood to the towns. At this time wood was used for heating and cooking in large towns like Toowoomba as well as in isolated homesteads. Timber cutting provided some much needed cash but it was difficult and sometimes dangerous work, particularly when young half-broken horses were used to transport logs to the Kupunn siding. There was pressure to fill hired railway trucks within the period it took the locomotive to return from the end of the line, to avoid a deduction from the meagre profits. This involved cutting and loading five to ten tons of wood in a day. Whitey Torenbeek recalled an incident when a neighbour, Ernie Stagg, was run over by a dray as he tried to control a 'flighty' horse. 'He lay semi-conscious, spitting up blood while waiting at the siding for the rail ambulance. Amazingly he was back on the job after only a few weeks.'⁹³ The rail ambulance was a boon in such emergencies. Edgar Dalby Slaughter, the Ambulance Superintendent based in Dalby, had come up with the idea when he realised that the rail lines were elevated above the flooded plains and could provide access and a quick delivery of the patient to hospital when roads were impassable. They operated from 1918 to 1946.⁹⁴

Land clearing halted somewhat at the end of the 1930s depression and began again with a vengeance after World War II. Mechanisation saw the introduction of mammoth bulldozers, tractors and scrub clearing devices, which accelerated the rate of clearing markedly. The chief motivation was a trend from grazing and dairying to agriculture.

Landscape Changes Shown in a Series of Photographs

Landscape alterations are visible in a series of photographs featuring two different areas in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district. A collection of pictures showing *Belah Park* homestead and surrounding lands reveals dramatic man-made changes. The photographs of Lake Broadwater show little change other than the natural cyclical drying up of the lake.

Conservation efforts initiated by the community in the late 1920s eventually received official support, and the Lake Broadwater Conservation Park remains the only stronghold of the old dense scrub, and a haven for wildlife.

Belah Park



Two slab huts on *Belah Park*, pictured in about 1910. Henry Bassett and Isabella Lane with their sons Henry Francis (behind his parents) and James William seated. A robust Syd Lowery stands at the rear.

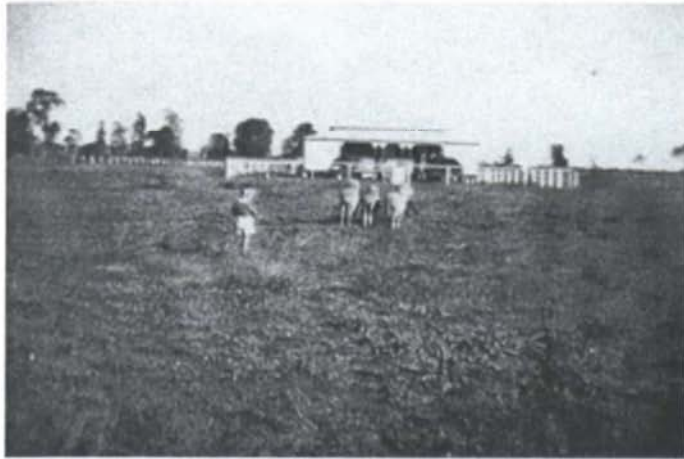
The earliest picture of *Belah Park* is from 1910. A grassed landscape with tall trees can be glimpsed in the background behind two slab huts. The photograph below, taken in 2002 near where the slab huts once stood,

gives some idea of the landscape changes over the past ninety years. The trees on the right indicate the road, and others in the distance fringe the huge paddocks of *Belah Park* and adjoining land now farmed as one enterprise by Warakirri Agricultural Trusts.



The area at *Belah Park* where the two slab huts, on the previous page, once stood. This photograph was taken in 2002. A stand of Belah Oaks near the homestead, evident from the earliest days, were removed when Warakirri Agricultural Trusts took over in 1999. See aerial photographs below. Another clump of scrub was left at the request of former owner, Philip Lane

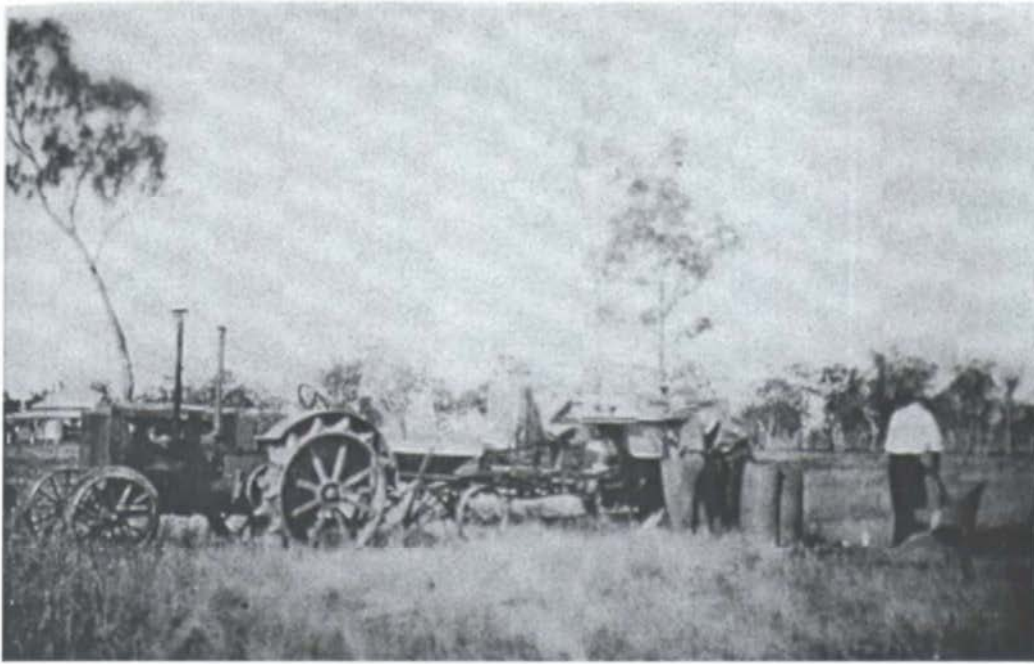
The years between 1910 and 2002 saw much land clearing, and changes from sheep and cattle grazing to wheat growing, thence to the present cotton, sorghum and other feed crops.



In the mid 1930s sheep grazing was still paramount. Here we see a tiny John Lane in front of the homestead with some of the sheep.



Pat Lane clearing Tea-Tree scrub (*melaluca linarifolia*) at Belah Park using a Cat D4 – 1947.



Harvesting and sewing wheat bags at the rear of *Belah Park* homestead (on left) 1950/60.



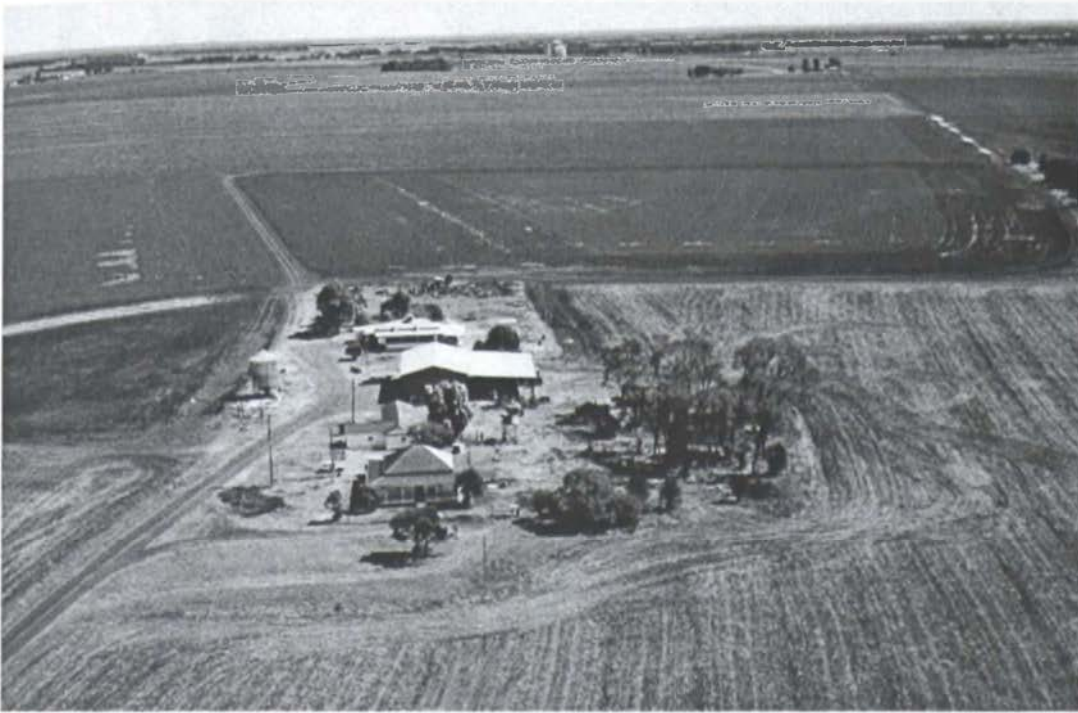
Bulk wheat harvesting at *Belah Park* 1970/80.

The increase in cleared land over time can be viewed from a different perspective in the following set of aerial views.

Belah Park in 1963.



From 1988- a second homestead had been added since 1963.



1996 – nearly all the scattered trees have disappeared from the paddocks. Note silos at the Kupunn rail siding, centre top, and cotton modules on the right.

Lake Broadwater

In contrast to the immense landscape alterations at *Belah Park*, the area around nearby Lake Broadwater has changed little over the years. Early glimpses of the lake and its surrounds are in the background of a photograph from a picnic for *Loudoun* staff in 1910. An expanse of water is visible surrounded by tall scrub. A picture featuring the lake from the late 1920s shows the Torenbeek family car (a 1924/5 Overland Tourer) with Gerard ‘Whitey’ Torenbeek and his sister Amy. Again tall trees are evident around a clearing.



Lake Broadwater- then part of *Loudoun* station - in the background at a picnic, 1910.



A picnic at the lake in the 1920s.
Gerard and Amy Torenbeek on the car running board with their friends, Thelma Grimley and Alma Stagg.

Two photographs of Lake Broadwater from about 1939 (on the next page) show the surrounds well wooded and some Gum trees actually in the water, indicating that the level had been much lower in the past. These are followed by photographs of an almost full lake in May 2001, and one of Lake Broadwater totally dry in May 2003. It filled overnight towards the end of 2003.

The appearance of the area has changed little but for the more developed picnic area. The efforts of the community, which began in the late 1920s, have been successful in preserving the area around Lake Broadwater in something resembling its original state.

It is probably only through pictures that we can grasp changes to the landscape over a long period. Land clearing gradually altered the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater landscape from one of grassy plains with scattered trees and patches of dense scrub to one of cultivated paddocks. The change, which occurred throughout the district, is clearly illustrated in the series of photographs taken at *Belah Park*. In contrast we see that Lake Broadwater remains much as it was early in the 20th century due to local conservation efforts.



Lake Broadwater in 1939.



Views of a full Lake Broadwater in May 2001. Two years later it was bone dry.



Even though it is a cloudy day and much rain had fallen in the district in previous months, rain had not fallen in the lake catchment area. The dry lakebed is full of a type of reddish weed. May 2003.

¹ The rail line reached Kumbarilla from Dalby – through Nandi, Kupunn, Duleen, Ducklo and Gulera - in September 1911. Information from some notes about the railway made available for the Kupunn War Memorial Hall 75th Anniversary, 1997 and elsewhere.

² Details from Railway Department Nomenclature lists held in Queensland Archives, and listed also in Department of Natural Resources records. (Nandi – plover; Kupunn – plenty of brigalow; Duleen – swan; Ducklo – origin unclear, perhaps refers to the ducks plentiful in the area and may not be Aboriginal; Gulera – no information, Kumbarilla – plenty of ironbark. (Note: it is unlikely that these names have any attachment to the local area. They were probably allocated from a book of Aboriginal ‘words’ from an unknown source.)

³ ‘Separated milk’ was the residue after the farmers removed the cream, using small ‘separating’ machines. The separators were efficient and affordable by this time but to ensure hygiene they required lots of careful washing up in hot soapy water after use. My grandparents had a small one that I saw used frequently in the mid 1940s and early 1950s for the home supply of cream.

⁴ The term ‘squatter’ was originally a derogatory name applied to unauthorized occupiers of Crown Land in New South Wales. A.G.L. Shaw says that they were ‘vagabonds: often ex-convicts’. The name was later used for officially sanctioned leaseholders [like those on the Darling Downs], and ‘Gentleman squatters’ were heard of’. (The Economic Development of Australia, Longmans, Melbourne, Fourth Edition 1960, p.51.)

⁵ Enid Fletcher, ‘James Taylor: Squatter and Townsman,’ in Downs Voices ed. Peter Putnis, Darling Downs Institute Press, Toowoomba, 1978, p.72.

⁶ Ibid p.75.

⁷ From a selection of early maps (including Buxton’s Squatting Map, 1864) and surveys, that will be identified in detail later.

⁸ He was in an elevated position close to lat. 28 degrees and long. 152 degrees, probably east of where Allora was later established. From Cunningham’s journal, on microfilm at the Mitchell Library, Sydney.

⁹ Allan Cunningham in Journal of the Royal Geographical Society of London 1832 Vol 2 (pp111–114) reproduced in French, Maurice Travellers in a Landscape, University of Southern Queensland Press, Toowoomba, 1994, p.28.

¹⁰ Stewart Jack, article ‘Mrs. Stewart – 100 Years Old’ in A History of Dalby and District, a privately distributed history compiled in the 1940s, p.70. A second edition of Stewart Jack’s book was later issued by Len Ollson, with different page numbers but the same content. It will be identified as the ‘Second Edition’ when referred to.

¹¹ Ludwig Leichhardt, Journal of an Overland Expedition in Australia, From Moreton Bay to Port Essington, A Distance of Upwards of 3000 Miles, During the Years 1844-1845 London, 1847, Facsimile edition Corkwood Press, North Adelaide 1996, pp.3 -4.

¹² Oscar de Satge, Pages from the Journal of a Queensland Squatter, Hurst & Blackett Ltd, London, 1901, p.53.

¹³ Donald Gunn, Links with the Past, quoted in Jan Ward-Brown, ed. Rosenthal, Historic Shire 1889-1989, Rosenthal Shire Council, Warwick, 1989, p.481.

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ Stewart Jack, ‘A Chat With Mr. Thomas Brennan’ (1924) in A History of Dalby and District p.78.

¹⁶ Dalby Herald, 18 May 1910. – In this article Senator McColl tries to look at the bright side of the problem. While in the U.S.A, he had investigated possible solutions ‘at my own charges’. He suggests

ways that the pear could be used as stock feed, and praises the fruit he tasted in the U.S.A. from a spineless variety of the plant.

¹⁷ Charles Arrowsmith Bernays, Queensland Politics During 60 Years 1859-1919, Brisbane, 1919, p.332. Note: Joshua Thomas Bell (1863-1911) was from *Jimbour*.

¹⁸ Jack Bennie, 'White Settlement', Lake Broadwater ed. Gillian Scott, Darling Downs Institute Press, 1988, p.338.

¹⁹ Documents held by Jack Bennie: P.P.S. 5408 and P.P.S. 5409 - The Land Act of 1910, Notice of Approval of Application to Select a Prickly Pear Selection – Portions 94 and 95, Parish of Daandine. Memo, The Prickly-pear Land Act of 1923 regarding the Purchasing Price of Prickly-pear Selection No. 5409 Dalby, dated 1927.

²⁰ A Survey Plan (DY228sh1) from the Lands Office, dated 11 October 1932 shows nearly one quarter of Portion 94, Parish of Daandine, covered by Dense Brigalow Scrub. The southern part of the land portion is clearer, though still covered with heavy Box, Gum, Pine, Oak and Ironbark forest and dense undergrowth of Wattle and Dogwood Saplings. Portion 95 (Ralph Bennie's) has no Brigalow scrub and this probably explains why it was valued at five shillings an acre in 1911 – twice that of Portion 94; Letter from James Bennie to the Prickly Pear Land Commission, Brisbane – no date but written during the 1920s.

²¹ Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, Keep Your Hat on Charlie, You're In Australia Now, ed. Dale Lehner, published by Dale Lehner, 2001, p.49.

²² B.C. Dodd, (Nephew of A.P. Dodd), Supervising Horticulturist, D.P.I. Applethorpe, quoted in Jan Ward-Brown, p.486.

²³ From Hutchinson family notes, compiled 1997 for 75th Anniversary of the Kupunn War Memorial Hall - written by Richard Hutchinson's daughter and held for the function committee by Joan Honke of Dalby.

²⁴ Dalby Herald, 15 September 1936, p.4.

²⁵ I well remember my grandfather Morris Bassett Lane, at *Whitewood* during the 1950s, setting off on foot with a hoe tucked under his arm. It was a never- ending job tackled whenever time was available.

²⁶ Len Lane from recorded interview with Dale Lehner, September 2000.

²⁷ W. Oxnam, 'Geomorphology', Lake Broadwater, p.12.

²⁸ V.J. Wood and F.A. Allison, 'Mammals', Lake Broadwater pp 304 -16. Also given are the results of a detailed survey of the mammal population at Lake Broadwater in the late 1980s.

²⁹ His Obituary appears in the Dalby Herald, 8 November 1943.

³⁰ Stewart Jack, History of Dalby and District , Second edition reissued by Len Ollson. Copy held by Dalby Family History Society Inc., p.56.

³¹ Patrick J. Lane, self published and privately distributed memoirs, A Dollar Short and a Day Late, 2001, p.59.

³² Pat and Aileen Lane commented that John Irvine who came to the Kupunn district from Victoria after World War II - and took up Portion 3v(b) Parish of Hill - was most particular about leaving corridors of vegetation. Victorian farmers had learned early that this was necessary to manage their type of soil. Conversation with Dale Lehner, April 2002.

³³ Patrick J. Lane, A Dollar Short and a Day Late, pp.63-4.

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- ³⁴ Len Lane, recorded interview with Dale Lehner, September 2000.
- ³⁵ Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, ed. Dale Lehner, Keep Your Hat on Charlie, You're In Australia Now, p.9.
- ³⁶ Ibid, p.29.
- ³⁷ V.J. Wood and F.A.Allison, 'Mammals' Lake Broadwater, pp.301-316.
- ³⁸ Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, ed. Dale Lehner, Keep Your Hat on Charlie, pp.50-2.
- ³⁹ May Laffy (nee Bourke), privately distributed memoir My Memory Is Not Too Good, as told to her Grand-daughter Elisha Laffy - ed. Brian and Isabelle Laffy, 1995, p.5.
- ⁴⁰ Conversations Greg Lane (son of Len Lane), with Dale Lehner, 2002.
- ⁴¹ A detailed account by J. Covacevich, W. Dunmall and J.A. Sorley of the many reptiles found in the Lake Broadwater area in the late 1980s, appears in 'Reptiles', Lake Broadwater , pp.265-73.
- ⁴² May Laffy (nee Bourke), My Memory Is Not Too Good, p.2.
- ⁴³ Patrick J. Lane, A Dollar Short and a Day Late, pp.59 & 64-66.
- ⁴⁴ Mr. Webb was also, according to Chambers, 'a bit of a nark'. Unlike other squatters he would not allow promiscuous shooting on his property but 'kept his game for himself and his friends'. He sent a big consignment of game to England through the Brisbane Freezing Works to friends on the estates he visited there. (Also from Stewart Jack's report, details as for following endnote.) This was fairly new technology, the first cargo of frozen meat was sent to London in about 1880.
- ⁴⁵ Stewart Jack, (from interview with Mr. Chambers in 1924) - in History of Dalby and District, pp.56-7 & p.109.
- ⁴⁶ Ibid, p.122.
- ⁴⁷ Frederick Colin Bauer, Ducklo State School, 1988, p.50.
- ⁴⁸ May Laffy, My Memory Is Not Too Good, p.9.
- ⁴⁹ Outlined in a paper by Malcolm Wilson, written during the 1990s for the Wambo Shire Council, headed - 'Lake Broadwater – An Important Conservation Area'. Current Visitor Information for the Lake Broadwater Conservation Park asserts that: 'About 240 species of birds have been recorded on the park; the number and variety is due primarily to the wide range of habitat types.' In the 1980s D.H.C. Seton and V.J. Wood carried out a detailed survey of the bird life at Lake Broadwater, 'Birds', which appears in Lake Broadwater pp.274 -303.
- ⁵⁰ Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, ed. Dale Lehner, Keep Your Hat on Charlie, You're in Australia Now, p.18.
- ⁵¹ Frank William Miller, privately distributed memoirs, Determined Achiever. Compiled by Lyn Bennie in about 1997, pp.40-51.
- ⁵² Dalby Herald, 8December 1936, p.1.
- ⁵³ Frank William Miller, pp.40 -1.
- ⁵⁴ Raymond Leggett, 'Bony Fishes', Lake Broadwater, pp.150-1.

⁵⁵ Frank Robson, 'Hell hounds', Sydney Morning Herald Magazine, Good Weekend , 23 March 2002, p.35. Source - Laurie Corbett at the National Wild Dog Summit 22 Feb. 2002.

⁵⁶ V.J. Wood and F.A. Allison, 'Mammals', Lake Broadwater, p.313.

⁵⁷ Reproduced in Hector M. Ferguson, A History of Tara and District with Addenda 1840-1960, authorised by Tara Shire Council, 1960, pp.44-6. Note: J. Pinkney Wormwell's father Mr. P. Wormwell held Portion 268, Parish of Greenbank from at least 1908, and then moved further out west. Young Pinkie did the carrying of supplies by dray from Dalby to the family property – a three-week trip of 120 miles – and later worked on *Marmadua* and *Daandine* stations where he would have known Henry Bassett Lane, long time resident of the district under discussion. Pinkie Jnr. bought land again in Greenbank Parish in the 1920s and remained there until his death in 1957 aged 87 years. His daughter Jean married Bill (Bee) Bourke Jnr. from nearby Kupunn. – Details from Ferguson, Parish of Greenbank Map, 1908 and Bourke family history information.

⁵⁸ Conversation Pat Lane with Dale Lehner, April 2002.

⁵⁹ Frank William Miller, Determined Achiever, p.36.

⁶⁰ Frank Robson, 'Hell hounds', p.31.

⁶¹ Frank William Miller, Determined Achiever, p.37.

⁶² Ibid, p.11.

⁶³ V.J. Wood and F.A. Allison, 'Mammals', Lake Broadwater pp.312-3.

⁶⁴ Conversation Rob Parsons of Dalby with Dale Lehner, October 2001. Rob was explaining why his son's dog was so exhausted – it had just returned from a pig-hunting trip.

⁶⁵ Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, ed. Dale Lehner, Keep Your Hat on Charlie, You're in Australia Now, pp.26 -7.

⁶⁶ Letter Alf Lane to Eber Lane, 31 December 1954.

⁶⁷ Conversations, Lil Lane with Dale Lehner, 2000 – 2002.

⁶⁸ Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, ed. Dale Lehner, Keep Your Hat on Charlie, You're in Australia Now, pp57-59: Frank Miller, Determined Achiever , p.14.

⁶⁹ Patrick J. Lane, A Dollar Short and a Day Late, p.82. (There was a long period of drought in the mid 1860s but the fact that the lake was full in the 1870s is confirmed by information in a Queensland Flood Summary. There were floods in the Dalby district in 1870, 72, 74 and 79. In 1872 the 'country was flooded from Daandine to Dalby' and a 'man drowned whilst attempting to cross Daandine Creek'. From H.A. Hunt – Comm. Meteorologist 1914, Results of Rainfall Observations made in Queensland.- Extracts available www.bom.gov.au/hydro/flood/qld/fld_history/floodsum-1870shtml.)

⁷⁰ May Bennie compiled information about the status of the lake from her own observations and other sources. She pinpoints some dry periods in 1901-2, in the late 1930s, the late 1960s (ending in 1970 when the lake filled overnight), 1992, and 2002-3. She adds a note to her tabulated information, 'Dalby rainfall chart no indication of rainfall at Lake Broadwater. Beneficial rainfall has to be in the catchment areas to the South and South-west of the Lake.'

⁷¹ From a leaflet, 'Lake Broadwater Conservation Park', supplied by the Dalby Information Centre 2001.

⁷² Stewart Jack, A History of Dalby and District, p.101.

⁷³ C.J. Waters 1992, Dalby and District Heritage Calendar, 1999 - compiled by Dalby Family History Society Inc.

⁷⁴ Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, ed. Dale Lehner, Keep Your Hat on Charlie, You're in Australia Now, p.78.

⁷⁵ Patrick J. Lane, A Dollar Short and a Day Late, p.51.

⁷⁶ Frank William Miller, Determined Achiever, p.20.

⁷⁷ This is still a common practice and an agent's office window in Dalby pictures many houses available for removal to and restumping 'on your land'.

⁷⁸ Patrick J. Lane, A Dollar Short and a Day Late, pp.3-4.

⁷⁹ Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, ed. Dale Lehner Keep Your Hat on Charlie, You're in Australia Now, pp.17-18.

⁸⁰ Report in The Graingrower, Nov. 1996 and conversation John Lane with Dale Lehner, April 2002.

⁸¹ Conversation Mariee Callaghan with Dale Lehner, April 2002.

⁸² V.J. Wood and M. Ward 'Climate', Lake Broadwater, pp.23-28.

⁸³ Ludwig Leichhardt, Journal of an Overland Expedition in Australia..., p.3.

⁸⁴ Barbara Wicks, letter to Dale Lehner, 20 May 2002.

⁸⁵ Parick J. Lane, A Dollar Short and a Day Late, p.76.

⁸⁶ From the description given as sponsor of Warakirri Agricultural Trust Scholarship for Diploma of Agribusiness or Bachelor of Business (Agricultural Management), <http://www.marcusholdham.vic.edu.au/scholarship/warakirri-agricultural.trust.scholarship.htm>)

⁸⁷ Ibid

⁸⁸ Ibid

⁸⁹ For example there is one in the Long Swamp area, Portion 41 held by the Wicks family and another on Max Schultz's property 'The Overflow'.

⁹⁰ As on the Cook family landholdings at Kupunn. They revert to other crops during very dry periods.

⁹¹ Stewart Jack, A History of Dalby and District, p.64.

⁹² Survey Map of Subdivisions 1 & 2, Parish of Daandine, signed by the surveyor 20 July 1904.

⁹³ Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, ed. Dale Lehner, Keep Your Hat on Charlie, You're in Australia Now, pp.21-23.

⁹⁴ Edgar Dalby Slaughter is pictured in 1927 with a new rail ambulance in Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, Keep your Hat on Charlie, p.22 and Barry Copley, Girls, Goats and Glass Bottles, Dalby Town Council, 2001, p.101.

Chapter 6

The Aborigines and Early European Settlement

It is clear that the Indigenous population had already named features of the Darling Downs landscape long before Allan Cunningham's discovery in 1827. We saw in Chapter 2 that many of the first European settlers acknowledged the existence and prior land ownership of the Aboriginal people by continuing to use some of those names.

There are few facts available about the everyday lives of the tribes that inhabited the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district before European settlement. Maurice French has outlined much of the available information in the early chapters of his history of the Downs region, using many details gathered by Professor Tindale.¹ One of the tribes was variously known as *Barunggam*, *Murrungama* or *Kogai*. Their tribal lands intersected with the lands of the *Jorowair/Yarrowair* or *Warmga* (the actual name is unclear) to the south west of Dalby. The language group for the whole Downs area was probably *Waka Waka* or *Wacca Wacca*.² Some placenames of Aboriginal origin in the surrounding area are probably from that language. These include: Jimbour, Kaimkillenbun, Jingi Jingi and Daandine. Railway siding names are unlikely to be from local dialects.

Malcolm Wilson and Harold Hall have investigated the Aboriginal presence around Dalby in detail, particularly in the Lake Broadwater district. They gathered information from remaining artefacts and by collecting reminiscences from local Aborigines and descendants of early settlers.³ Another source of information is a book put together in the 1940s by Stewart Jack of Dalby. He was the son of the businessman and

former mayor Thomas Jack, and owned a garage 'Stewart Jack, General Motors' in the 1940s and 50s. Stewart Jack collected transcripts of interviews and newspaper reports about the early days in the Dalby district, and collated them into a manuscript that was duplicated and it seems privately distributed though never officially published.⁴ Ray Humphrys' Bonyi-Bonyi includes information about the Aborigines who attended gatherings in the Bunya Mountains area,⁵ and Chris Ashton has collated much of the available information about the Aborigines of Wambo Shire.⁶

Tribes from outlying districts would pass through the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater area on their journey to a regular gathering in the Bunya Mountains. Lake Broadwater was a favourite campsite on what amounted to a highway defined by the availability of water and game. Henry Bassett Lane, who came to the area in 1867 as a child when his father was employed on *Daandine* station, remembered that at the time of the gathering:

...he would see small groups of natives over a period of many days passing through the scrub country near Lake Broadwater on their way to the Bunya Mountains. The men appeared first from the scrub and a short time later, the women and children followed, as was their custom.⁷

The Bunya pine, which grows in the Bunya Mountains to the northeast, provided a nut considered by Aboriginal people to be a delicacy. It is known that tribes would gather as Maurice French puts it, 'From May to November every three years (sometimes more often if the season was good) for a "grand jubilee" of gorging'. The actual number of individuals involved is difficult to pin down, and no doubt varied considerably. Many travelled great distances through alien tribal lands, and it appears that it

was a time of truce and consultation that provided an opportunity for trade. Maurice French quotes figures from various sources indicating that anything from 2000 to 20,000 Aborigines attended, although the lower number around the time of white settlement is more likely.⁸ The gatherings in the Bunya Mountains had all but ceased by the 1870s, only thirty years or so from the arrival of the first European squatters.

The Indigenous people left little mark on the landscape of the district. The study by Malcolm Wilson and Harold Hall is informative and comprehensive, but farming activity by European settlers had quickly destroyed much of the little evidence left by the nomadic tribes. 'Trees and logs are still to be found near the Lake, with axe-cut holes where the Barunggam had been hunting for possums and gathering honey...'. An old dead gum tree bears a large scar, 'and from the size and shape of the scar, it is surmised that the bark was taken to make a canoe'.⁹ Remains were found of campsites to the north and east of the lake and artefacts included many stone implements. Wilson and Hall say that although there were large gatherings of people during ceremonial times, usually only small family groups camped there. In good seasons the food was plentiful and even in drought Aborigines 'came to collect the nardoo seeds' which provided a type of flour. Wilson and Hall suggest that the *Burrunggam* word for the lake could have been *Gungdandi* meaning Big Water.¹⁰ Whitey Torenbeek, writing about the Kupunn scrub area where his family lived in the 1920s and 1930s, says of the Aborigines:

We sometimes found their stone axes and marks on trees where a toe-hold had been cut for climbing, probably for a goanna or possum. As there were no stones in the black soil, they must have made those blue stone axes miles away, probably over on the Bunya Mountains.¹¹

The district was an important ceremonial site. Earthen bora rings found in the area were used for the initiation ceremonies ‘through which young boys had to pass before attaining manhood’.¹² An initiation ceremony is mentioned in the Dalby Herald of 31 May 1866. ‘The ceremony was held near a dense scrub between the Duckponds and the Broadwater, on the *Daandine* run’. When he was a stockman on *Daandine* station, Henry Bassett Lane noted a bora ring near Wilkie Creek.

In the 1870s, this Bora Ring was seen by the late Mr. Harry Bassett Lane who noticed aborigines gathered in one particular spot in the scrub about two hundred metres from Wilkie Creek. Sometime later, while in the area, and being curious as to what the aborigines had been doing there, he rode over and found the Bora Ring.¹³

The ring seen by H.B. Lane may well be one of two on former *Daandine* land, mentioned by Frank Miller:

Rob, my brother, bought a property about eight miles from me on the other side of Ducklo in 1936.... His property was four miles from Ducklo. There was a bora ring near the Wilkie Creek.¹⁴

Frank Miller also noted a bora ring in 1947 on *Cliveton*, his second property a little to the west, between Clay Hole Creek and Wilkie Creek. He describes the ring as ‘approximately 15 yards across with a bank about a foot high round the perimeter’.¹⁵

The settlers had what was probably an exaggerated idea of the size of the Indigenous population and were very wary. Christopher Rolleston, the first Crown Lands Officer for the Darling Downs District, was concerned about the Aborigines in the whole Downs area. In a report to the Colonial Secretary dated 5 January 1844 on the ‘condition and prospects of the Native Tribes’ he says:

... I regret to state that, during the past year, they have Shewn a decidedly hostile disposition towards the Europeans on several Stations in the District, having on various occasions made very daring aggressions upon the Flocks and Herds of the Squatters, accompanied, I am sorry to say, in some instances with the treacherous Murder of the Shepherds and Stockmen in charge at the time.

With regard to the numbers or condition of the Natives, it is impossible to come to any accurate conclusions, as hitherto they have but very rarely visited the Stations or shewn any disposition to be on friendly terms with the Whites.

He goes on to say about the Aborigines that 'there is every reason to suppose them numerous and powerful' but that he will try to encourage 'a more conciliatory Spirit in their intercourse with the stations'.¹⁶

The settlers around Dalby lived in fear of the Indigenous people, particularly in the early years of settlement when nomadic groups often outnumbered them. In the district around Lake Broadwater the stream of Aboriginal travellers passing through, as well as quite large intermittent gatherings, increased the local population. Their presence was conspicuous because they frequently sought out isolated shepherds' huts on the pastoral runs in search of food. The notion of herd ownership was quite incomprehensible to the Aborigines who helped themselves to sheep and cattle, thus arousing the ire of the squatters. This happened in good seasons as well as when food was short, no doubt for a welcome change of diet.

Even in Dalby the Aboriginal presence was strong. The late Mrs. McLennan, an early resident of the district, recalled that in the 1850s Aborigines were 'numerous around the town and frequently gathered in

hundreds on the banks of the Myall Creek'. She estimated that there were only about thirty European families living in the town at that time.¹⁷

Mrs. Stewart (nee Ross), whose memories of Ludwig Leichhardt were mentioned earlier, was born in 1842 at Oakey Creek, before her father took over *Greenbank*. She well remembered her fear of the Aborigines. At one time her two older sisters were alone at *Greenbank* station when: '20 blacks, almost naked, and armed with nullas, boomerangs, and spears, came and demanded food.' The girls had held them off, threatening them with 'old double barrelled shot guns.... Mrs Stewart said that many blacks were killed in those days and it wasn't until she was 16 years of age that she realised it was wrong to kill them.' She remembered one man being murdered by the blacks at Macalister, which in those days was just a woolshed.¹⁸

Mr. E. Geisel commented on the period from 1855 to 1865, during which his newly widowed and rather desperate immigrant mother took employment at *Halliford* station. Mrs. Geisel was the hut keeper and she and her three young sons looked after the sheep on a lonely part of the huge property. Mr. Geisel said that they were 'in holy fear of the blacks, who used to prowl around the huts of the shepherds'.¹⁹

There were certainly local confrontations between the workers on the runs and Aborigines. This account appeared in an address on the life of Henry William Coxen of *Jondaryan* given by his granddaughter in 1959. She refers to Henry Stuart Russell early holder of *Cecil Plains* run:

Two of Russell's men camped with some of the Cecil Plains sheep on the Jondaryan boundary and both were killed and the sheep were driven off. Because of the mounting frequency and ferocity of these attacks, the settlers combined for the protection of

themselves and their properties and the suppression of the menace.²⁰

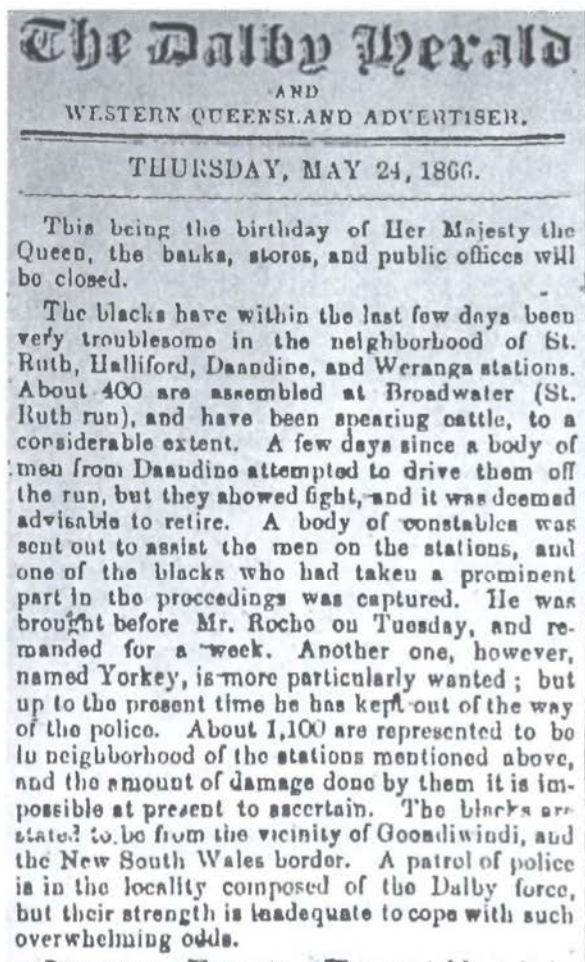
This view is no doubt biased in favour of the squatters who, it appears, took matters into their own hands.

One of the storekeepers in the town had good reason also to be wary of the Aborigines, and no doubt let his story be known. Joseph Raven recorded in his memoirs that he had called into Dalby on a droving trip from NSW in 1860. He recalled that he had bought stores from 'Mr. Roach' - 'who kept the principal store'. 'Roach' had owned a station on the Dawson called '*Roachdale*', but had sold it after 'his brother was killed by the blacks' and invested the proceeds in the Dalby store.²¹

Although Raven spells the name differently, this was undoubtedly Frederick W. Roche who became very successful through his stores (the first of which opened in 1854) and influential in the district. Roche was also the Dalby Postmaster from 1856 to 1868, and in 1863 he became the first Mayor of Dalby.²²

There were several incidents with Aborigines in the Lake Broadwater area and surrounding pastoral runs in May 1866, near the time of an annual distribution of blankets in honour of Queen Victoria's May 24 birthday. In a letter to the police in Dalby dated 18 May 1866, Mr. Wilkie of *Daandine* station indicated extreme disquiet about the large numbers of Aborigines who were 'all over my Run and at the Broadwater and in immense mobs at *Weranga*'. (Lake Broadwater was on *St Ruth* near the *Daandine* boundary, and *Weranga* joined *Daandine* on part of the western boundary.) Wilkie complained that his men had tried to disperse the mob on several occasions but were afraid of their dogs, 'which were in hundreds'. He wrote that they were 'doing serious injury to my

cattle'.²³ In a second letter dated 21 May, Wilkie described the group as exceeding '...1500 in number and accompanied by 500 dogs', and suggested that they could not exist 'without killing sheep and cattle for any length of time, the great increase of opossums and paddimelons notwithstanding'.



A report from the Dalby Herald.

Several clashes followed, culminating it is believed, in the death of an Aborigine from the Burnett district. John Thompson, Wilkie's head stockman, claimed that a shot he had fired after Yorkey (one of the Aborigines) did not take effect due to a problem with his double-barrelled shotgun. The only indication that Yorkey was dead came from the

Burnett Aborigines in Dalby, with their 'mournful lamentation for the dead'.²⁴

Handwritten:
 Dalby 17th May 1866
 Mr. Upjohn
 Sub-Inspector Police
 Dalby

Handwritten:
 Sir, I beg to inform you that the Blacks have been harassing my very large numbers during the last few days and have now become so formidable that in my opinion it is quite necessary to interfere with them to prevent the mischief they are doing to the cattle - my men have repeatedly attempted to disperse them several times, and are quite afraid to come in to interfere with their dogs which is hazardous - I have then sent them back this morning since I have known they are doing serious injury to my cattle, and I have sent them back to the Broadwater, and in my opinion hold it

J.P. Wilkie's letter to Mr. Upjohn, Inspector of Police at Dalby, complaining about the 'Blacks' who were 'mustering in very large numbers' on his land.

Handwritten:
 at Broadwater, and where Mr. Upjohn informed me they attempted to interfere with the Broadwater where they attempted to disperse them - It is a most extraordinary fact, and I am afraid for my cattle that I will lose the cattle, as many of the cattle are being taken away, and I am afraid to send them to the Broadwater. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
 Yours faithfully,
 J.P. Wilkie

At this time the Dalby Police Station was staffed by six officers including a sub-inspector, and housed in a leaky building with a shingled roof.²⁵ In his report to the Inspector of Police, the Dalby Sub-Inspector Mr. Upjohn said that he had sent Acting Sergeant Byrne and two constables to investigate Mr. Wilkie's complaints. It appeared that Johnny and Yorkey were the leaders of those assembled at Broadwater and Johnny had been easily apprehended.

Yorkey escaped into the scrub. The police were assisted by Mr. Wilkie's men, one of whom, a stockman named Thompson, fired a shot at Yorkey when escaping and which did not take effect.

In his report Mr. Upjohn paints Wilkie in a state of panic over the situation. There was also some doubt as to the legality of the warrants Wilkie issued for damage to his own property, especially in the light of enquiries at *Halliford* station. There the Superintendent, Mr. Glisson, told Acting Sergeant Byrne that he was 'not at all alarmed', and he 'did not find the Blacks at all troublesome'. Upjohn writes that Wilkie's account was 'overdrawn', and that it was 'nothing more than the yearly gathering of the aborigines after the serving out of the blankets'.²⁶ It is of course possible that Upjohn was defending his own position in not resolving the problem without bloodshed. J.P. Wilkie was probably in a precarious financial position at this time, and his concern about possible stock losses is understandable. (See Chapter 9 for an account of J.P. Wilkie's life at *Daandine*.)

Combined with an obvious fear of the Aborigines was a certain admiration for their bush skills and athleticism. This is evident from an article in the Dalby Herald dated 28 May 1870 titled 'Aboriginal Kangaroo Hunt', which describes how they 'laid in a store of fresh provisions' for their journey away from the district. The hunt occurred on *St. Ruth* run 'near the Five-mile station' and saw a large gathering of Aborigines drive a mob of about 200 kangaroos out on to the plain where they were hunted 'fairly'. 'The agility and accuracy of aim of the blacks at animals going at full speed, is something wonderful'... 'a miss is never heard of'.²⁷

The athleticism of the Aborigines from the district was exemplified in later years by the exploits of the renowned Charlie Samuels from *Jimbour*. During the 1880s he was 'considered to be possibly the world's fastest man'.²⁸ 'Jack Hutchinson, champion runner of the world, was

brought out from England and matched Samuels in many races.’²⁹ Jerry Jerome who was born on *Jimbour* in 1874 was a ‘remarkable athlete’. He was ‘a great stockman, champion horsebreaker, excellent rifle shot, winner of many country professional races and the first black winner of a national boxing title’ (in September 1912).³⁰

The Aboriginal population in the district rapidly declined due to the changes brought by European settlement. These included not only encroachment onto their lands and a scattering of the tribes, but also the introduction of European diseases and dependence on the white man’s food, tobacco and alcohol. Many of course became outstanding stockmen and station hands and were of great value on the pastoral runs. A report in the Dalby Herald of April 1870 portrays the declining situation at that time with obvious regret:

The Aborigines are fast disappearing before the face of the white man, even in this sparsely populated country. Old residents tell us that only a few winters ago 10 blacks could be seen where but one is now. There are very many children among them, and those principally half castes. They are fast losing, if they have not already forgotten, many of the primitive habits of their tribe: and affect card playing and dram drinking in lieu of the old athletic games of their fore fathers, such as throwing the spear, the nullah nullah, the boomerang, fishing, hunting etc.³¹

Malcolm Wilson and Harold Hall recount that in the late 1870s ‘the authorities decided that the aborigines in the Dalby District should be sent to live in the Taroom district.’ Early in the 20th century the remainder were transported to a Mission that had been established there in 1912.³² Colin Tatz points out that Jerry Jerome was a protected Aborigine whose name was on the ‘catalogue of controlled natives’. Only after one failed attempt by a prominent local citizen was Jerome ‘exempted and freed to

pursue his sporting career.’³³ J.W. Bleakley says, however, that Jerome was inclined to give his winnings away and that the Home Secretary, Hon. W.H. Barnes, gave approval for the Aboriginal Department to take Jerome in hand for his own protection. The Chief Protector even took over promoting him because of concern about others taking advantage of him.³⁴ As well as the difficulty managing his prize money, Jerome was well known for his lack of discipline in training - never reaching his full potential.³⁵ Thus the authorities had some justification in their concern for this fine athlete in his dealings with the wider community.

Some Aborigines remained in the district working on the stations, although it is not known whether they were all from the local tribes. Mr. A. William Chambers, the unofficial gamekeeper on *Daandine* station during William Webb’s stint as manager, mentions Jimmie Query (or Jimmy Querie) and his hunting skills:

Mr. Webb had to make a business trip to Europe in the cold days of July, and he gave me the hint that he wanted a good bag of game to take home with him. The fact was not to be known. So I took Jimmie Query, the old blackfellow, with me, and together we procured a fine haul, which consisted mostly of black duck, wonga pigeons, scrub turkey, and a few dozen very fine quail, all in excellent condition.³⁶

Jimmie Query ended up on *Loudoun* station, or perhaps he just wandered the district. He was immortalised in the Lane family when, in the early 1920s Jim Lane, a young stockman, was thrown from a troublesome horse that he insisted he could ride. His older brother Morris Lane was horse and stock overseer at the time. The following account is from Jim Lane’s son Pat, as the story was told many times to him:

On Loudoun at that time, there was an old black fellow living under a few sheets of iron, who was called Jimmy Querie. Apparently this fellow was pretty casual, tying things up with wire and anything he could find. The horse threw Dad, saddle and all, and when Morris went to pick him up, he saw that the girth had been tied up with wire. Out of relief, for the fact that Dad had not been hurt and disgust at the sight of a piece of wire holding the girth together, Morris who never swore, exclaimed, 'you Jimmy Querie B...' For the rest of his life, his name to everyone in the district was Querie.³⁷

Whitey Torenbeek remembered Peter King, an Aboriginal stockman he worked with at the McKee's place at Duleen in the 1930s.³⁸ Whitey says King was a good station hand, capable and reliable and good with stock. He fitted in well and went to dances with the locals. However, like many others (both Aboriginal and European), he had a problem with alcohol. Peter King's horse was well trained and it would automatically head for home when King had over indulged. Whitey remembered that one night his older brothers were driving home from town and nearly ran over Peter King who had fallen off his horse in the middle of the road. He was sitting with his back supported by the horse's front legs, quite a dangerous situation with other than an outstandingly trained animal. They helped him remount and off he went, making sure he still had his bottle of rum.³⁹

In 1988 the only two descendents of the Dalby Aborigines remaining in the district were Ms. Jean Turbane and her daughter Isabel.⁴⁰

¹ Maurice French, Conflict on the Condamine, Aborigines and the European Invasion, Darling Downs Institute Press, Toowoomba, 1989, pp.12 –17.

² Ibid

³ M. Wilson and H. Hall, 'The Aborigines', Scott, Gillian, ed., Lake Broadwater, The Natural History of an Inland Lake and its Environs, Darling Downs Institute Press, 1988, p.325.

⁴ There are a few copies still available in the Dalby district, one of which I was allowed to consult. At some stage Len Ollson of Kingaroy, Stewart Jack's friend, gathered the manuscript together and had some copies made (one is held by the Dalby Family History Society Inc.). The page numbers of the original typed manuscript and Ollson's bound copies are not the same, therefore it will be indicated when reference is made to the second edition (if it may be so called!).

⁵ Ray Humphrys, Bonyi-Bonyi, Wyndam Observer, Nanango 1992

⁶ Chris Ashton, Wambo The Changing Face of Rural Australia, Wambo Shire Council, 2003.

⁷ M. Wilson and H. Hall, 'The Aborigines', Lake Broadwater, p.325.

⁸ Maurice French, Conflict on the Condamine, pp.18-19.

⁹ M. Wilson and H. Hall, 'The Aborigines', Lake Broadwater, p.319.

¹⁰ Ibid, pp.318-328.

¹¹ Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, ed. Dale Lehner, Keep Your Hat on Charlie You're in Australia Now, Published by Dale Lehner, Sydney, 2001.p.10.

¹² M.Wilson & H.Hall 'The Aborigines', Lake Broadwater, p.322.

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ Frank Miller, privately distributed memoirs, Determined Achiever. Compiled by Lyn Bennie, est. 1997, p.14.

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶ Historical Records of Australia, Series 1 vol XXIII, p.487.

¹⁷ M. Wilson and H. Hall, 'The Aborigines', Lake Broadwater, p.325.

¹⁸ Stewart Jack, 'Mrs Stewart – 100 Years Old', A History of Dalby and District, pp.70-1. Note: The Jimbour woolshed was at Macalister and is probably the one referred to.

¹⁹ Stewart Jack, Interview with E. Geizel during the 1920s, recorded in A History of Dalby and District, p.62.

²⁰ H.A.G.Crawford in 'The Autobiography of the Pioneer, Henry William Coxen of Jondaryan' in 1859 and Before That – 1959 and All That, limited publication in 1959 by The Queensland Women's Historical Association, in section 'I Remember the Day'.

²¹ Joseph Wilson Raven, Reminiscences of a Western Queensland Pioneer 1851-1899 on Microfilm FM4/3099 Mitchell Library, Sydney.

²² Stewart Jack, History of Dalby and District, pp.10, 31, 79 & 94: Joan Frew, Queensland Post Offices 1842-1980 and Receiving Offices 1869-1927 self-published in 1981 p.251.

²³ Letter from J.P Wilkie to Mr. Upjohn, Sub Inspector of Police, Dalby, 18 May 1866. Copy held by Malcolm Wilson of Dalby.

²⁴ Dalby Herald, 31 May 1866.

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- ²⁵ Stewart Jack, History of Dalby and District, p.15.
- ²⁶ Letter Mr. Upjohn, Sub-Inspector of Police, Dalby - to Mr. White, Inspector of Police, dated 25 May 1866. Copy held by Malcolm Wilson of Dalby.
- ²⁷ Reproduced in M. Wilson and H. Hall, 'The Aborigines' Lake Broadwater, pp.318 - 9.
- ²⁸ Ibid, p.325.
- ²⁹ Wade, Guy in Beyond the Crossing, ed. Matthews, Tony, Dalby Town Council, 1988 p.65.
- ³⁰ Colin Tatz, Obstacle Race, Aborigines in Sport, University of NSW Press, 1995, p 119. Jerome is also mentioned by Wilson and Hall, and in Matthews, Beyond the Crossing, p.65. See also Chapter 11 'The Selectors' in this thesis for mention of Henry Bassett Lane's dealings with Jerome on *Daandine* station.
- ³¹ Dalby Herald, April 1870, reproduced in Ray Humphrys, Bonyi-Bonyi pp.73 - 4.
- ³² M.Wilson & H.Hall, 'The Aborigines', Lake Broadwater, p.326.
- ³³ Colin Tatz, Obstacle Race Aborigines in Sport, p.121.
- ³⁴ J.W. Bleakley, 'The Story of Jerry Jerome', Redcliffe Herald, 7 January 1944.
- ³⁵ Ray Humphrys, Bonyi-Bonyi, p.76.
- ³⁶ Stewart Jack, ed, History of Dalby and District, p.109.
- ³⁷ Patrick J. Lane, A Dollar Short and a Day Late, p.72.
- ³⁸ The McKees held *Doongala*, *Woodville* and *Whoopee* at Duleen in the 1930s – from Qld. Country S & SW District Telephone Directory 1939, p.29.
- ³⁹ Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek in recorded interview with Dale Lehner, 24 January 2000.
- ⁴⁰ M.Wilson & H. Hall, 'The Aborigines', Lake Broadwater, p.326.

Chapter 7

The Squatters

The early squatters on the Darling Downs were mostly young adventurous immigrants, with some financial support, who claimed Crown Land leases during the 1840s and 1850s. Typical of them were the Leslie brothers who were financed by their father, a Scottish laird. However, some other squatters had a financial struggle to survive and many of them went bankrupt. They were required to stock the pastoral run with sheep or cattle and build huts and stockyards in return for the low rent, and this required capital. The first squatters claimed the best land, usually on a river or creek in the more easterly districts, and some eventually became very wealthy and powerful men. The names chosen for their runs during this period (see Chapter 2) confirm that the squatters were very aware of their new surroundings, featuring references to the Aboriginal population, the landscape and the wildlife. It appears that many had, at least for a time, put thoughts of 'home' behind them. Some later returned to Britain for a short visit and others like Sir Arthur Hodgson and John Watts were able to retire at 'home' on their colonial profits.

The Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district was originally part of two great pastoral runs, *St Ruth* on the western edge of the prosperous Settled District, and *Daandine* (which joined *St Ruth* to the west) in what was known as the Pastoral District (or Unsettled District). *Greenbank* joined *St Ruth* to the north with *Cecil Plains* to the south. *Halliford* was to the south of *Daandine* and *Weranga* to the west.

St Ruth (Estimated Area - 80,000 acres, Estimated Grazing Capabilities – 1800 cattle) and *Daandine* (Estimated Area – 60,000 acres, Estimated Grazing Capabilities – 1300 cattle) were regarded as cattle grazing properties in 1848.¹ The runs further east such as *Clifton* (16,000 sheep), *Eton Vale* (700 cattle, 16,000 sheep) and even nearby *Greenbank* (600 cattle, 4000 sheep) were typically designated as suitable for sheep or both cattle and sheep.² This was an indication of superior land, because sheep required better land than the more hardy cattle. However, sheep became important later in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district and some of the finest wool in the country was produced there.

St Ruth was originally part of the huge *Cecil Plains* run claimed by Henry Stuart Russell in 1842. That same year W. Summerville ‘seized’ *St Ruth’s* for Richard Jones (and probably for North British Australasian Co).³ The takeover was allowed because Russell had probably claimed more land than he could stock to the required level. There is no information available about the origin of the name *St Ruth’s* – perhaps Jones or his employee Summerville gave it. It was soon changed to the simpler *St Ruth*. Records indicate that as early as 1844 the labour force on the station had reached nineteen.⁴ The New South Wales Government Gazettes show that by 1845 *St Ruth* was in the name of James Taylor,⁵ and went to H. Mackay and E.J. Spence sometime before 1859 when it was transferred to Buckland and Mackay.⁶ Sometime after 1848 James Taylor became Henry Stuart Russell’s partner in *Cecil Plains*, after spending a year as head stockman. Taylor became the sole owner of that run and several others, and a powerful man in Queensland politics. He was the first member for Western Downs and ‘served as a member of parliament on and off for the next thirty years.’⁷

Buxton's Squatting Map of 1864 shows *St Ruth*'s in the hands of the Aberdeen Company (which later became the North British Australasian Company). The first manager for that company was probably John Deuchar who also managed *South Toolburra* and *Rosenthal* for them. Other managers were John Crowder, Augustus Evans and his nephew Andrew Herbert Evans followed by John Mathieson.⁸ A. & A.H. Evans were the first selectors or probably freehold purchasers - of several small but well positioned land portions of former *St Ruth* land on the Condamine River near Tipton, and on Oaky Creek.⁹

Ownership Table – *St Ruth*'s (later referred to as *St Ruth*)

Compiled from information in the text, unless otherwise acknowledged.

Year	Lessee/Owner
1842	Part of <i>Cecil Plains</i> . Held by Henry Stuart Russell.
1842	<i>St Ruth</i> 's separated from <i>Cecil Plains</i> by Richard Jones (probably for Aberdeen Co.- North British Australasian Company for which he was possibly a Trustee.)
1844	Listed as held by Trustees of Richard Jones after he was declared bankrupt - then to North British Aust. Co. – Depasturage Licenses 1843-1844 Nos. 698 & 699 – Archives Authority NSW & NSW G.G. (In Jan Ward-Brown, Place Names Section)
By 1845	James Taylor
Before 1859	H. Mackay and E.J. Spence
1859	Buckland and Mackay
Before 1864	Aberdeen Company – North British Australasian Company
Around 1870	Run divided, half remained with lessee and the remainder made available for selection.
By 1880s	The run was virtually gone. The 1922 Map of the Parish of <i>St Ruth</i> shows a mere 1963 acres of the original run near the homestead, in the hands of the North British Australasian Company, the remained subdivided into small lots.

It is the part of *St Ruth* west of the Condamine River and north of Lake Broadwater that is of particular interest in this study. Resumption of the run

was completed during the 1880s, and the land made available for selection and freehold purchase.

The break up of *Daandine* station happened in a similar way to that of *St Ruth*. The southern part of the original run is in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district. *Daandine* was situated just west of the comparatively prosperous Settled District of the Darling Downs. The land was generally inferior to that in the east, and the settlers of the Western Districts had more of a struggle to survive. Nevertheless, *Daandine* was on the border of the two districts and though not up to the standard of much of *St Ruth*, *Greenbank* or *Jimbour* it was still superior to land further west.

In 1844 John Perrell Wilkie from Murrurundi in New South Wales married Jane Bone Fairburn – nee Munro – a widow. A few years later (when Wilkie was in his mid thirties), the family settled on *Daandine* run which was known first as *Monaghan's Creek*,¹⁰ and then as *Wilkie's Creek*,¹¹ before it became registered as *Daandine* in 1852.¹² J.P Wilkie was recorded as the lessee in 1848, and was disputing the lease with the Crowders of *Braemar Forest* in 1849.¹³ The licence was transferred to Morehead and Young in 1852, perhaps as mortgagees.¹⁴ Chris Ashton suggests that *Daandine* is a local Aboriginal word for owl.¹⁵ It is of note that Wilkie's second son, born in 1849, was named Archibald Daandine.

In May 1851 the Rev. Benjamin Glennie baptized three Wilkie sons at the station. A fourth son, Walter Cornelius, was born in April 1853 but unfortunately his eldest brother William Munro died the following year and the family returned to Britain for a period.¹⁶ The fifth Wilkie son, George

Hunter Wilkie was born in London in 1856. A report in Stewart Jack's History of Dalby and District¹⁷ is obviously incorrect in stating that the journey was for Wilkie to 'get a wife'. Alan Wilkie of Dalby, a descendent of J.P. Wilkie, says that according to his information Wilkie was concerned about the education of his children, and that seems likely.¹⁸

J.P. Wilkie appears to have had financial problems and many difficulties during the years that he held *Daandine* station, possibly as a lingering result of the great economic depression of 1843/4, shortly before he first took up the run. In about 1847 he had applied to transfer half his interest to Allan McPherson,¹⁹ and then in 1848 to Charles Coxen and his partner Francis Forbes,²⁰ but the transfer was held up by a dispute over numbers of cattle.²¹ As stated above, Morehead and Young held the licence in 1852.

The run was leased to Charles Coxen during the Wilkie family's absence in Britain.²² Mrs. H.A.G. Crawford claimed in an address given in 1959, that Charles Coxen leased *Daandine* from 1855 to 1861, which tallies with other information. During his time at *Daandine*, Coxen 'pursued his great interest in Magisterial affairs and his favourite study of natural history'. The Coxens were related by marriage to the famous ornithologist John Gould and some family members assisted with Gould's work. Wilkie took up the lease again after his return from Britain.²³ Coxen moved to Brisbane in 1861, and in 1863 was elected to Parliament as the representative for the Northern Downs.²⁴

In about 1854 or 1855 there had been a problem at the run with Fred Ward, alias 'Thunderbolt', who 'was employed as a station hand by J.P. Wilkie, of Daandine station in the Dalby district'.

Mr. Wilkie also owned a 26 acre farm at Hill End, South Brisbane. The farm was on the south side of Montague Road, with a long frontage of the Toowong reach of the river. Mr. Wilkie's family were then living on his Hill End farm, to enable his sons to attend the grammar school, established about 1846 by the Rev. Thomas Mowbray on the Lytton Road. ... Ward brought from Daandine a mob of Wilkie's horses for sale, and put them in a paddock at Hill End. But Ward got into mischief. He saddled one of the horses and rode back to Daandine, where he stole two fresh horses, and with another young man, cleared out to the New England district. Here, they began cattle duffing, horse stealing, and 'sticking up' station mails, hotels and travellers.²⁵

It is assumed that Wilkie returned in 1861 when Coxen left for Brisbane, as reported in Stewart Jack's history. He was at *Daandine* in 1866 as evidenced by the report in Chapter 6 about his problem with Aborigines on his land. It is not clear exactly when Wilkie relinquished his interest in the station but it must have been shortly after the incident with the Aborigines. Wilkie was fifty-five and possibly finding the life of a 'hands on' pastoralist beyond him and/or his financial difficulties insurmountable. There was a period of drought in the mid 1860s and a financial crisis in Queensland which necessitated the issue of Treasury bonds 'to the tune of 300,000 pounds, bearing interest at 10 per cent and redeemable at the end of 1869'. Charles Arrowsmith Bernays says, 'The acuteness of the crisis and the urgent need of funds may be judged from the rate of interest offered'.²⁶

James Hunt is mentioned in Henry Bassett Lane's obituary as manager when the Lane family arrived in early 1867.²⁷ It is probable that a large pastoral

company came into the picture at that time, perhaps explaining the employment of new staff like William Lane, Henry Bassett's father. During this period legislation was in progress to gradually resume the large runs for closer settlement. A report in the Dalby Herald at the end of May 1866, recounts details of a public meeting to discuss 'the Bill introduced by Government for regulating the alienation of Crown lands' and the intention to forward a petition to the Legislative Assembly expressing approval. The remaining land, after large portions were resumed, was not always financially viable for individual lessees and the runs began to pass into the hands of large companies, which could operate several runs. As we have seen *St Ruth* had been operated by the Aberdeen Co/North British Australasian Co for years. *Daandine* had close connections for a time with the company operating *Buckingham Downs* near Boulia/Mt Isa, and cattle were transferred between the stations on lengthy droving runs in the 1870s and 1880s.²⁸

John Perell Wilkie's days as a Queensland squatter are at odds with the experiences of some others who became very affluent, and grasped political power. In 1879 when Jane Wilkie died, the Wilkies are recorded as living in Dalby. Wilkie, then 67, married again to a forty-two year old widow, Margaret Wilkins (nee Caldwell), and his occupation at that time was listed as 'Commission Agent'. Mr. A. William Chambers recalled that Wilkie looked after the pound at Homebush in Dalby in his later years. He lived near the yard and employed two boys who impounded the many stray horses found in the area. Wilkie died in 1883 aged seventy-one years.²⁹ He was obviously not destitute but he had not attained the heights gained by many

squatters from the more prosperous Settled District - Arthur Hodgson, James Taylor, John Watts and the like.

In 1867 William and Mary Lane arrived at *Daandine* station with their ten-year old son Henry Bassett Lane. Their fortunes are outlined in Chapter 9, The Selectors, but it is of interest here to note that by the mid-1870s Henry Bassett had become the head stockman, and William was promoted to station storeman, probably in the 1880s. *Daandine* changed hands frequently after Wilkie left the property, and it was subdivided several times to meet the requirements of land legislation aimed at closer settlement. In 1875 Ebenezer Vickery pre-empted some *Daandine* land in the Duckponds area near Wilkie Creek, which became a large freehold property.³⁰ At around this time the run was divided into *Daandine* and *Daandine South*. Vickery's interests in *Daandine* passed to Gordon Sandeman soon afterwards. On a Lands Department Map dated 1883 a *Daandine South No.1* is also shown, incorporating the area of particular concern in this study. In the Runs Rent records at the Queensland Archives Office, D. McNeill is mentioned in 1888 and Agnew and Jack in 1891. There was a further subdivision into *Daandine* and *Daandine West* in 1896. E.J. Metcalfe is mentioned in 1897, Goldsborough and Mort in 1898 and again in 1901 and James Lomax in 1904.

Some of the managers of the station were James Hunt from 1867 to at least 1883,³¹ William Webb, probably from the mid-1880s to 1897,³² Walter Harwood in 1897³³ and H.W. Button in 1909.³⁴



Henry Bassett Lane during his time as Head Stockman on *Daandine* Station. This may well be a photograph taken to show the horse rather than the rider. It does show one of the shingled outbuildings on the station, and gives some idea of Henry Bassett Lane's working day. He is obviously dressed for town with polished riding boots, neat riding trousers and a coat.

Lessee/Owner – *Daandine*

Compiled mainly from sources mentioned in the text unless otherwise acknowledged.

*James Fitzgerald, Maurice French- *Mooni, From the Years of the Upper Mooni Toowoomba* 1980 p34

Year	Lessee/Owner
1847	J.P. Wilkie applied to have half his interest transferred to Allan McPherson.
1848	Known as <i>Monaghan's Creek</i> , J.P. Wilkie
1848	Known as <i>Wilkie's Creek</i> , J.P. Wilkie
1852	Registered as <i>Daandine</i> , J.P. Wilkie. Licence to Morehead and Young 1852, possibly as mortgagees – sublet(?) to Charles Coxen 1855-1861. Wilkie returned in 1861 and remained until about 1866.
After 1867	Probably a large Pastoral Company, perhaps owned by Ebenezer Vickery (James Hunt, Manager) Subdivision into <i>Daandine</i> , <i>Daandine South</i> , <i>Daandine South No.1</i> in 1873*.
1875	Ebenezer Vickery – (pre-empted 2560 acres in what was known as the Duckponds area, perhaps called <i>Duckponds</i> , from <i>Daandine South No.1</i>) Portion reserved for a timber reserve and some for the Western Railway*.
1884	Ebenezer Vickery to Gordon Sandeman (<i>Qld. Archives, LLR Vol.1 Fol.11</i>) Note – Gordon Sandeman (1818 –1897), held <i>Burrandowan</i> station. He was MP for the Burnett district before Qld Separation, and returned to England 1857. The southern part of the run is noted as open for selection on the 1883 Lands Department map.
1885	Queensland Land and Pastoral Association*.
1888	D. McNeill (of London)
1891	Agnew and Jack
1897	Remaining land subdivided again into <i>Daandine</i> and <i>Daandine West</i>
1897	E.J. Metcalfe
1898	Goldsborough and Mort – (Chris Ashton mentions a Mr. Fletcher as owner around the turn of the 20 th Century. ³⁵)
1901	Goldsborough and Mort
1904	James Rhodes Lomax
1908	John Cooke – mortgaged to National Mutual Life Association of Australia (information from Chris Ashton. ³⁶)
1910	Brit. and Aust. Trust and Loan Co.Ltd. (From Groom's Almanac of 1910.)
?	John Cooke & Co
1918	A.T. Creswick (from Victoria)

By the 1870s the leased *St Ruth* and *Daandine* land was considerably reduced (*St Ruth* by half and *Daandine* probably the same) principally due to the effects of the Land Act of 1868, and much of the land was thrown open for selection or purchase. The 2560 acre estate in the Duckponds area on

Wilkie's Creek was pre-empted by Ebenezer Vickery in 1875 under new legislation.³⁷ There was a 2560 acre limit, all of which Vickery took. He chose a relatively clear area located on Wilkie's Creek positioned between large clumps of brigalow scrub. It included fences, yards, stables and paddocks. He paid five shillings an acre.³⁸ A Lands Department map of 1883 indicates that the land around *Duckponds* was 'Open to Selection' at that time. Only a small parcel near the *St Ruth* homestead in the unresumed half had been pre-empted and the remaining land was made available for selection under the terms of the Land Act of 1868. Much of this land became part of the large freehold estate, *Loudoun* taken up by Hugh Muir Nelson in the early 1870s. (Details in Chapters 8 and 9.)

A section of the Lands Department map of 1883 showing what became the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district, between the Condamine River and Wilkie Creek. The pre-empted land in the Duckponds area of Daandine South No.1 (Portion 1) straddles Wilkie Creek and an area Open to Selection is visible nearby.

¹ New South Wales Government Gazette (NSWGG) 2 August 1848, p.951.

² NSWGG 2 August 1848, pp.946 – 950.

³ Maurice French, A Pastoral Romance. The Tribulation and Triumph of Squatterdom. A History of the Darling Downs Frontier, University of Southern Queensland Press, Toowoomba 1990, p.282.

⁴ Ibid, p.28.

⁵ NSWGG 1845, pp 1294 – 1847, p.574 and 2 August 1848, p.951.

⁶ NSWGG 14 January.1859, p.165.

⁷ Enid Fletcher, 'James Taylor: Squatter and Townsman', p.74.

⁸ Guy Wade, Beyond the Crossing. A History of Dalby and District, ed. Tony Matthews, Dalby Town Council, 1988 p 9; Ferguson, Hector M. A History of Tara and District, p.23.

⁹ Shown as first freeholders on 1922 Parish Map of Portions 1091, 1092 and 1093.

¹⁰ NSWGG 1848, p.158.

¹¹ NSWGG 2 August 1848, p.951.

¹² NSWGG 30 July 1852, p.1115.

¹³ NSWGG 4 July 1849.

¹⁴ NSWGG 30 July 1852, p.1115.

¹⁵ Chris Ashton, Wambo, The Changing Face of Rural Australia, Wambo Shire Council, 2003, p.118.

¹⁶ Family History Report produced by C. Wilkie of Stafford, Queensland; and an undated and unsourced document outlining the life of J.P. Wilkie held by Alan Wilkie of Dalby.

¹⁷ Stewart Jack, A History of Dalby and District, p.64.

¹⁸ Conversation Alan Wilkie with Dale Lehner, April 2002.

¹⁹ In Crown Lands Letter book, Darling Downs 1843-48, A1764.2, 14 August 1847.

²⁰ Letter 48/103 7 October 1848.

²¹ From an undated and unsourced document held by Alan Wilkie of Dalby, which outlines the life of J.P. Wilkie.

²² Stewart Jack, A History of Dalby and District, p.64.

²³ The report in Stewart Jack's History of Dalby and District says, 'When Wilkie came back, he hunted Coxon (sic) and his men off the place, and not long after he was hunted off himself by the mortgagee', p.64.

²⁴ H.A.G.Crawford, 'The Autobiography of the Pioneer, Henry William Coxen of Jondaryan', 1859 and Before That – 1959 and All That, limited publication in 1959 by The Queensland Women's Historical Association, in section 'I Remember the Day' p.6.

²⁵ Lack, Clem, Royal Historical Society of Queensland Bulletin, March 1970. One of the employees on *Belltrees* station in New South Wales (owned by the White family who were later to take over *Loudoun* station in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district), recalled that he had encountered in the 1860/70s 'a man riding a splendid looking horse; a fine looking chap' who called out, 'Good morning boy' as he galloped off. 'He was the notorious Fred Ward, otherwise called Captain Thunderbolt'. Quote from Robert Donaldson in Judy White, The White Family of Belltrees, The Seven Press, Sydney 1981, p.44.

²⁶ Charles Arrowsmith Bernays, Queensland Politics During Sixty Years 1859-1919, Brisbane, 1919, p.39.

²⁷ Obituary, Henry Bassett Lane, Dalby Herald, 4 August 1939.

²⁸ Ibid

²⁹ Stewart Jack, History of Dalby and District, p 122: an undated and unsourced document held by Alan Wilkie, which outlines the life of J.P. Wilkie: Dalby Conventional Cemetery record 5 August 1871 – 13 December 1990, copy held by Dalby Family History Society Inc.

³⁰ Ebenezer Vickery (1827 – 1906) of Sydney was 'one of the largest station owners' in the colony, Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol 6 p.333.

³¹ From Obituary of Henry Bassett Lane 1939: Groom's Almanac, 1883.

³² Frequently mentioned as manager in Stewart Jack, History of Dalby and District.

³³ Joan Frew, Queensland Post Offices 1842-1980 and Receiving Offices 1869-1927, self published, Brisbane, 1981, p.114.

³⁴ Stewart Jack, History of Dalby and District, p.22.

³⁵ Chris Ashton, Wambo, The Changing Face of Rural Australia, p.119.

³⁶ Ibid

³⁷ After 1868 the pre-emption right to land in the Settled District from the original Order-in-Council of 1847 had been extended to the Unsettled or Pastoral District which included *Daandine* on the Settled District boundary. The right was extended as a concession in lieu of compensation for improvements – one acre for every ten shillings of improvements on the resumed portion.

³⁸ See Waterson, Squatter, Selector and Shopkeeper, p.29 for general pre-emption information: Duckponds information from Land Purchase document No 33069, 3 July 1875 and Survey to reroute what was to become the Moonie Highway - Cat. No. Der 34 49 of 1876.

Chapter 8

Loudoun Station

One of the most significant features of the area under consideration was *Loudoun* station, a huge freehold estate established in the 1870s by Hugh Muir Nelson and his financial partner John Watts. The station encompassed prime land on both sides of the Condamine River, and the largest section (including the homestead) was in the district under review. Although he could not in any way be described as an 'ordinary' settler, in creating his large freehold estate Hugh Muir Nelson established a landholding that would have a marked influence on the ordinary people of the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district for generations. His pastoral enterprise was labour intensive and provided employment, training and indeed a home, for a large community of rural workers and their families.

Nelson and Watts cobbled together a great estate by acquiring many land portions that were surveyed under closer settlement initiatives and intended for small farmers (referred to variously as homesteaders, yeoman farmers or selectors), as well as large portions of pastoral land. The small portions were nearly all held initially by John Watts. Nelson acquired the large portions of pastoral land, two selected in his father's name. It appears that small farmers were not attracted to the bulk of the newly released land and due to their lack of interest Hugh Muir Nelson, with the assistance of John Watts, was able to create an enormous freehold estate.

For nearly sixty years (until the end of the 1930s) the station was the pride of the district. During the 1930s a major subdivision occurred. Hugh Campbell from the Canberra area (in partnership with his brother) took the

largest portion of about 11,000 acres including the homestead, and the remainder was divided into comparatively small landholdings. *Loudoun* retained the old name through the years, although it was gradually reduced in size until only about six hundred and fifty acres, including the homestead paddock, remain today. The present owners, Roy and Heather Westaway, also own adjoining *Westfields*, which was part of the original *Loudoun* station, and work the two landholdings together.¹ The story of the establishment of this station, and its eventual demise, exemplifies much of the history of the Downs region, particularly in regard to land acquisition after the break up of the pastoral runs. To understand something of what actually happened we must first look at the district as it was in 1859.

Aspects of Land Legislation and Land Acquisition from 1859

Queensland became a separate colony on 10 December 1859 and the first Lands Acts were passed the following year to regulate the occupation of Crown Lands. Many of the twenty-six elected members of the new Legislative Assembly were squatters, including Joshua Peter Bell of *Jimbour*, James Taylor of *Cecil Plains* and John Watts of *Eton Vale* (who later had an interest in *Loudoun*). The Darling Downs squatters greeted the new Governor, Sir George Ferguson Bowen, enthusiastically on his first journey over the ranges. He wrote to his friend in Britain, Herman Merivale, permanent Under Secretary for the Colonies, on 10 April 1860: 'You should never send a Governor here who cannot ride and shoot'.² There was an inkling of the squatter/politician's ongoing conflict of interest regarding land acquisition when, to quote Beverly Kingston, 'a great many pre-emptive applications for Crown Leases were made and registered in bulk on New Year's Day', after a New Year's Eve gathering 1860/1.³

The area of each leased run was now to be not less than 25 square miles and not more than 100 square miles. The following comments from Guy Wade regarding the break up of *St Ruth* are not strictly accurate.

When this Act came into force, it was found that *St Ruth*, which had become the property of the North British Australia Company, was holding more territory than it was entitled to (15 by 22 miles equal to approximately 330 square miles) and Loudoun, Daandine, O.K., Halliford, and many other smaller holdings were carved out of the giant *St. Ruth* holding.⁴

It is impossible that *Daandine* was ‘carved’ from *St Ruth*. In the New South Wales Government Gazette of 30 July 1848, *St. Ruth* is shown as 80,000 acres and *Daandine* as 60,000 acres. (*Monahan’s Creek* or *Wilkies’s Creek* was renamed in NSWGG 30 July 1852 to ‘*Wilkie’s Creek* or *Daandine*’). *Loudoun*, *Bon Accord* and *O.K.* were certainly formed from *St Ruth* during the late 1860s and early 1870s but *Halliford* existed in the 1850s, as we saw from the experiences of the Geizel family in Chapter 6, and it appears on Buxton’s Squatting Map of 1864.

As stipulated further by the Crown Lands Act of 1868, *St Ruth* had been divided in half and the lessee given a ten-year lease on one portion whilst the other half was resumed for closer settlement by small farmers.⁵ At the time he established his estate Nelson had family support (and financial backing), contacts in the right circles, and the necessary skills to establish a successful enterprise. It was a much more risky investment for the small farmer without such impressive support, and there was considerable doubt that the small lots were individually viable.

In 1868 the railway line extension from Jondaryan to Dalby was completed.

Before the railway came to Dalby, bullock teams transported all supplies:

All rations in the early days were brought from Limestone (Ipswich) for Toowoomba (the swamp) to Dalby and Roma by bullock teams on tilt dray. The tilt was a frame of small saplings bent over the top of the load and tied securely to guard irons, forming a frame over which was fixed a tarpaulin. And in this the teamster's wife and family lived. One of these old identities, who lived for many years in Nanango, often told Mr. Munro that in her young days a teamster with a bullock dray and eight to 10 bullocks was looked upon as a great catch (eight bullocks was the ordinary team, a man with 10 to 12 was a very big 'hit'), that no woman wanted anything better, and that they had a grand life, provided the seasons were good. In the early days, the seasons generally were good. Two or three teams usually travelled together, and they would always be meeting teams returning. There were regular camping places, and they would have a great night, singing and dancing round the fire, the music provided by concertina, mouth organ, tin whistle, or a leaf or paper over a comb.⁶

Lake Broadwater had been a convenient stopping point for carriers from the Jondaryan railhead on their journey with supplies for settlers further west.⁷

After the line was put through to Dalby traffic at the Lake was reduced mostly to carriers heading southwest. The northwestern carriers based themselves in Dalby and organised the transport of goods from the train.

This was a boom time for the town. The population rose from 850 in 1858 to 1500 in 1868. By the mid 1870s it was 3500. However, when the railway was extended beyond Dalby the population dropped sharply. By 1877 it was 1500 again, and still falling. Dalby descended into 'a long period of doldrums' lasting decades and the population did not reach 3500 again until the 1930s.⁸

The land around Dalby was ‘not favourably regarded as suitable for agricultural settlement’ and ‘as late as 1874, when several portions of land around the town were thrown open for selection, not a solitary application was lodged.’ The rich black soil contained sand, and also the area was ‘considered to be outside the requisite rain belt’. However, town allotments were in strong demand before the railway extension and commanded a high price. In 1865 six lots realized 150 pounds per acre.⁹

The competition for town allotments was aroused no doubt in anticipation of the coming railway, but the lack of interest by small farmers in agricultural land near Dalby was probably a reaction to what D.B. Waterson describes as an ‘agrarian myth’. At the time many considered life in the country not only healthier than life in the city, but also ‘closer to God’ and consequently more moral. Waterson draws attention to a comment in the Brisbane Courier of 23 March 1872 (p.6), which puts forward a frequent misconception that ‘escape from the sickly towns’ offered by land settlement ‘more than compensated for any lack of material success’. A similar view was presented by the then Governor-General, Peter Hollingworth, in an address to the NSW Farmers Association on 22 July 2002. He said that country people, though poorer, are richer spiritually than their city counterparts.¹⁰ Waterson points out that contrary to that popular view, farmers sought prosperity, and that on the Darling Downs even in the most favourable districts for agriculture, ‘it was difficult for homesteaders to survive, cultivate and prosper on their small holdings’. Many of the selected land portions were abandoned, forfeited before the ‘certificate of fulfilment of conditions’ had been obtained.¹¹

Thus many of the first selectors (or outright purchasers) of small portions in the Dalby district were well-established businessmen such as A. Evans & A.H. Evans (employed as managers for the North British Australasian Co. Ltd. at *St Ruth* for a time) and C.B. Fisher (a prominent Victorian and South Australian pastoralist) who with G.H. Davenport (of *Headington Hill*), was involved with *O.K.* station locally. However, some small farmers did manage to acquire land. Alexander Williamson selected one of the early parcels released from *St Ruth* in 1871. He took Portions 2,3,4,5 and 6 in the Parish of Hill, a total of 391 acres (including the future site of the Nandi rail siding). Within ten years Williamson had acquired the freehold of the land by completing payment of one hundred and ninety-five pounds, ten shillings sterling,¹² and no doubt fulfilling other requirements to 'improve' the land. Ordinary families such as the Bennies, McLennans, McLarans and Killeens acquired some former *St. Ruth* land on the town side of the Condamine River, but large stretches of the best land went to the 'big' men of the Downs with the funds to juggle selections and outright purchases, and remain within the law.

Hugh Muir Nelson and John Watts

Hugh Muir Nelson was born in 1835 at Kilmarnock, Scotland. His father was a Presbyterian clergyman, the Rev. Dr. William Lambie Nelson, who became a Queensland squatter with interests in the Moonie River district west of Dalby. Described as 'a splendid specimen of his race, endowed with a fine physique and robust health', when he arrived in Queensland in 1853, Hugh Muir Nelson took easily to the outback life.¹³ Though not strictly of the powerful 'Pure Merino' stock, Nelson had entrée into that exclusive circle of squatters through his brother-in-law John Watts of *Eton Vale* who had married Nelson's sister in the late 1850s.¹⁴

Watts was born on 27 February 1821, in Gloucestershire. His father was a surgeon and sought a good education for his sons. After a short stay in Paris, where the boys were to be schooled in anatomy, talk of revolution brought them home. His brother was apprenticed to their father and a 'practical farmer' prepared John for colonial life. He learned to 'plough, shear, milk cows and general farm management' and afterwards went to a butcher to learn to slaughter sheep, pigs and cattle. In 1840 he arrived in South Australia, and moved on to the Downs in 1846. After gaining experience on several other runs John Watts managed Arthur Hodgson's *Eton Vale* for three years, during which time he improved the stock with the purchase of twenty rams from John Deuchar of *Rosenthal*. He later became Hodgson's partner. Watts married 'the daughter of Rev. W.M. Nelson of Ipswich' just as the Hodgsons set off for a visit to England leaving him in charge of the station. He wrote that he was: 'very happy indeed' with his new life.¹⁵ The Watts' situation, described in the following accounts, was typical of life for the wealthier squatters in the Settled Districts.

Nehemiah Bartley described a brief visit to *Eton Vale* in 1859¹⁶ during which he visited many of the great Pastoral Runs:

July 11th – rode to Eton Vale; lunched with John Watts and Mrs. Watts; ... nice comfortable "home" of a place; was asked to stop the night, but pushed on.¹⁷

Maurice French gives an account of an inaugural 'Harvest Home' festival Watts and his family held at *Eton Vale* in 1860 (reported in the Darling Downs Gazette of 10 December 1860). It was a sumptuous affair with over 100 guests, the employers at the head of the table at dinner and the

‘retainers’ seated below the salt in the old British tradition. The Watts family mingled afterwards with the workers at a dance in the shearing shed.¹⁸

As a young man Nelson had managed his father’s runs and was at *Burenda* station near Charleville ‘before superintending Eton Vale for Hodgson and Watts (his brother-in-law) from 1862-72’.¹⁹ His experiences on his father’s land had prepared Hugh Muir Nelson well for employment at *Eton Vale* where he lived and worked for ten years. During this period Nelson had the opportunity to cement his contacts with the powerful squatting group. He was educated, cultured and like many Queensland squatters, had the hardworking qualities of the Scots.

John Watts sold his interest in *Eton Vale* to Robert Ramsay in 1871 after a family tragedy. Watts had been in illhealth when he chose to accompany Arthur Hodgson on a business visit to England in the early 1860s. He returned to dreadful news:

On my arrival at Melbourne I got a ‘Courier’, a paper printed in Brisbane, and there saw the death of my dear wife, which had taken place only a week or so before my arrival. This was indeed a blow, and for some time I felt quite unable to realise it, but it was a sad blow to me. I, who had been so ill, now returned restored, and she, who was in perfect health when I left, was no more. It was some time before I could get over this blow, and my brother-in-law, now Sir Hugh Nelson, who had acted for me for some time on the station, [Eton Vale] took full charge.²⁰



Hon. John Watts, 20 July 1866, at about the time of his remarriage. *John Oxley Library*.

John Watts married the widow of another squatter, F.N. Isaac of *Gowrie*, in 1866 and returned to England in 1868. Nelson soon made plans to marry and settle in the Dalby district. Watts says in his memoirs that he ‘never removed’ his capital from the colony,²¹ and we will see that much of it was tied up with Hugh Muir Nelson’s venture to establish *Loudoun* station.

The Establishment of Loudoun Station

In addition to Watts' involvement Hugh Muir Nelson appears to have had strong backing in conjunction with his own family. At least two large land portions were selected in his father's name. In a total of many adjoining portions Nelson acquired what was later described as 'the 40,000-acre (16,200 ha) freehold property *Loudoun* near Dalby'.²² More than 30,000 acres were taken up in the 1870s, including much prime land on the Condamine River. Most of the land (over 23,000 acres) acquired in the early days, including the homestead portion, was in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district. At least another 5000 acres was in the adjoining Parish of St Ruth on the town side of the Condamine River, made up of small portions of around 80 to 160 acres.²³ Nelson also acquired some small blocks on the fringes of the Parish of Myall including Portions 64, 68, 78, 79, 80.²⁴

Nelson showed much pride in his Scottish heritage with his name choice for the landholding, which comes from 'Loudoun' in Scotland. There is a Parish of Loudoun in the district of Cunningham in Ayrshire, and Loudoun Hill is about 90km from Hugh Muir Nelson's birthplace of Kilmarnock. The Scottish name contrasts with to the choice of an Aboriginal inspired name by Nelson's father for his stately home in Toowoomba. *Gabbinbar* was derived from the local Aboriginal word for a particular billabong on *Dilbong*, an outstation of *Tartha* in the Tara (Moonie) district, which was held for a short time from 1860 by the Rev. Dr. W.L. Nelson. *Tartha* and *Dilbong* are also names with Aboriginal inspiration though not given by Dr. Nelson.²⁵ His choice of an Aboriginal rather than a Scottish name was in line with the name choices of many early Scottish squatters as we saw in Chapter 2.

Nelson's intention was to establish a sheep station with high quality stock rather than carry on the agricultural pursuits intended for parts of the newly released land. His experience working with John Watts on *Eton Vale* had given him the necessary knowledge. Like other squatter/politicians Watts (who was the first representative in the Queensland Parliament for Drayton and Toowoomba) had been known to speak out against the push for agricultural enterprises in the Downs region. He advised the 'path of Adam Smith', concentrating on the production of wool and meat which were 'the only exportable products which could be profitably produced on the Downs'.²⁶ For his purpose Nelson required a large freehold estate, like many being put together at that time by the squatters themselves as their leases expired. Between 1860 and 1875 'about a score of giant freehold estates' were created from the leased runs of the Settled District.²⁷ Nelson pieced together much of his 40,000 acres when there was a grab for land in the Dalby district by those with money and influence (though not by small farmers). George Morris Simpson was selecting land further downstream on the Condamine River for *Bon Accord* (backed by Sir John Hay, Speaker NSW Legislative Assembly 1862-65, and President of the Legislative Council 1873-92). J.P. Bell was enlarging his freehold acres at *Jimbour* and we have seen that Fisher and Davenport were also active establishing *O.K.*

It is possible to follow the probable way the small allotments of typically 80 or 160 acres (described as Homestead Areas), that were acquired by John Watts, eventually passed into the hands of Hugh Muir Nelson. They appear to have been secured to the homestead portion, through a series of transfers and mortgages. Portion 10 in the Parish of Hill (74 acres), was and still is

the homestead block for *Loudoun* station. It was selected by John Watts on 11 November 1869 and purchased outright for fifty-five pounds, ten shillings on 16 May 1870. (It is possible that the price was negotiated by an auction.) From 10 July 1872 Nelson entered into a ten-year agreement to pay one thousand and fifty pounds per annum for, presumably, some or all of Watts' part of the estate (Purchase No. 28527) secured to the homestead portion. In July 1882 the land was transferred to Hugh Muir Nelson with a new title (No. 11527), though it was still mortgaged to John Watts for twenty-five thousand pounds sterling over a five-year period at six percent interest. The mortgage appears not to have been released until 1892 when Henry Charles White purchased *Loudoun* for sixty thousand pounds. (It is of note that John Watts visited the colony in that year, and that H. C. White took out a mortgage with Watts for part of the purchase price.)²⁸

It is not entirely clear whether 'homestead' farmers confounded the best laid plans of officialdom with their lack of interest in the land (surveyed in small portions and intended for them) because they were cautious about the likelihood of failure or whether competition from the powerful squatting class, in the person of John Watts, discouraged their interest. However, it is clear that Watts and Nelson paid the Queensland Government for the freehold of the land much sooner than would have been possible for an ordinary farmer to do so. For example, Alexander Williamson took the full ten years to pay for his selection nearby.

The accepted procedure to acquire pastoral land at that time is exemplified by Nelson's acquisition of two of the larger land portions released from *St Ruth*. In March 1871 Nelson became the Conditional Purchaser for Selection

DR103 of 4731 acres on the boundary of the leased half of *St Ruth*, near Lake Broadwater. He paid 1850 pounds (at 10 shillings for first class pastoral land, and 5 shillings for second class). The final instalment was made in a lump sum immediately the three-year period as Conditional Purchaser had expired. The adjoining portion DR113 of 5509 acres had originally been selected by Arthur Watts, 'who devised it to H.M. Nelson subject to the performance of certain conditions'. After Arthur Watts' death, and the performance of the conditions, 'J.W. Watts' interest in the lease was recorded in Mr. Nelson's favour'.²⁹ It appears that John Watts had also selected up to his full entitlement and his relative Arthur was brought in. Thus Nelson, though not the first selector for DR113, was the first to obtain the freehold. Hugh Muir Nelson had been one of the executors of Arthur Watts' estate, along with James Taylor (from *Cecil Plains*). Nelson requested purchase of DR113 in June 1874, even though he was entitled to make small annual payments until 1880. His secure financial backing is evident from such transactions.

When Hugh Muir Nelson sold all of his 40,000 acres in 1892 for 60,000 pounds, just before the financial crash of 1893,³⁰ he realised an average of one pound, ten shillings an acre. This was a handsome profit considering that he had paid from five to ten shillings an acre for most of the land twenty years or so before. Nevertheless, as per the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1868, Nelson had been required to fulfill certain obligations to take up Homestead Land, and as Conditional Purchaser of the large pastoral blocks. These conditions had been relaxed since the first Queensland Act of 1860, which required commencement of residence, improvement and cultivation after six months, but were still quite demanding.

Act 31 Victoria. No 46.

B.

4558 Br.

Certificate of Fulfilment of Conditions by Selector
under the "Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1868."

565

District:

Dalby.

Reference to No. and Portion: *113*

James Taylor & Hugh Muir Nelson } *executors for Arthur Watts deceased*

Area: *5509 acres*

I, *Archibald Mc Dowall* the Commissioner of
Crown Lands, under the provisions of the Act 31 Victoria, No. 46, do hereby
Certify, that the Conditions hereinunder specified have been fulfilled by the Lessee
of *the above mentioned portion.* as required by the Act
to entitle him to a Deed of Grant in Fee-simple, on payment of the Balance of the
Ten Years' Rent.

PARTICULARS OF CONDITIONS COMPLIED WITH.

*The whole of the land comprised in the selection fenced in with a good
and substantial fence as follows, viz.*

South east boundary: 270 chains post and rail fence two rails & 4 wires.

*West boundary: 80 chains zigzag log fence 5 feet high and 1600 ft post & rail fence one rail
and 6 wires. North boundary: wire fence all strong posts 12 ft apart 6 wires: 263 chains*

East boundary: wire fence all strong posts 10 ft apart 6 wires: 180 chains

Also slab cottage, bark hut and sheep yards.

Given under my Hand, at this

29th day of August 1872.

A. M. Dowall

Commissioner of Crown Lands.

Darling Downs District.

James Taylor Esq.

101-05.

Tooowoomba.

Certificate of
Fulfilment of
Conditions by
Selector for
Portion 113.
Particulars of
conditions are
detailed at the
bottom of the
document.

Homestead land required 'personal residence and cultivation of one-tenth of the area'. It is unclear how this was arranged in regard to the small agricultural portions that became part of *Loudoun*. Possibly the land was rezoned once it was all held in effect as one large pastoral block. As Conditional Purchaser, Nelson was required to reside on the large blocks that were classified pastoral 'in person or by bailiff' and 'fence in the whole with a good and substantial fence'. He was to pay a standard ten percent in annual payments over ten years. A Certificate of Fulfilment of Conditions by Selector would be issued after three years. On payment of the balance of the ten years rent he would be entitled to a Deed of Grant in Fee-simple (and we see that he chose to pay this immediately in regard to at least Portions 103 and 113).³¹

Hugh Muir Nelson's bailiff, Murdoch Nicholson, lived on DR 103 from January 1871 to May 1873 followed by another employee George Foote. A 'good and substantial fence' was constructed as well as a shepherd's hut and sheepyards.³² DR113 had been fenced in with 'a good and substantial fence'; and a slab cottage, bark hut and sheep yards had been constructed.³³

Pre-emptions and Dummying

It is true that Nelson managed to reconstitute much of what was formerly leased Crown Land from *St Ruth* into a huge freehold estate, quite contrary to the government's aim of closer settlement. However, Nelson's establishment of a large estate was part of a trend begun by the Downs squatters who were able to gain the freehold of much of the choicest land through a right of pre-emption under the 1847 Orders-in-Council. There were 7442 acres of *Jimbour* land pre-empted in 1865 alone. A total of

40,417 acres were pre-empted at *Jimbour* from a run of 266,445 acres. Land pre-empted from *St Ruth* was more modest, at 1282 around the homestead, from a total of 95,360 acres.³⁴ In 1875 as we saw in Chapter 7, Ebenezer Vickery pre-empted 2560 acres (the maximum) of second-class pastoral land not far from *Loudoun* on adjoining *Daandine South No.1*, for five shillings an acre. This area (Portion 1, Parish of Daandine) was probably the choicest part of *Daandine South No.1*. It straddled Wilkie Creek and had a fenced area, stables and yards already established. It was probably known as *Duckponds*.³⁵

Duncan Waterson says that whilst pre-emptions ‘tore the heart out of the Settled District’ many other devices were used to circumvent the Settlement Acts. These included family selection, dummying [selecting land in a ‘dummy’ name] and deliberate evasion of residence and improvement conditions.³⁶ He quotes from an article in the Dalby Herald of 25 February 1871, which says that Bell of *Jimbour* ‘brought the prefabricated hut, the walking fence and the skimming plough to a fine art’.³⁷ Waterson also says that the Brisbane Courier (particularly 15 June 1874 and 16 June 1874) ‘focused attention on the problem and did much to check abuses’.³⁸ In blatant examples of dummying, some blocks on the Downs were taken up in the name of people who had never even been to Queensland. ‘G.H. Davenport, acting with C.B. Fisher, the great Victorian and South Australian pastoralist, came to Queensland specifically to select a freehold estate.’ *Headington Hill* was created ‘out of a myriad of small selections whose normal holders had never been near the Downs’ and who had sold their immigrants’ non-transferable land-orders at a considerable discount to Barnett, Davenport’s Brisbane agent.³⁹ The Rev. Robert Mahalm, rector of

St John's Church of England in Dalby from 1874 to 1884, was known for 'his vigorous and uncompromising stand against the "land dummying" going on in the Dalby District'.⁴⁰ Of course 'dummying' was not confined to the Dalby district and it was acknowledged that:

72,796 acres of conditional purchases, representing 5.89 per cent of all land selected on the Downs under the 1868 Act, were unquestionably dummied and the real total was probably twice as large.⁴¹

Attempts were made by the authorities to strictly enforce the Act of 1868 but 'land dummying' was a well known practice and administrators were known to collude with the established squatters or turn a blind eye when official requirements were not met. It was not until the mid 1870s that tighter control was achieved by strict regulation, which put more responsibility on the local Land Commissioner to police the fulfilment of conditions and changed the scene of action 'from the recesses of the Brisbane Lands Office to a public, regional court'.⁴²

There was an aspect of dummying that may have occasionally backfired on the perpetrators. Guy Wade says:

There was a very considerable amount of traffic in 'dummying' in the years which followed and many stories are told, with an apparently substantial degree of authenticity of how some were 'caught' when the dummies in some cases declined to vacate them when the real owners wanted to resume possession. It is said that one well-known local property bears its present name in perpetuation of one of these incidents.⁴³

This background information is given to portray the climate in which *Loudoun* was taken up, rather than to suggest that Hugh Muir Nelson was involved in the not uncommon practice of land dummying (like his

associates James Taylor of *Cecil Plains* and Joshua Peter Bell of *Jimbour*). Certainly no direct evidence has come to light of questionable dealing by Nelson in regard to the fulfilment of conditions. Nevertheless, much of his land was taken up by ‘family selection’, with the involvement of relatives who took up land almost certainly with the intention of passing it to Nelson at a later date, as we have seen. Of course Arthur Watts and Rev. Dr. W.L. Nelson may have chosen to invest in Nelson’s enterprise to gain income from it like John Watts, so it cannot be assumed that Nelson acted in an improper way. John Watts took his investment seriously and visited the Downs twice after he returned to England in 1868.⁴⁴

Hugh Muir Nelson, from Loudoun to Politics

Hugh Muir Nelson had settled in Dalby by 1870, managing the acquisition of his land and stocking it with sheep. He was also setting up house ready to receive his intended bride. Details about the purchase of furniture for their home in Dalby are included in a letter to his future wife Janet McIntyre dated 31 July 1870, along with a teasing comment:

I have been to church this forenoon. Mr. Moberley in this sermon was warning his people against extravagance and wasting money on expensive furniture etc. When I see him I must ask if he meant anything personal.⁴⁵

The reference to ‘his people’ refers to Mr. Moberley’s position as the Church of England minister, when Nelson (and probably Janet) was a Presbyterian. In fact by 1871 he had been appointed an elder at St Thomas’ Presbyterian Church (founded in 1865).⁴⁶

Difficulties in accessing his land over the Condamine River from Dalby are described in Nelson’s letter to his fiancée. He had just returned from an

expedition with his bailiff, Murdoch Nicholson, to meet the Land Commissioner who had inspected some of his selections. Nelson had crossed the Condamine, which was 'very high,' in a punt at the junction of 'Oak Creek'. His horse 'Arthur's old Punch' (probably acquired from Arthur Hodgson from *Eton Vale*, who returned to England permanently in 1874) swam over beautifully, but Nicholson's horse refused. 'We pushed him in several times but he always kept coming back to the same side of the river again'. The horse had to be towed over by the punt. The resulting delay meant that the two men had to ride three miles 'in the dark' to their destination, which was probably the planned homestead site (Portion 10) three miles from the Oak Creek junction. The return journey proved to be just as difficult:

I crossed the Condamine in the same small punt yesterday afternoon, but the man bringing me over did not know what he was about and we were carried down by the current some distance and went ashore on the same side as we started.⁴⁷

The second attempt succeeded, however, and fortunately 'as I had Rosebud waiting for me on this side I reached home just before dark.' He comments further that, 'So far as I can judge the Commissioner will pass all the land very nearly in the way I want it'.

In the same letter, Nelson comments that:

The back country is at present very wet and swampy and I can see as I anticipated at first that wet seasons will be very unfavourable for us on this kind of country. I have had it quite wet enough to start with...⁴⁸

It is a fair assumption that the 'back country' was on and near Portion DR103, which is a mile or so from the Oak Creek junction: a swampy area is clear on the 1917 Parish Map. The young grazier was soon to have the

land even wetter!⁴⁹ In a letter to the Minister for Lands on 30 June 1873 he requested urgent consideration regarding Portions DR208 and DR103.

Nelson's dilemma was that he wished, due to floodwaters, to remove the very fence that he had been required to build as a condition of purchase.

DR208 of 179 acres was completely submerged, many feet deep in water, and the family living in the two-room cottage had been rescued.⁵⁰

As I am also the owner of a large quantity of freehold land adjoining the said selections I could avoid the risk of life as well as of the fencing and improvements and also a great measure of the stock if allowed to remove my fences to above high flood mark and also remove the cottages to higher ground but as the law now stands I am unable to do so without forfeiting the land to the Crown. If anything can be done to give relief under the circumstances it must be done immediately as the fences must be re- erected at once.⁵¹

On the letter a rather unclear handwritten endorsement from the Minister's office seems to deny the request, '...can afford no relief' under the 56th Clause. No doubt the practice of land dummied allowed for little flexibility in the implementation of the law. It is also clear that the fencing laws were designed in the belief that small homesteaders would own individual portions not that one landholder would acquire so many adjoining blocks. Nevertheless, compulsory fencing did away with the difficult life of shepherds and hut keepers caring for unfenced stock and the sorting of stock that had wandered.

Loudoun became very successful, 'famous for the high class sheep and wool which it produced under Hugh Nelson's practical management'.⁵² Alderman E. H. Geisel (grandson of the Mrs. Geisel mentioned in Chapter 6, former hutkeeper on *Halliford* in the 1850s) expressed another view of the sheep on

Loudoun where he worked in the 1890s, after the sale of the station to the Whites:

They were considered of very dense wool type, with medium long staple. They were considered wool growers of high quality. Any of the old shearers would give his candid opinion in pure Australian language if asked what he thought of them.⁵³

Nelson developed an interest in politics and judging by all available accounts was popular in the district, not only with the squatting fraternity who supported him but also with the general community. By 1880 he had been elected to the Wambo Shire Board and it is of note that the election was held at *Loudoun*.

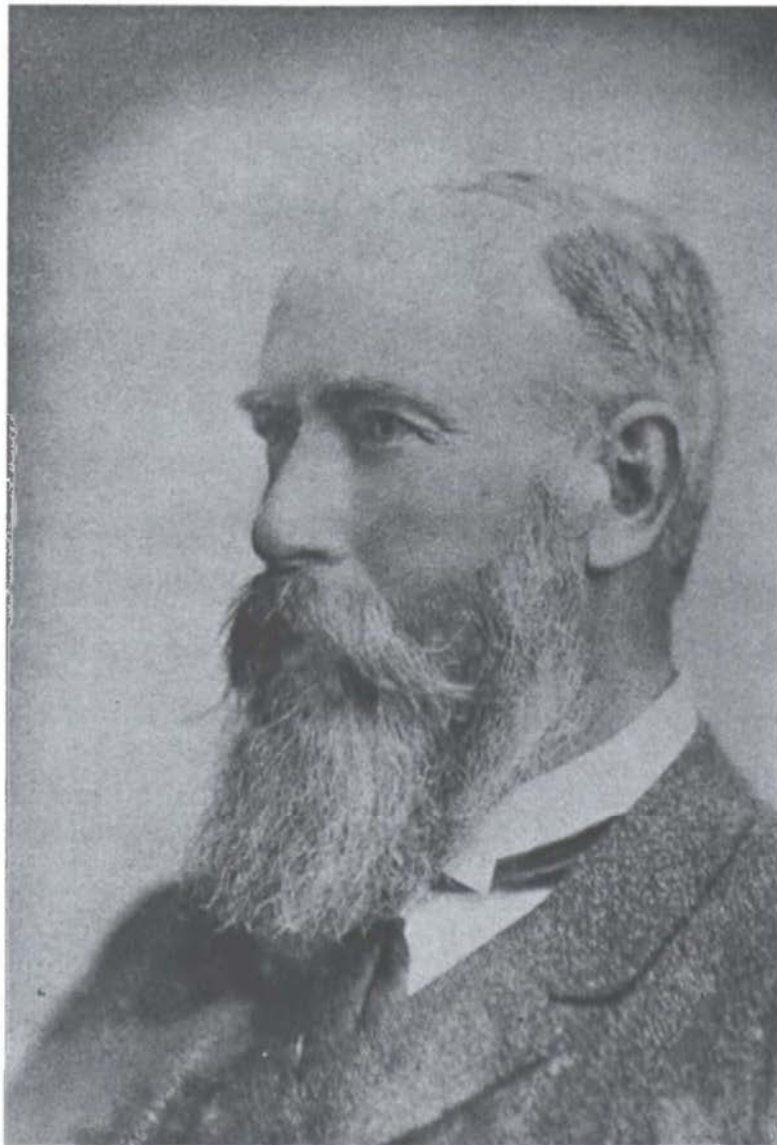
The Divisional Boards Act came into force in 1879 and the first members of the newly-formed Divisional Council of Wambo were nominated by the Government. At the first election, however Mr. Pat Killeen was returned with Mr. P. S. Bodkin for No.2 division of the shire, and he was associated with Mr. (afterwards Sir) Hugh Nelson, who was chairman. The election took place on his station of *Loudoun*, then managed by Mr. Hugh Begbie with Mr. M. Nicholson as overseer.⁵⁴

Pat Killeen had emigrated from Ireland in 1857 as a boy, arriving in Victoria. In 1877 his family joined an exodus of Victorian families to the Darling Downs (which included the McLennans mentioned later). The Killeens (Portion 1032 & more taken up by his brother Michael, Parish of St. Ruth) and McLennans (Portions 543-6) selected *St Ruth* land south of Oakey Creek, and not far from the eastern boundary of *Loudoun*. Mr. Bodkin (Portions 327, 355, 359) was one of the Killeen's neighbours. The election was an important day for the district and something of the recreational activities of the time are portrayed in Pat Killeen's obituary. Note the

presence of Nelson's nephews T. and J. Watts, and 'Billy Webb from *Daandine*' (who was later manager of that Pastoral Run, and also became a prominent land owner in the district, often in partnership with J.S. Jessop).

It was a red letter day for the district, and was celebrated with various festivities, which included a district cricket match on the Greenbank plain. Amongst the players were T. and J. Watts (nephews of Hugh Nelson), the Rushbrooks, Sandy Matthews (from Weranga), Billy Webb, and the jackeroos from *Daandine*. On that great occasion the deceased gentleman [Mr. Killeen] officiated as umpire.⁵⁵

In the early 1880s Nelson was elected as member for Northern Downs. Duncan Waterson draws attention to the siting of polling booths as a method used by the squatting fraternity to support their favoured candidates. The votes from the booth at *Jimbour* Head Station demonstrate his point. Hugh Muir Nelson received 52 votes in the 1883 election and his rival Bashford, nil. That booth had a large bearing on the election for Nelson's eventual majority was only 50.⁵⁶ One surmises that it was more than a coincidence that all the employees on that part of *Jimbour* voted the same way, or in fact that they voted at all, because voting did not become compulsory for another twenty-five years. Some 'encouragement' from the hierarchy at *Jimbour* would certainly have been necessary to achieve that result.



Sir Hugh Muir
Nelson,
13 June 1888.
*John Oxley
Library,
Brisbane*

The Wambo Board election at *Loudoun* and the siting of the polling booth at *Jimbour* are mentioned to demonstrate that Hugh Muir Nelson belonged to the level of society that traditionally supplied the parliamentary representative. The influence held by that group undoubtedly assisted his political ambitions. He was also helped by the fact that many small landholders were neither sufficiently educated for the position, nor could afford to leave their farms. In effect the parliamentary representatives on the

Darling Downs at this time were restricted to the wealthy landholders, and prosperous storekeepers or lawyers from the towns. Though payment of parliamentary members was first mooted in 1871 it was not introduced until the tenth parliament in 1889 at 300 pounds per year plus expenses.⁵⁷

After a redistribution of seats in 1887, Nelson was elected the first Parliamentary member for Murilla and later became the Minister for Railways. He was Treasurer during the financial crisis of 1893, and by 1894 he was Premier of Queensland.⁵⁸ Later he served a period as Lieutenant Governor of Queensland. *Loudoun* had been managed by Hugh Begbie leaving Nelson free to pursue his political ambitions. It was sold in 1892 (before the financial crash) to Henry Charles White.

After Sir Hugh Muir Nelson died in 1906, friends and colleagues from his parliamentary career remembered him fondly.

Tall above average, straight as an arrow and gentle as a child, his wonderful tact, his kindly nature, his genial, friendly greeting to friend and foe alike, and his keen appreciation of the ridiculous, made him as popular a leader as ever sat on the Treasury Benches. There was nothing dour, or narrow, or intolerant about this happy-go-lucky Scotchman. No one ever accused him of being an orator, and on the other hand no one ever heard him talk anything but the soundest of common sense.⁵⁹

Hugh Muir Nelson's sense of humour came through in both his personal and political life. In the letter to his fiancée in 1870 he shows a teasing and affectionate nature:

O I have been collecting all your letters too, and I am going to send them to the Dalby Herald to be published weekly, marked at the bottom "to be continued in our next-" and don't you know I think they

will be very[unclear] and instructive reading. You get spooney more spooney by degrees (You must have got to a high degree of temperature by this time) but I begin near the top of the thermometer and gradually cool down.⁶⁰

Charles Arrowsmith Bernays recounted an incident indicative of a light touch and common sense:

A humorous incident in his career was when he strolled into the House in the early hours of the morning, clad in blue and white striped pyjamas, to quell what looked like an incipient riot. No one knows whether it was the sight of the pyjamas, or the man's innate popularity, that did it, but at all events the House smiled, and was at peace once more.⁶¹

The White Family at Loudoun

The White family had many grazing interests in New South Wales including *Belltrees* near Scone in the Upper Hunter district, and *Havilah* at Mudgee. They were particularly well known for high quality sheep and for their racing interests. Henry Charles White was a contemporary of Hugh Muir Nelson. Born also in the mid-1830s, he died just one year before Nelson in 1905.

Henry Charles was one of seven sons and two daughters of the pioneering landholder James White. White had emigrated from Broomfield in Somerset in 1826 in charge of seventy-nine French merino sheep, the property of the Australian Agricultural Company. Henry Charles was only five years old when his father, by then the holder of much land in the Upper Hunter region, died in 1842. He learned much about the land from his three older brothers and, according to his obituary in the Sydney Mail of 1 March 1905, spent some time at sea during his teens. Robert Donalson, an employee of one of

the many stations owned by the brothers, said that Henry Charles White 'was deeply respected by the men who worked for him...though a pretty stiff taskmaster, under his instructions I learned nearly all I know of the working of stock...from milking a cow to riding a race'.⁶² Henry Charles was also known as a fine horseman. He became the manager and part owner of the famous White family estate *Belltrees* in 1871, around the time Hugh Muir Nelson took up *Loudoun*.

Henry Charles White, like Hugh Muir Nelson, is remembered particularly for his sheep breeding skills and was recognised as 'a geneticist of note'. He introduced a strain of sheep to *Belltrees* that was developed on *Havilah* station by Nicholas Paget Bayly in the 1860s. Bayly had crossed English rams with German ewes. Henry Charles White purchased *Havilah* from Bayly on his death, and in the 1890s he introduced the *Havilah* strain of sheep to *Loudoun*. The White family's interest in horse breeding and racing was no doubt responsible for the horse-breeding program at *Loudoun*.⁶³ In an obituary that appeared in The Sydney Mail of 1 March 1905, mention is made of the purchase of 'some fine Clydesdales' Henry Charles White had imported for *Loudoun* station. They were used in teams to transport wool.

White took his brother-in-law Paul Hunt into partnership, continuing the trend for 'family' businesses. Alderman E.H. Geisel recalled that when he worked on the property as a boy, Paul Hunt had lived at *Loudoun* and managed it. The employees knew him simply as 'Paul'.⁶⁴ (Paul Hunt was also on the Wambo Divisional Board, 1898/9.) Henry Charles White had virtually retired from the land in 1885 and was living in Sydney from the 1890s, although he still assisted his nephews with their pastoral

responsibilities after they purchased *Belltrees*. It is likely that he was thinking of future support for his second wife Mary Helen and his son Roy (both of whom eventually inherited), when he purchased *Loudoun* during his retirement.

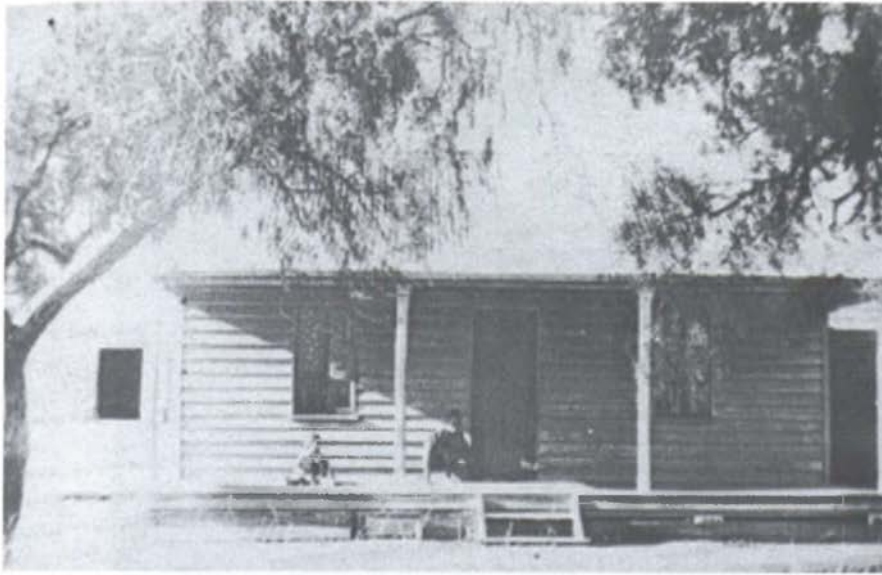
We see in two photographs from a ‘station staff’ picnic at Lake Broadwater in 1910, some of the large community resident at *Loudoun* at that time. The picnic would have been difficult to arrange. Lake Broadwater, though part of the station from 1901, was several miles from the homestead and many of the ladies and children would have been transported by buggy or sulky along the Broadwater Road. It is possible that the picnic was in honour of a visit by *Loudoun*’s absentee owners: the former Mary Helen White, now Morner, newly married to her second husband, and her son Roy White. Archie McLeod’s attention towards two or three well-dressed and unidentified people, which is noticeable in the pictures, suggests that they are important visitors, and possibly the station owners. Details about some of the station employees appear below and in the next chapter.



A picnic at Lake Broadwater, 1910. H.B. Lane rear left next to manager, Archie McLeod in the pith helmet. Dave Hounslow is the gentleman in the middle row wearing a waistcoat (between two suited men). Morris Bassett Lane (hat back to front) is seated on the right behind the girl with pigtails.



1910 was the year Mary Helen White married Count Morner – they may be the two well-dressed people on the left of the picture, perhaps with Roy White (arms crossed?). Emily and Cecelia Lane are in the centre. Several Lane children are in front - young Harry on the right next to his cousin Ruth Mary whose face is hidden by the large hat of the times. Frankie is scratching her leg. Some of the other girls are probably Archie McLeod's daughters.



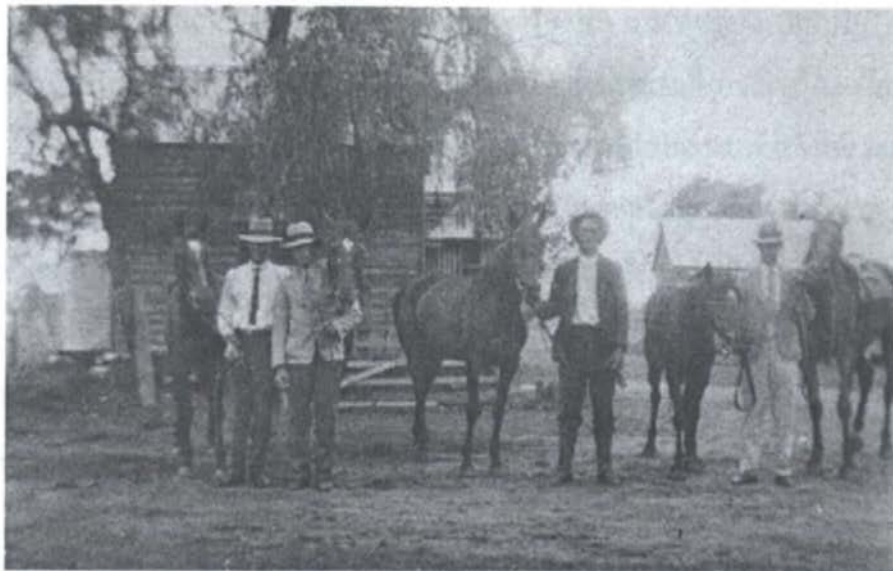
Some of the
smaller
buildings at
Loudoun.

Left: Len Lane
is the baby on
the verandah of
a Station Hand's
cottage. The
other boy is
most likely his
brother Alf.
(est. 1923)

This is probably the Overseer's Cottage,
below, with Emily and Morris Lane. (est.
1925)



Above: Alf Lane (left) with his small brother
Len holding a puppy. Note cottages in the
background. (est 1925)



Ready for a picnic race meeting at Lake Broadwater, about 1930. Alf Lane is on the left. Note accommodation for single men behind Alf (identified by Len Lane), and other cottages close by.

Loudoun's Importance in the District

The homesteaders who may have taken up the small allotments with doubtful viability that were absorbed into *Loudoun* during the 1870s, were probably much better served in the long run by the establishment of the station. Many station workers later took up their own land and put to use the training acquired at *Loudoun*. This is clear from the further experiences of the Nicholson and Lane families in particular. Also local farmers and their sons were given welcome casual employment during the shearing and at other busy times.

Nelson's bailiff, Murdoch Nicholson, moved to Charleville and started a sawmilling operation when White and Hunt took over, but his son John married Christine Ann McLennan from the local family and remained in the

area. After his marriage John Nicholson became well known for completing huge droving contracts, often in conjunction with his wife's family. He held *Duckponds*, on former *Daandine* land, as well as taking over *Blaxland* (just outside Dalby on the old Toowoomba road) around the turn of the century. John Nicholson was recognised for setting up a modern shearing operation at *Blaxland* and running it successfully until his death in 1935. Both Henry Bassett and William John Lane selected land near *Loudoun* and the Lane family remains in the district to the present day. (More details about the Nicholson/Lewis and Lane families in Chapter 9, The Selectors.)

Many locals were given a start in life at the station. Alderman Geisel of Dalby secured his first job as a lad at *Loudoun* in the late 1890s.

The work consisted of running up the horses at daylight, milking the cows, and doing odd jobs about the homestead. Some refer to it as the 'busy job'. It was busy enough for me at any rate. The wages I received amounted to five shillings a week payable quarterly.⁶⁵

As we can see from his title of Alderman, E.H. Geisel's career advanced considerably from the 'busy job'. The Geisel Emporium became an important institution in Dalby and the family one of the town's best known.

Further details about the fortunes of *Loudoun* employees will be examined in the next chapter, as well as more information about the White/Hunt period of ownership. White and Hunt continued the *Loudoun* standard of excellence, with improvements such as the introduction of the *Havilah* strain of sheep. The workers were happy and well cared for, evidenced by long years of employment and their disinterest in the unions that formed and gathered strength from the 1890s. Eber Lane recalled that aggressive union members harassed station workers when his father was horse and stock overseer in the

1920s. He was a young boy and they frightened him. Union members spoke to shearers in the 1930s also, when Snowy Torenbeek was part of the crew. On both occasions the permanent workers were not interested in the union, and the local farmers considered it a privilege to work at *Loudoun* during the shearing.⁶⁶ Judy White described the employer and employee relationship that had developed over the years on *Belltrees*, and that same tradition of care and consideration was continued at *Loudoun* where workers were employed for long periods, as we will see in the next chapter:

It is difficult for the present day worker to comprehend the employee – employer relationship that existed between man and master in early rural life. There existed then a genuine concern for each other's needs and commitments and in many ways survival depended upon it ... Few external influences disrupted the contented station existence. The fact that so many families stayed on 'Belltrees' for so long speaks for itself.⁶⁷

The Demise of the Station

After Henry Charles White's death the running of the station was probably left largely to the manager until the station was sold in the 1930s, although Len Lane says he remembers that his father worked with and for Roy White. (See table at the end of this chapter for details of absentee owners.) Archie McLeod, who had replaced Paul Hunt as manager in 1903, remained until 1919. A Mr. Johnson, who stayed until the late 1930s, succeeded him.

Sheep and horse grazing were the chief pastoral enterprises on the huge landholding. Dairying was the mainstay of the surrounding small farmers who took up land in the early days of the 20th century and supplied the butter factory in Dalby. Some properties, particularly between the Broadwater

Road and Wilkie Creek, concentrated on raising beef cattle. In the mid-1930s, when *Loudoun* was sold, about 11,000 acres went to the Campbell Brothers and the remainder was subdivided. This led to significant changes in the district.

Quite regular price slumps in the years 1921-2, 1925-6 and 1931-4⁶⁸ were becoming a real problem for the dairy farmers so that many of the newcomers took up wheat growing. After a slow start due to the unreliable rainfall, droughts and floods, unsuitable wheat varieties and transport problems, wheat growing had become more popular in the Dalby district by the 1930s. Bert Cunnington, a local selector, described his experiences with wheat growing in the *Westbrook* resumption area closer to Toowoomba in the first decade of the 20th century:

I had never seen such a prospect for a wheat harvest. I was told they had to feed the wheat off, or it would be falling over the fences before harvest. Manure, they laughed at the bare idea, they just tickled the ground and laughed it into a crop.

However, in spite of such glowing reports, 'the frost got the lot'.⁶⁹ By the 1930s State supported research had produced wheat varieties more compatible with the climate, and tractor drawn planting and harvest machinery had improved farming methods. Optimistic comments, like one reported in the Dalby Herald 8 December 1936, reflected local opinion. In an article reporting a satisfactory wheat harvest, one grower said: 'the Dalby district is destined to become the greatest wheat-producing centre in Queensland'.⁷⁰

The Second World War and the introduction of mechanised military transport saw the end of the trade in Queensland bred horses for the Indian

Army, 'which had been large and constant' since the 1890s.⁷¹ The trade had been a major activity on *Loudoun* station during the Whites' ownership and this will be discussed further in the next chapter.



Henry Charles White
from *The Sydney Mail*
1 March 1905.



Barbara (Babs) Campbell, daughter of
one of the Campbell Brothers. Note the
mud, which posed a serious problem for
cars before bitumen roads. (est.1937/8)

As a consequence of the increasing interest in wheat and the subdivision of *Loudoun* station, wool growing in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district declined. A later newspaper article points out that the rapid development of

the wheat industry had not, 'by any means diminished the number of sheep now depastured in the Dalby district'. However, with the 'cutting up of such old recognized sheep runs as Jimbour, Bon Accord, OK, Loudoun etc.' the advances being made in wool growing were 'admittedly not within the immediate vicinity of the town of Dalby'.⁷²



Top: Morris Lane, stock overseer – est.1930s. Above: Morris and Emily Lane's children, who grew up on *Loudoun*, are pictured at the station: Alf, Eber (rear) Frankie and Len. (mid 1920s)

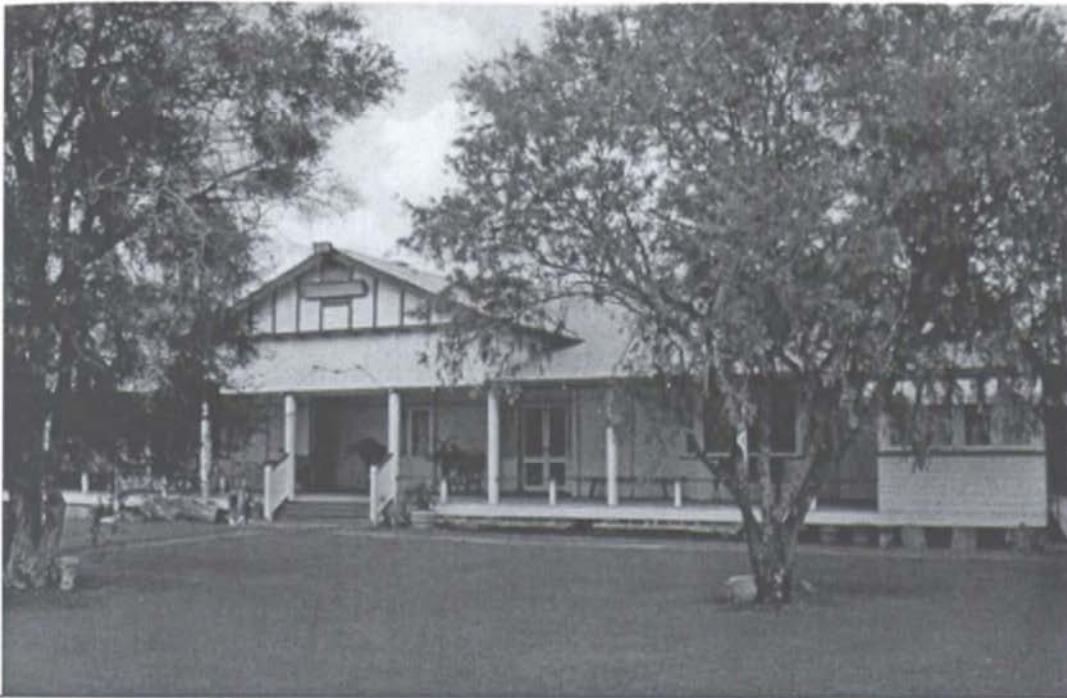
A TABLE OF LOUDOUN OWNERS

This table refers to the owners of *Loudoun* station, which grew much smaller during the period of well over a century covered here. Ownership of the homestead block is the main reference.
Most of this information comes from a perusal of the land title documents for Portion 10, Parish of Hill.

Year	Name	Approximate Acreage
1869	John Watts – selected 11 November 1869	74 acres plus additional land
1870	John Watts – purchased 16 May 1870	74 acres plus additional land
1872	Hugh Muir Nelson – purchased homestead block with additional land on time payment from John Watts – 1,050 pounds per annum for ten years.	Probably about 10 thousand acres including the homestead block. Nelson had selected at least another 20,000 acres in early 1870s as Provisional Purchaser.
1882	Hugh Muir Nelson gained the freehold -12 July 1882 – immediately mortgaged to John Watts for 25,000 pounds sterling, for 5 years at 6% interest.	About 10,000 acres Nelson held also at least an additional 20,000 acres.
1892	Hugh Muir Nelson – mortgage released and <i>Loudoun</i> sold to Henry Charles White, June 1892. Mortgaged initially to Hugh Muir Nelson (June 1892) and then mortgage transferred to John Watts (August 1892) for 25,000 pounds – 10,000 pounds paid May 1893.	About 40,000 acres. In addition over 14,000 acres (Portion 9, Parish of Daandine – west of the Broadwater Road) was leased by Henry Charles White and his partner Paul Hunt.
1905	Henry Charles White died 1905 – land transferred by death to his (second) wife – Mary Helen White (three quarters), and Roy Mordaunt White (one quarter) in undivided shares.	Probably as above. Lease of former <i>Daandine</i> land (Portion 9) expired in 1899.
1910	Mary Helen White remarried Karl Birger Morner on 29 June 1910. A Polish Count ? Many people in the district remember that Mrs. White became a Countess, but the details are vague. Len Lane says a portrait of the 'Countess' was in the homestead when his father was manager in 1937/8)	
1920	The whole of the homestead portion was transferred to Mary Helen Morner – perhaps this applied to most of the station. Portions 2-6 (old Williamson land that had been purchased by H.C. White and P. Hunt in 1892) transferred to Roy White & perhaps more land. It is difficult to unravel the Whites, and ownership during this period. Len Lane says his father worked with and for Roy White. Locals also remember that a Paul White often visited during the 1920s.	Homestead portion 10 – plus most of the station.
1918/28	Mary Helen remarried Melville Henry de Massue – transfer to her new name registered in 1928 – after her death.	Applies to Portions 10/11/13 (Parish of Hill) and possibly more/all of the station.

1921	Death of Mary Helen de Massue 27 July 1921 – transferred to Gwendoline McLachlan and Melville Henry de Massue as devisees in trust with power of sale. Melville Henry de Massue died October 1921 leaving Gwendoline McLachlan as sole trustee. All above registered December 1930.	As above
1930	Transferred to Union Trustee Co. of Australia	As above
May 1937	Sold to Hugh Campbell	11,000 acres Remainder sub-divided.
Aug 1938	William Joseph Lloyd	At least portions 10/11/13. Nearly all of the old station was now subdivided into smallholdings
1939	Shirley McWilliam	As above
Jan 1941	Stephen Crane Rutledge	As above
Dec. 1950	Alfred Harris	As above
Aug. 1952	Harry James Hinz	As above
June 1955	Rebekah Hinz	As above
May 1966	John and Phyllis Turner	622 acres Portions 10/11/13/16/20/21/22
1993	Roy and Heather Westaway – present owners.	As above Plus Portions 23/24/25/26/27/28/29/and part of 30 – all former <i>Loudoun</i> land - operating as <i>Westfields</i> in conjunction with Westaway's <i>Loudoun</i> .

Year	<i>Loudoun</i> Managers
About 1880 to 1892	Hugh Begbie for Hugh Muir Nelson
1892 to 1903	Paul Hunt in partnership with Henry Charles White
1903 to 1919	Archie McLeod for Henry Charles White then Helen Mary White/Morner.
1919 to 1937	Mr. Johnson for Morner/de Massue - executors as per table above.
1937 to late 1938	Morris Bassett Lane for Hugh Campbell and his brother.

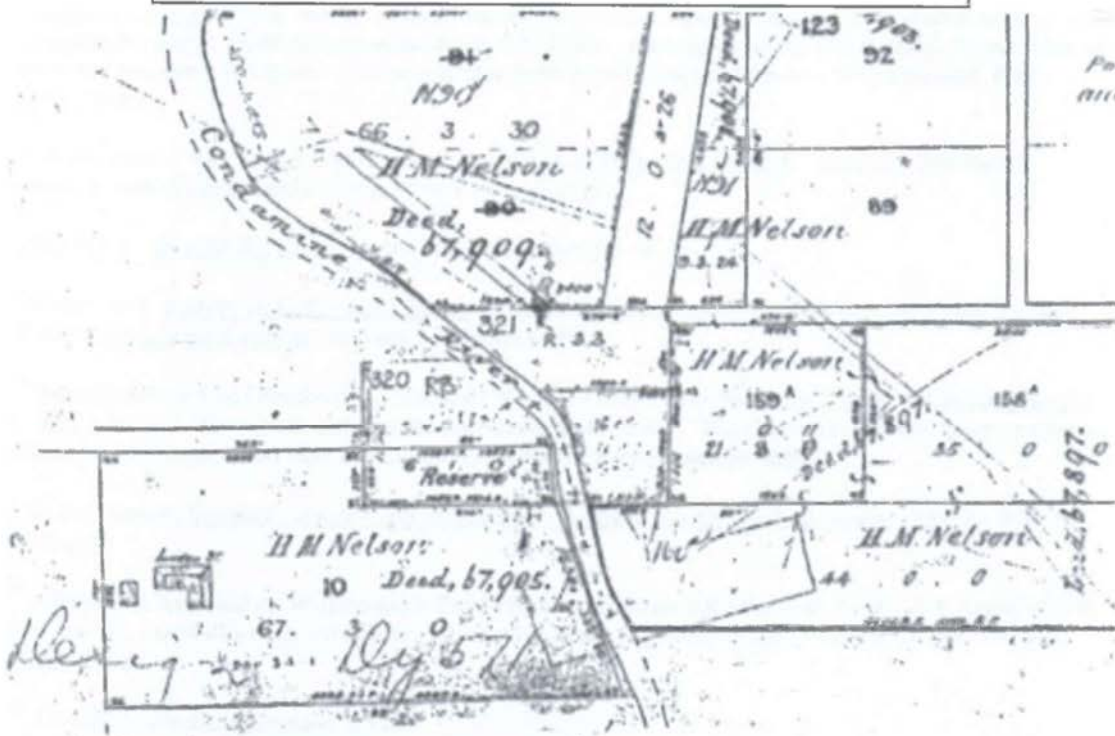


Loudoun Homestead as it is today, the home of the Westaway family. May 2003
This building probably dates from the ownership period of White and Hunt.





Old staff quarters at the rear of the homestead. May 2003



Section of a Survey Map (D36 802) for the widening of the Moonie Highway - April 1886. Note Portion 10 and the homestead location bottom left.

¹ See Appendix for table outlining land ownership in Parish of Hill.

The break-up of *Bon Accord*, G.M.Simpson's original freehold estate on the Condamine River, also taken up in the 1870s, followed much the same time frame. In 1936 the homestead and land, now reduced to 11,227 acres, was offered for sale. In 1955 the homestead was offered for sale with a mere 1,043 acres of land. *Loudoun* was offered for sale in 1966 with the homestead and 622 acres. Source: *Dalby Herald*, 25 September 1936, and documents advertising sale 1955 – *Bon Accord*, and *Loudoun* 1966.

² Charles Arrowsmith Bernays, *Queensland Politics During Sixty Years 1859-1919*, Brisbane, 1919. p.6.

³ Beverley Kingston, 'My Adventures in Queensland History', *From the Frontier*, a special joint issue of the *Journal of Australian Studies*, no 69, and *Australian Cultural History*, no 20, ed. Paul Ashton and Bridget Griffen-Foley, University of Queensland Press, 2001, p.39.

⁴ Guy Wade, *Beyond the Crossing* ed. Tony Matthews, Dalby Town Council, 1988, p.9.

⁵ A survey map from the early 1870s of Portion D.R. 113 Parish of Hill, (which became part of *Loudoun*) indicates that it is on the boundary of the 'Resumed half of St Ruth run' and the 'Leased half of St Ruth run'. It accompanies the paper work for Hugh Muir Nelson's claim under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1868.

⁶ *Brisbane Courier*, 'Place Names, Early Pioneers', featuring a report on a letter from Hector Munro, early Queensland surveyor. Date unknown, probably late 1920s - date estimated by Bill Kitson, Curator Map and Surveying Museum, Brisbane. Article available from Royal Historical Society of Queensland, Place Names folder.

⁷ Stewart Jack, 'Ald. Geisel's Retrospect', *A History of Dalby and District*, , privately distributed, estimated date of compilation 1940s. (Two editions), p.10.

⁸ Guy Wade, *Beyond the Crossing*, ed. Tony Matthews, pp.34 -5.

⁹ Stewart Jack, *History of Dalby and District*, p.72. Information repeated but not acknowledged by Guy Wade in *Beyond the Crossing* ed. Tony Matthews p.25.

¹⁰ Daniel Lewis & Lee Glendinning, 'Sydney? Wouldn't move there for quids', *Sydney Morning Herald* 23 July 2002, p.1. The report includes the introductory statement: 'The Governor-General believes country people may be poorer than their city counterparts but they are richer spiritually'.

¹¹ D.B.Watson, *Squatter, Selector and Storekeeper: A History of the Darling Downs 1859-93*, Sydney, 1968, p.99.

¹² Information endorsed on Williamson's Land Purchase document for Portions 2,3,4,5 & 6 Parish of Hill, (No. 44912). On Williamson's death in 1892 the 391 acres were sold to Henry Charles White who also bought *Loudoun*.

¹³ Charles Arrowsmith Bernays, p.110.

¹⁴ Duncan Watson describes these Pure Merinos - until the 1870s, as 'a large Downs squatter of family and wealth who had firmly established himself on a vast estate within the Settled District'. - Watson *Squatter, Selector and Storekeeper*, p.11: Governor Sir George Bowen's description of the squatters of 1859 was somewhat similar, but with perhaps a touch of irony: 'Gentlemen who live in a patriarchal style among

their immense flocks and herds, amusing themselves with hunting, shooting and fishing, and the exercise of a plentiful hospitality.' From a letter to a friend, reproduced in Charles Arrowsmith Bernays, p.20.

¹⁵ John Watts, Memories written at Allendale, Wimborne, 1901, pp.1-34. – John Oxley Library, Brisbane.

¹⁶ Described as 'a merchant supplier of squatterdon', by Maurice French, A Pastoral Romance: The Tribulation and Truimph of Squatterdom. A History of the Darling Downs Frontier, USQ Press, Toowoomba 1990, p.231. The Australian Dictionary of Biography entry describes Bartley as the first Commercial Traveller in Queensland. He 'collected orders on horseback'. Vol 3 p.112.

¹⁷ Nehemiah Bartley, Opals and Agates or Scenes under the Southern Cross, Brisbane, 1892 p.153.

¹⁸ Maurice French, in A Pastoral Romance, pp.238 -9.

¹⁹ D.B. Waterson in Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol 10 1891 -1939, p.677.

²⁰ John Watts, Memories written at Allendale... p.41.

²¹ Ibid, p.47.

²² D.B. Waterson, Australian Dictionary of Biography, p.677.

²³ Information deduced from Parish maps – Hill, (May 1917) & St. Ruth, (Nov. 1922).

²⁴ From Survey of Road, document D36 802, April 1886.

²⁵ Hector M. Ferguson, A History of Tara and District 1840-1960 with Addenda , 1961- authorized by The Tara Shire Council, p.41.

²⁶ Queensland Parliamentary Debates, Vol.3 (1866), pp.342 – 6 in D.B. Waterson, Squatter, Selector and Storekeeper, p.25.

²⁷ D.B. Waterson, Squatter, Selector and Storekeeper, p.24.

²⁸ J. Watts, Memories... p.47, and Land Purchase documents.

²⁹ From a letter dated 26 June 1874 to the Minister for Lands, Brisbane, from Charles Stuart Mieir? - last name not clear in signature.

³⁰ D.B. Waterson, Australian Dictionary of Biography , p.677.

³¹ D.B. Waterson, Squatter, Selector and Storekeeper, pp.115, 117 & 122 – Including Tables compiled from original Acts in Queensland Statutes, Brisbane 1860-84: Documents from selection and purchase of Portions 113 and 103 by Hugh Muir Nelson, from Queensland Archives.

³² Document, 'Proof of Fulfilment of Conditions on Selections' under 'The Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1868', signed 16 October 1873 at Loudoun by Murdoch Nicholson and Robert Barron in the presence of Justice of the Peace, A. Grant, Queensland Archives, Microfilm Z5670.

³³ Document, ' Certificate of Fulfilment of Conditions by Selector' under the 'Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1868' signed by James Taylor, as Arthur Watts' executor, and by the Commisioner of Crown Lands, 29 August 1872.

³⁴ Information about pre-emptions from a table in Waterson, Squatter, Selector and Storekeeper, pp.287, source QVP Vol 1 (1866) pp.14417-21 and Vol 2 (1874), pp.562-7.

³⁵ Note: the present day *Duckponds* is in a slightly different location. Land Purchase document No. 33069 from Register Book Vol. 292, Folio 79 dated 4 April 1877 & Survey Map.

³⁶ D.B. Waterson, Squatter, Selector and Storekeeper, p.39.

³⁷ Ibid, p.43.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Waterson, D.B. Squatter, Selector and Storekeeper, p.41, source 'Evidence of George Henry Davenport' in QVP, Vol2, 1867, p.965.

⁴⁰ From an anniversary publication, St John's Church, Dalby, 1951.

⁴¹ D.B. Waterson, Squatter, Selector and Storekeeper, p.43 - source, 'Report of the Under-Secretary for Lands' Q.V.P. Vol.2 (1879) pp.220-1.

⁴² Explained in detail in D.B. Waterson, Squatter, Selector and Storekeeper, p.43 and p.290.

⁴³ Guy Wade, Beyond the Crossing ed. Tony Matthews pp.10 -11.

⁴⁴ John Watts, Memories... p.47. His second visit was in 1892 when *Loudoun* was sold. There was a J. Watts on the Wambo Divisional Board in 1890 and 1891 and this may well have been John Watts on an extended visit from England.

⁴⁵ Letter reproduced in Janet Kershaw, Repose With Achievement, Sir Hugh Muir Nelson, The Story of His Life, Orange, 1974 pp.33-35.

⁴⁶ From Centenary Book, St Thomas's Presbyterian Church, Dalby, 1965. Printed by the Dalby Herald, p.25.

⁴⁷ Letter reproduced in Janet Kershaw, Repose With Achievement, pp.33-35.

⁴⁸ Ibid

⁴⁹ The period was very wet with floods in 1870/2/4, as we saw from information outlined in chapter 'Introduction to the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater District' regarding the state of Lake Broadwater during the 1870s.

⁵⁰ DR 108, originally in the name of W.L. Nelson (H.M.N.'s father) joins DR103 for a short distance on the western boundary & it is possible that DR208 was a subdivision of 108.

⁵¹ Letter reproduced in Jack Bennie, 'White Settlement', Lake Broadwater, The Natural History of an Inland Lake and its Environs, ed. Gillian Scott, Darling Downs Institute Press, 1988, p.333.

⁵² Extract from, 'Memoirs of the Hon. Sir Robert Philp K.C.M.G. 1851-1922' in Janet Kershaw, Repose With Achievement, p.20.

⁵³ Geizel, E.H. 'Fifty Years Ago - Emergence From Station Days', Stewart Jack, History of Dalby and District, p.11.

⁵⁴ Obituary, Mr. Pat Killeen 1927, reproduced in Stewart Jack, History of Dalby and District p.116.

⁵⁵ Ibid

⁵⁶ D.B.Watson, Squatter, Selector and Storekeeper, p 255. Source Toowoomba Chronicle 8 September 1883, p.2.

⁵⁷ Charles Arrowsmith Bernays, p.295.

⁵⁸ Extract from, 'Memoirs of the Hon. Sir Robert Philp K.C.M.G. 1851-1922' in Janet Kershaw Repose With Achievement, p.20. After the financial depression of the early 1890s a comment in the Australian Pastoralists' Review acknowledges that 'a perusal of the two last annual Treasury Statements gives evidence that Sir Hugh Muir Nelson is an able Treasurer', 15 July 1896, p.220.

⁵⁹ Charles Arrowsmith Bernays, p.110.

⁶⁰ Letter to Janet McIntyre, 31 July 1870 in Janet Kershaw, p.35.

⁶¹ Charles Arrowsmith Bernays, p.110.

⁶² Source of information about the history of the White family: Judy White, The White Family of Belltrees, The Seven Press, Sydney 1981, pp.27, 30, 37, 40, 43, 84 & 115. Robert Donalson's quotation acknowledged to Life and Reminiscences of Robert Donalson in his Eighty-Third Year, Medway, 5 February, 1932, pp.9-14.

⁶³ Judy White, The White Family of Belltrees, The Seven Press, Sydney 1981, pp.27, 30, 37, 40, 43, 84 & 115.

⁶⁴ Alderman E.H. Geisel 'Fifty Years Ago' in Stewart Jack, History of Dalby and District p.12.

⁶⁵ Ibid

⁶⁶ Conversations with my father, Eber Lane, to 1998, and interviews with Whitey Torenbeek, 2000/1/2.

⁶⁷ Judy White, The White Family of Belltrees, pp.143-4.

⁶⁸ Maurice French and Duncan Watson, The Darling Downs, A Pictorial History, Darling Downs Institute Press, Toowoomba, 1980, p.50.

⁶⁹ Herbert Frederick Cunningham, Bert Cunningham's Story, ed. Doug. McDonald. Privately distributed 1999, p.12.

⁷⁰ This was perhaps proved to be true, '...by the 1950s the Dalby district was producing, on country that was once considered quite unreliable for grain production, one-third of the State's total wheat crop'. Maurice French and Duncan Watson, The Darling Downs, A Pictorial History, p.55.

⁷¹ A.T.Yarwood, Walers, Melbourne University Press, 1989 p.152. Indian interest in Australian horses, known as 'Walers' [for New South Wales, the South African ones were Capers] began in 1834 when Captain Collins sent two shiploads of remounts to Madras from Sydney, p. 2. By the turn of the 20th Century, Toowoomba on the Darling Downs became the chief horse market of the Commonwealth – Neil McPhie and Company noted as 'the most important in the final years of the Indian trade' – p.155.

⁷² Dalby Herald, 20 November 1936.

Chapter 9

The Selectors

Many selectors were from families who were originally recruited in Europe. During the mid 19th century there was a surplus of farm workers in Britain and many immigrants arrived with previous farming experience. They came to Queensland in search of a better life as workers on the large stations where labour was short.¹ Some remained when the leased runs and large freehold estates were broken up and the land thrown open for selection. Other families came from Victoria when land was advertised extensively in southern newspapers in the early days of the 20th century, or from other states. A few gravitated to the district from further west, where they had held station leases, in search of their own freehold land in more fertile districts.

There was remarkable tolerance shown in a community of mixed ethnic origin, with allegiances to various Christian denominations. Most were of English, Scottish or Irish extraction but there were German, French, Polish and Dutch settlers too. This was at a time when a 'mixed marriage' was one between people from different Christian churches. However, people from Church of England (Anglican), Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist and other denominations generally tolerated each other with good will, and there were even occasions when they attended each other's services. Whitey Torenbeek's Lutheran family attended the Methodist services held at the Kupunn School during the 1920s. His parents went because his father said that 'Church was Church, and it all had the same meaning'.

There were a few Methodist families in the district and they asked the parson to make the trip out, and organised the services. The parson had a very flash turn-out and a well-bred and well-groomed horse to pull the shiny sulky. These better sulkies had the normal wheels but

instead of iron tyres, they were shod with hard rubber tyres. They had nickel fittings and shiny painted pinstripes in flash designs. There were mudguards and a whip holder sporting a small well plaited sulky whip, which I'm sure the minister never used... Mum was a good singer with a soprano voice, and she along with a couple of other ladies could make the rafters ring with their voices when the hymns were sung.²

A tight-knit community developed as residents co-operated to tackle a myriad of difficulties. Many needed to acquire new farming, mechanical and/or financial skills to manage their properties in the changeable economic climate. They worked together helping each other with large farm projects and supporting each other through illness, drought and flood. It was common to 'give a day' to a neighbour for a job requiring extra labour, and it would be reciprocated. Naturally there were disagreements and confrontations but because of the underlying dependence and the significant trust that had developed, these were settled quickly. In fact a handshake after a bruising physical encounter was sometimes the way. The Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater residents socialised at dances, picnics and country race meetings and as a community raised money for the hall, the ambulance and the school.

Land west of *Loudoun* was made available to selectors in the early 1900s. The Lanes, the Morrissey/Bourkes and the McLaran/Staggs were among the first families to settle on the selections. The Lanes were originally from England, the Morrissey/Bourkes had an Irish background and the McLarans were of Scottish extraction. These families and others blended to make a community that held together strongly until post-World War II changes caused a gradual disintegration of community ties.

The first trustees of the Kupunn War Memorial Hall Building Fund (established in 1921) were Henry (Harry) Bassett Lane, William (Bill) Bourke and D.J. McLaran (Donald James McLaran, or perhaps his eldest son Duncan James, as Donald would have been eighty-eight years old). This was indicative of the leadership these gentlemen provided in the community. They were senior residents and their families were well respected. It may have been significant that H.B.Lane was Church of England (with a Catholic wife), the Morrissey/Bourkes were Catholics and the McLarans were Presbyterians. (Donald James McLaran claimed some fame as the first bellringer at St. Thomas' Presbyterian Church in Dalby – established in 1865.)³ Thus three major denominations of the Christian church were equally represented. They were appointed to act on the fund account at the Commonwealth Bank in Dalby. In 1925 Bill Bourke, who lived nearby, was entrusted with the deeds and documents of the Hall.⁴



The Kupunn War Memorial Hall as it was in May 2002. It was built in the mid 1920 and the supper room (left) was added some years later.

Other than the school, which required somewhat less input from the residents because of government support, the hall was the principal community project in the early days. Jim Malpas (a returned soldier) donated one acre of land from the corner of his farm (Portion 60, Parish of Daandine). Money was raised by holding dances in the goods shed at the Kupunn railway station and an occasional race meeting in Spencer Martin's paddock (Portion 3v (b) Parish of Hill).⁵

There were many excellent features of life on the selections, and it is the positive, ironic and humorous facets that are most readily recalled in personal accounts. It would be incorrect, however, to give the appearance of a 'Utopia' or 'Camelot', which in the memories of some it has almost (but not quite) become. There was a dark side to life and former residents mention severe financial pressures, loneliness and social isolation. Anxiety, generated on account of the great distance from medical help, is at the centre of many tales about childbirth, illness and accidents. There was some reluctance by interview subjects, and other former residents, to discuss in detail several distressing aspects of life that were faced all over the Australian countryside during those early days. Alcoholism, cases of suicide, unmentionable diseases such as syphilis, and the mental instability of some soldiers returned from World War I were not uncommon in many communities, but former residents preferred not discuss these in relation to specific neighbours.

In order to gain an understanding of land ownership in the district the land portions are listed in Table D, with the ownership information recovered for this study. The first land in the district was resumed from the pastoral runs

(*St Ruth* and *Daandine*) and surveyed from 1869. Those portion numbers are the foundation of the table. The subdivision of larger portions and the addition of new numbers occurred over time, and many of these are included. An index of owners' names follows in Table E. It is evident from the information in the land ownership tables that there were some periods of great activity. The 1870s saw the powerful elite acquiring much of the best land. During the first decade of the 20th century ordinary settlers were given the opportunity to select and eventually own land. When *Loudoun* was subdivided in the 1930s new settlers flooded the district. The post World War II era saw many changes and by the late 1990s it was evident that few of the farmers' offspring were interested in following them on to the land, thus many properties changed hands. There were periods of comparative inactivity also, most significantly during the 1930s depression and the war years.

Tables D and E supply a comprehensive (though not definitive) overview of land ownership from parish maps and land title documents for the earliest period, and the local knowledge of residents and former residents for the later period. The word of mouth information has typically come from more than one source, but may not be strictly accurate in detail. Whilst the names of the landholders are usually recalled, the year that land changed hands is often hazy.

Success for the Kupunn farmers was dictated very much by the climate, with cycles of flood and drought. It should be pointed out here that not all of the original selectors stayed long enough to gain the freehold of their land.

Whitey Torenbeek says the land in the Kupunn district 'offered a good

opportunity for anyone who was willing to work. Some did OK, but others stayed a short while and walked off.’⁶ This is reflected in the land ownership table with some portions changing hands frequently. Times were often tough, particularly during the drought years of the early 1920s, the floods of the late 1920s and the Great Depression that followed. Even when the 1930s depression ended the settlers had a precarious existence. The Kupunn District News in the Dalby Herald, 5 June 1936 describes, with a touch of desperation, the problems facing the residents at that time:

We seem to be getting no further with our farming operations and things are at a standstill until it rains. Quite a lot of wheat has been sown dry in the hope of rain soon falling....The long lookout for rain is only equalled by the long lookout for promised work on our roads.

We can gain an insight into the joys and disappointments of life in the district through the stories of several family groups from the early days. We see that though they arrived from many different places, their hopes and aspirations were similar. We also grasp the way these typically large families developed the links that forged them into one strong community. The representative families are grouped according to the location of their land and are listed below.

<i>Nandi/Kupunn</i>	Cunnington (Malpas)
Lane (McLennan/Hutchinson)	Torenbeek
Martin	Saxelby
<i>Kupunn</i>	<i>Broadwater/ ‘Duckponds’</i>
Morrissey/Bourke/Fortune/Laffy	Nicholson/McLennan/Wilson
McLaran/Stagg	Bennie/Hounslow

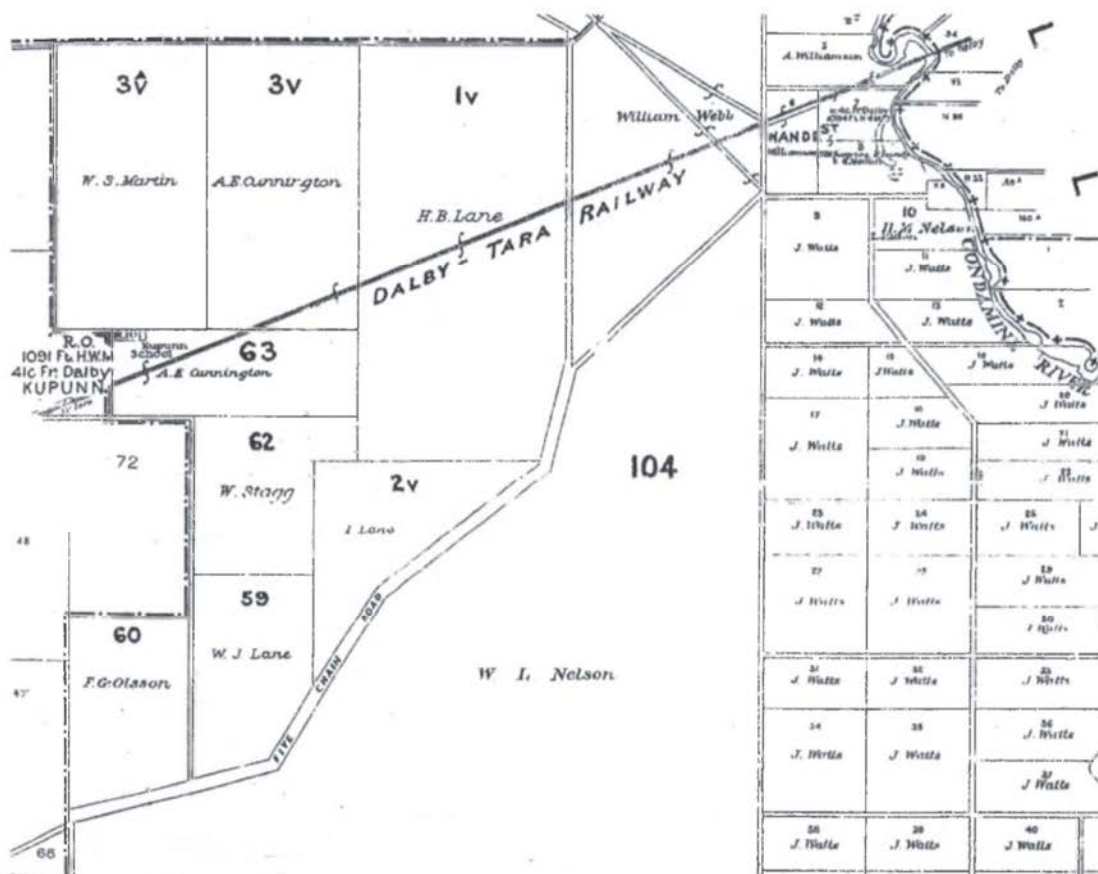
NANDI/KUPUNN SELECTIONS

Detail from Parish of Hill, 1917

See also Appendix, Tables D and E for more information.

PARISH OF GREENBANK

* The Laffy family's Avonlea was about here



This section of the Parish of Hill Map, 1917, highlights some of the first selections taken up in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district.

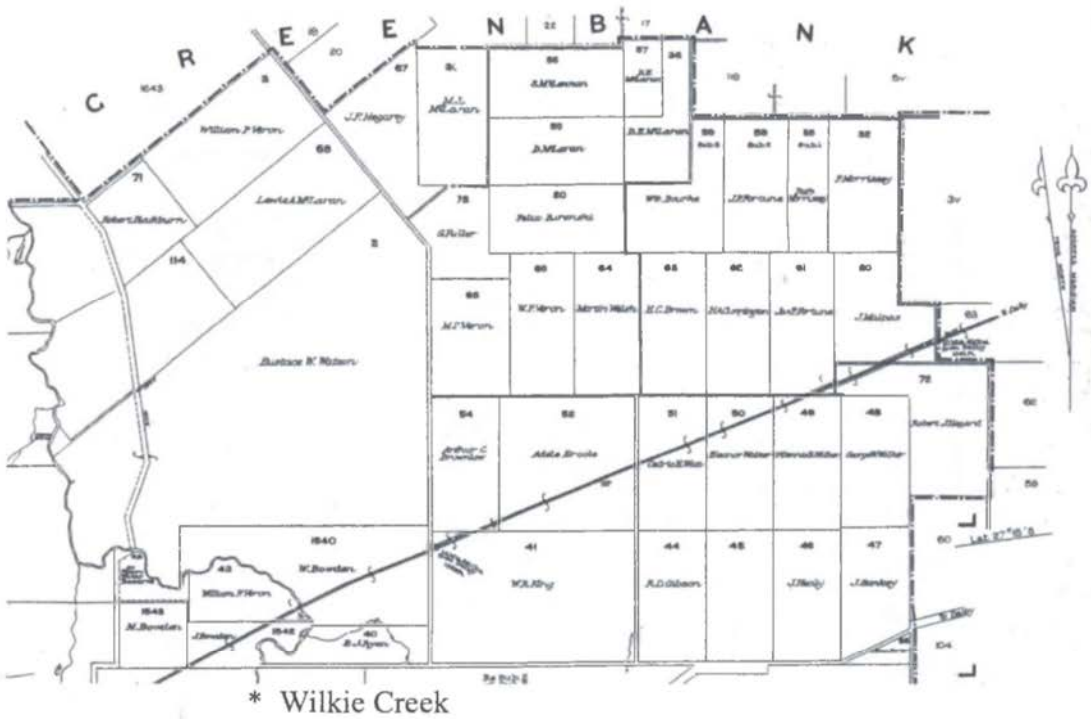
Alexander Williamson was probably the first of the small selectors but his land was eventually absorbed into Loudoun (right).

Henry Bassett Lane (with his wife Isabella), and his brother William John Lane lived and worked on nearby Loudoun station from the 1890s. Over the years the Lane family acquired all the land portions to the left of this map with the exception of Spencer Martin's part of portion 3v.

KUPUNN SELECTIONS

Detail from Parish of Daandine, 1912.

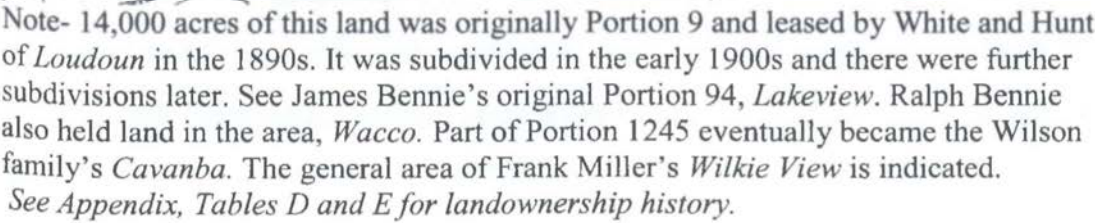
See also Appendix, Tables D and E for more details.



Note the grouping of McLaran family selections top centre, and the Bourke/Morrissey/Fortune land top right.

Henry Cunnington had acquired Portion 62 and Jim Malpas Portion 60, but the Torenbeeks and Saxelbys were yet to arrive in the district when this map was published in 1912.

Detail from Parish of Daandine, 1912





A formal studio portrait of Henry Bassett Lane at about sixty years old.

The Lane Family

Arrived in the district: 1867

From: St. Germans, Cornwall, England on the Golden City, 1865/6.

From only fifteen or so years after first European settlement on the Darling Downs, through to the present day, members of the Lane family have lived in and around the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district. William and Mary Lane arrived at *Daandine* station in early 1867, several years before Hugh Muir Nelson selected *Loudoun*. They were not the only family to stay in the

district for generations but can perhaps lay claim to being there longer, and in larger numbers, than any other. Their long period of grazing and farming involvement in the area was assisted by the preponderance of sons in the second, third and fourth generations. The gradual expansion of landholdings within the family gives an indication of the success possible for a relatively poor immigrant and his offspring. The current situation in rural Australia is demonstrated by the fact that descendants of the original Lane settlers have almost all left the land in the last few years.

Members of the Lane family worked on *Loudoun* station from 1896, four years after Henry Charles White and Paul Hunt took over from Hugh Muir Nelson. Many from the next two generations of Lanes grew up on the station. The male members received training in the care of sheep, horses and a few cattle as they watched the older members of the family work with some of the best stock in the district. A basic family tree of the Lane family members who lived in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district, and a table of the family landholdings through to the present day are followed by a more detailed account of their experiences in the district.

Brief Lane Family Tree – Five Generations in Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater District.
Generations 3, 4 & 5 include only those significant in this study.

Generation 1	Generation 2	Generation 3
William Lane (1834-1905) Sp. Mary Bassett (1835-1908)	Henry Bassett Lane (1857-1939) Spouse 1: Ann Dale Spouse 2: Isabella Peary (Pearie)	Offspring Henry Bassett Lane –Spouse 1: Alice Frances-Fanny (1879-1952) Ruth Mary (1882 – 1943) Morris Bassett (1884 -1954) Two sons died shortly after birth. Offspring Henry Bassett Lane –Spouse 2: Henry Francis (1901-1990) James William 1903- 1992)
	William John Lane (1872-1919) Spouse - Cecelia Parsons	Ruth Mary (1900-1971) <i>Married the Ambulance Superintendent, Edgar Dalby Slaughter in the early 1920s and lived in Dalby. Their children were James, William and June.</i>
	One infant son died in 1866 on the voyage from England. Polly and Mary Jnr. died at <i>Daandine</i> as infants, during a diphtheria epidemic (probably in the 1870s).	

Generation 3	Generation 4	Generation 5
Morris Bassett Lane Spouse – Emily Sarah Hart	Frances Dale Spouse – Gordon McLennan Eber Frederick Spouse – Phyllis Webb Morris Alfred Spouse – Lillian Worthington Leonard George Spouse – Joan Burrows	Most of Morris Bassett's grandchildren lived in Brisbane or interstate, but visited Nandi/Kupunn frequently until he died in 1954. Rita Lane spent some years in the district during the 1950/60s when her parents Alf and Lil managed <i>Whitewood</i> for Morris Bassett's estate. Afterwards they owned a turkey farm on part of that land. Rita attended school in Dalby.
Henry Francis Lane Spouse- Beattie McLennan	Sheila Spouse – Ian Belgrove Tom Spouse – Noreen Thompson John Spouse - Gloria Rix Phillip Spouse – Mary Cooper	Most of Henry Francis' grandchildren either left the district or chose not to continue on the family land. Only Tom's son Allan Lane is still at <i>Menangle</i> .
James William Lane Spouse – Madge Hutchinson	Patrick Spouse – Aileen Sheedy Mariee Spouse – Jack Callaghan	James William's grandchildren chose not to continue on the family properties.

Detail of Lane Landholdings in the District

Note -William and Mary Lane were never landholders.

Land	Location	First Selector & Date	Comments
<p>Lot 1386 200 acres (H.B.Lane)</p> <p>Lot 1387 200 acres (Mary Dale Snr)</p> <p>Lot 1388 200 acres (Mary Dale Jnr)</p>	<p>Parish of Macalister</p> <p>Was part of <i>Jimbour</i> station released after a government buy back scheme.</p>	<p>4.6.1883 H.B.Lane</p> <p>M.Dale Snr</p> <p>M.Dale Jnr</p> <p>Source: Register of Selectors p.2475</p>	<p>This land was taken up by Henry Bassett Lane and members of his first wife's family. His holding was categorised as 'Exchanged Land, 1879 Act' – this meant a homestead was to be built plus improvements to the value of two shillings, rather than the ten shillings an acre in the 1876 Act. Residence was compulsory. Known as <i>Rosevale</i>. Situated within reach of his widowed mother-in-law's property at Spring Creek, and <i>Daandine</i> station where he was employed.</p> <p>The Annual Rent for Lot 1386 was fifteen pounds, the Survey Fee six pounds, fourteen shillings. As Conditional Purchaser H.B. Lane agreed to five more annual payments. (<i>Selection and Survey documents for Lot 1386 from Qld. Archives</i>)</p> <p>Lot 1386 went to Richard Webb Jnr on 28.6.1900 Reg. of Selectors p.2995</p>
<p>Portion 1V</p> <p>Agricultural Farm 1042</p> <p>1279 acres</p>	<p>Parish of Hill</p>	<p>Selection date 12.9.1900 Henry Bassett Lane</p>	<p>Became known as <i>Belah Park</i> after a native oak tree found in quantity on the land.</p> <p>Deed of Grant surrendered in April 1938 and the land divided in two, with the railway line as the boundary.</p> <p>1V(Sub1). The 608 acres north of the railway was transferred to eldest son Morris Bassett Lane, officially 7.6.1939. He named it <i>Whitewood</i> after a type of local tree.</p> <p>On his death in 1954 – to the Executors of the Estate of Morris Bassett Lane, (income to support his widow). Managed by Morris Alfred Lane (Alf).</p> <p>Sold to J. & J.A. Machin in 1962 and to Warakirri Agricultural Trusts in 2003.</p> <p>Morris Alfred Lane purchased 108 acres on the eastern boundary from Machins in 1962. He sold in 1973.</p> <p>1V(Sub2). Remaining 658 acres transferred by death of H.B.Lane (2.8.39) to Henry Francis and James William Lane in equal interests.</p> <p>In 1952 to Henry Francis Lane.</p> <p>Some time before 1974 to Phillip Lane.</p> <p>1999 sold to Warakirri Agricultural Trusts.</p>

Portion 2V Agricultural Farm 1131 329 acres	Parish of Hill	Lease (selection) date 1.1.1901 Isabella Lane, wife of Henry Bassett Lane	This selection joined the holding known as <i>Belah Park</i> . The lease of this portion was transferred to Isabella's sons in 1923, after her death (2.4.1923) – Henry Francis and James William as tenants in common. They received the Deed of Grant (freehold) in August 1928. Known by family as 'Top Paddock'. 1952 to Henry Francis Lane. To Phillip Lane 1.7.1974 (except for a small section joined to Portion 59- southern corner, to John Lane) Sold 1999 to Warakirri Agricultural Trusts.
Portion 59 Agricultural Farm 1643 320 Acres	Parish of Hill	William John Lane Lease date 1.7.1904	Property known as <i>Carbeen</i> , Aboriginal word for the Morton Bay Ash Tree found on the property. On death of William John Lane in 1919 lease transferred to Alfred Cunnington. (Registered 24.3.1919). Lease transferred to James William and Henry Francis Lane as tenants in common, 13.5.1931. To Henry Francis Lane 1952 To John Lane 1.7.1974 Sold to G. Fresser 1998 Sold 1999 to Warakirri Agricultural Trusts.
Portion 60 Agricultural Homestead 1662 319 acres	Parish of Hill	F.G. Olsson 8.5.1911	Deed of Grant to Frederick George Olsson 8.5.1911 To Wilfrid Holland Gilbey 21.4.1920. To Henry Bassett Lane 9.12.1920. Named <i>Myola</i> (one of the suggested names for the Australian Federal Capital – Aboriginal for a good resting place). Transferred by death to Henry Francis Lane and James William Lane 4.10.1940. Purchased by Patrick J. (son of J.W.Lane) & Aileen Lane in 1958 Sold in 1999 to Warakirri Agricultural Trusts.
Portion 63 306 acres after land for the railway and school taken out.	Parish of Hill	A.E. Cunnington Date unknown	Alf Cunnington probably the first lessee as per 1917 map, Parish of Hill. Was known as <i>Lingerandie</i> (Linger and Die) at one time. Purchased by James William Lane and Henry Francis Lane in 1928. James William Lane married in 1930 and his family took up residence on the property, which they renamed <i>Memerambi</i> after the district his mother Isabella Lane came from near Nanango. (It is the Aboriginal name for a scrub tree found in that district) Purchased by J.W.Lane's daughter Mariee (nee Lane) and Jack Callaghan, about 1969. Sold June 1998.

Portion 3V Agricultural Farm 1440A 633 acres (about 30 acres later resumed for railway)	Parish of Hill	A.E. Cunnington	Alf Cunnington probably first lessee – he appears on 1917 map Parish of Hill, which shows first selectors of land. Purchased by James William Lane from Cunnington about 1929. Late 1960s purchased by Patrick James Lane. Known to the family as the 'Scrub Paddock', and then <i>Lanefields</i> . Sold 1999 to Warakirri Agricultural Trusts.
Portion 62 320 acres	Parish of Hill	W. Stagg Date unknown (first decade of 20 th Century?)	Known as <i>Stratheden</i> or <i>Strathmoor</i> . From Stagg family to Mariee (nec Lane, daughter of James William Lane) & J. Callaghan (1950s) Property name changed to <i>Orana</i> . Sold 1998.
Portions 44 and 45 319 & 320 acres	Parish of Daandine	R.D. Gibson then E.J. Cunnington	R.D. Gibson-early 1900s E.J.Cunnington – sometime before 1945, then Tom Leahy to Henry Francis Lane. Thomas Lane (son of Henry Francis Lane) and Noreen Margaret Lane – 1952 Now Allan Lane. Property known as <i>Menangle</i> - Aboriginal for swamp.

William and Mary Lane, and their sons

Henry Bassett Lane and William John Lane

Henry Bassett Lane was born in Devonport, Devon, England in 1857, the son of William Lane and Mary (Bassett) Lane.⁷ The family were living at St Germans in Cornwall when they made the decision to emigrate. They departed for Queensland in 1865 aboard the *Golden City*. William was thirty-one years old, and Mary, thirty. Their two children, Henry Bassett and another infant son, accompanied them. The *Golden City* of 1365 tons was from the 'Black Ball' Australian Passenger Line of Clipper Packets and left London for Brisbane on 23 October 1865, arriving on 5 February 1866. A ticket for Robert Doughty, another passenger on that journey, lists quantities of basic food to be supplied (much of it 'in a cooked state') by the Master 'as required by law'. Mess utensils and bedding (which would be needed later in the colony) were to be provided by the passengers.⁸

The dangers of such a voyage were well known, particularly in regard to the health of the passengers and to a lesser degree the fear of shipwreck. There was also a realisation that the cost of a return journey would be prohibitive. Christopher Dunne, who made the same journey about a year before the Lanes, described his fear and trepidation at the prospect of such a voyage as he boarded the *Golden City* in late 1864, bound for Brisbane. He said in a letter to his father in Ireland that he was in all probability leaving him, 'and all my friends forever'. In Dunne's case apprehension was justified, for his wife died in childbirth either on the journey or shortly afterwards, leaving him 'with three young children and no partner' on the other side of the world from his family.⁹

Whilst the journey itself may have caused some apprehension many other factors were favourable for emigration. William Lane, a farm labourer, would have been in great demand in Queensland at that time because of a shortage of experienced farm workers. Also there was an oversupply of rural workers in Britain. As Geoffrey Best comments:

The 'agricultural revolution' had by the middle of the nineteenth century wrought the English and Scottish countryside into a physical shape suitable for its purposes; what further draining and ditching remained to be done, what improved equipment of barns and sheds and yards could still be installed.¹⁰

W.A. Armstrong points out, too, that during this period emigration was regarded as 'a remedy for surplus population of the southern counties' in England and 'an alternative to permanent settlement in towns', which were becoming overcrowded.¹¹ Agents of the Queensland Government recruited many immigrants, like William Lane, from the southern counties.¹² It is not known whether the Lanes received an incentive to emigrate; many recruits

were given an assisted passage or a land order. This system was abused by Land Agents in Queensland who often sought to purchase newly arrived immigrant's land orders at discount prices, although they were intended to be non-transferable.¹³ No record has been found of William Lane ever owning land and it is possible that he was among the many immigrants who sold land orders on arrival. Robert Doughty was required to pay sixty pounds 'before embarkation' on the *Golden City*, and it is assumed that William Lane did the same - his name was not on a list of assisted immigrants examined at the Queensland State Archives.

Few details are available about the actual voyage, although it is evident that the health of the 475 passengers was of concern. In general, government sponsored immigrants were well looked after for they were an important investment in the future of the colony. The bulk cooking of meals for so many passengers (in a tropical climate for part of the voyage) was a possible danger. A telegram from R. Purdie, the Health Officer who inspected the *Golden City* on arrival at Lytton on the Brisbane River, informed his superiors that the wife of the doctor aboard ship had died of dysentery. Of three passengers who were sick at St. Helena, one had recovered and the other two were convalescent, requiring 'more attention to diet than medicine'. Unfortunately the Lanes' two-year-old infant son (possibly named William, this is blotted in the record) died during the journey, along with several other passengers.¹⁴ William and Mary Lane never saw their families again, thus fulfilling the fears expressed by Christopher Dunne.

Within the Lane family a legend concerning a water-tank from the *Golden City* was passed down the female line. Freda Leonie McLennan, a great-

granddaughter of Henry Bassett Lane, heard it from her mother. It is a tale that lends itself to repetition (and perhaps embroidery) during traditional Christmas baking, and became a family joke:

All the families in the district who had come out from England on the same ship used to meet every year to celebrate Christmas at a big picnic. They brought their Christmas puddings and boiled them in a big tank that had been a water container from the ship that brought them out. The year that Granny Lane's [Mary Bassett Lane's] pudding was bouncing the best in the boiling water, it was punctured by another of the founding grannies [thus spoiling it!].¹⁵

William Lane was employed at *Cooyar* station in the Rosalie district for ten months, working for James McDougall as an overseer, after which he went to *Daandine* station. Ten year old Henry Bassett Lane impressed the station manager, James Hunt, 'who took on himself the task of educating the boy, studies being undertaken at the homestead when the lad had finished work for the day'. William Lane's own education was probably limited, like that of most English farm workers, and this was a wonderful opportunity for his son.¹⁶ It was probably the accepted practice for such a young child (by today's standards) to work on the station, with his duties regarded as an apprenticeship of sorts. James Hunt had noticed the young boy's promise as an expert rider, and saw the possibility of his development into a station manager. By the age of eighteen, Henry Bassett Lane had become head stockman at *Daandine*.¹⁷ The patronage system, which was so strong in Britain and evident in the placenaming by early explorers outlined in Chapter 2, continued in the new colony in a modified form. It became a tradition of giving a promising young fellow a start, and as appears to be the situation here, James Hunt solved a staffing problem by educating his future

head stockman. Henry Bassett Lane certainly continued the tradition, and we will see that he gave many a worthy young man a start in life.



Henry Bassett Lane (left) with his father William Lane, probably at Macalister rail siding near *Daandine* station. The siding was opened during the 1870s and it is likely that a photographer would have been on hand. 1870s.

William and Mary Lane remained at *Daandine* station until 1891 during which time William John Lane was born (in 1872), and two daughters, Polly and Mary, died as infants during a diphtheria epidemic.¹⁸ In the early years a high infant mortality rate was a tragic though accepted part of life, and many women died in childbirth. This was typical of the times but the high rate of deaths may have been partly as a consequence of isolation, and continued well into the 20th century. William Lane's occupation is noted as 'storeman' on Henry Bassett Lane's death certificate and it is assumed that he filled that role in his later years at *Daandine*.

In October 1878 Henry Bassett Lane married Ann (Annie) Dale from Spring Creek. He would pass through that area on horseback on a no doubt frequent journey from *Daandine* to Dalby, over the Condamine River via Range's Bridge (which had been built by the Government in 1867). The two families probably used the same rail siding at Macalister as well. William and Mary Dale had arrived in Queensland in 1855 on board the *John Davies* and worked on *Jimbour* station (where two of their sons were born) until at least 1858. They were in the Myall Creek district during the late 1860s on what appears to have been their own dairy farm. William's occupation is recorded as 'dairy man', although elsewhere he is listed as a farrier or husbandman. Mary was a witness at the inquest into the death by drowning of their neighbour, Jane McLaran. (Details are in McLaran/Stagg family information.) Mary 'made her mark' on the transcript of her evidence and this confirms information that she could read but not write when she arrived in Australia. At that time William could neither read nor write, but signed his Will in 1875 in fine copper plate handwriting.¹⁹ Ann was born in Dalby Hospital, the fifth of eight children. The Dales moved to the Spring Creek/Range's Bridge district where they selected Portion 179 (later re-numbered to Portion 150) Parish of Myall, in about 1871, and it was there that Henry Bassett Lane probably met Annie. After William's death in 1875 Mary Dale remained in the Spring Creek district and became a local identity known as 'Granny' Dale, mid-wife and nurse on the nearby freehold estate *Bon Accord*.²⁰ Eventually *Bon Accord* absorbed the original Dale landholdings at Spring Creek, which became known on the station as 'Dale's Paddock'.²¹ Henry Bassett Lane and Annie (Dale) had five children. The three who survived were Alice Frances, Ruth Mary and Morris Bassett.

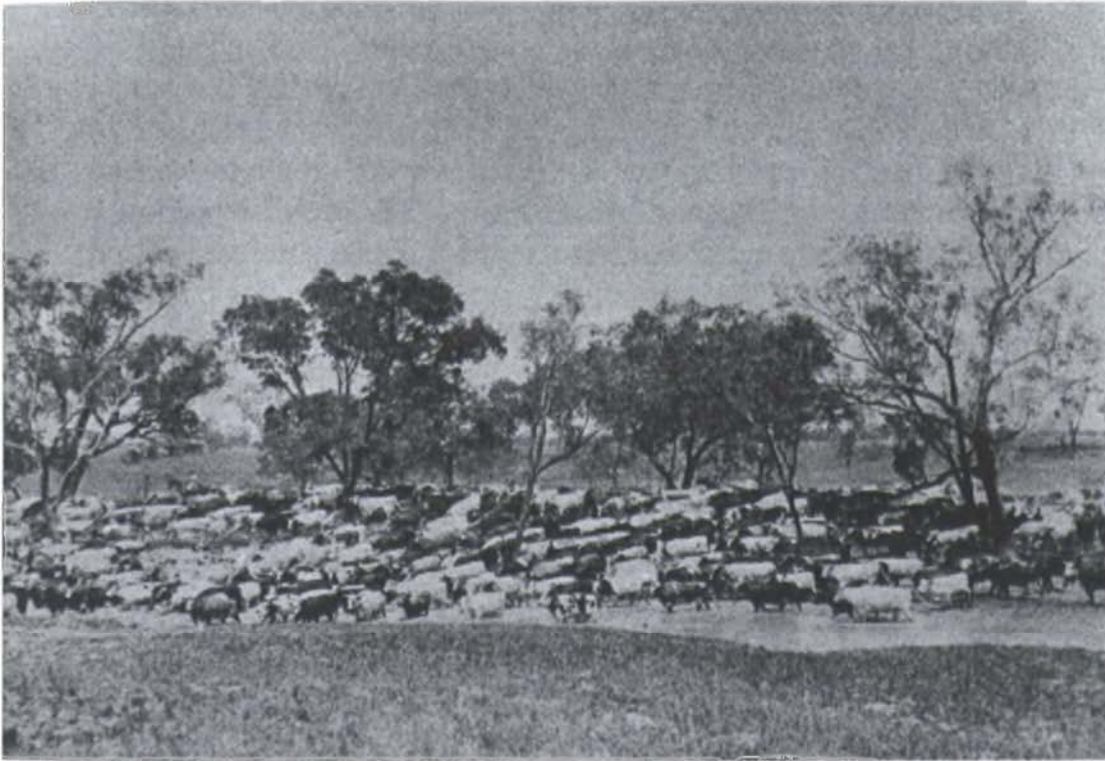
Two sons died as infants and Annie died in childbirth in 1886 fulfilling an unfortunate but typical pattern of the times.



Henry Bassett Lane and Annie Dale at the time of their marriage in October 1878. This formal picture may have been taken in Toowoomba or Brisbane during a honeymoon trip. The wedding was a simple affair at St. John's Church in Dalby with two other couples (including one of Annie's brothers). The ceremonies, 'three marriages at one church, by one parson, in one day', were followed by a gathering 'at Mrs. Dale's Farm at Spring Creek'. It was a very hot day, the 'thermometer at 95 deg. and upwards'. Details as reported in the *Dalby Herald* 2 November 1878.

As part of his duties on *Daandine* station Henry Bassett Lane (often referred to within the family as H.B., and in his declining years by some as 'Old Dad Lane') made cattle droving trips to and from *Buckingham Downs* in

northwestern Queensland. Stock was then delivered as far south as the fat stock market and railhead at Muswellbrook in New South Wales.



H.B. Lane crossing the Barcoo at Isis Ford enroute from
Buckingham Downs to Muswellbrook, 1882

H.B. Lane was well known for his stockman's skills:

On one of his droving trips he brought a mob of 800 speyed cows from *Buckingham Downs* to *Daandine*. His outfit included only two men besides himself, and despite the long trip, three weeks after delivery on *Daandine* 500 of the cows were trucked to Brisbane as fats.²²

Buckingham Downs was about one hundred and fifty kilometres south of Mt. Isa, in the district where the fierce Kalkadoon Aborigines ranged. During the

Burke and Wills expedition of the early 1860s the tribe had posed a considerable danger to the explorers:

Twenty years after the Burke and Wills expedition, a miner out prospecting for copper got to know some of the Kalkadoon tribal elders. They told him that the younger men had been determined to attack and kill the explorers and had prepared themselves by feasting on kangaroo meat, holding ceremonies and painting their chests with ochre and chalk. But when the time came for the ambush, the warriors realized that the men were accompanied by giant roaring beasts [camels], which they assumed must be supernatural. They retreated and watched the party from a safe distance high up in the cliffs.²³

Four white men were killed by the Kalkadoons in 1878 just twelve miles from the *Buckingham Downs* homestead.²⁴ This may well be the same incident described in Henry Bassett Lane's obituary.

One time on one of his droving trips, a week after he left *Buckingham Downs* with a mob of cattle to bring south four stockmen were murdered on the property by wild blacks.²⁵

These droving trips became part of the Lane family mythology. In his later years Henry Bassett Lane was wont to comment that, 'By Gush' a trip to 'Buckinum Downs' would straighten out one or other foolish young man he had observed. His children and grandchildren, especially Morris Bassett Lane, often repeated the saying with a smile.²⁶ It is also interesting to note that much later (in 1938, when he was in his eighties) H.B. inquired in a letter to his grandson, Eber Lane, who was living at Mt. Isa, whether there were 'many blacks up there'.²⁷ There certainly had been in his day, and his inquiry was quite understandable. Whitey Torenbeek remembered 'Old Dad Lane' telling him that he had seen a boss drover shoot and kill a threatening Aborigine on one of his droving trips. He 'got the gun out and shot him

where he was'. He had spoken of the incident in confidence, defending the action because the 'boss drover' had the responsibility for the lives of his own men. Although it was during a time of virtual open warfare on the frontier, it was obvious to Whitey that Henry Bassett regarded the incident as regrettable.²⁸

Those who knew him well describe Henry Bassett Lane as 'very straight laced'. He never swore or smoked cigarettes, and he drank very little alcohol (certainly never in front of his children, who were sent outside if H.B. was about to 'shout' some visitors). He was serious about religion and was confirmed into the Church of England in 1910, when he was in his fifties. He was, however, tolerant of other religious denominations and his second wife and the children from that marriage were Catholic. He was very musical, played several instruments and sang.²⁹ Len Lane recalled that in the 1920s H.B. visited for several days a Mr. Webb, who lived some distance away, and this was probably his old friend William Webb, former manager of *Daandine*. Len says that he and his older sister Frances (Frankie) accompanied his grandfather on the visit. Len was only a small boy at the time but Frankie was a teenager and an accomplished pianist. She was required to play for her grandfather whilst he sang. H.B. Lane had a good light tenor voice and would sing at every opportunity, usually songs like 'McGinty's Goat', 'Click Go the Shears' and similar bush songs.³⁰ Family legend had it that H.B. could play any instrument but the violin. This he threw into the Condamine River when frustrated by his feeble efforts!³¹

In 1882/3, during his first marriage to Annie Dale, H.B. Lane had selected land to establish his own enterprise, although he continued in employment at

Daandine. He selected 200 acres at Macalister, from the *Jimbour* estate (endorsed as Exchange Lands), and made it his home (known as *Rosevale*). Residence on the land was a requirement. Two adjoining portions, each of 200 acres, went at the same time to his widowed mother-in-law Mary Dale senior and his unmarried sister-in-law Mary Dale junior (who married Charles Smith before the paperwork was complete).³² This looks like a case of 'family selection', used as a means to overcome limits on the amount of land taken up. However, a generous 5120 acres were permitted as a total of conditional selections under the Act of 1876, and it is more likely that financial considerations kept the application to one portion.³³ Macalister was originally the woolshed area on *Jimbour* but not far from *Daandine*, via Range's Bridge. Morris Bassett Lane, the youngest surviving child of the marriage was born in 1884 at *Rosevale*, Macalister.³⁴ Annie Lane died at *Rosevale* only three years after the lease was issued.

In 1897, Henry Bassett Lane married Isabella Peary (or Pearie) from Nanango. In 1898 he managed *Marmadua*, further west, for a Mr. Fletcher. The following information was included in Henry Bassett Lane's Obituary:

While he was on *Daandine* and *Marmadua* he had under his charge the lad who was to develop into the famous coloured boxer Jerry Jerome. Jerome was about ten years old when Mr. Lane first met him and he taught the boy to ride.

The time frame for that story appears to be correct and it was characteristic of Henry Bassett to give a youngster a hand, just as James Hunt had helped him.³⁵ Jerry Jerome was born at *Jimbour* in 1874.³⁶ Henry Bassett Lane would have been twenty-seven years old and head stockman on *Daandine* when he first met the ten-year old Jerome in 1884. He would certainly have been in a position to take the young boy under his wing. It is perhaps

relevant to note that H.B.'s younger brother William John was also resident at *Daandine* and only a little older than Jerome. It is possible that there was more than one riding pupil. Though Jerome was born at *Jimbour*, and a member of the local *Yemon* or *Barunggan* tribal group, *Daandine* was close by and probably also part of his tribal lands. Henry Bassett Lane became manager at *Marmadua* years later, when Jerome was twenty-five, and it is possible that they worked together at that time too. Jerome was well known on the Western Downs as an outstanding stockman before he had his first informal fight in his thirties. His first formal fight was in 1908 when he was thirty-four.³⁷

William John Lane moved to *Loudoun* station as a stockman shortly after his marriage to Cecelia (Ciss) Parsons in 1896, and in 1899 H.B.Lane was employed by Henry Charles White and Paul Hunt as stock and horse overseer on the same station. At around this time H.B.'s two daughters married and moved nearby, Alice Frances to the Duckponds area and Ruth Mary to Dalby.³⁸

Mary Bassett Lane with her grandson, Henry Francis Lane (Harry). Taken in 1901/2 when three generations of the Lane family were living at *Loudoun*.



DEATH OF A DALBY IDENTITY.

On last Tuesday evening (says the Dalby "Record") another of the old pioneer residents of this district passed away in the person of Mr. William Lane, near, whose demise was due to failure of the heart. Up to the time of his death the old gentleman seemed quite hale and hearty, and he died whilst reading on the verandah of his son's house at Loudoun. The late Mr. Lane attained the ripe old age of 71 years, and leaves a widow, two sons, six grand-children to mourn his loss. Mr. Harry Lane, overseer at Loudoun, is the eldest son of deceased, and Mr. William Lane, who also works at Loudoun, is the other son, whilst Mrs. E. J. Ryan, of Duckponds, and Mrs. Joe Ryan, of Dalby, are two of his grand-daughters.

William Lane's death notice as it appeared in the Darling Downs Gazette of 16 May 1905.

The homely environment provided for families at the station is evident in this account of the death of the stock overseer's father, 'whilst reading on the verandah of his son's house at *Loudoun*'.

For many years there was quite an enclave of Lanes on *Loudoun*. In addition to Morris Bassett Lane who lived there with his father and stepmother (though probably in the single stockman's accommodation after he filled

that role) two sons, Henry Francis (1901) and James William (1903) were born to Henry and Isabella. William John and Cecelia's only surviving child, Ruth Mary, was born in 1900.³⁹ William and Mary Lane (Henry Bassett and William John's parents) lived on the property too and it was at *Loudoun* that William died on 8 May 1905.⁴⁰ Morris Bassett married in 1907 and his children soon joined the other Lane offspring on the station.

The family of *Loudoun* owner, Henry Charles White, was well known in New South Wales for both high quality sheep and for horses (including champion race horses) and Henry Charles carried the interest in horses, as well as sheep, to *Loudoun*. *Daandine* had been a good training ground and Henry Bassett Lane was recognised as a fine horseman. He became particularly involved in breeding remounts for the Indian army at *Loudoun*, and prices gained were as high as twenty pounds for each horse.⁴¹ His son Morris Bassett later took over training the remounts. H.B.'s grandson Len Lane well remembered being told as a young boy that about twenty horses were bred for every one sold as a remount. The horses needed to be of a particular size and absolutely unblemished.⁴² Surplus animals were in great demand for the station staff and local sale.

In an article from the Queenslander in 1911 the Chief Inspector of Stock explained the benefits of the Queensland bred horse for military purposes. He suggested that perhaps the most important factor was that they were left in open pasture all the year, feeding on grass rather than purpose grown crops, and drinking artesian water containing 'salt, lime and other chemical constituents', which he said improved bone and muscle development. He said that the 'free and untrammelled life and the large areas over which they

graze also tend to muscle development, hardiness, and endurance...⁴³ The horse paddock at *Loudoun* station included all the features mentioned in the article. It covered more than a thousand acres and the horses were allowed to graze widely. Underground water was available from windmills installed late in the 19th century. In the photograph below, probably taken in the late 1920s, we see a grassy paddock with obstacles such as fallen logs (many from ring-barked trees), which the horses grew accustomed to avoiding.⁴⁴



Loudoun horse paddock with ring-barked trees. The moving herd in stormy conditions obviously made it difficult for the early photographer to frame the picture.

Shortly after H.B. Lane went to *Loudoun* some nearby land became available, and he forfeited his interests at Macalister (*Rosevale*) in June

1900.⁴⁵ He then selected Agricultural Farm No.1042 of 1279 acres (Portion 1v) in the Parish of Hill, and named it *Belah Park*. William Webb, who Henry Bassett knew as manager at *Daandine*, selected the adjoining Portion 111 presumably at about the same time.⁴⁶

A twenty-year lease for Portion 1v (*Belah Park*) was prepared on 12 September 1900 at an annual rent of twenty-four pounds sterling. The lease was extended in 1920 for a further ten years for an annual rent of forty-seven pounds, ten shillings and four pence ‘being one-twentieth part of the purchasing price of the said Agricultural Farm’. After the freehold was obtained in 1930 the land was mortgaged with the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Ltd, probably to finance other land purchases. This was fully discharged by April 1938, and the land was divided with half passed to his eldest son, Morris Bassett Lane, officially in May 1939.⁴⁷

In 1900, Isabella Lane had taken up Agricultural Farm 1131 of 329 acres (Portion 2v) adjoining Henry Bassett’s land to the south. This was another case of ‘family selection’, which appears to have caused no official disapproval. The lease is clearly endorsed as Isabella Lane, wife of Henry Bassett Lane. She also received a ten-year extension of the lease for an annual rental of twelve pounds seven shillings in 1920 ‘being one-twentieth part of the purchasing price’. The lease was transferred to her sons Henry Francis and James William on her death in 1923 and they received the Deed of Grant in 1928.⁴⁸

H.B. Lane with
his second wife,
Isabella and the
two sons from that
marriage, Henry
Francis (Harry)
and James
William (Jim).
est. 1905



Morris Bassett Lane

Morris Bassett Lane grew up on *Loudoun* station and gained valuable training with stock, particularly the fine sheep bred by H.C. White and Paul Hunt. He was employed as a station hand, and during the 1920s became stock overseer. In 1907 he married Emily Sarah Hart who was a maid at the homestead. Emily's family came from the district around Warwick. Her father was an English immigrant involved with the railways, perhaps employed as a line inspector.⁴⁹ The Lane family believes that G.L.Hart, the freeholder of Portions 1407 and 1643 (2000 acres shown on 1908 map) in

the Parish of Greenbank but joining Daandine Parish, was either her brother George, or her father Eber George Hart. The proximity of either her father or brother would explain Emily's presence at *Loudoun*.



Emily Lane,
standing at rear,
with two of her
sisters, all
dressed in the
height of
Edwardian
fashion.

est. 1905

Like his father before him, Morris Bassett Lane was the horse breaker (see photograph in Chapter 4), but he was most renowned as a sheep man. Len Lane, his youngest son, remembers that local farmers often sought his father's advice about their flocks.⁵⁰ Morris Bassett had the ability to count large flocks of sheep accurately. Len says that his father was often asked to count sheep for the sales in Dalby and it was amazing how quickly he could

count as the animals streamed through a wide gate.⁵¹ In a letter to his eldest son one year before his death in 1954, Morris Bassett tells of the good price he had recently gained for the wool clip from his property *Whitewood*, and comments cheekily that he is, 'Still a good man with sheep'.⁵² Morris Bassett was also known for throwing with incredible accuracy. Len remembers when the dingoes were bad on *Loudoun* in the late 1920s, that he saw his father throw a piece of wood at one animal climbing the not always effective 'dingo proof fence', and breaking its back. He could hit a snake many yards away with a small length of wood too. This skill translated into cricket where he was a handy bowler at picnic matches.⁵³

Len recalled a story about the watch that Morris had been given by his father (H.B.) for his twenty-first birthday. As overseer Morris was required to direct the men in their everyday tasks, and Len says that Morris's watch was probably the only one the workers had as a reference. One day a strap broke on Morris's saddle and much to his dismay he lost the watch. Len remembers that his father always kept an eye out for it when he was riding in that part of *Loudoun*. Much to everyone's amazement Morris found the watch about four years later; it still worked and is held by Len's family today.

In 1908, one year after Morris Bassett married, Henry Bassett (then fifty-one years old) left *Loudoun* station to live on his own property. His wife and two sons (and briefly his mother Mary Bassett Lane, who died shortly afterwards) accompanied him to *Belah Park*. The family lived temporarily in a slab hut with a bark roof, later used as a saddle room, (see photograph in Chapter 5) until a more substantial homestead was built. The property was

over the Five Chain Road (later the Moonie Highway) from *Loudoun* station. At the time the land was 'covered in dense belah and brigalow scrub'. H.B. was known to be successful in this enterprise, for example 'in one season just after the War [WW1] some crossbred lambs he bred brought 39.5 shillings [each] on the Brisbane market'.⁵⁴ At around this time William John Lane and his wife Cecelia moved from *Loudoun* to their property *Carbeen*, which they had selected in 1904.

Morris Bassett Lane continued to work on *Loudoun* and his children grew up on the station. In fact his eldest son, Eber Frederick Lane, was actually born there in 1911. Mrs. Emma Hounslow, who lived and worked on *Loudoun* with her husband David, was the nurse present at the birth.⁵⁵ It appears that Morris and Emily's other eight children (five of whom died at birth or shortly afterwards) were born in Dalby, although the records may be imprecise. By the mid 1920s Morris Lane's family were established in the overseer's cottage (see photograph in Chapter 8).

The older children, Frances, Eber and Alf, rode ponies to the Kupunn School. Len, born in 1921, was the youngest of the four surviving children. While his brothers were either at school or helping with the stock as they loved to do, Len was left at home to play with the only other small child on the station, Joanie Troyhan, daughter of the stockman/boundary rider Teddy Troyhan and his wife Rose. Teddy's father worked on *Loudoun*, too, in charge of the horse teams that were used for transporting wool, and responsible also for windmill maintenance - a dangerous job and he was highly regarded.⁵⁶ In a note attached to the manuscript of his memoirs Whitey Torenbeek said that Teddy's father was never without a bent stem

pipe in his mouth, 'alight or not' and that he had died of cancer of the mouth. Of course the bushman's smoko was very much a part of life in those days and many of the children took up smoking 'behind the cowshed' so to speak, as a sign of being 'grown up'. My own father Eber Lane admitted to smoking from about age twelve, along with his sister Frankie. People did not smoke indoors, the verandas providing a convenient alternative, and the adverse health aspects were not dreamt of despite Mr. Troyhan's experience.

Children were not usually given the best horses for school transport. Eber recalled that the first pony he had was known as Jackie with One Eye and the name speaks for itself! When he was a little older (about nine or ten) he was given a wonderful new pony, Silver, from good *Loudoun* stock, which he rode at the Dalby show.



Eber Lane at *Loudoun* on 'Jacky with one eye', his first school pony.
(About 1917)



Eber on Silver at the
Dalby Show.
(About 1920)

When Paul Hunt retired H.C. White bought him out. Archie McLeod, who had previously managed *Bon Accord* for George Morris Simpson, became the new manager of *Loudoun* in 1903.⁵⁷ Henry Charles White died on 24 February 1905. Ownership passed to his widow, Mary Helen White (his second wife – his first wife died in childbirth in 1875) and his son Roy Mordount White. In 1920 the 380 acres formerly owned by Alexander Williamson were transferred to Roy White's name, but not registered until January 1925.⁵⁸ Jack Bennie remembers that around 1930, when he was a boy, two women on horseback arrived at his family property *Lakeview*:

They were dressed in jodpurs, black coats and black bowler-type hats. I had never seen anything like them before. My parents said afterwards that they were ladies from *Loudoun*, one of whom was probably Mrs. White.⁵⁹

The Campbell Brothers (from the Canberra district) purchased a much smaller *Loudoun* station (of about 11,000 acres) in 1937, and Morris Bassett Lane became the manager for a year or two, until the Campbells sold and that land also was subdivided. Mr. Johnson, the previous manager, had been

more of an administrator/bookkeeper than the hands on manager required for the smaller property.⁶⁰

Henry Bassett Lane's brother and wife both died within the span of a few years, William John in 1919, and his second wife Isabella in 1923.

Afterwards he lived at *Belah Park* (with his son Henry (Harry), daughter-in-law Beattie (nee McLennan) and their family) until his death in August 1939. His other son, Jim (Querie) married Madge (nee Hutchinson) and lived on the adjoining dairy farm *Memerambi*. Shortly before Isabella's death H.B.'s niece, Ruth Mary Lane, married Edgar Slaughter, the Dalby Ambulance Superintendent, in Toowoomba.



The wedding of Ruth Mary Lane and Edgar Dalby Slaughter, 22 April 1922. Henry Bassett Lane (right) was the Best Man and Frances Dale Lane (left), Ruth's attendant. This was quite a social event as Superintendent Slaughter was a Dalby identity. The Toowoomba wedding was reported in great detail in the Dalby Herald during the following week.

Henry Bassett Lane
in his eighties,
content on the
verandah at *Belah
Park*.
(Mid 1930s)



Morris Bassett Lane's daughter, Frances Dale, married Gordon McLennan in the early 1930s, and moved to Condamine. Morris's eldest son Eber Frederick Lane was the first male in the family to leave the land. He joined the Post Office in Dalby as a telegraph messenger in 1927, became a Telegraphist and in 1935 was promoted to Cairns.⁶¹ Morris Alfred Lane (Alf) was employed for a time at *Loudoun* as a stockman and was particularly noted for his work with sheepdogs. No doubt this was a skill learned from his father, who was renowned most particularly for his dog, Nigger Brown, a kelpie. Len Lane says that to work with sheep on any of the big properties in those days it was necessary to have at least one, but preferably two good sheep dogs.⁶² When he finished his schooling in 1937 Len joined the post office in Dalby, like Eber before him.⁶³

At the end of 1938 Morris Bassett Lane retired from *Loudoun* and moved to his own property *Whitewood*. He built a new home and lived there,

successfully raising sheep and a few cattle and growing feed crops, until his death in 1954.



Whitewood homestead as it was in the early 1950s.

Morris Bassett was a popular figure in the district. I was told that he was much more outgoing than his father, Henry Bassett Lane. He enjoyed an occasional beer at social functions and carried a tobacco pouch from which he rolled his own cigarettes for 'smoko' breaks during the day. I remember him as a jolly fun loving grandfather always ready with a kind word for his grandchildren and immensely patient with animals. Every dog, horse, cow and even some of the sheep at *Whitewood* had names. He was prone to burst into song accompanied by a few dance steps and played the button accordion by ear. Though I never saw him in action I can easily visualise him in his appointed role as the dance caller at local functions.

Henry Francis Lane and James William Lane

The two sons from Henry Bassett Lane's second marriage remained in the district until their deaths in the early 1990s. Henry (Hen or Harry) and Jim (Querie) had worked happily together in partnership from the late 1930s until the 1950s when their landholdings were divided amicably between them so that their children could be provided for in the future. (Outlined in the Table of Landownership at the beginning of this section about the Lane family.)

Their children eventually took up all the original Lane landholdings and more. They included Tom (Casey) *Menangle*, John (Twerp) *Carbeen* and Phil (Whooper) *Belah Park*, sons of Henry Francis Lane, and Jim's children Pat (Ginty) *Myola*, and Mariee (Bid, farming with her husband Jack Callaghan) *Orana*. Only Sheila Lane, eldest child of Harry and Beattie, left the land and lived in town after she married. In recent years this fourth generation have sold their land and retired to Dalby. Tom Lane's son, Allan, is the sole member of the family's fifth generation still farming in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district.

There can be no argument that when they emigrated to this far away land, William and Mary Lane made a far more secure future for their family than they could have expected in England. Their descendants remained in the same district for nearly 140 years, farming successfully and adapting to overwhelming changes during that period.



Henry Francis (Harry) and Beattie (Mother) Lane in about 1956.



James William (Jim or Querie) and Madge (Polly) Lane in the year they were married – 1931.

The Morrissey, Bourke, Fortune and Laffy Families

Arrived in the district: About 1910, (Alex Laffy, about 1937).

From: Wangaratta district in Victoria.

Another large and significant family group among the first selectors in the district were the Morrisseys, Fortunes and Bourkes who came from the Wangaratta district in Victoria. They were largely of Irish origin. Pat (Paddy) Morrissey saw the Kupunn land advertised in a Victorian newspaper in 1904 and went to have a look at it in 1906. He advised his relatives, the Bourkes and Fortunes, to do the same. The Bourkes arrived at Kupunn in 1910 at around the same time as Jim Fortune. A photograph of twelve men preparing for departure from the Wangaratta area, including William Bourke and Jim Fortune, appears in a history of that Victorian district. The group had been: 'Unable to secure more land in their local area' and 're-settled around Dalby and Kingaroy'.⁶⁴

Bill Bourke and Paddy Morrissey were married to sisters, Mary Violet and Margaret Fortune. They were wont to say that they each 'met their misfortune in Victoria'.⁶⁵ Jim Fortune was the girls' brother. Bill Bourke's friend, Barney Laffy, almost joined the group at Kupunn but finally decided to remain in Victoria. Years later his son Alex made the move.

The Morrisseys settled on Portions 32 & 59 Sub.1, Parish of Daandine, at *Rhodesia*. It was so named because it was the first property where South African Rhodes grass was grown. 'Spencer Martin's mother brought back a matchbox of Rhodes Grass seeds from Rhodesia and Paddy Morrissey got them growing and harvested them for seed. He did this until he died. This

was believed to be the first time Rhodes grass was grown in Australia'.⁶⁶

The Bourkes settled on Portion 59, Sub.3 at *Brigalow Park*. Jim Fortune selected Portions 59 Sub.2 and 61 but decided to move to Kingaroy after three or four years. (His land was taken over by the Andersons who eventually sold it to Bill Bourke.)

The newly arrived families made a start on land clearing by ringbarking the brigalow. May Laffy (nee Bourke) says, 'They must have done it at the wrong time of the year as a good part of them grew back as suckers'.⁶⁷ [That was a heartbreaking feature of the brigalow; its good point was that as a legume it enriched the soil, thus making brigalow country very fertile.]

Paddy Morrissey was the first in the family to start dairying. 'I seem to remember hearing how he used to cart the cream to Dalby in two cans tied to an old creamy horse he had. If the Condamine River was in flood, he would tip the cream into the river and ride home again.'⁶⁸

For the first six months the Bourkes lived with Paddy Morrissey's family and then for twelve months they lived in a tent while their house was being built. May remembers her mother saying that she had 'cried buckets of tears when it rained', because the black soil was like glue when wet.⁶⁹ At first all the cooking was done in a camp oven but May's mother had 'a flower garden, a vege garden and chooks'. At Christmas time in the early days Bill Bourke Snr. would 'lower jelly down the well' and 'tie branches of trees to the verandah post for decorations'. The children would get fruit, nuts and a little gift, 'we thought it was wonderful'.⁷⁰

When May was six years old she walked over two miles to the Kupunn School every day with her cousin Mary Fortune. She remembered that the first schoolteacher at Kupunn was a local, Evelyn Martin, Spencer Martin's sister. Jim Fortune sold out to Harry Anderson in about 1914/5 before the drought of 1916, and went to Kingaroy. The Bourkes took their stock to Kingaroy to see out the drought and were away for eighteen months. Shortly after their return the Torenbeeks moved onto the Anderson place as sharefarmers, replacing a French family. May then travelled to school with the Torenbeek boys.⁷¹ J. W. (Bill or Bee) Bourke (Junior) attended the Kupunn School with Eber Lane and they played many tricks on each other usually involving ponies and saddles. Eber said that Bill Bourke (Jnr.) had been a good runner and footballer during his younger days.⁷²

Charles Martin (no relation to Spencer), who was the Kupunn schoolteacher from 1933 to 1939, recalls two stories about Bill Bourke Senior. The first is in relation to the preparations for the occasional dances held at the War Memorial Hall not far from the school.

Bill Bourke (Senior) would open the Hall on Friday afternoon for airing, and for polishing the floor with sawdust and candle grease, and corn bags pulled and ridden round the Hall by the pupils of the Kupunn State School whose teacher thought it a well worth while activity in their Social Studies and gave him an opportunity to converse with the district's most respected senior.⁷³

It was necessary for the schoolteacher to board with a local family because there was no other accommodation. Charles had been living with the Jim Lanes, but he moved in with the Bourkes while Jim and family had their new house built.⁷⁴ One night Bill Bourke asked Charles to keep him company

and attend a meeting with him: 'Innocently I complied with his request. How could I refuse? He was providing me with bed and board and the company of his two sons Bill and Bob and four daughters May, Clarice, Nell and Grace every night, when we had dancing and singing around the piano. I was glad to repay him for his friendship and his family's company.' It turned out to be a meeting of the Committee of the Dalby Race Club where a few of the Kupunn residents were seeking permission to hold a race meeting in Spencer Martin's paddock. Charles Martin left the meeting somewhat surprised - as Secretary for the event.

Not to worry said Bill. We just need a name to make up the official list – and I thought to blame if anything goes wrong. But nothing did. Bill Bourke and Spencer Martin did the lot. The track, the programme, the publicity, the nominations (on race day), the judging and anything else connected with a very casually arranged country race meeting.

It is amazing that when no substantial money is involved, and the atmosphere is of a picnic nature, the good time being had by all is evident, nothing does go wrong; and if it does it is of no importance. The day seemed to run itself. I had some minor jobs to do with saddle numbers, allocation and collection, but like a duck swimming unperturbed somebody's legs were working overtime. Bill Bourke's I think. Before, during and after!⁷⁵

The connection between the Laffy and Bourke families was renewed when, in 1937, Barney Laffy's son Alex moved to Kupunn. He married Bill Bourke's daughter May in 1939. He had met May earlier, when she was on holidays to visit the extended Bourke family in Victoria. Alex Laffy was a popular addition to the community and a tireless musician at many of the local dances. A very warm and kindly letter to May from Henry Bassett Lane on the occasion of her marriage gives a clear indication of the close

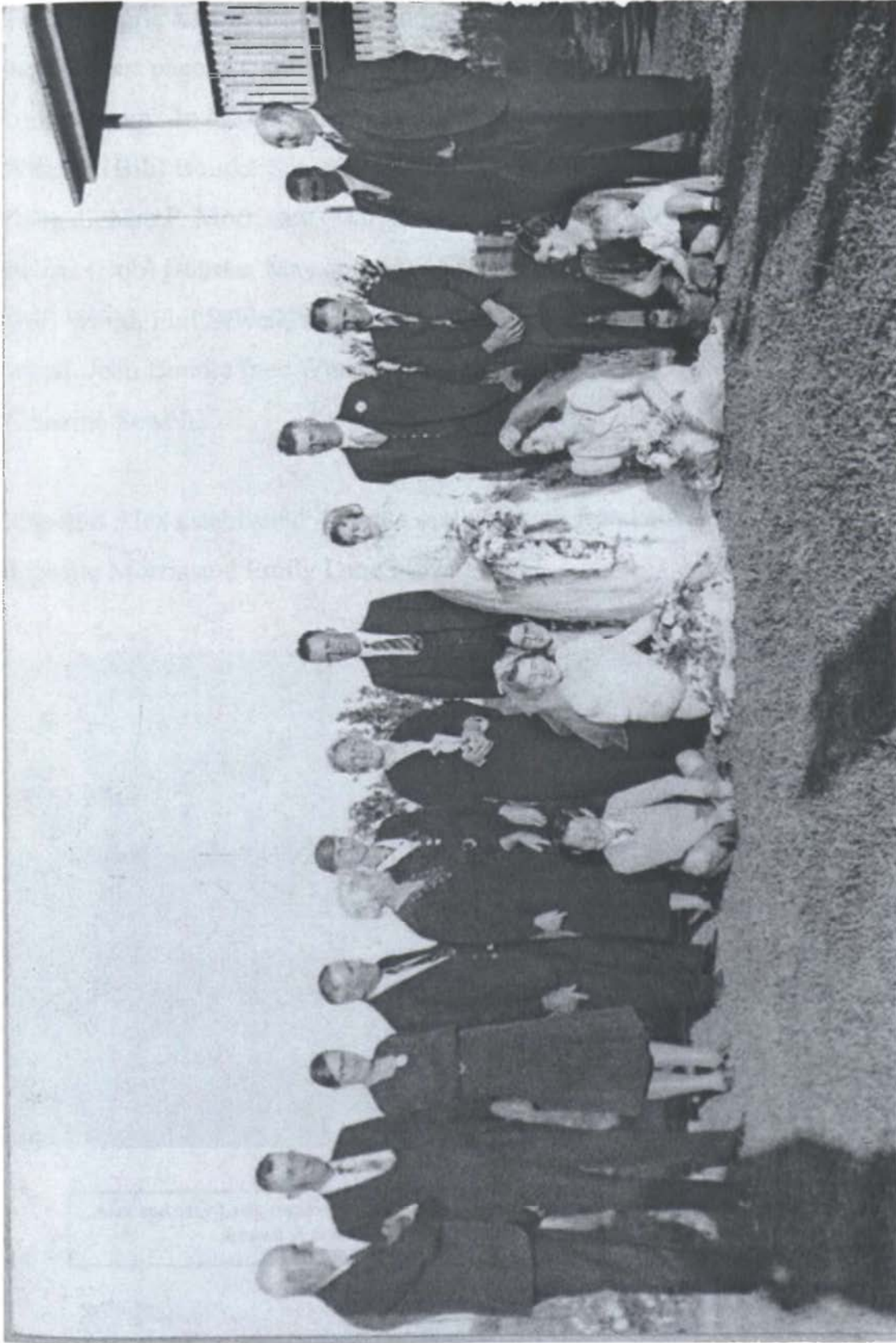
ties that had developed between the families who first settled the district.

H.B. Lane was too ill to attend the wedding, and died later that year. The letter contained a cheque for two pounds, two shillings:

Well May. I wish you all the happiness from the bottom of my heart. Coupled with good luck & prosperity to you both through life. Pull together, share each others troubles be true to each other & you will find it makes life much easier. Of course May you will find plenty of crosses. That happens to all of us, be patient & all will come right in the end. Again I wish you the best of good luck from your old friend
H.B. Lane
Kind regards to all at home.

Bill Bourke's eldest son, J. William or Bill, was known locally as Bee to distinguish him from his father. He and Jean Wormwell married and lived at Kupunn all their lives. Jean was a daughter of Pinkney Wormwell who held land just north of the Bourkes in the Parish of Greenbank.⁷⁶ Bill and Jean had four daughters and seventeen grandchildren.

Bill Senior's second son Bob died as a prisoner of the Japanese in World War II (see Chapter 11). Clarice Bourke married a local, Dave Cook Jnr. and settled in the Kupunn area. Nell married H.G. (Pie) Wood also from the district, and Grace became Mrs J. Moran. Rob and Phil Cook, Clarice Bourke's sons, now own Bill Bourke's original landholding *Brigalow Park*. Rob and Marie Cook have additional land and grow dry land cotton and other crops. Another grandchild, Loretta Young (nee Bourke) and her husband Peter are now on the original Fortune/Bourke property, *Woodstock*. Many more descendants of Bill and Violet Bourke remain in the district, including Brian and Dan Laffy.



The photograph from the 1939 wedding of May Bourke and Alex Laffy on the previous page is significant, featuring many people from that large family group. In the back row from the left are: Pinkney Wormwell, William (Bill) Bourke Snr. and his wife Mary Violet, Pat Morrissey, Mrs. R. Dougall, Mrs P. Morrissey (Margaret), Mrs. Pinkney Wormwell (Alice), Robert (Bob) Bourke, May and Alex Laffy (the bride and groom), George (Pie) Wood, Phil Sewell, and R. Dougall. Sitting are Brian Troyhan, Nell Wood, Jean Bourke (nee Wormwell), Grace Bourke, Mavis Sewell and Grahame Sewell.

May and Alex established *Avonlea* on the Nandi Road almost directly opposite Morris and Emily Lane's *Whitewood*.



Alex and May Laffy stand proudly showing their first wheat crop at *Avonlea*. They are dressed in their best, no doubt ready for church in town.



Sheep on *Avonlea*. est. early 1940s.



Ellie Gray (Alf and Lil Lane's grand-daughter - Rita's daughter) on a visit to May Laffy in the mid-1980s.

Pat (Paddy) Morrissey demonstrated a keen interest in the affairs of the district. He was particularly involved with the movement in the 1920s/30s that tried to wrest Lake Broadwater and surrounding lands from *Loudoun*

station and make the area available for public use. The station had acquired 1158 acres surrounding the lake in 1901, at a time when 'the drying up of the lake ...almost wiped it from the minds of the general public'.⁷⁷ The Broadwater Association had been formed in January 1931 with the aim of acquiring Lake Broadwater 'for the use of the people'. Pat (Paddy) Morrissey was the Vice President representing the Kupunn area.⁷⁸

A newspaper account of an Ambulance Benefit Carnival held at the lake in early 1930s, with an attendance in the vicinity of 1300 people conveyed by 170 cars, includes the following heartfelt criticism of restrictions placed by the station owners:

It was perhaps regrettable that car owners were not permitted to park among the shady trees bordering the lake, for the foreshore certainly constitutes the most attractive portion for visitors. There is ample room there for cars without in any way encroaching on the actual shores of the lake, and it can be imagined how visitors to Sandgate or Redcliffe would raise loud voices of protest were they to be pushed back from the water front as was done at the Broadwater on Sunday. It was stated, however, that this action was due to the conditions laid down by the Loudoun Pastoral Company, and was not the result of any decision by the carnival committee, but it is difficult to see what advantage was gained, whilst it was certainly disappointing to visitors.⁷⁹

In running the day the town organisers 'received the most appreciated assistance from helpers from the Kupunn district'.⁸⁰

Jack Bennie was a child at the time; he still remembers the event and confirms the newspaper account. His father, James Bennie, donated drinking water for the day and rather than allowing it to be siphoned over the paling fence between the public road and the lake, it had to be transported

six kilometres along the road and in the only gate. 'On the day of the carnival, one of the station employees was detailed to ride all day up and down the fence to make sure that no-one got through. Incredible!'⁸¹

To be fair to the Loudoun Pastoral Company there were some good reasons for caution. Whitey Torenbeek says that Teddy Troyahn, a boundary rider from *Loudoun*, was always in attendance at school picnics when he was a boy. Teddy 'was mainly concerned with fires'. The damage that could have been caused to pasture and stock if a grass fire had taken off would have been disastrous. 'One day a careless individual did start a fire a short distance away ... The culprit copped 'what for' from Teddy'.⁸² Nevertheless, on the occasion of the Ambulance Benefit Carnival there were many reliable locals and upstanding citizens from town who could have taken the responsibility to make sure all was well. The Lake Broadwater Association succeeded in their campaign for control of at least part of the lake foreshores in 1931, when forty acres were purchased.⁸³

Margaret and Paddy Morrissey brought up their three sons at Kupunn. Charles Martin remembers the boys well, although they had completed their schooling before his time as teacher. He recalls that some time in the 1930s Jim, Jack and Leo (fondly known as Tup, Jack and Oigle) became bored.

There wasn't a great deal for them to do at home. Paddy their father was contemplating selling his property and moving to town (which he did eventually) and something different beckoned – shearing in West Australia. They purchased a T model Ford which I never actually saw, and travelled overland to the western state. They did sufficient shearing there to finance their return trip and arrived back in Kupunn to no fan-fare or fuss and very little attention.

This feat to me it was mind boggling – the trip and the machine.⁸⁴

Paddy Morrissey was an 'ex stud blade shearer' and Max Schultz says that in the 1950s Paddy had taught him, 'how to crutch sheep with blades' and later how to 'shear sheep with shearing machines at B. Bourkes place north of Kupunn'.⁸⁵

Leo Morrissey was the second from this large family group to die in World War II, along with his cousin Bob Bourke. (Details Chapter 11)



Jim (Tup) and Jack Morrissey during the shearing at *Loudoun* in the mid-1930s.

Charles Martin told me in conversation that though the two older boys looked alike, Leo was quite different, certainly blonder. Leo was known as a 'laid back' individual until he joined the army. He then became very conscientious, particularly when training new recruits.

The McLaran and Stagg Families

The McLarans arrived in the Dalby area in the 1850s. They settled in the Kupunn district around 1910. From: Argyllshire, Scotland.

The Staggs were in the Dalby area before 1870. They settled at Kupunn in about 1910.

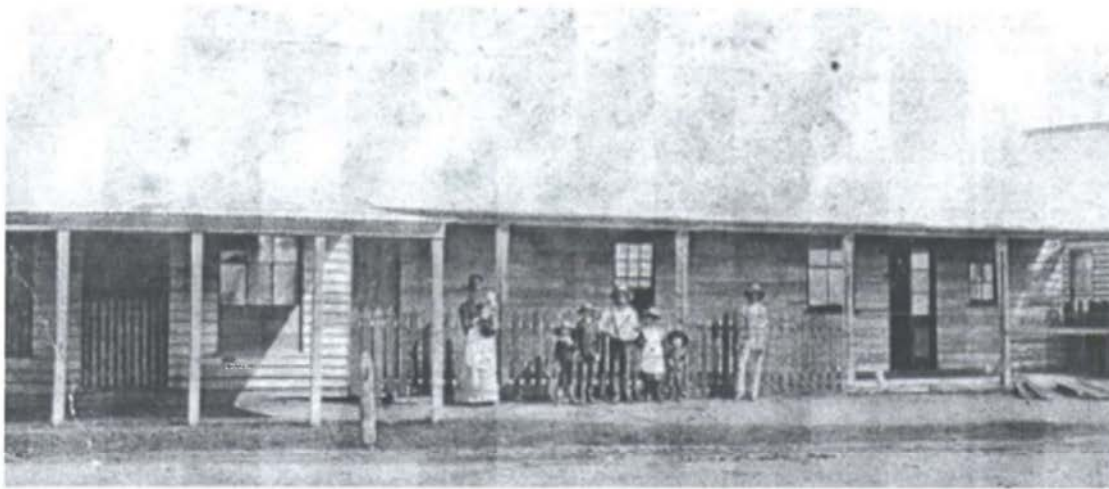
Malcolm McLaran migrated to Queensland in 1852 (aged forty-four), accompanied by his second wife, Jane, four children from his first marriage (Catherine, Donald, Duncan & Margaret) and Jane's infant son Alexander. The family came from Argyllshire, encouraged like many others by the Rev. Dr. J.D. Lang's drive in Scotland for what he considered to be a good class of immigrant.⁸⁶ Great-granddaughter, Heather Tweedie of Dalby, suggests that the family may have stopped briefly in north Queensland before coming to the Darling Downs.⁸⁷ By 1868 the family were well settled in the Myall Creek area, and appeared in the official records when Jane McLaran drowned in the shallow creek after visiting the neighbouring Dale family. The inquest report indicated that Malcolm McLaran (then sixty years old) and his youngest son Alexander were both shepherds. Alexander was certainly employed by his oldest brother Donald, and it is possible that his father Malcolm was also Donald's employee.⁸⁸ Guy Wade suggests that Donald McLaran had operated as a carrier when he first came to the Dalby area. This was followed probably by the dairying at Myall Creek. Wade says that Donald McLaran then took up land at the back of *Jimbour* at Wabba Ridges in the 1870s, which he later sold to George Morris Simpson before selecting land in the Oakey Creek district.⁸⁹ The second eldest son, Duncan, died in 1879 from a rupture caused by 'retention of wine,' and Alexander was killed in a fall from a horse in 1880.⁹⁰ Thus when Malcolm died in 1884 he left only the one son (Donald) and two daughters (Margaret and Catherine). Margaret had married Dennis Sullivan in 1855, and

Catherine (married to James Milford) was living in Dalby at the time of Jane's death in 1868.⁹¹



Clara Sophia McLaran on her wedding day in 1879, wearing a beautiful formal Victorian wedding gown. She was a granddaughter of the Dockrill family of *Tartha*, further west near Tara. Clara was Donald James McLaran's second wife, eighteen years younger than the forty-year-old Donald.

Donald McLaran married twice and had eleven children. In the 1890s he owned McLaran's Cordial factory in Patrick Street, Dalby. Donald and his sons took up land in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district early in the 20th century. We see in a table later in this section, some land they had held earlier on Oaky (Oakey) Creek before taking up their Kupunn interests.



The family in front of the McLaran Cordial Factory, Dalby in the 1890s - about fifteen years and six children after the wedding. Donald McLaran (centre) appears to be in his working clothes, but Clara Sophia is dressed in the height of Victorian fashion. The eldest son (Duncan), on the far right, looks to be about fourteen years old.



Left:
Clara Sophia McLaran
with her youngest child
James (born in 1906,
according to the record, but
he served in World War I –
there must be an error
somewhere, perhaps 1900
not 1906). See Table F in
the Appendix for details of
his war service and later
life.



Malcolm (Callum) McLaran (1886-1965), the son of Donald and Sophia McLaran. Callum married Mabel Stagg in 1912 (when he was twenty-six years old) and they became the parents of Beryl, Mavis and Heather.



Above: (from about 1930)
Emma and Bill Stagg with their family in order of age: Mabel (second from left), Mary, Leonard (Willie), Ernest (third from left), Norman, Herbert (Bert), Sybil, Olive (bottom right), Ivor Douglas (Doug - back row right) and Alma (centre front).

Details of McLaran/Stagg Landholdings in the District

Land	Location	First Selector & Date	Comments
Portion 36 220 acres	Parish of Daandine	Donald Eversden McLaran, about 1908.	Freehold gained before 1912 when a Lands Dept. Parish Map was published.
Portion 39 Agricultural Homestead 1944 320 acres	Parish of Daandine	Malcolm (Callum) Lewis McLaran, about 1908. (married Mabel Stagg 1912)	Selected before the 1912 map was published.
Portion 55 319 acres	Parish of Daandine	D. McLaran, (probably Donald James, the father) 1908	Freehold gained before the 1912 map was published.
Portion 57 100 acres	Parish of Daandine	Donald Eversden McLaran, about 1908	Freehold gained before the 1912 map was published.
Portion 69 575 acres	Parish of Daandine	Lewis Archibald McLaran, about 1908.	Freehold not gained before 1912, Lewis killed in an accident in 1918.
Portion 17 Agricultural Homestead 308 acres	Parish of Greenbank (joining Portions 36 & 57, Parish of Daandine)	D.J. McLaran (probably Duncan James), before 1908.	Freehold not gained before 1908 when a Parish Map of Greenbank was published.
Portion 294 320 acres	Parish of St Ruth - on Oaky (Oakey) Creek	M. McLaran (probably Malcolm (Callum) Lewis McLaran)	According to 1922 map, Parish of St Ruth, the McLarans were the first selectors and gained the freehold of this land plus Portions 295/6. Year unknown, but probably well before Parish of Daandine land was taken up.
Portions 295/6 640 acres	Parish of St Ruth - on Oaky Creek	D. McLaran (Probably the father, Donald James McLaran)	See above
Portion 1457 200 acres	Parish of Macalister Former <i>Jimbour</i> land	G.H. Stagg Don't know who G.H. is, Bill Stagg's parents were William and Eliza – perhaps a brother.	Probably taken up in 1880s when much <i>Jimbour</i> land was released. See Portion 1386 nearby taken up by Henry Bassett Lane, table in Lane family section. This may be part of the Stagg land known as 'Myall Park', Macalister.
Portion 62 319 acres	Parish of Hill	W. Stagg (Bill) About 1908 (his daughter Mabel, married Malcolm McLaran in 1912).	Bill Stagg's family had land interests in the Spring Creek district in the 1870s and on.

The Staggs were already distantly connected by marriage to their neighbours the Lanes. Bill Stagg's wife, Emma (nee Wain) was the niece of Henry Bassett Lane's first wife Ann, who died in childbirth four years before Bill and Emma were married in 1890. It was Isabella Lane, H.B.'s second wife, who became Bill and Emma Stagg's neighbour at Kupunn. They were connected to the McLarans by the marriage of their daughter Mabel to Malcolm Lewis (Callum) McLaran in April 1912.⁹²

William (Bill) Stagg, son of William and Eliza Stagg of *Myall Park* Spring Creek, had worked for nineteen years as a station hand on *Bon Accord* and afterwards it appears, he became the manager at *Greenbank*.⁹³ Bill and Emma had a large family, many of whom attended the Kupunn School.

Bill Stagg died in 1939. Pat Lane recalls Emma Stagg as Granny Stagg (there was a connection by marriage through his mother's family, the Hutchinsons) as a loving and generous woman and quite a character. When Pat was a young man in the late 1940s, he and his cousin Tom (Casey) Lane would ride their horses to *Myola* and *Carbeen*, 'to chase up flyblown sheep':

To get there we had to ride past Staggs and we used to drop in just to say 'hello' to Granny. I think she got a kick out of it as she was getting on in years and there is not much fun in life when you are over 80. Granny was the type of person who lost her Hs at Eledon and picked them up at Hipswich. We'd always ask how she was and she would reply, "Hald right, hif honly my hold legs would work".

In 1948 when Pat, Tom (Casey) and one of Granny's grandsons were cutting some posts for a new woolshed at *Belah Park*, they called in after dark to Granny's:

Granny came around the verandah and said, 'Hew boys must be hungry. Hews ad better come and ave a feed'. So we went in and man! – did Granny, and her daughter Olive, lay it on for us. Granny said, 'Hol get the boys some more – they're still ungry'. You would have searched the earth and never found a better hostess than poor old Granny. I remember she had a beautiful kerosene light with a coloured glass hood over it in the centre of the table. It must have been very old, probably given to her when she married. I wonder what ever happened to it.⁹⁴



Granny Stagg during the period Pat Lane knew her. We see glimpses of the kitchen and pantry as Granny sits on the veranda at home, a dog at her feet. Probably the very lamp Pat mentions is visible on the kitchen table.

Granny was very soft hearted when it came to the animals too. Pat says that his father told him the following story about Granny and her husband Bill Stagg in their dairying days:

They had a cow that caused a lot of trouble when bailed up at milking time. This particular day Bill lost his temper with the cow, grabbed the shovel and with the back of it, hit the cow over the head and knocked her out. The cow went down, Granny picked up the shovel and hit Bill over the head in the same manner. The cow and Bill were both flat out in the bail. Granny told the story against herself and said, 'Hi was sorry hafterwards, but the silly hold bugger, ee deserved hit'.⁹⁵

Heather Tweedie, granddaughter of Donald and Clara Sophia McLaran (and daughter of Callum and Mabel), says that her grandmother McLaran and her uncles did all the farmwork. Donald would have been in his late seventies when the family moved to Kupunn. A tragedy occurred on 12 June 1918 when one son, Lewis Archibald McLaran (Portion 69, Parish of Daandine) was helping to dig a well. A rope, that controlled the bucket taking soil to the surface, slipped and the bucket fell into the hole. Lewis was killed.⁹⁶ Pat Lane says that his father and uncle were very careful working in the wells on their land, and perhaps they had this accident very much in mind. Harry Lane would go down the well to attend to repairs, but only if his trusted brother Jim (Querie) was at the top in charge of the ropes.⁹⁷

Duncan McLaran never married. Callum and Mabel had three daughters, Beryl, Mavis and Heather. The family moved into Dalby in about 1930 but the girls kept in touch with their grandmother and uncles still at Kupunn. Heather Tweedie well remembers school holiday visits. She and her sisters were transported in the buggy that her grandmother (then in her 70s)

frequently drove the fifteen or so miles into town. It was quite a journey with many gates to open and close, and took five hours each way. Heather says that she and her sisters worked hard on the farm, but it was fun. Clara Sophia McLaran was an exacting housekeeper and her granddaughters helped her to scrub the white pine kitchen to perfection.⁹⁸ The girls also helped with the dairy cows, all of which were given pet names and had bells with an identifying chime around their necks. There were also the Stagg relatives at Kupunn to keep in touch with, particularly their Aunt - Ally (Alma) Stagg - who was only a year older than Mavis, and a good friend.

Heather and her sisters were part of the McLaran family musical group and played for dances in the district (and functions in town) in the 1930s. It was a good way to keep in touch with friends at Kupunn.⁹⁹ One young man who often followed the McLaran band to dances was Charles Martin, the Kupunn schoolteacher (from 1933 to 1939). He had met Mavis McLaran through a tennis group in Dalby and they were married in 1940. Heather McLaran married into a family with connections to the district. Arthur Tweedie's father Tom Tweedie had classed wool at *Loudoun* station in the early days of the 20th century, and had selected land in the Moramby Creek area (Portion 76, Parish of Daandine) near his brother William Tweedie (Portions 74, 75 & 77). Arthur (Thor) grew up with a great knowledge of sheep, which he put to good use in the Dalby area. Heather proudly recalled that wool from his sheep had topped the Queensland fine wool market in 1956,¹⁰⁰ realising one pound for a pound of wool, a record at the time.

Heather and Arthur (Thor) Tweedie in Dalby, May 2003.



Arthur Tweedie with his cousin Patricia (centre, daughter of William Tweedie), and Dorothy Tweedie, widow of her brother Bert. Patricia (Patsy) and Bert have their names on the Honour Board at the Kupunn War Memorial Hall for service in World War II.
See details in the Appendix, Table F. (Photographed 2003)

The Cunnington Family

Arrived in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district during the early years of the 20th century.

From: Father came from England in 1864 and settled in the Wangaratta/Benalla/Mansfield area in Victoria. Three sons moved to Toowoomba and the Westbrook area in about 1897.

Robert Augustus Cunnington, an orphan, came from England in about 1864 when he was sixteen years old. His relatives sent him to Oakleigh in Victoria where his uncle (John Cunnington) lived. In 1873 he married Sarah Ann Clarke and after a time at Wangaratta they moved to Mount Wombat (Tolme Tablelands) in the Benalla/Mansfield area with their two infant sons, Henry Augustus and Herbert Frederick (Bert). This was the period when the Kelly Gang roamed the Victorian countryside:

I can remember my mother telling us of one night when they heard a great company of men and police going past the home: then the following day the same body of men returned (about 50 in all), and amongst them was a pack horse with two policemen's bodies, one on either side. These were two of the three policemen who had been shot some days before, in the mountains some nine miles away from our little home. From that time, the place was known as Kelly Country, and for some time after that these desperate men succeeded in evading the police. Imagine the anxiety of my young mother at this time, giving birth to a child every two years, or less. (She had fourteen births in twenty years.)¹⁰¹

About ten years later in 1886 the family (now with seven children) lost their farm because of debt. They stayed in the area in a new home they built in town. Times were tough and the work hard. The father and older boys earned money however and wherever they could to support the family: potato planting, dairy farming, wheat harvesting and building rail lines. In

1893 one son, William John (Willie), died of complications from scarlet fever at fourteen years of age, much to the distress of the family.

The Cunnington children had an upbringing that stressed high morals.

‘Mother taught us to live useful, Christian lives’, and Robert Cunnington had strong principles. ‘He scorned to do evil. He discussed wrongdoing in our presence, and in so doing, taught us also to hate evil, and to love all that was good and noble and true.’ He was ‘an ardent temperance man’ and taught his children to hate ‘vile language’.¹⁰² The strong moral standards of their parents seem to have stayed with the Cunnington children. It was noted in the Minutes of the Kupunn Hall Committee in the early 1920s, (with no further comment although one imagines the amusement it caused), that ‘Mr. Cunnington’ (probably Henry who lived near the site) thought that functions at the hall could lead to loose morals. He said that it should have two rooms for dancing, one for the men and another for the girls.¹⁰³

Henry Cunnington went to Queensland in about 1897 hoping for better things. He sent back glowing accounts of the Darling Downs. Bert joined him in 1898, then Alfred Ernest (Alf) in 1903. They took available work in several places on the Downs: Toowoomba, Westbrook, Murphy’s Creek and as far west as Chinchilla. They carted stones for Toowoomba streets, worked on the railways and in bacon factories, did wheat threshing and anything else that turned up.

In about 1900 Bert and Henry took up an 80 acre block on the *Westbrook* resumption; the cost was four pounds ten an acre.¹⁰⁴ They tried to grow wheat without a great deal of success. There was a dreadful drought in 1902, and 1904 was another bad year. The next year the crop did not come

up at all due to drought. Although Bert had built a house on the land, they sold the farm after five years or so for eight pounds an acre.

While Bert worked in Toowoomba he had become acquainted with the Martin family, 'an old man, his wife, his daughter and one son, Spencer'. It was a fateful meeting and drew the Cunningtons strongly to the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district. Henry got the job as farm manager on Spencer Martin's land at Kupunn, (Portion 3v, Agricultural Farm 1440b – Parish of Hill) and moved there in 1904 with his new wife Fanny Malpas (sister of Jim Malpas from Kupunn). He selected Portion 62 – Parish of Daandine. Bert had returned briefly to Victoria to marry, his wedding taking place on the same day as Henry's. Alf worked on *Bon Accord* station for a time as 'head of the dip'. Later, while he was employed at the bacon factory at Murphy's Creek with Bert, Alf met Janey Savage. Alf had already selected land at Kupunn, and he built a house, married Janey and settled there. His land was Portion 63, Parish of Hill, of 306 acres near the Kupunn railway station. When the railway went through Alf's block he was compensated with enough money to finish paying for his land. He (perhaps with Henry) also selected 633 acres, Portion 3v, Agricultural Farm 1440a, next door to Spencer Martin. Robert and Sarah Cunnington came up from Victoria with the rest of the family and settled in Toowoomba. Bert had selected some land a little further out in the Ducklo area and in about 1911 he moved there. (Much to his disappointment his job at the Toowoomba bacon factory had gone to someone else while he was on holidays.)

Albert, at nineteen years old and working as a tailor's apprentice in Toowoomba, was the only member of the Cunnington family eligible for

war service in 1914. On his return from overseas in 1919, he lived near his brothers at Kupunn for a time. Albert died at his parents' home in Toowoomba during January 1921.¹⁰⁵ Albert's obituary outlines his war service in the 3rd Field Ambulance. He served 'on the Peninsula' (Gallipoli) and also in Egypt. The close ties between members of the Cunningham family are evident in the following extract from his obituary:

A rather pathetic feature was that Miss Cunningham, who recently sold her refreshment business in Dalby in order to be able to nurse her brother, reached Toowoomba on Monday night and her brother died the following night.

Bert Cunningham's story ends in 1912, when his second daughter Bessie was born on the farm near Ducklo in quite dramatic circumstances (recounted in Chapter 10, sub section - Accidents and Emergencies). A conversation with Whitey Torenbeek has filled in some other details. He says that the Cunningtons always built good houses and that they were good farmers. This confirms Bert's comment that his house at Ducklo, built by Sam Hutchinson, was the best in the district at the time.¹⁰⁶



Sam Hutchinson with his wife Ruth and two of his children, Reg and May.

Sam's family was eventually connected by marriage to many local families including the Cunningtons, Staggs and Lanes.

Henry and his wife had two children, Percy and Ivy. Henry had a ticket for steam engines and was involved in the shearing at *Loudoun* in that capacity. He appears in a 1930s photograph of the shearing crew. (See Chapter 11)

Charles Martin recalled that Fanny Cunnington and Ivy were in charge of the Postal Service at Kupunn during the 1930s. The family lived near the siding and took care of the mail from the back of their house.¹⁰⁷ Percy married May Hutchinson (one of Sam's daughters, pictured on the previous page) and stayed in the district for many years. Percy held part of the original Portion 1, Parish of Daandine on Wilkie Creek from around the 1940s. Alf also had two children, Ernie and Elsie. Ernie held Portions 44 and 45, Parish of Daandine from about the 1940s (or perhaps earlier). Ernie Cunnington sold to Henry Francis Lane and moved to Gatton. Elsie became a nursing sister and was in the army during the war. Whitey Torenbeek says his older brothers were friendly with the eldest of Bert Cunnington's boys. Many of the Cunningtons appear in Kupunn School photographs from the 1920s. When the Torenbeeks came to Kupunn in about 1918/9, Bert Cunnington's family was living on Portion 62, which seems to have changed around within the Cunnington family. Henry held it first, followed by Alf and then it appears it may have gone to Bert. Whitey says that Bert and his family left the district and he thinks that they may have returned to Victoria.¹⁰⁸ This is probably correct as Bert's memoirs appear to have been written in Victoria. The Cunningtons seem to have disappeared from the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district and there are no Cunningtons in the Dalby telephone directory. It is possible, however, that daughters of some of the Cunningtons have descendants in the area.



Robert and Sarah Cunningham were buried in the Dalby Cemetery. (Photographed 2003)

The Torenbeek Family

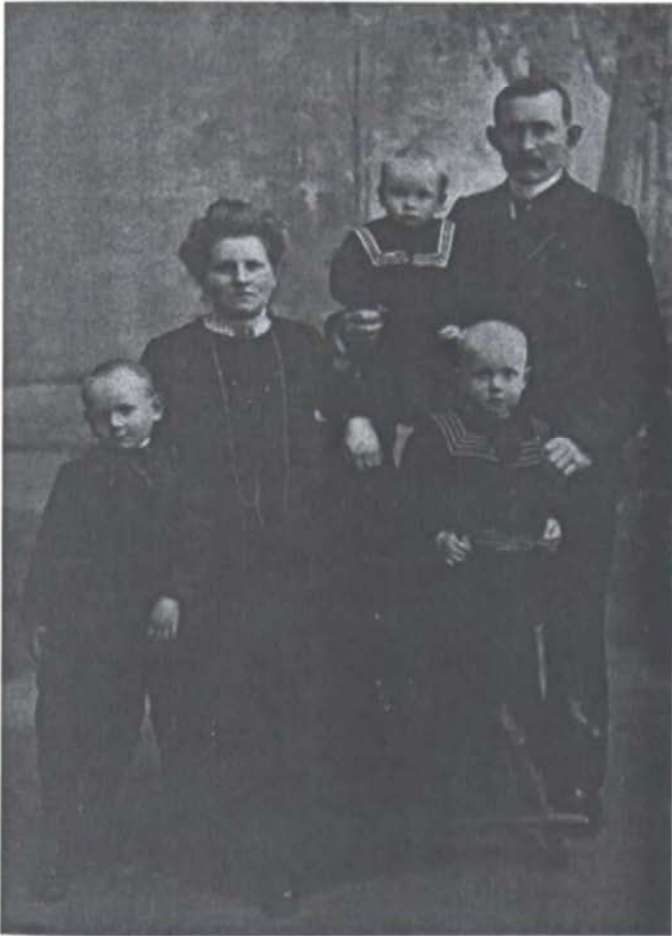
Arrived in the district in 1919.

From: Germany & Holland to Queensland in 1911.

The Torenbeek family came to Kupunn in 1919 as sharefarmers for the Andersons on Portion 59, Parish of Daandine. Egbert (Charlie) and Luisa Torenbeek were European immigrants who came to Queensland from Germany in 1911, with three young boys. Charlie was from Holland and he had met Luisa while working on a dairy farm in Germany. They laboured at Wyreema on the Darling Downs when they first arrived, clearing scrub and prickly pear and gradually learning English. The dairy industry was taking off on the Downs at this time and their previous experience in Germany proved valuable.¹⁰⁹ They were delighted with the offer to share farm with friends, the Andersons from Biddeston, who had bought some of Jim Fortune's land after he moved to Kingaroy.¹¹⁰

There was a French family on the old Fortune place for a few years before the Torenbeek's came.¹¹¹ By 1919 the Torenbeek family consisted of Charlie, Luisa, Wilhelm (Bill), Ruuard (Snowy), Gustave (Gus), Egbert (Bert) and Gerhart (later known as Gerard or Whitey). May (Bourke) Laffy said that the Bourke children went to school at Kupunn with the older Torenbeek boys after an unfortunate incident with the sulky driven by Bert (Herbert) Stagg. Bert used a piece of wire instead of a whip, the horse jumped, May fell out and the sulky ran over her legs, fortunately with no lasting ill effects.¹¹² The Anderson's place was a well-developed farm, much of the scrub was cleared and feed crops were grown for the dairy cattle.

After a few good seasons Charlie looked around for his own land and selected Portion 49, 320 acres over the road from the Anderson's farm. There was no house and no fences except for the one along the railway line. Whitey says his father was renowned for his quick temper and left the Anderson's after an argument, probably over the Torenbeek's land purchase.¹¹³



The Torenbeek family in 1911, the year they arrived in Brisbane. Egbert and Luisa with Wilhelm (standing), Ruard and baby Gustave.

The family rented a nearby farm (Portion 60) from Jim Malpas, who was a returned soldier and at that time unmarried. (He later married Ethel Hutchinson.) Jim lived on the property with the Torenbeeks. The house was basic and the farm run-down due to Jim's wartime absence. Whitey says that

even though the war had only finished a few years before, his immigrant parents got along well with their neighbours. 'Dad in his determined way would speak well of the German people, as he used to know them when he worked there years before, but except for a bit of chaffing occasionally they didn't resent what "Charlie" said'.¹¹⁴

The Torenbeeks purchased a weatherboard cottage, to put on their own land, from a family who had 'given up the struggle to combat the brigalow suckers and prickly pear, and were wanting out'. The house was moved 'piece by piece' onto the selection, and even the nails were retrieved.

On rebuilding about four long weather-boards were found to be missing. These were later seen in the wall of a cowshed that a near neighbour was building. Nothing was said but it was always a bit of a hurt. That didn't normally happen around the district.¹¹⁵

When the house was finished the Moggs family moved in. Mr. Moggs was a good axeman. He cleared some of the land and sold the timber. The brigalow made very good firewood and it was one way for the Torenbeeks to make a dint in the thick scrub on their selection.

In 1923 Whitey Torenbeek was six years old and started school at Kupunn. By this time there was a young sister Amy still at home, much to the delight of the family after five boys. Bill, Snowy and Gus had already finished their schooling. In the midst of a very dry season in 1924, the Torenbeeks left the district for a few years, living at Redcliffe (where their transported cattle died from cattle tick)¹¹⁶, and then share farming at Brymaroo.

On their return in 1926 they moved into the rough little house on their own selection. They now had a new baby girl, Diana, and Gus had remained in

Redcliffe working as an apprentice plumber. Charlie, Bill and Snowy went into the woodcutting business along with many of their neighbours. Their old Ford truck and a dray drawn by Charlie's temperamental horse Snifter (he would bolt at the drop of a hat) provided the transport to Kupunn rail siding. Times were tough for everyone and money hard to come by.

'Families were always willing to help each other along in those lean years, and there was much honesty and good will about it.'¹¹⁷



From the left, Bill and Snowy Torenbeek, Reg Hutchinson and Charlie Torenbeek (in front). They are loading a railway truck with firewood from their own land. It had been carted in a dray pulled by Charlie's unreliable horse, Snifter. (From the late 1920s)

Bert and Whitey returned to the Kupunn School, but it was also their job to bring in the cows and help with the milking on the farm. This was quite common on the dairy farms in the district. The Torenbeeks had no proper fences and rounding up the cows was often a difficult job. The boys listened for identifying cowbells in the dense scrub to find the animals, but were always watchful for death adders underfoot. 'Bert and I nearly always found one to dispose of when we were searching for the dairy cows.'¹¹⁸ Pat, the horse the boys rode to school, was yet another problem. He would hide in

the scrub until found and then refuse to go when the boys mounted his bare back. Pat was known to rear and kick and even brush past a large tree to try and offload his small riders.¹¹⁹

A community acquisition was a big wooden dinghy used to transport cream from the Kupunn dairy farms to the butter factory in Dalby when the Condamine River flooded. The farmers' income was ensured and the boat could also bring back supplies from town. There were always plenty of volunteers to help fetch and carry and Bill, Snowy, Ernie Stagg and Harry Lane were particularly good on the oars. It could be dangerous crossing the fast flowing stream. Whitey remembered that his family had been isolated during the 1927/8 floods, with the river a mile wide in some places and knee-deep water all through the district. After about a week his mother was out of bread and flour. She was delighted when their neighbour Sam Hutchinson arrived, wading through the water with half a bag of flour. 'When it [the floodwaters] had finally gone the grass was rotten and smelly, and then we had a couple of weeks with millions of Scotch Grey mosquitoes.'¹²⁰ Len Lane supports Whitey's recollection of the 'terrible smell' when floodwaters in the district receded.¹²¹ In the late 1920s Bill and Snowy Torenbeek bought a car, a 1924/5 Overland Tourer, on time payment and that made a difference to the social life of the family. 'At least Mum was taken about with a bit of comfort'.¹²² However, the hard life was taking a toll on Luisa's health. 'She had become very thin and worn out', and desperately needed a break, but there was no money to pay for a holiday. She was worried about the bills mounting up with suppliers in town, and there was tension in the family caused by the lack of money. Whitey summed up the situation, 'The old saying is, "If want comes in the door,

love flies out the window”, and that is what was happening at home.’¹²³ Not long afterwards Luisa had an opportunity to go to Sydney with the girls for a much-needed holiday and a chance to recover her health. Though her health improved ‘she couldn’t bring herself to return to that hard life anymore’. Charlie was in a ‘shattered state for a long while and missed the two girls very much.’¹²⁴

Charlie and the boys remained in the district for a time, working the farm and finding employment wherever possible. The Andersons had sold their place to the Bourkes (although they remained in the Dalby district and purchased more land closer to town) and Bill Bourke (Snr) employed Bert as a farmhand when he turned fourteen. Bill Torenbeek married Agnes Saxelby, daughter of Sid (Portion 62) and they lived on the Torenbeek farm for a time. Snowy was away often, shearing and fencing. Whitey left school in 1931 (when he was fourteen) and did some fencing jobs with his father, including a stressful one for the Wirths at Moola where father and son lived in a bush camp:

How Dad never had a stroke from the tension that he got himself into is beyond me. He was so determined and wouldn’t give up. He was very hard to work with in those moods. He built a good fence however and they say it was still standing in reasonable order after sixty years of harsh elements.¹²⁵

Charlie Torenbeek held on to his selection at Kupunn but the family dispersed. Charlie share farmed at Squaretop near Kaimkillenbun for two years with Bert and Whitey as his co-workers. Bill and Agnes moved to Kumbia, share farming with Charlie’s brother, and were soon joined by Bert. Snowy began working almost full time for the Lanes at *Belah Park*. Whitey

had a few jobs after Squaretop, including an unhappy period as a butcher's apprentice at Kumbia, and a happier period at Redcliffe as a carrier.

After Snowy had brought him along to the shearing as a rouseabout, Whitey became settled, working regularly for the Lanes at *Belah Park*. Whitey says the first day was his big chance:

I slipped into the penning, picking up and wool pressing like a man with ten arms. Old Mr. Lane [Henry Bassett Lane] was a man who expected results. He was boss of the board, and the man I had to please, so I made sure I did. There wasn't much about sheep and cattle that he didn't know. [After the shearing].....I had won Mr. Lane's respect and we became good friends. He understood my position and said that there was always a job on his place for me if I wanted it.¹²⁶

Belah Park with H.B., Harry and Beattie Lane became a second home for the two Torenbeek boys. 'It was a good place to work and Snowy and I were both treated like family.'¹²⁷ They worked constantly at clearing scrub for cultivation, yard building and fencing, but were free to work for any of the neighbours as well. The wheat harvest on the new smallholdings of subdivided *Loudoun* land provided much work sewing up the wheat bags. It was some years before bulk handling was introduced.

The contract was for twelve shillings and six pence for every hundred bags properly filled and properly sewn up. Working out in the hot sun (usually about ninety degrees in the old scale) was demanding work. The best tally I had for one day was three hundred – but it was a LONG day.¹²⁸

Snowy Torenbeek married Violet Newing whose father owned the dairyfarm *Mayfield*, one of the subdivided smallholdings from Portion 104, originally part of *Loudoun*. They took up residence on the old Torenbeek selection at

Kupunn for a time and then Snowy left the land eventually working at the Petrie Paper Mill.¹²⁹

Whitey summed up his time at *Belah Park*, which came to an end when war broke out:

Without a doubt *Belah Park* was the best place that I ever worked. There was such a homely atmosphere and that attracted a lot of visitors who came for the weekend. We would all go to a local dance or whatever else was on. Harry's half brother Morris Lane, a popular MC at the dances, would come over from *Whitewood* about once a week and have smoko with us, and of course Harry and Jim worked closely together [in partnership until 1952]. This all added up to a lot of friendship and co-operation. As I said, the Lanes never tied me down but there was a real good understanding between us. I went to Woody Point [at Redcliffe where Luisa lived] in the slack periods between harvesting and shearing and could take other work if good money was offered.¹³⁰



Left: Snowy clowning with Vi's hat at Lake Broadwater - 1930s.
Right: Charlie as Caretaker of the Lake Broadwater Hall, 1939. He was allowed to bring his poultry with him, but found that foxes were a real problem.

The Martin Family

Arrived in the district in the early days of the 20th century.

From: Toowoomba

Spencer Martin was one of the first to take up land in the Kupunn district. As mentioned earlier his family came from Toowoomba, and he engaged Henry Cunningham to manage his farm during the first decade of the 20th century. It is not clear exactly when the Martins moved to Kupunn, but in about 1915 Spencer's sister became the first teacher at the Kupunn School, close by his land. Spencer never married and became quite a well-known character in the district. Charles Martin (no relation) says that one of the McLennan families share-farmed with Spencer Martin during the 1930s (and perhaps earlier) and the McLennan children attended the Kupunn School where Charles was the teacher.¹³¹ Charles Martin had some very fond memories of Spencer Martin:

I saw Spencer every day of the school week. His front gate swung on the corner post of the school grounds about 20 yards from the school building. He drove to the rail siding for his mail (at Cunningham's Post Office), and to deliver or collect cream cans to and from the Dalby Butter Factory. Apart from Jim and Madge [Lane, where Charles lived] he was the adult I saw most every week. I used to send a boy to open and close his gate; sometimes I did it myself to pass the time of day and to give the kids a break from their teacher.

One day Spencer let it be known to Charles that he was having a 'difficulty' with the Lands Office and wished to check the area of a 'dogleg block' of his land. Charles was able to help with a mathematical formula that he had learned in Primary School, the only time it had come in handy since then:

..it was nothing of a surprise for he was a 'contra suggestionist' who at all times found a different opinion from all and sundry. Raining

‘cats and dogs’ he could see the sun shining through or vice versa a storm developing in a cloudless sky. He was known for it far and wide, in fact he had a notoriety for this failing, far beyond the district.

When the Land Department’s calculations were proved correct, after much measuring and calculating, ‘Spencer could not and did not question the result. He was grateful for my help, extending the privilege of borrowing his Chevrolet utility in any time of emergency eg. examinations in Dalby.’¹³²

Though he had no family of his own, Spencer Martin was involved helping with community projects and events. Charles Martin remembered giving a little assistance to Bill Bourke (Sen.) and Spencer Martin when they re-floored the hall and painted the inside of the windows white.¹³³ The rough picnic racecourse was also on Spencer Martin’s property.

Spencer Martin’s land was near *Whitewood*, Morris Lane’s property where he lived from late 1938. Len Lane says that his father and Spencer were good friends. Often Spencer would call in on a Sunday and he and Morris would play crib. Spencer would then be invited to stay for dinner, and he always accepted.¹³⁴ Emily Lane was an outstanding cook and that would have been a treat for an unmarried man dependent on his own cooking. Athol Cruikshank took over the Martin land in 1947 when Spencer retired, followed by John Cameron Irvine from Victoria in 1949. The Irvine family remained on that land until 1999.

The Saxelby Family

Arrived in the district in the late 1920s.

From: perhaps the Jandowie area, originally from New South Wales.

The family came to the district in the late 1920s possibly from the Jandowie area. Evidently Mary Anastasia Saxelby came from northern New South

Wales, near Lismore/Casino. She was brought up a Catholic and her family did not accept her 'mixed marriage' to Sid, who was Church of England.

The Saxelbys became good friends with their neighbours, the Torenbeeks, and Whitey says the Saxelbys' house became a second home for him after his mother left. The children were Agnes, Harry, Peter, Sid Jnr., Jack, Tom, Mark and Molly. Agnes married Bill Torenbeek and had left for Kumbia, and then the Dawson Valley well before the Second World War. Harry had served in World War I and afterwards led the Volunteer Defence Corps at Kupunn during the second war. He married and had one son Tom, and apparently that family remained in the Dalby district. Peter served in the Middle-East with Bert Torenbeek in World War II and had no family.

Young Sid suicided, perhaps in 1944 – see below. Jack had war neurosis from World War II and never married. Both Tom and Mark died young.

Whitey Torenbeek was Tom's particular friend and they did small droving jobs together while they were at school. Tom died suddenly as a young man after he developed a mastoid in his ear. Molly married a local, Harold David Hoadley, and had six children.¹³⁵ They eventually moved to the

Rockhampton area. Len Lane remembered both Tom and Molly very well.¹³⁶

There are two Saxelbys in the Dalby cemetery records, Henry I. Saxelby (died 24 June 1952) and Sidney Henry (died February 1944). They are probably Harry and his brother Sid who suicided.

The Nicholson, McLennan and Wilson Families

Nicholsons: Arrived in the district in 1870s.

From - Scotland via the Westbrook area near Toowoomba.

McLennans: In the Dalby area from about 1870/80s via the Victorian goldfields, Warwick area and Oakey Creek. Arrived in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district around the turn of the 20th century, when James McLennan took up some land in the Duckponds area.

From - Edinburgh, Scotland.

Wilsons: Lewis Wilson married Prue Nicholson in 1919 and settled into a war service home in Dalby in 1928. Inherited Nicholson's Duckponds interests in 1936. From - Lewis Wilson from the Darling Downs area, and northern New South Wales.

The most significant of the early families associated with the Duckponds area is the Nicholson/McLennan/Wilson group. Murdoch Nicholson arrived in the district with his large family in about 1870, from the *Westbrook* area further east. He was employed by Hugh Muir Nelson as bailiff/overseer on *Loudoun* station. His fourth (or fifth) child, John Nicholson, was about twelve years old when the family moved to Dalby.

As mentioned in the *Loudoun* land selection documents detailed in Chapter 8, Murdoch Nicholson lived on Portion 103, Parish of Hill, during the period January 1871 to May 1873, in order to meet the selection requirements for Nelson. It is assumed that members of Nicholson's family were with him on *Loudoun*, although they may have sometimes lived in town because conditions would have been primitive. During that period of residence the whole of Portion 103, a total of 4731 acres was fenced and a shepherd's hut and sheepyards erected, perhaps by Nicholson and his sons. Murdoch Nicholson remained at *Loudoun* station for over twenty years as overseer, working with yet another Scot, Hugh Begbie, Hugh Muir Nelson's manager.

As outlined previously, after Hugh Muir Nelson sold the station in 1892, Murdoch Nicholson went to Charleville and established a saw-milling business. However, his son John stayed in the Dalby area.¹³⁷ John Nicholson developed a great knowledge of sheep, partly due to his boyhood years at *Loudoun* station. He married a local girl, Christina Ann McLennan of *Forest Lodge*, on 9 April 1891. Nicholson then became involved with huge droving contracts in conjunction with her family, who were also interested in sheep. The McLennans had come to the Dalby area from Scotland via the Victorian goldfields, and many members of the McLennan family had settled around Oakey Creek.¹³⁸ E.M. McLennan, mentioned in the following newspaper report about one of their droving enterprises, is Christina's brother, Ernest Malcolm McLennan (1867 – 1930):

The greatest of these commenced on July 1, 1899, when an outfit of 22 men, the principals being Messrs. Nicholson and E.M. McLennan, gathered at Dalby to travel by road and train to *Marathon* on the Flinders, and take delivery of 20,000 wethers which had been inspected and purchased by Mr. Nicholson. Of this vast flock Mr. Nicholson had taken 7000, while a syndicate represented by Mr. McLennan had taken the other 13,000 animals. The journey to *Marathon* took six weeks, but its hardships were a prelude to what happened on the return trip.

A poison desert plant killed many of the animals, which died 'mad with agony'. Good feed on *Gordon Downs* improved the situation for a time but little feed was available on the remainder of the journey. 'Dalby was reached six months after leaving the station on the Flinders'. They were 3500 sheep short. The only compensation was that Nicholson and McLennan received a good price (almost double the purchase price) for the remaining animals.¹³⁹



John Nicholson, with his wife and family. Back Row: John Nicholson, Alexandra Nicholson (daughter) and Lewis Wilson (son-in-law). Front Row: Christina Ann Nicholson (wife), baby John (Jack) Wilson, Christina Prudence (Prue) Wilson (daughter) and Beryl Nicholson (daughter). From the 1920s.

Some time between 1883 and 1904, John Nicholson took up land in the Duckponds area. James McLennan (another of Christina's brothers, 1858 - 1923) had land in the district too. Some details of the land acquisition are not clear but certainly W. Webb and J.S. Jessop took over Portion 1, Parish of Daandine, from the first freeholder, Ebenezer Vickery, in 1882.¹⁴⁰ In 1904 a new deed reflecting land resumed for the Moonie Highway was issued to James McLennan. The Survey Map shows that James McLennan had by that time acquired a part of Portion 1, plus all or part of Portion 1245 (referred to as Subdivision 2) which possibly gave him about five thousand acres.¹⁴¹ It appears that this holding was known as *Duckponds*. John Nicholsons's total interest in this land is not clear, although it is certain that he owned much of *Duckponds* (including at least Portions 5C and 6C from Subdivision 2) when he died in 1935, and for many years before that. James McLennan and

Nicholson were connected by marriage and possibly partners, and there may have been some kind of distribution in 1923 when James died.

One of Nicholson's daughters, Christina Prudence (Prue) Wilson and her husband Lewis Wilson ¹⁴² inherited the blocks 5C and 6C on his death. ¹⁴³ Afterwards they named the holding *Cavanba*, which probably came from *Cavanbah*, the Aboriginal name for Byron Bay. A possible meaning of the name given in printed information from the Richmond Tweed Regional Library in 1984 is that it refers to the 'proximity of scrub'. Lewis Wilson had lived in northern New South Wales and been a member of a Freemasons Lodge named Cavanba Lodge. That connection probably explains the name choice and spelling variation. It seems that the remainder of Subdivision 2 retained the name of *Duckponds*.¹⁴⁴

John Nicholson's major land interest was *Blaxland* station, on the (old) Toowoomba road not far out of Dalby, which he acquired during the 1890s. He is remembered for establishing 'the biggest shearing depot on the Darling Downs, where over 200,000 sheep have been shorn in one season'. On 17 December 1935 John Nicholson, at seventy-seven years of age, left his home bound for *Duckponds* 'where he intended supervising some mustering'. The western mail train crashed into his car on the crossing within a hundred yards of his home, and he died two hours later. Nicholson had served as a member of the Wambo Shire Council from 1902 and was the Chairman in 1910. His other public duties in Dalby included for a time the highest offices of the Caledonian Society and the Pastoral and Agricultural Society.¹⁴⁵ There was a very large attendance at his funeral service at St. Thomas's Presbyterian Church the following day. It is interesting to note

that Clara Sophia McLaran, Donald James McLaran's widow from Kupunn, sent a floral tribute.¹⁴⁶ The gesture highlighted Nicholson's long time connection with the area and the Scottish/Presbyterian links between the two families.

A newspaper report from the 1960s included a glimpse of John Nicholson, the man. Nicholson often took upon himself the responsibility for counting sheep from other estates when they were dipped at *Blaxland*. He was renowned for his accuracy:

Old John's charge for dipping the 'Oakleigh Parks' was a hundred and twenty-five pounds. For this he supplied dip, water and yards, but did no work. That was for the station hands. And he counted sheep. His counting was immaculate and John never built a 'counting gate'. He opened both gates wide and urged everyone to 'keep 'em coming, keep 'em up and coming!' While others marvelled, John Nicholson would grow gruff and impatient to have the gates packed tight. He knew that ten sheep wide and walking is easier to count than five sheep wide and galloping! John liked them packed and walking.

One day, the old man reached the last of more than nine thousand sheep. He clicked his little tally-keeper for the last time and made a note of the odd number. He turned and met the grinning face of the young working manager.

'Nine-thousand four hundred and sixty-nine!' said the young man cheerfully. And John Nicholson knew he was right.

'Did you count 'em!'" he asked in amazement.

'Course I counted 'em!' retorted the working manager. 'How else would I know?'

John walked away thoughtfully. He knew that this was the only man who had ever counted sheep for sheep with him. And the lad was right to the sheep! But what John didn't know was that the young man had counted the sheep carefully back in the lane the night before. I knew for I was that young man.¹⁴⁷

Nicholson left a widow and three daughters. The eldest, Christina Prudence (Prue) who had married in 1919,¹⁴⁸ was living in Dalby with her husband Lewis Wilson in a War Service house he built in 1928 for 760 pounds.¹⁴⁹

Lewis and Prue developed *Cavanba* from land in the Broadwater Road area that was part of Nicholson's *Duckponds* interests. As there was no house on *Cavanba* until 1949, he [Lewis] was accommodated on the neighbouring property *Wacco*, which was then owned by Ralph Bennie, his brother-in-law. *Cavanba*'s Hereford cattle and the MN9 brand became well known in the Dalby District. Although there were 400 acres of cultivation on the property, Lewis and his sons were mindful of maintaining a balance between environmental and economic issues. They didn't over clear the property, as 'they believed that cattle needed trees for shelter'.¹⁵⁰



Lewis Wilson left, with sons Jack and Malcolm, at *Cavanba* in the mid-1950s.

Cavanba was passed to Lewis and Prue's sons, John (known as Jack) Nicholson Wilson and Malcolm Wilson in the 1960s and sold in 1979. Jack and Malcolm Wilson have now retired from farming but maintain an interest in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district. Malcolm Wilson contributed to the publication Lake Broadwater- The Natural History of an Inland Lake. He is quoted in this study in that context, and in conjunction with his interest in wildlife, particularly birds. Jack Wilson is a painter, and is mentioned by Noni Durack and Pamela King as one of several 'Downs Artists' living and working on the Darling Downs.¹⁵¹



The Bennie and Hounslow Families

Arrived in the district in 1911.

From: Family came from Scotland on the 'John Fielden' - arriving 19th June 1853. They were assisted immigrants.

John and Mary Ann Bennie came to Australia in 1853 as assisted immigrants, and Jack Bennie (their great-grandson) believes that the family may have the longest continuous residence in the Wambo Shire. John's occupation is listed on his death Certificate as a Stone Mason.¹⁵² (His father in Scotland was a Weaver.) They were accompanied by at least four children the eldest a fourteen year old son, Andrew, who married Eleanore Elborne on 11 June 1877. Andrew and Eleanore made their home at *Boxton* in the Parish of St. Ruth, south of the *Loudoun* holdings near the Condamine River.¹⁵³ They had seven children including sons John Charles, James and Ralph. John Charles Bennie worked for the Wambo Council mainly on road construction, including the 'Soldiers Road' in the Bunya Mountains.¹⁵⁴ He became the overseer in 1920 and retired in 1940. In 1911 James Bennie was one of the first selectors in the Broadwater area, and his descendants remain in the district today. His younger brother Ralph selected land in the area too, but did not stay through succeeding generations.¹⁵⁵

Loudoun station owners, Henry Charles White and Paul Hunt, had leased 14,000 acres (Parish of Daandine, Lot 9) until 1899, including the land James and Ralph Bennie took up after subdivision. Station employees, the Hounslogs (Dave a boundary rider, and Emma a nurse), had lived on the very land later taken up by the Bennies. Thus their daughter Ethel, who married James Bennie in 1920, returned to the land her parents had occupied years before.



James (Jim) Bennie
(1880 – 1937) as a
young man. He was
forty years old when
he married.

Ethel Bennie's family knew their Kupunn neighbours, the Lanes, very well. Dave and Emma Hounslow had lived and worked on *Loudoun* station for twenty-seven years, often side by side with members of the Lane family. Dave Hounslow was a contemporary of Henry Bassett Lane and, as mentioned earlier, Emma Hounslow was the nurse who attended at the birth of his grandson Eber Frederick Lane in 1911.¹⁵⁶ In 1925 a link was made with another significant local family when Ralph Bennie married Emily Wilson in Warwick. She was the sister of Lewis Wilson who had married John Nicholson's daughter Prue, in 1919.



The large Hounslow family with many daughters. Parents Dave and Emma, with Ethel rear right. (est 1915) See Dave Hounslow also in the *Loudoun* picnic photograph from 1910 in Chapter 8.

When the Bennies first took up land at Broadwater in 1911, the prickly pear menace was a serious problem and, as covered in Chapter 7, lease conditions took that into account with some degree of fairness. James Bennie's older brother, John Charles who was working for the Wambo Shire Council at the time as foreman of works, Division 3, took part in the first biological experiment that attempted to rid the Wambo Shire of the pear menace. He placed 'cases of prickly-pear leaves infected with the cochineal insect' around the Dalby district. It was hoped that this would replace the slow methods of removing the pear 'by hand labour and poisoning'. The cochineal insect was initially successful, but a bug that preyed on the insect put an end to local hopes of a solution to the problem. Fortunately, in about

1930 cases of pear leaves covered with the cactoblastis insect were brought from Chinchilla and the infestation soon came to an end.¹⁵⁷



James and Ethel Bennie (nee Hounslow, 1899 - 1998) on their wedding day in 1920.

The Bennie's original selection (Portion 94, Parish of Daandine) of 1211 acres is known as *Lakeview*. James Bennie soon added the adjoining Portion

93, 1196 acres that Walter Percy Murphy had first selected. At some stage Ralph Bennie acquired two blocks of land (Portion 95, 1210 acres - John Michael V. Brennan's original selection, and Portion 90, 1189 acres held originally by Henry Herbert Johnson) but this land has since changed hands several times. Ralph Bennie named his property *Wacco*, but new owners have since changed the name to *Cumbrae Park*. Jack Bennie, James' son, eventually took over the running of *Lakeview*. Part of Portion 93, subdivided into Portion 130 was sold to Max Schultz (*The Overflow*). Jack's son Ian Bennie now holds the remainder of Portion 93 - plus Portion 94 (with the exception of four acres opposite Lake Broadwater where Jack and his wife May live). Ian's son Garth Bennie shows some interest in continuing as the fourth generation on the Bennie land at Broadwater.¹⁵⁸



Left: A formal portrait of a young Jack Bennie – 1924/5.

Below: Jack and May Bennie at the Dalby Family History Research Rooms for a function. May 2003



The Bennies have always had a particular interest in Lake Broadwater, which is near the boundary of their land. In 1931 James Bennie was on the Broadwater Association Committee trying to establish a race club. Others on the committee included P. Morrissey, W. Bourke and E. Stagg from the Kupunn area.¹⁵⁹ James Bennie's difficulty in supplying water to a function at the Lake around this time has already been covered. Today Jack and May Bennie are well-known nature photographers and have often used the Lake and its surrounds as a subject. Jack is also interested in the history of the district as demonstrated by his chapter, 'White Settlement' in Lake Broadwater, which is referred to frequently in this case study. May Bennie has an extensive knowledge of the local area with a particular interest in the vegetation.¹⁶⁰



The site of the old Hounslow home on *Lakeview*. The land was leased by White and Hunt for *Loudoun* during the 1890s. All that remains of the small cottage is a set of stumps from which the size of the dwelling can be deduced. The paddock is used now for cattle grazing.

The Families – a Summary

Sources of reliable information and the geographical spread of landholdings were important factors in the choice of families for close examination in this section. It was necessary to include some groups from the Broadwater/Duckponds area as well as those from the more densely settled Nandi/Kupunn district in order to give a balanced overview. Preference has been given to the families who first settled the district and remained for extended periods. As we have seen, the Lanes and Nicholsons arrived in what was to become the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district as early as the mid 19th century, and the Bennies, McLennans, McLarans and Staggs settled in the wider Dalby area at around that time. Other families like the Cunningtons, Martins, Bourkes and Morrisseys were attracted by land availability in the early days of the 20th century.

Some of the residents were freehold farmers, for instance the Wilson's land had been held within the Nicholson/Wilson family for many years although it may have been first taken up as a selection. Most residents were selectors who took up small agricultural farms. Some like Alf Cunnington soon obtained the freehold of their original selections thanks to compensation for the resumption of some of his land when the railway went through. Others eventually gained the freehold by time payment. Many selectors abandoned their land because of financial difficulties brought on by drought, flood and other natural disasters. Their stories are not included for although they lived in the district for a time they did not become important members of the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater community, which is the focus of this study. There were also share farmers like the McLennans on Spencer Martin's land,

and other short-term residents like the Moggs and Nolans who lived on the Torenbeek selection at different times. However, only those who held land in the district for an extended period have been considered in depth because of their commitment to the district and their long time association with the community.

¹ John Watts, (of *Eton Vale* and *Loudoun*) had something to say about the staffing situation during his early days on the Downs. From his memoirs Memories written at Allendale, Wimborne 1901 p22: '...although men were difficult to get and wanted high wages and little work, we did now and then find a willing hand'.

² Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, Keep Your Hat on Charlie, You're in Australia Now ed. Dale Lehner, pp.27-8.

³ Conversations, Heather Tweedie (nee McLaran) of Dalby, with Dale Lehner, April 2002.

⁴ From information gathered by organisers of celebrations for 75th Anniversary of the Kupunn Hall.

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, Keep Your Hat on Charlie, You're in Australia Now ed. Dale Lehner, p.9.

⁷ The Bassetts had been in St. Germans, Cornwall for generations and Mary's mother, Mary Atwill, came from nearby Devon. From Family Tree details.

⁸ Passengers Contract Ticket for Robert Doughty and his family, 20 October 1865, from the John Oxley Library, Brisbane: *Golden City* passenger list for journey to Brisbane commencing 23 Oct. 1865, Qld. Archives.

⁹ David Fitzpatrick, Oceans of Consolation, Personal Accounts of Irish Migration to Australia, Melbourne University Press, 1996, p.306.

¹⁰ Geoffrey Best, Mid-Victorian Britain 1851-75, Fontana Paperbacks, London, 1979, p.85.

¹¹ W.A. Armstrong, 'The Flight from the Land', The Victorian Countryside, Vol. 1, ed. G.E. Mingay, Routledge & Kegan Paul, London: 1981 p.128.

¹² Another migrant, who was part of the same exodus from the Southern Counties, was Richard John Hodge who later became well known in Dalby as a Saddle and Harness Maker, starting his own business in the town in 1882. Hodge was also born in Cornwall and his family left England in the same year as the Lanes (1865) with a five year old Richard John. Stewart Jack, Second edition, p.120.

¹³ See D.B.Watson, Squatter, Selector and Storekeeper, p.41, for an account of how G.H.Davenport and his cohorts had 'created Headington Hill out of a myriad of small selections' including 'immigrant's land-orders...'.

¹⁴ Information from Passenger Lists 1852-1865, p.791, and Health Officers Report, 24 February 1866 - COL/A76 66/589 held at Qld. State Archives.

¹⁵ Freda McLennan, letter to Dale Lehner 12 February 2002.

¹⁶ William Lane later became the storeman at *Daandine*, thus he was not illiterate.

¹⁷ Obituary, Henry Bassett Lane August 1939: Groom's Almanac of 1885 confirms that James Hunt was still at *Daandine* Station in 1885 and was a Local Commissioner of the Peace.

¹⁸ From Lane Family Tree information compiled by June Perkins, William John Lane's granddaughter.

¹⁹ Stella Matheson-Drake, *The Story of the Roberts Family*, privately distributed 2002.

²⁰ 'Granny Dale' is mentioned by Guy Wade in *Beyond the Crossing* compiled Tony Matthews, p.10. The title 'Granny' seems to have been used often and was probably necessary due the repetition of a limited number of first names current during this period. 'Mary' was one of the most common.

²¹ Information about Dale family from: Dale Family Tree compiled by June Pickering; details gathered by Stella Matheson-Drake including documents reproduced in 'The Story of the Roberts Family,' privately distributed 2002; details gathered by Dale Lehner; papers from the inquest into the death of Jane McLaran in 1868; old map of *Bon Accord* station held by Dalby Family History Society.

²² Obituary, Henry Bassett Lane August 1939, 'trucked' refers to rail transport.

²³ Sarah Murgatroyd, *The Dig Tree*, Text Publishing, Melbourne, 2002, p.203.

²⁴ Robert E.M.Armstrong, in *A Study of an Aboriginal Tribe on the Queensland Frontier*, year and publisher unknown (ISBN 0 85568 4836) p.40 and p.88.

²⁵ Obituary, Henry Bassett Lane.

²⁶ Recalled by Len Lane, Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek and Patrick J. Lane.

²⁷ Letter dated 9 November 1938 held by Dale Lehner.

²⁸ Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, recorded interview with Dale Lehner 24 January 2000, and later conversation.

²⁹ Information from Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, Len Lane and other Lane family members.

³⁰ From recorded interview Len Lane with Dale Lehner, September 2000.

³¹ Phyllis Lane, grand-daughter-in-law, recorded interview with Dale Lehner, January 2000.

³² *Register of Selectors and Lessees of Land*, p.2475, Queensland State Archives.

³³ As per the lease application from Qld State Archives, H.B.Lane also declared that the land was for his own use and that he had not entered into any agreement 'to sell, demise, or mortgage the said portion'. This is an example of the stricter land regulations after years of dummyming etc.

³⁴ Birth Certificate for Eber Frederick Lane, 15 February 1911-' father Morris Bassett Lane – birthplace Macalister'.

³⁵ In later years he gave a young Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek a start and a second home. See in Torenbeek family information.

³⁶ Colin Tatz, Obstacle Race, Aborigines in Sport UNSW Press, Sydney, 1995, p.119.

³⁷ Ibid

³⁸ Alice Frances had married Edward Ryan a year or two before the family moved to *Loudoun* and lived in the Duckponds area (Portion 40, Parish of Daandine) before moving to town. Ruth Mary married Michael Ryan, a butcher from Dalby (not related to Edward Ryan) in 1901. Ruth's family became very well known in the district in later years when they formed Ryan's Band and played for dances in and around Dalby, (as far afield as Miles) for many years. Memories of Doreen Blower (nee Ryan), Ruth and Michael's daughter, (who was the pianist) – from the transcript of an interview with June Perkins 2001.

³⁹ True to the prevailing pattern William and Cecelia had lost their first child as an infant.

⁴⁰ From summary of Queensland Births, Deaths and Marriages, p.00629 National Library, Canberra.

⁴¹ Obituary, Henry Bassett Lane.

⁴² Recorded interview Len Lane with Dale Lehner, September 2000.

⁴³ P.R.Gordon, Queenslander, 27 May 1911, reproduced in A.T.Yarwood, Walers Melbourne University Press, 1989 p.153.

⁴⁴ Portion 104 (Parish of Hill) was 3800 acres. It was subdivided into six smaller lots. Len Lane says the one owned by the Kellys was half the original Loudoun horse paddock, making it over 1000 acres.

⁴⁵ That land was taken up by a Richard Webb Jnr. Mary Dale Senior had purchased her 200 acres and Mary Dale Junior's 200 acres were classed as 'Non Agricultural' - Register of Selectors and Lessees of Land p.2475 – Qld. State Archives.

⁴⁶ As mentioned earlier a Mr. Webb was manager of *Daandine* at around this time - and he was probably the same 'Billy Webb, from Daandine', who played cricket on the day of the first Shire election in 1880 - see chapter '*Loudoun Station*'. William Webb had been involved in much land speculation in the surrounding areas including the freehold estate 'Duckponds' which he owned in the 1880s with John Skilleto Jessop. From about the mid-1870s Jessop was 'president of nearly everything' in town, a prominent businessman and at one time M.P for the district, p.35 Beyond the Crossing .

⁴⁷ Information from Lease and Deed of Grant documents from Titles Office, Brisbane.

⁴⁸ From lease documents under the Land Act, 1897 from Titles Office, Brisbane.

⁴⁹ According to railway information available at the Dalby Family History Society, a G.Hart was a Line Inspector in the South West district maintenance group. (Ref. S&C 1074)

⁵⁰ Recorded interview, Len Lane with Dale Lehner, September 2000.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Letter Morris Bassett Lane to Eber Lane dated 7 June 1953.

⁵³ Taped conversation Len Lane with Dale Lehner, September 2000 – Note: Guy Wade mentions a paling dingo fence that was erected along the back of *Loudoun, St. Ruth and Cecil Plains* 'to prevent the dingoes invading the sheep country.' Tony Matthews ed. Beyond the Crossing, p.9.

⁵⁴ Obituary H.B.Lane, August 1939.

⁵⁵ Birth Certificate – Eber Frederick Lane: Obituary Mrs. Emma Hounslow Dalby Herald, May 15 1942.

⁵⁶ From recorded interviews with Dale Lehner - Len Lane, September 2000, and Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, January 2000.

⁵⁷ In Beyond the Crossing ed. Tony Matthews, Guy Wade says that Archie McLeod was at *Glengallen* until 1880 when he went to *Bon Accord*, then in 1903 to *Loudoun* where he remained for sixteen years – until 1919, p.10.

⁵⁸ From Land Title Documents

⁵⁹ Jack Bennie, 'White Settlement', Lake Broadwater ed. Gillian Scott DDIP 1988 p 336. Note: Mary Helen White, by then Mary Helen de Massue, died in 1921, but the property remained with her estate until it was sold in 1937. The ladies may well have been from her family.

⁶⁰ Conversation with Len Lane, September 2000. He remembers the day some gentlemen came to the family home in Edward Street, Dalby and asked him, a young lad at the time, whether his father was at home. The Campbell Bros. offered his father the position of manager that day.

⁶¹ Eber was to become the last permanent head of the Post Master-General's Department, responsible for communications in all of Australia. He held the position during the turbulent days of the change from years of Liberal government to Labor under the leadership of E.Gough Whitlam. Eber Lane chose to retire at sixty-four in 1975, when the P.M.G.'s Department was divided into Telecom and Australia Post.

⁶² Len Lane, interview September 2000.

⁶³ Details of Eber and Len Lane's careers in the Post Office outlined in P.J.Gribble, What Hath God Wrought. A History of the Queensland Telegraph Service from 1861. Appendix A/8 and pp.153-4.

⁶⁴ Graham Jones, Memories of Oxley, Charquin Hill Publishing, Wangaratta, 1995, p.122.

⁶⁵ From Pat Lane who was told the story by Bill Bourke's son and others - from correspondence with Dale Lehner, Jan. 2002.

⁶⁶ May Laffy (nee Bourke), My Memory Is Not Too Good, p.11 – Note, Spencer Martin was on Portion 3vB.

⁶⁷ *Ibid*, p.1.

⁶⁸ *Ibid*

⁶⁹ May Laffy, p.2. Pat Lane tells a somewhat similar story. He and Aileen were married in 1956 when there was a period of rain lasting months. He still remembers his beautiful bride 'barefooted and half-way to her knees in mud, pegging out clothes on the Hills hoist'. A Dollar Short and a Day Late, p. 45.

⁷⁰ May Laffy, My Memory Is Not Too Good , p.3.

⁷¹ *Ibid*, p.5.

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- ⁷² Conversations with Eber Lane, and with Bill Bourke in the mid 1990s. – I had called into the Bourke's place by accident, looking for the Lane family when a chat with Bill and Jean Bourke revealed the friendship from the 1920s. – I rang Eber Lane (my father) who was in Sydney, on my mobile phone and allowed the two old schoolmates to have a chat. - Dale Lehner.
- ⁷³ Charles Martin, from correspondence with Dale Lehner, letter dated 15 October 2001, p.2.
- ⁷⁴ See chapter, 'Introduction to the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater District' for Pat Lane's account of the reasons for the new house.
- ⁷⁵ Charles Martin, from correspondence with Dale Lehner, letter dated 15 October 2001, pp.6-7.
- ⁷⁶ The same Pinkney Wormwell mentioned earlier in relation to his chase on horseback of a troublesome dingo.
- ⁷⁷ Jack Bennie, 'White Settlement', Lake Broadwater, Gillian Scott ed. p.335.
- ⁷⁸ Dalby Herald 16 January 1931, p.3.
- ⁷⁹ Account from Dalby newspaper, date estimated by Jack Bennie, whose family landholdings are near the Lake, at about 1930.
- ⁸⁰ Ibid
- ⁸¹ Jack Bennie, 'White Settlement' Lake Broadwater, p.336.
- ⁸² Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, Keep Your Hat on Charlie, You're in Australia Now ed. Dale Lehner p.87-8.
- ⁸³ Bennie, Jack 'White Settlement', Lake Broadwater, pp.335-6.
- ⁸⁴ Charles Martin, from correspondence with Dale Lehner, letter dated 15 October 2001, p.17.
- ⁸⁵ Max Schultz, 'A History of Kupunn', January 2002.
- ⁸⁶ Guy Wade, in Beyond the Crossing ed. Tony Matthews, p.10.
- ⁸⁷ Recorded interview, Mrs. Heather Tweedie of Dalby with Dale Lehner, 7 April 2002.
- ⁸⁸ Papers from an inquest into the death of Jane McLaran on 2 December 1868 from Queensland State Archives. Witnesses included Mary Dale, wife of William Dale, and Pinkney Wormwell Snr. (mentioned previously in connection with the Lane and Bourke families). They were neighbours of the McLarans in the Myall Creek district, and were also involved in dairying. 'Myall Creek' is the old name for Dalby but it had been changed about ten years previously. It is assumed the dairy farms were on the banks of the creek.
- ⁸⁹ Guy Wade, in Beyond the Crossing ed. Tony Matthews p.10.
- ⁹⁰ Inquest records, Jus/N 63 79/127 & Jus/N72 80/265 at Queensland State Archives.
- ⁹¹ A story is told about James Milford, who was acting as door-keeper at the Red Lion Hotel when a Grand Ball was held to mark the arrival of the railway in 1868. A stranger wearing a revolver appeared at the

door asking for a friend, Fred Eastaughffe, who duly supplied two bottles of whisky. The stranger was Fred Ward, 'Thunderbolt'. – Guy Wade, Beyond the Crossing ed. Tony Matthews p.29.

⁹² Later the Staggs were connected by marriage to other local families; Willie married Florrie Troyahn, Ernie - Vera Hutchinson, Doug – Thelma Grimley and Alma – Don Cook.

⁹³ All of this information about the Stagg and Dale families is from Stella Matheson Drake who has prepared The Story of the Roberts Family (privately distributed 2002) incorporating the Parsons and Dale families, and Rob Parsons of Dalby who supplied the Stagg family tree. Confirming Stella Matheson-Drake's information, Guy Wade mentions Bill Stagg as an early hand on *Bon Accord*. - Wade, Guy in Matthews, Tony ed. Beyond the Crossing, p.10.

⁹⁴ Patrick J.Lane, A Dollar Short and a Day Late , pp.23-4.

⁹⁵ Ibid, p.23.

⁹⁶ Information from Heather Tweedie, Dalby Cemetery Records and Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, who was told the details of the accident when he was a young boy. Lewis was in his late twenties when he died.

⁹⁷ Recorded interview Pat Lane with Dale Lehner, April 2001.

⁹⁸ This was the white pine from the Bunya Mountains used by the early builders. When it ran out cypress pine was used.

⁹⁹ Heather Tweedie still plays the violin and says that her sister Beryl was wonderful on the piano.

¹⁰⁰ Much of the information about the McLarans from a recorded interview - Heather Tweedie with Dale Lehner, 7 April 2002, and subsequent conversations.

¹⁰¹ Cunningham, Herbert Bert Cunningham's Story , compiled and privately distributed by Doug McDonald, February 1999 - from a manuscript held by his mother Florence Laura McDonald, daughter of Edith Amy Nixon (nee Cunningham - Bert's sister). The manuscript was written in the mid 1930s as far as can be determined, p.2.

¹⁰² Ibid, p.4.

¹⁰³ From a short history of the Hutchinson family compiled for 75th Anniversary celebrations at the Hall in 1997. Understood to have been written by Richard Hutchinson's daughter.

¹⁰⁴ This would have been land resumed under the Agricultural Lands Purchase Act of 1894, aimed at closer settlement based on the family agricultural farm. The Westbrook repurchase was in 1895. Details described in J.C.R. Camm, 'Settlement and the Development of Farming under the Agricultural Lands Purchase Act of 1894 and Closer Settlement Acts 1906 –1917', Queensland Heritage vol. 1 No. 4 Nov. 1968 p.25.

¹⁰⁵ The information about the Cunningham family is summarised from Herbert Frederick Cunningham, Bert Cunningham's Story (1930s) unless otherwise indicated. Albert Cunningham's Death Notice appeared in the Dalby Herald of 21 January 1921.

¹⁰⁶ Herbert Frederick Cunningham, Bert Cunningham's Story, p.22.

¹⁰⁷ Charles Martin, letter to Dale Lehner 28 May 2001 p.4b.

¹⁰⁸ Telephone conversation, Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek with Dale Lehner, 6 June 2002.

¹⁰⁹ The dairy industry had a huge impact on the Darling Downs during the period 1890-1914. J.C.R.Camm, 'Dairying on the Darling Downs 1890 – 1914', Queensland Heritage vol.2 no.10 May 1974 p.15.

¹¹⁰ Details about the Torenbeek family from, Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek Keep Your Hat on Charlie, You're in Australia Now, ed. Dale Lehner, published by Dale Lehner 2001: Recorded interview with Dale Lehner, January 2000: correspondence between Dale Lehner and Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek 1999 – 2002.

¹¹¹ May (Bourke) Laffy p.5.

¹¹² May (Bourke) Laffy pp.5-6.

¹¹³ Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, Keep Your Hat on Charlie, ed.Dale Lehner p.13.

¹¹⁴ Ibid, p.14.

¹¹⁵ Ibid, p.21.

¹¹⁶ The family had no knowledge of cattle tick, the Darling Downs area was free from the pest. The man who had offered them agistment and work had not informed them of the danger.

¹¹⁷ Ibid, pp.47-8 & 52.

¹¹⁸ Ibid, p.51.

¹¹⁹ Ibid, pp.52-3.

¹²⁰ Ibid, pp.57-59.

¹²¹ Len Lane in recorded interview with Dale Lehner September 2000.

¹²² Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, Keep Your Hat on Charlie, ed. Dale Lehner, p.55.

¹²³ Ibid, pp.61-74.

¹²⁴ Ibid, p.74.

¹²⁵ Ibid, p.90.

¹²⁶ Ibid, p.103.

¹²⁷ Ibid, p.104. The boys slept on the veranda with the Lane children, all on stretchers (camp beds).

¹²⁸ Ibid.

¹²⁹ Ibid, p.105.

¹³⁰ Ibid, p.111.

¹³¹ Charles Martin, letter to Dale Lehner, 28 May 2001, p.7.

¹³² Ibid, 15 October 2001, pp.8-12.

¹³³ Ibid, 28 May 2001, p.8.

¹³⁴ Recorded interview Len Lane with Dale Lehner, September 2000.

¹³⁵ Details from Wilma Slater, daughter of Bill and Agnes Torenbeek, in a letter to Dale Lehner 6 June 2001, and from Whitey Torenbeek in recorded interview and later conversations.

¹³⁶ Conversations Len Lane with Dale Lehner, September 2000.

¹³⁷ Newspaper report 'Level Crossing Smash' on John Nicholson's death, (name of newspaper not shown, but probably the Dalby Herald) 17 December 1935.

¹³⁸ Information from 'Level Crossing Smash' newspaper report: letter from Christina Ann Callaghan (nee McLennan) to her granddaughter Jean Higham, April 1968.

¹³⁹ Newspaper report, 'Level Crossing Smash', 17 December 1935: The story of the droving trip is confirmed in an article from the Dalby Herald (date unknown) 'The Story of a Big Sheep Smash' by 'Ex-Drover' who claims to have taken part as one of sixteen drovers. The article is a reproduction of one that had appeared in The Queenslander some time earlier. It is noted that on the trip there were also two bosses, two cooks, seventy to eighty horses and two drays.

¹⁴⁰ Land Purchase document 33069, 1877. Date of Pre-emptive Purchase No.25, by Vickery shown as 3 July 1875 and an endorsement shows Webb and Jessop's take over in 1882.

¹⁴¹ Survey of Subdivisions 1 & 2 for Portions No 1 & 1245, Cat. No. D36 1543 July 1904.

¹⁴² Lewis Wilson was born 20 August 1886, at Warwick and died at Dalby on 5 October 1965. His family farmed in several districts on the Downs and in northern NSW. He was a fine horseman and was considered a champion buckjump rider. His first wife died in 1913 and he was left with one son. He enlisted in the A.I.F. in 1916 and was discharged due to medical unfitness on 13 July 1918. He married Christina Prudence Nicholson at Dalby on 12 August 1919. They lived in various places in NSW and Qld until they moved to Dalby in 1928. Lewis Wilson farmed at *Cavanba* from 1936 with the help of his two sons, Jack and Malcolm, until his death in 1965. His wartime diary is held by the Australian War Museum in Canberra. One story from his old friend Allsop who served with him was told to Malcolm Wilson. At Salisbury, England, a British Army instructor was teaching the Australian soldiers the correct way to mount a horse. When Lewis' turn came to be shown, he said to the officer, 'This is the way we mount horses in Australia'. Allsop said he took a run to the rear of the horse, put his hands on the horse's rump and vaulted into the saddle. He said the Officer shook his head and simply said, 'Next'. (This information from Malcolm Wilson.)

¹⁴³ These are Resubdivisions 5 & 6 of subdivision C of portion 1245, Parish of Daandine.

¹⁴⁴ Information about *Cavanba* from Lewis and Prue Wilson's son Malcolm Wilson and his wife Marge, both of Dalby.

¹⁴⁵ Dalby Herald, 'Level Crossing Smash', 17 December 1935.

¹⁴⁶ Dalby Herald, 20 December 1935.

¹⁴⁷ G.A.W. Smith, 'Million Lane', in Queensland Graingrower, 11 August 1963.

¹⁴⁸ Report of the wedding in Dalby Herald, 16 August 1919.

¹⁴⁹ Lewis Wilson had enlisted in the A.I.F. at Lismore and his name is recorded on the War Memorial at Burringbar in New South Wales. Information from his son Malcolm Wilson of Dalby.

¹⁵⁰ Malcolm Wilson in a letter to Dale Lehner 12 June 2002.

¹⁵¹ Noni Durack & Pamela King, Downs Artists, DDIP, 1984.

¹⁵² Jack Bennie suggests that John Bennie may have been 'involved with others in the building of Jimbour House which was commissioned in 1874.' Jack Bennie, 'The Bennie Family'.

¹⁵³ Parish of St. Ruth, Portion 684 – A. Bennie, 478 & 685 – E. Bennie, a total of about 300 acres. There were other portions in the name of J. Bennie, C. Elborne and F. Elborne nearby in a typical family grouping of selections. See Map, Parish of St Ruth 1922.

¹⁵⁴ The road to Munro's Camp in the Bunya Mountains begun by returned soldiers in 1919 is discussed by John Charles Bennie in an article published in the Dalby Herald. The Government of the day made seven hundred pounds available to Wambo Council and Dalby Town Council to provide employment for returning soldiers – the decision was made to start construction of the road and it was completed in 1927 with more financial support from the Government and from community groups. J.C. Bennie, 'The Bunya Mountains', Dalby Herald, 13 February 1931.

¹⁵⁵ John Bennie died at 'Square Top', Kaimkillenbun near Dalby on 17 August 1880. Andrew Bennie died on 21 July 1920. These and other details from Family Tree information compiled by Mrs E.M. Anderson of Moorooka, Queensland, 7 March 1996.

¹⁵⁶ Obituary of Mrs. Emma Hounslow, Dalby Herald, 15 May 1942, p.3: Birth Certificate, Eber Frederick Lane.

¹⁵⁷ Information about John Charles Bennie and the prickly-pear menace appears in Stewart Jack, History of Dalby and District p.144 -6.

¹⁵⁸ From Jack Bennie's account of his family, "The Bennie Family".

¹⁵⁹ From report in Dalby Herald 28 August 1931, p.3.

¹⁶⁰ Jack Bennie, 'White Settlement', Lake Broadwater ed. Gillian Scott, DDIP, 1988.

Chapter 10

Overview of Life in the District 1900 to 1939.

It is clear from the personal accounts and family histories of those who settled in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district after the turn of the 20th century, that the residents were bound together by many factors. Until the mid 1930s when part of *Loudoun* station was subdivided and new families arrived, the district population was relatively small.¹ Their geographical proximity to each other and their isolation from Dalby made the residents dependent on each other for companionship and for assistance in times of emergency. Most families were short of cash and soon worked out that they could help each other with large tasks for their mutual benefit. Undertakings such as the transportation of cream over the Condamine River in flood times became community efforts, and the residents often pooled resources to take stock to market in Dalby. There was a Local Producers Association, and it appears that problems relating directly to local farming issues were discussed at the meetings, rather than wider political matters. The First World War was a unifying influence with a general concern for members of local families involved. Most of the children attended the schools at Kupunn and Ducklo, and groups of residents knew each other as members of various church congregations in town (though town visits were infrequent). In addition permission had been granted to a local tennis group to build courts near the Kupunn Hall in 1923 and they became a centre of social activity.²

All of these factors assisted in the development of a close-knit community. However, the strongest links were forged through intermarriage between members of the local families, particularly the Kupunn group. As discussed,

isolation brought the families together during the early period of settlement, and the Depression years of the late 1920s to mid 1930s kept them in the district. Although times were difficult during the Depression, the area around Dalby fared better than many other districts and much better than the cities. Travel in search of better opportunities was not an attractive option at that time. Consequently the children of the first selectors tended to stay on the family farm and as they grew older many of them married locals.³ Thus the residents were bound together before World War II, not only by geographical and community ties but also by even stronger family links.

Many of the families were already connected by marriage before they settled in the district, for example the Bourke/Morrisseys and McLaran/Staggs. With new connections the families became so interlinked before the Second World War that it was commonplace for them to be linked in some way to almost all of their neighbours, although there do not appear to have been any marriages between close relatives. We saw that Henry Bassett Lane's younger sons married into the McLennan and Hutchinson families; Jim Malpas was married to Ethel Hutchinson and his sister, Fanny, to Henry Cunningham. There were Hutchinson and Stagg connections as well with the union of Ernie Stagg and Vera Hutchinson. Bill Torenbeek was married to Agnes Saxelby, and Snowy Torenbeek to Violet Newing (from one of the new families on former *Loudoun* land). In the Duckponds/Broadwater area Lewis Wilson's sister, Emily was married to Ralph Bennie. Lewis Wilson's wife Prue (nee Nicholson) was a cousin of Beattie Lane (nee McLennan), Henry Francis Lane's wife. The connections are far too complicated to unravel here, but they were important in establishing close bonds in the community.

Pat Lane, who had a happy family life with his parents and one sister, describes with delight the nearness of his other relatives: the two grandfathers (Henry Bassett Lane and Sam Hutchinson) and the aunts, uncles and numerous cousins he grew up with. He was sure of a welcome at *Belah Park*, where his cousins were more like siblings, and the hospitality at Granny Stagg's has already been outlined. Morris Lane rode in regularly from *Whitewood* and had 'smoko' with his two younger brothers, Harry and Jim (Pat's father and uncle). Emily and Morris took Pat on many Saturday trips to 'the pictures' in town. His Great-Aunt Ethel (Malpas) always made Pat's favourite rice pudding when he visited. Pat also became close to honorary family members, like Whitey Torenbeek who lived with his uncle Harry Lane's family, and Charles Martin the schoolteacher who lived with Pat's own family.⁴

The 1930s Depression

The Depression period actually seemed to start much earlier in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwadwater district than the generally accepted date marking the Wall Street crash in 1929. There had been a short sharp depression immediately after the First World War and the late 1920s saw a severe downturn in the economy as the result of severe droughts and floods. Eber Lane, who was keen to follow his father, grandfather and great-grandfather into pastoral and farming pursuits, accepted a position as a telegraph messenger at the Dalby Post Office in 1927 as a temporary measure because of the bad times. It was a fortunate decision, and Eber survived through the 1930s depression in a secure position. Ambitions for life on the land were put aside and never revived when promotion saw him

transferred to Cairns and Mt. Isa in the mid 1930s, and opportunities on the land remained few.⁵

There was a general culture of 'helping each other through the bad times' in the years leading up to and during the 1930s depression. This was evidenced by a generous gesture from *Loudoun* station. In about 1927/8 the drought was very bad further west and *Loudoun* did what Whitey Torenbeek described as 'a grand thing' to help. The station gave agistment to two hundred starving cattle from *Coomrith* cattle station near Meandarra, (further west). The cattle were sent to Kupunn siding by rail, accompanied by the overseer Ernie Leslie. There was much activity unloading 'two long trains' and then walking the cattle to *Loudoun*. The event caused great excitement in the district as the locals wondered how it would all work out. Two hundred beef cattle on 'a top sheep property' could have been a problem, but Morris Lane (*Loudoun* stock overseer at the time) and Ernie Leslie 'got along very well' and the much fatter cattle were walked back to *Coomrith* some months later.⁶

As a result of the hard times before the 'official' Depression we saw that a tired and worn Luisa Torenbeek had left the district, taking her two small daughters but leaving the boys with her husband. The Torenbeek boys survived the Depression comparatively well. They were hard workers and willing to move around to find a job fencing, shearing, doing farm chores and of course there was timber cutting on the family selection.

The residents saw itinerant workers passing through the town and district looking for work, or a handout. There was an unwritten law to at least give

a meal to a man requesting work. Whitey recalled men in the town who would sidle up quietly as one stood looking in a shop window and mumble, 'Can you give me the price of a feed mate?' Many would 'slink off the nearest pub if they were given a couple of bob'.⁷

However a lot of good tradesmen too, were keen to find jobs and humped their swags throughout the country trying desperately to earn a quid to support their families. The government had brought in a relief scheme where projects were created for people out of work and they could earn a couple of days' pay. There was no such thing as doling out money for nothing! The late 1920s and early 1930s were hard years for city workers who had no land to help them out.⁸

A side benefit of this static period was that the farms were improved, although there was no immediate financial benefit. The prickly pear eradication was beginning to take effect, and locals were clearing scrub and selling timber. With growing children remaining in the district there was extra labour on the farms and low cost, labour intensive improvements could be made. Also, as Whitey pointed out, there were good tradesmen on the road.

Frank Miller was one of the few newcomers to the district during the Depression years. With help from his parents he purchased land in the early 1930s, taking advantage of the lower prices at the time, and managed to develop *Wilkie View* with very little capital. He gathered Rhodes grass seed from North MacLagan where his parents farmed and spread it over his land, which as it happened was covered in ash from a recent bushfire:

I never thrashed the Rhodes grass seed out of the heads as the ants will pick up the seed to build their nests and if the seed is in the head it will gradually shell out and some of the seed will get buried in the soil.⁹



Rhodes grass here being harvested by Reg Hutchinson.

Frank then fenced a couple of cow paddocks with 'a few coils of barb wire', and built temporary yards and milking bails to start dairying:

Stripped bark off trees for the roof which was 80% rain proof then started dairying by hand. Ted and George [his younger brothers] was taking turns to help me as I had no money to pay labour...Started dairying about 20th June 1933.¹⁰



Frank William Miller on his 90th birthday.

Photograph from the Northern Downs News 14 Nov. 2002

By the time the Depression ended Frank was well established on his land. Now a resident of Dalby, he was asked on his 90th birthday about the secret of his longevity. He replied, not without some truth concerning his simple and healthy lifestyle, that it was 'hard work, corn beef and spuds'.¹¹

Another new family to arrive when the district was still feeling the hardships of the Depression was the Hoadleys. Like Frank Miller, the Hoadleys stayed and became long-standing members of the community. George Hoadley recalled that they got lost when they arrived in 1935. 'Some of the Belahs were so thick that the road was very narrow'. Then they got bogged in the swamp. He says that they soon settled in and became friends with their neighbours. 'I will never forget the welcome home party the Bourke family had for my wife and I when we got married. Most of the Kupunn people turned up with their good wishes.'¹²As the Depression drew to a close *Loudoun* was subdivided and sold. This brought many new families to the area. (See Appendix Tables D & E & Chapter 8, Loudoun Station)

At Home

Life was simple in the farm homesteads. Typically work began very early (especially milking) followed by a late breakfast. The main work of the day then proceeded until around midday when it was often too hot to continue outside. A hot lunch was the main meal, thus the baking with the hot fuel stove could be finished in the relative cool of the morning. After a short rest the outside farming work continued until dark. The families needed to be self-sufficient with perishables such as milk, cream, eggs and fresh meat. Kerosene refrigerators were an expensive item not generally available until about the late 1930s, and few farmers could afford them initially. Whitey Torenbeek was impressed that the Lanes at *Belah Park* had a chest type

refrigerator on the veranda quite early in the piece.¹³ A light meal or the finale to a larger one was often bread and jam (or golden syrup) with cream rather than butter, because cream was always fresh on the dairy farms, and butter not always available. There was much home baking including bread, damper, scones, and johnny cakes.

Charles Martin says that farmers kept a few calves back from sales to the meatworks to slaughter for their own supplies. He remembered particularly the salting process used to preserve beef when he lived with the Jim Lanes in the 1930s. Henry Bassett Lane, then in his late seventies, was in charge of the operation: 'He would get a rum cask (empty) from a publican in town, and the eventual flavour of that beef was something I have not experienced since'.¹⁴ Alternatively a lamb, which could be consumed more quickly, did not need to be salted. For the locals sometimes there was fresh fish, chicken from the farms or local game such as duck, hare or even wallaby on occasion. Patricia Schultz recalled a meal of wallaby that her family enjoyed when she was a young child living at Kupunn, (Portion 49, Parish of Daandine) during the 1940s:

One day Max [her brother] snared a wallaby, and as it was still warm when he brought it home, Mum decided to cook it and we had it for tea. Everyone enjoyed it and Doug [another brother] asked for a second helping. Just then our neighbour, Max Weier [Portion 50, Parish of Daandine] called, so Mum offered him a taste. When Doug realised what it was he wouldn't have any more.¹⁵

There was little money for town bought supplies and they tended to be restricted to bulk staple items such as flour, sugar, tea, salt, golden syrup etc. and kerosene. Many farmers ran up a bill in town for such necessities. Whitey Torenbeek recalled that the family bills from the trades-people in

Dalby continued to mount in the late 1920s and they were not very happy about it. His parents argued with each other about the situation, but there was not much they could do and 'we still got our supplies'.¹⁶ When the selectors became more established, bread was sent out on the train a few times a week. This gave the hard-pressed farmer's wife a respite from baking her own bread in the wood fired oven. Fruit and vegetables were grown in kitchen gardens where there was no shortage of cow and chicken manure for fertiliser but water was sometimes a problem. Whitey Torenbeek mentions his mother's famous 'melon pies' several times in his memoirs; the homegrown melons were used as a substitute for apples in what was probably a traditional German recipe.

Washing day was an outside affair, usually done in a wood fired 'copper'. Delicate items were soaked overnight, and whites were rinsed in water to which knobs of 'blue' had been added. Ironing was only for special items, the irons heated on the kitchen stove. Many women had treadle sewing machines and made and mended clothes for the family. The frequency of personal bathing depended on the availability of water, but there appears to have been an accepted standard of washing face and hands outside, and removing work boots before entering the house for meals. The same bath water was used for the whole family in dry times and bath night was reduced to once a week. Water for cooking and drinking was the priority for the valuable tank water, which was often kept cool in a canvas water bag on a hook on the veranda. Bore water showers or a swim in a creek or river were sometimes options for personal cleanliness.

The kerosene lamps used for lighting were much safer and cheaper than open candles. They were sometimes ornate and hung from the ceiling, but table models could be carried from room to room. Hurricane lamps were more robust and had a long handle so that they could be taken out on the verandas or on trips to the outdoor 'dunny'. 'Chamber pots' were often used by ladies and children at night, rather than face the darkness and the possibility of snakes and spiders outside.¹⁷

Farm Animals and Race Horses

Most of the written memoirs and oral recollections from the residents include detailed references to animals as both co-workers and companions, and no overview of the district would be complete without mentioning some of them. The most important were the horses and dogs that were needed as working animals, but in many cases they became trusted companions regarded almost as family members. The farmer's horse and dog were often his only company and his most valuable assistants during his working day. The horses and dogs were all named, and many of the cows and a few of the sheep were too. Heather Tweedie (nee McLaran) recalled that in the 1930s all the McLaran cows had names and were regarded almost as pets by the children.¹⁸ It is not surprising that cows owned by the same family for years (and milked twice a day) were regarded with affection, although some were not liked at all if they were difficult to handle.

Many residents have vivid recollections of the horse they rode to school as young children. As mentioned earlier Eber Lane remembered Jackie with One Eye and Silver. Even Charles Martin recalled that Harry Lane's children rode a horse called Cutthroat to the Kupunn School.¹⁹ Max Schultz

and his sister Betty rode Toddles.²⁰ Len Lane had fond memories of a pet foal on *Loudoun* known as Chilli, which remained with his family for years, even going to *Whitewood* when the family left the station. Len also recalled that the Light Horse camps he attended when war broke out in 1939 were not really to his taste. It worried him that they were very hard on the lovely horse he had at the time and he decided to sit for the Air Force exam when he turned eighteen.²¹ Whitey Torenbeek includes many tales of the horses owned by his family: the loveable Clydesdale, Bandy, that was used to pull a dray loaded with timber to the rail siding (often unaccompanied) in the early 1920s; Pat the school transport horse that he and Bert battled regularly; and his father's favourite, Snifter, who bolted frequently. 'Dad threatened to kill that "bladdy" horse. Why ever he didn't get rid of him and get something more reliable we never knew. I think he looked on that horse as a challenge. Dad would win some and Snifter would win some.' Nevertheless, Snifter was eventually sold to the Indian Army agent after 'taking off with Dad and the sulky coming home from Dalby one day' and 'Dad stood and watched with emotion as his Snifter was led up the road'.²²

Horse racing was a popular sport whether at 'picnic' races where the farmer's everyday horses and ponies were pitted against each other, or in more serious events. There was always the hope of producing another *Batallion* 'the best horse associated with local racing'. *Batallion* was a big chestnut, bred on *Daandine* station sometime in the early years of the 20th century. The horse had great successes in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne and was then taken to England.²³ Good racehorses also came from *Jimbour*. Whitey Torenbeek tells a great tale of transporting a horse to the Toowoomba races for some Dalby locals during the 1930s. To his surprise

he saw the owners giving the horse a 'cocktail', which did not work until the trip home. After a poor performance in the race, the animal behaved very badly in the truck, 'I felt he was going to jump out at one stage because I could see his wild head above the high sides of the truck.' ²⁴ Another horse famous in the district was 'Punch the Cart Horse'. Eber Lane must have grown up with the tale of Punch, because in 1952 he asked his father Morris to write down everything he could recall of the story. Though rather long it is worth repeating for its picture of early horse racing in the district and life on *Loudoun* Station in the first decade of the 20th century:

Punch the Cart Horse

He was by Morocco out of Peggy...Mr. Hunt [Paul Hunt] brought her and a mare named Jewess from Havilah when he came to L.D.S. [Loudoun Station] Although she must have been good bred because Judy and Paddy were out of her and they all could gallop. Punch was four years when broken in. About four and a half when I ran Ainsworth Laing. I think about Nov. 1904 then we won two scurry. [Short races] Alf Bougoure rode him. About three months after that we ran him in another scurry beating a mare called Mystery Mye, beat a field of 14 runners at Yulba. Punch had a bushel of oats and a bag of chaff...

He went from there to Nanango broke a record for the track beating a mare named Songtress, the mother of Demarantes. From there to Yulba beating a horse called Warhoop owned by Percy Nagel. Mind you I think he did all his racing in 1906 & 7. He won 5 at the creek [a Brisbane racecourse] came to Ipswich and beat a horse called Explorer. Explorer was noted as being the best 5 furlong horse in Queensland but Punch beat him...

Note. Mr. Levright you know Captain of English foot team was it in 1905 or four. He was his hack while on Loudoun, but he was never any good to ride ... I do not remember who Mr. White gave him to but Paddy Murdoch might be able to tell you...

Now here is something. Mr. White and Mr. Taylor made a match with Paddy and Chance for twenty-five pounds to be run at Dalby. Paddy took sick in the meantime. W. Murdock wrote and told Mr. Taylor Paddy was sick and could not run. Anyway they put colours on Chance sent him over the course. Carrol rode him and collected the money. W. Murdoch asked Mr. Taylor would he run Punch instead and he said he came up to run a racehorse not a cart horse. So in the evening in the farewell handicap there were 9 nominations. All withdrew leaving Punch and Chance in it. Far as I can remember Punch had 9.8 Chance 7.12 [weight]. Tom Mc on Punch, Joe Carrol on Chance.

Punch beat him a head but they took the race off the old chap and gave it to Chance. It was a very rough race from the last furlong home. Mr. White was in Sydney at the time...This Mr Taylor was Warry [Harry?] from Cecil Plains.²⁵

It is not surprising that Morris Lane remembered the breeding lines and race wins in such detail almost fifty years after the event. His father (Henry Bassett Lane) was the stock overseer at *Loudoun* station at the time, with a particular responsibility for horse breeding (including remounts for the Indian Army as discussed earlier), and Morris later became the stock overseer and horse breaker himself. We see that stock from *Havilah*, the White's property near Mudgee in New South Wales, which improved the standard of sheep at *Loudoun*, was also a factor in horse breeding. The White family interests in horse racing had been well established initially by James White, Henry Charles White's older brother, in the 1870s. 'His horses won nearly every major race on the Australian calendar and some of the major events several times. It was a succession of turf victories not since equalled by any owner.'²⁶

The interaction between the two gentlemen property owners, Mr. White (it was probably Roy White, Henry Charles died in 1905) and Mr. Taylor (probably a son of James Taylor, 1820-1895, the well known squatter/politician from *Cecil Plains*) in such a sporting contest was no doubt typical of the times and provided much entertainment for local residents. The story shows that all levels of society followed racing closely. Punch, the local favourite, was believed to have had unfair treatment and we see that the tale endured for decades. The irony of the horse referred to by the opposition as a 'cart horse' beating (well, not quite) Mr. Taylor's champion, made for a good yarn.

For the residents who were raising sheep, a good dog was essential. Morris Lane was well known for his knowledge of sheep and that included well-trained dogs. His kelpie Nigger Brown (named after a footballer from Toowoomba) was quite famous in the late 1920s. Len Lane says that people would travel miles to see Nigger Brown work sheep and the dog would have sired 'thousands of pups' as people sought to breed their own dog with similar skills. One oft-told tale was of Nigger Brown leading a blind sheep over the Condamine River. The dog noticed that the animal was in trouble, took it by the scruff of the neck and placed himself between the edge of the bridge near the water, and the sheep. Initially most of the sheep dogs were kelpies, but border collies were used as well and grew in popularity. Len Lane recalled that his brother Alf acquired his first sheep dog when he was about seventeen years old, from 'Stan Collins from Bell'. The dog had won sheep dog trials in its day, but now Hero (a border collie) was getting old. Stan Collins told Morris Lane that Hero would not win anything but that Alf

would learn a lot from the dog. This proved to be true and Alf later had great success with his dogs.



Hero in action at
Loudoun, 1934.

Len says that at one point Alf would have had probably the best team of dogs in Australia with Toby, Shady Dell and Lottie, each one a specialist with a particular type of sheep. Alf won the Brisbane Exhibition sheep dog trials with Shady Dell, and had much success in New South Wales when he was working at Blayney for a period during the 1930s.²⁷

It was important to have reliable dogs around the homesteads as well as out working stock with the farmer. At one time Alf Lane had a cattle dog known as Blue. In his later years Blue was left (retired really) at *Whitewood* with Morris Lane. There he proved to be a reliable companion for Emily Lane who was at home alone for a large part of the day. Len says that Blue would greet all cars. If the visitor proved to be a stranger, unless pointedly reassured by Emily that all was well, the dog would stay at the visitor's side (friendly but undoubtedly on guard) until he drove away.²⁸ Dogs were also needed to give the alarm if snakes were about the homestead or goannas were in the fowl yard.

PEDIGREE OF SHEEP DOG

Bred by W. E. JOHNSON, PIKEDALE STATION, STANTHORPE, Q.

Supplied to Lil Lane, Loudoun, Dalby

Name Shady Dell Variety Border Collie Colour Red, Tan & White

Born 25th Nov. 1934 Sex Female

SIRE Sunny Rob.

G. Sire Robin { G. G. Sire Kemp Again
G. G. Dam Julie

G. Dam Sunny Spot { G. G. Sire Shipper (imp)
G. G. Dam Battle Shred

DAM Miss Jott

G. Sire Hayton Jott { G. G. Sire _____
(Imp. England) G. G. Dam _____

G. Dam Rees { G. G. Sire _____
(Imp. Wales) G. G. Dam _____

REMARKS:—

Shady Dell is a full sister to Ranger and her sire Sunny Rob. is a full brother to Missy Spot that famous bitch of Stan Collins.



Top: Shady Dell's official pedigree.
From Lil Lane's family collection.

Left: Len Lane, a school boy, with his brother Alf's champion sheep dog Shady Dell, from about 1936. (Competition name, Bungama Shady Dell)

Social Life

When the first selectors came to the district their social lives were restricted by difficulties with transport and communications as well as problems getting time away from their farms. However, there do seem to have been regular gatherings. The men and women worked hard and were typically very fit, strong and healthy. It is not surprising therefore that many social

activities were energetic; like race meetings, sports picnics, tennis and dances. There were also cards and music but these quieter pursuits alone would not have satisfied a population accustomed to hard physical labour.

Music was important for family entertainment. Singing around the piano was a popular pastime but musical entertainment could be more casual with a mouth organ or button accordion used as a substitute for the piano. Whitey Torenbeek's family regularly sang together for relaxation and fun in 1920s.

After our evening meal we usually retired to the veranda (especially on summer nights) and sprawled out on the floor. Snowy would play his mouth organ and we would join in singing, lying there in the dark. He would always have to play Dad's favourites, which were 'Red Wings' and 'Peggy O'Neal'. When he got tired of playing the mouth organ it was then stories, mainly ending up with ones about ghostly things. They seemed so convincing that everything ended up looking ghostly in the moonlight.²⁹

There was a strong tradition of factual story telling, whether it was the handing down of family tales, or passing on an interesting piece of news or an amusing happening to neighbours and friends. Whitey Torenbeek often comments in his memoirs that some tale had made a good story to tell the neighbours. It is fortunate that this tradition preserved many stories, like that of Punch the Cart Horse, from earlier days. In addition there was story telling for purely entertainment purposes, like Snowy's ghost tales mentioned above, or unofficial 'tall tale' competitions at gatherings where it appears there was no expectation that the stories were true.

We would hang around the open fireplaces at the dances, especially on cold nights, while they boiled big drums of water for the tea. Some of the best yarn-tellers would be there trying to out do each other. The biggest snake stories, the biggest fish stories, the biggest

kangaroo and best shooting and buck jumping yarns imaginable would be told.³⁰

The settlers began socialising in the first days of settlement using the railway goods shed at Kupunn for fundraising before the hall was built in the early 1920s. Morris Lane was often the ‘caller’ for the Lancers and other dances and also played the button accordion. A piano was acquired for the Hall in 1926.³¹ Ryan’s Dance Band was frequently chosen to supply the music for the evening in the 1930s. Led by Henry Bassett Lane’s son-in-law Joe Ryan, it included H.B.s grandchildren Cecil and Doreen Ryan.³² Another popular musical group was the ‘McLarans’ with Beryl McLaran on the piano, and Heather on the violin. Typical of these gatherings was a dance at the Kupunn Hall in September 1931. It was the annual dance held by the *Loudoun* shearers and shed hands in aid of the Ambulance Service, which depended on such support.³³ Another dance was advertised as an ‘Old-Time Dance’ at the Kupunn Hall on 4 July 1936 to aid the Ambulance.³⁴ Charles Martin says that the local dances (during the time he was there, 1933-39) attracted the Kupunn people ‘not the grazier group’ (who specialised in beef cattle and sheep and were not tied to twice a day milking like the dairy farmers of Kupunn), and a few ‘Dalbyites who followed Ryan’s or McLaran’s bands’.

During the mid 1930s when the economy had picked up a little from the Depression years there were some combined business and social visits to town for the farmers, where the ‘parlour rooms’ in the hotels were an important gathering place for the midday meal:

The Social Life of a dairyman and his family and most – not all – landowners of Kupunn followed this occupation was inhibited by one

fact. The herd had to be milked twice daily – early A.M. and mid P.M. so any social activity had to be fitted in between milkings or at night. Those fortunate enough not to be bound by such work formed a district group whose social life did not coincide with that of the dairyman. They could visit town at a time of their choosing and attend sports events in Town, even at Toowoomba. They could spend some time away from their properties and inevitably their interests, not only work, separated them from the dairymen. There were a couple of these families at Kupunn on the outskirts, and in neighbouring localities such as Duleen, Ducklo and Broadwater. With such variation in interests and activities the groups divided, visiting different hotels in town – The Country Club, The Windsor for the non-dairying farmers, The Commercial and the Russell for the dairymen.

The Pubs in those days were really the Clubs for the countryman. The graziers and wheat farmers could attend the Races, take their ladies to the Show and Race Club Balls. The dairyman with the thought of up to 100 cows awaiting their ministrations twice a day scarcely gave these events a thought.³⁵

Gatherings were often impromptu like one at Frank Miller's dairy farm in the mid-1930s when he was a young and single man. He had recently built a barn for future grain storage and moved in because it was more comfortable than his basic corrugated iron hut with a dirt floor:

We used to have a few parties and dances around the neighbourhood then days. Bill Grimley was an expert with the Button Accordion and his niece, Phyllis Hounslow could make any instrument talk, so we were not wanting for music. One evening about 3 p.m. I got a message to say I was having 24 for tea (dinner). Arthur Grimley was working for me at the time and I said to him, "Can we handle them?" "Course we can!" said Arthur.

We always kept the place reasonably clean considering the work load. Anyway we got the broom moving and I said to Arthur, "You better get the cows and we will milk a bit earlier". We were milking about 70 cows at the time. (Dairying is a job seven days a week, twice a

day, all weather, with no sick leave!) I barbered some spuds and fed the pigs and got the machines ready to start milking. Lucky I always kept a supply of camp-pie and bully beef in the cupboard for emergencies. We had milk and cream and tin meat or corn beef with mashed spuds was the usual meal. The bucket of milk with a hand full of junket tablets was a pudding with Mother's fruit which she used to preserve in 7lbs treacle billies when any was in season off the fruit trees at North Maclagan. So we were set up for a meal. (Thanks Mum.)

The Farringtons, a big family, had sawmills up the creek and the Grimleys, Youngs, Browns, Violet Cogle, Jim Ronish etc. all came. We finished the dairy and dived into the Wilkie Creek for a shower and were ready for the visitors when they arrived before dark. Had a very enjoyable night with good music and dancing till after midnight in the barn.³⁶

Other impromptu gatherings were extended meetings at the rail siding at train time. Charles Martin pointed out that on rainy days and in flood times there was very little that could be done on the farms. The farmers awaiting the daily train to load their cream or to collect mail and bread would make it a social occasion. Sometimes they would hold a mini-sports competition with 'the Standing Jump, Backward Jump, and placing the tobacco tin furthest from the line', the main events. 'Spencer Martin not a young man, I remember, could generally outdo the others.'³⁷

We have seen that residents combined for major projects such as the construction of the War Memorial Hall, and the acquisition of land around Lake Broadwater as a community held reserve. They also supported break-up picnics and Arbor Day festivities for the school children. During the late 1920s/early 1930s a Kupunn football team was formed and played social

matches around the area. Some of the better players like Harry Lane played for the Dalby team too.³⁸

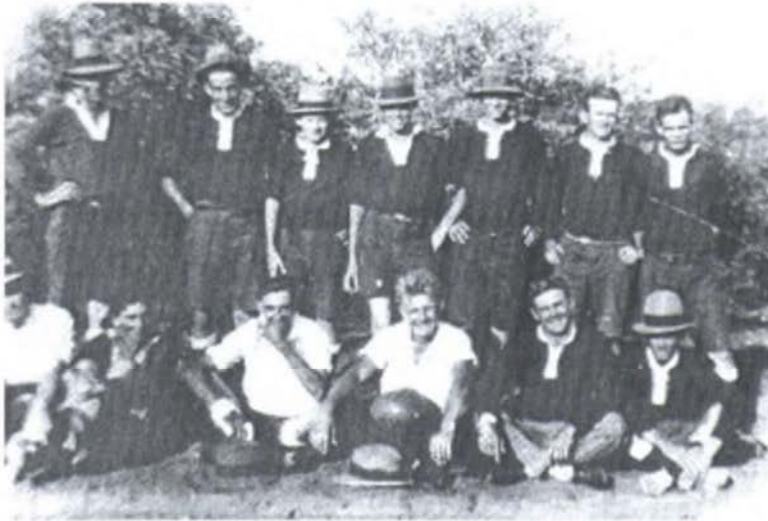
The Kupunn Football team – late 1920s.

Harry Lane, rear left.

Gus Torenbeck, rear, third from the left.

Bill Torenbeck, rear right.

Snowy Torenbeck with the ball.



Charles Martin commented that during the 1930s farmers typically did not pay social visits to each other's homes, but met at community gatherings and meetings in town. There were visits but they were related to farm projects. However, when Eber Lane visited his parents Morris and Emily Lane in 1939, accompanied by his new bride, the newly weds were introduced to residents of the district and were treated to fairly formal afternoon teas (with the silver teapot and best crockery). Phyllis Lane recalled meeting the Laffys, Wirths, Fergusons, Von Peins and Spencer Martin as well as the Lane relatives (Henry Bassett Lane, Harry and Jim Lane and their families). She was teased unmercifully, and told by a cheeky Len Lane that H.B. (who she would be expected to kiss!) chewed tobacco and had a nicotine-stained beard. Phyllis was relieved to find a charming and immaculate man with snowy hair and moustache. She chatted with him about his droving trips to *Buckingham Downs*, near where she grew up. The young couple had married in Mount Isa so these semi-formal occasions were perhaps in lieu of local wedding celebrations.³⁹

There were 'pictures' (referred to as 'talkies' for a time, after the end of the 'silent' era) in Dalby during the 1930s but it was a treat for the residents in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district to make the journey to town. Frank Miller said that he went to the pictures only twice in eight months when he first settled at *Wilkie View*. Emily Lane was very fond of the pictures, which provided a break from her isolated life, and tried to attend every Saturday, (and Wednesday too if she could get a lift) but her husband Morris Bassett seldom went, preferring to take care of business whilst in town.

Accidents and Emergencies

When there were accidents or serious illnesses neighbourly assistance was essential. There are many tales in the residents' personal accounts of welcome and unstinting help in times of emergency. Bert Cunningham was grateful for help when his fifth child was born after the move to his 'scrub' selection near Ducklo (about 1912). He had made preparations for his wife to go to town before the birth but the baby came early:

I went post haste for the nearest neighbour Mrs. Braun, a younger woman with two little ones of her own. She had gone to bed but kindly came with me to stay as I thought, until I could get some other help...I shall never forget the courage of that neighbour that night, she would run away from a cut finger, but she stood up to it that night, and we pulled through. Mother [Bert's wife] too was full of courage and helped us with what knowledge she had, so by 2 o'clock I was sitting happily by the kitchen fire holding in my arms that wee little bit of humanity which we afterwards called Bessie.⁴⁰

Complications, however, soon had Bert dashing the twelve miles into town in search of the doctor. He called to tell his brother Henry Cunningham of the problem, as he passed his farm. On the way back with the doctor Bert was grateful that Henry had organised help:

When we got halfway where the road crossed the railway, Henry was waiting for us with the rail trolley. What a relief, we transferred to the trolley, and with these men working like Trojans we sailed home, or to within a few chain of it. We arrived there to find for all our anxiety all was well. It seems Henry had got to work, yoked up a horse and trap, and called up an old lady named O'Day, a visitor at a neighbours, whom I never knew of. He hurried her to the scene of action, and with the famous knowledge of a midwife, she soon pronounced all well.⁴¹

May (Bourke) Laffy recalled that around 1918 when a French family was sharefarming the Anderson farm next door (before the Torenbeek's arrived), her mother threw a saucepan of boiling water out the door just as her brother Bob, a little fellow, was running past. 'I ran to the French man's place for help and he got Pop [Bill Bourke Snr., her father] and they took Bob to the hospital'.⁴²

Whitey Torenbeek had a serious accident in the late 1920s:

One afternoon about sundown we were all chasing each other here and there, everyone bare-footed despite the reptiles that were about. As I was running away from someone, something grabbed the sole of my right foot very painfully. My first thought and fright was that an adder had bitten me well and truly. When I was able to have a good look it was a relief to find that it wasn't an adder but that a sheep's rib bone had penetrated into the bottom of my right foot and only the tip was showing. That was bad enough but it was better than an adder bite. How to get it out was the problem. Sitting up in the kitchen table most every adult there was having a go, using fencing pliers, pinchers and so on and I was doing my share of yelling and pleading as you can imagine.

Eventually George Kreiger, 'a mate of Dad's who did work around our place when Dad could afford him,' was very concerned and offered to take Whitey into the hospital. Charlie and Luisa were then able to look after the other

children and attend to the milking. After a stint in hospital Whitey was collected by Harry Lane and they returned over the now flooded Condamine River in the community boat, manned that day by Bill and Snowy. After another few days a high fever and infection had Whitey back in hospital. That journey in a sulky pulled by Snifter - over the Loudoun Bridge with a raging Condamine River below - was not to be forgotten. Whitey remembered his father's instructions, 'If he starts to get frightened and plays up, you jump out the back of the sulky onto the bridge'. Whitey says he was so ill he didn't care what happened.⁴³

Whilst the residents were in general very healthy because of their lifestyle, which consisted mainly of hard physical work and good simple food, infections in pre-antibiotic days could be a problem as with Whitey's injury. Whitey's brother Bert developed a serious infection after a home haircut given by a friend. A small piece of skin was inadvertently snipped from Bert's ear. It was hardly noticed because it didn't even bleed, but: 'In a couple of days the little wound became a fester and soon after his ear was twice the size'. Bert had severe blood poisoning. He was hospitalised and according to Whitey, pulled 'from the jaws of death' by Dr. Hawthorne.⁴⁴

Morris Lane spent time in hospital with pneumonia when he was employed at *Loudoun* station, and Len Lane recalled that his father had been very ill. Frances Dale Lane (Frankie, Morris' daughter) gave up her nursing training in the early 1930s because she also contracted pneumonia. There was a long recovery period and she lost her nursing place at the Dalby Hospital. Fortuitously she resumed her training at Miles where she met her future husband (Gordon McLennan).⁴⁵

Whilst general good health and fitness were in their favour, the residents of the district lived a fairly precarious existence. The many deaths of women in childbirth and the high infant mortality rate were discussed earlier in relation to the 19th and early 20th centuries, and they did improve over time. Illnesses such as diphtheria, whooping cough, polio and tetanus, as well as pneumonia were much feared. The worldwide influenza epidemic after the First World War was another problem. John Henry Hounslow, brother of David Hounslow (from *Loudoun* station), was one of many who died in the Dalby Hospital in 1919 from 'complications following influenza'.⁴⁶ Dorn Roddau, from the longstanding Porter family of the Ducklo area, told me that she has old letters from two of her Aunts to their mother, (Dorn's grandmother) telling how as nurses they helped establish an emergency hospital at the show grounds to cope with the influenza epidemic.⁴⁷ There was a constant danger of accidents because of the nature of farm work and the possibility of infection from even minor injuries. Small ailments, too, could become life threatening. Isabella Lane, wife of Henry Bassett Lane of *Belah Park*, died in 1923 as the result of an infected tooth. She was normally a very healthy person who probably did not realise the serious nature of her problem. She 'had never had a day's illness in her life', but by the time she was brought to hospital 'the trouble was too far gone to admit of her recovery, despite all that skilful medical attention and assiduous nursing could accomplish'.⁴⁸

The isolation of the community compounded many health problems. For example, May Laffy's mother had suffered a miscarriage in the mid 1920s:

As there were not many cars around in those days, there was only one ambulance and as he had just come in from somewhere, he wouldn't go out again until he had had two hours sleep. Mum was

haemorrhaging and by the time he got her into town, the Doctor wouldn't come around until visiting hours in the morning and as she had lost a lot of blood, it weakened her heart and affected her for the rest of her life. She had another miscarriage a few years later on but by then we had a car.⁴⁹

With tales such as these, it is no wonder that fundraising for the Dalby Ambulance Service was well supported by groups like the shearers and communities like Kupunn.

Arguments and Quarrels

It would be misleading to suggest that there were not arguments, quarrels and even fights between the residents who had all the usual human frailties. In such an isolated community it was inevitable that disagreements similar to those within families would occur. They were usually settled quickly. Whitey Torenbeek gives an account of one 'clash of opinions' after a meeting of the Local Producers Association in the 1930s:

...the morning after the monthly meeting Henry [Cunnington] came along the road and found Dad feeding some calves. 'Listen Charlie, you're nothing but a so and so and whatever it was!' He was a good Methodist and didn't swear. He was twice as big as Dad, but Dad threw caution to the wind and in a few seconds they were shaping up to each other.

The flying mare as Dad called it, was his favourite means of attack. That was to put the head hard into the opponents belly, grab the legs and lift, throwing the other hard on his bum! It had been a proven winner for Dad in his young days in Germany and Holland and Henry was going to get a taste of it. Luckily Snowy arrived on the scene and got between them. He pushed Dad out of the way telling him to cool down. When he couldn't get at Henry, Dad grabbed a lump of wood to throw. Snowy put his foot on it so that was no good. He still had the milk tins handy! 'Got fer damma, take this,' he yelled as he flung a tin at Henry who copped it on the side of the head. Snowy said to Henry, 'I think you'd better take off old feller, before he really gets

loose.’ ‘My goodness, yes!’ was Henry’s reply as he hightailed it down the road.

A few days later when he had cooled down, Charlie was sorry that he had argued with Henry Cunningham and went to patch it up, only to find that his friend was in hospital. Charlie was so upset that he walked the twelve miles into town and twelve miles return, to visit him. Fortunately Henry’s illness was not a result of the tiff.⁵⁰

On another occasion there was an altercation between Charlie Torenbeek and Reg Hutchinson, a young fellow from the adjoining property. The argument was over a cow that had strayed, and ended with Reg’s threat to punch Charlie’s nose. On hearing about it, Snowy went to see Reg:

He found him down the bush and told him to punch his nose instead of the old man’s. Reg wasn’t one to back off and they fought it out there amongst the bragalow suckers. It was a punch up and wrestling match Snowy told us later – with the old dog of ours hopping in for a bite every now and then and barking at the two struggling blokes. It was a fairly even go in, both very strong, but Reg made the mistake of trying to wrestle and Snowy was good at that. In the end they decided enough was enough and they shook hands, washed the blood off each other with the water from a ‘drinking’ billy and were good friends ever after. They both bore scars of battle for a few days but that was naught! The Hutchinsons were all good people that we liked very much.⁵¹

Bill Torenbeek’s daughter Daphne says that when her family moved to Kokotungo in the Dawson Valley in the 1930s, with Bert Torenbeek, the family friendship with Reg Hutchinson was extended:

Reg Hutchinson actually preceded Dad and Bert to Kokotungo. They were our friends and extended family there and the bond remained for all our years there.⁵²

Such isolated altercations were minor compared with the more organised fights held outside the dances. Dulcie Williamson recalled that her husband Bert, who was a big man and did not drink, was usually required to be on the door.⁵³ Whitey Torenbeek says that 'beer ups' usually ended in 'punch ups', and dance officials including his father, who particularly objected to bad language in the presence of ladies, would have to step in. There was no alcohol permitted in the hall but bottles were usually hidden outside by many of the attendees, ready for consumption on the night. At one dance when Whitey was a boy, Frank Hutchinson who lived near the hall had seen some of the drinkers hide their cache. Frank, Whitey and his brother Bert 'relocated it' and waited for the fun. 'We watched in the dark from behind cars as these blokes searched back and forth for their bag of liquor. Their language got worse as they became more and more thirsty.' The boys' ploy was eventually discovered and they were spoken to firmly by a group of angry young men.⁵⁴

Charles Martin supports Whitey's memories of fights at the dances. 'The local dance was also a venue for settling grudges among the younger bloods,' ... 'grudge fights were well publicised, and I think an attraction for some to attend the dances'.

The moment a fight was started all men left the hall to form a ring, the ladies stood on the seating and peered out of the windows, and the orchestra/band took a well-earned rest and some refreshments.

The outdoor liquid refreshment taken by the combatants almost always made the fight a short one; and once completed all dancers repaired to the Hall as if nothing untoward had happened; and the sounds of Waltzes, Barn Dances, Gypsy Taps, One Steps and Pride of Erin etc. filled the air for the rest of the night.⁵⁵

Disagreements were usually among the men, who would share larger tasks on the farms and meet regularly at the railway. The women were mostly confined to the homesteads and did not meet as often. Despite fewer opportunities for disagreement there was one memorable dispute between two women, Mrs. Moggs and Mrs. Nolan, in the early 1920s. Whitey Torenbeek was a small child but remembered it well. At the time the Nolans were just getting established and Mr. Nolan supported the family by timbercutting. They were living in a tent not far from the Torenbeeks who were resident on the Malpas farm. The Moggs family lived on the nearby Torenbeek selection:

Of Irish descent, the Nolans were staunch and proud people even if they were finding things hard to come by. Mrs. Nolan was a very likeable person but she had a bad temper when put out, so then everyone kept their distance, even her husband Alf. Mrs. Moggs who was living in the house on our selection, had a run-in with her over something and told people around the district some tales of woe about Mrs. Nolan. On hearing the gossip, Mum Nolan became very angry. A big woman with a turned eye, she became a person to steer clear of. She promptly set off to have it out with Mrs. Moggs.

Mrs. Moggs saw her coming, striding down the road with sleeves rolled up, and closed the door shouting out that she had a pair of scissors in her hand and was ready to use them if need be. She wasn't going to open the doors and yelled for Mrs. Nolan to get off the place. That didn't deter the big lady who promptly grabbed the axe off the wood heap and battered down the back door. She never told us what punishment she dealt to Mrs. Moggs but justice was done as far as she was concerned, and that was that.⁵⁶

The axe marks on the door of that house were a constant reminder of the altercation when the Torenbeeks lived there in later years.

Crime

Perhaps as a result of the direct way individuals and the community dealt with conflicts, crime does not seem to have been an issue. Whitey Torenbeek (Chapter 9, Torenbeek family) mentioned the theft of a few palings from a house his family was re-erecting at one time and says that it was unusual in the district. Charles Martin tells of a local mystery:

At one time Mr. Wood of Nandi reported strange happenings on his property at night. Noises, lights, animals released, light articles and implements strewn around, disturbances to the family, but not of a malicious nature. Vigilantes kept watch at night ... I took part in one with Jim and Harry [Lane] – not a sight, not a sound at these particular times but the occurrences continued on non-watch nights. Several young fellows were on a suspect list, but gradually they were eliminated – the disturbances eventually stopped and the Woods and Kupunn had not solved the mystery – to my knowledge never did.⁵⁷

Charles Martin suspects the culprit was a pupil from his school but does not wish to name the boy. This exemplifies the way former residents loyally avoid any possibility of hurting or offending others from the district.

The few mentions in the personal accounts of actual crimes seem to involve people from outside the community. Frank Miller had some cattle stolen while he was serving overseas during World War II:

Arthur Grimley, the share farmer had noticed that the cattle appeared to have been disturbed. When he counted them there was about 10 heifers short. The police found them on a property at Tara and had taken them to the Police yard at Tara when Rob [Frank's brother] and Arthur went down to identify them. As I had not sold any heifers it was not problem to identify them and they had my brand on them. As I was away there was nobody charged and I was pleased to get them back. The neighbourhood was up in arms as I was away at the war and they took a dim view of the affair.⁵⁸

Frank also had other problems with people from outside the district after the war. A young couple he employed to help with his grain harvest absconded with two weeks advance wages. Then 'a couple of young fellows' new to the district offered to cut timber and pay him a royalty. After a time the police arrested them for car stealing. They had 'quite an amount of stolen property' and served time for their crime.⁵⁹

Transport

Transport in the early days was either by horse or train. A saddle horse was an important means of transport on the properties and many children rode to school. Horses were used to work stock, and to pull sulkies, buggies and drays. Bill Bourke Snr. had a two-furrow plough in about 1918/9 when he decided to plant a few crops as well as dairyfarm. Four draught horses drew the plough.⁶⁰ Ladies often used a sulky. Len Lane says that his mother Emily Lane had a sulky pulled by a horse called Topsy when the family lived on *Loudoun* station in the 1920s.⁶¹ Frankie McLennan (Len's sister) told her daughter Freda that whenever the children were getting up to mischief, Mother and Topsy would appear as if by magic.⁶² It was also noted earlier that Clara Sophia McLaran regularly drove a buggy the five-hour journey into Dalby in the 1920/30s. Luisa Torenbeek was transported by sulky before the family acquired a car, but she does not appear to have driven it herself.

When he was about four years old Pat Lane was thrown from a spring cart drawn by a horse called Judy, who was inclined to bolt. His mother Madge (Polly) Lane, accompanied by Pat and his baby sister Mariee (Bid), had collected some supplies from *Belah Park* next door. Judy bolted on the

return trip. Pat says his mother lowered him out of the moving cart, then 'caught Bid in her arms and jumped'. Fortunately no one was hurt.⁶³

The train was the other main means of transport after 1910. The Dalby/Tara line was a boon for the ambulance as already mentioned, and for transporting stock and timber. It was later extended to Glenmorgan. Pat Lane's family lived only about a quarter of a mile from the train line and they would often stand by the line to be picked up by passing trains. Everyone knew the train timetable because they depended so much on them. He says even cattle trains would pick up people waiting by the line. Usually there was no ticket and no charge; it was just a friendly custom. Pat thinks that the train drivers enjoyed the company and were happy to help them out.⁶⁴ By the late 1920s there were a few cars and trucks in the district and transport became easier, although the cars had problems in the wet when the black soil turned to sticky mud. Horses were still used extensively on the properties, even in the 1950s and 60s.

Communications

In the early days the only method of communication was by a messenger on a horse (or on foot). A story is included in Henry Bassett Lane's obituary about a cross-country ride he made (probably in the late 1870s/early 1880s) when it was the only option for communication in an emergency. It has the ring of an oft-told tale, and is certainly worth repeating. A Mr. Cavanagh was fatally injured in an accident while chasing a calf on the watering reserve at the stone dam in Dalby:

Cavanagh's sister asked him to ride for her brother, who was at a mustering camp at Dunmore Station past Cecil Plains. Mr. Lane left at 6a.m. on a good blood horse just as the Convent bell was tolling 6a.m. and rode directly through the scrub to his destination. During

the day he covered 104 miles, and he drew rein in Dalby on the same horse just as the Convent bell was tolling the hour of 6p.m.⁶⁵

Reliable communications with the outside world were first established in the Dalby district when the telegraph line from Toowoomba was completed in January 1863.⁶⁶ A few years later an improved postal service resulted from the extension of the rail line from Jondaryan in 1868. Nevertheless for the district under review, although communications had improved they were still all via Dalby and very difficult until the railway branch line was constructed. The Dalby/Tara railway improved the postal service from 1910 and allowed a convenient delivery of supplies from town. In an emergency, however, the man on a horse was still often the fastest method of communication.

By the end of World War I most businesses in Dalby, some of the town residents, and a few of the nearer and larger stations like *Blaxland*, had been connected to the telephone system. The McLennans at *Fairview* and *Kilkivan* shared a party line, but the telephone had not yet reached *Loudoun* station, about seven miles out of town and over the Condamine River. By the mid 1930s *Loudoun* and *Daandine* stations were connected. The first telephone at Kupunn was probably the one at the station post office run by the Cunningtons that the locals could use to order supplies for delivery by train. The new technology was a little frightening for some. Charlie Torenbeek approached the telephone with a great deal of anxiety. His son described in poetic form a call made by Charlie to Thomas Jack's store:

He went up to the telephone and grimly looked about
When the exchange put him through, he began to yell and shout!
Is dat you Jack? He hollered, but when no reply did come
'Got damn it man! it's Charlie, CHARLIE , Charlie from Kupunn!⁶⁷

By 1939 the line had reached many of the Kupun settlers. Charles Martin says that some of the telephone lines:

... came off the main line and were run to the houses on saplings attached to the property fences. It was a wonder to me that these fragile lines belied their appearance by surviving heavy winds and rain, and communication with Dalby was maintained.⁶⁸

By the mid 1940s most of the farms were connected, though it was quite common for three and four homesteads to be on the one line. The Lanes at *Belah Park* shared a party line with *Whitewood* and the Fergusons at *Flowerdale*. The Bourkes at *Woodstock* and the Hoadleys at *Cliverton* were on another party line.⁶⁹ The telephone improved communications between local landholders and added a new dimension to the unofficial 'bush telegraph' because of covert 'listening in' on party lines. Although openly frowned upon, the practice of listening to other conversations was quite common and indeed understandable among the isolated residents.⁷⁰

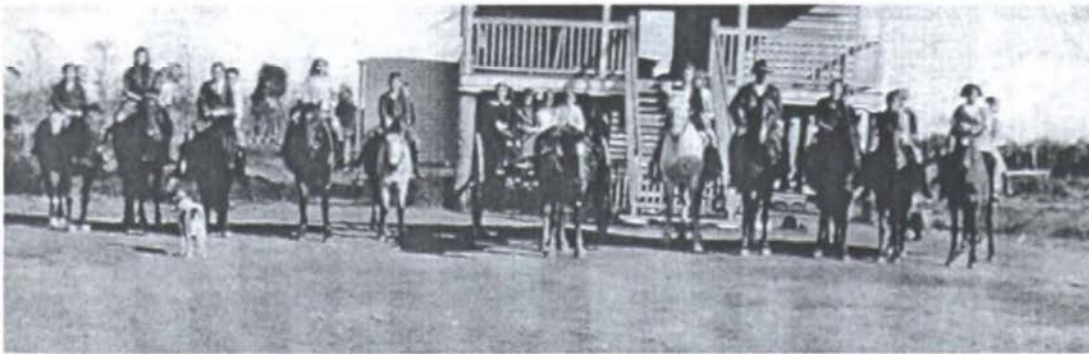
The Australian Broadcasting Commission was established in 1932. The radio (or wireless as it was called) began to appear in the district around the late 1930s and came into its own during and after World War II. There was no electricity connection to the homesteads and farmers could not afford a generator. Wireless sets were run on car batteries that would be recharged in town. The wireless made a huge difference to life in the district.

Newspapers, including the Dalby Herald and the Toowoomba Chronicle along with the ever-popular Bulletin, had been the only source of local and world news and were collected from town or sent out on the train. Now farmers had immediate access to the latest news, and eventually much information of rural interest was gleaned from the Country Hour. There was

entertainment, too, which had always been of the 'do-it-yourself' variety in the past. The wireless however, could not be taken for granted: due to the limitations of the batteries it was a treat, and newspapers were still very important especially for local news.

Education

Before World War II most of the children in the district were educated in the small one-teacher schools at Kupunn and Ducklo. Ducklo School opened in 1915 and Kupunn at around the same time. Much later (1940s) there was a provisional school in the hall at Lake Broadwater as well.⁷¹ Old school photographs from Kupunn in the 1920s include many children from the families that we have come to know during this study.



We see why a horse paddock was necessary at the school. Several of the Bourke children are in the sulky. Frank Wormwell is the adult fourth from the right next to Vera and Madge Hutchinson (third from the right). Early 1920s.

One photograph from 1922 comes with a complete list of the pupils' names and is reproduced on the following page.

Top to Bottom

Left Row	Second Row	Third Row	Right Row
Ernie Cunningham	Frank Wormwell An adult student	Madge Hutchinson	Doug Stagg
Olive Stagg	Nell Bourke	Bob Bourke	Ethel Cunningham
Della Nolan	Mary Nolan	Clarice Bourke	Bessie Cunningham
Alf Lane	Fred Cunningham		Frank Hutchinson
Ivy Cunningham	Elsie Cunningham		Thelma Grimley

Front

Vera Hutchinson, Arthur Grimley, Phylis Hounslow, Alma Stagg and Dorothy Cunningham.



Another photograph is from 1924:



Bert Torenbeek is fifth from the left in this picture. There were no Torenbeek children in the previous photograph. Alf Lane (left) and Bob Bourke (third from left) are also in the front row.

As they grew older some of the girls (not only Catholics) were sent to the convent school in Dalby as boarders. Two classrooms were added to the Dalby State School for a secondary department in 1919.⁷² The children who lived close enough to make the journey each day and those who could board in town were able to attend, but secondary education was not always pursued. Fourteen was the minimum school leaving age, and most children left at that time, even if they had passed the necessary 'Scholarship' examinations for secondary admission. Few families could afford to pay for boarding schools in Toowoomba or Brisbane. Correspondence lessons were yet another option and were sometimes a group affair. The schools closed for quite long periods when there were insufficient pupils (for example at Kupunn around the late 1920s and Ducklo in the mid 1930s). The families in this district were not isolated enough or wealthy enough to contemplate hiring a governess for their children.

As mentioned earlier Ethel Martin, a local, was the first teacher at the Kupunn School in about 1915. Violet Parker was the first teacher at Ducklo in 1915 followed by Mary Ann Slattery in 1916.⁷³ Teaching was a respectable profession for single women and many taught in the country

schools. The teachers were an integral part of the community and needed to board with local families because there was no other accommodation. The system brought welcome new people to the district during the static period between the wars, and a few marriages eventuated. Charles Martin married Mavis McLaran in 1940, and earlier Miss Clay from the Kupunn School married Irwin Hasse from *Hereward* on the Nandi Road. (Irwin appears in a group photograph with the Lane family in Chapter 4, and a portrait of Charles and Mavis is in Chapter 11.)

William John Lane's daughter, Ruth Mary, was one of the first pupils at the Kupunn School, riding her horse from *Carbeen* (Portion 59, Parish of Hill) each day. She was born in 1900 and had contracted polio when she was a young child.⁷⁴ Ruth would have been ready for the final years of her schooling by the time the school opened. Her daughter, June Perkins (nee Slaughter) of Brisbane, recalled that her mother had fond memories of her days in the district:

Her memories of it were of the good times. Going to school at Kupunn on her horse, even though her legs were in irons – poor horse! Visiting her cousins – having no brothers or sisters, they were more important to her. They still had a lot to do with the folk on *Loudoun* Station [where her father had been employed as a stockman from the 1890s]. Mum was friendly with Allie Stagg, the McLeods, and others who all seem to have worked there in their early days.⁷⁵

May Bourke started school when she was six years old (1915) and walked the two and a half miles to Kupunn with her cousin Mary Fortune. Later she and her sister Nell went to school in a sulky driven by Bert Stagg who was employed by her father, and then with the older Torenbeek boys. May

boarded at St. Columba's convent in Dalby for the last year of her schooling and left at age fifteen.⁷⁶

Morris Lane's older children rode from *Loudoun* station to Kupunn School, Frankie probably starting along with May Bourke or soon after. When they grew older the children rode into Dalby High School. The school at Kupunn closed for a time in the late 1920s and young Len Lane had correspondence lessons because he was too small to ride into Dalby. When he was a little older and had improved his riding it was intended that he make the seven to eight-mile journey every day. He was very young and eventually it was decided that he would live in Brisbane with 'Aunt Mary', (Mary McGaw) his mother's sister, and attend school in the city. He remained there for most of his secondary schooling. He returned to Dalby High School for his final year when one of the Campbell Brothers moved into *Loudoun* homestead. Morris Lane continued as manager but settled his family in town.⁷⁷

Whitey Torenbeek remembered feeling very apprehensive 'like most shy bush youngsters', when as a six year old he started school at Kupunn. The presence of many neighbours' children as well as his brother Bert soon had him settled. 'Our lady teacher was a very likeable and pleasant person and it wasn't long before she had me on her side. There wasn't much I wouldn't try to do for her. I can well remember her holding my hand and guiding it to make letters and "pot hooks", saying I was a good little boy for doing so well!'⁷⁸ When Whitey was completing his final year at school his relationship with his teacher was not quite so pleasant.

Red-haired Mrs Savage and I just didn't get along. I was very cheeky, I know, but she was out to straighten me up no matter what. Almost every day I'd be called out for the 'cuts' in front of all the other

children. She couldn't hurt me much and this made her mad. I was a fairly solid boy, used to hard work, and she couldn't put enough sting in her caning to even make me flinch. One day her old cane flew to pieces and I had a grin a mile wide. The other kids were having a giggle.⁷⁹

The school picnics were highlights, not only for the children but also for their families:

Our school picnics and Arbor Days when we planted trees, were marvellous outings. At the end-of-year break-up there would be a big picnic, mostly at one of the more pleasant spots like Lake Broadwater or the Condamine River, but sometimes just in the school grounds. Just wonderful days for kids with foot races of all kinds and lots of home made food and drinks. The men would boil drums of water on an open fire and make big pots of tea for everyone who wanted it. Mum obliged with her huge melon pies and we had to be quick to beat Snowy to a slab of one of those...At the end of the day the teacher would line us up. She would then have the Chairman of the school committee present us all with a nice book to our liking. During the year she would ask us what kind of reading we liked most, because it was the general thing for the school to give out books to the pupils. The money for this was raised by numerous functions.⁸⁰

Charles Martin was the teacher at the Kupunn School from 1933 until war broke out and he joined the R.A.A.F. He recalled many details about the life of a teacher in a small country school. His duties included the usual reading, writing and arithmetic for all grades and in addition he kept the school building clean (for a small remuneration). To those duties could be added that of pest controller: 'The boys had reported a brown snake in the pit of their E.C. [Earth Closet]. I determined to dispatch it on the Saturday when no pupils were present. I owned a .22 calibre Winchester Rifle – everyone seemed to own a rifle in those days...'.⁸¹ He found that it was necessary to keep an eye on the weather too, and if a storm was brewing it was wise to

send the children home early. There was no school during floods, which made attendance for the pupils impossible. Charles Martin conscientiously attended himself, and 'made it from the Lane property – walking the railway embankment with a stout stick to ward off, sometimes kill the snakes taking refuge above the water level. The wet weather absences were traditional and remained after roads were improved.'

There were hardships too with the actual teaching at such a small school, principally the organisation of pupils of different age groups:

But by shortening the teacher's instruction time to 15/20 minutes per lesson and setting that class written work, the remaining time could be given to individuals in the other classes who would be engaged in written or rote oral work (the latter on the verandahs of course). Pupil contact was the essence. All this involved black board preparation for instruction to the non-taught classes. The black boards were prepared prior to school starting and during the lunch hour.

Nevertheless, Charles Martin enjoyed his time at Kupunn. 'I have some pleasure in relating that in the seven years I spent at Kupunn I found the children well behaved and industrious. They were used to performing tasks on the farm without fuss and they carried on in the same vein at school.'⁸²

After the Depression

Recovery from the Depression was evident in Australia from 1933, particularly in manufacturing and mining, but 'the primary producer was less successful in recovering from the depression, mainly owing to extremely low prices on the oversupplied world market'. For example the national acreage under wheat declined considerably from the record in 1930/1, which had been encouraged by a government 'grow more wheat' campaign. Though the size of the crop had increased, the 'value' for export had

dropped by nearly half. This situation brought government assistance after a Royal Commission in 1934 found that the profit margin for wheat growers was minuscule. Financial assistance for the wheat farmer (also for the dairy farmer's butter) was financed by a tax on home consumption in the form of higher prices.⁸³

During the 1930s many of the dairy farmers in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district had turned to wheat because of price fluctuations for their cream (and the grind of two milkings a day). They had seen wheat grown successfully on subdivided *Loudoun* land. However, the wheat farmers soon had problems with price fluctuations similar to those for their dairy products in the past. In the 1921-2 season the Downs farmers received eight shillings a bushel for milling wheat, which was very attractive. This slid considerably during the 1920s, and reached only two shillings and eleven pence in the Depression years of 1933-4. Even by 1939-40 the price was a mere three shillings and six pence and resulted in a return to dairying by many struggling farmers.⁸⁴

As late as 1938 it was evident that, though seasons were successful, there was some financial concern. Henry Bassett Lane reported in a letter to his grandson Eber Lane, that they had a good wool clip and a big wheat harvest at *Belah Park/Memerambi* but 'the wheat market is not too good' and 'the wool market is improving, [at least] it is to be hoped so.' He says also that:

Jim and Harry [his sons] are milking 80 cows. Well it wouldn't be bullocks, and they are milking well. They averaged over a pound per cow per month. So that is not bad. If the price of cream keeps up it will be all right. They have other side lines. Pigs and sheep and poddy calves.⁸⁵

Nevertheless, the end of the Depression brought an optimistic outlook to the district. The prickly pear was diminishing and the employment situation had improved for those willing to work. The population was increasing as the *Loudoun* subdivision brought many new people. Some new families also came to the Nandi Road. Ben Von Pein took over *Hereward* (on the fringes of Greenbank Parish) from his father-in-law (Mr. Hasse) in 1936. Doug Ferguson and his wife came from Blackhall with their children, Doug, Alan, and Jean. Alex Laffy from Victoria was newly married to May Bourke and settled at *Avonlea* almost opposite the Lanes at *Whitewood*, and the Wirth family came a little later. A major cause for concern was the rumbling of possible war in Europe and the effect that it would have on export prices for wool and wheat.

¹ A list of Kupunn residents from the 1930s prepared by the former school teacher, Charles Martin, shows a population of 116. If the wider area is included the total population was probably not much more than two hundred. Letter Charles Martin to Dale Lehner 15 October 2001.

² Notes from minutes of Hall Committee meetings – 10 February 1923 compiled for 75th Anniversary.

³ In 1933 the Dalby area had only 7.1% unemployment, the national average was 10 – 30% between 1927-1936. Statistics from J.C.R. Camm & John McQuilton eds. Australians, an Historical Atlas, Fairfax, Syme & Weldon Associates, Sydney, 1987, pp.241-7.

⁴ Patrick J. Lane, privately distributed memoirs, A Dollar Short and a Day Late, 2001, p.5 and elsewhere.

⁵ Dalby Herald, 27 June 1975; many discussions with my father, Eber Lane.

⁶ Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek in letter to Dale Lehner, 20 February 2002.

⁷ *Ibid*, p.112.

⁸ *Ibid*.

⁹ Frank Miller, privately distributed memoirs, Determined Achiever. Compiled by Lyn Bennie, est. 1997, p.10.

¹⁰ *Ibid*, p.11.

¹¹ 'Frank is 90 today', Rebecca Brown, Northern Downs News, 14 November 2002.

¹² George Hoadley, 'The Hoadleys at Kupunn', article written in 1997 for Kupunn Memorial Hall 75th Anniversary celebrations.

¹³ Conversation Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek with Dale Lehner, January 2000.

¹⁴ Charles Martin – Letter to Dale Lehner 28 May 2001, p.4.

¹⁵ Patricia Schultz in Distant Fields - The Yamison Story: 1939, a privately distributed history of Ollie and Hildie Schultz, with contributions from all their family. Approximately 1990, p.34.

¹⁶ Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, ed. Dale Lehner, Keep Your Hat on Charlie, published by Dale Lehner, Sydney, 2001, p.47.

¹⁷ Details of home life from Whitey Torenbeek's memoirs; recorded interview with Phyllis Lane; discussions with other former residents.

¹⁸ Recorded interview Heather Tweedie with Dale Lehner, April 2002.

¹⁹ Charles Martin, letter to Dale Lehner, 30 August 2001.

²⁰ Schultz Family Distant Fields, p.32.

²¹ A joy flight with Charles Russell of *Jimbour* also had something to do with the decision. Recorded interview Len Lane with Dale Lehner, September 2002.

²² Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, Keep Your Hat on Charlie, pp.22, 78, 106.

²³ E.H.Geisel, 'Shoulder to Shoulder for the Future', Stewart Jack, History of Dalby and District, privately distributed, compiled 1940s, p.15.

²⁴ Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, Keep Your Hat on Charlie, p.111.

²⁵ Letter, Morris Bassett Lane to Eber Lane, May 1952.

²⁶ Judy White, The White Family of Belltrees, The Seven Press, Sydney 1981, pp.38-9.

²⁷ Recorded interview Len Lane with Dale Lehner, September 2000: conversations with Lil Lane, Alf's wife who showed me a table covering made entirely with Alf's prize ribbons – 2002-2.

²⁸ Recorded interview Len Lane with Dale Lehner, September 2000.

²⁹ Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, Keep Your Hat on Charlie, ed. Dale Lehner p.26.

³⁰ *Ibid*, p.64.

³¹ Information regarding the piano for which the first payment was eight pounds and the second five pounds, in notes from Minutes of Hall Committee compiled for 75th Anniversary celebrations in 1997.

³² Len Lane, recorded interview with Dale Lehner, September 2000.

³³ Dalby Herald 8 September 1931, p.2.

³⁴ Dalby Herald, 12 & 23 June, 1936.

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- ³⁵ Charles Martin to Dale Lehner, letter dated 15 October 2001, pp.1-2.
- ³⁶ Frank Miller, Determined Achiever, 1996, p.12. Note: The Farringtons at one time held Portion 107, Parish of Daandine, which was endorsed as heavily timbered on Survey Plan 21912 from 1910.
- ³⁷ Charles Martin to Dale Lehner, letter 28 May 2001, p.4b.
- ³⁸ Harry Lane (Jnr) appears in the photograph of a Dalby representative team, 1930, reproduced in Barry Copley, Girls, Goats and Glass Bottles, p 34. Also included are Phil and Fred McKee from Duleen, and Jack Waters who later took up *Ellerslie* on the Broadwater Road.
- ³⁹ Phyllis Lane, recorded interview with Dale Lehner, 5 January 2000.
- ⁴⁰ Herbert Frederick Cunningham, Bert Cunningham's Story, compiled and privately distributed by Doug McDonald, February 1999. Original manuscript est. mid 1930s, p.23. Note: Bessie appears in the Kupunn School photograph from 1922 in Chapter 10, 'Overview of Life in the District' sub heading 'Education'.
- ⁴¹ Ibid, p.24.
- ⁴² May (Bourke) Laffy, privately distributed memoir, My Memory Is Not Too Good, as told to her granddaughter Elisha Laffy - ed. Brian and Isabelle Laffy, 1995. p.4.
- ⁴³ Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, Keep Your Hat on Charlie, ed. Dale Lehner, pp.67-70.
- ⁴⁴ Ibid, p.71. Note: Dr. Hawthorne, along with Tom Connelly the chemist, was relied on heavily for medical assistance. They both remained in Dalby for years. See Barry Copley, Girls, Goats and Glass Bottles p.56, for a photograph of Connelly's Chemist shop as it was in the mid 1920s.
- ⁴⁵ Recorded interview Len Lane with Dale Lehner, September 2000.
- ⁴⁶ Obituary, John Henry Hounslow, Dalby Herald, 30 August 1919.
- ⁴⁷ Conversation with Dorn Porter, May 2003.
- ⁴⁸ Obituary Isabella Lane, published in unnamed newspaper, probably the Dalby Herald in 1923. Newspaper cutting held by Lane family.
- ⁴⁹ May (Bourke) Laffy, My Memory Is Not Too Good, p.7.
- ⁵⁰ Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, Keep Your Hat On Charlie, ed. Dale Lehner pp.85-6: Note: Whitey Torenbeek said in a telephone conversation on 6 June 2002, that Henry Cunningham was probably a diabetic, he was known to have problems with 'the sugar'. Henry had blacked out one time when Whitey was on a droving trip with him to collect some cattle out west.
- ⁵¹ Ibid, p.80.
- ⁵² Daphne (Torenbeek) Neil, letter to Dale Lehner 30 May 2001, p.2.
- ⁵³ Correspondence with Dale Lehner, 2001/2. The Williamsons held Portions 47 & 48, Parish of Daandine.
- ⁵⁴ Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, Keep Your Hat On Charlie, ed. Dale Lehner pp.62-64.
- ⁵⁵ Charles Martin to Dale Lehner, letter 15 October 2001.

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- ⁵⁶ Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, Keep Your Hat On Charlie, ed. Dale Lehner, pp.23-4.
- ⁵⁷ Letter, Charles Martin to Dale Lehner, 30 August 2001.
- ⁵⁸ Frank Miller, Determined Achiever, p.28.
- ⁵⁹ Ibid, pp.39-40.j
- ⁶⁰ May (Bourke) Laffy, My Memory Is Not Too Good, p.6.
- ⁶¹ Recorded interview Len Lane with Dale Lehner, September 2000.
- ⁶² Conversation Freda McLennan with Dale Lehner, in Brisbane April 2002.
- ⁶³ Patrick J. Lane, A Dollar Short and a Day Late, p.3.
- ⁶⁴ Patrick J. Lane, recorded interview with Dale Lehner, 3 May 2001 and A Dollar Short and a Day Late, p.8: In conversations I found that Whitey Torenbeek and Charles Martin have no memory of this practice and questioned it. Pat's family lived close to the line and had befriended the drivers, but Pat insists that it was common in the district for drivers to pick people up from some key spots on the line. During the war when fuel was short and it was probably a more common practice, Whitey and Charles had left the district.
- ⁶⁵ Obituary Henry Bassett Lane, August 1939. Note: The Sisters of Mercy arrived in Dalby in 1877, so the ride would have been some time afterwards.
- ⁶⁶ P.J. Gribble, What Hath God Wrought, A History of the Queensland Telegraph Service, published by Telecom Australia 1981, p.448.
- ⁶⁷ Poem by Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek distributed at one of the Kupunn reunions, Charlie From Kupunn, year unknown, in which he describes a typical phone call from his father to Thomas Jack's store in Dalby.
- ⁶⁸ Charles Martin to Dale Lehner, letter dated 28 May 2001.
- ⁶⁹ Information regarding telephone connections from entries for the Dalby Telephone Exchange, in Queensland Country Telephone Directories, 1918, 1934, 1937, 1939 and 1947. These were held by Telstra when I saw them, but have since been transferred to the Queensland State Archives.
- ⁷⁰ Many residents of the district confirmed this. There was a tale of an operator at the manual telephone exchange in Dalby interrupting a conversation to correct a speaker on some point! Misinformation was sometimes given in phone conversations as a joke, and the listeners 'found out'!
- ⁷¹ A school inspector visited Ducklo in 1912 to meet the parents of twenty-three prospective pupils. He was to visit Kupunn as well but heavy rain had made the roads impassable. The inspector pointed out that land was needed for a horse paddock in addition to the actual school grounds because many children would need to ride to school. F.C.Bauer, Ducklo State School, 1988.
- ⁷² Ever Onward a history of the Dalby State School from 1861 to 1986, p.20. Published by the school in 1986 for its 125th Anniversary.
- ⁷³ F.C.Bauer, Ducklo State School.
- ⁷⁴ Early treatment methods including surgery, made later developments introduced by Sister Kenny of Toowoomba, useless. A resolution was passed at the Dalby Town Council Meeting in September 1936 to

send samples of local bore water for her consideration to aid treatment of infantile paralysis. Dalby Herald, 22 September 1936, p.4.

⁷⁵ June Perkins to Dale Lehner, letter May 2001.

⁷⁶ May (Bourke) Laffy, My Memory Is Not Too Good, pp.3-6.

⁷⁷ Recorded interview Len Lane with Dale Lehner, September 2000.

⁷⁸ Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, Keep Your Hat On Charlie, ed. Dale Lehner, p.25.

⁷⁹ *Ibid*, p.84.

⁸⁰ *Ibid*, pp.25 -6.

⁸¹ Charles Martin, to Dale Lehner, 30 August 2001, in an appendix attached to his letter.

⁸² *Ibid*.

⁸³ A.G.L. Shaw, The Economic Development of Australia, Longmans, Green and Co. Ltd., Fourth Edition 1960, pp.164 -166.

⁸⁴ Maurice French and Duncan Waterson, The Darling Downs, A Pictorial History, 1980, Darling Downs Institute Press, p.52.

⁸⁵ Henry Bassett Lane to Eber Lane, letter dated 9 November 1938.

Chapter 11

Wartime and Afterwards

From 1939 when war was declared, there was an exodus of young people from the district. Many joined the armed forces and others went to the city to carry out essential war work. Later there was an influx of evacuees to the Dalby area, and some workers arrived to help produce military necessities in local factories. Military personnel were seen about the area, particularly from the air force training base in Oakey, and troops passed through on their way out west bound usually for Darwin. Food production was an essential service and many local farmers were excluded from the armed forces. They worked long hours to compensate for shortages of labour, machinery and fuel. Anxious times brought tighter community bonds, evidenced by many social activities relating to the war effort. Support and concern for those serving overseas and their families was strong. (See Appendix, Table F for details about those listed on the Honour Boards, WWI and WWII, at the Kupunn War Memorial Hall.)

The War Years 1939 –1945: the Beginning

Whitey Torenbeek recalled that during the late 1930s when the economy had picked up somewhat after the Depression, and ‘everyone could earn good money if they worked well and hard’, there were ‘rumours going around of a second world war coming up’. He says that militia units were being reformed. The 11th Light Horse regiment covered the Downs area and militia troops were being assembled in all districts.¹ A few of Whitey’s ‘mates’ joined the local troop and were pressing him to do so too.²

We were all sitting at the dinner table at *Belah Park* when the phone rang and Hen [Henry Francis Lane] answered the call. A neighbour rang to say that the news was that Hitler had sent his troops into Poland. The war was on... There was long discussion around the

table at *Belah Park* about what would happen to everyone. Hen said everyone, men and women would be drawn into it one way or another. Particularly the young men. 'It's not fair said Mother [Beattie Lane], having to send all our boys into war to kill!!' Looking at me she said 'How the bloody hell could a young feller like Whitey kill anyone?' I gave her my most innocent look in return. 'It's just not right', Mother said again. Mother Lane had a big kind heart and a good word for everyone. I suppose that's how she got the tag of Mother.³

In the community the reaction to the news was mixed as repercussions for residents of the district were considered:

Some said we should stay out of it, others said Hitler had to be stopped...Not too many thought the war would go on for over six years and alter the whole way of life for us all... The permanent Military forces as I can remember were pretty scarce and equipment compared with other big nations was about nil! Our aircraft comprised mainly out-of-date planes and Tiger Moths. However that was the Government's worry. Our main worry was about us – We – Us and Co.⁴

Joining Up and Farewells

Frank Miller's attitude was to the point: 'I was not married and only had the farm, I might as well fight for it.' His attempt to join the A.I.F. was refused by Dr. Hawthorne because Frank had problems with his legs. He joined the local Light Horse Militia and kept trying to enlist:

Really enjoyed training in the Light Horse. Most of the troopers were experienced with the Army life, as these camps were operating during peace time...The Army had become mechanised since the 1st World War and horses were behind the times, however the training was no load to carry.⁵

Finally Frank bluffed his way into the A.I.F. Following the lead of Bert Tweedie, a friend from the district, he joined the 2/2 Anti Tank Regiment 7th Division. 'Pie' Wood, another local, was in the same regiment. Frank's

brother Rob kept an eye on *Wilkie View*, and it was arranged that the Grimleys (neighbours) would share-farm during Frank's absence.⁶ Dick Hutchinson and his cousin Frank (nephews of Charlie Hutchinson, a returned soldier from the First World War) were quick to put their names forward - Dick for the A.I.F. and Frank the Navy. They told Whitey Torenbeek that they wanted to see the world before the war finished, and were afraid of missing out. Whitey decided to wait and see what happened. Japan was not involved at that point and Europe was a long way off. Whitey joined the local Light Horse Militia and attended their huge training camps. Each recruit was required to bring a horse, and Harry and Jim Lane loaned him *Star*. Many other patriotic farmers loaned horses for the camps.⁷ The logistics for those gatherings must have been difficult with as many as eight hundred horses in 'lines' and the ever-present danger of panic leading to mayhem and injury.

A few times a big stampede developed with the result of broken legs and so on plus dead horses. This happened in earlier camps before I had joined up and the old timers who saw the rush said it was a bloody dangerous thing to happen. With horses running madly everywhere. We had a close call one night, even though the leg ropes were all pulled as they plunged about, the strong head rope held and saved us a stampede.⁸

Many of the horses came down with a disease called 'strangles' and were never the same again. There was a danger of sickness and injury for the large group of men too. The training was hard. Treks and manoeuvres were practised both day and night, often in the wet. Whitey was kicked in the face during a night exercise as he walked behind an unreliable horse:

In the dark it was hard to see how close we were but I soon found out as this mongrel lashed out with both heels, catching me over the left eye and forehead. I can recall seeing a mighty blaze of stars, as I was

lifted clean off my feet and deposited flat on my back in the middle of the track.⁹

Whitey had a swollen face for a couple of weeks and an eye that was a mere slit in the area of impact, but the Medical Officer didn't even record the injury. (This of course meant that there were no grounds for a claim when he had problems with that eye in later years.)



Horse lines at a Light Horse camp – Cabarlah, 1941.

Whitey was doing some casual work as a plumber's offsider at Redcliffe between Light Horse camps when he received an official letter from the Military Office saying, according to Whitey, something like: 'You will report at the Drill Hall in Dalby (on a certain date) with all your equipment and three cut lunches and be prepared to give continued service until discharged etc. etc.'. The good news from Whitey's point of view was that no horses would be required; the unit was now 'Mechanised Cavalry'.¹⁰



Some members of the Light Horse Troop -Whitey Torenbeek (left) on Star.

Bert Torenbeek was sent to North Africa with the A.I.F. and by coincidence was in the same outfit as Peter Saxelby from Kupunn. Other locals who joined up included Bob Bourke, two of the Morrissey boys and Doug Ferguson Junior. Some young women joined the services, too, including Patricia Tweedie and Elsie Cunningham, both nurses, and Jean Ferguson became a driver transporting the American 'top brass' around Brisbane – in those days few women could drive. Air Force enlistment required an entrance examination and some locals sat for it. Len Lane, who had been working as a telegraphist at the Dalby Post Office, joined the R.A.A.F. as a wireless operator. Charles Martin from the Kupunn School became a navigator/bombardier and flew in Liberator bombers in New Guinea

alongside the Americans. Jack Wilson from *Cavanba* also joined the R.A.A.F. becoming a wireless air-gunner. He served in Canada, England, India and Burma.

Many former residents remember clearly the farewell parties given at the Kupunn Hall for departing service personnel. Pat Lane recalled that as a young boy he 'hero-worshipped those fellows' and 'hoped that some day I would grow up like them. They looked marvellous in their uniforms – tall strong and straight and they seemed to me to be everything that was decent in life'. 'Bee' Bourke (J. William [Bill] Bourke Jnr.) and his brother Bob (who also joined up) would round up the children on the Saturday afternoon before the farewell to sit on wheat bags, which they would then drag around to polish the floor with mutton fat and kerosene:

The floor would be so slippery, that I have seen people fall just trying to cross it. The women would cook for the big event and there was never any shortage of cakes, pies, sandwiches and savouries. What fantastic nights we had, everyone in the finest piece of clothing they owned, the girls were so pretty and the men were handsome, even the roughest old diamonds. What memories I have of those nights. We used to do a dance, the palais glide, where we would form a line across the hall with our arms locked into one another's shoulders. To the tune of 'Ten Pretty Girls' we would take three or four steps, then drop down on one knee, then jump up and transfer to the other knee. Talk about River Dance – they didn't have a patch on us. When the night was finished, we would form a big circle with our departing serviceman in the middle, sing the Maori's farewell as the soldier, sailor or airman moved around inside the circle and said goodbye to everyone. I have seen hardened men who would not shed a tear if you cut their leg off have tears in their eyes when saying goodbye to these wonderful young men. Some of our girls had become nurses and were being sent overseas – they also were given the same send-off, probably more so... There were many dances held pre and post-war where some families who got a bit of booze in them would settle old

scores, but at these functions for our servicemen I can never remember even a hard word.¹¹

Len Lane provided memories of those farewell dances from the perspective of a departing serviceman: '...what a night at a Kupunn dance not long before I left! My first serious encounter with RUM, administered by Henry and Jim Lane.'¹²

The Local War Effort

The community gathered its resources in an effort to assist with the war effort. During the dark days of 1942 a Japanese invasion seemed possible, with actual combat in the local area. Duncan Waterson and Maurice French point out, however, that 'Controversy over the 'Brisbane Line' and the alarms of a state and continent in danger should not obscure the fact that the Darling Downs were safe pastures between 1941 and 1945'.¹³ The district proved to be a safe haven for evacuees from the city, and a place of recreation for air force trainees from Oakey, and local servicemen and women on leave.

In addition to dances farewelling the residents who had enlisted in the armed forces, many other social functions were held. They were mostly to raise funds for the Tara Line Patriotic Fund, which supported the Ambulance Service and sent relief parcels to the troops. On 27 March 1942 there was a report in the Dalby Herald about one such function held at the Kupunn Hall. It was noted that Sergeant Doug Ferguson of the A.I.F. was present on leave. He had been recalled from overseas with other Australian troops because of the growing Japanese threat. Eleven pounds was donated to the Ambulance Fund after another dance reported in the Dalby Herald of 5 June 1942. Prizes donated by the local residents included a pair of fowls by Charlie

Torenbeek, and a dressed fowl by Mrs. Jim Lane. Phyllis Lane recalled attending one of the functions at the hall in 1942 with her brother-in-law Alf Lane (a beautiful dancer she said). She was seven months pregnant but it didn't matter at all. The dances were family affairs with all ages present.¹⁴

During this period a form of industrial conscription had taken effect, through manpower legislation that sought to deploy human resources to the best advantage. Trade Union acceptance was a big step as members had already agreed to an increase of women in men's jobs, and wage pegging.¹⁵ Compulsory military training for home defence, which was re-introduced under existing legislation, had been extended in the early days of the war to encompass Commonwealth territories. The significance of that amendment became apparent as the Japanese advance extended towards Australia, and looked unstoppable. The realisation dawned that conscripts could be required to fight in New Guinea. Until that time all Australian troops serving overseas had been volunteers – even in World War I when there was heated debate and a final refusal to allow conscripts to serve overseas. Darwin was first bombed in February 1942, and experienced Australian forces were just returning from service overseas. Early 1942 was indeed the period of greatest vulnerability for the nation. The return of A.I.F. troops from the Middle East was evidenced in the district by a short leave for some of the locals like Doug Ferguson and Leo Morrissey. There was a clear recognition that our own problems with the Japanese needed to take precedence over the war in Europe.

Volunteer Defence Corps, Kupunn, 1944

Photo: Courtesy of Mr Pat Lane



As already indicated, primary producers had been excluded from military service, and many attempts by locals to 'join up' were rejected because food and wool production were vital to the war effort. A Volunteer Defence Corps (V.D.C.) was formed during this period of great anxiety, and branches were set up all around the country giving the primary producers a welcome chance to gain military training. At a meeting to form the Kupunn group thirty-five men volunteered.¹⁶ Harry Saxelby, a World War I veteran, was selected as Commanding Officer. (See a photograph of some members in uniform on the previous page, reproduced from the Dalby Family History Society Calendar, 1998.)

This was no Dad's Army, as all of these men were under 40 years of age, in good physical condition and were very keen to fight. At first they did not have much equipment and I remember their first parade – they had to line up with broomsticks. We kids thought it was marvellous and mimicked everything they did. They would meet every Sunday at the hall and were eventually given uniforms and guns etc. Dad and some of the others did training camps with the army at Wacol and Enoggera, for a three-week stretch at a time.¹⁷

Jack Waters, who had been a member of the V.D.C. at Kupunn, recalled some details about the group in a letter to a local newspaper years later. He says that as the war progressed 'the authorities began to realize the V.D.C. was very important and were recognised as the last line of defence.' The group was given some expert training:

They even gave us a demonstration on how to wire the Loudoun Bridge so we could blow it up in case of an invasion. We learnt how to use camouflage and take cover from enemy observations. These were just a few of the necessary and important things the V.D.C. were taught and had to practise on the weekends... This training was carried out at weekends only, Saturday and Sunday, then everybody had to hurry home to milk the cows or feed the sheep.¹⁸

Others in the community helped in different ways. While the men did their Militia training:

...the women of the district would gather in the hall and parcel up stuff they had made during the week, to send to our boys overseas. Many a beautiful fruitcake was packed into tin canisters, along with knitted socks and scarves, and posted to each of our boys in Europe somewhere. What a great thing it must have been for these fellows to have a parcel from home. The women packed those parcels with great love. No one was forgotten. After Dad's funeral, Col Kennedy, who had worked for him pre-war, told me that he had received many parcels and letters in the desert in North Africa. Apparently the boys would sit in the shade of a truck or tank when mail time would come and exchange everything. Even the letters were passed from one to the other. He told me he had read some of the most beautiful love letters ever written, under the shade of a tank in the Sahara Desert. Dad, whose nickname was Querie, always signed his letters to Col with a big question mark, which brought a laugh from the soldier reading it.¹⁹

It is on record that Christmas parcels were forwarded to forty servicemen in late 1943, giving an idea of the endeavours of the Patriotic Fund – and also the magnitude of local enlistment in the military forces despite the exclusion of primary producers.²⁰

Even the children helped with the war effort. Advertisements were placed in the local papers for aluminium in the form of old saucepans and other items:

How You Can Help the War Effort

Save all the WASTE PAPER, CLEAN RAGS & ALUMINIUM you can, and deliver same to the Town Council Chambers, Dalby for consignment to the Salvage Authority. These are urgently required.

SAVE SALVAGE FOR VICTORY²¹

Pat Lane says: 'I can remember, we kids were given a wheat-bag and every Saturday we would be told to go to as many rubbish dumps as we could and find as many old aluminium pots we could.' In addition: 'We used to take a

shilling to school every Monday morning and buy a stamp which was posted in a special little blue book. When the book was full we could take it to the Commonwealth Bank and we would be given a pound note. Money was so short that even our shillings lent to the Government was of help.'²²

The Australian civilian population accepted clothes rationing, food rationing (which hit harder in the cities), and the disappearance of luxury items like chocolate, which was reserved for the military.²³ However, it was the shortage and rationing of fuel that became a real problem for local farmers. Some, including Alex Laffy, used charcoal burners that were towed behind in a trailer to power their cars. Worse was to follow. Pat Lane said that his father and uncle (Jim and Harry Lane) had bought a brand new Caterpillar D2 tractor in the early 1940s. They had it for only twelve months when two men from the Allied Works Council drove up with the news that they had to commandeer the tractor. It was to be used for the building of airstrips on the Solomon Islands. It was replaced with an old steel-wheeled German Bulldog, which Jim Lane said '...was a lot of noise and not much action'. It was all they had for the rest of the war. Ironically the old Bulldog was found somewhere in Queensland in the early 1990s by a German businessman looking for one to send home to a museum. When a then quite elderly Jim Lane was told the old Bulldog was being sent back to Germany he had not forgotten his difficulties with it. He replied 'Not bloody far enough!'²⁴

Most farmers were carrying increased debt after the 1930s depression, and the loss of a ready supply of labour and good farming equipment was worrying for their financial situation. However, this was offset because their products were now in great demand. The price of wool was high, the British

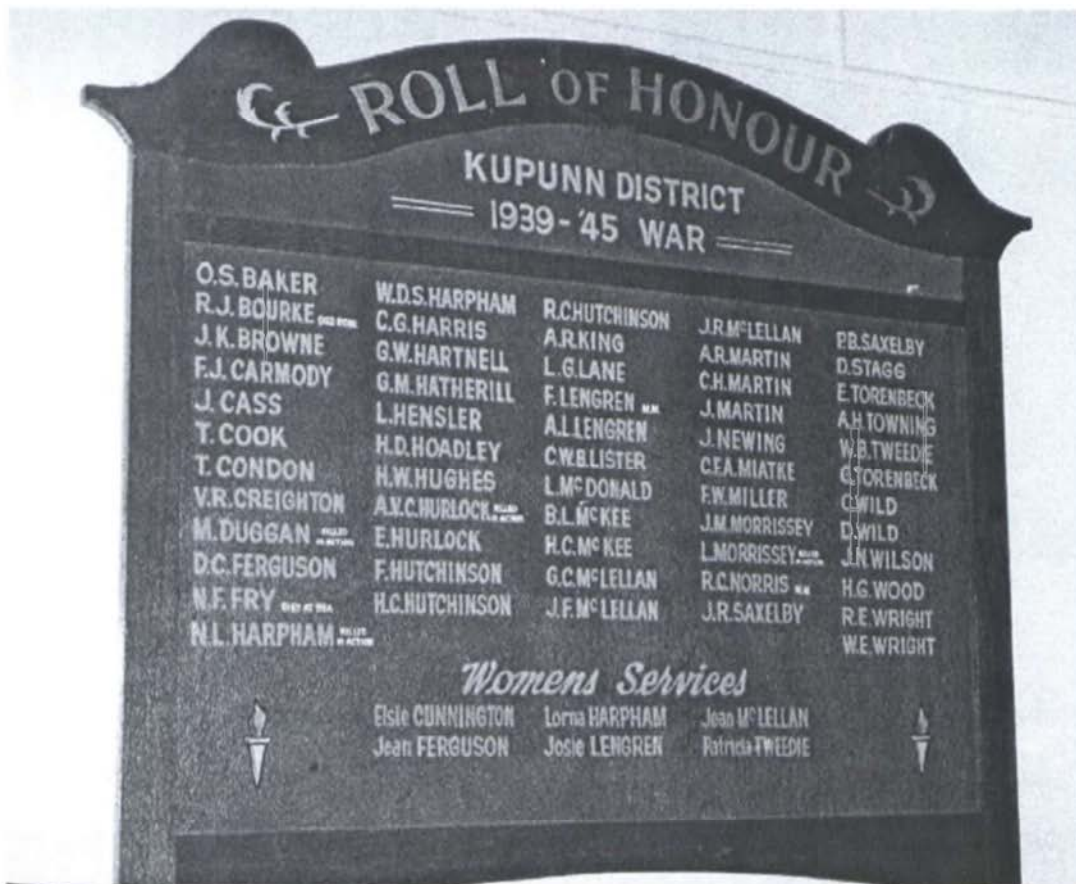
Government had agreed to 'buy the whole of the surplus clip for the duration for thirteen and a half pence (Aust.) per pound. This was threepence more than the 1938/9 price and a little higher than the average for the preceding three years.' There was also 'an assured market' for dairy produce. 'Milk consumption rose rapidly, especially in the services. And after 1942 the United States forces in Australia added their quota to the demand'. Wheat farming suffered from the loss of the superphosphate supply from Nauru, the labour shortage and the drought - national production was reduced considerably. A.G.L. Shaw points out, however, that though Australian farms may have been rather dilapidated at the end of the war, the farmers had done well financially. 'They had six years of guaranteed markets at profitable prices, and many had been able to reduce their debts considerably.'²⁵

Many women were alone in the city while their husbands were absent on military service, and pregnant women were considered to be at special risk. In addition there was a severe housing shortage in Brisbane because of the influx of troops and other workers, and no new housing under construction. After the fall of Singapore, the bombing of Darwin and talk of a defensive 'Brisbane Line', the possibility of an attack on home soil was recognised. The result was a flow of evacuees from Brisbane, often to the Downs. Morris Lane's niece Doreen Smith (nee Ryan, the former pianist in Ryan's Dance Band) who was in the later stages of pregnancy joined those who left Brisbane, travelling to her parents' home in Dalby for the birth.²⁶ In a similar situation was Morris and Emily Lane's daughter-in-law, Phyllis Lane, who joined them at *Whitewood*. Her own family was in north Queensland and not accessible. Dr. Hawthorne delivered both babies.



A worried looking Eber Lane, leaving his wife and daughter with his parents at *Whitewood* during the darkest days of the war in 1942.

Factories were set up in Dalby to manufacture war essentials. Ewings Garage had military contracts,²⁷ and Napiers was established to design and manufacture motor vehicle gas producers.²⁸ Staff was needed for these operations, and assured under manpower legislation. Women often filled the gaps in the factory workforce.



World War II Honour Board in the Kupunn War Memorial Hall.

Anxious Times in 1942

I was evacuated from Brisbane with my pregnant mother Phyllis Lane in 1942, to spend time at *Whitewood* near Nandi in the care of my grandparents. I have few memories of that period, as I was only two years old. I remember the sheep dogs, the sheep and the horses but that time was well recorded. To meet my father's desperate requests for a few 'snaps,' many photographs were taken of his absent family.



Morris Bassett Lane with granddaughter Dale Mary at
Whitewood in 1942.

In a manner that had become routine for the district, my mother was taken into Dalby a few weeks early to await the birth of my sister. There was always the danger of the Condamine River rising and making the journey impossible. She stayed with my father's cousin Ruth Slaughter (nee Lane),

who as we saw earlier had married the well-respected Ambulance Superintendent, Edgar Dalby Slaughter in the 1920s. My mother always said what better place to stay!²⁹ Ruth and Edgar (known fondly as 'Super') later saw their two sons join the services when they reached the required age. This was of great concern at *Belah Park* and *Whitewood*. Jim in particular had spent many school holidays at *Belah Park* where he was known as young 'Sago'. Fortunately Jim returned from the war unscathed, but it was a great blow when William was killed in 1944 as the result of an Air Force training accident in Canada.



Phyllis Lane with Dale Mary at Whitewood 1942. Note the A Model Ford that was still in use in the 1950s, though it was by then converted to a Utility.

It was a difficult time for my parents. My father Eber Lane was with the Telegraph Branch, P.M.G. Department in Brisbane and had joined the Post

Office Volunteer Corps in 1940. His application to be released for military service was refused by the Deputy Director, Posts and Telegraphs on 25 February 1942: 'You will, no doubt, appreciate the difficulty which confronts the Department in releasing officers engaged in reserved occupations in view of the large number of unreserved officers who have been released'.³⁰ He worked very long hours doing essential communications work,³¹ and became a Sergeant in the Citizens Military Forces, Signals section as well. In one hurried note to my mother in 1942 he says, 'Was at parade last night and have a damned parade statement to work out during my lunch hour.' In other correspondence he says 'When I go to work tomorrow I'll have 12 days ahead of me without a break'. Norm Stubbersfield of the Telegraph Office later outlined problems with staff exhaustion in the Brisbane Telegraph Office during the war. An investigator was brought in to look at the problem and could not believe that 146 telegraphists were handling the same volume of work as 600 in Sydney and 500 in Melbourne. 'I don't want to belittle the men in the south, it was just a measure of the extreme load in Brisbane'.³² Eber also mentions visiting friends on a day off and helping 'the boys do some work around the air-raid shelter...'.

There was some good war news in early 1942. Eber says in a letter to his wife dated 19 April 1942: 'The papers are full of the Tokyo bombing this morning. I hope it's true and is just the beginning. I don't think the Japs will cop it at all when the pressure is put on.'³³ In a later letter he expressed the concerns of the Australian population:

The breakdown of the Cripps mission to India, plus the loss of the Bataan Peninsula by the Yanks bring those yellow creatures nearer to

us my little girl. Unless we are able to strongly reinforce New Guinea and do so rather hurriedly, we may see action here any day. I would not be surprised to see the A.I.F. who have returned from overseas sent up to New Guinea. We need a not too large but well equipped force there to prevent the Japs getting a foothold because if ever they control New Guinea we will have plenty of excitement here.

The sadness of separation and the anxieties shared by many couples during the war years were evident in a letter to Phyllis at *Whitewood*:

I understand how you must feel sometimes about being out at Dalby and away from me. In fact I rather like to think you miss me a little dearest, because I miss you very much. However, there is satisfaction in knowing we have done the 'wise' thing. I'm satisfied beyond all doubt, that you are better where you are and I know you feel the same. Being separated is not nearly as nice as being together but as you pointed out we must consider our baby.....I would not like to see our little girl in an air-raid shelter in a Brisbane backyard, when fortunately it is not necessary. Any poor little kids that go through that sort of thing would never get over it.³⁴

For local families who had children serving overseas it was a worrying time. As much of the population expected (including Eber Lane above), after Prime Minister Curtin recalled the experienced Australian troops from overseas they were sent to the front line in New Guinea to help halt the Japanese advance. In late 1942 Dick Hutchinson was reported missing in Europe, believed to be a prisoner.³⁵ Leo Morrissey was killed in action in New Guinea on 3 September 1942. Leo's military experiences had been typical of many in the A.I.F. After serving in the Middle East, he returned to Australia and a brief leave with his parents and then was sent north to New Guinea.³⁶ Frank Miller had served in the Middle East and was at the important Battle of Milne Bay in New Guinea. Bert Torenbeek was one of the 'Rats of Tobruk' and then served in New Guinea. Bob Bourke died at the

hands of the Japanese, after working on the Burma railway. Whitey Torenbeek's unit was stationed on the 'Brisbane Line' and in the last year of the war he was sent to North Borneo. (See Appendix for more details of local servicemen.)

Emily and Morris Lane were particularly concerned in April 1942 because they had not heard from their twenty-year-old son Len, who was believed to be in New Guinea. Eber Lane wrote to Phyllis at *Whitewood*:

I'll write to Mum and Dad early in the week. Give them my love. I know they are worried about not having heard from Len. Do your best to cheer them up dear, after all he is their baby you know. I don't doubt that he's at Port Moresby and doing his share of those good deeds we are hearing about. We owe those chaps a good deal.³⁷

Len had arrived in New Guinea at Salamaua near Lae the day before Japanese attacks began. He says that the local militia - the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles - saved his group by supplying them with quinine, which they had never heard of. After being subjected to enemy fire from fighter planes based in Rabaul, and actually seeing a pilot shot and killed on the ground after a forced landing,³⁸ Len and the other four or five wireless operators were ordered to retreat to the hills and radio back information about enemy activity. This they did for several months, greatly assisting the allied effort to turn back the Japanese army. The local people fed them and some military supplies got through. Len recalled that the first batch of unlabelled tinned food that arrived proved to be can after can of beetroot! The second lot was better, it was salmon, but Len says it took him years to enjoy tinned salmon again. Ironically, for a young man who had not liked the Light Horse Militia camps at all because he feared for the safety of his horse, it was on horseback that Len finally made his escape to an airfield. He

had suffered badly from malaria and swollen knees, and was unable to walk down the mountainous track to the coast. As luck would have it some supplies sent to the hills were delivered on a packhorse! Len rode the horse to the airstrip and flew to Port Moresby with the Americans - a hair-raising journey in an aircraft with engine problems. The other wireless operators made the difficult walk out.³⁹

It was in the early war years that many of the locals got their 'wireless' to keep up with the news. It was a big event in Jim Lane's family. Pat said:

About this time Dad and Mum bought a radio set. It stood about 3ft. high and was a beautiful piece of furniture. I think if my memory serves me rightly, it was an A.W.A. and this sure improved our quality of life. I can remember Bid running in every afternoon to hear the program 'The Search for the Golden Boomerang' sponsored by the makers of Hoadley's Violet Crumble Bars. Dad, Mum and Grandfy [Sam Hutchinson] listened religiously to the news and the night Singapore fell I can remember Grandfy saying, 'The little yellow so and so's are on their way, Jimmy'. As a kid of about twelve years old I could sense the concern in his voice. I also remember the morning Mum called me to ride my bike over to the dairy to tell Dad that the Bismarck had just been sunk.⁴⁰

Both Max Schultz and Pat Lane, who were schoolboys at the time, remember aircraft flying over the district. Max saw 'squadrons of aeroplanes flying west to Charleville, mainly Wirraway, in groups of up to fifty.'⁴¹ From Charleville they flew on to Darwin. Pat recalled that Sheila Lane, his cousin from *Belah Park*, 'was a very pretty girl at the time and had a lot of pretty friends,' so some of the young pilots from the Spitfire squadron based at Oakey found their way to *Belah Park*. Harry and Beattie threw a party for them nearly every Saturday night. This was repaid by the memorable gift of some high-octane fuel drained from one of the Spitfires, for the family

Buick. Mixed with kerosene it proved to work very well, but the smell of the exhaust was 'a dead give-a-way that she was on something foreign'. After the Spitfire squadron received orders to fly to Port Moresby they detoured via *Belah Park* and 'dive-bombed' the house where they had been made so welcome. Pat Lane recalled the incident, 'Aunt Beat was inside absolutely terrified and I think that Casey [Tom Lane, her son] summed it up well at Aunt Beat's funeral, when he spoke for her. He said, "Mum was inside screaming something about the Pommy pilot's parents lack of marital status". Knowing Aunt Beat as well as I did, I know she would have been much more worried about them and their safety going to war, than she would have been for herself. They all addressed her as "Mother" and indeed she was, to each and every one of them'.⁴²

Americans were seen about town, particularly around the Café Majestic in Cunningham St.,⁴³ and they made a big impression on the local children:

After Pearl Harbour, when the Yanks joined the war, I can remember the big convoys of American troops coming through Dalby, on their way north. As kids we loved to count the wheels on the troop carriers. Some had 40 wheels under them and were very big in those days – toys to some of the trucks used to cart grain today... The Yankee troops were loaded with money and were good to us kids. They would hand us a few bob every time they saw us. We took it too – we weren't fools.⁴⁴



Robert (Bob) Bourke, in his Light Horse uniform, before he joined the A.I.F. Bob died on the Burma Railway six weeks after peace was declared. His life had already been saved once by Weary Dunlop, who gave him a blood transfusion.

Jack Wilson is farewelled by his family.



Charles Martin and his new wife
Mavis (nee McLaran).



Len Lane



Jim Slaughter

After the War: The Disintegration of the Community

After the war the servicemen who died were remembered and mourned, and there was great sympathy for their families. Charles Martin says 'Leo and Bob's deaths [Morrissey and Bourke] were a blow to all who knew them. They were Kupunn's favourite sons'.⁴⁵ The welcome home dances for returning service personnel were joyous occasions. Fortunately Dick Hutchinson, who had been missing in action, survived the war after escaping from Italy through France. He and his cousin Frank returned, as Whitey Torenbeek put it, 'covered with glory and in one piece'.⁴⁶ In January 1946 Whitey was discharged from the army and he and two other locals were given 'a BIG welcome home party in the Kupunn Hall.'⁴⁷

The war had disrupted what had been a fairly stable community since the early years of the 20th century. Although community ties had strengthened during wartime, outside influences caused a gradual disintegration afterwards. Many of the young people who had left to serve their country did not return to settle in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district. Charlie Torenbeek, with no family to help him, had sold his original selection to Ollie Schultz in about 1943 and moved closer to town. His sons never returned to the district to live. Whitey married and settled in Redcliffe and then Gayndah, 'on 800 acres we acquired as a result of a ballot'.⁴⁸ Other locals too had married people from outside the district, and post-war they found employment elsewhere. Len Lane married a Victorian nurse on 20 November 1943.⁴⁹ Len and Joan visited his parents at *Whitewood* several times after the war as he battled to regain his health, which was precarious for some years due to his stint in New Guinea. He finally settled in Victoria

because the climate was kinder to his condition. Alf Lane, who had been declared medically unfit for the armed forces and worked in a Brisbane factory for the duration, married Lillian Worthington, a servicewoman he met in Brisbane. Alf and Lil eventually returned to live in the district after his father's death in the mid 1950s. Doug Ferguson took up farming in the area again and Frank Miller returned to *Wilkie View*. Charles Martin taught in Dalby until about 1950 and was then sent to other parts of Queensland.

New people came to the district. The Irvines were from Victoria and became established on Spencer Martin's old place in 1949. Many of the new people were returned servicemen and women. Robert Wicks was from nearby Jondaryan where his family had settled in the 1880s. He purchased Portion 62, Parish of Daandine (the old Saxelby place) in the mid 1940s. Robert Wicks named his farm *Derna* after a seaside village near Tobruk where he had served. Robert and his wife Sybil (Poppy) extended their landholdings and were followed by their son John who continued the trend. The Table of Land Ownership in the Appendix shows the expanded interests in the district of Wicks Farming Pty. Ltd.⁵⁰ Eileen M. Short was an ex-servicewoman,⁵¹ and famous as one of a group of nurses imprisoned by the Japanese. She was immortalised in a published account of their experiences, White Coolies by Betty Jeffrey, which was broadcast as a radio serial in the 1950s.⁵² Miss Short shared Portion 41, Parish of Daandine with D.K. McIntyre (who also owned *Mingara*, on the other side of the Moonie Highway), although the details of the ownership arrangement are unclear. Max Shultz share-farmed Portion 41 for many years, where Miss Short lived in a War Service home after D.K. McIntyre died in the 1960s. She remained until her death in about 1975.⁵³

There was concern in government circles about finding employment for the huge number of returned men, and a fear of repercussions if their needs could not be met. A.G.L. Shaw comments that the rehabilitation of the ex-serviceman was carried out 'very smoothly and efficiently', and compared with events after the First World War this was indeed true. It was accepted that the government had an obligation to the men, and needed to compensate them for lost employment opportunities. Reconstruction training was provided, not only at universities and technical colleges but also for rural workers. Vocational guidance and loans on easy terms were made to those wanting to go on the land. The post World War I mistake of leaving the returned soldier saddled with debt, after providing loans to buy land, was avoided.⁵⁴ However, even though reconstruction was well managed it was impossible to fully compensate all returned personnel. Some local men suffered on-going health problems as a result of their experiences, including what would now be called post-traumatic stress, diseases such as malaria and the legacy of war wounds.

Some land in the district was resumed for soldier settlers in a system whereby the government compulsorily acquired land that it deemed was not being used to its full capacity. For a time residents like Morris Lane, who was now over sixty years old, were a little anxious.⁵⁵ Much of the resumed land was formerly part of *Loudoun* station, as can be seen in the Table of Land Ownership, for example Portions 65, 66, 67 and 69, Parish of Hill. Lewis Wilson's *Cavanba* was also intended for Soldier Settlement but was removed from the listing in consideration of Lewis' service in France in World War I, and that of his son Jack in the R.A.A.F. during World War II.⁵⁶

The 'black soil grazing farmers of the Jondaryan/Dalby/Bell area' joined with the existing graingrowers of the Central Downs to 'phenomenally expand acreages through the 1948 wheat stabilization schemes'.⁵⁷ However, the Australian post-war boom with high wheat and wool prices reached a climax in 1951, and brought severe government controls for fear of another depression. Great public works, higher wages, shorter working hours, and a high demand for goods, were all inflationary factors. The public works program was cut and credit to private industry was restricted. A.G.L Shaw says that in general the farmers were more cautious (than some in other industries) about overextending their enterprises. Farmers well remembered experiences of the 1920s and 30s and the dangers of extending to 'marginal' lands.⁵⁸

In 1950 an initiative from the Treasurer, Arthur Fadden, was, as Russel Ward says, 'bitterly resented' by many of his own Country Party voters. 'A proportion of every pastoralist's inflated wool-cheque was compulsorily set aside to meet future income-tax liabilities' (Provisional Tax).⁵⁹ According to Sir Percy Joske, rising inflation in the period 1949 to 1951 was caused 'partly by the effect of the Korean war on the economy and the need for increased war expenditure, and partly by the huge increase in the national wool cheque'. In this climate the Menzies government introduced a 'Horror Budget' in 1951. Taxation was increased heavily and government expenditure was pruned by the dismissal of 10,000 public servants and other unpopular measures. Menzies' threefold plan to check inflation by reducing the spending power of the people, increasing their savings and increasing production 'warded off' a depression according to Sir Percy Joske.

Nevertheless Joske says that the Treasurer, Mr. Fadden, 'generally speaking a most popular figure, with a good sense of humour, is recorded as saying in later years, that at the time he could have held a meeting of all his friends in a telephone booth'.⁶⁰ A.G.L. Shaw seems to agree with Sir Percy Joske that the strategy was necessary: 'But at least the boom was checked in time; and if the government cannot take all the credit (for the fall in overseas wool prices, and the unfavourable balance of trade for instance) its policy, though perforce delayed for political reasons until after the 1951 elections, was courageous and reasonably effective'.⁶¹

Many locals in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district remember that time well, and are still angry that their success, following the hard war years, was so severely penalised. Some farmers had a difficult time. One resident who arrived in the district in 1950 was reluctant to speak about his experiences on one of the ex *Loudoun* land portions. He stayed only one year.⁶² Pat Lane says that provisional tax 'broke the graziers over night'.⁶³ Some residents believed that profits from the country were simply siphoned to the city. However, the Menzies government was very concerned that high wheat and wool prices would lead to a post-war depression similar to the one after the First World War. Moves to prevent that situation made things extremely difficult for struggling farmers who were now not only at the mercy of an unpredictable climate and price variations for their produce, but in the grip of an unfavourable economic strategy as well.

There were some good years in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district during the early 1950s, but they soon gave way to drought. Morris Lane reported a good woolclip and excellent prices in 1952, 1953, and says in

1954, 'Things are very good, I paid my tax...everything is paid up with nearly 1000 pounds in kitty'. He mentions also that his neighbours Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson [Snr], 'are leaving today for a Tour around Eng. Scot. Ire. and America if they have time. They expect to be away six months'. It seems that they were doing well too. In June 1954 Morris says of a paddock he had planted, 'You talk about moisture – a wonderful bit of country'. In fact there was rather too much rain and some flooding. But, typical of the unpredictable climate, in December Alf Lane says of the same land, 'Country is dry now here, we need rain...there are cracks in ground big enough for a snake to go down...'⁶⁴ That drought was followed by a huge flood in 1956 well remembered by Pat and Aileen Lane who were married in the January. 'It started to rain in December and it rained and rained and rained. The *Loudoun* bridge built in 1954, never to be submerged, went under water three times in the first two weeks of 1956.'⁶⁵ Alf Lane at *Whitewood* bewailed the fact that 'lambs are at an all time record price...but of course no one has any. The 500 odd sheep I bought at Cunnamulla in January are still cut off by floods...'⁶⁶



Pat and Aileen Lane on
their wedding day, 28
January 1956.

A backlash from the government's stringent controls was industrial action by the shearers who were all members of Amalgamated Workers Union. Max Schultz, who was about twenty-one at the time and a part-time shearer, remembers the 1956 shearers' strike for higher pay. The rate of pay was five pounds a hundred, and they were demanding seven pounds ten a hundred – a huge increase. Max wondered how Australia could afford such a highly inflated wage and he 'elected to shear for the old price'. Max says he was then known in AWU circles as a 'scab.'⁶⁷ Max's reaction was similar to that of local shearers in earlier years on *Loudoun* station, who were not interested in industrial action either because they thought that they were being treated fairly. Local ties were much stronger than industrial ones in that close-knit society.⁶⁸ Indeed Frank Miller complained bitterly about union interference during his dairying days on *Wilkie View*, which saw happy arrangements on his land come to an end. A family lived in his house for no charge, worked the dairy for him for a 'fair' wage and had access to farm supplies such as milk, meat, eggs etc. Union wages and conditions meant he could no longer afford to employ them and they had to leave what had been their home.⁶⁹



The Loudoun shearing crew in the 1930s included many local farmers and farmer's sons. Jim and Jack Morrissey are on the left, Henry Cunnington on the right and Snowy Torenbeek in front (right).

Whitey Torenbeek was able to name most of the group, seventy years later, showing that these were not a group of itinerant contract shearers.

Life went on for the children in the district and they completed their education in various ways. Max Schultz attended the Kupunn School during the war and afterwards, and left in 1949. He says that: ‘Corporal punishment was in vogue and harsh punishment was dealt to mainly male students and mainly by male teachers. I can recall one male teacher lifting my little brother off his seat by his ears and seeing pus come running out of his ears! Nevertheless we survived to tell our stories.’⁷⁰ Corporal punishment was accepted in those days. Whitey Torenbeek told about his experiences in the small Nungil School near Brymaroo in the 1920s, and how he and his brother ‘vowed that they would never do anything wrong’, after they observed the male teacher punish students with a big leather strap or a cane that was three feet long. Whitey says the teacher was fair, but had to be strict because some of the pupils were big ‘like men’ and difficult to teach.⁷¹

Mariee (Bid) Lane, like many of the local girls, received much of her schooling at St. Columba’s School in Dalby and boarded at the convent. She says she started when she was the smallest in the line that marched into school, and left when she was the tallest.⁷² Also at the convent were Morris and Emily Lane’s granddaughters (Freda and Ailsa McLennan) from the Condamine area further west. They had commenced their education with a governess on *Miamba* (the family property) but had reached a stage where more formal schooling and contact with other children was considered necessary. Their family was staunchly Church of England, and visited regularly by the Bush Brothers at *Miamba*,⁷³ but still decided that the convent was ideal for their daughters. Freda and Ailsa recall how welcome the once-a-month weekend visits to *Whitewood* were, and how eagerly they awaited the arrival of ‘Fardy and Gim’ to collect them. The two little girls

were very lonely, separated from their home and family and confined in a boarding school. It was a quite different life, without the freedom they had grown accustomed to on *Miamba*.⁷⁴ In 1944 Bid's brother Pat Lane was sent to Downland's College in Toowoomba to complete his education.

Boy! What a change, away from loving, caring parents and a one-teacher school, to a boarding school of 250 boys. I must have been the second most homesick kid ever to go to boarding school...There was a big kid by the name of McFadgen from over round Pittsworth...He would go up to our dormitory and just stand and stare out the window looking in a south-westerly direction...eventually they had to ring his parents and ask them to come and take him home.⁷⁵

Harry and Beattie Lane's children attended Kupunn School during the war, riding their ponies as others in the district had done before them.



John (Twerp) Lane's first day at school. Although it is not clear in the photograph, his pony is attached to the one ridden by his older brother, Tom (Casey) on the right. Early 1940s.

Details of Life at Whitewood

My personal experiences in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district include a period in 1947 when I lived with my grandparents, Emily and Morris Lane, because I had been quite ill. My schooling was by correspondence and I remember the excitement of the fat manila envelopes that we collected from Nandi rail siding. My grandparents were very patient, but responsibility for my education must have been a worry to them. I was seven years old and have a very good memory of life at *Whitewood* in the late 1940s. In the

forefront was my terror of snakes, probably because of all the strong warnings about the dangers, but I don't remember seeing one during my stay. I do recall a rooster that regarded the outside 'dunny' as his domain, and attacked anyone who approached the area. He later made a fine Sunday dinner.

Entertainment for me included browsing through a stack of old Australian Women's Weeklys kept in the window box, listening to Kindergarten of the Air and World Famous Tenors on the A.B.C. and following either the Lawsons or Blue Hills with my grandmother (I'm not sure when the changeover occurred). I know I was listening with my grandmother when Emmy received a marriage proposal. I also learned to play cards!

There were two horses kept in a paddock near the homestead, and they both had playful foals that provided much entertainment in the evenings as we watched them frolic from the veranda. I was very aware of all the farm animals and the many birds in the district and can understand residents describing their childhood on the farms as a happy time. I was occasionally allowed to play with May Laffy's daughter Carmel, who was also about seven and lived at *Avonlea* across the Nandi Road. I would walk over there, down two long driveways and a short distance on the road. I was kept under constant surveillance from the two homesteads as I concentrated on holding on to my large hat, and keeping a lookout for snakes.

The other big excitement in my life was regular trips to 'the pictures' with my grandmother on Saturdays and Wednesdays. We dressed in our best and often took a leg of lamb for lunch at the home of Lily Coutts (from the

Coutts Garage family) my grandmother's friend (her cousin I believe) in Dalby. We usually drove the ten miles into town with my grandfather in his A Model Ford, but sometimes he dropped us at Nandi and we went on the railmotor. I saw many 'unsuitable' Joan Crawford and Bette Davis dramas as well as Errol Flynn in Robin Hood and numerous cowboy films. Another big occasion was a picnic at 'Broadwater'. After months of being frugal with limited supplies at the homestead, I could not understand where all the water came from.

The telephone was connected on a party line, the radio was battery powered, and the fridge and lamps were run on kerosene. Cooking was still done in a wood-fired oven, which also provided the hot water. A quart pot (known as the dipper) was used to carry water to and from the stove. Electricity did not come through the district until the 1960s. My grandfather milked a few cows each morning for the home supply, and my grandmother separated the cream two or three days a week and made butter in a churn. Lambs were killed regularly for the family meat supply and there were eggs from the fowl yard. There was a storeroom off the veranda full of tinned food including IXL jam, fruit and vegetables, bags of flour, sugar and potatoes, big tins of Bushells tea, and of course kerosene. There was also an ingenious glass fly-trap on the kitchen table. Flies were attracted by sugar left under the trap and were funnelled into water when they flew away.

My grandfather's major income was from sheep: the wool clip and fat lambs. A couple of large paddocks were cultivated and planted with feed crops such as oats. In fact Pat Lane sometimes did the ploughing and I was quite impressed by him, a lad of about sixteen, looking very grown up to a

seven year old. My grandfather always rode a horse for transport except when he went to town – all his life he was more comfortable riding than driving! He had a couple of good well-trained dogs and they did the work of moving the sheep. At that time there was a windmill and bore out in the paddocks to water stock, and tank water was used sparingly at home. A few years later a windmill was put in near the homestead. Warm bore water showers were welcome during family holidays, and vegetables, melons and figs could be grown in the home garden.



Morris Lane with four of his grandchildren, Eber Lane's children, Carol and Dale (left), and Gary (right). Malcolm McLennan (Frankie's son) is next to Gary.
est. 1950

An event occurred during the Christmas period in 1952 that gave us a taste of the anxiety caused by isolation from medical care. My seven-year-old brother (Eber Gary Bassett Lane) was unwell when we arrived at *Whitewood* after a long steam train trip from Brisbane, and a ten-mile car ride (mostly on a dirt road) from Dalby in the A Model Ford. Gary's symptoms were very worrying and a call to the doctor in town brought a young locum, Dr. Condon, the ten miles out to the property. By coincidence my sister Carol and I recognised him as the 'school doctor' who had examined us in Brisbane weeks earlier. Gary was diagnosed with tetanus, often known then as 'lock-jaw' and much feared. He was an asthmatic and all attempts to have him immunised earlier had unfortunately been postponed for medical reasons. He was too ill to be taken to Toowoomba, the normal course for

such a serious illness, and he was nursed in Dalby. The whole town was asked for silence near the hospital – no horn tooting, traffic noises etc., and my parents received kind and generous personal support. My father was given a ten-year driver's licence over the counter to facilitate transport to the hospital, although the only car he could drive was the old A Model Ford. He too was always happier on a horse! Much to the surprise of the locals Gary survived, with credit given to excellent medical care and his own fighting spirit. The following report was in the Dalby Herald of 2 January, 1953:

Boy recovering from Tetanus

Garry Lane aged 8 years [he was seven] of Coorparoo, Brisbane who contracted tetanus while in Dalby for the holidays is making a good recovery in the General Hospital. The infection arose following a splinter penetrating his hand [his leg actually] while at home in Brisbane six weeks ago. On New Year's Eve, Caledonian Piper Mr. Len Mitchell cheered up the little patient with some Scotch airs while he was on a visit to the hospital.

Dr. Condon became a close family friend and many of the nurses visited us in Brisbane to see their former patient looking robust again. One young nurse, Gloria Rix (Rixie) later married my father's cousin John Lane of *Carbeen* (see photograph of his first day at school, earlier). She remembers that time well. It was her first year nursing and she was just sixteen years old. She says that Gary was very ill indeed and it was a great responsibility for the young nurses.⁷⁶

Progress, Changes and the Environmental Cost

After the Second World War the rate of land clearing accelerated with increased mechanisation. Pat Lane's father and uncle had developed an idea for a blade on the front of their little tractor after seeing a newsreel during the war. It showed an airstrip being constructed in New Guinea as part of the War effort.⁷⁷ The sudden increase in clearing had a bearing on the way of

life for the residents. The clearing had been motivated by a period when grains like wheat and stock feed crops were very profitable, and many farmers turned from dairying and wool production. Whilst this change benefited many families financially, the closely bonded community slowly grew apart. The release from twice daily milking gave former dairying families a new freedom, and improved transport into Dalby ended their isolation.

Max Schultz recalled that his father sold their land at Kupunn in 1949 to Les Morwood 'who had bulldozers'. Much of that land was cleared before Les Morwood sold to Gordon Croft two years later.⁷⁸ Alf Lane, who was managing *Whitewood* after his father's death in 1954, summed up the thoughts of many of the farmers. 'We intend to bulldoze bad titree corner as oats and fat lambs are better than rubbish.'⁷⁹ Pat Lane was at the forefront of land clearing during the 1950s and 60s, at first clearing the family farm. 'Many neighbours saw what we were doing and wanted me to clear their properties by contract'. It was 'real hard work, but it was work I loved doing and when I drive past the properties we cleared – I do so with a great deal of pride.' Pat is impatient with 'well-fed greenies' [who] 'eat the best food in the world' but criticise what we achieved.⁸⁰ He points out also that the tough rules concerning Provisional Tax motivated much of the land clearing - the farmers were desperate to increase their income to meet the tax.⁸¹

In recent years the clash of opposing viewpoints between farmers and conservationists ('greenies') has gained momentum. In 1978 Michael Hirst from Dalby explored the basis of the ongoing conflict, and his analysis of the argument is probably still relevant. Clearly farmers and conservationists

have different objectives, but Hirst recognised that the conservationists make the task doubly hard if they ‘continually antagonise’ the farmer.

‘Conservation depends so much on the goodwill of the person who actually controls the land’. By painting the farmer as ‘an irresponsible butcher and a greedy materialist’ the farmers will not be enlisted into the cause of conservation. Hirst acknowledged that ‘if conservationists are keen to strip the farmer of the weapons he has against pests, without troubling overmuch about what better alternatives there are, or about the effects for mankind if all these aids to production were abolished, he must naturally oppose them.’ On the other hand Hirst said that the farmer had responsibilities too. ‘He must study how to integrate conservation and sound management on his farm. He must realise that as a landholder he is custodian of the wildlife on that land and that he owes to future generations the duty of ensuring its survival.’ Hirst also suggested that farmers were suspicious that the ‘greenies’ motivation was largely political, their desire to upset the ‘conservative’ elements in government uppermost.⁸²

The farmers’ feelings on this subject crop up frequently in their personal accounts of life in the district, and their position becomes clear. The suspicion of political motivation was seldom mentioned. Rather there was a sense of hurt that the juggling efforts by farmers to conserve what they could and still meet their economic objectives, were so overlooked. Commenting on a sugar glider that Pat Lane and his co-worker rescued when land clearing in the 1960s, Pat says: ‘I do not think there is a more beautiful animal than these little fellows, with satin-like fur and their big, brown eyes. ... Thank God that we farmers are not the heartless vandals we are portrayed to be by the greenies and the city based media...’.⁸³ Farmers even now tend to see

‘greenies’ as well intentioned but ignorant and misguided, exaggerating environmental damage. They say ‘greenies’ enjoy the fruits of the farmers’ efforts in the form of good plentiful food, and the economic advantage to the nation through exports. But the farmers say the ‘greenies’ do not understand that there is necessarily an environmental cost even with efforts to keep it to a minimum. There have been suggestions in other rural areas that some form of funding to offset the economic costs would encourage farmers to minimise further environmental damage.⁸⁴ In recent years environmentalists have been dealing not only with the small farmer, but also with large agribusiness companies and that places a new complexion on the negotiations.

Present and former residents believe that environmentalists should give farmers in the district some credit for their efforts in caring for the land. Over the years farmers were in the vanguard during the battle with pests, such as the prickly pear, Bathurst burr, foxes and hares, brought by the pastoral and agricultural endeavours that provide our food. In the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district the situation for wildlife and native vegetation has necessarily deteriorated considerably on the farms, although fringes and small stands of vegetation remain. However, in an attempt to balance environmental damage the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service created the Lake Broadwater Conservation Park. It has become an oasis in a landscape of cultivated paddocks. The farming community (including the forebears of many farmers criticised in recent decades) was at the forefront of initiatives to preserve the area around the lake in the 1920s and 30s. We saw from photographs in Chapter 5 that the appearance of the

land around the lake is little changed since the early days of the 20th century, in contrast to the immense changes in the farming land.

Physical changes in addition to the cleared landscape in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district included the construction of wheat silos at Kupunn siding in the late 1960s that are still visible for miles around. Bagged wheat had required extra labour as the bags needed to be sewn up and loaded on trucks, and had always been a problem when the full bags became wet. Bulk grain handling came in gradually as farmers purchased the necessary equipment, and the rail sheds at Kupunn were used as a temporary measure until the silos were built. The silos are used nowadays mostly for the overflow when a bumper crop occurs in nearby districts,

Some farmers tried innovative ways of making a living after the war. Pat Lane's story of the wandering emu showed that one local was attempting to breed them (Chapter 5). When Morris Lane's *Whitewood* was sold in 1962 to meet the requirements of his estate, Alf Lane purchased 100 acres of the land and set up a turkey farm. He and his wife Lil had experimented with some turkey eggs (given to them by Jean Bourke) and kerosene incubators, during the eight years he managed *Whitewood*. Electricity came through in time for electric incubators to be installed on the new farm. The power workers came on a Sunday and helped put up the sheds in what Lil Lane describes as a genuinely friendly gesture – no money changed hands (though I imagine that perhaps a turkey or two did!). In typical fashion *Whitewood* homestead was transported to Alf's land, although it was bogged for a day or two.⁸⁵ Alf and Lil continued successfully with the turkeys until their

retirement in 1973, although like all farmers they were at the mercy of market forces and had their ups and downs.

Lil Lane with some
of the turkeys.
(1960s)



Eventually other crops replaced wheat, and now cotton is the principal product from the district along with stock feed including sorghum. New farming methods require more chemical spraying and less ploughing. One train of thought is that ploughing allows the release of moisture from the soil. Sealed roads, earth walled ring tanks, and huge cultivated paddocks scattered with giant pieces of agricultural machinery are features of the landscape. At harvest time huge modules of cotton – up to forty feet long in the old measurement - await loading. The pressing of the modules, the loading equipment and the trucks are all designed to be complementary in the transport process.

Water management is a contentious issue on the state and national scene and the local district is involved on the fringes of one major dispute. In 2002 Queensland Premier Peter Beattie's attempts to address the problem of

declining water flow in the Murray-Darling system were curtailed, mostly by cotton interests and their National Party supporters. The most contentious point has been the 110,000 megalitres held by *Cubbie* station on the Calgoa River. The huge cotton growing station has a water-storage capacity 'equal to Sydney Harbour ensconced in 60km of dam walls'. The Condamine-Balonne river catchment, along with the Warrego and Culgoa, form part of the Murray-Darling system in Queensland, thus the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater area is on the periphery of the dispute. A recent newspaper article quotes from a Department of Natural Resources (Qld) report: 'Flows across the border from Queensland into the Murray-Darling in NSW are just 45 per cent of pre-development levels'. This refers chiefly to greater demands for water since the cotton boom of the last fifteen or so years. The major fear is that, along with 'excessive tree clearing', the reduced river flow contributes to a 'salinity problem that looks set to reach crisis point' if nothing is done. Premier Beattie regards the issue as 'a matter of life and death' but according to the report the Federal Government refused to assist with a proposed buy-out of *Cubbie* station because the National Party 'insisted there was nothing to worry about'.⁸⁶

Some local farmers involved with irrigation are concerned that limits will be applied to their water storage and use. Pat Lane has confidence in the farming communities of the Murray/Darling basin and his opinion is that they will solve the problem themselves. He cites as a reason for his optimism an earlier problem with the spraying of insecticides, which now seems to have been resolved. At one time the local cotton crop was sprayed at least a dozen times before it was harvested. With new strains of cotton and modified farming and spraying methods this has now been reduced by

about two thirds.⁸⁷ When I visited the district in the 1994 Bill (Bee) Bourke and his wife Jean told me that aerial spraying was so bad that they would often find their kitchen floor wet with insecticide. It appears that machines in the paddocks now do the spraying in a much less intrusive way.

The District Now

There is a higher bridge on the Moonie Highway over the Condamine River (built in 1954), which is not covered by water as often as the old one. A few diesel powered trains still run on the Dalby/Tara/Glenmorgan line transporting stock or wheat from further out west. The steam-powered locomotives, so familiar on the line from 1910, were discontinued in 1968. The light railmotors were the backbone of local transport and ferried children to school in town during the 1950s, after the local country schools were closed.⁸⁸ Buses were used after the early 1960s for school transport and the railmotors ceased running in the 1980s. Nandi siding is now unmarked (the sign below came to light in the Pioneer Museum at Dalby) and the Kupunn siding looks deserted, although the silos attract seasonal activity. Electricity, telephones, television, computers and cars have made life on the farms little different from that in town. Food shopping can be done easily in town and medical attention is readily available. Dalby has become the centre of local social activity, too, with the residents drawn there for school functions and sport like bowls, tennis and golf.



The cultural divide between the 'townies' and the farmers is no longer what it was before the war, when the two groups met infrequently. Now they form almost one homogenous group. While little remains of the early days and the life of the original selectors, for the moment memories of that time are still mulled over and discussed by former residents. Some feel an acute sense of sadness that the place they knew and loved is 'lost' - changed beyond all recognition. Many mourn the fact that the old days of passing the family farm to a son or daughter have become almost impossible. Some say they are glad they are not farming now because times are so hard, particularly as during the last twelve to fifteen years or so there have been almost continuous drought conditions.

The original selector families had developed into what was verging on a 'clan' system, where the mention of a surname fixed one's place in the interlinked society. The inclusive traits of a 'clan' were reinforced in many cases by the bestowal of nicknames. These were probably most prolific in the large Lane family where every member had an alternate name known to insiders: Henry (Harry) and Beattie Lane were Hen or The Master and Mother, Jim and Madge Lane were Querie and Polly; Morris and Emily Lane were Bassett and (not to her face) The Duchess; and so on through the next generation. Alf was The Captain locally, although Mavis Martin (nee McLaran) recalled that he was Primrose Lane (from the song) when he attended school with her in Dalby. Many of the nicknames became so well known that formal given names were quite unknown to some members of the community. Furthermore, honorary membership of the 'clan' was handed to many family connections by the bestowal of a nickname: Gerard Torenbeek was 'Whitey' and Jim Slaughter became 'Sago'. I was given a

name in 1942, which was well remembered and established my membership of 'the clan' when I appeared 'out of the blue' (after forty years absence) one afternoon in 1994, and for a longer visit in 2001. Nicknames were coined and given wide currency in the district by other families too; Bill Bourke Junior was always known as 'Bee', Len Hensler often as 'Yellow Belly', Henry George Wood as 'Pie', and Leo Morrissey as Oigle.

The strength of those enduring bonds from the early days is perhaps best illustrated in an account Charles Martin wrote in his first letter to me, of his only meeting with my father, Eber Lane, in Brisbane during the 1970s:

Dad Lane, Morris (Bassett), Alfie (The Captain) were all well-known to me and I have been in touch with the Lanes since my early days. There was of course frequent mention of your Dad, Eber, for the Lanes, and for that matter Dalby, were proud of his success in his professional field. I played bowls with a Roy Hickey who was a colleague of Eber's in the Dalby P.O. I never thought that I would meet him, until in 1970 I found myself sitting next to him at the Brisbane G.P.O., he in his capacity of Post Master General [actually Director, Posts and Telegraphs, Qld.], and I as Principal of Aspley State High School. We were watching a Secondary School students' march. We introduced ourselves and were both delighted by our common interest and knowledge of the Lane family. He later gave me lunch at Tattersall's Club in Queen Street. I have remembered him with affection. He was another Lane gentleman.⁸⁹

Such close bonds are not as evident in succeeding generations, the families have scattered in what is perhaps a microcosm of rural Australia. The move to the towns and cities is partly caused by what could be labelled a rural industrial revolution, with the reduced demand for labour due to mechanisation. Another important factor is that accessibility to town education and employment offers many alternate opportunities for the farmers' offspring. Some local farming families have successfully expanded

their operations but the trend is for big companies in agribusiness to take over and combine several properties. Large companies have the necessary financial backing that is now required to make a living from the land. Ironically, Pat Lane who was involved in much of the post war mechanised land clearing, says that the Kupunn district was never the same after the scrub disappeared. 'Gone are the days of helping your neighbour, gone is the friendliness I knew as a boy growing up in the district. I am quite glad to have moved, because Kupunn is not what it was and I do not feel a part of it anymore. I belonged to an era that has passed.'⁹⁰ A handful of farmers are still working land that has been in their family for generations, others have retired to live in Dalby. Some have left the district altogether but have remained in contact with family and friends from the 'old days'. Former residents and the few families remaining on the land have been the source of much information contained in this investigation. They have generously and willingly given their time and shared their memories, eager that the story of those days be recorded and remembered.

Many former residents have an over-riding sense of loss for a place that is gone. Peter Read, in an attempt to describe the feeling of loss for a 'place' as distinct from a longing for the past, quotes some lines from Philip Hodgins' poem, 'On Going Back for a Look':

The places around the billabong
Are pretty much the way they were
But like a lot of things, they're gone.⁹¹

Len Lane could not hide his disappointment after a visit in September 1997 to *Loudoun* station where he had lived as a boy during the 1920s and 1930s.

Commonsense told him that he was being unreasonable but the longing for a lost place comes through:

I went to Loudoun thinking it would be nice to see through the old house again. But it ain't there!!! The house now is a bloody mess and I could not recognise one part of the old homestead. And it is not that I have forgotten it, as I could draw a plan if I tried. Of course, the old house may have rotted, (or been eaten) away. It was old when we went to live in it and that is nearly 70 years ago. The old station buildings disappeared years ago.⁹²

Len was much happier after a visit to the house in Edward Street, Dalby, where his family had lived from time to time, whilst his father commuted to *Loudoun* on horseback.

As you see [from the enclosed photograph], Edward Street has not changed structurally on the outside, but the inside is totally different, e.g. what was Mum and Dad's bedroom is now the lounge. The overall effect is very comfortable and pleasant.⁹³

The changes at *Loudoun* were obviously a shock to Len. Somehow the 'place' had remained fondly in his memory as it was many years ago. He would no doubt find pleasure in the interest the Westaway family are taking in the homestead at *Loudoun* (which is neat and trim with many original features preserved), and in the history of their land.

¹ The 11th Light Horse served in Egypt and Palestine in World War I. The Militia camps were eventually abandoned after a particularly wet camp at Warwick when the horse lines in the show grounds were flooded. According to Frank Miller the troopers were asked to volunteer for the Mechanised Cavalry (Bren Gun Carrier). (Frank William Miller, Determined Achiever, compiled by Lyn Bennie. Privately distributed in about 1997, p 18)

² Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, *Memoirs*, unedited manuscript, 1988 p 87.

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Frank William Miller, privately distributed memoirs, Determined Achiever, compiled by Lyn Bennie about 1997, p18.

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- ⁶ Frank Miller, pp.18-19.
- ⁷ Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, 'Memoirs', unedited manuscript, 1988 p.88.
- ⁸ Ibid, p.91.
- ⁹ Ibid.
- ¹⁰ Ibid , pp.91- 93.
- ¹¹ Patrick J. Lane, self published and privately distributed memoirs, A Dollar Short and a Day Late, 2001, p.10.
- ¹² Chris Ashton, Wambo. The Changing Face of Rural Australia , Wambo Shire Council, Dalby, Queensland, 2003 p.176. (Though Len Lane is acknowledged incorrectly as Les.)
- ¹³ Maurice French and Duncan Waterson, The Darling Downs, a Pictorial History 1850-1950, Darling Downs Institute Press, Toowoomba, 1980 p.221.
- ¹⁴ Recorded interview Phyllis Lane with Dale Lehner, January 2000.
- ¹⁵ A.G.L. Shaw, The Economic Development of Australia, Longmans, Green and Co. Ltd., Croydon, Victoria, Fourth Edition 1960, p.189.
- ¹⁶ Dalby Herald 27 March 1942.
- ¹⁷ Patrick J. Lane, A Dollar Short and a Day Late, p.15 – Wacol and Enoggera are in Brisbane.
- ¹⁸ Jack Waters, in a letter published in an unnamed local newspaper - the Dalby Herald or Toowoomba Chronicle – source information removed from the newspaper cutting – estimated to be from the 1990s.
- ¹⁹ Patrick J. Lane, A Dollar Short and a Day Late, p.16.
- ²⁰ Report of 34th meeting of the Kupunn Patriotic Fund in Dalby Herald 17 December 1943.
- ²¹ Dalby Herald 22 December 1942 p.2.
- ²² Patrick J. Lane, A Dollar Short and a Day Late, p.12.
- ²³ Pat Lane remembered the excitement when his father returned from V.D.C. camps in Brisbane 'with a port full of chocolates and goodies unavailable in the shops'. Ibid, p.16.
- ²⁴ Ibid, pp.13 –15.
- ²⁵ A.G.L. Shaw, pp.190-191.
- ²⁶ From transcript of an interview, Doreen Blower (nee Ryan, formerly Smith) with June Perkins, 2001.
- ²⁷ Barry Copley, Girls, Goats and Glass Bottles , Dalby Town Council, 2001, p 58.
- ²⁸ Matthews, Tony ed. Beyond the Crossing. A History of Dalby and Distict, Dalby Town Council, 1988 p.83.

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- ²⁹ Recorded interview Phyllis Lane with Dale Lehner, January 2000.
- ³⁰ Letter held by Dale Lehner.
- ³¹ Eber Lane's papers included a pass to enter the telephone room at the United States General Headquarters in Brisbane, during the period 29 July to 7 August 1943. There may have been others.
- ³² N. Stubbersfield, 'Communications during World War II: A Personal Reminiscence', Journal of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland Vol.16 No.6 May 1997, p.272.
- ³³ Tokyo was bombed on April 18 from the American aircraft carrier *Hornet*, which was about 650 miles east of Honshu, Japan. Details from The World Book Encyclopedia, Field Enterprises Educational Corporation, 1977, Vol.21 p.400.
- ³⁴ Eber Lane, letters to Phyllis Lane 1942.
- ³⁵ Dalby Herald 23 October 1942.
- ³⁶ Dalby Herald 6 October 1942.
- ³⁷ Eber Lane to Phyllis Lane 19 April 1942.
- ³⁸ Len says that the pilot they saw killed was the brother of the famous war photographer Damien Parer. Parer is not listed as a member of the RAAF in World War II Roll but may well have been a civilian.
- ³⁹ From recorded interview Len Lane with Dale Lehner, September 2000.
- ⁴⁰ Patrick J. Lane, A Dollar Short and a Day Late, p.16.
- ⁴¹ Distant Fields, Story of Ollie and Hilde Schultz and their family, compiled by the family about 1990, 'Max's Recollections', p.33.
- ⁴² Patrick J. Lane, A Dollar Short and a Day Late , pp.12-18.
- ⁴³ Barry Copley, Girls, Goats and Glass Bottles, p.54.
- ⁴⁴ Patrick J. Lane, A Dollar Short and a Day Late , pp.12-13.
- ⁴⁵ Charles Martin, letter to Dale Lehner, 25 October 2002.
- ⁴⁶ Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, ed. Dale Lehner, Keep Your Hat On Charlie. You're in Australia Now published by Dale Lehner 2001 p.114.
- ⁴⁷ *Ibid*, p 120.
- ⁴⁸ *Ibid*.
- ⁴⁹ The report of his wedding, to Joan Burrows at Ballarat was in the Dalby Herald of 24 December 1943.
- ⁵⁰ Details of the Wicks family from correspondence, Barbara Wicks with Dale Lehner, 2002.

⁵¹ She was a Lieutenant in Australian Army - QX22911, born in Maryborough, Qld. 15 January 1904. www.ww2roll.gov.au/

⁵² White Coolies by Betty Jeffrey was published by Angus and Robertson, London in 1954 and was reprinted in paperback form several times in the mid -1950s. The crux of the true story is that 65 nursing sisters were escaping Singapore/Malaya aboard the *Vyner Brooke* in February 1942 when the Japanese attacked and sank the ship. Fifty-three survived the bombing and swam ashore. Twenty-one of the group were murdered by the Japanese, and the remainder taken prisoner and held for over three years. Eileen Short (Shortie) was one of them.

⁵³ Max Schultz, 'History of Kupunn', email to Dale Lehner, January 2002.

⁵⁴ A.G.L.Shaw, pp.194 –5. There were no land resumptions in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district after World War I for Soldier Settlers but there were difficulties in many districts such as the area on the Amiens railway line near Stanthorpe.

⁵⁵ I spent the best part of a year living with my grandparents in 1947. As a small child I did not understand then why Soldier Settlement resumptions were followed so avidly in newspapers and news broadcasts, and were a common topic of conversation in the district.

⁵⁶ Information from Malcolm Wilson of Dalby.

⁵⁷ Duncan Waterson, 'The Darling Downs, Changing Patterns and Altered Perspectives, 1920-1980', Queensland Geographic Journal Vol.3, 4 Series, 1988 p.50.

⁵⁸ A.G.L. Shaw, p.201.

⁵⁹ Russel Ward, A Nation for a Continent, the history of Australia 1901-1975 , Heinemann Educational Australia, Richmond, Victoria 1977 p.302.

⁶⁰ Sir Percy Joske, Kt. Sir Robert Menzies 1894-1978 – a new, informal memoir, Angus & Robertson, Australia 1978, Chapter 12 'Economic Policy' pp.210-216.

⁶¹ A.G.L. Shaw, p.204.

⁶² I will not name the former resident who I contacted only through a third party. He does not want to talk about his time in the district, which was obviously an unhappy experience.

⁶³ Patrick J. Lane, A Dollar Short and a Day Late , p.39.

⁶⁴ Letters Morris Lane to Eber and Phyllis Lane 26 May 1952, 7 June 1953, 28 April 1954, then after Morris's death in September 1954 - Alf Lane to Eber Lane 31 December 1954.

⁶⁵ Patrick J. Lane, A Dollar Short and a Day Late, p.45.

⁶⁶ Alf Lane, letter to Eber Lane, 4 May 1956.

⁶⁷ Max Schultz, short paper 'History of Kupunn', by email to Dale Lehner, January 2002.

⁶⁸ Ken Buckley and Ted Wheelwright say that the AWU in the 1950s was a giant with 'feet of clay'. The shearers, who formed a militant arm of what had become a quite moderate union, made up only 12,000 of the 150,000 members. Uncharacteristically for the union in those years the shearers were prepared to take strike action. The leaders of the AWU in the 20th century, who were 'verbally aggressive for the sake of

appearances', avoided industrial action. Ken Buckley and Ted Wheelwright, No Paradise for Workers: Capitalism and the Common People in Australia 1788-1914 Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 1988 p.139.

⁶⁹ Frank William Miller, Determined Achiever, p.39.

⁷⁰ Max Schultz 'History of Kupunn', by email to Dale Lehner, January 2002.

⁷¹ Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, ed. Dale Lehner Keep Your Hat On Charlie, p.33.

⁷² Conversations Marree 'Bid' Callaghan with Dale Lehner, 2001 – 2.

⁷³ The Bush Brotherhood 'was founded in Queensland in the late 19th Century and spreading to many other dioceses of the Church of England were one of the most imaginative answers to the pastoral problems of distance and isolation'. Ian Breward, The Most Godless Place Under Heaven, Beacon Hill Books, Melbourne, 1988.

⁷⁴ Conversations with Freda McLennan and Ailsa Douglas with Dale Lehner, 2001 –1.

⁷⁵ Patrick J. Lane, A Dollar Short and a Day Late , p.19.

⁷⁶ Conversations, Gloria (Rixie) Lane with Dale Lehner 2002.

⁷⁷ Patrick J. Lane, recorded interview with Dale Lehner, April 2001.

⁷⁸ Max Schultz, 'The History of Kupunn', email to Dale Lehner, January 2002.

⁷⁹ Alf Lane to Eber Lane, letter 26 November 1954.

⁸⁰ Patrick J. Lane, A Dollar Short and a Day Late, p.55.

⁸¹ Telephone conversation Pat Lane with Dale Lehner, 12 March, 2003.

⁸² M.J.Hirst, in 'Perspectives on Conservation', Downs Voices ed. Peter Putnis, Darling Downs Institute Press 1978, p.86-7.

⁸³ Patrick J. Lane, A Dollar Short and a Day Late p.59.

⁸⁴ Some farmers in the Murray River region have been compensated for their efforts to stop water that has been 'polluted' with nutrients in their paddocks, from returning to the river. Many have been encouraged to build dams etc. to contain the water for reuse. Source: Conversations with one farmer, John Schultz, who was chasing available funding to cover part of the expenses he had already incurred for a small dam.

⁸⁵ All the furniture was left in the house. Lil says of the preparations made that only the kerosene fridge was turned off. The stumps were prepared ahead on the new site. From interview Lil Lane with Dale Lehner, April 2002.

⁸⁶ Greg Roberts, in 'Rivers of no return', Sydney Morning Herald, 18 October 2002 p.16.

⁸⁷ Telephone conversation, Pat Lane with Dale Lehner, 28 October 2002.

⁸⁸ Waters, Bernice of 'Ellerslie' Broadwater Road, 'My Memories of Kupunn District' 4 October 1997: On a visit to his grandparents, Greg Lane remembers at six years old, riding his bike the two miles from *Whitewood* to Nandi in convoy with the Laffy boys and catching the railmotor to school in town.

⁸⁹ Charles Martin, letter to Dale Lehner 11 May, 2001.

⁹⁰ Patrick J. Lane, A Dollar Short and a Day Late, p.85.

⁹¹ Philip Hodgins, Down the Lake with Half a Chook, ABC Publication, Sydney 1988, quoted by Peter Read in the preface to Returning to Nothing. The Meaning of Lost Places Cambridge University Press, Melbourne, 1996 p.vii.

⁹² Len Lane to Eber Lane, letter 16 April 1998. In fact photographs show that the outward appearance of the homestead is much the same as it was in the 1950s (except for a new kitchen wing) – only 15 years or so after Len last lived there.

⁹³ Ibid

Chapter 12

Comparisons with Other Districts on the Darling Downs

In order to consider the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district in context as part of the Darling Downs and to gauge to some extent its status as representative of that area, it is necessary to have at least a brief overview of some other districts. Three additional areas (to the east, north and far south of the nominated district) are examined to establish that the

Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater community was not unique on the Downs. The four communities have many similarities, although some features are more pronounced in some districts whilst others are less evident. The period during the first decades of the 20th century has been taken as the main point of comparison. The differences were more clearly defined at that time, the similarities becoming stronger with the passing of time. Allowing for topographical differences, settlements on the Darling Downs are now fairly homogenous due to modern transport and communications.

Highland Plains/Oakey

The experiences of one large family, recounted in The Brief History of Julius and Rachel Mason, are representative of many groups that settled around the turn of the 20th century in the Oakey and Highland Plains area to the east of Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater. The ethnic mix of the residents appears to have been much more strongly German than in Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater. Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek commented that when his family lived at nearby Brymaroo for a year or two, his parents soon found many German speaking neighbours and one in particular who made his own wine became a good friend.¹ South Australia (with a large group of German immigrants) was perhaps the main source of interstate migrants, rather than Victoria, as in some other districts.

Note the case history of Julius Mason (b.1879) who was the third child of Thomas Mason, an English migrant who arrived in South Australia in 1867. Thomas married Helene Dohse, the daughter of German immigrants who settled in South Australia in 1849. Thomas and Helene were married at Bismarck, South Australia in 1874 and in 1897 moved with their ten children to Queensland. The family was attracted by land near Oakey made available from the *Westbrook* resumption of 1895.

Julius married Rachel Cherry (b.1880) of *Willowtree Farm* Oakey, in 1902. Rachel's father had family roots in Hertfordshire, (England) and her mother, Frederica Bauer, was the daughter of German immigrants. Thus there were strong German connections on both sides of Julius and Rachel Mason's large family. A quick glance at the Mason family tree reveals a continuation of that trend with many of their children and grandchildren marrying into families with German names. Large (and generally healthy) families were quite common among the German settlers on the Darling Downs, including the Von Peins of the Dalby district. Johannes Von Pein married Ida Mundt in 1888 and they produced eighteen children including Ben, who settled at Kupunn in 1936.²

Coal mining was an additional employment option in the Oakey area, although there was timber cutting for a time and much dairying and other farming activities as there were at Kupunn. Julius and Rachel built a house in Beale St. Oakey on land given to them by her parents, and Julius worked as a miner at the Oakey Coal Mine. After a brief period of employment cane-cutting at Ayr, North Queensland, Julius returned with his family and

rented a farm at Greenwood. Julius gained extra income as a timber cutter and in 1921 was able to buy a property at Highland Plains. He and Rachel remained there until 1942 when they retired to Oakey.

During the late 1920s and early 30s the family gradually purchased land from *Rosalie Plains* station for the six Mason sons. Most of the boys set up farms with dairy cows, pigs and crops. There was prickly pear on the land but it appears to have been less of a problem than at Kupunn, perhaps because the family settled only ten years or so before general eradication of the pest. There does not appear to have been any dense brigalow scrub.

There is no record of the Mason family's experiences during World War I. Julius was not a candidate for military service because of his large family and his children were far too young. They may have suffered some discrimination because of their German background, but this would have been softened to a great extent by the size of the German/Australian community in the area. One of Julius's sons (Herbert John Henry) served in World War II (in the Middle East and New Guinea). As noted earlier there was an Air Force training base in Oakey during the World War II, and that no doubt had an impact on the quiet farming district.

Houses built on the family's land portions in the 1930s (after the Depression) are still standing, many occupied by Julius and Rachel's descendants.³ Paul Mason (a great-grandson of Julius) and his wife Angela live in one of those houses at *Home-Lea* situated on what was originally the southeast corner of *Rosalie Plains*. The landscape is quite different from that of the Kupunn district and is well described by the name Highland

Plains. Fairly level land is situated high enough to give a commanding view over the old *Rosalie Plains* pastoral run and distant views to the Bunya Mountains. A coalmine has recently reopened within sight of Paul and Angela's homestead, but careful tree planting will soon screen it from view. Paul farms in partnership with his brother Jeff (who lives in another of the original houses), growing grain crops such as barley and raising pigs along with a few cattle for market. They are at the mercy of the elements with their crops like the farmers in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district, but find that the pigs, which are kept undercover in purpose-built accommodation, offer an insurance against severe storms and dry periods.⁴

Inverai

To the north, the black soil plains and brigalow scrub of the Inverai⁵ district were similar to those of Kupunn, and settlement followed much the same path. Inverai was eleven miles from Warra (on or near the former *Warra Warra* pastoral run), when it too was opened to selection during the early days of the 20th century. Within (not easy) reach of Warra, which was on the main Western Railway Line, the Inverai district was settled a little sooner than Kupunn. The later construction of the Tara Branch rail line was similarly the catalyst for settlement at Kupunn. The selectors took up land portions of around 600 acres, larger than the typical 320 acres of Kupunn. The soil was rich and the land covered in brigalow scrub and prickly pear. Many families arrived from the South Gippsland and Wimmera districts in Victoria as well as from surrounding local districts. The ethnic mix included families originally from England, Ireland and Germany. They too battled to clear the land and control the pear as a precondition of title to their selections. It was necessary to set about organising a school for the children from the many large families on the dairy farms, which like the Kupunn

district supplied the Dalby Butter Factory. (Later the Roma and Chinchilla Butter Factories were involved.) The school was opened in 1908, some six or seven years earlier than the one at Kupunn. Local dances and a tennis club were also at the centre of social interaction in this district. Isolation in times of illness was similarly a problem. In 1922 the nearest doctor was in Dalby and one family noted that during the 1921-22 flood the journey to Warra took six hours.⁶ Floods were a problem and a photograph included in the Inverai Story shows floodwaters from the huge 1954 floods covering the paddocks right up to the homestead on the Alexanders' farm, *Laguna*.⁷

One feature of special note in the Inverai district was the local interest in horse related activities, including racing, show jumping and breeding Clydesdales, but most particularly camp drafting. Horses were a part of everyday life for the residents. Many children had ridden a horse to school as we saw also at Kupunn, and horse teams were used to carry out much of the farm work such as ploughing and dam building. The small district came to notice when two local girls were selected in the Queensland camp draft team for an interstate competition (billed as a World Championship) at the Sydney Show in April 1935. Kathleen Dalzell, who gained the highest score, and May Wood were the pride of the district when their team won the championship.⁸

Glenlyon

A part of the old *Glenlyon* pastoral run near the New South Wales border (close to Stanthorpe and Texas) exemplifies the area well to the south of Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater. In 1918 when resumptions were due on *Glenlyon* station, the owner (Percy Walker) suggested to the government that the land be offered exclusively to returned soldiers. Mr. Walker

generously offered to forgo any reimbursement for improvements, which were mainly fences. Clifford John (Jack) Smith, the father of Ken Smith now of Sydney,⁹ took up one of the five or six blocks, which he called *Wandara* - a name, probably of Aboriginal origin, imported from the Goulburn region in New South Wales.¹⁰ The land was quite different from that around Kupunn, elevated and undulating though by no means rugged, with scattered Ironbark and Box eucalypts.

In 1918 Smith was recovering from war wounds. He had been gassed and wounded in 1916, resulting in the loss of one lung. He was attracted to life on the land because he had grown up helping on his father's vegetable and flower farm at Moss Vale, New South Wales. There have been many tales of problems with the Soldier Settlement Scheme after World War I, and the failures that left many returned men saddled with debt – particularly in the southern part of the Downs. However, the *Glenlyon* project was remarkably successful perhaps due both to the quality of the land and the sensible approach taken by the soldier settlers. The land portions of about 2000 acres were used for raising sheep with no dairying other than the house cows for the residents' own supplies. The land could accommodate about one sheep to the acre and care was taken not to over graze. Ken Smith says his father was successful and eventually able to increase his landholding with the purchase of an adjoining property.

There were significant environmental differences from the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater area apart from the appearance of the landscape. Importantly there was no prickly pear, although Bathurst burr was a problem for the sheep farmers. Rabbits were in huge numbers; the district was south

of a rabbit proof fence that kept the northern areas free of that pest. There was no permanent water in the creek beds on the Smith land and the family had tanks connected to every available building. There were also wells with motor pumps. The elevated district was quite unsuitable for windmills. There was of course the usual Darling Downs cycle of drought and flood but no bushfires to Ken Smith's knowledge.

After he was established at *Wandara* Ken's father married a local girl, Lorna Amanda Rose. The Smiths had a small family for the times, two sons: Ken (born in 1926) and Donald (born in 1928). The soldier settlers on *Glenlyon* prospered, forming a tight knit and interdependent community similar to, but somewhat smaller in numbers than the one at Kupunn due to the smaller total land area and the larger size of the average block. They helped each other with labouring jobs thus no money was spent on hiring farm hands. They also combined to set up a two-stand shearing shed. One significant difference from the other districts was the lack of an accessible railway line, and motor transport was important. Like the children at Kupunn, Ken and his brother worked on the farm before and after school and in the holidays from when they were quite young. Ken began helping with mustering on horseback at shearing time when he was about ten years old. His family erected 'a couple of miles' of fences on the property and did other building improvements.

The Depression of the early 1930s was not a huge problem for the residents of the district because they were almost self-sufficient, like the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater farmers. The Smiths grew their own vegetables, had cows for milk, cream and butter, and sheep and an occasional bullock

(shared with neighbours) for meat. Bread was home baked in the wood stove. Fortunately there was plenty of firewood on the land. Wood was needed also for an open fireplace in the winters, which were even colder than those at Kupunn because the area was more elevated. Ken Smith, very young at the time, best remembers the Depression as a time when many 'swagmen' were on the road. They often called into *Wandara* and other farms to chop firewood in return for food.

The local children attended a typical one-teacher school that started with about thirteen pupils, much like the ones at Kupunn and Inverai. When Ken left for boarding school at Warwick in around 1940 there were still no telephones in the area, except for one on *Glenlyon* station (that the owners had paid to install) and there was no electricity. Social life centred round an occasional dance in the woolshed, picnics and fishing at Pikes Creek (with permission from *Glenlyon*), cricket matches with all-age teams and tennis. Sunday was the day off, and occasionally an Anglican minister visited and held services in the school building. In the district much time was put into shooting, trapping and even gassing the rabbits (with carbon monoxide from the car exhaust). Ken and his brother made pocket money from the skins.

Ken Smith went to a small boarding school in Warwick for his Secondary education during the early years of World War II. His school was soon expanded with pupils evacuated from Brisbane (increased from about forty to a hundred). Ken enlisted in the army (Service Number QX64094) when his schooling was complete and the war in its last year. He was discharged at the end of 1946.¹¹ Like his father after the First World War, Ken Smith represents one of the success stories of post war reconstruction. During the

period from the end of the war to his late discharge Ken obtained a Science Degree from the University of Queensland, with the assistance of the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme. His fees were paid and he received a very small living allowance. During this period his father sold *Wandara* back to *Glenlyon* and retired to the coast, war injuries finally taking a toll on his health.

Summary of the Comparisons

As we saw from details about the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater, Highland Plains/Oakey, Inverai and Glenlyon districts, there were many similarities in the lives of ordinary people on quite far-flung areas of the Darling Downs during the early days of the 20th century. Thus the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater community can be considered, in many important respects, as representative of others on the Darling Downs. The difficulties inherent in gaining a living from the land were similar in most areas, although there were some local variations in the problems encountered. In general there has been a similar move away from the land by the families who settled in the early years of the 20th century. There is only one member of the Wood family from Inverai still residing on one of that large family's original selections, and only one member of the Lane family remains on his own land at Kupunn. The Masons of Highland Plains have fared a little better. The Soldier Settler families of *Glenlyon* have all left the land, which is unsuitable for agriculture and remains a sheep grazing area.

¹ Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek, Keep Your Hat on Charlie, You're in Australia Now, ed. Dale Lehner. Published by Dale Lehner 2001, pp.31-45.

² For more details about the Von Pein family see Chris Ashton, Wambo, The Changing Face of Rural Australia p.76.

³ Details about the Mason family history from, The Brief History of Julius and Rachel Mason, assembled after a Mason family reunion in 1997. Compiled by D. Materne and privately distributed in 1998.

⁴ Paul and Angela Mason, conversations with Dale Lehner during a visit to 'Home-Lea'; and correspondence with Dale Lehner, 2001.

⁵ Credit for naming the settlement is given to George Wood, from a large family who were among the first residents in the district. The Wood family arrived shortly after the Queensland Government made land available for selection in 1905. The reason for the choice is not recorded though it is believed to be a 'made up' name.

⁶ All information about the Inverai district from Derek and Lyn Land, The Inverai Story, Inverai Hall Committee, estimated date of distribution late 1990s.

⁷ Ibid, p.40

⁸ Ibid, p.46. The joy of the win was followed by dismay when Kathleen Dalzell, who was only twenty-four years old, died a few weeks later after an operation for appendicitis at Jandowae Hospital.

⁹ All information about the Glenlyon Soldier Settler Resumption, and life in the district, is from a recorded interview – Dale Lehner with Ken Smith, now of Mona Vale in Sydney, 29 February, 2001.

¹⁰ Other names for the Soldier Settler blocks included *Romari*, and *St. Omer* after World War I battles and *Arden Lea* most likely in honour of the settler's wife who was Scottish. From recorded discussion with Ken Smith, 29 February 2001.

¹¹ These details are from the Nominal Roll of those who served in WWII available from the Australian War Memorial Website.

CONCLUSION

The primary purpose of this investigation has been to fill an acknowledged gap in recorded Australian history through the examination of one 'neglected' aspect, namely the concerns of the 'ordinary' Darling Downs settlers of the 19th and early 20th centuries. The micro study of one district, throughout one hundred and fifty years of European settlement, highlights some important turning points and major changes. The detailed investigation of that one area is counterbalanced somewhat with a brief overview of three other districts on the Downs.

The study serves as a template to consider trends not only on the Darling Downs but also in other rural districts throughout Australia. It has shed light on many events common to the countless areas where freehold family farms were established from the original pastoral leases of the 19th century. Despite an accelerating decline since the end of World War II, the viability of the family farm lasted throughout the 20th century and must be regarded as one of the significant features of rural Australia during that period.

Historians such as Duncan Waterson and Maurice French have already examined the Darling Downs district in detail through the official records, old newspapers and the memoirs of the elite. The purpose of this investigation has been to see what the 'unofficial' sources of history would reveal about the perspective of 'ordinary' settlers in one community, and place those findings into the framework of existing knowledge.

Placenames Research

In an attempt to provide a background for the settlement of the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district an investigation into placename origins covered the Darling Downs as a whole. The population was very small in the early years of settlement and an examination of only one district would not have yielded enough information to be useful. The wider investigation has been particularly valuable in relation to the 19th century because nearly all of the natural features and settlements on the Downs were named before the turn of the 20th century. It has been possible to understand from their placename choices, something of the concerns of early explorers and settlers.

The explorers found it expedient to honour officials and influential citizens in their concern to gain favours and financial backing for their expeditions. Some aspects of the British patronage system continued in the culture of the Darling Downs residents. We saw this demonstrated in the case of Henry Bassett Lane, who was educated by his father's employer. The tradition was continued as H.B. Lane in turn assisted other young men including Jerry Jerome and Whitey Torenbeek. Rather surprisingly considering current debates on the subject, many of the first squatters demonstrated an acceptance of prior 'ownership' of the land when they chose to use local Indigenous names for their runs. Aboriginal names remain significant on the Downs and serve as a reminder of the Indigenous occupants of the land at the time of European settlement. Whilst it was largely the dominant squatters and government officials who took up the task of renaming natural features and identifying settlements for the Europeans, ordinary people were not completely powerless. They filled the gaps by word of mouth and

named features overlooked by more influential residents. Thus something of their own concerns was revealed.

Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater

The micro study of the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district has a very narrow geographic base comprising about one and a half parishes (approximately 120 to 150 square miles) located to the southwest of Dalby. However, it covers a significant time span of almost 150 years. Successive phases of settlement include that of the incumbent Indigenous people and the European squatters of the mid 19th century. This period was followed by the gradual resumption of the two huge pastoral leases of the local squatters, the establishment of a large freehold estate, and from the turn of the 20th century the survey of a myriad of small selections. Currently, due to significant economic changes and a post war drift from the land, the family farms created from those selections are under threat by agribusiness interests. The detail of land acquisition in the district is outlined from the earliest times, with particular consideration given to the small 'selector' and his opportunities to own land.

The lives of ordinary settlers were accessed mainly through the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater residents' own stories. Oral accounts from now elderly people have drawn a vivid picture of life in the early days of the 20th century, both on the large freehold estate of *Loudoun*, and on the small selections and freehold farms nearby. Written accounts from several former residents have been similarly enlightening.

The history of Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater undoubtedly mirrors that of many similar farming districts in Australia, and the viewpoint of some 'ordinary' individuals is one way to gain a better understanding of the culture, problems and challenges of rural Australia today. We see quite clearly in this study how the past shaped one farming community where it was not unusual for three and even four generations of the one family to have lived on the same land, and worked side by side in a family business. We can appreciate the way strong ties to that particular district have developed over such a long period, and how marriages within the community strengthened those ties and gave the residents an acute sense of belonging. Co-operation between neighbouring farmers in the then isolated district developed a culture of care, tolerance, and trust during the early days of settlement. Personal disagreements took second place in the concern for shared community interests.

The investigation has also brought to light the 'multi-skilling' that was essential to successfully operate a small grazing or agricultural enterprise. There was a continual need to adapt to the vagaries of the climate, changes in production methods, and varying market demands. As well as experience with stock and crops, mechanical skills were needed to use and repair windmills, motor vehicles and agricultural machinery. Financial expertise was also essential to operate a small farming business, and often the wife's domain when families became smaller in the mid 20th century. In that light, immense respect is due to the many farmers on small landholdings, like those of Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater, who struggled, survived and even prospered in difficult circumstances. Their importance to the wider Australian economy during the 20th century should not be overlooked.

Significant events such as two World Wars and the Great Depression affected the whole of Australia, with ramifications in all rural areas including the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district. We see how these events were dealt with through the personal experiences of residents in that one small community. Though circumstances varied somewhat throughout the Australian countryside, experiences for the 'ordinary' people were essentially similar. There was an outpouring of loyalty to the 'mother country' during World War I, and an adventurous spirit saw a large enlistment into the armed forces. The 1930s depression saw the residents of the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater area, on their almost self sufficient farms, better off than many city dwellers. In World War II the people were drawn together as they worked hard to supply essential commodities to the nation, and comforted each other in anxious times. Significant changes occurred after World War II: land clearing and the mechanisation of agriculture; a drift away from the land by the post war generation; clashes due to a growing awareness of environmental issues; and the intrusion of agribusiness companies where once family farms dominated.

These alterations probably foreshadow more changes in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district. One can merely speculate as to what social and/or economic effects the passing of property (and wealth) from the hands of the local 'ordinary' man to absentee ownership will have.

Environmental concerns, particularly those regarding water conservation, may eventually slow local agricultural production. As in many other country districts the local authorities in the Dalby area understand that there is a growing potential for tourism. There are many attractions to inspire a visit,

such as Jimbour House with an associated winery and the unexpected expanse of Lake Broadwater (when it is not dry as it was during much of 2003). Recent initiatives from town and shire officials such as ‘Tidy Town’ improvements in Dalby and the signposting and care of historic sites in the area, indicate an awareness of the tourist dollar. The Kupunn War Memorial Hall is one of the few visual reminders of the selectors who rallied to build it as a centre for social activity during the 1920s. Fortunately authorities are becoming more aware of the value of such sites to the tourism industry.

Along with physical changes, the culture of our rural districts has altered. We can appreciate the sense of loss older residents are experiencing now, when we understand that within the span of one lifetime the communities to which they and their forebears belonged have disintegrated. In fact in many cases the very ‘place’ where they grew up is gone. In most of the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district the wooded landscape has been altered to one of cultivated paddocks grown so large that they have obliterated the homes and small farms of many former residents. Change is of course inevitable, and as we look back and recall the Aboriginal inhabitants, the squatters, the powerful freeholders and the struggling selectors of the district’s past, it should come as no surprise to see the decline of the small freehold family farm. It is important that these changes are documented, understood and recognised as representative of broader national issues.

The Value of Personal Accounts

Whilst archival material and other official sources hold a record of major historical events and significant happenings, they have shortcomings in regard to the personal experiences of the ordinary people who lived through

them. It became clear during the course of this investigation that personal recollections of the past, particularly those confirmed in more than one account and underpinned by supporting official documentation, are a valuable record of any historical period. They certainly give a detailed perspective of the flow on (or perhaps flow down) effects of major events and political decisions, and can at times strongly confirm or indeed challenge long held views garnered from official records.

Unfortunately personal accounts (including old letters and diaries) are not always preserved, or they are kept within families and not made generally available. Sometimes their value is not recognised. I believe this is in a large part due to the modest belief that people outside the family would not be interested. Often, too, no clear direction is offered regarding where to place copies of documents that may be of value. When I demonstrated an interest in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district, particularly after I had edited and published Gerard ‘Whitey’ Torenbeek’s memoirs, many present and former residents came forward with their stories. My experiences indicate that untapped resources lie within our communities. I have merely scratched the surface of those that lie stored in family archives, and in the recollections of our older citizens.¹

The value of the personal memoirs of ordinary people is well recognised by family history compilers but not always in the realms of other more general historical research, where they can also make an important contribution. During the course of this study, two interview subjects (Phyllis Lane and Len Lane) have died. I have a sense of satisfaction that some of their memories have been preserved in recorded interviews and placed in context

in this study. However their deaths have highlighted the rate at which first hand information from ordinary people is slipping from our grasp, particularly in regard to the early days of the 20th century. Such memories are woven into the fabric of our history, each account a unique perspective of major events and every day life.

Looking to the Future

Significant information has been retrieved about ordinary settlers in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district through this study. However, in regard to the wider Darling Downs there is still much to be done to produce the analytical ‘history from below’ suggested by Maurice French. In Raphael Samuel’s terms, such a history will indeed be ‘the work of a thousand different hands’. This study is intended as a contribution towards that larger history, and a demonstration of some ways that the task might be tackled. The value of an investigation such as this lies not only in revealing the past in one district alone, but in gaining knowledge to help understand the present, and prepare for the future in the nation as a whole.

¹ The Dalby Town Council and Wambo Shire Council have sought such resources in recent years, and supported the production of two excellent books; Girls, Goats and Glass Bottles and Wambo, The Changing Face of Rural Australia.

APPENDIX

(TABLES A – F)

TABLE A

Pastoral Runs on the Darling Downs 1843 to 1859 from NSWGG

^ indicates run marked on Buxton's Squatting Map, Settled District – 1864

indicates run marked on Lands Department Run Map Darling Downs 1883 or – Unsettled District leaseholds – 1884

Details of some sources of Pastoral Run name origins – See also Bibliography.

- Atchison, J 'Eton Vale to Bamaga – Place, Geographical Names and Queensland', Queensland Geographical Journal RGSQ 4th Series, Volume 5 1990
- Brisbane Telegraph series "Why it was named" 1970s – Probably put together by a series of journalists but does seem to have a good research base.
- Cunningham, Allan Journal – available on microfilm at the Mitchell Library Sydney.
- Department of Natural Resources Qld. Place Names Details Reports
- Feeken, Feeken & Spaate, The Discovery and Exploration of Australia, Thomas Nelson Australia, Melbourne, 1970.
- French, Maurice Conflict on the Condamine: Aborigines and the European Invasion (Toowoomba, Darling Downs Institute Press, Toowoomba 1989.
A Pastoral Romance The Tribulation and Triumph of Squatterdom A History of the Darling Downs Frontier:USQ Press, Toowoomba 1990.
- Harslett and Royle, They Came to a Plateau, Girraween Publications Stanthorpe, 1972.
- Jack, Stewart History of Dalby & District 1940s. Privately distributed.
- Ludwig Leichhardt, Journal of an Overland Expedition in Australia, 1847 Facsimile Corkwood Press, Adelaide, 1996.
- May, Sydney, various writings – see Bibliography
- Reed A.W. Aboriginal Place Names, Reed Books, Sydney, 1967.
- Russell, Henry Stuart Genesis of Queensland, Sydney, 1888.
- Ward-Brown, Jan ed. Rosenthal – Historic Shire Rosenthal Shire Council, Warwick, 1988.

Abbreviations: NSWGG, New South Wales Government Gazette, EGC, Estimated Grazing Capability.

NAME	INFORMATION ABOUT NAME ORIGIN	COMMENTS
#Alderton	Most likely after the English town.	H.W.Coxen rented Crown Land run in 1858 – NSWGG 13.4.1858
#Ballon	Most likely of Aboriginal origin – A.W. Reed <u>Aboriginal Place Names</u> p10, says that the name for the Balonne River in Qld	Thorne & Ridler , 20.000acres, EGC 4000sheep NSWGG 26.7.1851

	comes from the Aboriginal word <i>ballon</i> , pelican or <i>baloon</i> , stone axe. Sydney May says that the Balonne River and Shire were named by Sir Thomas Mitchell in 1846. The derivation is from <i>balun</i> meaning dead. Series, 'Queensland Place Names' in <u>Local Government</u> August 1957, and September 1957.	
^Beanarraba or Beauaraba	Possibly associated with Aboriginal word 'booroo' indicating tracks in the bush. Source- French, <u>Conflict on the Condamine</u> p121 Pittsworth – "The town area was originally known as Beauaraba, a corruption of aboriginal words Boarraba, Boarroa, a pathway obstructed by thick bushes or fallen trees. Boarb, dry bushes; ba, place of. The name was altered to Pittsworth in 1885." Sydney May 'Queensland Place Names' in <u>Local Government</u> April 1962	<i>See the Unwatered Ridges – possible early name</i> Held by J.J. Whiting NSWGG 1847 p.574 (Beanarraba) J.J. Whiting to D. Perrier , Beauaraba – 50.000acres EGC10,000 sheep.NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.1475 J.J. Whiting to C.S.Vallack NSWGG 7.8.1849 p.1164
#Beeboo	Probably what is now spelt as <i>Beebo</i> an Aboriginal word imitating the sound of the black swan. Source <u>Brisbane Telegraph</u> series "Why it was named" 13.4.1972	Run of Crown Lands-Transferred from Campbell and Smith to James John Falconer 1.1.1848 NSWGG 30 July 1852 p.1115
#Bengalla	Probably of Aboriginal origin. A.W. Reed, <u>Aboriginal Place Names</u> p13 lists <i>Bengalla</i> in NSW as an Aboriginal word for ornaments.	Run of Crown Lands – transferred from James Mitchell to William Lawler 1.1.1848 NSWGG 30 July 1852 p.1115
#Bentland	Possibly descriptive – same owner held adjoining <i>Scrubland</i> which was later renamed <i>Myall Grove</i> .	Run of Crown Lands – transferred from Edward Bingham to McDonald Rens and Bingham 1.1.1848 NSWGG 30 July 1852 p.1115 NSWGG 11.8.1852 p.1228 – Edward Bingham, 16,000acres EGC 4000 sheep (Note – transferred to McDonald, Rens and Bingham)
#Billa Billa	Probably of Aboriginal origin – consider <i>Billabong</i> which is known to be from some Aboriginal languages in	NSWGG 26.7.1851 p.1198Messrs Easton and Rossiter – 15,000 acres EGC 4000 sheep

	NSW. <i>Billa</i> means a pool or reach of water. See Reed p14	
#Binbian Downs	Possibly of Aboriginal origin – many words from Aboriginal languages have the <i>bin</i> prefix including 17 placenames listed in Reed's <u>Aboriginal Place Names</u> p14/5	Formerly called <i>Dogwood Creek</i> ... Charles Coxen changed the name in 1857. (Sydney May – 'Queensland Place Names' in <u>Local Government</u> June 1958.) [Note 1857 appears incorrect – see NSWGG below re 1851] Dogwood Creek (the watercourse) had already been named by Leichhardt – See Dogwood. NSWGG 26.7.1851 p.1198 Charles Coxen , 12,000 EGC 4000 sheep
#Blythe Land	Surname of lessee	James Alexander Blythe 16,000 acres EGC 4000 sheep
#Bodamba or Bodumba	An Aboriginal word indicating high stony country. Source- Queensland Place Names Bulletin No 9 Aug 1940 p4	St George Gore – 1848 NSWGG 1848 p158 NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.947 St George Richard Gore, area not stated, EGC 8000 sheep
#Boondandilla	Probably of Aboriginal origin – <i>Boo</i> prefix common in Aboriginal languages and Reed lists 73 Aboriginal placenames beginning with <i>boo</i> .	NSWGG 18.12.1855 p.22 19,200 acres
#Boorado or Booroondo Creek	Probably of Aboriginal origin – <i>Boo</i> prefix common in Aboriginal languages and Reed lists 73 Aboriginal placenames beginning with <i>boo</i> .	NSWGG 30.7.1852 p.1115 Transferred from Robert McGeachie to John McGeachie
#Braemar Forest	Scottish connection- Braemar is a village in Aberdeenshire.	John and Alfred Crowder , 12,000 acres EGC 4000 sheep NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.946 NSWGG 4.7.1849 Dispute between Crowders and J.P. Wilkie over lease. <i>Wilkie on adjoining Daandine</i> .
Bridgewood	Name is descriptive – Bridge Creek flows through.	NSWGG 11.8.1852 p.1228 - J.P and J.A. Bell – 10,000 acres EGC 640 cattle & 4000 sheep IN BRIDGE CREEK AREA NSWGG 12 November 1858 p.1872 Arthur Bell recorded as lessee. NSWGG 13.6.1859 recorded as 16,000 acres
#Bromfield or Broomfield	Not available though the 'field' suffix is typically English.	'NSWGG 30.7.1852 p.1115 transferred from Robert Campbell to Mort, Tooth and Tooth (Bromfield) NSWGG 4.4.1851 (Broomfield) dispute over lease between Edward White and Campbell and Smith (per A.J. Henderson)
^Brush Creek (appears on Buxtons SQ. Map in bottom left hand corner south of Coolmunda) Also on 1884 map.	Probably named for Brush Creek which flows through the run and may have been named first. Name is probably descriptive.	NSWGG 26.7.1851 p.1198 Thomas Collins , 16,000 acres EGC 4000 sheep <i>Brush Creek flows through</i> . NSWGG 14.1.1859 p.96 transferred from T. Collins to Weer and Sim
#Burning Thirst	Descriptive/emotive	NSWGG 11.8.1852 p.1229 Gideon Scott Lang 16,000 acres EGC 4000 sheep NSWGG 14.1.1859 p.96 transferred from Henry Buckley to Frederick and James Edward Ebsworth

#Burrando	Probably of Aboriginal origin. – <i>burra</i> common in Aboriginal languages – Reed lists 14 placenames.	NSWGG 26.7.1851 p.1199 Robert McGeachie – 23,040 acres EGC 4000 sheep <i>On Burrando Creek</i>
Caliguel	Possible Aboriginal origin	NSWGG 13.6.1859 p.1315 13.120 acres
#Canaga	Possible Aboriginal origin	NSWGG 20.8.1852 p.1266 Held by Arthur Lloyd NSWGG 30.9.1853 Arthur Lloyd 16,000 acres EGC 4000 sheep Note that run had been transferred to Joshua and Alexander Bell
^Canal Creek	Probably descriptive – Named by Pitts and Bonnifant. (Commissioner of Crown Lands Nov 1843 Itinery). They may not necessarily have named the creek, which may have been named earlier still.” Jan Ward-Brown ed. <u>Rosenthal – Historic Shire</u> Rosenthal Shire Council Warwick 1988, p.489 & p.573	<i>Pitts and Bonnifants – No clear information but possibly in mid-1841, although first confirmed date is 20 November 1843. Maurice French, <u>A Pastoral Romance</u> p281</i> NSWGG 1845 p.1294 Held by J.P.Robinson NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by J.P.Robinson NSWGG 1848 p.158 “ “ “ “ NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.950 70,000 acres EGC 12,000 sheep. NSWGG 7.8.1849 transferred from J.P.Robinson to William Sprott Boyd NSWGG 14.1.1859 p.96 Transferred from Thacker, Daniel and co. to James Gillespie
#Canning Creek	Named for Canning Downs which Allan Cunningham named (1827) after Sir George Canning who was British Prime Minister and died in 1827. Source – Department of Natural Resources Place Names Details report 27.7.1999.	NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.949 Robert G. Moffatt (per T.D.L.Moffatt) 80,000 acres EGC 500 cattle and 15,000 sheep. <i>The run comprises the waters of Canning Creek and its tributaries, to a line intersecting, forming the boundaries of Captains Collins and Dumaresq’s Runs, within 5 miles of the McIntyre Brook.</i> NSWGG 4.7.1849 p1002 applicant for lease, R.G. Moffatt – disputed by Edward Brown NSWGG 17.8.1849 p.1210 Edward Brown (now Benjamin Buchanan ‘with the sanction of the Government’) 32.000 acres EGC 10,000 sheep. NSWGG 30.7.1852 p.1115 Transferred from estate of Robert Moffatt to R.Campbell tertius
^Canning Downs	Named by Allan Cunningham in 1827 after Sir George Canning, British Prime Minister. Source – Cunningham’s Journal quoted in Henry Stuart Russell, <u>Genesis of Queensland</u> Sydney 1888 p.108	Explored March/April 1840, claimed June 1840 by Leslie, Leslie & Macarthur. Initially named Tulburra. NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by Walter & George Leslie NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by Walter & George Leslie NSWGG 2.8.1848 96,000acres EGC 2,500 cattle, 25,000 sheep
#Cecil Plains	Named for Henry Stuart Russell’s mother, Cecil Charlotte Russell. Source – Millmerran Historical Society Oct 1999 & Dept of Natural Resources (27.7.1999).	<i>H.S. & S. Russell, claimed November 1841 and stocked by May 1842. M. French – <u>A Pastoral Romance</u> p281</i> NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by H.S. Russell NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.950 61,440 acres EGC 2500 cattle & 10,000 sheep. NSWGG 30.12.1853 Held H.S.Russell
#Charley’s Creek West	Charley’s Creek named by Ludwig Leichhardt, 19.10.1844 after Charley,	NSWGG 23.1.1852 Held by Charles Coxen NSWGG 11.8.1852 Charles Coxen 16,000acres EGC 4000 sheep

	an Aboriginal member of his party - from the Bathurst tribe. Source, Ludwig Leichhardt, <u>Journal of an Overland Expedition in Australia</u> , 1847 Facsimile Corkwood Press 1996 Adelaide, p.18	
#Chinchilla	From <i>jinchilla</i> – cypress pine A.W. Reed <u>Aboriginal Place Names</u> Reed Books Sydney 1967 p27	NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.947 Matthew Goggs , 36.800 acres EGC 2500 cattle
^Clifton	First called <i>Kings Creek</i> by Sibley and King in 1840 – sold to John Melbourne Marsh by Francis Forbes. Marsh named the holding <i>Clifton</i> after his birthplace in Britain. Source – Department of Natural Resources Place Names Details Report 27.7.1999 and Brisbane Telegraph series “Why it was named” 8.9.1974.	<i>Was originally part of Haldon run which was claimed by Sibley & King 1840 - from M. French <u>A Pastoral Romance</u>, p280</i> <i>F. Forbes – F. Forbes junior probably arrived in the Hodgson party October 1840 and bought Clifton from Haldon for 400 pounds some time between April and August 1841. French ibid p281</i> NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by David Forbes NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.947 Forbes and Pinnock 85,000acres EGC 16,000 sheep NSWGG 7.8.1849 David Forbes
#Cobblegun or Cobblegum	Possible Aboriginal influences eg. Similar <i>Cobbadamana</i> in Qld <i>Warra Warra</i> station was once known as <i>Cobble Cobble</i> . Jack, Stewart, History of Dalby & District 1940s p.28	NSWGG 20.8.1852 p.1266 Held by I.A.Blythe
Condamine	For Condamine River named by Allan Cunningham to honour the Aide de Camp to the Governor. Source – Cunningham’s Journal, June 1827	NSWGG 1847 p574 Lower Condamine - Held by Matthew Goggs NSWGG 1848 p.158 Condamine River – Held by Matthew Goggs
#Coolmunda or Coolmunda	Coolmunda - Reportedly derived from Aboriginal word, language and dialect unknown, indicating a stream with a sandy bed. Source – Department of Natural Resources Place Names Details Report 27.7.1999	NSWGG 1847 p574 Held by Thomas Collins NSWGG 2.8.1848 p946 Coolmaunda or Cobramaatta – Thomas Collins 60,000acres EGC 2000cattle or 12,000 sheep
Coollomalla	Probable Aboriginal origin – similar to <i>Coolmunda</i> above	NSWGG 1.5.1855 p.1251 Held by Edward Rens
#Coolloomallee or	Probable Aboriginal origin	NSWGG 13.6.1859 16000acres

Coolloomally ? see Coollomalla	– <i>cool</i> common prefix in NSW – see Reed p.29	
#Coorangah or Cooringah	Probable Aboriginal origin – <i>coor</i> common prefix – 11 placenames listed in Reed.	NSWGG 1.8.1848 suppl. Ewen Wallace Cameron 96,000acres EGC 12000 sheep NSWGG 7.8.1849 transferred from Ewen Cameron to Thomas S. Mort
Crows Nest	‘The name was given in 1841 by Campbell Livingstone MacDonald who with his brother formed Dugandan. McDonald left Dugandan and took up the leases of Crow’s Nest and Perseverance later acquired by C.L. Pearce in 1848. <i>From Series Queensland Place Names by Sydney May in Local Government May 1958</i> Various sources say name connected with crow’s found in area (a high spot on the ranges) or Jim Crow mythological Aboriginal believed (by teamsters) to frequent area.	<i>Taken up by Campbell Livingstone MacDonald in 1841. To Pearce, C.L. in 1848 (From Series Queensland Place Names by Sydney May in Local Government May 1958.</i> NSWGG 7.8.1849 Transferred from Pearce, James C. to J.L. Montefiore . NSWGG 14.1.1859 Transferred from Bank of New South Wales to Watt and Taylor thence to W.B. Tooth
#Culgara	Possible Aboriginal influences eg. Similar to <i>Culgoa</i> in NSW – see Reed p33	NSWGG 30.3.1852 Henry Stanley Scholfield (also Tara) NSWGG 30.9.1853 Henry Stanley Scholfield – 16.000acres EGC 640 cattle
^Cumkillenbum or bar	Also Kaimkillenbun – Reportedly an Aboriginal word - indication open mouth, possibly associated with a part of male initiation ceremony. Source Dept of Natural Resources, see Sunday Mail September 1984, p7.	NSWGG 17.8.1849 George Mocatta transferred to John Balfour 20,000 acres EGC 6000 sheep
#Daandine	Reportedly a local Aboriginal word for owl. Chris Ashton, <u>Wambo, The Changing Face of Rural Australia</u> p.118. Wambo Shire Council, 2003	NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.951 John P. Wilkie Monahan Creek or Wilkie’s Creek – 60000acres, EGC 1300cattle Daandine or Monaghan’s Creek – NSWGG 30.7.1852 p.1115 Transferred from J.P. Wilkie to Morehead and Young .
#Darr	Probable Aboriginal influence – Reed p.35 says that <i>Darra, Derra and Durra</i> and other places derived from the same root were common in NSW and southern Qld.	NSWGG 23.1.1852 p.164 Held by Thorne and Ridler
Darroon	Probable Aboriginal	NSWGG 1847 p.574 Francis Forbes

	influence – Reed p.35 says that <i>Darra, Derra and Durra</i> and other places derived from the same root were common in NSW and southern Qld.	
#Dogwood	For Dogwood Creek which was named by Leichhardt 23.10.1844, describing vegetation. Source – Leichhardt's <u>Journal of an Expedition in Australia</u> London 1847 – facsimile Corkwood Press South Australia 1996 p.20	NSWGG 26.7.1851 p.1198 John Ferrett 16,000 acres EGC 640 cattle or 4000 sheep. NSWGG 30.7.1852 p.1115 transferred from John Ferrett to C.J.McKenzie
Dooduggan Creek	Old name for <i>Wombo Forest</i> run. – Doodugan Creek flows through.	NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by James Garnot Ewer
#Dunmore	A Scottish connection - Rev. John Dunmore Lang well known at the time, founder of the Presbyterian Church in Australia, and Logane a Scottish name.	NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by Robert Logan NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by Robert Logan
#Durah	Possible Aboriginal influence – Reed p.35 says that <i>Darra, Derra and Durra</i> and other places derived from the same root were common in NSW and southern Qld.	NSWGG 26.7.1851 p.1199 Messrs Thorne & Ridler 18,000 acres EGC 4000 sheep
#East Ichanning or Tchanning	See Under Tchanning	See Tchanning
^Ellangowan	Possible Scottish influence although no information available.	<i>Possibly claimed at the same time as Talgai – March 1841, by J. Thain. M. French, <u>A Pastoral Romance</u> p.280</i> NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by Phillip Pinnock NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by Francis Forbes NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.947 Francis Forbes 44,000 acres EGC 12000 sheep NSWGG 7.8.1849 p.1164 Transferred from Francis Forbes to Robert Campbell tertius NSWGG 4.4.1851 p.586?626? Francis Forbes now John Gammie application for Ellangowan – party lodging caveat Charles Mallard .
#Emu Creek or Doolachah There is an Emu Creek north of Canning Downs on 1883 map & that is probably the run mentioned here.	Named for creek. Descriptive	NSWGG 17.8.1849 p.1210 Frederick Nivile Isaac Emu Creek or Doolachah 56,000 acres EGC 14,000 sheep

^Eton Vale	Arthur Hodgson found a knife in a deserted Aboriginal camp marked "Rogerson (maker) Eton". Hodgson was schooled at Eton. He first called the run <i>Eton Plains</i> and changed it to <i>Eton Vale</i> . Source – Department of Natural Resources Place Names Details Report 27.7.1999 using information from P.Hahn and J. Aitchison.	<i>Occupied 10 September 1840 – included what became Felton – Hodgson & Elliot French, M <u>A Pastoral Romance</u> p280</i> NSWGG 1845 p.1294 Held by Crawford & Hodgson NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by Crawford & Hodgson NSWGG 2.8.1848 Crawford & Hodgson p.158 NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.946 Crawford & Hodgson 65,000acres EGC 700 cattle, 16,000 sheep NSWGG 4.7.1849 p.1002 Crawford&Hodgson, Eton Vale Appl. For lease, party lodging caveat Charles Mallard .
#Fairy Land	Descriptive/emotive	NSWGG 26.7.1851 p.1199 James Ivory 25 square Miles EGC 4,000 sheep
^Felton	Name changed from Peel Plains –[which was a general term for the area given by Cunningham] - to <i>Felton</i> by Charles Mallard, after his English birthplace. Source-Department of Natural Resources Place Names Details Report 27.7.1999	See Peels Plains
#Gamma	The third letter of the Greek alphabet.	NSWGG 31.7.1857 p.1492 Held by C. Coxen Senr.
#Gideon Land	Lessees first name	NSWGG 26.7.1851 p.1199 Lang, Gideon Scott (now Sir S. Osborne Gibbes) 16,000 acres EGC 4,000 sheep N.B. This run has been transferred to Sir Samuel Osborne Gibbes, Bart.
^Gladfield or Gledfield	Possibly descriptive/emotive.	NSWGG 1845 p.1294 Held by Neil Ross NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by Neil Ross – also MacIntyre Brook NSWGG 1848 p.158 “ “ “ “ “ “ NSWGG 2.8.1848 14,400 acres EGC 1500 cattle - also Waroo NSWGG 2.8.1848 Gledfield transferred from Neil Ross to Frederick Bracker (Waroo also transferred) NSWGG 30.7.1852 p.1115 -Transferred from F. Bracker to Leslie W. & G. then Transferred from Leslie W.&G to Leslie, George Farquhar
#Glenelg	Named by Alexander McLeod in 1845 after Glenelg in Ross, Scotland. Source – Department of Natural Resources Place Names Details Report 27.7.1999	NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by Colin McLeod NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by William Richardson NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.949 William Richardson 36,000acres EGC 500 cattle and 10,000 sheep.
^Glengallan or Glengallen	Scottish influence – Glen a typical Scottish prefix.	<i>C. Campbell-Possibly ceded by Leslies June-September 1841 but might be as late as 1842. Maurice French <u>A Pastoral Romance</u> p.281</i>

		<p>NSWGG 1845 p.1294 (Glengallen) Held by Colin Campbell</p> <p>NSWGG 1847 p.574 (Glengallen) Held by Colin Campbell</p> <p>NSWGG 1847 p.158 Held by Colin Campbell</p> <p>NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.1475 Transferred from Colin Campbell to Robert Campbell tertius</p> <p>NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.946 Colin Campbell 60,000 acres EGC 1800 cattle or 18,000 sheep.</p> <p>NSWGG 30.7.1852 Transferred from Campbell, R. and Marshall C.H. to Marshall C.H.</p>
#Gnoondoolmally	Probable Aboriginal influences.	NSWGG 26.7.1851 p.1198 Charles Coxen 16,000 acres EGC 4000 sheep
^Gonbongee, Gonbunga or Gonbungee (Oakey Creek) Goombungee	<p>Probably a corruption of Aboriginal word 'goubunga' or 'gonbunga' language and dialect not accurately recorded.</p> <p>Source – Dept of Natural Resources Place Names Details Report 27.7.1999</p>	<p>NSWGG 1847 Gonbungee, Oakey Creek Held by C.W. Pitts</p> <p>NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.949 Gonbunga (Oak Creek) Charles William Pitts – 40,000 acres EGC 10,000 sheep</p> <p>NSWGG 30.7.1852 p.1115 Gonbongee Transferred from John Black, Bank of NSW to Pitts C.W.</p>
^Goomburra or Groomburra	<p>Aboriginal meaning 'shield made from timber of the Kurrajong tree, which also was called Goomburra'.</p> <p>Sydney May 'Queensland Place Names' in <u>Local Government</u> November 1958</p>	<p><i>Claimed and stocked by July-August 1840 by E.E. Dalrymple but no human habitation until after March 1841 French, M <u>A Pastoral Romance</u> p.280</i></p> <p>NSWGG 1845 p.1294 Held by John Taylor</p> <p>NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by John Taylor (Groomburra)</p>
#Goodar	Possible Aboriginal influence – <i>Goodah</i> in NSW means 'dark' according to Reed p.42	NSWGG 7.8.1849 p1164 transferred from Marks, James to Edward C. Cory
^Gowrie previously called Stan(d)brook – see under Stanbrook	<p>Original name – Stambrook or Stan(d)brook from Stan(d)brook Hall in Worcestershire.</p> <p>Many stories about the origin of the name, some claiming a Scottish connection with 'Gowrie Conspiracy' of 1600 but most likely a corruption of the Aboriginal word <i>cowarie</i> which indicated the watercourse known as Gowrie Creek and the freshwater mussel.</p> <p>Source – French, <u>Conflict on the Condamine</u> p.122 & p.280.</p> <p>Reed lists Gowrie in NSW as Aboriginal origin from word for eagle hawk. p.44</p>	<p>Probably claimed by F.N. Isaac in Oct-Nov 1840 and certainly stocked & occupied by March 1841 – Hughes & Isaac lessees</p> <p>NSWGG 1848 p158 Held by Hughes & Isaac</p> <p>NSWGG 2.8.1848 p948 Hughes & Isaac 50,000 acres EGC 800 cattle and 8000 sheep.</p>
^Greenbank	Possibly descriptive.	<p>NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by Finley Ross</p> <p>NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by Mr. Finley Ross</p>

		NSWGG 2.8.1848 p950 Ross, Finley 18,000 acres EGC 600 cattle and 4000 sheep
#Gundewindah (Goondawindi?)	From Aboriginal for 'a place where wild ducks are found' Reed p.42	NSWGG 4.4.1851 Applicant for lease Estate of Hy. Dennis , now H. Dangar Gundewindah – Party lodging caveat John Brown per Jonathan Young
^Haldon	English connections to Exeter and Devon. Also name transported to South Africa and New Zealand. There is a Lord Haldon Hotel in Exeter. Source – Encyl. Brit.	<i>Occupied September 1840 – Sibley & King – about the same time as Eton Vale; includes what became Pilton & Clifton.</i> <i>M. French <u>A Pastoral Romance</u> p.280</i> NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by A.C. Innes NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by Archd C. Innes NSWGG 2.8.1848 Innes, Archibald Clunes 30,000 acres EGC 8,000 sheep
#Hookwood or Hookwood	Possible English influence	NSWGG 26.7.1851 John Ferrett 16,000 acres EGC 640 cattle or 4000 sheep NSWGG 30.7.1852 Transferred from John Ferrett to C.J.McKenzie
^Irvingdale	Probably named for Clark Irving, pastoralist, Warra run - who had Mount Irving named for him. Source Toowoomba Chronicle 22.11.1928	NSWGG 1848 p.158 Campbell Andrew NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.946 Campbell & Andrew 45,000 acres EGC 6,000 sheep
^Jimbour or Jimbone	Originally spelt Gimba or Jimba. Believed to be Aboriginal word for good pastures. Source – Brisbane Telegraph, 'Why it was named' date obscured, between 1971 & 1975.	<i>R.T. Scougall – Claimed by Henry Dennis as agent about July 1841 but not stocked until October 1842. M. French <u>a Pastoral Romance</u> p.281</i> NSWGG 1845 p.1294 Held by Thomas Bell (Jimbone) NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by Thomas Bell (Jimbone) NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by Thomas Bell (Jimbone) NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.945 Thomas Bell Jimbour 200,000 acres EGC 20,000 sheep
#Jinje Jinje	Probably now Jinghi Jinghi – near Jimbour. Likely Aboriginal origin – repetition a common feature.	NSWGG 17.8.1849 Joseph King 32,640 acres EGC 1200 cattle or 8000 sheep
^Jondaryun	From Aboriginal word indicating 'a long way off'. M. French, <u>Conflict on the Condamine</u> Toowoomba 1989 p.121	<i>Charles Coxen – Claimed by Henry Dennis as agent about July 1841 but not stocked until October 1842. Maurice French, <u>A Pastoral Romance</u> p.281</i> NSWGG 1845 p.1294 Held by Robert Campbell tertius NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by Campbell and Andrews NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by Campbell and Andrew NSWGG 2.8.1848 Campbell and Andrew 65.000 acres EGC 12,000 sheep
Jones River	Jones River passes through the run – description in NSWGG 26.7.1851. No indication as to who Jones was. Generally a Welsh surname. Possibly Richard Jones who claimed St Ruth in 1842 (in general area). Crowders held Braemar Forest run and Jones River	NSWGG 26.7.1851 p.1199 John McMillan 16,000 acres EGC 4,000 acres NSWGG 30.7.1852 p.1115 transferred from John McMillan to John & Alfred Crowder

	may be absorbed.	
#Junction	Possibly descriptive.	NSWGG 18.12.1855 25,000 acres NSWGG 9.6.1857 Held by J. McGeachie
Karugu	Possible Aboriginal origin	NSWGG 1847 p574 Charles Coxen
#Kaywanna	Possible Aboriginal origin – similar to Kawana in Qld meaning ‘flowers’. Reed p.50	NSWGG 13 4 1858 p620 Held by Jacob Low NSWGG 14.1.1859 Transferred to Mort and Cameron
#Kogan Creek		NSWGG 2.8.1848 King, Joseph (now J.E.Barney) 60,000 acres EGC 12,000 sheep
^Lagoon Creek Downs West	Probably descriptive	NSWGG 26.7.1851 p.1198 Charles Coxen 16,000 acres EGC 4000 sheep NSWGG 30.7.1852 Transferred from Charles Coxen to Hope and Ramsay
#Lang’s Land	From lessee’s surname	NSWGG 26.7.1851 Gideon Scott Lang (now Sir Osborne Gibbes) 16,000 acres EGC 4,000 acres
#Liddelldale or Liddell Dale	Possible English connection with ‘dale’ suffix.	NSWGG 11.8.1852 p.1230 Andrew Scott 20,000 acres EGC 4,000 sheep
Macintyre Brook <i>possibly early name for Warroo</i>	Name from the brook which Cunningham called after a friend at Segenhoe, 30 May 1827 Source – Cunningham’s Journal	NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by Neil Ross
McIntyre Creek <i>possibly early name for Warroo</i>	Name from the brook which Cunningham called after a friend at Segenhoe, 30 May 1827 Source – Cunningham’s Journal	NSWGG 1848 p158 Held by Neil Ross
Manday Creek <i>early name for Nundubbermere</i> See - Nundubbermere Monday Creek	Monday Creek flowed through Nundubbermere Named for creek.	NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by William McKenzie
Maryland – <i>Not on 1860 or 1884 maps but near Warroo, Pikedale area – perhaps a name change or absorbed by one of these.</i>	Story that Marsh’s party camped in the vicinity of 500 wild blacks and, after drinking much ‘firewater’ and not being molested, called the area <i>Merrylands</i> – changed to <i>Maryland</i> after learning of <i>Merrylands</i> near Sydney. Harslett and Royle, <u>They Came to a Plateau</u> p.11.	<i>M.H. Marsh, Claimed sometime in 1843 (or late 1842) and well established by early 1844 – from Maurice French, A Pastoral Romance p.282</i> NSWGG 1845 p.1294 Held by Marsh M.H. NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by Marsh M.H. NSWGG 1848 p.158 Mary Land Held by Marsh M.H. NSWGG 2.8.1848 p949 Marsh, Matthew Henry 200,000acres EGC 25,000 sheep
MARYVALE	Named for a person?	SEE STRATHMILLAR & MILLARS VALLEY
#Mianbaa or Miamba	Possible Aboriginal origin.	NSWGG 26.7.1851 p.1198 Charles Coxen 16,000 acres EGC 640 cattle. 7 miles frontage on the Condamine
#Miggibaroo	Probably of Aboriginal origin – similar to Midgee and Migeengum both used	NSWGG 20.8.1852 p.1266 Held by I.A. Blythe (also Cobblegun) NSWGG 30.9.1853 p.1709 Blyth, James Alexander

	in Qld – see Reed p.59	16,000 acres EGC 640 cattle or 4000 sheep
Millar's Valley	Name given by Allan Cunningham 8 June 1827 Source – Cunningham's Journal	<i>A.F. Farquharson, Millar's Valley was a small run on north side of gap Creek and was part of the original Leslie & Macarthur claim; subject to a dispute with John Cameron probably in 1842 before its transfer to J.C. Wickham; transferred in July 1844 to a.F. Farquharson who had taken up a small unnamed run (later Strathmillar) on south side of Gap Creek not later than November 1843. – M. French, <u>A Pastoral Romance</u> p.282</i>
Monaghans Creek or Wilkie's Creek <i>old name for Daandine</i>	No information on Monaghan but obviously a surname. Named for lessee J.P. Wilkie as was stream Wilkie's Creek which flows through and on into the Condamine River. Name of run was later changed to <i>Daandine</i> .	NSWGG 1848 p.158 Monaghan's Creek Held by J.P. Wilkie NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.951 John P. Wilkie 60,000 acres EGC 1300 cattle See also Daandine
Morromby	Possibly of Aboriginal origin. Morromby Creek shown on 1883 Map.	NSWGG 21.9.1857 p.1832 & NSWGG 8.7.1858 p.1062 & 13.6.1859 p.1315 16,000 acres "Sandy Creek, from the western boundary line of Monaghan's Creek run, within 3 miles of the junction of Sandy Creek with Monaghan's Creek....."
^Mosquito Creek – probably an early name for <i>Bodumba</i> run held by St George Gore 1848	Named after the creek - probably descriptive Mosquito Creek flowed through <i>Bodumba</i> into Bodumba Creek thence into Canning Creek.	NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by Gore, St George
Myall Creek	Named after the creek. Myall an Aboriginal word meaning 'wild' from vocabulary collected by William Pechey, Chinchilla District 1859-60. In French, M <u>Conflict on the Condamine</u> p.159 Also recorded by W.S. Ramson as an Aboriginal word of Port Jackson origin. <u>Southerly</u> No 1 1964 'Aboriginal words in Early Australian English' p.58 <i>Myall Creek</i> run was to the north of <i>Irvingdale</i> run and may have been absorbed into it at a later date as it does not appear on the 1883 map at all.	<i>Claimed by Henry Dennis about July 1841 & occupied by H.W. Coxen in 1842 Maurice French <u>A Pastoral Romance</u> p.281</i> NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by J.M. Andrews NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by John Stevens NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.950 John Stevens 32,000 acres EGC 640 cattle.
#Myall Grove (late Scrubland)	Aboriginal word details under Myall Creek.	NSWGG 11.8.1852 p.1228 Edward Bingham 16,000 acres EGC 4,000 sheep Transferred to Messrs McDonald, Rens and Bingham.

^North Branch or Swamps	Descriptive – refers to the North Branch of the Condamine River – see description in NSWGG 17.8.1849 p.1210	NSWGG 17.8.1849 p.1210 Charles Coxen (transferred to Robert Campbell tertius) 40,000 acres EGC 4,000 sheep
#Nundubbermere (Monday Creek)	Probably of Aboriginal origin – similar to <i>Nunda</i> , <i>Nundah</i> - both in Qld. See Reed p.70	NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.949 Numdubpermere William McKenzie 40,000 acres EGC 10,000 sheep Manday Creek NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by William McKenzie
Oakey Creek <i>old name for Goonbungee</i>	Named for Creek - descriptive	<i>A bit confused – appears to be a run absorbed into Westbrook as well as an old name for Goonbungee:</i> <i>Hugh Ross – Claimed late 1841 but not registered until 24 November 1843; absorbed into Westbrook in 1844 after boundary dispute. Maurice French <u>A Pastoral Romance</u> p.282</i> Oak Creek NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by Charles W. Pitts See Goonbungee, Gonbongee, Gonbunga
#Palmy Creek	Probably descriptive	NSWGG 11.8.1852 p.1229 James Alexander Blythe 16,000 acres EGC 4,000 sheep.
Parish's Downfall (<i>Parish's Downfall Creek is on 1883 Lands Dept map just north of the Settled District border – it flows into Cooranga Creek thence to the Condamine</i>) May have been absorbed by Cooranga Station also held by Ewan Wallace Cameron.	Named for the Creek	NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by Ewen Cameron (also the Swamps)
Peels Plains <i>old name for Felton</i>	Peels Plains is a name given to the northern area of the Darling Downs by Allan Cunningham in June 1827. No indication is given as to the identity of Peel. (The southern part was named Canning Downs) Source – Cunningham's Journal quoted in Henry Stuart Russell, <u>Genesis of Queensland</u> Sydney 1888 p.108	<i>Felton – Charles Mallard, Probably purchased for 250 pounds from Hodgson in mid-1842 & leased to Whitting and Hicks. M. French, <u>A Pastoral Romance</u> p.282</i> NSWGG 1845 p.1294 Held by Hicks, H.P. NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by Charles Mallard NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by Charles Mallard NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.949 Peels Plains (Felton) 35,000 acres EGC 400 cattle and 8000 sheep
#Pelican Station	Possibly descriptive of the wildlife in the area although no large expanses	NSWGG 26.7.1851 James Ivory 25 square miles EGC 4,000 sheep

	of water evident on map in non flood times – several creeks flow through.	
#Picurdah	Possibly of Aboriginal origin – similar to <i>Pinkenbah</i> in Qld.	NSWGG 30.7.1852 p.1115 Transferred from Richard Birrell to L.E. Lester NSWGG 11.8.1852 Richard Birrell 14,000 acres EGC 4,000 sheep.
#Pikedale or Pike Dale	Named for Captain John Pike, first leasee.	NSWGG 1845 p.1294 John Pike NSWGG 1847 p.574 John Pike NSWGG 1848 p.158 Pike Dale John Pike NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.949 100,000 acres EGC 24,000 sheep
#Pikes Creek	Named for Captain John Pike who held the lease in 1852.	NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by Ewen Campbell NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by Trevethan, Adolphus NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.951 Trevethan, Adolphus 40,000 acres EGC 8000 sheep NSWGG 30.7.1852 Transferred to Capt. John Pike
^Pilton	English connections – associated with Devon eg. Barnstaple & Pilton Cricket Club. Encl. Britt.	<i>Was originally part of Haldon run claimed by Sibley & King Sept 1840 – M. French <u>A Pastoral Romance</u> p.280</i> NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by Joseph King NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by P. Pinnock NSWGG Philip Pinnock now John Gammie 30,000 acres EGC 10,000 sheep NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.1475 Transferred from Philip Pinnock to John Gammie
^Prairie	Descriptive name for grassland similar to that in US and Canada.	NSWGG 7.4.1855 Held by H.S. Russell 16,000 acres EGC 4000 sheep.
#Retreat No.2	Descriptive name	NSWGG 30.7.1852 p.1115 Transferred from John McGeachie to Easton & Robertson.
Rogan	Mis-spelt Kogan	NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by Josh. King
^Rosalie Plains or Rosalia Plains	Named for a person?	NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by Robert Ramsay (Rosalia P) NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.949 Rosalie Plains 60,000 acres EGC 12,000 sheep. NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.1475 Transferred from Robert Ramsay to Hon. Louis Hope & Robert Ramsay
^Rosenthal or Rosenthal	Means 'Valley of Roses' in German. Name given by Frederick Bracker after a town near his home in Germany. Source – Ward-Brown, Jan p.489	N.B.A. Co. – Probably 'seized' by Fred Bracker in August 1841. <i>Maurice French <u>A Pastoral Romance</u> p. 281</i> NSWGG 1845 p.1294 Held by John Taylor – also St Ruth NSWGG 1848 p.574 Held by John Taylor – also St Ruth and Goomburra NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by John Taylor – also St Ruth and Groomburra NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.950 John Taylor 80,000 acres EGC 25,000 sheep NSWGG 14.1.1859 p.96 Transferred from H. Mackay and E.J. Spence to Buckland and Mackay (also St Ruth and South Tulburra)
^St Ruth	No information	<i>From French, <u>Conflict on the Condamine</u> p74 "William Summerville, Richard Jones' superintendent, wrested St Ruth from Russell's large Cecil Plains run at the end of the year..." (1841)</i>

		<p><i>Richard Jones (for N.B.A. Co.?) seized from Cecil Plains by W. Summerville about March-april 1842. French ibid p.282</i></p> <p>NSWGG 1845 p.1294 Held by John Taylor</p> <p>NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by John Taylor</p> <p>NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by John Taylor</p> <p>NSWGG 2.8.1848 John Taylor 80,000 acres EGC 1800 cattle</p> <p>NSWGG 14.1.1859 p.96 Transferred from H.Mackay and E.J. Spence to Buckland and Mackay</p>
#Scott Land	Lessee's middle name	<p>NSWGG 26.7.1851 p.1199 Lang, Gideon Scott (now transferred to Sir Samuel Osborne Gibbes, Bart)</p> <p>16,000 acres EGC 4000 sheep</p>
Scrubland (and #Bentland)	Descriptive	<p>NSWGG 30.7.1852 p.1115 Transferred from Edward Bingham to McDonald, Rens and Bingham</p> <p>NSWGG 14.1.1859 p.96 Transferred from Australian Joint Stock Bank to Prince, Bray and Ogg.</p>
#Seven Oaks (marked and named on 1883 Lands Dept Darling Downs Map – at junction of Chinchilla and Pelican stations)	Descriptive	<p>NSWGG 26.7.1851 p.1198 James Ivory 25 Square miles EGC 4,000 sheep</p>
^South Tulburra	See Tulburra	<p>NSWGG 14.1.1859 p.96 Transferred from H. Mackay and E.J. Spence to Buckland & Mackay See also Tulburra - Toolburra</p>
#Speculation	Descriptive/emotive	<p>NSWGG 11.8.1852 p.1229 Charles Coxen 16,000 acres EGC 4000 sheep</p> <p>NSWGG 15.10 1858 p.1674 Held by R. Brownlie (also Charley's Creek West.</p>
Stanbook	Old name for Gowrie run from Stan(d) Hall, Worcestershire.	<p>NSWGG 1845 p.1294 Held by Hughes & Isaac</p> <p>NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by Hughes & Isaac (also Westbrook)</p>
#Starvation Camp	Descriptive/emotive	<p>NSWGG 11.8.1852 p.1229 Lang, Gideon Scott 16,000 acres EGC 4000 shee.p</p> <p>NSWGG 14.1.1859 p.96 Transferred from Henry Buckley to Frederick and James Edward Ebsworth</p>
#Stockyard Creek	Descriptive	<p>NSWGG 21.4.1854 p.834 Held by C.C. McDonald</p> <p>NSWGG 7.4.1855 p.1064 C.C. McDonald 16,000 acres EGC 16,000 sheep</p>
#Stonehenge	Name assumed to have arisen from the rock formations near the Homestead which could remind one of Stonehenge on the Salisbury Plain in England. Source – John Twidale, Millmerran Historical Society	<p>NSWGG 30.7.1852 p.1115 Transferred from Benjamin Buchanan to John H. Bettington</p>
#Strathmillar	Probably combination of Scottish prefix (as in Strathclyde) and Millar for Millar's Valley.	<p><i>From Maurice French, Conflict on the Condamine p70</i></p> <p><i>“to complete the occupation of the southern Downs the Leslies also ceded small runs to family friends: A.F. Farquharson purchased the small Strathmillar run</i></p>

		<p>(later called Maryvale) of 7680 acres in Millar's Valley for 50 pounds."</p> <p>NSWGG 1845 p.1294 Held by A.F. Farquharson NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by James Hay NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by James Hay NSWGG 2.8.1848 Strath Millar James Hay 12,800 acres EGC 3,500 sheep.</p>
Stornoway – original name for Talgai –see Talgai Swamps, The	For a town in Scotland.	
	Descriptive	<p>NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by Ewen Cameron NSWGG 7.8.1849 p.1164 Transferred from Charles Coxen to Robert Campbell tertius</p>
#Swithland	No information	<p>NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by Mrs E.S. Dumaresq NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by Mrs E.S. Dumaresq NSWGG 2.8.1848 Elizabeth Sophia Dumaresq 70,000 acres EGC 3,000 cattle (Joined Whetstone held by <i>William Dumaresq – husband?</i>) NSWGG 30.7.1852 Transferred from Mrs Dumaresq to A. Campbell</p>
Talah	Possible Aboriginal origin	<p>NSWGG 11.8.1852 p.1228 Talah J.P. and J.A. Bell 10,000 acres EGC 640 cattle or 4,000 sheep. NSWGG 12.11.1858 Held by Arthur Bell NSWGG 13.6.1859 p.1315 16,000 acres</p>
#Talgai	<p>Aboriginal origin – place of Dead Trees. Source – Ward Brown, Jan <u>Rosenthal Historic Shire</u> Rosenthal Shire Council, 1989 p.494</p>	<p><i>G. Gammie arrived on Condamine with stock by 9 March 1841 and run established soon after; originally called Stornoway possibly after a village in the Outer Hebrides. M. French <u>A Pastoral Romance</u> p.280</i> NSWGG 2.8.1848 p947 George Gammie 60,000 acres EGC 16,000 sheep NSWGG 4.7.1849 p.1002 transferred from George Gammie to John Taylor</p>
#Terica, Terrea, Terren or Terrin	Possible Aboriginal origin	<p>Terrea -NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by Adolphus Trevethan Terren –NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by “ “ “ “ Terrin – NSWGG 2.8.1848 Adolphus Trevethan 30,000 acres EGC 6000 sheep NSWGG 30.7.1852 p.1115 transferred from Trevethan to Captain John Pike</p>
#Tchanning	<p>Tchanning assumed to be Aboriginal word. Sydney May indicated that <i>Tch</i> is a common prefix as in Tchanning, Tchuringa and Tchigigum. From paper “The Australian Aborigine” Ipswich 1964, held at the GPO Museum Brisbane ‘An Aboriginal name, but unexplained” Sydney May in ‘Queensland Place Names’ in <u>Local Government</u> August 1963.</p>	<p><i>Variously spelt -John Dangar owned the land on the Tannin in 1849...Name of Aboriginal tribe...Tch is definitely the aboriginal pronunciation. Notes from -Sydney May <u>Local Government</u> August 1963</i></p> <p>NSWGG 26.7.1851 p.1198 John Ferrett East Tchanning 16,000 acres EGC 640 cattle or 4000 sheep</p>
#The Heads of	Descriptive	NSWGG 1.5.1855 p.1251 Held by Henry Stuart

Yarrell Creek		Russell NSWGG 5.6.1856 p.1604 H.S.Russell 16,000 acres EGC 4000 sheep
The Swamps	Descriptive	See Swamps, The
The Unwatered Ridges	Descriptive	<i>Probably early name for Beaubaraba – in description of Eton Vale boundaries NSWGG 2.8.1848 p946</i> <i>'..bounded on the west by ridges dividing the waters flowing into the Eton Vale Creek from those passing through the unwatered ridges, the licenced station of Mr. Joshua Whitting.' Note- Whitting held Beaubaraba to 1847 when it went to D.Perrier.</i> NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by Phillip Friell
#The Western Creek	Descriptive	NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by James Laidley NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.949 James Laidley 40,000 acres EGC not given NSWGG 7.8.1849 p.1164 Transferred from Laidley to F.D. Vignoles
#Tierreyboo (Weionbilla)	Probably Aboriginal influences	NSWGG 17.8.1849 p.1210 Richard Birrell 48,000 acres EGC 12,000 sheep
Toolburra – see Tulburra		
^Tulburra	Name later changed to Toolburra Aboriginal origin – quivering the spear with an intent to throw. Source French, M <u>Conflict on the Condamine</u> p.101 from Meston A, Toowoomba Chronicle 9.4.1920 "Dhoo – a tree; burra – totem or people." Sydney May in 'Queensland Place Names' in <u>Local Government</u> November 1963	<i>Sold by Leslie Bros to Gordons for 250 pounds about April-June 1841 – originally part of Leslie's large run, Tulburra which was later called Canning Downs. – French, M <u>A Pastoral Romance</u> p280</i> NSWGG 1845 p.1294 Held by Gordon W.F NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by Hay and Fairholme . NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.28 Hay, William Leith, James Leith and G.K.E. Fairholme 60,000 acres EGC 500 cattle and 15,000 sheep. NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.1475 Transferred from Hay & Fairholme to Walter & George Leslie NSWGG 30.7.1852 p.1115 Transferred from George Leslie to John Gammie
^Tummaville or Tammaville or Tummiaville	Believed to be from a corruption of Domville Taylor's name by Aboriginal population. Domville to Tomville to Tummaville. John Twidale, Millmerran Historical Society, Oct 1999 & Dept of Natural Resources.	<i>From Maurice French, Conflict on the Condamine p70</i> <i>"About the middle of the year a man named Wingate laid claim to this lagoon but, preferring the cattle country on the Severn river readily ceded it to his employers, Dr John Rolland and Domville Taylor, who were in occupation by October 1841: they called the run Tummaville". Wingate</i> Tammaville NSWGG 1845 p.1294 Held by Rolland & Taylor Tummaville NSWGG NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by St John Gore Tammaville NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by St John Gore Tummiaville NSWGG 2.8.1848 St John Gore 48,000 acres EGC2500 cattle
Upper Wyonbilla	Probably Aboriginal origin - <i>billa</i> common in Aboriginal languages	NSWGG 11.8.1852 p.1229 James Garnett Ewer 16,000 acres 4000 sheep.
Urie	Probably Aboriginal	NSWGG 11.8.1852 Bell, J.P. and J.A. 10,000 acres

	influences	EGC 640 cattle or 4000 sheep. NSWGG 12.11.1851 p.1872 Held by Arthur Bell (also Talah and Bridgewood) NSWGG 13.6.1859 p.1315 16,000 acres.
#Vexation	Descriptive/emotive	NSWGG 11.8.1852 p.1229 Lang, Gideon Scott 16,000 acres EGC 4000 sheep. NSWGG 14.1.1859 p.96 transferred from Henry Buckley to Frederick and James Edward Ebsworth.
Waar Waar	Typical repetitive name. J. Atchison cites Waar Waar Creek as of Aboriginal origin. p.6	NSWGG 17.8.1849 p.1211 Robertson W.C. (now J.R. Young) 32,000 acres EGC 8,000 sheep. NSWGG 11.8.1852 p.1230 Scott, David Charles Frederick 48,000 acres EGC 6000 sheep.
Wallan	Probably Aboriginal word – Many similar placenames listed in Reed – <i>Walla Walla, Wallon & Walloo</i>	NSWGG 30.7.1852 p.1115 Transferred from Dangar, John (the late) to William Dangar and John Ferrett.
#Wanoo – Warroo <i>See also McIntyre Creek & Brook</i>	Warroo -of Aboriginal origin - S.J. Endacott gives meaning as day fire stick. Source - Department of Natural Resources Place Names Details Report 28.7.1999 Reed gives meaning for NSW placename as <i>Warroo</i> –Place of red hornets p.87	NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.950 Neil Ross 30,000 acres EGC 8000 sheep. Also Gladfield. NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.1475 Transferred from Neil Ross to Frederick Bracker – also Gledfield.
#Warra Warra	Reportedly an Aboriginal word, Mandandanji? Language indicating a woman carrying a load. Alternatively indicated plenty of water. Source – Dept of Natural Resources, Place Name Details Report 28.7.1999. Reed lists meaning for Qld placename as ‘a fence’.	<i>Irving? – Claimed by Henry Dennis as agent in July 1841. M. French, <u>A Pastoral Romance</u> p281</i> NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by Henry Dennis NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by Henry Denny NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.946 Henry Dennis, Estate of (now Colin McKenzie) 35,000 acres EGC 10,000 sheep. NSWGG 2.8.1848 Transferred from Estate of Henry Dennis to Colin McKenzie.
Watnal	Possible Aboriginal origin	NSWGG 4.5.1858 p.730 Held by J.A.Blyth
#Wee Wee	Probably of Aboriginal origin – repetition common feature.	NSWGG 20.8.1852 p.1266 Held by Arthur Lloyd NSWGG 30.9.1853 Arthur Lloyd 16,000 acres EGC 4,000 sheep (Transferred to Joshua and Alexander Bell.
^Westbrook	Name first used by John (Tinker) Campbell. A creek on the property is said to be named for a creek and village in England. Brisbane Telegraph series ‘Why it was named’ 30.4.1975 p28 Westbrook Creek named as ‘most westerly watercourse on Campbell’s run. – Toowoomba Chronicle 22.11.1928	<i>J. Campbell Probably claimed March-April 1841 and stocked by mid-year. Maurice French <u>a Pastoral Romance</u> p280</i> NSWGG 1845 p.1294 Held by Hughes and Isaac NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by Hughes and Isaac NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.948 Hughes and Isaac 50,000 acres EGC 800 cattle and 8000 sheep. NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by Hughes and Isaac.

#Western Creek		See The Western Creek
#Whetstone	Named after rocks used by Aboriginal people to sharpen tomahawks. Source D. Gunn, <u>Links with the Past</u> Brisbane, 1937 p.94	NSWGG 1847 p.574 Held by William Dumaesq NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by William Dumaesq NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.947 William Dumaesq 50,000 acres EGC 2500 cattle.
Wicambilla	Probably Aboriginal origin – <i>billa</i> a common word eg. <i>billabong</i>	NSWGG 26.7.1851 p.1197 Chauvel, Charles George Temple 16,000 acres EGC 640 cattle or 4000 sheep
#Wild Horse Paradise	Descriptive	NSWGG 11.8.1852 p.1229 Lang, Gideon Scott 16,000 acres EGC 4000 sheep. NSWGG 14.1.1859 p.96 Transferred from Henry Buckley to Frederick and James Edward Ebsworth
#Winton	Surname used in Scotland. Eg. Alexander Winton, car manufacturer - born in Scotland, lived in USA	NSWGG 30.7.1852 Transferred from Bank of Australasia to Tooth W.B. and Co.
#Wombo Forest	Probably Aboriginal influences. (<i>Old name was Dooduggan Creek</i>)	NSWGG 17.8.1849 p.1210 Ewer, James Garnett 40,000 acres EGC 12,000 sheep
#Wondul or Wyaga (or Woondul) <i>Woondul and Wyaga adjoining runs on 1884 Lands Dept. map</i>	Probably Aboriginal influences	NSWGG 17.8.1849 p.1210 David Perrier (now J.J. Whitting) 60,000 acres EGC 16,000 sheep Wyaga – NSWGG 7.8.1849 p.1164 Transferred from David Perrier to J.J. Whitting . Woondul - NSWGG 30.7.1852 p.1115 Transferred from T. De Lacy Moffatt To Henry Stuart Russell
#Wongongera	Probably Aboriginal influences	NSWGG 17.8.1849 p.1210 Mathew Goggs area not stated (<i>but quite large!</i>) EGC 1000 cattle or 6000 sheep
Woondul		See Wondul
#Yamo (Condamine)	Probably Aboriginal influences	NSWGG 17.8.1849 p.1210 Ewer, James Garnett 12,000 acres EGC 500 cattle
^Yandilla (<i>was Grass Tree Creek</i>)	Either an Aboriginal word meaning running water or an Irish village. (St. George Gore was a brother of th 7 th Baronet of Manor Gore in Donegal). Source – <u>Brisbane Telegraph</u> 'Why it was named' 24.6.1975 p.47	<i>Gore & Co. – Claimed and stocked about October-November 1841; originally called Grass Tree Creek. Maurice French, <u>A Pastoral Romance</u> p.281</i> NSWGG 1845 p.1294 Gore, St. George & Co. NSWGG 1847 p.574 Gore, Messrs & Co. NSWGG 1848 p.158 Gore & Co. NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.947, 65,000 acres EGC 2000 cattle or 10,000 sheep.
Yoolburra	Probably Aboriginal influences	NSWGG 1848 p.158 Held by Hay & Fairholme

TABLE B

PASTORAL RUN LESSEES 1843 – 1859 (NAMES EXTRACTED FROM TABLE A)

ANDREWS, J.M.
BALFOUR, JOHN
BARNEY, J.E.
BELL, J.P & J..A. – BELL, ARTHUR – BELL, JOSHUA & ALEXANDER – BELL, THOMAS
BETTINGTON
BINGHAM, EDWARD
BIRRELL, RICHARD
BLYTHE, JAMES ALEXANDER
BOYD, WILLIAM SPROTT
BRACKER, FREDERICK (*German*)
BROWN, EDWARD
BROWNLIE
BUCHANAN, BENJAMIN
BUCKLAND
BUCKLEY, HENRY
CAMERON, EWEN WALLACE
CAMPBELL – CAMPBELL, ROBERT – CAMPBELL, ROBERT TERTIUS
CAMPBELL, COLIN
COLLINS, THOMAS
CORY, EDWARD
COXEN, H.W. – COXEN, CHARLES
CROWDER, JOHN – CROWDER, ALFRED
DANGAR, H. – DANGAR, JOHN & WILLIAM
DENNIS, HENRY
DUMARESQ, WILLIAM & E.S.
EASTON
EBSWORTH, FREDERICK & JAMES
EWER, JAMES GARNOT
FAIRHOLME
FALCONER, JAMES JOHN
FARQUHAR, GEORGE
FARQUHARSON, A.F.
FERRETT, JOHN
FORBES, FRANCIS
FRIELL, PHILLIP
GAMMIE, JOHN
GIBBES, SIR SAMUEL OSBORNE
GILLESPIE, JAMES
GOGGS, MATTHEW
GORDON, W.F.
GORE, ST GEORGE & ST JOHN (*Northern Ireland*)
HAY, JAMES
HICKS, H.P.
HOPE, HON. LOUIS
HUGHES
INNES, ARCHIBALD CLUNES
IVORY, JAMES
ISAAC
KING, JOSEPH

LEITH, WILLIAM & JAMES
LANG, GIDEON SCOTT
LAWLER, WILLIAM
LESLIE, WALTER & GEORGE
LESTER, L.E.
LLOYD, ARTHUR
LOGAN, ROBERT
LOW, JACOB
MACKAY, H.
MALLARD, CHARLES
MARKS, JAMES
MARSH, MATTHEW HENRY
MARSHALL, C.H.
MCGEACHIE, ROBERT – MCGEACHIE, JOHN
MCDONALD, C.C.
MCKENZIE, C.J. – MCKENZIE, WILLIAM
MCLEOD, COLIN
MCMILLAN, JOHN
MITCHELL
MOCCATTA, GEORGE
MOFFATT, ROBERT G.
MOREHEAD
MORT, THOMAS S.
PERRIER, D.
PIKE, JOHN
PINNOCK, PHILLIP
PITTS, CHARLES W.
RAMSAY
RENS, EDWARD
RICHARDSON, WILLIAM
RIDLER
ROBERTSON
ROBINSON, J.P.
ROLLAND
ROSS, NEIL – ROSS, FINLEY
ROSSITER
RUSSELL, HENRY STUART
SCHOLFIELD, HENRY STANLEY
SCOTT, ANDREW – SCOTT, DAVID CHARLES FREDERICK
SMITH
SPENCE, E.J.
STEVENS, JOHN
TAYLOR, J
THACKER, DANIEL
THORNE
TOOTH
TREVETHAN, ADOLPHUS WATT
VIGNOLES, F.D.
WHITING, J.J.
WILKIE, JOHN P.
YOUNG, J.R.

TABLE C - NAMES FOR NATURAL FEATURES – 1827 - 1859

PLACE NAME	SHIRE & LOCATION	DETAILS
Beaufort, Mount	Beyond area of nominated Shires	Mount Beaufort, an isolated mountain in the Warrego district, was named by Sir Thomas Mitchell on July 20, 1846 after his friend, Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort (1774-1857), "my scientific friend at the Admiralty" who devised the Beaufort Scale to indicate the strength of wind. <i>From Brisbane Telegraph, date unknown, series "Why it was Named" 1971-1974</i>
Bracker Creek	Warwick -28.233 152.050 Stanthorpe -28.525 151.736	Bracker Creek in Shire of Warwick was named after Frederick Bracker who came to Australia from Germany in 1829. The name was given about 1840 but has been changed to Rosenthal Creek. (<i>W.A. Millard, Bulletin No. 6 - 6 March 1939 Queensland Place Names Committee p. 12</i>) No details about when the Stanthorpe creek was named (the name has not been changed) but it would certainly be referring to the same Frederick Bracker, first manager of <i>Rosenthal</i> and later owner of <i>Warroo</i> , who became very well known and noted for his advanced farming methods detailed in - <i>Waterson D.B. Squatter, Selector, and Storekeeper</i> Sydney University Press, Sydney; 1968 p.138 & p.152
Bunya Gully	Crows Nest -27.1666 152.050	In 1838 Andrew Petrie led a party of four white men and two aborigines to confirm native stories about a remarkable tree growing near the Maroochy River. They found "the famous bunya pine, taboo to the aborigines except for the feast of the nuts every three years when tribes enmity was forgotten". (<i>Brisbane Sunday Mail-August 26, 1979- Series Who's who featuring Andrew Petrie</i>) The Wacah blacks called the bunya tree 'bahnya" and the nut "yeng-gee, and that was the name used by "Gilburrie", of 1854 and the late "Boondow" when I met him first in 1879. Tom Petrie called the bunya "boon-ye", but that was the word used only by the old Brisbane blacks. <i>Meston, Archibald "Genesis of Toowoomba" series Toowoomba Chronicle 1.4.1920 reproduced in French, Maurice Travellers in a Landscape Visitor's Impressions of the Darling Downs 1827-1954</i>) Derived from Kabi language word "Bonyi" or "Bunyi", indicating the Bunya Pine Tree (<i>Aracauria Bidwilli</i>). Vocabularies of four representative tribes of south eastern Queensland, Brisbane 1944 p.26 (<i>Department of Natural Resources – Place Names Details Report 27.7.1999</i>)
Canal Creek	Warwick -28 151.899	Canal Creek - Parish name- "First taken up by Pitts & Bonifant and was named by them. (Commissioner of Crown Lands, Nov 1843 Itinerary) Canal Creek was subsequently used as the name for the village which later became Leyburn, and

		<p>later still, as the name for the village which later became Karara. Also the name of one of the best alluvial gold fields in the area." <i>Jan Ward-Brown ed, Rosenthal – Historic Shire Rosenthal Shire Council. Warwick: 1988, p489</i>)</p> <p>Name of landholding "Canal Creek Station" originally owned by Messrs. Pitt and Bonifont situated on the banks of Canal Creek.</p> <p>'No clear information but possibly settled in mid-1841 although first confirmed date in 20 November 1843' <i>French, Maurice, A Pastoral Romance the Tribulation and Triumph of Squatterdom USQ Press Toowoomba 1990 p280</i>)</p> <p>Settlement now Leyburn was first called Canal Creek – supplies addressed to Canal Creek, Moreton Bay in 1852. Changed to Leyburn by 1855 – on a map published by Arrowsmith of London. Leyburn is the name of a township in the North Riding of Yorkshire, England.</p> <p><i>(Queensland Place Names Committee Bulletin No4 September 1938 pp.2/3)</i></p>
Canal Ponds	<p><i>Name not current</i></p> <p>Inglewood</p> <p>Approx. -28.4</p> <p>151.3</p>	<p>Mentioned in description of <i>Coomunda</i> run. '..and also comprehends the Canal Ponds, part of Triverton's Creek...' <i>NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.946</i></p>
Chain of Ponds Creek	<p>Inglewood</p> <p>-28.416</p> <p>151.2666</p>	<p>Mentioned in description of <i>Coomunda</i> run 'comprehends 'Lookout' Mountain and Creek, and also the Chain of Ponds'". <i>NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.946</i></p>
Charley's Creek	<p>Headwaters north of nominated Shires. Flows through Wambo Shire</p>	<p>Named by Ludwig Leichhardt 19.10.1844 after Charley, an Aboriginal member of his party from the Bathurst tribe. Source: Leichhardt's <i>Journal of an Expedition in Australia</i>, London 1847 – facsimile Corkwood Press South Australia 1996 p.18</p>
Condamine River	<p>Warwick</p> <p>-28.283</p> <p>152.416 (North Branch)</p>	<p>Long river flowing through several Shires- A river 320 miles long, the main tributary of the Balonne River which it joins north of St George. It was named by Allan Cunningham on June 5th 1827, as a compliment to Captain T. de la Condamine, Private Secretary to Governor Darling. Condamine township is situated about 25 miles south from Miles on the river. (W.A. Millard in Bulletin No 6 of Queensland Place Names Committee, March 1939, page 11)</p> <p>The aboriginal name for the Condamine River = Mooyum. (<i>French, Maurice, Conflict on the Condamine, p.161</i>)</p>
Dalrymple Creek	<p>Clifton</p> <p>-27.983</p> <p>151.766</p>	<p>Mentioned in NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.947</p> <p>George Gammie's holding, Talgai "On Dalrymple Creek, bounded by Messrs Leslie, Forbes and Campbell". Probably named for George Beck Elphinstone Dalrymple – one of the first lessees on the Darling Downs (Goomburra, July/August 1840)</p>
Darling Downs	<p>All 13 Shires and more</p>	<p>Named by Allan Cunningham on 6th June 1827 "in Honour of His Excellency the Governor" - Darling (<i>Cunningham's Journal, Mitchell Library, Sydney</i>)</p> <p>Proclamation 21 May 1839 –by governor Sir George Gipps in <i>New South Wales Government Gazette 12, May</i></p>

		<i>1843 and reproduced in French, Maurice – Travelers in a Landscape USQ Press, Toowoomba 1994 p.50</i>
Dogwood Creek	Headwaters north of designated Shires. Miles township (approx. -26.6 & 150.2) on the creek.	Named by Ludwig Leichhardt, 23.10.1844. Source: Leichhardt's <u>Journal of an Expedition in Australia</u> , London 1847 – facsimile Corkwood Press South Australia 1996 p.20
Dumaresq River	Stanthorpe -28.95 151.55	“A river better known as the Severn (48 miles) a tributary of the River McIntyre, named by Allan Cunningham on May 28th, 1827, after the maiden name of Lady Ralph Darling. Her brother William afterwards had extensive Queensland interests, and died at Cleveland November 9th 1868.” <i>W. A. Millward, Queensland Place Names Committee Bulletin 6 March 1939 p.12.</i> Other references – original source <i>Cunningham's Journal, Mitchell Library on micro film – entry for 28.5.27</i> also reproduced in <i>Russell, Henry Stuart- Genesis of Queensland Sydney 1888, pp.98/99</i>
Dumaresq Mount	Warwick -28.100 152.166	This flat-topped eminence, which I observed formed the north-western angle of a body of lateral hills, extending from the leading range of these mountains, as named Mount Dumaresq.. <i>Cunningham's Journal, Mitchell Library on micro film – entry for 8.6.1827</i> <i>Reproduced also in in Russell, Henry Stuart- Genesis of Queensland Sydney 1888, pp.109/110</i>
Emu Creek <i>Name not current</i>	Cambooya	Mentioned in description of Eton Vale run, ‘..bounded on the south-east from that to south-west by ridges dividing the waters of the Emu Creek from the waters flowing into the Haldon and Clifton Stations and including a small patch of table land at the head of Emu Creek watered by springs..’. <i>NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.946</i> This creek is clearly marked on 1883 Surveyor-General's Run Map of Darling Downs
Freestone Creek	Warwick -28.100 152.100	Mentioned in description of <i>Glengallan</i> run boundaries. <i>NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.946</i>
Gap Creek	Warwick -28.066 152.216	Mentioned in description of <i>Glengallan</i> run boundaries. <i>NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.946</i> Also appears on pre-1859 map of NSW Counties. <i>Name, publisher and date of map unknown..</i>
Grass Tree Creek	Millmerran -27.9666 151.050 (Stream)	Now name for Stream Original name for Yandilla Station – Was originally called Grass Tree Creek Run from 1841 to January 1845. It may be assumed that Grass Tree Creek was vegetated with grasstrees (<i>Xanthorrhoea Glauca</i> most probably). In the 1840's Leichhardt the explorer was astounded to see groves of Blackboys (Grasstrees) growing along the rivers and creeks on the Downs.

		<i>From John Twidale, Millmerran Historical Society, 28.11.1999</i>
Greymare Creek	Warwick -28.166 151.800	<p>Named after a grey mare which belonged to John Deuchar (1822-1872) pastoralist and stock breeder. This mare could escape from any paddock and would always make for the Greymare Creek.</p> <p><i>Department of Natural Resources, Place Names Details Report 27.7.1999</i></p> <p>Deuchar, from Aberdeen arrived on the Darling Downs with Dalrymple in about 1840 – he was 18 years old.</p> <p><i>French, Maurice <u>Conflict on the Condamine: Aborigines and the European Invasion</u> (Toowoomba, Darling Downs Institute Press Toowoomba 1989 pp58</i></p> <p>Story also in <i>Thomas Hall, <u>The early History of Warwick District</u> Toowoomba 1920s pp.36/7</i></p>
Hodgson Creek	Pittsworth -27.866 152.616	<p>The name was given by the explorer Leichhardt on October 22, 1844 to a creek that ran into Charley's Creek, a tributary of the Condamine. It was discovered by a botanist in the party, Pemberton Hodgson, while seeking an overland route from the Darling Downs to north-west Australia.</p> <p><i>Brisbane Telegraph, 30 March 1973, series "Why it was named" and also in Leichhardt's <u>Journal of an Expedition in Australia</u>, London 1847 – facsimilie Corkwood Press South Australia 1996</i></p>
Huntley, Mount	Warwick -28.149 152.433	<p>Huntley is a peak near Warwick, named about 1845 after Dr. Huntley, who was father-in-law of Dr. Miles, one of the first three doctors to practise in Warwick. In the 1840's Dr. Miles lived at Clifton and had a bush hospital at Ryford. Dr. Miles moved to Warwick and at Warwick's first land sale in 1850, bought the fourth allotment sold. <i>Brisbane Telegraph, 24 April 1973, series "Why it was named"</i> Later on, when returning from a professional visit in the Inglewood district, he (Dr. Miles) was thrown from his horse and killed. <i>T. Hall, Early History of Warwick District, Toowoomba 1920's p.75</i></p>
Kent's Lagoon	Not in nominated Shires	<p>This is a remarkable creek – lagoon, part of a chain of lagoons in the northern area of the Darling Downs. It was named by the explorer Leichhardt on October 18, in 1844 as he noted in his journal, "After F. Kent Esq". However, authoritative sources state that Leichhardt then on his epic overland trek from Moreton Bay to Port Essington in north-west Australia honored John Kent (1809 –62). In 1844 he presented Leichhardt and his party with a supply of chocolate, which is why Leichhardt honored him with a place name.</p> <p><i>Brisbane Telegraph, 19.6.1973, series "Why it was Named" and Leichhardt's <u>Journal of an Expedition in Australia</u>, London 1847 – facsimilie Corkwood Press South Australia 1996</i></p>
Lookout Creek (& Mt.)	Name not current Inglewood Approx.	<p>Mentioned in description of <i>Coolmunda</i> pastoral run. 'comprehends "Lookout " Mountain and Creek'. <i>NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.946</i></p>

	-28.5 151.5	Lookout Creek appears on 1883 Surveyor General Run Map of Darling Downs.
Macintyre River	Inglewood -28.483 151.550(Parish) -28.6633 150.75(Brook)	Now Parish, River, Brook This 350 – mile watercourse is the name given to part of the Severn River, and for some of its length the Macintyre forms the boundary of New South Wales and Queensland. It was named by Allan Cunningham in May, 1827, after Peter Macintyre, at that time manager of Segenhoe, a property on the upper Hunter Valley. <i>Brisbane Telegraph</i> , 27.8.1973, series "Why it was Named" The presence of a fine piece of pasturage on the banks of a beautiful stream, in parts fifteen yards in width, to which I gave the name of Macintyre's Brook, after my friend at Segenhoe... (28.44S, 150.48E) Cunningham's Journal, 30.5.1827.
McPherson Range	Starts near Warwick Not in nominated Shires	This spur of the Great Dividing Range is one of our early place names having been named in 1828 by Allan Cunningham and Captain Patrick Logan after Major Duncan McPherson of the 39 th Regiment, then stationed at Moreton Bay. Logan who was commandant of the penal settlement at Moreton Bay, was accompanying Cunningham in his initial endeavors to find a mountain pass from the Moreton Bay side to the Darling Downs, which Cunningham had discovered the previous year. McPherson Range extends eastward from Wilsons Peak (4000ft) situated 30 miles east of Warwick, to near Point Danger on the coast. The eastern part of the New South Wales and Queensland border runs along its ridge. <i>Brisbane Telegraph</i> , 4.9.1973, series "Why it was Named"
Millar's Valley	Name not current Approx Location– 28 & 152.5	This is the name of the valley from which flows Glengallen Creek, which Allan Cunningham named in 1827 as he passed through it, probably after some worthy of the day, although local sources do not seem to have this recorded. <i>Brisbane Telegraph</i> , 30.10.1973, series "Why it was Named" Cunningham named "a grassy valley" Millars Valley, 6 th June 1827 (<i>Cunningham's Journal</i> , Mitchell Library) Lessee – A.F. Farquharson Remarks – Millar's Valley was a small run on north side of Gap Creek and was part of the original Leslie & Macarthur claim; subject to a dispute with John Cameron probably in 1842 before its transfer to J.C. Wickham; transferred in July 1844 to A.F. Farquharson who had taken up a small unnamed run (later Strathmillar) on south side of Gap Creek not later than November 1843. <i>French, Maurice A Pastoral Romance The Tribulation and Triumph of Squatterdom A History of the Darling Downs Frontier: USQ Press: Toowoomba 1990 p.282</i>
Mitchell, Mount	Warwick -28.066 152.399	I had at the time great pleasure in giving names to these very elevated points of the Dividing Range, which are very distinctly seen over fifty-four miles of wooded

		<p>country from Brisbane Town. The south head, which forms a long-backed mount with a lofty point at each extremity I have named Mount Mitchell, in honour of the Surveyor-General of this territory, whilst the north head was entitled Mount Cordeaux, as a compliment to Wm. Cordeaux, Esq. of the Surveyor-General's department. <i>Steele, J. G. The Explorers of the Moreton Bay District 1770 - 1830 Uni of Queensland Press: St. Lucia Qld , 1972 P289/90 footnote Number 41 From Cunningham's Journal 1828</i></p> <p>From Aboriginal Vocabulary and Place Names Table "Oombaiyeru – Mt Mitchell Coonyinira – Mt Mitchell" <i>French, Maurice Conflict on the Condamine Aborigines and the European Invasion Darling Downs Institute Press Toowoomba:1989 p.158 (Collected by Rev. George Clarke, Warwick District c. 1852-1853 (Source NSWLCVP, 1853,vol2 p.853ff</i></p>
Mount Abundance	<p>Beyond area of nominated Shires</p> <p>Western Districts of Darling Downs</p>	<p>This is the name of a hill and a pastoral property near Roma, the hill being named on May 7, 1846 by Sir Thomas Mitchell. Sir Thomas named it thus because as he wrote in his journal, "the abundance of good pasturage around it"...the next day Sir Thomas wrote: "This morning Fahrenheit's thermometer stood at 21 deg. in my tent, a degree of cold I should never have expected ... the sun rose in splendour, pigeons cooed and birds were as merry as usual in the woods. I ascended an elevated north-eastern extremity of Mount Abundance, and from it beheld the finest country I had ever seen in a primeval state. A champagne region spotted with wood, stretching as far as human vision, or even the telescope could reach." <i>Brisbane Telegraph, 26.12.1973, series "Why it was Named"</i></p>
Mount Beaufort	Beyond area of nominated Shires	<p>Mount Beaufort, an isolated mountain in the Warrego district, was named by Sir Thomas Mitchell on July 20, 1846 after his friend, Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort (1774-1857), "my scientific friend at the Admiralty" who devised the Beaufort Scale to indicate the strength of wind. <i>From Brisbane Telegraph, date unknown, series "Why it was Named "1971 -1974</i></p>
Mount Cordeaux	<p>Near Warwick</p> <p>-28.049</p> <p>152.399</p>	<p>I had at the time great pleasure in giving names to these very elevated points of the Dividing Range, which are very distinctly seen over fifty-four miles of wooded country from Brisbane Town. The south head, which forms a long-backed mount with a lofty point at each extremity I have named Mount Mitchell, in honour of the Surveyor-General of this territory, whilst the north head was entitled Mount Cordeaux, as a compliment to Wm. Cordeaux, Esq. of the Surveyor-General's department".</p> <p><i>Steele, J. G. The Explorers of the Moreton Bay District 1770 - 1830 Uni of Queensland Press: St. Lucia Qld , 1972 P289/90 footnote Number 41 from Cunningham's Journal 1828</i></p> <p>From Aboriginal Vocabulary and Place Names -Table "Naiaimboyu – Mt Cordeaux <i>French, Maurice</i></p>

		<i>Conflict on the Condamine Aborigines and the European Invasion</i> Darling Downs Institute Press Toowoomba:1989 p158 (Collected by Rev. George Clarke, Warwick District c. 1852-1853 (Source NSWLCVP, 1853,vol2 p.853ff))
Mount Sturt	Warwick -28.200 152.183 This is settlement location named for the mountain rather than location of the actual peak.	Named by Allan Cunningham in June 1827 after Captain Charled Sturt who was at that time an aide-de-camp to NSW Governor. Source – Dept of Natural Resources Place Names Details Report 28.7 1999
Myall Creek	Dalby -27.183(Town) 151.25 -27.200 151.183 (Stream)	Stream Former name of town, Dalby. Pastoral run – “Lessee – Charles Coxen – claimed by Henry Dennis about July 1841 & occupied by H.W. Coxen in 1842” French, Maurice <i>A Pastoral Romance The Tribulation and Triumph of Squatterdom</i> USQ Press Toowoomba 1990 p.281 “ Myall – wild” - translation from Aboriginal vocabulary collected by William Pechey, Chinchilla District 1859-1860. French, Maurice <i>Conflict on the Condamine: Aborigines and the European Invasion</i> (Toowoomba, Darling Downs Institute Press Toowoomba 1989 p.159 Source – William Pechey’s Diary 1859-1860 DDIAE Archives
Oakey Creek	Flows into the Condamine River near Dalby.	Descriptive name. Pastoral Run “Lessee – Hugh Ross Remarks – Claimed late 1841 but not registered until 24 November 1843; absorbed into Westbrook in 1844 after boundary dispute” <i>A Pastoral Romance The Tribulation and Triumph of Squatterdom</i> <i>A History of the Darling Downs Frontier:</i> USQ Press: Toowoomba p.281
Peels Plains	Warwick includes Allora	Describing Allan Cunningham’s explorations and discovery of Darling Downs, “To the north-west and west was ‘a vast expanse of open country...exhibiting every feature of hill and dale, woodland and plain’ – those in the foreground [around Allora] he named Peel’s Plains beyond which was ‘an immeasurable expanse of flat country [the central and northern downs?]...on which not the slightest eminence could be observed to interrupt the common level...to a very distant blue line of horizon...” French, Maurice <i>Conflict on the Condamine: Aborigines and the European Invasion</i> (Toowoomba, Darling Downs Institute Press Toowoomba 1989 p40 (Source H.S. Russell – <i>Genesis of Queensland</i> 1888 p.108) Note – Cunningham does not indicate who Peel was.
Perseverance Creek	Crows Nest	Creek, Mount, Locality & Lake

	-27.316 152.116 (Creek) -27.416 152.166(Mount)	Derived from Perseverance Pastoral Run taken up by Campbell Livingstone McDonald, pastoralist, 1848. <i>Department of Natural Resources, Place Names Details Report 28/7/1999</i>
Rodger Creek	Warwick -28.1666 151.800	'The creek between Sandy Creek and South Toolburra, well known as Rodger's Creek, was so called after an Englishman named James Rogers, better known as Cocky Rogers because he was a cockney. He came over with Arthur Hodgson's stock, which was in charge of Pemberton Hodgson.' <i>T. Hall Early History of Warwick and District Toowoomba 1920s p.19</i>
Rosenthal (Creek)	Warwick -28.366 151.933(Parish)	Rosenthal, the name of a shire, a creek and an historic homestead near Warwick, was first given to a pastoral run in 1843 by Frederick Bracker. Frederick Bracker was born at Mecklenburg, Germany about 1798, named the run after a town in Prussia. Bracker, a sheep breeder, was a driving force in the settlement of the Darling Downs, while maintaining good relations with Aborigines. He first came to Australia with 300 stud sheep chosen from the Silesian flock of Prince Esterhazy. <i>Brisbane Telegraph 4.9.74, Series "Why it was named"</i>
Rubieslaw, Mount	Cambooya -27.75 151.800	Mount and Range They pitched their tents about three miles from Mt Rubieslaw, named after Elliot's Scottish homeland" Note Gilbert Elliott (1796 – 1852) former aide-de-camp to Governor Gipps – lessee of Eton Vale with Arthur Hodgson. <i>French, Maurice Conflict on the Condamine: Aborigines and the European Invasion (Toowoomba, Darling Downs Institute Press Toowoomba pp.63/4 Source H.S. Russell Genesis of Queensland p.201</i>
Ruined Castle Creek	North west of nominated group of Shires	Ruined Castle Creek near Taroom, was named on December 1, 1844 by Leichhardt during his overland trek from the Darling downs to Port Essington in north-west Australia. Leichhardt wrote in his diary that he had given the creek this name because high sandstone rocks fissured and broken like pillars and walls and the high gates of ruined castles of Germany, rose from the broad sandy summits of hills on both sides of the valley. <i>Brisbane Telegraph 22.10.1974, Series "Why it was named"</i>
Saddle Hill <i>Possibly now known as Saddletop Mountain which is in the area.</i>	Clifton (Saddletop Mountain –27.933 152.03)	In description of Clifton Run, '...about two and a half miles above the main road crossing place to a hill called Saddle Hill...' <i>NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.947</i>
Sandy Creek	Warwick Many creeks with this name & two in this precise area – headwaters approx –28, 151.7	"The Tulburra Run comprises the Country on the north side of the Condamine River.....also the country on the south side of the Condamine River from the junction of said river with Sandy Creek...." <i>NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.948</i>
Sugarloaf	Crows Nest 27.383 152.100	Also know as Mount Williams Named Sugarloaf by David Cannon McConnel (1818-

		1885) grazier and farmer, during 1844, because of its shape. Aboriginal name – Wambaroora <i>Department of Natural Resources, Place Names Details Report 28.7.1999</i>
Tabletop, Mount	Warwick -27.983 151.983	Originally named Twiss' Table-mount on 27 June 1829, by Allan Cunningham (1791-1839) botanist and explorer, after ??? Twiss (-) public servant in British colonial Office, Refer J.G. Steele, <u>The Explorers of the Moreton Bay District 1770 – 1830</u> , Brisbane, 1972 p.321 <i>Department of Natural Resources, Place Names Details Report 28.7.1999</i>
Tent Hill Waters <i>Name not current</i>	Cambooya	Mentioned in description of Eton Vale Run, '...and by 3 miles of a creek running into the Tent Hill Waters'. <i>NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.946</i>
Teviot Falls	Warwick -28.233 152.483	Derived from the naming of Teviot Brook by Allan Cunningham (1791-1839) botanist and explorer, 6 August 1828, after Teviot River, Roxburghshire, Scotland, Refer J.G. Steele, <u>The explorers of the Moreton Bay District 1770 – 1830</u> . Brisbane 1972, pp.251,270
Thane's Creek	Millmerran -27.916 151.566	Mentioned in description of <i>Ellangowan</i> run, '...to a road known as Leslie's marked tree line, on Thane's Creek'. <i>NSWGG 2.8.1848 p.947</i> Named for John Thain who held Ellangowan run in 1842. He was a friend of the Gammie Bros. Thain drowned in the Condamine in 1843. <i>Source – John Twidale, Millmerran Historical Society Oct. 1999</i>
Treverton Creek	Inglewood -28.508 151.316	Named after Adolphus Treverton (-1852) lessee of Terrica pastoral run 1840's. <i>Dept of Natural resources Place Names Details Report 28.7.1999</i> Mentioned in description of boundaries of <i>Coolmunda</i> run in <i>NSWGG 2.8.1848 p946</i>
Warrego River	West of nominated Shires Charleville & Cunnamulla situated on its banks	Tributary of the Darling River Was discovered and named by Sir Thomas Mitchell in September 1846. "Mitchell, who was anxious to preserve Aboriginal place names, gave the river its name, believing it to be Aboriginal for crooked or winding. His information came from an old Aboriginal woman in the area and in his journal Mitchell noted: 'The chain of ponds, according to the old woman was named Cunno, and ran into the Warrego, which as she pointed, was evidently the name of the river we had formerly traced downwards from near Mount P.P. King.' <i>Brisbane Telegraph 10.4.1975, Series, Why it was named, featuring Warrego River page 33</i> A. Morrison, of University of Queensland wrote in his paper about the Charleville district, that Mitchell was mistaken about the meaning of the word <i>Warrego</i> . Mitchell points out that journalist Archibald Meston, renowned for his interest in Aboriginal words, asserted that the name meant <i>bad</i> . <i>From Brisbane Telegraph 4.4.75, Series, Why it was named, featuring Wanko page 43.</i>

TABLE D – LAND OWNERSHIP

Parish of Hill –Land Ownership

Selection beginning approximately 1870. Portion numbers from 1917 Dept. of Public Lands Map.

Portion Number	Size in Acres	Brief history
1	7	Reserve land, adjacent to the Crooked Oak Ford, near Myall Creek junction with Condamine River.
2 3 4 5 6	380 total	Alexander Williamson , selected 1871-obtained freehold 1881 Henry Charles White purchased 1892 – became part of <i>Loudoun</i> . Mary Helen White & Roy Mordount White 1905 after death of H.C. White Roy Mordount White alone 1925. Note – a total of 6-7 acres was resumed from portion 6 in 1916 for Nandi Railway Station and line.
7 8	140 total	G.M. Simpson, P. Landy, S. Moffatt (as trustees of the Dalby Hospital) (approx. 1870). South-east corner joins public land for Loudoun Bridge on Moonie H'way
9	160	Part of <i>Loudoun</i> – joins original homestead portion 10. (1975 map shows Portion 9 as <i>Loudoun</i>) Possibly owned by Wirths who may also have 12/14/15(?).
10	74 65 After public land resumed.	Original and present Homestead paddock for <i>Loudoun</i> – northeast corner joins public land for <i>Loudoun</i> bridge. J.Watts selected 1869 – obtained freehold 1870 Hugh Muir Nelson – 1872 (mortgaged to Watts) Henry Charles White & Paul Hunt – 1892 (also mortgaged to Watts for a period) Henry Charles White alone - 1903 Helen Mary White and Roy Mordant White -1905. H.M. White received three quarters of <i>Loudoun</i> & Roy White one quarter on the death of Henry Charles White. Helen Mary White remarried twice. Name changes to: Helen Mary Morner - 1910 Helen Mary de Massue – 1918 On her death in 1921 her share of the station held by executors until it was subdivided and sold in 1937. Hugh Campbell (and probably his brother) – May 1937, who held about 11,000 acres made up of Portions 9 – 54 plus Portions 78,79 and 103. Further subdivision of the station in late 1938. William Joseph Lloyd – August 1938. Shirley McWilliam – 1939. Stephen Crane Rutledge -1941. Alfred Harris -1950. Harry James Hinz 1952. Rebekah Hinz – June 1955. (<i>Loudoun</i> now about 600/700 acres.) John and Phyllis Turner May,1966. Roy & Heather Westaway – 1993, present owners.

11 – 26	1364 total	<i>Loudoun</i> –ownership mostly as for Portion 10. Wirths now own Portion 9 and possibly 12/14/15. Westaways now own Portions 10/11/13/16/20/21/22 as <i>Loudoun</i> and 23/24/25/26/27/28/29 and part of 30 as <i>Westfields</i> .
27 –28	320	Part of <i>Loudoun</i> . Ownership as for Portion 10 until approx mid-1930s. Half remained with <i>Loudoun</i> probably until after 1967 and they are now incorporated into <i>Westfields</i> – see above – owned by Westaways . Half of these two portions + 30 to 33 became Portion 65 in mid-1930s. See 65 for ownership.
29	111 later 132	Remained with <i>Loudoun</i> in 1930s & Campbells. Now owned by the Westaways – see above.
30 - 33	384 total	Part of <i>Loudoun</i> . Ownership as for Portion 10 until approx. mid-1930s. See Portion 65 for ownership after mid-1930s.
34 - 37	523 total	Part of <i>Loudoun</i> until mid 1930s. See Portion 10 for ownership. See Portion 66 for ownership after mid-1930s.
38 - 46	756 total	Part of <i>Loudoun</i> until mid 1930s. See Portion 10 for ownership. See Portion 67 for ownership after mid-1930s.(Note – with exception of 200 acres from portions 42 & 43 which went to Portion 69)
47-48	160 total	Part of <i>Loudoun</i> until mid 1930s. See Portion 10 for ownership. See Portion 69 for ownership after mid 1930s.
49 - 51	253 total	Part of <i>Loudoun</i> until mid 1930s. See Portion 10 for ownership. H.H. (Bert) Johnson - George Moffatt - Bill & Wyn Arthur
52 - 53		Part of <i>Loudoun</i> until mid 1930s. See Portion 10 for ownership. See Portion 69 for ownership after mid 1930s.
54	160	Part of <i>Loudoun</i> until mid 1930s. See Portion 10 for ownership. H.H. (Bert) Johnson - George Moffatt - Bill & Wyn Arthur
55 -58	343 total	Part of <i>Loudoun</i> – See Portion 10 for ownership. Held by Campbell Bros. until they disposed of it. H.H. (Bert) Johnson - George Moffatt - Bill & Wyn Arthur
59	320	William John Lane 1904 <i>Carbeen</i> Alfred Cunnington 1919 James William Lane & Henry Francis Lane 1931 Henry Francis Lane 1952 John Lane 1974 G. Fresser 1998 Warakirri Agricultural Trusts 1999
60	319	Frederick George Olsson 1911 Wilfrid Holland Gilbey April 1920 Henry Bassett Lane December 1920 Henry Francis Lane and James William Lane 1940 Patrick J. Lane 1958 <i>Myola</i> Warakirri Agricultural Trusts 1999

62	320	<p>W. Stagg (First decade of 20th Century) Known as <i>Stratheden</i> or <i>Strathmoor</i> both appear in documentation.</p> <p>Emma Stagg (1939)</p> <p>Mariee (nee Lane) and Jack Callaghan, 1950s to 1998. Name change to <i>Orana</i>.</p> <p>John Cameron 1998</p>
63	306	<p>A.E. Cunningham</p> <p>William and Henry Francis Lane 1928 <i>Memerambi</i></p> <p>Mariee and Jack Callaghan 1969</p> <p>Sold June 1998 (probably to John Cameron, see above)</p>
65	765	<p>Made up of Half Portions 27 & 28 + all of 29 to 33. Resumed for Soldier Settler. Known as <i>Loch Eaton</i>.</p> <p>K.H. Andrews (1948) Soldier</p> <p>J.J. & P.G. Tyson - Paul McVeigh</p>
66	764	<p>Made up of Portions 34 to 37 plus 240 acres over the Condamine River. Resumed for Soldier Settler. Known as <i>Timberline</i>.</p> <p>Cyril Cleary (1948) Soldier.</p> <p>M.J. and E.N. Swaby - M.J.(jnr)and M.J. Swaby - M.J.(jnr.) & E.N. Swaby - Ross Sandercock - Paul McVeigh</p>
67	756	<p>Made up of Portions 38 to 46 with the exception of part of 42 & 43. Resumed for Soldier Settler. Known as <i>Glen Idol</i>.</p> <p>M.G. Miller & N. Miller 1948 (Morris Miller, Soldier)</p> <p>Mayfield Farms - D.S. & C.R. Mc Lean - Roy & Heather Westaway</p>
68	698 then 498	<p>Made up of Portions 52 & 53 plus part of 42 & 43. Resumed for Soldier Settler.</p> <p>A.R. Bond. (1948) Soldier</p> <p>S.R. Bond (Reduced at some stage by 200 acres which became Portion 69)</p> <p>Burt</p>
69	200	Taken from Portion 68 . John Westaway - D.C. & R.F. Munro
78	640	Part of <i>Loudoun</i> , see Portion 10 for ownership as far as Campbell Bros. mid 1930s. Probably sold 1940s. No information thereafter.
79	640	Part of <i>Loudoun</i> , see Portion 10 for ownership as far as Campbell Bros. mid 1930s. - A.L.Kennedy .
103	4731	<p>Part of <i>Loudoun</i>. H.M. Nelson 1870s</p> <p>H.C. White & P. Hunt 1892</p> <p>H.C. White alone 1903</p> <p>R.M.White with Helen Mary White 1905 etc. as per Portion 10)</p> <p>Campbell Bros. mid 1930s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At some stage (? Year –1940s) subdivided into 8 lots. <p>For clarity lots have been given unofficial indicators eg. a), b) etc. An attempt has been made to list owners in order, but dates mostly unknown.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a) On Nandi/Tipton Rd. Andy Ritter - Dick Finch - b) East of a) Andy Ritter - Roy Ernst (Known now as

		<p><i>Roella</i>) -Bill & Wyn Arthur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - c) Topcorner of b).Bert Johnson - George Moffatt - Bill & Wyn Arthur - d) Next to b) & c) & west of Portion 78 which is on the river. Known as <i>Riverview</i>. Gus Ernst - Allan Bartsch - e) On Nandi/Tipton Rd. Known as <i>Kyilla</i>.Eric Jones - Graham Prior – Lindsay Fallon -Russell Commens - f) On Nandi/Tipton Rd.Carlton Finch - Kevin Finch - Russell Commens - g) On Nandi/Tipton Rd. Kennedy - Kevin Finch - Allan Bartsch - h) On Nandi/Tipton Rd, next to Portion 79 which is on the river. Known as <i>Karee</i>. Harry Bartsch -: Vic Bartsch - Allan Bartsch (brothers)
104	3800	<p>Selected by W.L. Nelson (H.M.s father) 1870s H.M. Nelson probably obtained freehold shortly afterwards H.C. White & P.Hunt 1892 H.C. White alone 1903 R.M. White with Helen Mary White 1905 – as per Portion 10). <i>Subdivided into six lots mid 1930s</i> For clarity lots given unofficial indicators eg. a, b etc. An attempt has been made to list owners in order but dates mostly unknown.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a) Bounded on two sides by Moonie H'way & Nandi Tipton Rd. Known as <i>Mayfield</i>. Newing - Vince Ritter - Edgar Uebergang (late 1950) - Bob & Leah Baldock - Mayfield Farms - Bill McGrath - Glen & Audrey Fleish (Fresser). – b) South of a) on Nandi/Tipton Rd. Known as <i>Lemon Grove</i>. – (Note – <i>Len Lane</i> says that the Kelly's bought half what was the horse paddock on Loudoun). Kelly - Gamble - W.J & S.L. Holmes – Charles David Henschell 1945, to sons Leonard Clyde and Allan Charles Henschell 1983 - Glen & Audrey Fleish (Fresser). – c) Cut off b) in 1945, on Moonie H'way. Known as <i>Awaba</i>. Ray Fry - Harold Dipplesman - Bob Wild then subdivided into two portions – 1.Rob Cook&Philip Lane & 2. Fleish (Fresser). Both Portions now owned by Fresser. – d) & e) South of c) on Moonie H'way. Known as <i>Birubi</i>. Albert Fry - Wegener, Name change to <i>Keresdale</i> when taken up by Alan Waters - Roy Siddans. – f) On Nandi/Tipton Rd. south of b). Known as <i>Kooyong</i>. Unknown (possibly Bill Patterson who Ollie Schultz sharefarmed with from about 1941 on <i>Kooyong</i> – dairy and wheat) - Jack Pollard - Gus Lange 1945 - Mal & Pat McDougall. <p>–</p>
108	3154	<p>Selected by W.L. Nelson (Hugh Muir Nelson's father) 1870s</p>

		<p>H.M. Nelson probably obtained freehold during 1870s H.C. White & P. Hunt 1892 H.C. White alone R.M. White with Helen Mary White 1905 – See Portion 10). <i>Subdivided into five lots mid 1930s.</i> For clarity lots given unofficial indicators eg. a, b etc. An attempt has been made to list owners in order but dates mostly unknown.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a) On the Broadwater Road. Known as <i>Ellerslie</i>. Jack C. Waters to Peter Waters. – b) South of a). Colin Waters to Ian Waters. – c) Next to b) on Nandi/Tipton Rd. Jack Waters to Peter Waters. – d) North of c) on Nandi/Tipton Rd. Colin Waters to Ian Waters. – e) North of d) on Nandi/Tipton Rd. Known as <i>Arundel</i>. Bill Waters - Dalzell (? Spelling) - John Campbell -McVeigh Bros. -Paul McVeigh
111	880 approx.	<p>William Webb possibly before turn of 20th Century Ownership unclear intervening years. Possibly to Watson & Heathwood in 1934 as part of joint purchase with Portion 55, Parish of Greenbank. (Greenbank Station Homestead paddock) Alf Harris - Then possibly Rokesky Frank Miller bought 323 acres (between railway line and Moonie Highway after the war. (? early 1950s) Ed Hensell Neville Wirth (?Year) owner of Miller's original 323 acres, 2001</p>
113	5509	<p>Selected by Arthur Watts early 1870s Devised to H.M. Nelson 1870s – Nelson gained freehold 1874. H.C. White & Paul Hunt 1892 H.C. White alone R.M. White with Helen Mary White 1905. See Portion 10) Subdivided in mid 1930s(?) into four lots.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Known as <i>Yathong</i>. Walter Hartnell - Bill Hartnell Northern part. – Merv & Hilma Naumann Homestead section. (Bill Hartnell & Hilma Naumann siblings). – Barry Tierney. Northern part sold to unknown - Von Hoff - McLean - Burt
1v	1279	<p>Selected by Henry Bassett Lane 1900 <i>Belah Park</i> Subdivided in 1938</p> <p><i>Subdivision 1 of 608 acres Whitewood</i> Morris Bassett Lane 1938 1954 – on his death, to his estate to support his widow Emily Sarah Lane</p>

		<p>J. & J.A. Machin 1962 – Norm and Maisie Smith – Colin and Sally Berg – Croft – Richard Grieves Warakirri Agricultural Trusts 2003 Subdivided – 108 acres to Morris Alfred Lane 1962 108 acres sold in 1973 to Mr. Victor Woods – Jo and Tony Bond – Debbie Maxwell & Cameron Peden.</p> <p><i>Subdivision 2 of 658 acres</i> Retained by Henry Bassett Lane 1938 Henry Francis Lane & James William Lane 1939 on H.B.s death. Henry Francis Lane 1952 Phillip Lane 1974 Warakirri Agricultural Trusts 1999</p>
2v	329	<p>Isabella Lane 1901 - Henry Francis Lane & James William Lane 1923 - Henry Francis Lane 1952 - Phillip Lane 1974 - Warakirri Agricultural Trusts 1999</p>
3v	633 & 639	<p>Two Agricultural Farms. 3v (A.F.1440A) 633a selected by A.E. Cunnington (? Early 1900s) James William Lane 1929 Known as the Scrub Paddock Patrick James Lane 1960s Named <i>Lanefields</i> Warakirri Agricultural Trusts 1999</p> <p>3v (A.F. 1440B) 639a selected by W.Spencer Martin (Early 1900s) Athol Cruikshank, 1947 John Cameron Irvine Christmas 1949 - Ted Irvine Warakirri Agricultural Trusts 1999</p>

Parish of Daandine (to Wilkie Creek Area) – Land Ownership

Portion numbers from 1912 map are used plus some from the many subdivisions. Land Portions west of the Wilkie Creek area are not included. It should be noted that selectors west of the creek shown on the 1912 Public Lands Office Map include the following families: Crouch, Devine, Gould, Head, Laxton, Lomax, McIntyre, O'Keefe, Porter, Prescott, Rawlins, Turner, Tweedie and Waters.

Portion Number	Size in Acres	Brief History
1	2560	<p>Pre-empted from <i>Daandine South No.1</i> by Ebenezer Vickery in July 1875 and probably named <i>Duck Ponds</i>. It seems that there has been a landholding known as <i>Duckponds</i> (for the duckponds on Wilkie Creek), in the vicinity since 1875 but the boundaries appear to have been fluid. There is a track noted on a 1870s survey map, which enters Portion 1 near the north-western corner. It is endorsed 'From Daandine to Duck Ponds', and 'from Duck Ponds' as it emerges on the eastern boundary.</p>

	<p>Purchased by William Webb and John Shillito Jessop 17 April 1882.</p> <p>1883 Lands Department map shows Portion 1, (2560 acres) boundaries marked and the surrounding district – ‘Open for Selection’.</p> <p>In 1904 a new survey was done for the Moonie Highway, which shows Portion 1, now subdivided along with Portion 1245, into three subdivisions.</p> <p><i>Subdivision 1, Portion 1</i> –Original Portion 1 minus one third on eastern side. Now about 1500 acres. E. Vickery – H. Cunnington – son Percy Cunnington – Clarke Bros. – Rob Rushbrook.</p> <p><i>Subdivision 2 -Re Sub. 2 of Sub. B of portions 1 & 1245</i> – Eastern third of original Portion 1 plus 475 acres adjoining on the east from Portion 1245, in the name of James McLennan. About 1200 acres.</p> <p><i>Subdivision 2 – Portion 1245</i> – Over 5000 acres bounded by Moonie Highway, Wilkie Creek, Broadwater Road and in the south by Portions 101, 126 & 90.</p> <p>1912 map shows James McLennan with the freehold of 1153 acres north of the Moonie H’way, and Portion 1245 in the name of J.H. Flower (also freehold) which seems to incorporate Portions 101, 100 and possibly 99.</p> <p>James McLennan’s 1153 acre holding was owned later by D.K. McIntyre (1950s) who also held Portion 41 over the Moonie Highway. The current owners are the O’Connors. The property was known as <i>Mingara</i> from at least D.K. McIntyre’s day.</p> <p>Portion 1245 has a complicated history of subdivision. It is possible that John Nicholson owned subdivisions 3C and 7C at one time, perhaps acquired from J.H.Flower. However, what is known is detailed below with subdivision numbers.</p> <p>6C, 1036 acres – J.H. Flower - John Nicholson – Christina Prudence Wilson 1936, named <i>Cavanba</i> (shown on 1945 map in husband’s name, L. (Lewis)Wilson– later to sons John Nicholson Wilson & Malcolm Wilson (1960s) – to M.B. & R.C.J. and P.A. Schultz (1979)</p> <p>5C, 1260 acres- As for 6C above</p> <p>4C, 633 acres- J.H.Flower – Wilfred Holland (Gil) Gilbey (Known as <i>Woeburn</i> after Woeburn Abbey [Woburn?], Gilbeys Gin, England.)- Alf Cunnington (sharefarmer Doug Schultz), Max Weier, Mick O’Connor</p> <p>3C, 641 acres - ?</p> <p>7C, 1287 acres - ? – Roy Siddans present owner.</p>
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2	2873	Eustace W. Watson (First selector, 1912 map.) (Subdivided see 22 & 27) This portion reduced to 505 acres, A.H. Tweedie – T.T. & R.L. D'A Philp – Russell Stower – Ken & Aileen Harrison – David & Narelle Connell (for 2 yrs) – Mark & Lindsay Wanka 200?
3	505	William P. Veron (First selector, 1912 map) Stark Rogers Bros. Now Nev. Wirth
4	1100	Rob Miller (Frank's brother) 1936 (Over Wilkie Creek at Moramby Creek junction, known as <i>Shiloh</i>) Barry Miller (Rob's son) D. Laffy
8	181	Over Wilkie Creek at junction with Clayhole Creek A.F. 7682 – known as <i>Yandara</i> - J.B. Rushbrook (Year Unknown, not marked on 1912 map.)) Now Rob Rushbrook
9	Not marked on 1912 map.	Edwin Woodward Turner , known as <i>The Retreat</i> . John Wilson Harold Wilson (son of John) about 1936 John Kingsley Mills Wilson (son of Harold) Warren Smith
14	675	Subdivided from Portion 99 – shown on 1945 Survey Office map. Frederick W. Rokesky (Shown on a 1930's amendment to 1910 Survey Map - Dy228.sh1. Keith Fuss A partnership, names unknown Dick Taylor M.W. & A.G.U. Shepherd (From 1972 Lands Dept. Map) Les and Margaret Shepherd Peter Lever (owner in 2002) Sold again
20	320	Felix Burenski (First selector on 1912 map.) S.H. Saxelby (approx. late 1920s) A. Watters (before 1945) Ken and Wendy Watters
22	2053 1051	T.R. & R.L D'A Philp (subdivided from Portion 2) Arthur Earle J.L. Wanka and Sons Subdivided again. Lot 1 – Ted and Pat Wanka 500 acres Lot 2 – Barry and Marion Wanka – 551 acres
26	170	Subdivided from Portion 52 Hutchinson (Probably Charlie – brother of Bill and Sam, but looked after by his father – Charlie was at WWI.) Miss Edith Porter

		Dawn Roddau (nee Porter)
27	1000	Originally part of Portion 2, then part of Portion 22 L.G.H. Bartsch , known as <i>Lingalonga</i> Lutheran Church
32	319	P. Morrissey Selected 1906, known as <i>Rhodesia</i> W. Bourke J.W. (Bee) Bourke Peter and Loretta (nee Bourke) Young
36	220	Donald E. McLaran Early 1900s, the freeholder on 1912 map. Hoadley (Probably early 1935 <i>Cliverton?</i> - on 1945 Map) Colin Hoadley, George Hoadley, Arthur Hoadley
39	320	Malcolm Lewis McLaran (Early 1900s, selector on 1912 map.) ? Hoadley 1930s
40	197	Edward J. Ryan (Freeholder on 1912 map.) Husband of Henry Bassett Lane's eldest daughter Alice (Fanny) from his first marriage. Edward and Alice were living in Dalby by about the second decade of the 20 th Century. Leggart Hodgson Wicks
41	944	W.R. King (First selector on 1912 map) H.C. & F.J. McKee McIntyre D.K. (from Ruthven Station, Isisford) (& Eileen M. Short) – sharefarmed 1957 -1980 by Max Schultz. McIntyre died in 1967, Eileen Short in 1975. Wolfe J. Wicks - Karinya
43	189	Over Wilkie Creek William P. Veron (First selector on 1912 map.) F.J. McKee G. Leggart Hodgson J.R. Wicks
44	319	R.D.Gibson (First selector on 1912 map.) E.J.Cunnington (on 1945 Survey Office map.) Tom Leahy Henry Francis Lane T.& N.M. Lane (1952) <i>Menangle</i> Allan and Anne Lane 2003
45	320	E.J. Cunningham (on 1945 map – no selector shown on 1912 map.) Tom Leahy Henry Francis Lane T.& N.M. Lane (1952) <i>Menangle</i> Allan and Anne Lane
46	319	J. Healy (First selector on 1912 map.) Pat Morrissey (approx. early 1930s)

		Spencer Wegener Became known as <i>Caliente</i> but J. Klemm does not know when the name was given, or by whom. J. Klemm 1958
47	291	J. Sankey (Freeholder on 1912 map.) Emma Stagg (Possibly after her husband Bill died in 1939.) H.A. (Bert) & Dulcie A. Williamson 1958 to 1989 R. Skerman
48	320	George E. Walker (First selector on 1912 map.) Moyles 1930s Coddingtons Sam Green H.A. (Bert) & Dulcie A. Williamson 1944 to 1989 R. Skerman
49	310	Dennis R. Walker (First selector on 1912 map.) E. (Charlie) Torenbeek (early 1920s) Ollie Schultz (1942/3) Les Morewood (1949) Gordon Croft (1951) to his son Neville Croft , to nephew Bevan Croft .
50	313	Eleanor Walker (First selector on 1912 map.) Sam Hutchinson (He bought this block for a saddle and bridle.) Max Weier (on 1945 Survey Office map) David Croft Mark and Vicki (nee Croft) Schuurs
51	313	Cedric E. Watt Henry Cunningham W.C.H. & V.F. Wagner Kevin Mathies J.R. Wicks – (1961/2, known to family as <i>Mathies</i>)
52 (1)	627 226	Adele Ercole – First selector, 1912 -managed by Verons Brothers. William Hutchinson (Est. 1915) Miss Edith Porter W.Troyhan Subdivided Sybil (Poppy) V.Wicks (about 1950) John R. Wicks
52 (2)	230	W. Troyahn Marj Wanka Greg Spillsbury Croft
54	314	Arthur C. Brownlow (First selector, appears on July 1912 map.) H.C. & F.J. McKee Leggart Keith and Fay Hohnke Greg Spillsbury Neville Croft

55	319	D. J. McLaran (early 1900s) Most likely Donald James – the father rather than Duncan James, his son because freehold gained before 1912. Harold Hoadley (1935) <i>Cliverton</i> George Hoadley
56	352	S. McLennan (Freeholder 1912 map.) Harold Hoadley (1935 part of <i>Cliverton</i> ?) Subdivided into - 56(1) 188a & 56 (2) 164a Now Arthur Hoadley
57	100	Donald Eversden McLaran Freeholder on 1912 map. Probably Hoadley
59		Sub 1 – 184 acres P. Morrissey (early 1900s – on 1912 map) – William (Bill) Bourke – J.W. (Bee) Bourke - P Young Rhodesia Sub 2 – 299 acres J.P. Fortune (early 1900s – on 1912 map) – Andersons (about 1916) – William (Bill) Bourke – J.W. (Bee) Bourke - P. Young Woodstock Sub3 – 300 acres William (Bill) Bourke (on 1912 map) – Clarice Bourke (Bill's daughter) – Rob Cook (Clarice's son) (150 acres) & Philip W. Cook – (Clarice's son) (150 acres known as <i>Brigalow Park</i> , W.Bourkes old name for property.)
60	293 now 310	Jim Malpas Selector on 1912 map. (Sharefarmed or rented by E. (Charlie) Torenbeek for a few years in the early 1920s.) John Cameron Irvine about 1954 Ted Irvine Rob and Marie Cook 1997 Note: When the railway went through a 14 acre triangle was cut off the Malpas place. –Subdivision 3F - Michael Cook to brother Don Cook to son Barry Cook to Ireland to Bevan Hold.) Jim Malpas also gave land for the Kupunn Hall and tennis courts.
61	315	Jim Fortune (early 1900s) Selector on 1912 map. Harry Anderson (1916) William (Bill) Bourke J.W. (Bee) Bourke Peter and Loretta (nee Bourke) Young
62	319	Henry A. Cunnington (First selector, on 1912 map) Alf E. Cunnington (Henry's brother.) Syd Saxelby – late 1920s Wally Lobwien R. (Bob)Wicks 1947 (<i>Derna</i> , after village he saw near Tobruk.) John R. Wicks
63	319	H.C. Brawn (First selector, on 1912 map.) William (Bill) Bourke John R. Wicks
64	319	Martin Welsh (First selector on 1912 map.) Felix Burenski , see Portion 20 A.W. Watters

		Ken and Wendy Watters
65	317	M.S. Veron (First selector 1912 map.) Sid Saxelby (Est. Late 1920s) Les Lobwien W.J. Troyahn R. (Bob) Wicks (about 1950) John R. Wicks (Known as <i>Troyahns</i>)
66	319	W.P. Veron (First selector on 1912 map.) A.E. Cunningham W. (Bill) Bourke G. Woods
67	391	J.F. Hegarty (First selector on 1912 map.) Henry Weier Lester Weier
68	39	Alma Porter (Early 20 th Century. No name on 1945 or 1972 Maps.) Probably absorbed into the Moonie Highway with road widening.
69	575	Lewis A. McLaran First selector on 1912 map. (Killed in an accident while digging a well, June 1918.) Stan L. Hohnke 1934 Lester Weier
71	232	Robert Blackburn (First selector on 1912 map) Laxton (Probably a son of E. (Ted) Laxton from Portion 81 who fought in World War I.) H. Wilson Brian Laffy (Known as <i>Laxtons</i>)
72	426	Robert J. Hazard (First selector, 1912 map.) (Bill?) Brown Ernie Wanka 1935 Bill Wanka 1972 Greg Spillsbury 1983 J. Cameron
73	215	G. Fuller (First selector 1912 map.) Sid H. Saxelby A& I. Watters Ken and Wendy Watters
		<i>Note: Portions 90 to 99 plus 106 to 108 over Wilkie Creek were part of Lot 9 a Grazing Selection, of 14,000 acres, which was selected in the 1890s –(to 1899) by H.C.W. White & P.Hunt of Loudoun Station. The land was then surveyed and made available for selection around 1910. Much of it was covered in prickly pear at the time.</i>
88	2392	Original Portion 91 + 117 = Portion 88. Is in the name of Ralph Bennie on 1933 Survey Office Plan 2979. E.A. Comben – before 1972 Sold to Walter Johnson

		On his death to wife Irene Johnson who still holds (Sub 1- 1194 acres) and step-daughter Heather Johnson (Sub 2 -1198 acres) On death of Heather Johnson Sub 2 sold to Stephen Meacham and subdivided it into 100 acre blocks which have all been sold.
90	1189 (now 797 acres) 393 acres to Portion 126	Henry Herbert Johnson – first selector, 1912 map Ralph H. Bennie – sold to Harry Hinz , who sold to Peter and William Atherton (at this time a small part of Portion 1245 excised from <i>Cavanba</i> and added to form a homestead block), then sold to Maurice Ryan , then sold to Stewart Gibson then to T.W. & D.P. Rees Wacco – Subdivided D.P. Rees 393 acres (including homestead block that was formerly part of <i>Cavanba</i>) numbered as Portion 126,- <i>Cumbræ Park</i> to Greg Rees Portion 90 now 797 acres. Steve Little
92	1203	William Percy Murphy (First selector on 1912 map) Bennie (seems to have been absorbed into Bennie selections - the number is not on later maps.)
93	1196 706	Walter Percy Murphy (First selector on 1912 map) James Bennie – on his death in 1937 to his wife Ethel Sarah Bennie - on her death to her son Jack Bennie 706 acres – (Portion 130 sold to MB & R.C.J. Schultz , 476 acres in 1963/4 – <i>The Overflow</i>) Remainder plus Portion 94 transferred to his son Ian Bennie
94	1204	James Bennie – 1911 – <i>Lakeview</i> – on his death in 1937 to his wife Ethel Sarah Bennie – on her death to Jack Bennie Subdiv. 2 / 618 acres, transferred to Ian Bennie . 4 acres, Lot 21, opposite Broadwater Rd. owned by Jack Bennie where his house is. Subdivision 1 (582 acres – to Keith Fuss & ownership details same as Portion 14 thereafter.)
95	1210	John Michael V. Brennan (First selector on 1912 map) Ralph H. Bennie (James Bennie's younger brother) Peter and William Atherton Maurice Ryan? G. Leggatt Denis Meacham Ronald Bird Malcolm Bougoure
96	1316	Percy Alexander Underwood (First selector on 1912 map.) M.C. Mossetter pre 1945 map – P.F. & M.P Pobar pre 1972 map.
97	1236 624	Donald Richard Underwood (First selector 1912 map) Ownership details as for Portion 14
98	1023	Donald Richard Underwood (First selector 1912 map) Ownership details as for adjoining Portion 14
99	1020 345	William Scott (First selector 1912 map) Resurveyed – part to Portion 14

		New Portion 99 of 345 acres – Thomas & Edward Condon
100	626	G.H. Painter (Shown on 1933 Survey Office Plan 2979) T. Condon & others (maybe never part of <i>Duckponds</i>)
101	1915	Was part of freehold estate known as <i>Duckponds</i> – See Portion 1 and 1245 for early ownership John Nicholson (Shown on 1933 Survey Office Plan 2979) T. Condon & others Mayfield Farms. Schofields.
103	1059	Over Wilkie Creek – never part of <i>Duckponds</i> Surveyed before 1899 as 103/104/105 then changed to 103, (Surveyor's Sketch 10/22868) but not shown on 1912 map. Early history unknown - covered in prickly pear. F.W. Miller (early 1930s & pear gone) <i>Wilkie View</i> R. Waters & E. Smith R. Waters J. Tierney Bernie & Linda Wilkie Now sold again.
125	610	Subdivision of Portion 97, see Portion 97 for ownership
126	393	Subdivision of Portion 90, See Portion 90 for ownership
130	476	Subdivision of Portion 93, See Portion 93 for ownership history M.B. & R.C. J. Schultz – <i>The Overflow</i> – 1963/4 – Max Schultz
1245		J.H. Flower (Freehold on 1912 map). See Portion 1 for details.
1540	621 413	W. Bowden (Freehold on 1912 map) Fred McKee (<i>Probably part of their property known as Woodville</i>) Leggart Frank and Val Hodgson Now John and Barbara Wicks – known as <i>Wingfield</i>
1543	160	M. Bowden (Freeholder on 1912 map)

Table E

Index of Owners' Names (to be used in conjunction with Table D.)
Early Portion Numbers from Parish maps 1912 –1917 and some later subdivision numbers.

Name	Parish & Portion No.
Anderson, Harry	Parish of Daandine, Portion 32, 59 (Sub.2), 61
Andrews, Ken H.	Parish of Hill, Portion 65
Arthur, Bill & Wyn	Parish of Hill, Portions 49-51, 54, 55-58, 103 (part)
Atherton, Peter & William	Parish of Daandine, Portion 90, 95
Baldock, Bob & Leah	Parish of Hill, Portion 104 (part)
Bartsch, Allan	Parish of Hill, Portion 103 (part)
Bartsch, L.G.H.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 27
Bartsch, Harry	Parish of Hill, Portion 103 (part)
Bartsch, Vic	Parish of Hill, Portion 103 (part)
Bennie, Ethel Sarah	Parish of Daandine, Portion 93, 94
Bennie, Ian	Parish of Daandine, Portion 93 (minus what became Portion 130), 94 (part)
Bennie, Jack	Parish of Daandine, Portion 93, 94
Bennie, James	Parish of Daandine, Portion 93, 94 (& possibly 92)
Bennie, Ralph	Parish of Daandine, Portion 88, 90, 95
Berg, Colin & Sally	Parish of Hill, Portion 1v (part)
Blackburn, Robert	Parish of Daandine, Portion 71
Bird, Ronald	Parish of Daandine, Portion 95
Bond, A.R.	Parish of Hill, Portion 68
Bond, S.R.	Parish of Hill, Portion 68 (part)
Bond, Tony & Jo	Parish of Hill, Portion 1v (part)
Bougoure, Malcolm	Parish of Daandine, Portion 95
Bourke, Clarice -married Dave Cook Jnr	Parish of Daandine, Portion 59 (Sub. 3)
Bourke, W (Bill)	Parish of Daandine, Portion 32, 59 (Sub. 1,2 & 3), 61, 63, 66
Bourke, James William (Bee)	Parish of Daandine, Portion 32, 59 (Sub. 1,2), 61
Bowden, M	Parish of Daandine, Portion 1543 (over Wilkie Creek)
Bowden, W	Parish of Daandine, Portion 1540
Brawn, H.C.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 63
Brown, ?	Parish of Daandine, Portion 72
Brennan, John Michael V.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 95
Brownlow, Arthur C.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 54
Burenski, Felix	Parish of Daandine, Portion 20, 64
Burt	Parish of Hill, Portion 68 (part), 113 (part)
Callaghan, Mariee & Jack	Parish of Hill, Portion 62
Cameron, John	Parish of Hill, Portion 62
Cameron J.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 72
Campbell Bros. (Hugh & ?)	Parish of Hill, Portions 9-54, 78, 79, 103
Campbell, John	Parish of Hill, Portion 108 (part)
Cass	Parish of Daandine, Land held (sharefarmed?) during the mid-1930s. near the Kupunn Siding. (From Charles Martin the school teacher, who boarded with them for a time.)
Clarke Bros.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 1 (part)
Cleary, Cyril	Parish of Hill, Portion 66
Commens, Russell	Parish of Hill, Portion 103 (part)
Coddingtons	Parish of Daandine, Portion 48
Comben, E.A.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 88
Condon, T. and others	Parish of Daandine, Portion 99, 100, 101
Cook, Barry	Parish of Daandine, Portion 60, Sub. 3F.
Cook, Don	Parish of Daandine, Portion 60, Sub.3F.

Cook, Michael	Parish of Daandine, Portion 60, Sub. 3F
Cook, Philip W.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 59 (half of Sub. 3)
Cook, Rob & Marie	Parish of Hill, Portion 104 (part), Parish of Daandine, Portion 59 (half of Sub.3), 60, 64
Connell, David & Narelle	Parish of Daandine, Portion 2 (part)
Croft, ?	Parish of Hill, Portion 1v (part) Parish of Daandine, Portion 52 (2)
Croft, Gordon	Parish of Daandine, Portion 22, 49, 52 (2), 54
Croft, David	Parish of Daandine, Portion 50
Croft, Neville	Parish of Daandine, Portion 54
Cruikshank, Athol	Parish of Hill, Portion 3v (part)
Cunnington, Alfred E.	Parish of Hill, Portion 59, 3v (part), Parish of Daandine, Portion 1245 (part), 62, 66
Cunnington, E.J.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 44, 45
Cunnington, Henry Augustus	Parish of Daandine, Portion 51, 62 & Portion 1 (part)
Cunnington, Percy (son of Henry)	Parish of Daandine, Portion 1 (part)
Dalzell (? Spelling)	Parish of Hill, Portion 108 (part)
Dipplesman, Harold	Parish of Hill, Portion 104 (part)
Earle, Arthur	Parish of Daandine, Portion 22
Ercole, Adele	Parish of Daandine, Portion 52 (1 & 2)
Ernst, Gus	Parish of Hill, Portion 103 (part)
Ernst, Roy	Parish of Hill, Portion 103 (part)
Fallon, Lindsay	Parish of Hill, Portion 103 (part)
Ferguson, D	Parish of Greenbank, probably Portion 5v, subdivision 1.
Finch, Dick	Parish of Hill, Portion 103 (part)
Finch, Carlton	Parish of Hill, Portion 103 (part)
Finch, Kevin	Parish of Hill, Portion 103 (part)
Flower, J.H.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 1245
Fortune, Jim P.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 59 (Sub. 2), 61
Fresser, Glen & Audrey (Fleish)	Parish of Hill Portion 59, 104 (part x 3)
Fry, Albert	Parish of Hill, Portion 104 (part)
Fry, Ray	Parish of Hill, Portion 104 (part)
Fuller, G.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 73
Fuss, Keith	Parish of Daandine, Portion 14, 94 (part)
Gamble	Parish of Hill, Portion 104 (part)
Gibson, R.D.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 44
Gibson, Stewart	Parish of Daandine, Portion 90
Gilbey, Wilfred Holland	Parish of Hill, Portion 60 Parish of Daandine, Portion 1245, subdivision 4C (<i>Woeburn</i>)
Green, Sam	Parish of Daandine, Portion 48
Grieves, Richard	Parish of Hill, Portion 1v (part)
Harris, Alfred	Parish of Hill, Portion 10 (<i>Loudoun</i> homestead plus)
Harrison, Ken & Aileen	Parish of Daandine, Portion 2 (part)
Hart, G.L.	Parish of Greenbank, Por. 1407&1643 freehold, on Wilkie Ck. Land joins William P. Veron's Portion 3, Daandine. (1908map)
Hartnell, Bill	Parish of Hill, Portion 113 (part)
Hartnell, Walter	Parish of Hill, Portion 113 (part)
Hasse	Parish of Greenbank, <i>Hereward</i> , near Parish of Daandine boundary (possibly Portion 263) to Von Peins in 1930s.
Hazard, Robert J.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 72
Healy, J.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 46
Hegarty, J.F.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 67
Henschell, Charles David - his sons Leonard Clyde and Allan Charles	Parish of Hill, Portion 104 (part)

Henschell	
Hensell, Ed	Parish of Hill, Portion 111 (part)
Hinz, Harry	Parish of Hill, Portion 10 (<i>Loudoun</i> homestead plus). Parish of Daandine, Portion 90
Hinz, Rebekah	Parish of Hill, Portion 10 (<i>Loudoun</i> homestead plus).
Hoadley, Arthur	Parish of Daandine, Portion 36, 56
Hoadley, Colin	Parish of Daandine, Portion 36
Hoadley, George	Parish of Daandine, Portion 55, 36
Hoadley, Harold	Parish of Daandine, Portion 36, 55, 56 (possibly 39, 57)
Hodgson, Frank & Val	Parish of Daandine, Portion 40, 43, 1540
Hold, Bevan	Parish of Daandine, Portion 60, Sub. 3F.
Holmes, W.J. & S.L.	Parish of Hill, Portion 104 (part)
Hohnke, Deith & Fay	Parish of Daandine, Portion 54
Hohnke, Stan, L.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 69
Hunt, Paul (with H.C. White)	Parish of Hill, Portions 9-58, 78, 79, 103, 104, 108, 113
Hutchinson, Charlie	Parish of Daandine, Portion 26
Hutchinson, Sam	Parish of Daandine, Portion 50
Hutchinson, W (Bill)	Parish of Daandine, Portion 52 (1&2)
Ireland, ?	Parish of Daandine, Portion 60 Sub. 3F.
Irvine, John Cameron	Parish of Hill, Portion 3v (part), Parish of Daandine, Portion 60, 61
Irvine, Ted	Parish of Hill, Portion 3v (part) Parish of Daandine, Portion 60
Jessop, John Shillito	Parish of Daandine, Portion 1 (with W. Webb)
Johnson, Henry Herbert (Bert)	Parish of Hill, Portions 49-51, 54, 55-58, 103 (part) Parish of Daandine, Portion 90
Johnson, Heather	Parish of Daandine, Portion 88 – Sub.2
Johnson, Irene	Parish of Daandine, Portion 88 – Sub.1
Johnson, Walter	Parish of Daandine, Portion 88
Jones, Eric	Parish of Hill, Portion 103 (part)
Kelly	Parish of Hill, Portion 104 (part)
Kennedy, A.L.	Parish of Hill, Portion 79
Kennedy ?	Parish of Hill, Portion 103 (part)
King, W.R.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 41
Klemm, Jack	Parish of Daandine, Portion 46
Laffy, Alex and May	Parish of Greenbank, Subdivision 1 of Portion 5v (1939)
Laffy, Brian and Isabelle	Parish of Daandine, Portion 71
Laffy, Dan & Veronica	Parish of Daandine, Portion 4
Lane, Allan & Anne	Parish of Daandine, Portion 44, 45
Lane, Henry Bassett	Parish of Hill, Portion 60, 1v
Lane, Henry Francis	Parish of Hill, Portion 59, 60, 1v (part), 2v, Parish of Daandine, Portion 44, 45
Lane, Isabella	Parish of Hill, Portion 2v
Lane, James William	Parish of Hill, Portion 59, 60, 1v (part), 2v, 3v (part)
Lane, John	Parish of Hill, Portion 59
Lane, Morris Alfred	Parish of Hill, Portion 1v (part)
Lane, Morris Bassett	Parish of Hill, Portion 1v (part)
Lane, Patrick James	Parish of Hill, Portion 60, 3v (part)
Lane, Philip	Parish of Hill, Portion 104 (part), 1v (part), 2v
Lane, Thomas & N.M.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 44, 45
Lane, William John	Parish of Hill, Portion 59
Lang, Gus	Parish of Hill, Portion 104 (part)
Laxton, ? (son of Ted?)	Parish of Daandine, Portion 71
Laxton, E. (Ted)	Parish of Daandine, Portion 81

Leahy, Tom	Parish of Daandine, Portion 44, 45
Leggatt, ?	Parish of Daandine, Portion 40, 54, 1540
Leggatt, G.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 43, 95
Lever, Peter	Parish of Hill, Portion 14
Little, Steve	Parish of Daandine, Portion 90
Lloyd, William Joseph	Parish of Hill, Portion 10 (<i>Loudoun</i> homestead plus)
Lobwien, Wally	Parish of Daandine, Portion 62, 65
Machin, J. & J.A.	Parish of Hill, Portion 1v (part)
Malpas, Jim	Parish of Daandine, Portion 60
Martin, W. Spencer	Parish of Hill, Portion 3v (part)
Mathies, Kevin	Parish of Daandine, Portion 51
Maxwell, Debbie	Parish of Hill, Portion 1v (part)
Mayfield Farms	Parish of Hill, Portion 67, 104 (part) Parish of Daandine, Portion 101
McDougall, Mal & Pat	Parish of Hill, Portion 104 (part)
McGrath, Bill	Parish of Hill, Portion 104 (part)
McIntyre, D.K.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 41, Portion 1 (part of – known as <i>Mingara</i>)
McKee, Fred J.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 43, 1540 <i>Woodville</i>
McKee, H.C. & F.J.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 41, 54
McKee, Harold	<i>Wingfield</i>
McKee, Phil	<i>Whoopie</i>
McLaran, Donald Everson	Parish of Daandine, Portion 36, 57
McLaran, Donald James or Duncan James	Parish of Daandine, Portion 55
McLaran, Lewis	Parish of Daandine, Portion 69
McLaran, Malcolm Lewis	Parish of Daandine, Portion 39
McLean	Parish of Hill, Portion 113 (part)
McLean, D.S. & C.R.	Parish of Hill, Portion 67
McLennan, James	Parish of Daandine, Portion 1 (part)
McLennan, S	Parish of Daandine, Portion 56 (all)
McVeigh Bros.	Parish of Hill, Portion 108 (part)
McVeigh, Paul	Parish of Hill, Portion 65, 66, 108 (part)
McWilliam, Shirley	Parish of Hill, Portion 10 (<i>Loudoun</i> homestead plus)
Meacham, Dennis	Parish of Daandine, Portion 95
Meacham, Stephen	Parish of Daandine, Portion 88 Sub.2
Miller, Barry (son of Rob)	Parish of Daandine, Portion 4
Miller, Frank	Parish of Hill, Portion 111 (part), Parish of Daandine, Portion 103 (over Wilkie Creek)
Miller, Rob	Parish of Daandine, Portion 4
Miller, Morris G.& N. Miller	Parish of Hill, Portion 67
Moffatt, George	Parish of Hill, Portions 49-51, 54, 55-58, 103 (part)
Morewood, Les	Parish of Daandine, Portion 49
Morrissey, Pat (Paddy)	Parish of Daandine, Portion 32, 46, 59 (Sub.1)
Mossetter, M.C.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 96
Moyles	Parish of Daandine, Portion 48
Munro, D.C.&R.F.	Parish of Hill, Portion 69
Murphy, Walter Percy	Parish of Daandine, Portion 93
Murphy, William Percy	Parish of Daandine, Portion 92
Naumann, Merv & Hilma	Parish of Hill, Portion 113 (part)
Nelson, Hugh Muir	Parish of Hill, Portions 9-58, 78, 79, 103, 104, 108, 113 (and much land in Parish of St Ruth)
Nelson, W.L.	Parish of Hill, Portion 104, 108

Newing	Parish of Hill, Portion 104 (part)
Nicholson, John	Parish of Daandine, Portion 1245 (part)
O'Connor, M.	Parish of Daandine, part of Portions 1 & 1245 Re Sub2 of Sub B (<i>Mingara</i>)
Olsson, Frederick George	Parish of Hill, Portion 60
Painter, G.H.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 100
Patterson, Bill	Parish of Hill, Portion 104 (part – possibly)
Peden, Cameron	Parish of Hill, Portion 1v (part)
Philp, T.T. & R.L.D'A	Parish of Daandine, Portion 22 (subdivided from 2)
Pobar, P.F. & M.P.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 96
Pollard, Jack	Parish of Hill, Portion 104 (part)
Porter, Edith Miss	Parish of Daandine, Portion 26, 52 (1 & 2) Note: Porter family had more land on the western side of Wilkie Creek – Henry James Porter, Portion 106, Francis Joseph Porter, Portion 107
Prior, Graham	Parish of Hill, Portion 103 (part)
Rees, D.P.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 90
Rees, Greg	Parish of Daandine, Portion 90
Rees, T.W. & D.P.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 90
Ritter, Andy	Parish of Hill, Portion 103 (part)
Ritter, Vince	Parish of Hill, Portion 104 (part)
Roddau, Dorn	Parish of Daandine, Portion 26
Rogers Bros. (Tom & Ernie)	Parish of Daandine, Portion 3
Rokesky, F.W.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 14, 98 Possibly also Parish of Hill, Portion 111
Rushbrook, John Brian	Parish of Daandine, Portion 8
Rushbrook, Rob & Barbara	Parish of Daandine, Portion 1 (part), Portion 8
Rutledge, Stephen Crane	Parish of Hill, Portion 10 (<i>Loudoun</i> homestead plus)
Ryan, E.J.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 40
Ryan, Maurice	Parish of Daandine, Portion 90, 95(?)
Sandercock, Ross	Parish of Hill, Portion 66
Sankey, J.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 47
Saxelby, Syd H.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 20, 62, 65, 73
Schofield's	Parish of Daandine, Portion 101
Schultz, O	Parish of Daandine, Portion 49
Schultz, Max	Parish of Daandine, Portion 130
Schultz, M.B., R.C.J. & P.A.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 1245 (part)
Schultz, M.B. & R.C.J.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 93 (part which became Portion 130)
Schuurs, Mark & Vicki (nee Croft)	Parish of Daandine, Portion 50
Scott, William	Parish of Daandine, Portion 99
Shepherd, M.W. & A.G.U. (From 1972 Lands Dept Map)	Parish of Daandine, Portion 14
Shepherd, Les and Margaret	
Short, Eileen M.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 41 (Likely that <i>Karinya</i> was left to Miss Short by D.K. McIntyre when he died in mid 1960s, or that she bought it – Max Schultz farmed it for her.)
Siddans, Roy & Margaret	Parish of Hill, Portion 104 (part)
Simpson, G.M.	Parish of Hill, Portions 7-8 with Landy & Moffatt Trustees for Dalby Hospital
Skerman, Ross & Meryl	Parish of Daandine, Portion 47, 48
Smith, E.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 103 (over Wilkie Creek)
Smith, Norm & Maisie	Parish of Hill, 1v (part)
Smith, Warren	Parish of Daandine, Portion 9
Spillsbury, Greg	Parish of Daandine, Portion 52 (2), 54, 72

Stagg, Emma	Parish of Hill, Portion 62. Parish of Daandine, Portion 47
Stagg, William	Parish of Hill, Portion 62
Stark	Parish of Daandine, Portion 3
Stower, Russell	Parish of Daandine, Portion 2 (part)
Swaby, M.J. & E.N.	Parish of Hill, Portion 66
Swaby, M.J.(Jnr) & M.J.	Parish of Hill, Portion 66
Swaby M.J. (Jnr.) & E.N.	Parish of Hill, Portion 66
Taylor, Dick	Parish of Daandine, Portion 14
Tierney, Barry	Parish of Hill, Portion 113 (part)
Tierney, J.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 103 (over Wilkie Creek)
Torenbeek, Egbert (Charlie)	Parish of Daandine, Portion 49
Troyahn, W	Parish of Daandine, Portion 51 (1) & 52 (2), 65
Turner, ?	Parish of Daandine, Portion 9 <i>The Retreat</i>
Turner, John & Phyllis	Parish of Hill, Portion 10 (<i>Loudoun homestead plus</i>)
Tweedie, A.H.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 2 (part). Also Tom Tweedie, 76, W. Tweedie 74,77, W.J. Tweedie 75.
Tyson, J.J. & P.G.	Parish of Hill, Portion 65
Uebergang, Edgar Ritter	Parish of Hill, Portion 104 (part) 1950.
Underwood, Donald Richard	Parish of Daandine, Portion 97, 98
Underwood, Percy Alexander	Parish of Daandine, Portion 96
Veron, M.S.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 65 (<i>Veron family early selectors in Parish of Greenbank, H.A. Veron both Jnr. And Snr. selected a total of about 1500 acres on the Daandine Parish boundary sometime before 1908.</i>)
Veron, William P.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 3, 43, 66
Vickery, Ebenezer	Parish of Daandine, Portion 1 (<i>E. Vickery had many other land investments including Portions 1A, 2A, 3A, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 55, 56, 57, 109, 273 in the Parish of Greenbank</i>)
Von Hoff	Parish of Hill, Portion 113 (part)
Von Pein, Ben	<i>Hereward</i> at Kupunn, Parish of Greenbank, believed to be Portion 263 . (From Hasse in 1930s)
Wagner, W.C.H. & V.F.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 51
Walker, Dennis R.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 49
Walker, Eleanor	Parish of Daandine, Portion 50
Walker, George E.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 48
Wanka	Parish of Daandine, Portion 72
Wanka, B.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 3, 69
Wanka, Bill	Parish of Daandine, Portion 72
Wanka, Barry and Marion	Parish of Daandine, Portion 22, Lot 2
Wanka, Ernie	Parish of Daandine, Portion 72
Wanka, J.L. and Sons	Parish of Daandine, Portion 22
Wanka, Mark & Lindsay	Parish of Daandine, Portion 2 (part)
Wanka, Marj	Parish of Hill, Portion 52 (2)
Wanka, Ted & Pat	Parish of Daandine, Portion 22, Lot 1
Warikirri Investments	Parish of Hill, Portions 59,60, 1v (part), 2v, 3v
Waters, Alan	Parish of Hill, Portion 104 (part)
Waters, Bill	Parish of Hill, Portion 108 (part)
Waters, Colin	Parish of Hill, Portion 108 (part x 2)
Waters, Ian	Parish of Hill, Portion 108 (part x 2))
Waters, Jack, C.	Parish of Hill, Portion 108 (part x 2)
Waters, K	Parish of Daandine, Portion 20, 66
Waters, Peter	Parish of Hill, Portion 108 (part x 2)
Waters, R.	Parish of Daandine, Portion 103 (over Wilkie Creek)

Watson, Eustace	Parish of Daandine, Portion 2
Watson & Heathwood	Parish of Hill, Portion 111
Watt, Cedric	Parish of Daandine, Portion 51
Watters, A.W. & L	Parish of Daandine, Portion 20, 64, 73
Watters, Ken & Wendy	Parish of Daandine, Portion 20, 64, 73
Watts, Arthur	Parish of Hill, Portion 113
Watts, John	Parish of Hill, Portions 9, 11–58, 78, 79 and more land in Parish of St Ruth.
Webb, William	Parish of Hill, Portion 111, Parish of Daandine, Portion 1 (with J.S. Jessop) & much more land in the Dalby area.
Wegener, Spencer	Parish of Hill, Portion 104 (part), Parish of Daandine, Portion 46
Weier, Lester	Parish of Daandine, Portion 69
Weier, Max	Parish of Daandine, Portion 50, 67, Portion 1245 (part)
Welsh, Martin	Parish of Daandine, Portion 64
Westaway, John (Roy's brother)	Parish of Hill, Portion 69
Westaway, Roy & Heather (John's brother)	Parish of Hill, Portion 10 (<i>Loudoun</i> homestead) 11/13/16/20 -29 part of 30. Portion 67.
White, Henry Charles (with P. Hunt until 1903)	Parish of Hill, Portions 2–6, 9 – 58, 78, 79, 103, 104, 108, 113
White, Mary Helen (<i>Remarried twice 1. Morner 2. de Massue</i>)	Parish of Hill, Portions 2–6, 9–58, 78, 79, 103, 104, 108, 113 (three quarter shares)
White, Roy Mordount	Parish of Hill, Portions 2–6, 9–58, 78, 79, 103, 104, 108, 113 (one quarter share)
Wicks, John R. & Barbara	Parish of Daandine, Portion 40, 41, 43, 51, 52 (1), 62, 63, 65, 1540
Wicks, R. (Bob)	Parish of Daandine, Portion 62, 65
Wicks, Sybil V. (Poppy) Bob's wife	Parish of Daandine 52 (1)
Wild, Bob	Parish of Hill, Portion 104 (part)
Williamson, Alexander	Parish of Hill, Portions 2 – 6
Williamson, H.A(Bert)&Dulcie A	Parish of Daandine, Portions 47, 48
Wilkie, Bernie & Linda	Parish of Daandine, Portion 103 (over Wilkie Creek)
Wilson, Christina Prudence & Lewis	Parish of Daandine, Portion 1245 (part) <i>Cavanba</i>
Wilson, Harold Eli (son of John)	Parish of Daandine, Portion 9, 71
Wilson, John	Parish of Daandine, Portion 9
Wilson, John Nicholson (son of Lewis)	Parish of Daandine, Portion 1245 (part)
Wilson, John Kingsley Mills (son of Harold)& Jan	Parish of Daandine, Portion 9
Wilson, Malcolm (son of Lewis)	Parish of Daandine, Portion 1245 (part)
Wirth	Parish of Hill, Portion 11, & possibly 9
Wirth, Neville	Parish of Hill, Portion 111 (part) Parish of Daandine, Portion 3
Wolfe	Parish of Daandine, Portion 41
Woods, Vic & Beth	Parish of Hill, Portion 1v (part)
Wood, Henry George (<i>Pie</i>)	Parish of Daandine, Portion 66 (Married Nell Bourke)
Woodward, Edwin	Parish of Daandine, Portion 9
Wormwell, P	Parish of Greenbank, Portion 268 & 300 freehold – On 1908 Parish Map. He left some time later for Goondiwindi and Tara areas. Father of J.Pinkney Wormwell who returned to the Greenbank district in the 1920s and acquired <i>Greenbank</i> land, which he held until the late 1950s.
Young, Peter & Loretta (nee Bourke)	Parish of Daandine, Portion 32, 59 (Sub.1 & 2), 61

TABLE F
ROLLS OF HONOUR
KUPUNN DISTRICT
WORLD WAR I

Information has been difficult to retrieve for First World War servicemen. Sources: the War Memorial Website, land records, and the recollections of local residents.

NAME	DETAILS
F.C. Batten	Frederick Charles Batten. Enlisted 25 th Battalion on 3rd September 1915. Killed in Action 5 August 1916.
E. Bourke	
A.D. Campbell	
W. Clayton	
E.S. Coutts	
S.T. Crouch	Thomas Robert Crouch (Portion 79) and John Crouch (Portion 80) selected land in the Parish of Daandine before 1912. S.T. Crouch was probably from one of those families.
A. Cunningham	
P.T. Fooks	
A.H. Fuller	G. Fuller selected Portion 73, Parish of Daandine earlier than 1912.
W.H. Gilbey	Lieut. Wilfrid H. Gilbey (Gil) – Enlisted 56 th Battalion 11.2.1915. Returned to Australia 6.9.1919. Believed to be a 'remittance man' from the Gilbey's Gin family in England. Described as a gentleman who loved his spirits too much. One of the true characters of the district. Owned at different times Portion 60, Parish of Hill, Part of Portion 1245, Parish of Daandine.
R. Godfrey	
W.J. Gould	William James Gould selected Portion 83, Parish of Daandine before 1912.
L. Grouch	
A.S. Hickson	
A. Hodges	
H.G. Hughes	
C. Hutchinson	Charlie Hutchinson. Brother of Bill and Sam Hutchinson – of Portions 50, 52, Parish of Daandine. Charlie held Portion 26, Parish of Daandine and his father looked after it for him during the war.
G.N. Langston	
E.J. Laxton	Edward (Ted) Laxton selected Portion 81, Parish of Daandine before 1912. Later lived in Dalby and was 'a great fishing mate' of Malcolm McLaran.
F.P. Laxton	See above, possibly a brother - Died of Wounds.
S. Lowery	Private Sydney Lowery (778). 2 nd Light Horse 14.12.1914. Returned to Australia 8.5.1916. Employed at <i>Belah Park</i> by H.B. Lane (Snr.) both before and after the war. Whitey Torenbeek says that Harry Lane (Jnr.) often spoke of Syd Lowrey as a welcome addition to their household.
P. Lutch	Killed in Action.
H.G. McKee (H.C.?)	Lieut. Harold Charles McKee. 28 th Battalion 18.8.1915. (Note:

	the initial G must be an error) Friend of Wilfred Gilbey - McKees were at one time in the Moonie area at <i>Marmadua</i> . Family owned land at Duleen. Charles McKee was Chairman of the Ducklo School Committee when it opened in 1915. H.C. and J.R. possibly children of that family. H.C. & F.J. owned Portions 41 & 54 Parish of Daandine 1930/40s The McKees were well known for their beef cattle.
J.R. McKee	See above
J. McLaren	James (Jim) Mc Laran. Note spelling – from the local McLaran family. Enlisted 28 th Battalion 28.9.1916 – discharged 11.11.1919. Charles Martin, who is married to Jim's niece, says that Jim went to war at an early age. <i>Records show he was born in 1906! Must be an error somewhere, perhaps 1900 is correct?</i> He was the youngest son in the large family. Later became manager of the Dalby Butter Factory and later still, Manager of Hamilton Cold Stores (Brisbane)
C. McLeod	May be one of Archie McLeod's children. (Manager of Loudoun from 1903 - 1919)
G. McWilliam	
J.T. McWilliam	
J. Malpas	James Malpas (Jim). Enlisted 15 th Battalion in October 1916. Returned to Australia 9.12.1918. Selected Portion 60, Parish of Daandine earlier than 1912. The Torenbeek family share farmed or rented this land portion for a few years in the early 1920s before Jim Malpas married Ethel Hutchinson.
F. Mann	Killed in Action.
S.R. Paige	
A.A. Porter	Alma Porter selected land on either side of the railway near Ducklo station (Portion 5), Henry James Porter (Portion 106) and Francis Joseph Porter (Portion 107) all in the Parish of Daandine and earlier than 1912. Edith Porter held part of Portion 52. A.A. & J.H. are from this local family.
J.H. Porter	See above. Killed in Action.
C. Prescott	Charles E. Prescott selected Portion 4 (Sub. I) & Portion 84, Parish of Daandine earlier than 1912.
A. Roberts	
I.W. Stagg	William Stagg selected Portion 62, Parish of Hill in about 1910. Probably connected to that large family.
J.V. Stewart	
J. Sutton	
E. Turner	Probably Edwin Woodward Turner or his son. One of the first settlers in the Ducklo district (Portion 4 (Sub. 2 & 3)). E.W. Turner was on the committee that was formed in 1912 to request a school at Ducklo.
W.P D Veron	Veron family (William P., M.S., W.P. selected, Portions 3, 43, 65 & 66 Parish of Daandine, earlier than 1912. Had other land interests in surrounding districts for many years. Henri Arthur Veron was on the committee formed to request establishment of Ducklo school in 1912.

KUPUNN DISTRICT WORLD WAR II

Sources: War Memorial Website, land records and interviews with local residents.

NAME	DETAILS
O.S. Baker	
R.J. Bourke	Robert (Bob) Joseph Bourke. Date of Birth 26.7.1914. 11 th Light Horse Trooper/ Enlisted in AIF 2/10 Field Regiment 14.6.1940. Captured by the Japanese in Singapore. Worked on the Burma Railway. Died in the last few months of the war (11 June 1945 - from, it is believed, a tropical illness). His life was saved at one point by the famous wartime officer/doctor Weary Dunlop, who gave him a blood transfusion. Younger son of William Bourke (Bill Snr.) who arrived in the district in about 1910. Family held much land in the district including, Portions 32, 59 (Sub. 1,2 & 3), 61, 63 in the Parish of Daandine.
J.K. Browne	Property owner from Kumbarilla. Still lives in Dalby.
F.J. Carmody	Owned property at Weranga. Died in Dalby.
J. Cass	Jack Cass's family lived in the district during the 1930s – on a portion near the Kupunn siding. (Charles Martin, the local schoolteacher, boarded with them for a while.) There were three children, Nancy and Philip were taught by Charles Martin at the Kupunn school and Jack was the eldest.
T. Cook	Private Tom Cook. QX16543 Date of birth 15.4.1904, Dalby. Enlisted 1.8.1940, 2/26 Australian Infantry Battalion. He was taken prisoner by the Japanese and worked on the Burma Railway where he met up with Bob Bourke before Bob died. Son of Dave Cook Snr. who settled in the Ducklo district before 1912 and was on the committee requesting the establishment of a school. Family home near Kupunn Station, Portion 60 Subdivision 3F, Parish of Daandine. Tom Cook was the eldest son. He and his brothers provided much of the labour needed on local farms. Lived at Redcliffe after the war.
T. Condon	Flight Lieutenant Tom Condon D.F.C. 404399. Date of Birth 30.8.1914. Enlisted in the RAAF 16.8.1940. The Condon's owned land in the Duckponds area – Portions 100 & 101, Parish of Daandine.
V.R. Creighton	Major Vivian Creighton M.B.E. QX30274 & Q90494. Date of birth 19.11.1900. 2/1 Port Operating Co. Enlisted 23.5.1940, discharged 16.11.1945. A son of the Creightons from Ducklo. Frank Miller says he met up with him during AIF training. Vivian Creighton was a map-reading instructor at the time.
M. Duggan	Morrie Duggan. R.A.A.F. Killed in an aeroplane accident in Canada. A former teacher at the Kupunn School – the second after Charles Martin enlisted. He taught Pat Lane who remembers him well. (His brother was at one time Lord Mayor of Toowoomba)
D.C. Ferguson	Douglas Colin Ferguson. QX27178 Date of birth 7.11.1916. 11 th Light Horse Trooper/ 2/13 Australian Infantry Battalion. Enlisted 7.1.1942, Discharged 6.3.1946. Son of Douglas Ferguson (Snr) of Nandi who came to the district from Longreach with his family not long before the war.
N.F. Fry	Stoker Norman Frederick Fry. Navy. S/4178 H.M.A.S. Napier. Died aged 22. Probably connected to the Fry family who held part of

	Portion 104 (Parish of Hill) from 1930s.
N.L. Harpham	May be QX6647 Date of Birth 8.9.1919 Enlisted 3.6.1940. Killed in Action 24.9.1943. Possibly a member of the Harpham family from Macalister – Next of kin was Leonard Harpham.
W.D.S. Harpham	Lieut. W.D.S. Harpham QX1134 Date of Birth 19.12.1916 in England. Enlisted 26.10.1939. Australian Army Transport Platoon. Owned a property <i>Theeton</i> in the Daandine/Range's Bridge area.
C.G. Harris	Sergeant Cyril George Harris QX10087 Date of Birth 11/11/1916. Enlisted 17.6.1940 2/25 Australian Infantry Battalion. From Ducklo area.
G.W. Hartnell	Flight Lieutenant George William Hartnell, 404097 RAAF. Date of Birth 21.2.14 Dalby. Hartnells owned part of Portion 113, Parish of Hill after <i>Loudoun</i> subdivision. Next of kin, Walter Hartnell.
G.M. Hatherill	Owned property at Kumbarilla
L. Hensler	Sergeant Leonard Hensler. QX16847 – Date of Birth 1.5.1904. 11 th Light Horse Trooper/ 2/2 Australian Machine Gun Battalion. Action in Middle East and Pacific Islands. Known fondly by locals as 'Yellow Belly' after a fish found in the district waterways.
H.D. Hoadley	Harold David Hoadley AIF. Family owned Portions 36,55,56 Daandine – <i>Cliveton</i> . (Married Molly Saxelby after the war and moved to the Rockhampton area.)
H.W. Hughes	'Bill' Hughes. Worked for J.W. 'Bee' Bourke pre & post- war.
A.V.C. Hurlock	AIF. Killed in Action.
E. Hurlock	Eddie Hurlock. AIF. Prisoner of War in Singapore. Became a plumber in the local area after the war.
F. Hutchinson	Francis Richmond Hutchinson, B5586 RAN. Date of Birth 3.8.1915. Enlisted 28.12.1939. Discharged 2.8.1946. LSG.STO. HMAS Moreton. Son of Ethel (Malpas) Hutchinson.
H.C. Hutchinson	Herbert Charles Hutchinson QX36424 (Q89030) Date of Birth 22.6.23 Dalby. Enlisted 24.6.1941. Discharged 18.5.1944. Australian Army Sapper-Fortress Coy RAE. Next of kin – Lucy Hutchinson.
R.C. Hutchinson	Richard Charles Hutchinson (Dick) QX1232 Date of Birth 15.6.1915 Dalby. Enlisted 3.11.1939. Discharged 27.4.1945. 2/32 Battalion, Australian Army. Served Middle East and Tobruk. Prisoner of War in Italy after being captured at Tobruk – escaped through France. Cousin of Frank. Son of Bill Hutchinson.
A.R. King	Warrant Officer Class 2 Alexander Ralston King from Ducklo. QX16890. Date of Birth 19.10.1906, Drummoyne in NSW. Enlisted 25.3.1941. Discharged 17.6.1944. 7 Independent Company. Connected to the King family on Portion 41, Parish of Daandine, which was selected by W.R. King before 1912. Next of kin Mirriam King.
L.G. Lane	Sgt. Leonard George Lane. 5949 RAAF. Date of Birth 11.11.1921, Dalby. Enlisted 15.1.1940. Discharged 25.10.1945. Trained at Laverton in Victoria, and served in New Guinea as a wireless operator. Hid in the jungle in Lae area reporting on enemy aircraft movements for several months before returning home very ill from tropical diseases. Then became a trainer in Victoria & Air Observers School, Mt. Gambier. Son of Morris Bassett Lane Portion 1v (Sub 1.) Parish of Hill. Grandson of Henry Bassett Lane, one of the first

	selectors in the district - Portion 1v and others.
F. Lengren	Private Frederick Lengren of Kupunn. QX5509. Date of Birth 6.6.1919 Dalby. Enlisted 1.4.1940 - Medical and Recovery Unit. Military Medal for bravery in the field when rescuing wounded soldiers in the Islands. Discharged 18.9.1945. Next of kin Frederick Lengren.
A.L. Lengren	Andrew Kenneth Lengren of Kupunn – brother of F. Lengren, above. QX38253 (Q103880) Date of Birth 12.3.1921 – Dalby. Discharged 10.6.1943. Inf. Reinf. Next of kin Frederick Lengren. Later moved to Dawson Valley.
C.W.B. Lister	Owned property at Weranga.
L. McDonald	11 th Light Horse. Infantry. Served in New Guinea in intense fighting.
B.L. McKee	Probably from large McKee family from Duleen. See also WWI.
H.C. McKee	Listed as early as 1937 in phone book - at <i>Doongala</i> , Duleen. Possibly the same Harold Charles McKee from WWI.
G.C. McLellan	
J.F. McLellan	
J.R. McLellan	
A.R. Martin	Probably Alex Martin, an engine driver after the War.
C.H. Martin	Flight Lieutenant Charles Harold Martin – born at Esk, Qld 5.11.1912. The teacher at Kupunn State School from 1933 – 1939. Joined the RAAF (No.425951) 21.5.1942. Became a navigator/bombardier and flew in Liberator bombers in New Guinea alongside the Americans. Married Mavis McLaran (from one of the first families in the district), early in the war. Discharged 19.12.1945.
J. Martin	Jack Martin. Returned man from WWI. Joined up again, AIF. Known as a good horseman. He was employed by Wilfred Gilbey at Duleen.
J. Newing	Family owned Parish of Hill, Portion 104 (part) – subdivided from <i>Loudoun</i> 1930s. Charles Martin taught a Jack Newing at Kupunn School but he thinks he would have been too young to serve in the military forces. (Perhaps in the later part of the war, or another J. Newing – a brother?) Violet Newing married Snowy Torenbeek during the 1930s.
C.F.A. Miatke	
F.W. Miller	11 th Light Horse. AIF – QX16728 2/2 Anti Tank Regiment 7 th Division Gunner F.W. Miller. Frank William Miller. Served in the Middle East and was at the Battle of Milne Bay in New Guinea. Took up Portion 4, Parish of Daandine <i>Wilkie View</i> in the mid 1930s. Turned 90 on 14.11.2002 and led the Dalby Anzac Day parade in 2003.
J.M. Morrissey	Jack Morrissey. RAAF. Middle son of Patrick (Paddy) Morrissey, one of the earliest selectors in the district. Parish of Daandine, Portion 32, 46, 59 (Sub.1)
L. Morrissey	Private Leo (Oigle) Morrissey (QX16705) D.O.B 15.8.1915 - 2/12 Australian Infantry Battalion. Brother of Jack. Youngest son of Patrick (Paddy) Morrissey, Parish of Daandine, Portion 32, 46, 59 (Sub.1). Killed at Milne Bay in New Guinea 3.9.1942.
R.C. Norris	11 th Light Horse Trooper....Awarded the Military Medal for bravery.
J.R. Saxelby	Jack Saxelby. AIF. Battle of Milne Bay. Son of Syd Saxelby,

	Portion 20, 62, 73 Parish of Daandine. Was very ill after the war, perhaps what would now be termed post traumatic stress.
P.B. Saxelby	Peter Saxelby 11 th Light Horse Trooper. AIF - Middle East and Tobruk and then Pacific Islands (with Bert Torenbeek). Son of Syd Saxelby who owned Parish of Daandine, Portions 20, 62, 73 before WWII. Brother of Jack.
D. Stagg	Ivor Douglas Stagg (Doug) D.O.B. 14.12.1912 – AIF. Served in Borneo. Youngest son of the Stagg family from Portion 62, Parish of Hill. Attended Kupunn School during the 1920s. Married local girl Thelma Grimley in 1934.
E. Torenbeek	Egbert (Bert) Torenbeek. AIF. Service in Middle East, Tobruk & El Alamien, and Pacific Islands (with Peter Saxelby). Father. Egbert (Charlie) Torenbeek selected Portion 49, Parish of Daandine 1920s. Brother of Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek.
A.H. Towning	
W.B. Tweedie	William Birt Tweedie (known as Birt – spelling from his mother Amy Birt's maiden name) but Bert also used. 11 th Light Horse Trooper. AIF, Middle East, Pacific. (Frank Miller followed him into 2/2 Anti Tank Regiment 7 th Division – signed Frank's copy of the <i>Oceanic Review</i> on board <i>Marnx Van Sint Aldergon</i> , 19 000 ton Dutch ship heading for the Middle East in 1941). Brother of Patricia (Patsy) Tweedie.
G. Torenbeek	Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek. 11 th Light Horse Trooper. 3rd Armoured Division. Served Queensland Coast & Borneo. Father selected Parish of Daandine, Portion 49 in 1920s. Brother of Egbert (Bert) above.
C. Wild	Bob Wild held Parish of Hill, Portion 104 (part) during 1930/40 period. May be sons of that family.
D. Wild	See above
J.N. Wilson	John Nicholson Wilson. Joined RAAF in 1941. Family property (parents Prue and Lewis Wilson, brother Malcolm) <i>Cavanba</i> , well known for beef cattle. Parish of Daandine, Portion 1245 (part). Still lives in Dalby.
H.G. Wood	Sergeant Henry George (Pie) Wood. A.I.F. Service in the Middle East. Married Nell Bourke before the war. Was in the 7 th Division with Frank Miller. Signed Frank's <i>Oceanic Review</i> in 1941 (on board <i>Marnx Van Sint Aldergon</i> , 19 000 ton Dutch ship heading for the Middle East.)
R.E. Wright	11 th Light Horse Trooper, AIF. Service in New Guinea. (Duleen).
W.E. Wright	Brother of R.E. Wright. Lived at Duleen.
	WOMEN'S SERVICES
Elsie Cunningham	Elsie Cunningham was an Army nurse. Daughter of Alf Cunningham, grew up in the Kupunn district and attended the local school.
Jean Ferguson	Jean Ferguson was a driver for the American Army in Brisbane. Sister of Doug Ferguson.
Jean McLellan	AWAS?
Lorna Harpham	AWAS ? From family that owned <i>Theeton</i> in Range's Bridge area.
Josie Lengren	AWAS? Sister of F. & A.L. Lengren.
Patricia Tweedie	(Patsy – a nurse.) From Ducklo. Sister of Birt Tweedie (above), daughter of William (Portions 74,75,77, Parish of Daandine).

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Leonard George Lane (1921 – 2002), September 2000, Mulwala, N.S.W.

Len Lane was born on *Loudoun* Station and lived there until about 1938. He worked at the Dalby Post Office as a Telegraphist and afterwards served in R.A.A.F during WWII. He made many return visits to the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district, especially when his father was still alive and living at *Whitewood*. He died at Mulwala, N.S.W. in 2002.

Patrick James Lane (born 1931), May 2001, Dalby, Qld.

Pat Lane grew up at *Belah Park/Memarambi*, the son of James William Lane. Pat farmed at *Myola* until his retirement in 1999. He lived all of his life in the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district. He wrote his memoirs, *A Dollar Short and a Day Late* in 2001, after the interview.

Phyllis Maud Lane (1917 – 2001), January 2000, Sydney, N.S.W.

Phyllis Lane was the wife of Eber Lane, who was born on *Loudoun* Station in 1911. She married Eber in 1939 (in Mt. Isa) and paid many visits to *Whitewood*, Eber's parents farm on the Nandi Road. She spent many months there during the war and her second child was born in Dalby. She died in Sydney in 2001.

Gerard 'Whitey' Torenbeek (born 1917), January 2000, Redcliffe, Qld.

Whitey Torenbeek came to the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district as little more than a baby. He lived most of his young life in the district, initially working on his father's land and later employed by Harry Lane at *Belah Park*. He served in WWII and did not return to live in the district. He has kept in touch with former residents and is regarded as an honorary uncle in the Lane family. He wrote his memoirs in 1988, and I edited and published them in 2001.

Ken Smith (born 1926), February 2001, Sydney, N.S.W.

Ken Smith grew up on the Darling Downs south west of Stanthorpe. His father was a returned serviceman from WWI, who acquired a Soldier Settlement block that was originally part of *Glenlyon* station. He now lives in Sydney.

Heather Tweedie (nee McLaran, born 1919), April 2002, Dalby, Qld.

Heather McLaran lived her early life in the Kupunn district, the third daughter of one of the first settler families. When she was about twelve years old her parents moved into Dalby as there were no sons to carry on their farming interests. Heather kept in touch with relatives at Kupunn on both sides of her family. She married a local sheep farmer, Arthur Tweedie.

Correspondence

I have had correspondence with many residents and former residents of the Nandi/Kupunn/Broadwater district. Individuals have been acknowledged in the text and endnotes. Archival letters and extensive correspondence is listed below:

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