

Kow Plains and Beyond

1849-2022



Jocelyn Lindner

Kow Plains Community Assets Committee



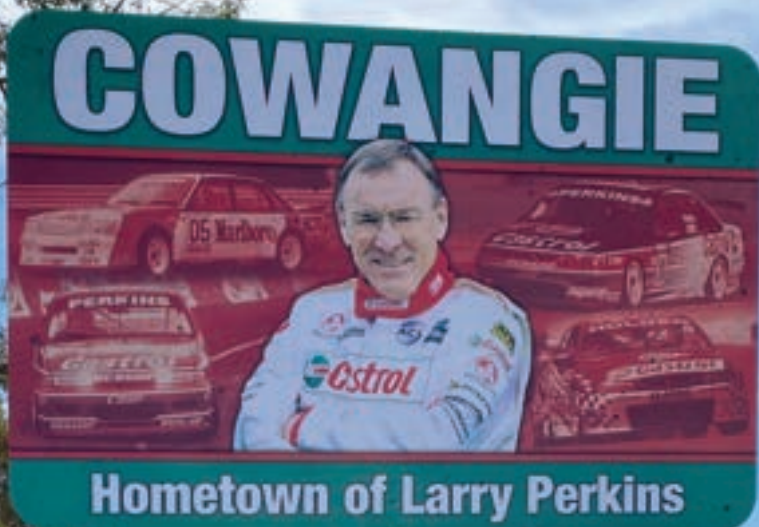
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Larry's sign - 2021



New sign 2014



*1993 - Rae, Connie,
Nichola, Jack, Larry and
Eddie Perkins*



*Replacement sign 2005
- Evelyn Purdue, Beris
Etherton, Bessie Boseley,
David Husband*

Kow Plains and Beyond

1849-2022

A history of the area encompassed by the Tutye and District Combined School Sports Association originally compiled for the Back-to Tutye, Cowangie and Boinka in 1988 and revised and updated 2022.

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Compiled by Jocelyn Lindner

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the support of the Victorian Government and
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First train to Murrayville on the Ouyen to Murrayville line June 1912



Gathering at the T&DCSSA Sports day c.1920s



Laundry early days

*I grew up in an era when life was slower and we lived more with nature,
I still enjoy the dry beauty of the Mallee. In the time of change, world
unrest, changing values of the younger generation, transfer of family
farming land to overseas corporate ownership and COVID 19 etc. may we
have the resilience of those who have passed before and uphold their values.*

Margaret Morrison (nee Lapidge)



Clearing site for bore at Tutye c.1911



Smoko



Cow Plains Sports Meeting 1913

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(Written by Copi Bill)
October, and on this wind-swept land
The pitiless sun glares down ;
And nothing green, is to be seen,
Kow Plains is bare and brown.
The bullockys have started out
To wander two and fro ;
And in the light of fires at night
Are discussing where to go.
So what's to become of the farmer
(When the Government's aid is slow)
Who has toiled from light till fall of
night,
Must he from his holding go ?
For who can stand this wind and sand :
Well plainly it is time
To book a passage straight for—
And try a damper clime:

*The Poem was in the Pinnaroo Border Times the 16th October 1914,
the driest year on record.*

Acknowledgements

Acknowledgement is given to all people who provided information and photos for the original book published to coincide with the Back-to Cowangie, Tutye and Boinka Districts in 1988, and also to those who have assisted with sourcing additional information and provided photos for this updated and revised version.

I especially thank all my friends and family who have encouraged me to revise and update this book.

Thank you to my daughter Heidi Lindner for proofreading the text and checking formatting.

Thank you to Shane Strudwick from Brand Action for setting out the layout of the book and assisting with the publication of the eBook.

I must also pay tribute to all the authors whose work I have used for references, a list of these is given.

Introduction

In 1988 the Cowangie, Tutye, Boinka Back-to Committee published *Kow Plains and Beyond 1849-1988* which was launched at the Back-to where plaques were placed at all school sites that had been involved in the Tutye and District Combined School Sports Association 1930-1950.

At the Kow Plains Committee of Management meeting in August 2018 it was moved that a grant be applied for, to re-produce and update *Kow Plains and Beyond 1849-1988*, because since it had been out of print there had been many requests for information contained within the book.

In July 2019 a grant was received to publish the book as an eBook as grants were no longer available for printed books. Once the eBook is completed a small number of books will be printed from separate funding.

As *Kow Plains and Beyond 1849-1988* was published before the days of computers and digital photos the information on the school sports and the schools has been retyped and some photos have been substituted. Sections on organisations, buildings, Kow Plains Homestead and farming changes have been updated. The following chapters have been added to this revised version: 30 years on; Kow Plains timeline; Mallee missionaries & churches; Tidy Towns Awards; Back-to Cowangie, Tutye and Boinka 1988; Events held since 1988; and Honouring the service men and women of the district.

This book is intended to give a picture of life during the 110 years of closer settlement and will help to keep alive for future generations the memories of our early pioneers, communities, schools and the Tutye District Combined School Sports.

Why Kow Plains?

There is considerable controversy over the name Kow Plains, which seems to have occurred through different interpretations of the Aboriginal language.

A. Kenyon in his book *Story of the Mallee*, states that when James “Picaninny” Smith applied for the pastoral lease he said, “I believe that I was the first to discover Cow which is the name given me by the native blacks”. When Ross applied for the lease in July 1858 he said the name was ‘Khaw’ and Archbold in 1859 makes it ‘Gowe’. This name variation was said to signify an ignorance regarding native names and their meaning, ‘cow’ simply means white and applies to the gypsum or ‘copi’ found in the area.

The Railway Standing Committee being assured by a witness that ‘Gow’ was the correct pronunciation and if that word did not denote a cow in any sense, insisted in spelling it Kow Plains and that remained the official name for some time. The Lands Department asserted itself in 1913 and ignored the old name altogether, from then on it appears only the name Cowangie was used.

In Kenyon’s book there is reference to an article in *The Leader* of March 1908 that says, “The name is not Cow Plains but Kow Plains”. This variation in names is very common in the Aboriginal language. For example 17 variations for water are known. Some linguists substitute ‘k’ for ‘c’ in spelling Aboriginal words.

In 1998 the Committee of Management of the Homestead decided that Kow Plains be the registered name on the title.

For some time during early settlement both versions ‘Cow’ and ‘Kow’ where used. Throughout this book whichever spelling used in references such as books, newspapers and letters has been accepted.

30 years on

The area covered by the book *Kow Plains and Beyond 1849-1988* is very different now from what it was in 1988. Traffic flow along the Mallee Highway has become heavier, faster and larger. Where there were buildings and services in towns such as Boinka and Cowangie, there now are none. Gone are the Post Offices in their place are small tin mail sheds, and a line of green and red bins for waste and recycling. The silos are closed for deliveries but are now leased by farmers, and the bunkers have ceased operating, their sites have gone back to farming land. Grain is now transported in semi-trailers and B-doubles to Murrayville Underbool, Pinnaroo, or further.

Some of the Trees of Remembrance planted in 1918 still stand proudly at Boinka, Tutye, Cowangie, and Danyo; and plaques listing the brave men who served from their hometowns have been erected.

Railway crossings are clearly marked but trains that now carry only grain are few and far between because of the condition of the rail and heat restrictions.

Travelling along the highway and along the back roads the absence of livestock is very noticeable. Shearing sheds stand unused and large machinery sheds and silos are now part of the landscape along with the large machinery that early settlers would find unbelievable. Windmills have been replaced in many bores by electric or solar operated pumps.

The decline in the district population over the last 30 years has resulted in a reduction in: sporting activities, community activities and use of community buildings.

In 2012 the Mildura Rural City Council had a heritage overlay drawn up of buildings, sites, and trees, of heritage importance to the area. This overlay gives protection to many of our buildings that provide an insight into life in the early days. These remaining buildings will likely continue to deteriorate if there is no one to care for them.

The biggest change to our communities has come about with the purchase of large areas of farming land by a corporate entity, resulting in the end of many family owned farms. The area of farming land from Murrayville to Boinka that is now corporate owned is not far short of the area held by the lease holder of Kow Plains Station in 1873.

Boinka 2022

The school building still remains and is on the Mildura Rural City Councils Heritage overlay; the Honour rolls hang on the wall and there is a display of early memorabilia.

Cowangie 2022

In 1988 all the houses in Dayman Street were occupied, the population was approximately 25, which included a number of children that travelled to Murrayville on the school bus. In 2022 the town population is four and there are no children

The general store 'Taverners' closed in 1974 but during the 'Back-to' it housed memorabilia of the district. Wally McDonald's engineering works operated until approximately 2010 and was well supported by local farmers (see Cowangie 'Businesses and industries' for further information see page 134).

In 1988 the gypsum ramps had been built and the Lester family brought gypsum in to be trucked out. The silo complex was a hive of activity during harvest, it is now leased to a local farmer.

The Hall is now seldom used. The Church has now been purchased by the Mildura Rural City Council and is under the Kow Plains Community Assets Committee along with the Bush Nurses Cottage, Bakers oven and the Avenue of Honour.

Up until 2002 the north side of Dayman Street was very neglected and untidy with dead trees and rubbish; at this time a young lad was required to do community service in the town so under supervision of locals the clean-up of this area began, he was very keen on gardening he carted across old sleepers from the railway line and the rose garden was

formed. The Council supplied mulch for the roses. Over the years the native mounds were formed and rows of trees were planted behind the mounds and from the Bakers oven to the General Store.

Coral gums were planted in the Avenue of Honour to replace the sugar gums that were removed because of power lines.

The old bus shelter that stood near the Post Office was moved across Dayman Street to house information boards. The Greening the Line Committee of the Mildura Rural City Council provided table and seats.

Tutye 2022

The only buildings remaining in Tutye are the mail shed that was the old barley shed, and the remains of a brick residence that was used in the 1980s as the mail shed. A local farmer leases the silos and weighbridge. Most of the Avenue of Honour sugar Gums planted 1918 remain, and an interpretative plaque has been installed with the names of those from Tutye who served.

Discovery and early settlement

The area encompassing the Tutye and District Combined School Sports Association is in the confines of what was the Kow Plains Station lease.

The Kow Plains area was first discovered by Mr E.R. White in 1849; Mr White was a surveyor appointed to lead a party surveying the South Australia border line which had not been surveyed further than the southern boundary of the Mallee. The surveying work nearly ended in disaster due to lack of water which forced White to leave his party and ride through the scrub to try to reach the Murray River; he finally arrived at the river carrying a horse's bridle.

The next person to see Kow Plains also in 1849 was Mr J.W. Beilby a pastoralist who was in search of a pastoral run but he did not return with stock. Beilby published a long account and a sketch map of his journey that was most unusual for a run-seeker to do, as they were often secretive about their journeys.

Beilby camped at Skeleton Hut or Well on the main route from Kow Plains to Pine Plains which he described it as "a native well and a place where there was much Aboriginal activity". An extract from Beilby's journal referred to "Skeleton Soak in the Wotjobuluk country but approaching the Ngarkat country," and recorded that "the Aborigines evidently camp here in considerable numbers when they chiefly subsist on emu and lowan eggs" (Kimber 1969). The Lakes of Hindmarsh and Albacutya were the base for the Wotjobuk peoples of North West Victoria. The Ngarkat lived in a vast area of the Mallee that lay between the Murray River, Tintinaria and Keith. The Aborigines passed along what became defined trading routes, trading tools and spears that were made in their particular area.

Beilby described the well now known as Skeleton Well as being covered with branches and because of this and the depth of the well, Beilby took this as an indication of the scarcity and value of permanent water. Many old Miami's or native huts were to be seen around the well, and quantities of the bones of small birds or animals and eggshells, there were also articles of British manufacture showing that the Aborigines had been in touch



Run boundaries from map in Spreadborough & Anderson, Victoria Squatters

with white civilisation. The mention of the huts and well, explain those parts of the name but there is mystery and stories of intrigue surrounding the skeleton, some say it was a bullock's skeleton and the most intriguing story concerns bushrangers. The story goes that a gang of six bushrangers held up the gold escort coach transferring gold from the goldfields to Adelaide. The police ambushed and captured five and wounded one who fled and was never traced, he is said to have made his way through the desert and found a hut where his skeleton was found. His horse that was in terrible condition with the remains of the saddle dragging was found nearby.

The founder of Kow Plains Station was James "Picaninny" Smith. In 1853, James Smith with his two brothers in-law William and David Little drove 250 head of cattle and some horses from Yanac northwards across the Big Desert in search of another station. He described Kow Plains as a country of pine rises in his application for a 14 year lease he stated, "I believe that I was the first white to discover 'Cow' that is the name given to me by the blacks". The area applied for was 5,120 acres. The application was received favourably but the license was not issued until 1859. From 1853 to 1859 Smith and the Little's took cattle to Kow Plains and stayed there during the winter months.

Between 1859 and 1863 there was a dispute between James Smith and Archbald the leaseholder of Ross Plains as to the location of the leasehold boundaries. Confusion over the boundaries of Cow Plains and Ross Plains continued until it was finally settled at arbitration on 1 August 1863. On the 24 December 1863 the land was transferred to Elizabeth and John Smith then on 27 April 1865 to John Smith. It was transferred again on 29 June 1865 to John Henry Cough and John William Bobb and on the 27 July 1865 to R.B. Ronald and James McBain then on 8 October 1867 to Dugald Macpherson.

In November 1865 Dugald Macpherson acquired the licences of Clifton Plains A and B runs, which more or less flanked Kow Plains, and in 1867 Macpherson in conjunction with William McDonald acquired Kow Plains itself and Duddo not far away to the North. In 1873 Macpherson acquired the Chaves Plains East and West runs which ran between Kow Plains and Duddo and thus with Clifton A and B had 5 runs forming a continuous holding a total of 81,395 acres. Macpherson held this area until 1897 when it was transferred to Phillip Bros of Casterton, but then was abandoned in 1901.

In 1897 when the Kow Plains area was surveyed by T. H. Turner, Dugald Macpherson held 300 square miles and William McDonald 280 square miles.

John Poulton of Cambacanyo leased Kow Plains from 1906-1909 when it was subdivided under the Mallee Pastoral Leases Act of 1883 whereby the Mallee was divided into 200 x one square mile or 640 acre blocks for lease. It was a harsh area, mainly due to lack of water, and there are many true stories of hardship. One such story concerns that of a shepherd, George Everard, he was also a shearer and cook who travelled the Wimmera and Mallee from the late 1850s to 1900s, he travelled through Kow Plains many times and worked there for three different periods during Elizabeth and John Smith's time. In 1864 Everard and his brother were employed sinking wells around Kow Plains, scurvy

set in because rations were short and fresh food scarce. At the request of the owner, Everard and another man, took two men and the wife and three children of one of them to Dimboola for medical attention and supplies. One of the men, a shepherd had scurvy very badly, as did the woman and the youngest child. They travelled in a dray and spring cart belonging to one of the men; after seven days they reached Dimboola and a doctor, but the baby died the next day. The shepherd was still on crutches after six months.

It is not known how many years Kow Plains had a resident manager but in the *Pinnaroo Border Times* of 7 April 1911 reference was made to a Mr Leckie of Pinnaroo having grown his second crop of wheat in 1897 which consisted of 43 bags off 16 acres. About this time Kow Plains then Manager, Mr Swan, got wind of the good wheat grown and negotiated to bring some over the border. The seed was used to grow wheat for hay. One of the last residents at Kow Plains before selection was the Tully family, who travelled by wagon from Skipton in 1908.

The subdivision of Kow Plains in 1909 closed a chapter on the history of life on the longest surviving interior Mallee station run, but it has left us with many unanswered and probably never to be answered questions on Kow Plains Station.



*Cattle owned by John Poulton at Kow Plains 1910;
his cattle were sent to Pinnaroo for sale*



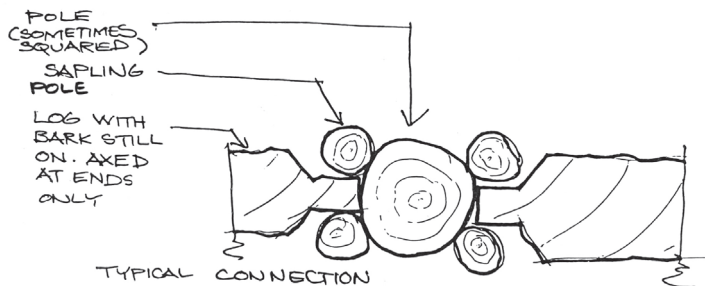
Kow Plains Homestead original stable & bullock team c.1860s

Kow Plains Homestead complex 1985-2022

In late 1985 with a view to trying to preserve the last link with the days before settlement, so an attempt was made to have the Homestead listed on the State and National Heritage Registers. A concerted effort was made to achieve this goal before it was too late to preserve a little of the history of Kow Plains Station life.

The following is part of the report that was submitted to the then Victorian Historic Buildings Preservation Council in an attempt to obtain heritage registration.

The Homestead, a well, and some outbuildings survive. The Homestead, the outhouse and the ruins of the cookhouse (possibly the original Homestead) are of drop-log construction comprising a number of upright poles placed approximately 1.2 metres apart to which saplings are attached to form slots on opposite sides of the pole. Unsaawn pine logs are then fitted into the slabs.



Drop-log construction

The Homestead is a three-room dwelling, which originally had a veranda along the east and west sides of the building. The western veranda had an enclosed section at either end. Both verandas are in a very bad state of repair, roofing iron having come away and the enclosed sections to the eastern veranda having suffered some damage.

Internally the centre hall has drop-log walls exposed. The floor has been cemented and a ceiling of one layer of wall paper and hessian has been formed. The rooms on either side of the hall have had a coat of mud render put on over wire, and there are indications of a brown and salmon colour scheme and the remainder of a World War 1 Argus supplement on the wall. The roof is of corrugated iron.

The kitchen to the north-east of the Homestead has simply folded to one side. The outhouse to the south-west of the Homestead remains, although it has lost part of one wall. There are indications of a chicken coop and sheds further to the north of the complex and indications of lime walls (possibly wells) to the west of the complex. A large shed to the west of the building was added onto what is believed to have been the stable.

The Homestead area is surrounded by a plantation of pepper trees. The original area was originally partly fenced by a dog leg fence.

The Homestead is significant for the following reasons:

- 1. As one of only a few surviving station complexes in the Mallee region, surely one of the most difficult regions in Victoria in which to establish permanent settlement*
- 2. The complex is all that remains of the Kow Plains Station run which was the last of the open Mallee areas to be settled and the longest running of the interior stations between Pine Plains and the northern river frontages*
- 3. It is a most interesting example of the use of local materials and drop-log construction. Drop-log construction was used at Pine Plains Homestead and vertical slab construction at the original Lake Corrong Homestead*
- 4. The remains of the station complex gives an insight into the hard lifestyle associated with the early days of settlement in the Mallee.*

State Heritage registration was granted in 1989 and National Heritage registration in 1991. Preservation could not commence until after registration and until the property was owned by the Shire. From 1988 to February 1997 many attempts were made to convince firstly Councillors from the Walpeup Shire then with it abolishment the Commissioners and Councillors of the newly formed Mildura Rural City Council to purchase the complex but these were all unsuccessful.

The agreement to purchase the property was finally signed on 23 July 1998. The Committee of Management was formed on the 7 September 1998. The committee was a Section 86 Committee of the Mildura Rural City Council and comprised of 7 local community members and a representative from the Council.

The book *Kow Plains Revisited* published to coincide with the completion of the first stage of preservation, aimed to describe life during station days and the way the buildings were constructed.

The original plan to restore Kow Plains was to restore only the Homestead but once that was completed, it was decided to restore the Cookhouse and Privy.

In 2002 Kow Plains received an UNESCO Asian Pacific Heritage Award.



UNESCO Asian Pacific Heritage Award plaque

The sign on the Mallee Highway, website and brochures attract many people to visit Kow Plains. Maps, photos, folders, and information sheets in the Homestead tell of the history of Kow Plains and of the district.

The following timeline outlines developments and events over the 170 years of the existence of Kow Plains. Further information can be found on the website www.kowplains.com.



Kow Plains Complex 1912



Kow Plains Complex 1922

Kow Plains timeline

1849 – surveyor E.R White discovered this area of the Mallee

1853 – founder of Kow Plains Station James “Piccaninny” Smith James Smith drove 250 cattle and some horses to Kow Plains from Yanac

1859 – lease of Kow Plains awarded to James Smith, Kow Plains area then was 5,720 acres

24/12/1863 – leased to Elizabeth & John Smith

27/4/1865 – leased to John Smith

1867 – leased to Dugald Macpherson

1860s – wells and trough built by George Everard

1860s – original Homestead (cook house) built

1870s – present Homestead built

1897 – leases ceased

1899-1906 – freehold lease held by the Philip brothers

1906-1910 – freehold lease held by John and Alfred Poulton

1910-1922 – freehold lease held by Roger Wakeham a butcher from Adelaide

1922-1925 – owned by the Kelly family

1922 – Kelly's operated blacksmith shop at the Homestead

1931-1938 – owned by George Smith of Jeparit; William James Kelly lived there until his death in 1936

1942-1961 – left to Donald Perry, farmer of Cowangie

1961 – Homestead last occupied

1962 – bought at auction by Peter Peers

1962 – quarry began, Stan Rogers lived in caravan at Homestead until 1974

26/02/1986 – letter written to the Victorian Historic Building Preservation Council (HBPC) concerning preservation of Homestead

1987 March – Carlotta Caloway (Historian) and Robyn Mullen (Architect) from HBPC visited to assess the buildings

1988 September – Walpeup Shire provided sign that was erected at entrance

1989 – Kow Plains complex placed on the Victorian Heritage Registrar

23/06/1992 – Kow Plains complex placed on National Heritage Registrar

1993 May – HBPC had a conservation report done by Dr Miles Lewis of Melbourne University, which recommended preservation of the Homestead

1988-1993 – negotiations with the Shire took place regarding purchase of building and land.

1997 February – Commissioners from the Mildura Rural City Council informed us that nothing could be done regarding purchase of property

1997 February – all 31 candidates for the up-coming Mildura Rural City Council election were lobbied as to the importance of Kow Plains

1997 April – Mildura Rural City Council was considering purchasing the property

23/07/1998 – agreement to purchase Kow Plains was signed by the Mildura Rural City Council

7/09/1998 – the Committee of Management was formed; regular committee meetings have been held since the formation of the committee

1998 August – the interior and immediate exterior was cleaned up

7/03/1999 – working bee held, all old machinery and junk that could be moved was moved

1999 April – Mildura Rural City Council moved remainder of equipment except for four large items, which were to be moved later

1999 August – remaining four items removed with the aid of a bulldozer. Recent additions to shed removed.

1999 November – new sign erected at gate

2/04/2000 – Mildura Rural City Council provided signs for well's, these were erected at a working bee

12-13/04/2000 – visit by Pip Giovanelli Architect from Canberra and Robert Knowles from Heritage Victoria to assess and make recommendations to Heritage Victoria

19/05/2000 – report from Pip Giovanelli received and acknowledged

2000 September – applied for grant from Heritage Victoria for conservation works

24/10/2000 – grant of \$68,850 from the Public Heritage Program was awarded

5/12/2000 – grant of \$4,250 from Local History Grants Program Round 2, to write a book was announced

2000 September-2021 March – arrangements made to commence work early March 2021; Terry Gibson of Cowangie employed as contractor

4/03/2001 – working bee and BBQ held; pepper tree removed from Cook House

12/03/2001 – restoration work commenced; digging out of foundations, and straightening of building

17/03/2001 – Pip Giovanelli visited; time frame and early restoration work planned

19/03/2001 – restoration work commenced

30/07/2001 – main structural work completed

22/08/2001 – work commenced on existing stable structure

20/10/2001 – opening of stage 1 of restoration

20/10/2001 – *Kow Plains Revisited* launched

2002 May – interpretative signs erected along drive way

2002 – Kow Plains website created www.kowplains.com

2002 September – Kow Plains received an UNESCO Asian Pacific Heritage Award

21/09/2002 – (equinox) original sun-dial positioned at front of Homestead

2003 – Cookhouse and privy restored

2003 April – opening of Cookhouse Stage2 of restoration

2004 – volunteers hung hessian walls in Cookhouse

14/06/2004 – re-enactment of mail run

13/10 2006 – windmill turned on; cricket match on recreation ground.

2006 – underground tank cover installed

2007 March – Andy Chele presented the hymn book used by his mother when she played the organ at the Homestead in 1911-12

2009 March – interpretative signs erected at original stable and hut sites

18-19/04/2009 – Wild Dog Mail Trail Pine Plains to Kow Plains

26/072009 – 150th Anniversary of signing of first lease of Kow Plains

2010 February – Paper Hangings Pty Ltd engaged to paper ceilings

22/03/2010 – informal meeting with Pip Giovanelli Heritage Architect, who inspected site and discussed stage 3 of restoration –the stable

30/08/2010 – grant of \$50,000 received from Regional Development for restoration of stable, and \$13,000 available from Mildura Rurac City Council; total of grants was \$7,850 short of quotes

27/09/2010 – Architect Pip Gionvanelli visited to assess stable site, scope of work for reconstruction of stable received

2010 – installation of wall paper ceilings in Homestead bedroom and entrance

2011 November – opening of stable

2014 – dog leg fence erected by volunteers

2/08/2015 – quarry sign erected

2018 – road fence replaced and fence erected to allow closer parking.



Kow Plains Homestead 2022



Robert Lindner cleaning up around the Cookhouse 1999



Before restoration



Lunch time at working bee 1999



Opening Stage 1 of Kow Plains Homestead restoration 20 October 2001



Restoration of Cookhouse, 2002



*Opening Stage 2 of Kow Plains Homestead restoration 12 April 2003 -
the Cookhouse by Russell Savage MP*



Installation of ceiling wallpaper in entrance of Kow Plains Homestead 2011



*Opening of Stage 3 of Kow Plains Homestead restoration 2011 - stables and ceiling wallpaper:
Susan Nichols Mayor MRCC, Hedley Parker, Richard Sexton MRCC, Jocelyn Lindner*



Robert Lindner and Brian Etherton guiding wagon into Kow Plains stables 2011



Kow Plains complex 2022

Farming changes and the people 1911-1988

Written by Tom Lindner in 1988

The history of machinery and methods of cereal growing

In the initial clearing operations, the first requirements was to fell a width of Mallee scrub by axe around the outer edge of the area intended for rolling to allow the teams of horses or bullocks to proceed on the first round. The bigger Mallee which was too heavy for rolling had to be axed down or nicked part way through, to allow the teams to pull the roller over them.



Bullock team

When rolled Mallee was sufficiently dry, it was set alight, hoping for a clean burn, but often there were unburnt sticks to be heaped up and burnt later. Many of the Mallee trunks snapped off leaving a lengthy protrusion above ground which meant more axe work cutting 'snags'.

Weeds were not a problem with the first plantings and the lighter sandy soils allowed the first wheat crop to be drilled straight into the recently burnt ground without preparation. On the heavy flats a 'barger-disc' a machine approximately 8 feet wide with 2 gangs of discs set at an angle was used to prepare the ground before planting; these machines gave the team driver a very rough ride as it bounced and lurched over the submerged Mallee roots. The twelve-disc seed drills pulled by four horses with a 6 foot cut, were often Massey Harris make imported from Canada.



Rolling scrub



Breaking in horses



Clipping horses hooves



Collecting Mallee stumps



Stump heap



Spring tye cultivator

Seed wheat was 'wet pickled' by immersing each bag into a drum of formalin solution to prevent smut and other diseases. Superphosphate was mostly used at light sowing rates, but crops were sometimes sowed without, considering it caused burning off in a dry spring. After the crop was up and growing Mallee shoots appeared from the stumps, which had to be cut with a long-bladed shoot-cutter, to keep them below the wheat head level and so avoid choking the stripper comb and tainting the grain.

When the wheat crop was ripe, a stripper pulled by four horses was used to strip the wheat heads off and deposit them in the box, to be stacked in heaps ready for cleaning with a hand-winnower. Many hands were need for winnowing: one to turn the winnower handle, one to fork the material in, and another to take the bags of wheat off the machine and place them in heaps ready to be sewn up. After harvest or during breaks in the weather, wagon loads of about 60 bags were taken into the Railway Station with often eight horse teams. A horse-operated bag loader, invented by Mr Perkins of Rainbow (grandfather of the Cowangie Perkins) was often used to make loading easier.



Harvester



Cutting hay with binder



Hay stack up off ground because of mice

After burning the stubble to kill regrowth of Mallee shoots, successive crops were planted using the same seed drills. After about four good burns very few Mallee shoots remained, but the dead roots or stumps were still there.

When grass and weeds appeared, it became necessary to plough the ground for a 'weed kill' and seed preparation. Some of the early ploughs were heavy five furrow and stump-jump ploughs. Later lighter ones had up to ten furrows.

During the 1920s bridle-draft scarifiers came on the scene often Shearer 15, 17 and 19 tyne, cutting 6 inches per tyne. These scarifiers were often used to replace the plough and to prepare the ground just before disc-drilling. Drills had grown to 20-disc and larger and were often McKay, Sun or Shearer make.



Field Day at Wedding's farm Tutye

Cultivation and seeding could be done in one operation with a tyned combine that incorporated both operations. Sizes were 16, 18, 20 and 24 run with two rows each of cultivating and sowing tynes. By the mid-1930s twin-disc stump-jump ploughs replaced

the foot ploughs and had spring pressure to replace the bridle draft. Shearer, McKay and McCormick-Deering, Horwood-Bagshaw being popular makes 12 and 14 disc were common sizes.



*Harry Purdue & Tom Dexter in truck with gas-producer
carting Mallee stumps to Cowangie*



*Oz Ingram taking a load of wheat from Bob Crombie's to Tutye Railway Station;
on the return journey the tank was filled with water from the government bore.*

Tractors also began arriving in the district in the 1930s, when rubber-tyred models were found to be suitable for sandy soils. McCormick-Deering, Allis-Chalmers, Lanz, John Deer and Case were popular models.

Growing oats for hay and for chaff to feed the teams had been a necessary part of farming during the horse era, mostly sown in stubbles. The Massey-Harris binder in 6 and 8 ft. models was the prominent make. Oats were often stored in silos for supplementary sheep feeding.

Harvesters and headers replaced strippers in the 1920s; Robinson 'Big E' and McKay 'A.L.' being the makes and models in common use. The harvesters had difficulty in some weed-infested and tangled crops and were replaced in the late 1930s and 40s by headers mostly McKay and some McCormick Deering and Shearer. Early harvesters and headers were 8ft and 10ft. sizes, but by the 40s they had increased to 12 ft. and 14ft. Hydraulic lift of the front became commonplace eliminating the need for a man on the machine.

Rubber tyres were replacing steel wheels on machinery, making easier pulling over the sandy conditions. Hay baling machinery was replacing the binder in the 1950s to store cereal and clover hay in stacks and sheds. McCormick Deering and McKay were prominent makes.

By the mid-1950s disc-harrows were being used by some farmers to cope with paddy melons, heliotrope and other summer weeds on fallows; 8ft and 10ft. McCormick Deering were popular.

By the early 1930s, cartage contractors with motor trucks were carting most of the bagged wheat in the district. Some early contractors were Peter Peers, Len Walker, Clarrie Jones, Dav Cunningham and Jack Nalder. Later Carriers in the 1950s were Jim Kelly, George Bennett, Beer Bros, Jock Willis and Les Chaplin. By then they were equipped with bulk bins. Farmers were gradually getting their own trucks and finally dispensed with the need for contractors.

Headers were becoming more sophisticated, with sealed bearings and bulk handling transferring augers to fill the trucks eliminating the need for bags. By the 1960s header cutting widths were 12ft and 14ft; McKay being prominent, with some McCormick Deering and Shearer.

Properties were increasing in size and increased cropping led to increased size and capacity of headers. Some of the present-day family partnership farms crop several thousand acres using up to 30ft auto-headers. Makes are International, New Holland, John Deere, Horwood Bagshaw, Allis Chalmers. Combines are being replaced by blow-seeders with cuts of 50ft and over.

Blade ploughs, chisel ploughs, rod weeders, hydraulic harrows and weed spray booms of present day are of larger widths, pulled by large tractors, often four-wheel-drive; making a few hours work of what would have been the early settler's whole cropping.

The makes of the larger four-wheel-drive tractors are Versatile, Allis Chalmers, Case, John Deere and International up to 300HP. Smaller two-wheel-drive, some fitted with front wheel assist are up to 160HP most farmers have smaller tractors for spraying, harrowing and some fitted with front-end loader and three-point linkage for rabbit ripping etc.

In the late 1960s farmers went to bulk handling seed and fertiliser for cropping, storing in bulk sheds or silos, and having bulk hoppers and transferring elevators for their trucks, Gruper and Venning being the main ones.

Now in the 1980s most farms have several portable field bins, and silo for storing grain during harvest and between seasons. Some field bins are fitted with augers but others use portable augers for transferring to the trucks. There is increasing use being made of spray chemicals to suppress weeds and grasses, both pre and post-emergent, as well as fungicide dressing for seed and fertiliser to combat diseases. Clovers and lucerne have been introduced into pastures for improved grazing and nitrogen build-up. Nitrogen and trace elements have been added to fertiliser to increase yields.

There are many other aspects of farming that have been introduced over the years, that are not possible to include in a brief account in this book, but it would be interesting if the early settlers could return today to see how farming has changed from their day. It could also be said that the farmers of 70 years hence will inevitably see similar marked changes due to the progress in agriculture.

The farmers of today can look back and appreciate the hopes that brought the early settlers to the area, and recognise their toil and determination under adverse conditions to establish a farming district from which later generations can reap the benefits. Most of the early settlers considered farming a very good way of life an attitude that still exists today 1988.

Better Farming Train 1920s-1930s

The Victorian Better Farming Train was devised by Harold Clapp Chairman of Commissioner of Victorian Railways and Dr Samuel Cameron Victorian Director of Agriculture and operated jointly by Victorian Departments of Agriculture, Railways, Education and Health. Agriculture content of the train was devised by Herbert Muller Agricultural Scientist with the Department of Agriculture.

The Better Farming Train could consisted of up to 15 carriages filled with displays covering livestock, dairy, crop production, pasture, farm machinery, pasture, farm management, cooking, craft and infant welfare. The train was painted bright yellow and included accommodation for the 90 demonstrators.

The Better Farming Train ran less frequently during the depression years and ceased at the beginning of World War 2. Visits of the Better Farming Train to the Mallee included special features devoted to wheat growing. A Clydesdale Mare and stallion were on the train.



Better Farming Train at Cowangie

Wheat lumpers

Wagon bags of approximately 60 bags of wheat were carted with 8-10 horse teams to the Railway Stations. The bags were loaded using a triangular-framed bag-loader attached to the side of the wagon and pulled by a horse. After the wagon load had arrived at the station and was weighed at the weighbridge, it was pulled up near the wheat stack. Wheat lumpers were in attendance usually wearing a sugar bag folded in one side to protect their heads and shoulders. The owners, or teamsters, readied the bags from the back of the wagon for the lumpers to take each bag across their shoulders. While the stacks were low, the lumpers could easily carry the bags to place them in an orderly fashion in the stacks, but as the stacks gained height a long plank was used to walk the bags to higher levels.

Some of the wheat lumpers were; Harold and Hec Douglass, Wally Bennett, A.& L. Gorman, Charlie Lewis, Bill (Red) Ruby, E. Boston, Wally Blight, Murray Russell, Niel Warren, Peter McDonald, Martin Brennan, Eric Ewins, Stan Gates.

Wheat Buyers were J. Lewis, H. Taverner, T. Walker, J. Kelly Snr., J. Erving and Les Quick.



Wheat lumpers



Wheat stacks

THE CASE OF THE BURST WHEAT BAG - Quite often worn-out cast iron harvester parts such as bearings, cogs, sprockets etc. were put into the bags of wheat, more to save littering the paddocks than to gain extra weight. These parts were found as the wheat was put through the flourmills where they were put into a large pile. One early Tutye farmer thought he could gain extra weight by putting a shovel full of sand into each bag, but he was found out when Martin Brennan, the wheat lumper was suspicious of the overweight and “accidentally” dropped a bag from high up on the plank to show the sand running from the burst bag.

The indispensable working men

In the early days of farming in the district, most of the farmers needed to employ working men to help with clearing operations, fencing and general horse team and farm work. At the very busy harvest time extra hands were needed for the stripping, winnowing, bag sewing and wheat carting. These men, often UK migrants played an important part in the development of the district, in helping on farms and joining in the social and sporting activities.

Quite often a man would be put on for only a few weeks or months to catch up with the work, or while money could be found to pay him. The men worked on occasions for many farmers, going from job to job as employment offered, but others were on a more permanent basis.

Rates of pay were low, as were incomes of farmers. In the 1930s wages were as low as 25 shillings per week for inexperienced workers, and others were paid £1.10 and £2 for harvest. The more permanent workers rates were £2.10 and £3. These rates included keep and many would have their washing and mending done, and were taken to any sporting and social fixtures with the family.

Some of these working men were: Stan Neagle, Reuben Lock, Stan Howard, Tommy Slater, Mick Foley, Ossie Ingram, Jack Graham, Sam Kerr, Charlie Horn, Bob Thompson, Bob Hay, Tommy Dexter, Vic Weber, Jim Cummings, Ron Chaplin, Ron Harmer, Eddie Hearne, Don & Dixie Carpenter, Stan Rogers, Jack Driver, Tal Griffith, Ron Chapple, Fred Lee, Henry & Harry Douglas, Len & Bruce Jones, Jim & Tom Moles, Eric Yates, Heath Bros, Colin Perkins, Mick Nancarrow, Eric & Norm Kelly, Henry Edwards, Bob Pepper, Jack Kallister, Eric Ewins, Harry Hunt, Harold Gilbert, Griff Davies and Reuben Pata.

Silos and grain deliveries

From the early days of farming wagon loads of bagged wheat were carted to the Railway Stations, this continued until the early 1930s when contractors began carting with truck, especially for long distances with trucks. Some nearby farmers still carted with their own wagon teams.

By the time the Grain Elevators Board (GEB) silos were opened at Tutye and Cowangie in 1939, several carting contractors were operating carting in skewered bags, the bags and skewers were returned for refilling. In 1941 Jack Nalder of Cowangie was the first to cart in bulk, employing Harry Purdue and Jim Bennett.

Boinka never obtained a silo and wheat was still stacked in bags for a few years, until the growers began carting to either Tutye or Linga.

Operations went on fairly smoothly with deliveries for many years, but as production increased due to better farming methods and the introduction of barley there was congestion of space, lack of rail-trucks for trucking out and delay in long queues. When barley was introduced around the 1950s it was still delivered in bags and loaded into rail trucks. Each bag was numbered with a grower's number for classification on arrival at the GEB store. By the mid-1960s bulk handling of barley was introduced at Tutye on a 'through-pact' basis, using the silo for a short time and trucking out when trucks became available.

Oats had also been grown in the district for delivery in bags to the city merchants. The Victoria Oat Growers Pool came into being and operated in competition with the merchants. Bulk handling for oats, using an auger to fill rail-trucks took place. Some use was made of the old gypsum ramp, at Tutye before augers came into use.

Arthur Kimpton the Oat Pool Agent, found it necessary to erect a steel silo at Tutye, where the gypsum ramp had been removed, for storing oats during the peak period awaiting rail-trucks. He also used the silo for storing rye-corn. Rye-corn had previously been delivered in bags.

In 1968 the Grain Elevators Board (GEB) recognised problems were arising with handling and storing of grains, and requested that growers of each silo district form a committee to liaise with the Board for smoother operations of grain during handling seasons.

Eighteen growers attended a meeting in October 1968 at Tutye when a five member Tutye Silo Advisory Committee was formed, namely K. Brown (Chairman), T. Lindner (Secretary), G. Chaplin, A. Ewins, H. Parker. At this meeting it was decided to obtain acreage sown, and an estimated yield of barley with the aim of delivering barley in bulk at Tutye. With the increased use of the silo due to delivery of barley, a request was made at a later meeting, during harvest, for additional storage. It was decided to impose a levy of \$1.00 per farming unit to start a bank account for meeting costs of phone calls, affiliation fees etc. Levies were collected at intervals over the years to supplement the bank account.

Delegates from each silo committee were sent to Ouyen to a conference of the Dunolly N.W. Silos Committee which was held after each harvest, and requests were put to the GEB, Railways and other representatives which were present.

After many requests for increased storage at Tutye, the GEB erected the large shed to the west of the concrete silo for the 1969-70 season. This was a very high production year, and the silo and farm storages were crammed full awaiting the crane to arrive to connect the spout from the old silo for filling. A large group of eager farmer's hopes were dashed when a mishap saw the spout fall on the new shed roof, damaging both, and delaying the use of the new facilities for several weeks.

Overproduction of wheat brought in quotas, which meant wheat could be delivered at a later date when space became available, but over-quota wheat became part of next season's payment. Quite a lot that was held on farm storage was sold over the border into South Australia to private buyers. This was often quoted as black-market sales by the Wheat Board, but was legal under section 92 of the Australian Constitution.

Communications were becoming necessary during harvest and the phone was connected to the barley testing shed in 1973.

The Barley Board were becoming more strict in the quality of barley for malting purposes, and requested growers forward pre-harvest a sample for nitrogen content tests. When deliveries began a sample of the first load was sent to the Board for classification. Grades were malting no.1, no.2 malting or milling and no.3 feed. Grades were given according to condition of green and foreign matter content (weed seeds etc.). Silo-operator Arthur Kimpton could denote the class except for nitrogen content, which was done at the Barley Board Head Office from an earlier sample. A high nitrogen reading could have the grain rejected for malting purposes. The nitrogen build up in the soils, due to the introduction of legume pastures, had an adverse effect on malting quality.

By 1982 the Barley Board had dropped the need to present a pre-harvest nitrogen test sample of barley, and the requirement for a low level of nitrogen, giving growers much better return in obtaining malting quality and a higher price for most of their grain. At one stage little or no barley was making malting due to the nitrogen test.

Poor yields were received in the 1982-83 season with no barley delivered at Tutye; most growers keep their grain for stock feed.

After a very long service as Officer-in-Charge at the Silo Arthur Kimpton retired in 1984 and was given an evening in H. Parker's shed to honour his sterling service.

At a 1985 silo meeting it was decided growers should deliver at least one load of wheat to South Australia in protest to the Victorian Railways steep increase in freights. The Tutye Silo Committee was very active over the years in pressing for the growers needs. Committee President Ken Brown, as well as the President of Dunolly N. W. Silos Committee was often kept very busy during the harvest season in chairing meetings and contacting the handling authorities when the need arose to iron out any problems. Hedley Parker replaced Tom Lindner as Secretary in the 1980s and John Cummings joined the Committee.

Officers-in-Charge at Tutye Silo over the years have been F. Sheperd, L. Walker, W. D. Boseley, A. Etherton, G. Bennett, A. Kimpton, Colin 'Boo' Beer and D. C. Chaplin. Evelyn Kimpton (Tutye Postmistress) gave long service as Weighbridge Keeper, Graham Kimpton gave several years' service in the 60s.

Some of the carting contractors over the years were Peter Peers, Jack Nalder, Murray Russell, Ray Long, Eddie Ryan, Bill Boseley, Dave Cunningham, Les Chaplin, Clarrie Jones, Jim Kelly, Jock Wills, Alan Archbold.

When an electric motor replaced the Lanz crude oil engine to drive the silo-elevator, gone was the pop-pop sound of the exhaust, which had been a part of the silo operation for many years.

With all the trials and tribulations of harvest, most growers appreciate the opportunity of a social-get –together while waiting in the queues.

In 1980 a bunker for wheat was constructed along the highway west of Cowangie. This bunker only operated for two or 3 years. Bunkers were put in at Tutye and operated until that silo and the Cowangie one close in 2001. The last officer in charge of the Tutye silo was David Jonasson. Many of the local school leavers and university students had employment at the silos during harvest.



Cowangie bunker 1980

Machinery Field Days and experimental plots

During the three years 1956-58 Machinery Field Days organised by the Tutye & District Branch of Victoria Wheat and Wool Growers Association (VWWGA) were conducted on Frank Beer and Ken Brown's properties at Tutye and Bert Kalm's at Danyo. Tillage implements mostly loaned by local farmers were demonstrated in field trials. Representatives of the various manufacturers from local dealers gave descriptions of their equipment prior to each demonstration. Local dealers were: Don Vallance - McKay and Massey-Ferguson; John Gibbs - McCormick-Deering; Bill Healy - Fordson; Bill Wilson - Shearer; Eddie Perkins - Chamberlain. Farmers tractors used to pull the machines were: John Deere, Fordson Major, Chamberlain, McCormick-Deering and Twin City.

Some smaller equipment such as three-point linkage grader blades, front blades, rabbit rippers, slashers etc. were also displayed and demonstrated at the Fields Days. Other newly released implements displayed were a Shearer 'Trashporta' hydraulic harrows and Horwood Bagshaw mower windrower. There is no record of attendances at these days, but at the VWWGA meeting of 11 April 1957 a request was made to the Tutye Ladies Club to supply luncheon and afternoon tea at K. Brown's property day estimating attendance of 200.

Although these Machinery Field Days were very small compared with present field days conducted at Horsham and Speed they were successful and created considerable interest from surrounding districts.

Experimental plots with wheat varieties and fertilisers have been conducted in the district over the years. The earliest known of were wheat variety plots on H. Hecht's property at Cowangie in the early 20s; the variety tags listing Federation and Yandella King were still hanging on the roadside fence until the 1980s.

In the 1960s fertilizer companies had trial plots on different farms in the district. ICI conducted experiments on Ken McDonald's Boinka property, John Landy Olympic long distance runner who was a research officer with ICI at the time often came to check the experiments. Another Company Nitrogen Fertilisers conducted experiments on Chaplin Bros. Tutye North and Lindner Bros. Tutye South properties; Rudi Doblin research officer organised and checked the plots. For these experiments the company supplied the fertilisers and the farmers did all the work.

In the 1980s Pivot conducted experiments on A.N. Parker and Sons and J. K. Brown and Sons farms. The farmers did the preparation of fallows, but the company sowed and harvested the crops. Also in the 1980s the Department of Agriculture had constant cropping experimental plots along the highway on Parker's property, allotment 38 Boinka.

Hanslow Cup

Soil Conservation achievements were highlighted by the Hanslow Cup Soil Conservation Awards. This competition was held every four years in the Western Mallee Soil Conservation District. The award commemorated the late Harold Hanslow who from

the 1930s till his death in 1958 dedicated his efforts the cause of soil conservation in Victoria. The judge's task in the competition was to determine the most effective effort towards soil conservation for permanent and profitable land use having regard to the erosion hazard on each competing property.

Tutye Hanslow Cup Winners

1957 M, T & R Lindner

1964 Mr J.K Brown & Mrs E.B Brown

1968 M,T & R Lindner

1983 A.J Parker & Sons



Mr Hanslow seated Mrs Mary Lindner, Tom & Robert Lindner 1957

The rabbit - problem or godsend

If one was to list the problems Mallee farmers had to face, the rabbit problem would rank foremost among them. The early lessees of Kow Plains would have found rabbits a problem in not being able to run the amount of stock because of grazing competition and this could well be the reason some did not stay very long.

George Everard in his journal *Pioneer Days* writes that in 1879 "the country was in a deplorable conditions with rabbits and dingoes. Some stations had no one but a caretaker at the Homestead. The sheep were all removed or dead slaughtered by wild dogs".

There are reports of a rabbit plague in the early days of settlement in the Cowangie district, when Vic Jonasson Snr. left after his initial start of clearing his farm, because of the rabbits. After clearing the land the main harbor problem areas for rabbits were any uncleared patches, the roads reserves and land adjoining the North and South Deserts. Most farmers found it necessary to erect wire-netting fences along roads and other timbered areas. There was a government subsidy on the cost of netting for use on property adjoining Crown Land.

Although most of the early settlers cursed the rabbit, many a rabbit meal of varied recipes found its way on to the meal table, one of the many ways of living off the land. The sale of rabbits to the local chillers and their skins to the city skin merchants meant a supplementary income to many farmers. In the early days most of the rabbits were trapped and there were some people, known as rabbit trappers, who made their living from trapping between other jobs. Some of the early trappers in the district were Dixie Carpenter, Charlie Walton, Bert Hall, Jim Cummings, Jack Graham and Herb Menzel.



Max Brereton, Jack Tyner & Jeff Dutton with Bodley's truck loaded with rabbits 1950s

Jim Cummings often told the story of when he was a young chap trapping in the Tutye area and was disappointed in his poor catch of around 25 pair; he met Jack Graham an Englishman, from Liverpool, at the collection depot neat Tutye that morning and said, "How did the trapping go Jack?", Jack's reply was, "Oh not bad I got four purr (pair) and a hurr (hare)"; he was thankful for small mercies.

Value of rabbits and rabbit skins fluctuated a lot over the years, and there were times when rabbits were worth going after and other times when there was little in them. Children often set a few traps to make a bit of pocket money. Ian Hampel told the story of how he had his catch of a few rabbits hanging in a 'screen' (a hessian cover over the rabbits strung over a rail between two trees) on the roadside just outside the Wooroa school gate awaiting collection. When the collector arrived, his teacher Bill Keane, would allow him time off from his studies to collect his payment.

When farm utility-trucks came into use around the 50s, quite a lot of spotlight shooting (using a strong spotlight and .22 rifle) was done to shoot rabbits for sale to the chillers which operated at Underbool, Cowangie and Murrayville.

Some attempt was made to eradicate rabbits in the early days, digging the burrows out, and laying poison baits, but it was not until the introduction of myxomatosis, and the rabbit ripper, that the farmers could get on top of the problem.

Rabbit control 2022

Rabbits continue to be a problem but are kept under control with regular baiting campaigns and ripping along roadsides and in reserves.

Early women of the district

Tribute must be made to the brave women who came to these harsh conditions in the early years of settlement. Many single men took up the first blocks, but there were others married with young families. The men usually came and selected their blocks and then came back later with their wives and children.

The family would arrive with a buggy and a pair of horses and a wagon carrying most of their belongings. The journey to their new homes would in most cases take several days. Some families also brought with them a milking cow and a team of bullocks. One man who did this was Mark Jones, who settled in Block 17 Bunurouk.

On arriving at the block, a cleared place was found and tents were put up to live in until material and time was available to build a house. The tents were erected if possible at the corner of the block nearest to the public bore. Some men did not bring their wives until a house was constructed. These first houses were usually made of bags, local pine or corrugated iron with earthen floors and consisted usually of not more than two rooms.

One farmer's wife, Mrs. Vic Jonasson, who arrived at Cowangie by train on 14 March 1914 with her three young children was standing waiting for her husband when another woman asked he where the bake house was. To Mrs. Jonasson's answer, "I don't know, I have only just arrived," the woman answered, "God pity you". Mrs. Jonasson like many of the other early women lived long, hard but happy lives.

The women worked hard, cooking in camp ovens, making their own bread and cooking not only for their families but for working men. Kerosene was bought in four gallon tins and these tins were cut open and used to boil the washing in. The bore water at first was used for everything (until rain water could be collected), was very hard and would not lather. The kerosene cases were used for furniture.

The women not only did the housework and cared for their children, but helped their men-folk with farm jobs such as picking stumps and stones and cutting chaff, etc.

When the Railway catchment dam at Cowangie was being excavated in 1911, Mrs Wm. Davies was living in a tent next to the bore No.11 with her son Claude, she was cooking with a camp oven for seven men working on the construction. To prevent her son Claude from straying away, she tied him up to the table leg.



Early House

Household purchasing

The towns in the early days had shops which catered for most of the needs of the settlers, but city firms often sent their catalogues to compete with local stores, or to advertise items such as furniture which was not readily procurable. Some newlyweds procured their furniture by mail, while engagement rings were sometimes selected and purchased from catalogues.

Clothing mail order firms included Grace Bros. These stores sent their catalogues and forwarded orders by rail or post

Several door-to-door salesmen selling clothes operated in the district over the years, including two Indian hawkers, the first Indian to travel the area in a horse drawn covered wagon was Bohl Ram in the 1920s, followed in the 30s and 40s by Maya Singh affectionately as “Dinny”. Mrs Fraser from Werrimull travelled for a short time by car to sell mostly women’s and children’s clothing. During the 50s Harry Meadow, a Polish migrant travelled up from Melbourne in his car to sell clothing. It was sometimes an embarrassment to go out after Harry had paid a visit to find quite a few others wearing similar purchases to yours.

Another popular salesman was Maurice Kasses a Lebanese migrant who sold from a car and later from a van. Lincot Linen of Melbourne sent a salesman Mr. Clarkson to sell in this area in the 1960s. He was replaced in 1973 by Tony Barton, who sold their products until they closed down in 1986.



Afghan Hawker

Sheep industry

Wheat farming was the main enterprise in the early years of settlement, with some grown for hay to feed horses. When it was found that yields were improved in crops of those who began introducing sheep, district farmers began stocking up. Flocks were small initially and yards and shearing were very primitive.

Blade shearing was the main method in the 1920s, but shearers began acquiring two-stands to bring along on their shearing runs in later years. Don Perry an early shearer, brought a single-stand water-cooled plant with him that did not have the portable frame as with later ones and needed a post sunk in the ground to sit the plant on. Sometimes he did the shearing in the open with the plant in the middle of the yard. He also brought secateurs with him to trim any long feet.

There was no wool presses in early years, but a bale was hung up between posts or from the shed rafters where the fleeces were placed and tramped to make a firm bale for sewing up.

As flocks became larger some farmers acquired humble shearing sheds and mechanical wool presses, but shearers continued to bring portable shearing plants on their rounds. By the 1950s shearing sheds of improved construction were erected and shearing plants were acquired. With the bigger holdings and increased sheep numbers, especially in the 1950s wool-boom years many 3 and 4-stand over-head gear sheds were erected. Earlier most of the shearers were locals, but as flock numbers grew many came from other districts.

Some of the early shearers were: Ab. Griffith, Wally Bennett, Doug Stewart, George Le Couteur, Gill Swan, George Margetts, Stan Rogers, Neil Warren, Bill McKie, Albert Evans, Jack & Clem Hogan and Charlie Marshall.



Blade Shearing in a local shed

Later ones were: Clive Mitchell, Ern Sporn, Bill & Art Thompson, Ken McDonald, Jim Cummings, Harry Purdue, Mick Wisneske, Jock Pearson, Bill Hodge, Bob Selkrig, Eric Rogers, Doug & Trevor Warren and Lin Pahl.

Shearers during the 1970s & 80s were David, Jeff & Chris Boseley, Jack Walker, Les Wyatt, John & Len Cummings, Leo Wisneske, Brian Purdue, Stewart Walker, Ken Jones, Rex Beckmann, Lindsay Menzel, Jacky Wyatt, Bob & Bill Millikin, Graham Beer, Malcom Thurlow, Malcolm Wills, Bernie and Linley Boseley, Des Willersdorf, Ashley Crane, Peter Jones, James McKee, David Jonasson and Ian Powell.

Sheep studs

Over the years there have been at least three sheep studs in the district. Mr A.W. Hendy of Cowangie had a Border Leicester stud in the 1920s. Mr E.H. (Tom) Walker had a Dorset Horn stud in the 1950s. The late Mr S. McIntosh started a successful Corriedale stud in 1928, this stud continued until the 1970s. During that time Mr McIntosh showed with success at nearby shows and judged at shows including Brisbane. This was the last sheep stud in the area.

Fat lambs

Fat lamb production had been prominent especially in early times, but in the 1980s many farmers changed to breeding merinos to running all wethers for wool.

In early times of fat lamb production, mobs were very mixed with poor wool. Dorset Horn, Border Leicester, Corriedale, Southdown and Suffolk rams were mostly used as fat-lamb sires. Weekly Sunday afternoon city bound trains ran to pick up the lambs.

Reports in the mid-30s were of six trucks holding 840 lambs leaving Cowangie. Tutye and Boinka would have similar numbers.

With the swing to wool by the 1950s the sheep trains eventually ceased and the trucking yards were removed. In the 1980s a considerable number of lambs were still sent to market at Ouyen and others nearby by road transport; quite a few on-farm sales are also made. Many of the aged wethers went to the Middle East live sheep trade. In 1988 there were few merino breeders in the district but most farmers buy replacements at nearby off-shearers sales.

In 2022 there are still several farmers who run sheep for wool and fat lambs. There are excellent sale yards at Ouyen and most lambs from the district are transported there.

SO WE ARE TOLD

TUTYE CROPS from Pinnaroo Border Times 31/3/1913 - Averages are always an interesting factors of wheat growing, more especially when the figures are on the side of success. In this connection it is interesting to quote the opinions of a settler in the parish of Tutye, whose first year's work enables him to accurately size up the possibilities of this newly opened country. Said he "considering that the land is new, the returns from the first year's cultivation are entirely satisfactory to the settlers. In fact better results could scarcely be expected under the most favourable conditions".

A few instances are given herewith in justification: Mr. Parker from about 200 acres has obtained an average of 3½ bags. Mr Mossop, to the north of the railway has taken a four bag average from an 100 acre paddock. Close to the siding Mr Margarth has gathered the golden grain from 400 acres, which has panned out between three and four bag average.

From another grower, Mr Anderson comes another satisfactory yield producing 10 to 12 bushels per acre off approximately 255 acre.

Towards Boinka, Mr Bond drilled in only, and without manure 337 acres from which he obtained 200 bags. The absence of superphosphate in this instance tells its tale.

Breakages in machinery incidental to new and rough ground naturally entered very largely into the settler's troubles.

LOOKING FOR THAT JOB as told by Ian McIntosh - Soon after getting home from school Mum would yell "Go and get the cows". So saddle up the horse or worse still walk to try and find those 'invisible' milkers who could stand so quietly the bell around their neck would not ring, and it seemed as if they could hide behind the smallest bush, until you went right around the paddock and back again. Even on the hottest day they would be in the most far away corner of the paddock, not even wanting a drink of water. I was sure our cows were crossed the camels!

Then there was the day a strange man was seen walking down the 5-chain road. As he came closer, it was clear he was a 'swaggie'- old felt hat with corks dangling down from the brim to keep the flies away. In his mouth surrounded by long whiskers was an old bent

pipe, and on the end of the crooked Mallee stick over his shoulder was a parcel (presumably containing tea and sugar) and an old black billy. To complete the picture were the old blue blankets slung in a roll on his back over the old ragged overcoat. On spotting us kids gawking at him from behind some bushes, he said "Do you think the missus could spare a few matches and some tea?" of course 'the missus' could and did, and off he went to seek his endless destination.

Others over the years on the 5-chain road would be travelling 'light', with no visible swag or means of support and periodically looking over their shoulder. It made us wonder who was chasing or following them. Another was the 'rich swaggie', he travelled on a push bike. The bike could hardly be seen, as it was almost covered with side-bags and blanket rolls etc. I still don't know how they dodged all the punctures, but those were the days before caltrop.

Some would stop and ask for a job, stay for a few days, or a week at the most. Then they would start looking at the horizon and gaze longingly into the distance, "can I have me pay boss?" and off they would go on their everlasting journey down endless roads.

A BIKE, A MAN AND DETERMINATION as told by an old resident - At the time of allocation of the first allotments in 1911, the railway line from Ouyen only came as far as Boinka, so most of those who had been allotted blocks had to walk out to inspect them.

There were few roads, only the survey cuts marking the blocks and walking was not easy. One enterprising newcomer Perc Lawrence Snr., left Boinka wheeling his bike and probably a few provisions strapped on to go the long distance to his block north of Cowangie. When Perc hadn't returned after several days, some concern was held for his safety by the people who had seen him leave Boinka. He finally returned pushing his bike and wondering what the fuss was about.

ANYTHING WENT BEFORE FIRE RESTRICTIONS as told by Tom Lindner - Very early in the scrub clearing operations, Dinny McGrath of allotment 21 Tutye, had an area of Mallee prepared for burning. Christmas Day dawned with a hot north wind blowing – perfect conditions for a good burn, Dinny thought. He probably got a good burn on his block, but the strong wind caused the fire to jump the breaks and raced through all the blocks to the south making it very difficult for the future learing of the standing Mallee with only the charred sticks remaining.

LOST IN THE DARK as told by Robert Lindner Jnr. - Most of the early settlers used 'shank's pony' to go into town to collect their week's supplies. In the early 20s Bob Lindner on allotment 3 Bunurouk and his working man Tom Dexter often took a short cut across the paddock's to Tutye, which saved them about a third of the distance had they followed the winding road. The Porters often heard them singing in the moonlight as they passed near their house. There probably wasn't a moon one night when Bob Lindner was on his

own, and he veered off course, coming to an unfamiliar fence he decided to follow it for a considerable distance and to his relief found his bearings.

Farming changes 1988 to 2022

There have been rapid changes in farming during the past 34 years particularly in the last 20 years. Most farmers have moved away from livestock and now crop continuously. The adoption of no-till techniques from 1999-2000 revolutionised farming across the Mallee. No-till cropping depends on the use of herbicides to control the weeds, and machinery that is able to sow into undisturbed soil.

Fallowing by cultivating the soil as we knew it since the days of settlement is now a thing of the past. However there are several farmers that have gained organic status, and still use traditional techniques. Dust storms that were a regular occurrence during summer months are now very rare.

Before the introduction of no-till farming the main crops grown in the district were wheat and barley, with plantings of oat for hay and rye on the hill tops and some triticale on poorer soils. Today lupins, lentils, canola, chickpeas and field peas are a common site as they are a necessary part of crop rotation.

Over the years tractors, headers and sprays have increased in power and size but the greatest changes have been brought about by the development of technology. Most farmers now engage agronomists who advise on when and what crops to sow, what rate of fertiliser to use and where and when to spray. Farming is now a business but in saying that it is still a way of life.

The size of family farms has increased as farmers retire and sell to other district farmers. In 2020-2021 a Canadian investment company purchased large parcels of land that has led to the end of some family farms and a reduction in the size of our communities.



Spraying & Preparation – Spraying at Morrison's Boinka – Gold Acre G6 36m boom 2022



*Sowing Crop at Parker's Tutye – 60ft Aus Plw
DBS Air Seeder and John Deere 9530 track tractor 2022*



Rolling Lentils with a 60ft Roller to level ground for harvesting at Parker's, Tutye 2022



Harvesting at Parker's, Tutye – John Deere Header S790 loading into 50 tonne Chaser Bin 2022



Grain Storage – Filling 250 tonne silo bag from Chaser bin at Lindner's Tutye 2022



Grain Storage – Emptying silo bag into Chaser Bin at Lindner's Tutye 2022



Grain Storage complex at Parkers Tutye 2022

Local Government

The first meeting of the Shire of Walpeup was held in Murrayville on 22 May 1912. The Shire Councillor for this area who was present at this meeting was P. Schifferdecker, other Councillors present were: W.J. Farrell, H. Pickering, J. Glen, N. Sharrock, P.J. O'Dea, W. Kruse, and F.W. Fricke as well as a representative of the Public Works Department.

Originally the Shire consisted of two ridings east and west but in May 1918 was subdivided into four ridings.

Shire Presidents who resided in the area were: Cr H. Hecht 1916-17 (Cowangie); Cr G. Boulton 1922-23 (Boinka); Cr J. Edwards 1926-27 (Boinka North); Cr V.A. Jonasson 1930-31, 1942-43 & 1950-51 (Cowangie); Cr A.G. Parker 1934-35 (Tutye); Cr J. Edwards 1938-39 (Boinka North); Cr S.D. Kinnersley 1946-47 (Boinka); Cr J.T. Lewis 1954-55 & 1962-63 (Boinka North); Cr A.N. Parker 1958-59 & 1966-67 (Tutye); Cr H.F. Heintze 1960-61 (Bunurouk); Cr J.A. Kinnersley 1974-75 (Boinka); Cr J.K. Brown 1978-79 & 1988-89 (Tutye).

In the early years transport was a problem for Councillors, who would travel by train to Ouyen and stay overnight and return the next day. Later they travelled by road, which crossed the railway line 23 times between Murrayville and Ouyen, before the present highway was built in the 1960s.

1994 saw the end of the Walpeup Shire when it was amalgamated to become part of the Mildura Rural City Council. For a three year period the Mildura Rural City Council was managed by three Commissioners. At the end of this period elections were held and nine councillors were elected to represent the whole area.

In 1994 the Murrayville and District Liaison Committee was formed to provide a direct link between the Community and the Mildura Rural City Council, Liaison Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month.



First Shire of Walpeup election 1912



*Cr Hecht & Family first Shire President
from this area 1916 - 17*



*Cr Ken Brown last Shire President
from this area 1988 - 89*

Water

Before settlement the only available water was from rock holes and soaks such as Ross's Spring. Station owners put down wells at Kow Plains, Duddo Wells, and Skeleton Well.

With the talk of closer settlement, exploratory bores were drilled, beginning with Panitya in 1908 and extending to Tutye in 1909. These bores were sunk at the instigation of the Department of Agriculture with Mr A.S. Kenyon as Engineer. In *The Argus* of 29 December 1910 the Engineer of Agriculture, Mr Kenyon said, "that great success had extended the search for underground supplies west of Kow Plains, but to the east salt layers had appeared in the bores".

In March 1912 fresh water was struck by means of a bore put down to a depth of 420 feet in the parish of Tyalla, eight miles north of Kow Plains Homestead, the water rose to within 27 feet of the surface. This discovery was significant and gratifying, as the only bore sunk north of Kow at Sunset Plains proved unsuccessful.

In July 1912 a bore was sunk to a depth of 435 feet at Bunurouk, and the water rose to within 35 feet of the surface; at this time water had been struck in 43 localities in this district and by 1915 there were 79 bores.

In the *Pinnaroo Border Times* of the 7 March 1913 a report from Kow Plains reads "Mr Johnstone another resident, had the good fortune to strike a flow of underground water similar to that obtained by Mr Dayman (block 15 Tutye), the water rose to within 13 feet of the surface".

The area covered in this book is part of the Murray Basin, a large area of sedimentary deposit. There is about 300 feet of sand and clay over about 500 feet of the limestone. The useful water is contained in the limestone and is under sufficient pressure to cause it to rise in the bore about 130 feet above sea level. In parts of the area the surface level is around 140 feet, so the water rises to near the surface. The salinity level of the water varies throughout the area, but in all cases it is suitable for farm use.

One bore of particular interest, is a true artesian bore north of Boinka where the water rises to the surface. When many farmers depended on the Water Commission bores in the early days to water their stock, difficulties were encountered through lack of wind at times to turn the mill pumps. On these occasions farmers would climb the mill and turn the wheel by hand. At the Tyalla bore a horse-whim, was rigged up to operate the pump in time of lulls in the wind.

Local drillers became active in the area during the early years of settlement and farmers put down their own bores, this allowed sheep to be run and houses soon had gardens and fruit trees. Local boring contractors were George Conlin, Bill Chatterton and Reuben Forsyth. George Lutz sunk and serviced bores and windmills in the district from 1971 to 2015, since then farmers have had to rely on contractors from further away.

Since 1993 landholders in the Pinnaroo Murrayville area have taken advantage of the availability of ground water to grow potatoes using centre pivot irrigation, this appears to have had a detrimental effect on our water quality.

In 2003 a decision was made by Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water to issue an applicant with two bore construction licences on allotments CA25 Bunurouk and 26 Tutye for the purpose of irrigation. On 14 July 2003 Tutye farmers raised concern over this proposal to the Local State Member of Parliament, Mr Russel Savage. The concerns raised were the presence of dryland salinity on the property, the salinity of water in nearby bores and the effect that irrigation may have on the environment including native flora and fauna on an adjoining reserve. Russell Savage MP tabled a petition containing 231 signatures in parliament asking for a thorough investigation into the use of ground water and a halt to further irrigation development. The case was to go VCAT before 9 December 2004 but the applicant withdrew his application.



R. Forsyth drilling a bore for water at Tutye, 1958, for irrigation

SO WE ARE TOLD

MR KENYON's TRAVEL from Pinnaroo & Border Times 21/3/1913 - Mr A.S. Kenyon, of the State Rivers and Water Commission, has just concluded a comprehensive tour of Walpeup Shire. Mr D. P. Crosby had charge of the travelling arrangement. Commencing at Ouyen, and working to the South Australian border, they took every second road running north and south, to enable them to see every block in the Shire.

Whilst camped at Kow Plains they had the misfortune to lose one of the horses. Mr Crosby tied the animal to a tree with a piece of rope, during the night a strong gale blew so strong that the hooded buggy was blown towards the horses. It is assumed that this frightened one of them, and so startled did it become that in springing aside it was thrown down, and in falling a sudden twist broke the horses neck.

The rest of the journey had to be completed with only four horses. In sixteen days 650 miles were covered. The object of this extensive travelling was to make a valuation of all the land and improvements situated in the water area. Mr Kenyon left for Melbourne on Monday."

COOLING OFF IN THE HEAT as told by Ern Jonasson - Before farmers had their own bores, those who lived a few miles from the public bores carted water in horse-drawn wagons and drays. One hot day an early settler was going along the road south of Tutye when what appeared to be a driverless water cart was observed up front. On closer inspection his curiosity was satisfied when Bert Porter's head popped out of the tank where he was having a cool-off. The water was probably meant for stock and not for household use – we hope.

Many of the early settlers who made their camps and later houses near the Government bores, which were usually located at cross-roads, could take their horses out to water them at the trough, and it was a short distance to cart any domestic water needed. But others with blocks quite some distance from the bores would have to cart most of the water for stock and domestic purposes. As they came with tanks on drays and wagons, they probably had the rest of the team of horses in tow behind to give them a drink while there to save in carting. It was time consuming operation, which could have been spent on their farming activities, but it also gave them the opportunity of meeting their neighbours at the bores.

To relieve the need to cart water, quite a few farmers sunk small catchment dams near their homes. They were mostly fairly small and would only catch and hold water after heavy downpours. The banks and depressions of these dams are still evident today, but have become silted and drifted in, and seldom if ever hold water today.

Transport and Communications

Railways

The construction of the railway from Ouyen to Cow Plains started in January 1909, and from Cow Plains to Murrayville in February 1911. The approximate cost of the whole line was £170,000 and the revenue up-to 19 June 1912 was £1,870. The rate of construction was not as rapid as anticipated; difficulties were put down to extreme heat, absence of water supply, shortage of labour and remoteness from a centre of population.

Shortly after the opening of the railway, permanent gangers were put in charge of the new track. Mr H. Tarey, who had his headquarters at Murrayville was in charge of the section from Murrayville to the Catchment Dam. The gangers house was north of where the Murrayville Bowling Club now stands. The gangers house was later moved to block 41 McKenzie Street, and is still occupied today.

Mr J. Newsome was in charge of the line from Cowangie (formerly Cow Plains) to Tutye. Due to heavy rain fall during 1912 the line required additional attention. The railway speed was limited to 20 miles per hour so that damage to the track might be avoided. The Department sent a new engine of the 'DD' type, which was the heaviest on the Victorian lines and was thought to be capable of taking the heaviest loads with ease.

In July 1912 extensive concrete work was carried out at the dam at Copi (Cowangie), a large coal ramp was erected at the end of the line which had a storage capacity of 100 tons and an up-to-date ash pit.

By the end of August 1912 passenger traffic had increased to the stage where railway authorities admitted that an extra train per week was required.

Murrayville railway Fares as at January 1914

Destination return	2nd class single	2nd class
Danyo 6 miles	8 pence	1 shilling
Kow Plains 12 miles	1 shilling 2 pence	2 shillings
Tutye 18 miles	1 shilling 10 pence	3 shillings
Boinka 25 miles	2 shillings 6 pence	4 shillings 2 pence
Manpy 30 ½ miles	3 shillings 2 pence	5 shillings 2 pence
Underbool 37 miles	3 shillings 8 pence	6 shillings 2 pence
Nyang 44 miles	4 shillings 6 pence	7 shillings 4 pence
Walpeup 49 ½ miles	5 shillings	8 shillings 4 pence
Galah 59 miles	5 shillings 10 pence	9 shillings 10 pence
Tiega 61 ½ miles	6 shillings 2 pence	10 shillings 4 pence
Ouyen 67 ½ miles	6 shillings 10 pence	11 shillings 4 pence
Murrayville to Pinnaroo is 16 ¾ miles		
Murrayville to Ouyen 67 ¾ miles		

The notice board on the platform at the Murrayville Station displayed news items from afar. During World War I news was sent to the Station Master's office and written on the noticeboard where the residents were kept up to date with the happenings of the war.

The steam passenger and goods train continued to run on week days until 1948 when it was replaced by a diesel car.

The diesel car passenger service on the Murrayville - Ouyen line ran until 1967 when it became not viable. The trains continued to play an important part of life for many years, but with the advent of cars, motorised transport and improved roads, there was a gradual move away from rail transport.

Today the trains on the line carry mainly grain and up until 2004 a large quantity of gypsum was railed from Cowangie.

Large interpretive boards with history and photos of the railway are on display at the former Murrayville Railway Station.

Freight services

On 23 January 1914, the communities were still waiting for wheat traffic connection from Pinnaroo to the border for Murrayville, and further east to rail wheat to Adelaide, the nearest sea-port. On the 8 January 1915 the two States were connected by rail which was of special significance in linking Pinnaroo with the Murrayville-Ouyen line. More work was required to be done before the line could be opened in March 1915.

During the early years of settlement the railways were the main means of travel and transport for all supplies and mail.

The railway was closed temporarily in September 2007 for the summer months. The line was reopened in April 2008 to allow 2 grain trains to transport grain but these were cancelled because of the deteriorating condition of the line. Work began on the line in September 2009 but the first grain train did not arrive in Murrayville until February 2010. Murrayville and district had completed three harvests without grain freight trains.

The line was closed again early 2018 when work began on standardising the line, though complete there had only been one train from Ouyen to Underbool on it up till July 2019, as the condition of the line was still not satisfactory.

Grain trains commenced running in August 2019 but were only able to travel at 25km per hour and cease travelling when the temperature reaches 30 degrees.

In September 2021 work began to replace sleepers and stabilise the line from Ouyen to Murrayville. This work is to be completed in 2022 and trains will be able to travel 45km per hour and there will be no heat restrictions.



Cowangie Railway Station staff c.1920



Diesel car at Cowangie c.1950s

Roads

Because of the sandy and hilly nature of much of the country, the surveyors had no easy task in locating the roads and surveying the allotments into approximately one square mile or 640 acres first class, and larger for second and third class blocks. There was no great problem on the east-west hills, but the north-south roads had to run in a ziz-zag fashion to locate them on firmer land and avoid the higher sandhills.

The surveyors realised the steel-wheeled wagons and other horse-drawn vehicles cut deeply into sandy soils, making them extremely difficult to transverse, especially in the drier months.

It is noticeable on the survey that where the country is less sandy and hilly to the west of Danyo, surveying was done on the square. Divisions between allotments were surveyed by compass east-west and north-south.

If early surveying could have been done to cater for present day large mechanical equipment that cut down the hills and form the loose hills, all the blocks could have been surveyed on the square. Even with most of the worst hills being avoided in the surveys, sandhills still gave the early settlers considerable problem when carting wheat with their steel-wheeled wagons, which cut up the roads, especially in the sandy soils.

Where clay could be found below the sandy slopes, scooping with teams of horses was done in later years. The sand was removed down to the solid clay surface and deposited in long mounds on the side of the road, where they can still be observed today. Detours were sometimes made to one side of the road where better conditions could be found to avoid sandy and stony stretches.

As Shire money became available over the years, roads gradually improved. Early contractors used horses, drays, scoops, pick and shovel, and many men to form the sandy, stony and low-lying wet patches with limestone gravel from pits on roadsides, reserves and farmers paddocks.

The workmen usually camped in tents near the bores. Quite a few farmers were employed to do sand scooping, scrub clearing and roadwork near their farms. They also did 'grubbing' on some roads to remove the trees roots left in the soil after the initial road clearing. Some of those that that did grubbing around the Tutye South area were Perce Hickmann, Albert Evans and Ted and Alf Lindner.

With the advent of cars and trucks with rubber tyres in the mid-1920s and early-1930s roads were less damaged and road making equipment changed from horses to trucks, but pick and shovel were still often used. Bill Boseley did road-making north of Cowangie and Tutye using a 30cwt, Chevrolet truck in the 1930s.

Soon after World War II, Peter Peers of Murrayville acquired many large earth-moving scrapers, graders, and bulldozers to do most of the road works in the district. The road grading is now done periodically by Council graders. Whilst we sometimes complain about the condition of our roads early settlers would have been delighted with them.

Early transport



Mr James Kelly Snr in gig



Dray for carting logs



Jim & Tereza Kelly's first car

Telephones

The Telephone exchanges of Boinka, Tutye and Cowangie opened in 1926. These three exchanges operated on a party line system with a maximum of 6 subscribers on each line.

Each subscriber would have their own Morse code signal. The telephone lines were overhead and were on irregular shaped poles. If the phones went out the first job was to check the lines to see if they were broken or crossed.

In 1975 the lines were put underground and the three exchanges were connected to the STD exchange at Cowangie. Phone calls were then able to be made at any time day or night but the personal touch had gone. The Cowangie exchange closed in 1976 and the public telephone box remained for a number of years.

Health Care

One early settler wrote that, “the remarkable thing about those days was the health of the community. Very seldom did anyone need medical attention and if it so happened that someone had to go to the Doctor they were as good as dead on arrival.”

During the first five years, there were no Bush Nurses or doctors, but there were a number of women in the area who performed the duties of midwife. A number of early residents were born at home and these homes were tents or primitive buildings. In some cases mothers-to-be went away to towns to await the arrival of their babies.

In the 1930s, a dentist Mr Farrell paid weekly visits to Tutye, Boinka, and Cowangie, who consulted in a private home in each town. Surgeon dentists, Cairns and Cook of Ouyen also visited these towns.

In the *Mallee Harvester* of 14 June 1934, Frank May & Son of Melbourne advertised that they would be visiting Tutye, Boinka and Cowangie. Mr May advertised himself as having had 20 years practical experience in sight testing and diagnosing diseases of the eye. Doctors also visited these towns and consulted in private homes in the town.

Bush Nursing in the Mallee 1914-23

On 14 July 1914 the Superintendent of the Victorian Bush Nursing Association (VBNA) presented a lecture at the Kow Plains Hall. The *Pinnaroo Border Time* reported that those present at the lecture voted: “*That a centre of the Bush Nursing Association be established at Kow Plains on the co-operative system. A payment of £1 a year for subscribers provides for the nursing of the whole family and children younger than 18 free of charge. Non-subscribers pay in full. Salary of nurse is £135 a year; this may be raised by the decision of the Council*”. The establishment of the centre was delayed because of the drought and the wheat marketing disaster of 1914-15.

On 13 March 1916 the Victorian Bush Nursing Association inaugurated its twenty-fourth centre at Cowangie, the first centre to open in the Mallee. Mr Alex Pritchard Snr.

of Danyo was elected President and honouree Secretary was Mr E. Best of Cowangie. Nurse Hunter was officially appointed at the time of inauguration, but it is thought she had practised in the district since July 1914. Nurse Hunter was farewelled on 25 August 1916 and was replaced by nurse Gallon.

It is believed that from 1916 till the cottage was built that the Bush Nurse lived and operated from Mrs Clarke's on Block 32A Parish of Tutye (east of the Cowangie Cemetery). One of the past old identities was under the impression that the Bush Nurse also had quarters at the Kow Plains Homestead (stones of this building remain to the north-east of the Homestead).

Bush Nurses were very special people. Because of their isolation from medical and hospital support their role was demanding and unique, they were called onto exercise high levels of initiative independence and often ingenuity. There was also work with school children and their parents in promoting health care and preventative medicine.

Nurses were provided with a bag of equipment and a uniform, but for practicality a riding habit and oilskins were usually worn.

From late 1913 the Bush Nurse's kit included two black leather saddle bags with VBNA stamped in letters half an inch high or a portmanteau. Packed in these were waterproof sheeting, butter cloth, absorbent cottonwool, calico, and strapping (which seem to have replaced formal leg and arm splints). There were also rubber gloves, douche, enema, catheter, bedpan, kidney dish, measure, invalid feeding equipment, Lysol and sterilising tablets, eye dropper and drops, surgical needles, scissors, thread, and forceps, a thermometer, hot water bag, tongue depressor and simple ointments and medicaments such as Vaseline, tannic and boracic acids and castor and olive oils. A medical relic of bygone days was half-pint pot of Prunier's brandy. A hypodermic syringe with morphine and strychnine tablets was added in 1913 but the brandy stayed on the list. It was occasionally used as a stimulant. A nail-brush and soft soap for cleansing, and an exercise book and temperature charts for recording case histories completed the inventory.

From 1913 novices were given rudimentary instructions at a Melbourne riding school on how to handle a horse but advanced skills in riding and driving a gig came from experience.

In 1918 the Bush Nurse attended 298 cases necessitating 865 visits; the service area included Cowangie, Danyo, Boinka, Tutye and Duddo Wells. In 1919 Nurse Ellen Rossbotham was appointed Bush Nurse, her salary was increased to £175 in 1922 in recognition of her excellent care and heavy work load. In 1922 the nurse treated 102 patients at the centre and made 393 home visits. Another Bush Nurses who worked at Cowangie was Nurse Homewood.

Unfortunately we have no information on the type of cases the Bush Nurse was called out to. We do know that babies were born at the cottage and we believe the last one to be was Irene Etherton (nee. Perkins). The Bush Nurse would have also delivered babies on

the farms. In the book *Bush Nursing in Victoria* it states that Nurses usual ten-day stay with maternity cases often meant involuntary becoming part of the family and accepting their living conditions and helping with home duties, such as milking the cows.

The Bush Nurse Cottage

A successful Euchre party was held in the Cowangie Hall on the 1 June 1917 to raise funds for the Cowangie Bush Nursing Centre. A raffle of a pig donated by D.J. Magrath and won by E.C. Clarkson was held, money went to the building fund. Mr H. Hecht who occupied the Chair explained that the Committee had decided to raise funds for a house for the nurse. Mr Dayman had given over his rights to a township allotment. The following had promised £5 each: Messers F.E Helyar, G.H.B. Harley, W. Davies, J. Williams and F.J.J. Schultz.

At a meeting of the Cowangie Bush Nursing Centre on 31 August 1917 it was moved that a two room stone cottage be erected so the nurse could live in more comfort and to afford privacy to patients.

On 31 October 1917 the following advertisement ran in the *Adelaide Advertiser*:

Tenders are invited for brick work and masonry of a limestone house, brick facings 27ft. x 12ft. inside measurement, two rooms, chimney and 4in. dividing wall of brick, three doors, two windows. Tenders closed 10 November - Bush Nursing Association Cowangie, Vic.

Several working bees were held to clear the block and cart stone.

On 9 November 1917 Messer's G.H.B. Harley, H. Hecht, F.E. Heylard, J. Williams and H. Gorham were appointed as members of the Cowangie Bush Nursing Committee. The annual meeting was held on 2 February 1918; representatives from Cowangie, Danyo, Tyalla and Bunurouk were present. The balance sheet showed some overdraught on account of the building. The Nurse had been provided with a horse, gig, harness, rug and lamps. The building of the Nurses cottage had started but were progressing slowly.

The Cowangie Bush Nurse Cottage was the first built specifically for the comfort of the Nurse and it became the rule that that all Bush Nurse Centres build or bought their own Nurses cottage. The Cowangie Bush Nurse Centre ceased operation in 1924.

From 1924-1932 hair was cut at the Bush Nurses Cottage and teas served, 1932-1936 the Baker Mr Sherit served meals. From 1936-1989 it was used as a private residence. The Bertalli family who owned and operated the Bakery from 1936-1944 lived there, the three Bertalli boys slept in a tent at the rear of the cottage. In 1998 the family of the late Dave Boseley donated the cottage and land to the Mildura Rural City Council.

The restoration of the cottage was carried out by the Kow Plains Homestead Committee of Management who now maintain it.

Restoration of the Bush Nurses Cottage

The Bush Nurses Cottage and Bakers oven was restored in 2001-2. Structures that had been added to the rear of the cottage were removed returning it to the original two rooms. Many volunteer hours went into making it how it is today, and much fun and laughter was had when it came to furnishing the cottage and getting the outhouse set up. Special thanks to Evelyn Purdue and Jean Powel for their efforts.

The cot inside the Bush Nurse Cottage was the original one from the Murrayville Hospital, a number of items including the stretcher came from the Ouyen Hospital. All other items have been donated by people from the district.

The cottage is maintained by the Kow Plains Committee of Management and the Mildura Rural City Council are responsible for mowing the grounds.



Volunteers restoring Cowangie Bush Nurse Cottage 2001



Jean Powell and Evelyn Purdue setting up outhouse at Cowangie Bush Nurse Cottage 2001

Centenary of Bush Nursing



*Bryce Pritchard - Son of Alex Pritchard 1st President of Cowangie Bush Nursing Association
Joy Brown - District Nurse Murrayville unveiling plaque 2014*



Cowangie Bush Nurse Cottage 2021

Cemeteries and lone graves

When the area was subdivided allotments were set-aside for cemeteries in Cowangie, Tutye, Boinka and Linga; the Linga cemetery did not eventuate.

There are three known lone graves in the area, these deaths occurred before the cemeteries were opened, but in two cases after the Murrayville cemetery was open, where the first internment was on 2 May 1911.

The earliest burial is thought to be that of a 9-10 year old boy who died of diphtheria. His family was travelling through the area and stayed over at the Kow Plains Homestead. His grave is in the corner of the reserve opposite the Homestead.

There is another lone grave along the highway 5 km east of Cowangie, this site was originally marked by wooden rails. It was thought that it could be that of a railway worker, who died while helping with the construction of the line in 1911-12. It was recorded in the *Pinnaroo Border Times* of 9 February 1912:

That many men working on the railway were affected by heat. It was reported that a young man named George Caterine 23 years of age succumbed to heat applexy [sic]. At 4 O'clock the deceased came into Cow Plains station in order to obtain oatmeal to put into the drinking water and within half an hour he was dead. He was buried in Melbourne. On leaving the buildings he made the remark "This weather is enough to kill a man".

An extract taken from the *Warracknabeal Herald* of Tuesday 13 February 1912 titled 'Eaten by wild dogs reads:

A tragic discovery was made at Underbool on the Murrayville - Ouyen railway line where the bones and clothes of a man were found near the railway. Circumstances pointed to the flesh of the most unfortunate man having been eaten by wild dogs. There was no clue as to the cause of death, but it was surmised that the man was a victim of the heat wave. Nothing was left to indicate the name of the unfortunate man and as far as is known his identity has not yet been established.

There are no unknown graves near Underbool and the railway there was completed, it is possible that the incident was near Cowangie where the railway was being built not Underbool, and one would think that because of the extreme heat the remains would have been buried where they were found.

Another story handed down through family members is that a boundary rider fell from his horse and was killed and was buried there.

The third known lone grave is that of Clara Ann Walters, 14 days old who died on 16 March 1914. The death was reported in the *Pinnaroo Border Times* and the following extract appeared in the *Donald Mail* of 27 March 1914.

PITILABLE INCIDENT of settler near Tutye brought the body of his child two weeks old to Murrayville for burial. He would have to pay £2/17s/0 before the site would be allowed to him. Being a poor man unable to pay this charge and unwilling to have the child buried as a pauper he took the corpse back to bury on his allotment of Mallee Land. The burial was near the family hut, beside a pine tree on allotment 2 Bunurouk. The casket was a wicker basket. It is believed that Mr. Archer farmer of allotments 18 & 19 Bunurouk read the burial service, he was prominent in the local church.

The 3 lone graves are marked with lime stone monuments and pottery plaques made by May McIntosh.

In the early days there were no hearses and Mr Thurlow of Murrayville built coffins by hand and took them to the home when a death occurred. The coffin was then transported from the home to the place of service by private means; this would have been a horse drawn vehicle at first then in later year's utility trucks. Volunteers have always dug graves at these cemeteries.

Boinka Cemetery

The first recorded minutes of the meeting of the Boinka Cemetery trust are those of the 14 July 1916. Office bearers were: Mr W.I. Moroney (Chairman); Mr T.C. Muir (Secretary/Treasurer); Mr Walton (Sexton); Mr Cunningham, Mr Jenkin, Mr Walker & Mr Kelly (Trustees).

Charges were set as follows: 10 shillings for land for a single grave 8ft. x 4ft.; 15 shillings for land 8ft. x 8ft.; £1 for grave sinking.

A subscription list was opened to obtain funds for fencing and a dance to raise money for the improvement fund was held in March 1918. The Public Health Department was asked for a grant and the Government Surveyor was asked to lay out the cemetery.

Other improvements reported are as follows:

In 1919 a working bee was held to erect a fence and permission was requested from the Forest Ranger to cut 100 posts and a request was made for pines and sugar gums to plant 28 chains.

In 1923 grave sites and pathways were marked.

During 1925 galvanised iron plate numbers were used to mark gravesites and the cemetery was enclosed with wire netting.

The cemetery was re-fenced in 1968. In recent years more tree planting has taken place, and all unmarked graves have been marked with lime stone monuments and plaques. The cemetery is well maintained.

The original register of burials at Boinka was burnt in a house fire, the following list was compiled by older residents.



*Working Bee at Boinka Cemetery September 2000
Ken McDonald, Bill Chaplin, Ray Morrison P. O'Tool*

Boinka Cemetery Register

Name of deceased	Age	Date of death
ADAMS, John Edward	85 years	12/10/1924
BOND, baby	Stillborn	24/08/1938
BRODIE, Bruce William	3 years	1/11/1917
BUNSTUN, Ethel	5 years	28/01/1921
BUNSTUN, Henry John "Harry"	94 years	25/02/2022
BURKE, Ethel May	44 years	29/10/1932
BURKE, Stanley H	1 month	3/11/1921
CANNY, Francis Patrick	30 years	18/10/1927
CHAPLIN, Verna Hazel	63 years	31/10/2003
CHAPLIN, William Glen	78 years	13/05/2017
EDWARD, John	infant	15/01/1925
ELDRIDGE, Maxwell John	3 days	6/07/1936
FULLER, Charles	74 years	6/10/1939
FULLER, Mary	62 years	17/05/1954
FULLER, Mary Jane	92 years	16/06/1959
HARROP, Lois Irene	4 hours	13/03/1916
HARVEY	stillborn	18/12/1935
HOCTOR, Jane Aloyious	73 years	28/8/1954
HOCTOR, Emily Rosetta	78 years	22/06/1956
HUGHES, Alice Maud	73 years	30/06/1935
HUNT, Desmond Phillip	5 years	29/03/1950
JENKINS, Alfred C. (d. London, Ashes)	53 years	20/10/1951
JONES, Avis Coral	4 days	15/06/1941
JONES, Charles	84 years	1/12/1940
JONES, Charles Lesley	52 years	6/02/1993
JONES, Emily Henrietta	93 years	26/06/1957
JONES, Hilda Ruby	54 years	2/02/1971

JONES, Lesley Alfred	79 years	18/02/1986
JONES, Sylvia Ruby	10 months	14/02/1939
LEWIS, Elsie Margaret	49 years	19/12/1947
LEWIS, George	77 years	10/10/1938
LEWIS, Joshua Thomas	84 years	28/11/1975
LEWIS (son of Thomas & Elsie)	infant	---
LEWIS, Leah	72 years	19/02/1938
McDONALD, Alma	89 years	12/03/2022
McDONALD, Freda May	28 years	1/09/1934
McDONALD, Jane	59 years	30/08/1923
McDONALD, Kenneth Valentine Woodman	90 years	1/05/2021
McDONALD, Murdoch	85 years	26/07/1944
McKINNON, A. "Sandy"	67 years	24/03/1954
McKINNON, Hugh	60 years	7/11/1922
McKINNON, Laurence Hugh	14½ months	9/08/1922
McKINNON, Lochlan Richard	15 years	24/06/1929
McKINNON, Margaret	61 years	11/08/1934
McKINNON, Marjorie	infant	30/03/1925
McKINNON, Nora Mabel	80 years	18/08/1971
MEGAW, Thomas	51 years	24/01/1932
MEGAW, Thomas Jnr.	14 years	29/06/1932
MORRISON, Donald J.	67 years	10/09/1994
MORRISON, Joseph James Lesley	88 years	27/06/2022
MORRISON, Lewis Beasley	46 years	4/11/1972
MORRISON, William Lance "Albi"	80 years	1/05/2012
PAXTON, Harold J.E	22 years	---
REEVES, Pearl (Ashes)	90 years	18/08/1994
WALKER, Alfred John	---	16/01/1921
WALKER, John	infant	2/01/1922
WALTON, Ann	77 years	4/07/1946

WALTON, Fred	73 years	1/10/1938
WARREN, Linda May	50 years	7/10/1958
WARREN, Neil (Ashes)	---	---
WECKERT, Florentine E	43 years	8/01/1939
WIESE, Charles Henry	69 years	4/12/1975
WIESE, Hazel Joyce	---	2/09/1984
WARREN Douglas (Ashes)	---	2001
WARREN, Neil (Ashes)	76 years	1997

Cowangie Cemetery

Minutes of the Cowangie Cemetery Trust are not available, but a letter dated 28 October 1920 from the Health Department refers to the approval of the appointment of T.K. Archer, H. J. Schultz, D. Stewart, B. Craigie and T. Fraser as Trustees.

Annual reports to the Health Department from 1922 refer to the condition of the cemetery as bad to fair. In the minutes of the Women's Section of the Victorian Farmers Union (VFU) on the 14 August 1923 reference is made to a very successful working bee. Another working bee was held on 2 July 1924 when trees were planted.

In 1968 the fences were repaired under drought relief and the cemetery was reported as being in good condition. In 1988 the Murrayville Lions Club erected a new brick entrance wall and gate. In 1996 a new fence was erected around the perimeter.

In 2001 to 2002 trees were planted along the drive way and groups of shrubs planted where graves are. The large area was almost impossible to keep tidy so rows of local trees were planted across one corner. Unnamed graves were marked with limestone head stones and pottery plaques made by May McIntosh.

In recent years a gazebo has been erected and also a garden shed. In 2018 a wall was erected with niches for the placement of ashes. A sign and information board has also been erected at the entrance.

Cowangie Cemetery Register

Name	Div. & Sec.	Block	Age	Date of death
ALLINGANE, Albert	A8	9	76 years	4/08/1963
ALLWOOD, baby	C1	29	stillborn	21/07/1965
BEER, Braidon Kyle			infant	12/04/1996
BENNETT, Daphne Precteria	C1	1D	8 months	3/06/1928
BENNETT, George T	D16	7	67 years	22/02/1968
BENNETT, Kathleen Mary	C1	1D	3 ½ months	11/03/1934
BENTLEY, Richard	C1	9	63 years	10/09/1937
BLIGHT, Irene Maud	A1	10	2 weeks, 2 days	07/1926
BOSELEY, David George	B8	25	63 years	2/07/1998
BOSELEY, Jeffery Alfred	B9	7	57 years	11/10/1994
BOSELEY, Laurine Mildred	B9	6	78 years	6/07/1985
BOSELEY, Lindley Andrew	B8	26	41 years	25/03/2010
BOSELEY, William David	B9	5	69 years	4/11/1971
BROWN, Betty Belle	D16	24	70 years	6/02/1999
BROWN, John Kennard	D16	24	83 years	12/07/2007
BROWN, Kathleen Elizabeth	D16	23	1 year, 7 mths	08/1952
CHAPLIN, Daniel Leslie	D16	14	4 days	23/01/1990
CHAPLIN, Denise	A9	27	84 years	1/04/2018
CHAPLIN, Dorothy Joan	D16	22	60 years	6/04/1993
CHAPLIN, Leslie Hugh	D16	13	68 years	12/08/1988
CHAPLIN, Rachel Elizabeth	D16	11	41 years	11/02/1934
CHAPLIN, Robert William	D16	14	50 days	1/05/1996
CHAPLIN, Valda Jean	D16	13	80 years	12/10/2003
CHAPLIN, William	D16	12	77 years	18/07/1965
CHAPLIN, William Roderick	A9	27	72 years	22/12/1996
CLARKE, George Henry	A1	7	3 months	17/02/1921
CLARKSON, Ethyl Constance	B17	3	---	1916

CONLIN, Francis James	D16	5	68 years	9/08/1978
CONLIN, Maisie Ida	D16	5	76 years	08/1995
DICKENSON, Edward	---	---	70 years	9/05/1946
DOWNIE	A8	16	infant	---
DRENDEL, Carl Rudolph	E1	13	57 years	22/05/1942
DRENDEL, Ernstein Martha	E1	12	65 years	15/09/1951
DRENDEL, Katherine May	E1	11	91 years	03/2009
DRENDEL, Theodore Rudolph	E1	11	75 years	26/09/1985
EGGLETON, Abel Thomas	A9	23	2 years, 11 mths	20/10/1983
FREE, Mrs. A.E	A8	23	74 years	10/03/1961
FREE, Ernest	A8	24	83 years	3/03/1964
FREE, Ernest J	A8	22	51 years	25/01/1960
FUSS, Cherie Dianne	A8	13	6 month	22/12/1957
GIBSON, Allen Keith	D16	21	62 years	27/03/1971
GIBSON, ELLEN May	D16	21	86 years	2/09/2000
GLANVILLE, Samuel	A15	2	76 years	15/07/1971
GRIFFITHS, Clarence Harold	D16	18	46 years	25/12/1958
GRIFFITHS, Elizabeth Jane	A1	1	37 years	12/09/1922
GRIFFITHS, Ernest George	D16	6	81 years	26/02/1987
GRIFFITHS, Jonathon William	A1	1	79 years	6/05/1990
GRIFFITHS, Robert George	A1	30	68 years	8/09/1942
GUNN, Wilhemestra Mary	C1	2	77 years	17/08/1930
HAMMOND, John Keith	A2	1	67 years	19/08/1999
HAMMOND, Robyn	A2	2	61 years	20/12/2004
HASTINGS, Arthur Kimpton	B4	2	18 years	6/06/1936
HASTINGS, Henry	B4	1	56 years	21/12/1929
HELYAR, infant	A1	13	infant	---
IRVING, Mary Ethel	D16	13	66 years	27/09/1931
JONASSON, Ernest	B9	3	94 years	1/11/2010
JONASSON, Matilda May	B9	2	92 years	14/09/1976

JONASSON, Victor Albert	B9	1	80 years	29/08/1961
JONASSON, Victor John	B8	24	80 years	06/2009
KELLY, James	B9	30	65 years	29/11/1956
KELLY, Teresa Coral	B9	29	81 years	28/04/1971
KELLY, William James	B4	30	76 years	21/07/1936
KIMBERLEY, Harriet	B17	2	87 years	6/08/1919
LAWRENCE, Percy	B9	28	88 years	7/08/1976
LAWRENCE, Percy William	B9	23	77 years	19/04/1992
LEWIS, James William	C1	30	71 years	19/09/1951
MARGETTS, Victor George	A8	2	65 years	16/03/1979
MARSHALL, Charles A	A8	6	74 years	1/03/1963
MARSHALL, Lillian Elizabeth	A8	7	93 years	7/11/1999
McDONALD, Garry Walter	E1	14	infant	9/02/1957
McDONALD, M.C. Walter (Wally)	---	---	94 years	17/02/2022
McINTOSH, Ian Bradford	A8	1	67 years	20/09/2004
McKEE, Anne Louise	A8	5	2 ½ years	19/05/1964
McKEE, Audrey	A9	13	---	12/06/2020
McKEE Diana Catherine	A9	17	67 years	5/03/2022
McKEE, Peter John	A9	17	52 years	1/11/2005
McKEE, Ronald Fredrick	A9	12	76 years	20/12/2005
McKEE, William Alexander	A9	18	55 years	31/07/1982
MENZEL, Keith	E1	15	3 weeks	---
MOOREHOUSE, Louise Joyce	---	---	2 years, 9 mths	17/02/1921
MURNANE, Kevin Michael	---	---	74 years	27/01/2006
MUSGROVE, Karen	A8	30	52 years	16/10/2015
NICHOLL, C.H.	D16	15	---	26/04/1929
PENN, Harold Walter	D16	26	49 years	23/08/1979
PERKINS, Beryl (Ashes)	---	---	---	1/12/2019
PERKINS, "Connie"	A7	14	89 years	28/08/2013

PERKINS, Edward	A7	15	86 years	14/10/2006
PERKINS, Lance (Ashes)	---	---	---	22/09/2012
PERKINS, Leslie Maurice	A8	25	25 years	22/12/1961
PERRY, Donald	B9	25	62 years	28/02/1961
PERRY, "Sim"	B9	24	82 years	5/11/1961
POWELL, Albert John	B9	22	62 years	12/08/1992
ROGERS, Arthur Stanley	A8	28	81 years	26/06/1974
ROGERS, Elsie	---	---	1 day	30/06/1923
ROGERS, Eric	A8	29	---	28/04/2008
ROGERS, Rosina May	A8	26	73 years	11/01/1967
ROGERS, William P.	A8	27	82 years	4/07/1973
ROHDE, Alberta Federal V.	A8	19	83 years	26/06/1984
ROHDE, Henry Erwin	A8	18	69 years	29/09/1954
ROSSBOTHAM, Martha	C1	6	70 years	10/03/1932
SIMS, Gertrude May	A8	12	84 years	16/08/1976
SIMS, Norman	A8	11	65 years	21/09/1962
STEPHENS, Margaret Martha	A1	7	83 years	23/09/1927
STEWART, Douglas William	D16	9	42 years	2/03/1942
STEWART, Mary Elizabeth	D16	10	74 years	30/06/1936
SUGARS, Christopher	A9	20	4 ½ months	8/06/1982
THOMPSON, Elizabeth	D16	17D	77 years	3/12/1969
THOMPSON, Fredrick Ernest	D16	17D	76 years	31/07/1958
WEDDING, Beryl	B9	17D	---	8/7/2010
WEDDING, Maxwell Alfred	B9	27	58 years	8/01/1982
WEDDING, Wayne	B9	4	20 years	27/10/1973
WHEELER, Mrs. Snr.	C1	4	---	6/08/1919
WILLS, baby	A8	21	infant	18/04/1928
WILLS, baby	A8	10	infant	29/05/1960
WILLS, Gladys Elizabeth	---	---	76 years	22/04/2000
WILLS, Harold Ray	A8	4	58 years	06/1975

WILSON, Amy Maria	---	---	83 years	15/08/1992
WILSON Gordon A.	D16	25	63 years	27/05/1974
WINTERTON, Ada Mary Jane	A8	20	86 years	3/03/1970
WINTERTON, Edward Joseph	A8	20D	77 years	27/06/1956
WINTERTON, baby	A1	9	infant	---
YETMAN, baby	A1	14	infant	---
ZERBST, Clifford	A1	11	---	23/03/1917

Tutye Cemetery

The records of the Tutye Cemetery were destroyed in a house fire in 1934. Tom Lindner and Arthur Ewins drew up the existing plan of the cemetery, but there still remain four unnamed graves and two graves of unnamed stillborn. Unsuccessful attempts have been made to obtain the names of these graves. In the early years there were a number of railway employees so it is possible that railway workers or members of their families were buried here. The first burial was in 1915 in the far southwest corner. In the early years the allocated area for the cemetery was fenced. This fence served until 1970 when a more secure fence within a smaller area around the graves was erected, thus facilitating easier maintenance. Funds from Cowangie, Boinka, Tutye Back-to was used to erect new gates. The cemetery is well maintained and a number of trees have been planted.

Tutye Cemetery Register

Name of deceased	Age	Date of death
BARRELL Clarence George	75	29/09/1961
BARRELL Emily Jane	75	21/10/1975
BARRELL, Teresa "Tress"	---	28/07/2009
BATESON, John	64	2/05/1919
BRENNAN, Bridget	60	1924
BROWN, Mathew John (Ashes)	18	12/04/1981
CROMBIE, Valma Irene (Ashes)	59	---
EWINS, Alfred	72	27/10/1931
EWINS, Charlotte	91	5/12/1958
EWINS, Eric Gordon	57	06/1966
EWINS, Charles Thomas	81	1/07/1984
EWINS, Arthur George	85	9/08/1991
EWINS, John Leslie	82	20/06/1994
HALL, Lena May	27	1917
HENDY, Roland George	16	1/11/1915
HENDY, Minnie Edith	15 days	6/03/1916
JONES baby boy	stillborn	12/1930
KENNEDY, Thomas	---	12/10/1924

LINDNER, Alfred Joseph	66	12/07/1942
LINDNER, Mary Jane McCloud	92	10/06/1979
LINDNER, Robert Joseph	84	23/04/2013
LINDNER, Robert William	47	1/04/1932
LINDNER, Theodore Christian	91	28/04/1967
LINDNER, Thomas Theodore	85	26/03/2012
McLEOD, Agnes	33	3/03/1916
PARKER, Ivy Joyce	80	29/08/1994
PARKER, Alan Nicholson	85	30/01/2001
UNKNOWN	stillborn	
UNKNOWN	C of E section possibly a child	
UNKNOWN	C of E section possibly a child	
UNKNOWN	RC section	
UNKNOWN	RC section	

There were no hearses in the early days and coffins were hand built by Mr Thurlow of Murrayville, who took them to the home when a death occurred. The coffin was then transported from the home to the funeral service then to the cemetery by private means, this would have been horse drawn vehicles at first then in later year's utility trucks. One family was taking their mother's coffin in the back of a buggy from their farm-house south of Tutye to the cemetery, as they approached a steep sand-hill the horses were hurried up so as to negotiate the rise, after cresting the hill they looked around to find the coffin had slid off the back and they had to return and collect it.

Churches and Home Missionaries

In the first years of settlement church services were held in the Kow Plains Homestead. The minister would ride his bicycle from Murrayville. Mrs Mead who lived at Tutye South on Block 51 Tutye would bring the organ in on a spring cart, this organ is now in the living room of the Homestead.

An article provided by the daughter of the first Cowangie Home Missionary J.H. Hoare and headed "Church in the Mallee" dated 10 June 1916 by Rev Norman Crawford Assistant Curate of Murrayville Anglican Church from 1915 to October 1916 describes his duties and rounds of the Mallee. He tells of how: *"a boy on his way to school would bring the Parish horse 'Ginger' to him, it would be harnessed in a jinker with a collapsible organ strapped to the tail board, the parson on the seat pith-helmed and all, and in the*

back a portmanteau containing: sheet music, vestments for Sunday service, hymn books, personal belongings etc. and also a collapsible bed that weighs 10 lbs.” Over the next days he would visit schools Duddo Wells, Cowangie North, Cowangie, Tutye and Pallarang and hold church services at Cowangie, Tutye and Pallarang.

When the first Cowangie Hall was built in 1913 it became the place for Sunday worship in Cowangie – Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran and Anglican services were held there. Services were also held at Boinka, Tutye, Tyalla and Pallarang.

Cowangie Methodist Church

Minute books of the Cowangie Methodist Church Trust 1916 to 1956 and the Methodist Cowangie Church Ladies Committee tell of the establishment of the Church.

The first meeting of the Cowangie Methodist Church Trust 1916 reads: “At a meeting of persons interested in the welfare of the Methodist Church Cowangie it was resolved to form a Trust. Those willing to become Trustees were Messer’s Dayman, Ware, Davies, Williams, Mead and Tomlinson”. Meetings were held quarterly. At the first meeting of the Cowangie Methodist Church Trust in 1916 it was also passed “that the land for the Church be paid for before proceeding with the building”. Collection books were distributed to collect funds to pay off the land and raise funds for the building. At proceeding meetings it was moved not tender for the Church building and that plans be got ready and estimates for a new building of single brick the size of the Murrayville Church.

At the June 1922 meeting of the Cowangie Methodist Church Trust Mr Le Couteur moved that a “meeting of the ladies of the church be called to try means and ways of having a Bazar to raise funds for the Trusts building”. The block of land originally owned by the church was next to the Public Hall and Trust members thought they should find a more suitable site, so that block was sold for £33. The block which the Church stands on was bought for £62/10/0 cash. On 26 April 1924 it was moved by Mr Davies that a church 45ft x 25 ft. with 14 ft. walls with a porch with two doors building to be built of pine weather board, remaining walls to be galvanised iron. Shire Engineer Mr Harris was to be asked to draw up plans & specifications.

At the meeting of the Cowangie Church Methodist Trust held on 4 October 1924 in the Missionaries tent the minutes regarding details of the building were rescinded with the exception that a Church be built. Tenders were to be called for revised plan. In June 1926 a tender for building materials by Mr Jos McConchie & Sons, Bridge Rd Richmond for £365 was accepted and Mr Else’s tender of £129 to build the Church was accepted. Mr Else also built the pews and was to be paid for work done when they were finished. In November 1926 the Cowangie Methodist Church insured for £700.

The first wedding in the Church was that of Elma Le Couteur and Arthur Cox in 1927. The Trustees of the Circuit moved that the bride be given a bible at the cost of 3 shillings.

In July 1933 a suggestion was made to erect a stone building for the Missionaries living quarters. A working bee was held to finish the Church fence as far as materials would go. A working bee was also arranged to oil the exterior of the Church.



Cowangie Methodist Church 1938

Meetings held 6 monthly from 1930 and annually after 1940 till 1945. At the August 1955 meeting it was decided to erect a Sunday School room.

The Presbyterian Church held services in the Cowangie Methodist Church from 1934. Church charges were set as: 2/6 Business Meetings; Weddings 3/0 with fees to Trust Fund; and Church Services 2/6, the later was rescinded in 1940.

On 5 April 1956 it was moved that the management and full responsibility for maintenance of both the Cowangie Methodist Church and the Murrayville Methodist Church be placed in care of the combined Church Committee, the following new Church Trustees were appointed: A.G Pritchard, W.A McKee and R.F McKee. The Murrayville Cowangie Circuit were thanked for their offer to pay out debt which was approximately £18.

In 1977 the Church became known as the Uniting Church. There was a resident Minister at Murrayville until January 1988. For some time after this the parish was serviced by the Ouyen Minister. In the 1990s Murrayville and Cowangie became part of the Border Parish, South Australia. Services were held fortnightly until 2015 then reduced to monthly because of lack of numbers.

At the 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Murrayville and Cowangie Uniting Churches it was agreed that the Committee should investigate selling the Cowangie Church. At the 2020 AGM it was agreed that the Cowangie Church be sold and that it be put in the hands of an estate agent. On hearing of the proposed sale the Kow Plains Committee of Management approached the Mildura Rural City Council and asked if it could be acquired because of its heritage significance and placed under the Community

Assets Committee of Council along with the Bush Nurse Cottage, Avenue of Honour and the Kow Plains Homestead complex.

In March 2020 the Gibson family who were concerned about the way the building was deteriorating repaired and painted it.

In May 2021 the church was again placed in the hands of an estate agent. After negotiations with the Estate Agent the sale of the Church to the Mildura Rural City Council was finalised on 22 December 2021. The Church will be maintained by the Kow Plains Committee of Management and will be included in tours of historical sites and will be available for appropriate gatherings.

Home Missionary Station Cowangie 1926 to 1935

At the 1927 April meeting of the Murrayville Circuit of the Methodist Mission it was moved that the Murrayville Circuit be divided into two Home Mission Stations: Murrayville – Mulcra and Ngallo; Cowangie – Tyallla, Pallarang and Tutye South.

Meetings were held quarterly and there was always a report on the state of the Sunday Schools the Cowangie one closed several times because of lack of pupils but the Pallarang was always reported as satisfactory.

The Home Missionary was J.H. Hoare he was provided with a horse and gig and there was a chaff scheme set up to provide chaff for the horse. A chaff house and stable was built by volunteers, 12 sheets of 8ft. iron was donated for this.

The Home Missionary appointed in August 1928 had a car and the Home Mission Station was to pay for running expenses but finding fuel was a problem. At the final meeting on 2 April 1935 farewell speeches were made by the Missionary and Circuit Stewards and the next meeting was to be arranged with the Murrayville Brethren on account of the amalgamation of the Cowangie and Murrayville Home Missions.



J Hoare Home Missionary 1926



Opening of Cowangie Church 1926



Congregation at closing service of Church 12 December 2021

Methodist Cowangie Church Ladies Committee 1922-1932

The inaugural meeting of the Methodist Cowangie Church Ladies Committee was held in the Cowangie Hall on 22 June 1922 present were: Mesdames Jacobs, Davies, Le Couteur, Craigie, Miss Pedler & Rev Walsh in the Chair. A discussion took place on ways to raise funds for the Church it was proposed that a Bazar be held. Mesdames Le Couteur, Jacobs and Davies were authorised to organise a collection so as enable committee to purchase material and begin work at once. Stalls were to be: Refreshments, Work, Jumble, Sweets and Produce. A discussion place as to whether to have a Chocolate Wheel and Hoopla but they decided to write to Trustees and ask their opinion. Bazaars were held annually and were replaced with Fetes, Jumble Fairs then Strawberry Fetes. Other fundraising events were afternoon teas, concerts and socials, these were usually held at Cowangie but an occasional social was held at Tutye South, and Tyalla. All funds went towards paying off the debt of the church and other requirements.

Other ladies that joined this group were Mesdames Williams, Zerbst, Mead, Williams, Margetts and Peck.

Ladies Guild

In the Minutes of the Methodist Cowangie Church Ladies Committee 1922-32 there is mention of the Ladies Guild being asked to help but no minute books have been located and no records are available from 1932-1960.

The first recorded meeting of the Guild was held at Cowangie Church in February 1960. Present were Mesdames Swan, Gebert, Wills, Sugars, McIntosh, A. McKee Snr. & Jnr., Pritchard, Margetts and Miss N. Hunt. Office-bearers were Mrs Beckmann (President), Mrs Gebert (Treasurer), Mrs Margetts (Secretary) and the Minister at the time was Mr Peter Swain. The annual subscription was set at four shillings.

Over the years the Guild worked to raise funds to help with maintenance of the Church and supported the Sunday School in providing teaching requisites and in later years anniversary books. Funds were raised by catering for Clearing Sales, Field Days, Weddings and Birthday parties.

Support was given to outside organisations. From 1961-1969 scarves were knitted for Leper colonies; in the 1970s boxes of clothes were sent to Southport Mission. From 1966 for a number of years an annual donation was sent to Lance and Margaret Woodward, Bible translators in New Guinea.

In 1977 the Guild decided to sponsor a child with World Vision, with money raised at their annual casserole luncheon, a function that was held until 1990. An Empty Christmas Tree service was held in recent years each December and gifts bought to place under the tree were forwarded to Mallee Family Care.

The numbers gradually dwindled and the Cowangie Guild combined with the Murrayville Guild. The Combined Guild ran the Opportunity Shop in Murrayville from 1980s – 2010, it closed due to lack of volunteers. The Guild itself has also folded.

Cowangie Methodist/ Uniting Church Sunday School

The first Sunday School roll is dated 12 April 1931. The pupils who attended that year were William Borthwick, Alf Taverner, Beryl and Phyllis Jonasson, Lyn Walton, Nelma Borthwick, Molly Barry, Edna Clay, Fay Taylor, and Doris Griffin.

The numbers fluctuated over the years from eight pupils in only one class to 30-40 divided into three classes. In 1988 there were 15 primary school children in one class and three older children who help with the younger ones. For many years an anniversary service was held in the Cowangie Hall during October, but in later years it was replaced by a children's Christmas service.



Cowangie Sunday School c.1945

Jenny Turnbull, Fay and Shirley Schultz, Valerie B---, Wendy and George Marshall, Joy and Jeanette Stewart, Brian Purdue, Noel and Dianne Turnbull, Noel B---, Keith Gibson

Cowangie Church of England Floral and Industrial Exhibition

This function was held in October 1934, 1935, and 1936 in the Cowangie Hall and may have been held in other years about this period. There was a wide range of exhibits and competitions, and exhibitors spent hours preparing for the day. Joyce Purdue remembers vividly helping her late mother Mrs Winterton prepare exhibits then bringing them by horse and gig over rough roads into Cowangie and returning home in the dark. There were a number of sections for school children, prize cards were given and in 1936 the Cowangie State School won a cup for the best floral exhibit. A bed making competition was held on the stage this was won in 1934 by Harry Purdue. A marquee was erected near the Hall from which meals were served.

Education 1913 - 1978

Map 4 – District Schools

1 Danyo	2 Gunamalary	3 Duddo Wells
4 Cowangie north	5 Pallarang	6 Kadoon
7 Cowangie	8 Tutye South	9 Tutye
10 Tyalla	11 Tutye North	12 Boinka West
13 Boinka North	14 Boinka	15 Worooa
16 Linga	17 Bunurouk	



*Typical classroom of one teacher school -
Tutye School pupils and teacher, Ted Lyons c.1950s*

Teachers in the 1920s and 1930s were hosted by local families and most did not have transport of their own and therefore were dependent on their host families to meet them at the railway station, and take them to the station for their comings and goings during the school year. Teachers were also taken to social and sporting events by their hosts, and would have been part of the family.

School desks were long ones, seating four or six, with no back rests, or lift-up lids. China ink-wells were set in holes along the front. Later desks seated two, had back rests and lift-up lids and were painted green and fitted with ink-wells.

Powdered ink was supplied by the Education Department and it was a weekly job for a couple of older boys to clean the wells and mix the powder with a measure of water to make up the ink to be bottled ready for filling the wells. There was also a roster for the children to do other duties such as watering the tree plantations and emptying the toilet pans.

There were often flower gardens at the schools which flourished on occasions depending on the teacher's enthusiasm and the seasons, as water had to be carried by watering-can from rain-water tanks. The children did the watering with the help of the teachers.

Arbor Day was a yearly event when trees, mostly sugar-gums purchased by the School Committees were planted by the pupils, occasionally with the help of some of the parents. Many of the trees did not survive due to dry seasons and lack of watering during the long summer holiday period, but some of the school sites are still marked today by a few of these remaining trees.

An occasional working bee was held to improve the school facilities.

Many of the pupils either walked, rode horses, came in gigs or were driven by their parents in gigs to school. On rainy days the children were occasionally taken to and from school by car.

Bikes came into use around the mid-1930s, but because of the sandy parts of the road the children found it necessary to detour off to the side to make 'bike tracks' winding through the trees.

School standard was to eighth grade or merit certificate standard, but some continued on for the first year of intermediate level, doing a correspondence course. All the assignments were forwarded weekly by mail and returned to the Education Department for correction, the teacher assisting when necessary.

The teachers often entered some of the pupils' school work in the local Show with success and on occasions some pupils entered in talent quests at the Cowangie Hall with plays and recitations.

There was a book-case containing a small library at each school, and a box of books arrived by rail at intervals from the Gillies Bequest Library – a Mr Gillies had left a bequest in his will to have boxes of books provided to country schools.

The children mostly participated in group games during recess with all joining in. 'Hide and Seek' (Hidie) and 'Charlie-over-the-water' (Charlie) being the more popular one. 'Charlie' was a game run between bases, with one going 'he' standing in the middle. On the word go, the group had to run the distance of about 20 meters without being 'tigged' (touched by the hand) by the one 'he'. The ones tigged joined in to try to tig the others, who raced to and fro after the word go, until all were tigged. The first one tigged went 'he' for the next game.

Religious instruction was given at the schools, mostly by the Methodist and Anglican Ministers, who came out from Murrayville. They include Rev. Gallagher who came on a motor-bike, Rev. Peck and Rev. Gray.

During the summer months, drinking water was kept cool in large cylindrical canvas water bags hanging in the front porch. Some of the teachers prepared cocoa during the winter months with milk brought in bottles by the pupils. Mice were often a problem, raiding school lunches hanging in the bags on the wall. The teacher used to set mouse traps to catch the mice, but found it distracted the children from their work as they watched the occasional one being caught.

The Department's school dentist and his nurse paid a yearly visit in the late 30s in a dental van equipped to care for any dental work the children needed. School Education Department Inspectors were also yearly visitors; Inspectors included Mr Le Couteur and Mr Bennett.

Education after the closing of the small schools

By 1941 World War II was raging and when school resumed in 1942 many of the young men had been called to the armed forces. The problem of staffing the schools had become increasingly difficult and most of the schools in the area around Murrayville had closed.

Parents began to show great concern for the education of their children; the schools that were still operating had difficulty in finding teachers.

By June 1943 an agitation for the transport of pupils to Murrayville, had grown to such an extent that a meeting of parents was held to prepare a request to the Education Department that transport be provided so all district pupils would be able to receive continuous education with fewer teachers to do the instruction. A planning committee was set up with Mr. Boettcher as President and Charles McKinley Murrayville Head Teacher as Secretary to put forward a plan for a Consolidated School. All sections of the districts communities and local Councillors V.A. Jonasson and Charlie Lackmann as well Jack Fischer of the western riding of the Walpeup Shire were active in campaigning for the establishment of a Consolidated School at Murrayville.

On 4 November 1943 the then Minister of Public Education T.T. Hollway, MLA came to Murrayville at the request of the Committee to hear the case for the establishment of a Consolidated School. The Minister agreed to the establishment of the Consolidated School. The school came into being at the commencement of the school year in 1944.

In 1944 of the 11 schools that were originally part of the Tutye and District Combined School Sports Association only four were still operating being Tutye, Boinka, Cowangie and Kadoon. Some schools had closed earlier due to lack of numbers but Bunurouk, Pallarang and Kadoon closed shortly before the opening of the Consolidated School.

School buses

In the late 1940s children who walked or rode bikes or horses to the Tutye School were delighted when Thomson's who lived along South Road Tutye South on Block 5 Bunurouk started a bus service to the school. Mrs Thomson drove the bus.

The first bus that transported children to Murrayville from this area was the Danyo bus a 1943 Lend Lease Chev owned and driven by Tal Purdue, it had cushion seats and a picnic top. The Danyo bus picked up students from Gunalalary, Bunurouk and Danyo. In 1947 Arthur Hunt started a bus run from Kadoon to Murrayville driving a Plymouth van and continued this service for many years.

Len Sugars had a small bus that went north of Cowangie to Pallarang. In 1975 when the Boinka School closed Ken and Alma McDonald operated the Boinka feeder bus which met the highway bus driven by Gil Lutz at Cowangie.

The roads were the main problem facing the bus drivers, they were in poor condition because of the lack of power graders and loaders to maintain them. Drift often covered in road and in the wet they became very dangerous, the condition of the roads caused much damage to the busses. During the 1950s and 60s Peter Peers made his earth moving equipment available to improve the poor roads, rather than have to repair the buses all the time.

In 2022 the only bus that services families east of Murrayville is owned and driven by Warren and Janine Crane it travels along the Highway to Linga and picks up 10 children.



Kadoon bus



Boinka feeder bus 1978, Heidi Lindner and Bronwyn Brown

Tutye and District Combined Schools Sports Association 1930-1950

In 1930 Tom Stevenson who was the teacher at Tutye North School, together with Tutye School teacher Andy Hancorne inaugurated the Tutye and District Combined School Sports Association (T&DCSSA), which at the time were unique in the area. Tom Stevenson recorded his early memories of the Sports:

Inter School Sports – The Tutye School teacher Andy Hancorne and I were really responsible for getting the School Sports started. We soon had the support of district teachers, parents and the general public. The first Sports meeting was held in August 1930. I was Secretary of the Association until I left the district at the end of 1932. Ern Scown was the first President, and Bob Crombie was the President for the next two years.

We arranged the competition to allow as many children as possible to participate and worked on a handicap system that hopefully gave the smaller schools an equal chance to win the trophies available. I printed the programmes on my own duplicator, and these programmes contained a few advertisements which helped defray expenses.

Glad Chapman (nee Jones) recalled that the first large sign for the Sports was painted the night before by Andy Hancorne at 'Westella' the home of E.H. Jones at Tutye, (block 13 Worooa).

Officials for the inaugural T&DCSSA Sports in 1931 were: running starters - Mr W. Davies and Mr H Walton; judges - Cr A. Parker, Mr B.B. Craigie and Mr Efferett; timekeeper - Mr E. Jones; long jump and hop step and jump - Mr G. Rainbow, Mr A. Jones and Mr. W. Chatterton; high jump - Mr R. Crombie and Mr F. Shepherd.

School Cups competed for included: Senior Cup - gift of T&DCSSA competed for by children above 9 years; Parker-Jones Cup - gift of Cr A. Parker and Mr E. Jones competed for by children under 9 years. When either of these cups had been won three times by any one school it became the property of that school.

Winners of the Senior Cup that are recorded were:

1940 Boinka
1941 Worooa
1942 Bunurouk
1943 Pallarang
1944 Cowangie
1945 Boinka and Worooa
1946 Tutye
1947 Boinka

The Records Cup was introduced in 1933 as a gift of T.A. Stevenson and was won by the school breaking the greatest number of records.

Handicapping: small schools - first five schools on scoring sheet, ten for first, six for second and two for third; large schools at rate of five, three and one.

Cups to be won by individuals were: Craigie Cup - gift of Mr B.B. Craigie for girl in a small school; John Baird Snr. Cup - for boy in a small school; Pallarang Cup - gift of Pallarang School Sports Committee for boy in a large school; Boinka Cup - gift of Boinka School Sports Committee for girl in a large school; Cooke Cup - gift of Mr G. Cooke for the boy winning the greatest number of points and Schiller Cup - a gift of Mr Schiller for the girl winning the greatest number of points.

Schools that competed in the second T&DCSSA Sports held in 1932, their colours and head teachers were: Tutye - red and white, Mr A Hancorne; Tutye North - gold, Mr T. Stevenson; Tutye South - green, Mr H. Williams; Boinka - violet, Mr W. Crowe; Boinka North - blue, Mr Flanagan; Pallarang - brown, Mr F. Hickey; Cowangie - pink, Miss R. Jackson; Kadoon - maroon, Miss V. McKenzie; Worooa - royal Blue, Miss O'Shannassy.

The children wore school colour sashes, which were pinned on just before the start of the Sports.

In 1933 Bunurouk joined the sports – their colours were green and gold.

Unfortunately no minutes are available of the T&DCSSA, but even if there were, they could not tell of the excitement of these days. From all accounts it was the event of the year for the children. The teachers and some of the parents had the children practicing for several weeks prior to the Sports. It was a real family day, with many of the families gathering for a group picnic during a lunch break. The sound system of the time was a megaphone, in 1938 the megaphone operator was W.P. Kean. The First Aid attendant in 1936-38 was Mr P. Walker.

The events were:

Boy's 100 yards 11-13 years, 13-15 years

Boy's 75 yards 9-10 years

Girl's 100 yards 13-15 years

Girl's 75 yards 9-11 years, 11-13 years

Boy's long jump 9-11 years, 11-13 years, 13-15 years

Girl's high jump 9-11 years, 11-13 years, 13-15 years

Boy's flag races 75 yards 7-9 years

Girl's flag races 75 yards 7-9 years

Boy's flag races 50 yards under 7

Girl's flag races 50 yards under 7

Girl's and boy's senior flag race

Girl's skipping race 9-11 years, 11-13 years, 13-15 years.

The T&DCSSA Sports continued until 1950 with various schools dropping out over the years, the only schools still in existence when the Tutye and District Combined School Sports Association joined the Underbool Sports Association were Cowangie, Tutye, Worooa and Boinka.

In 1933 Mr Hicks head teacher of Underbool, instigated an Inter Association Competition with winners from Tutye, Underbool, Walpeup and Ouyen sports competing. These sports were called the North West District State Schools Athletic Association. In late 1933 they were held at Underbool and in September 1936 at Murrayville. The schools competed for shields. The winning school was presented with a miniature shield.

The Tutye Sports ground once the scene of many defeats, successes and broken records has now become overgrown with Mallee vegetation.

The most awarded pupil of the T&DCSSA was Ron Beer who won 7-9 years 1935, 9-11 years 1937, 11-13 years in 38 and 13-15 years in 1941.



Pupils marching onto the oval T&DCSSA Sports



T&DCSSA President Bob Crombie and Secretary Tom Stevenson 1931



Official T&DCSSA ceremony 1934



T&DCSSA Sports Day parents, teachers and students



T&DCSSA Sports Day Cups



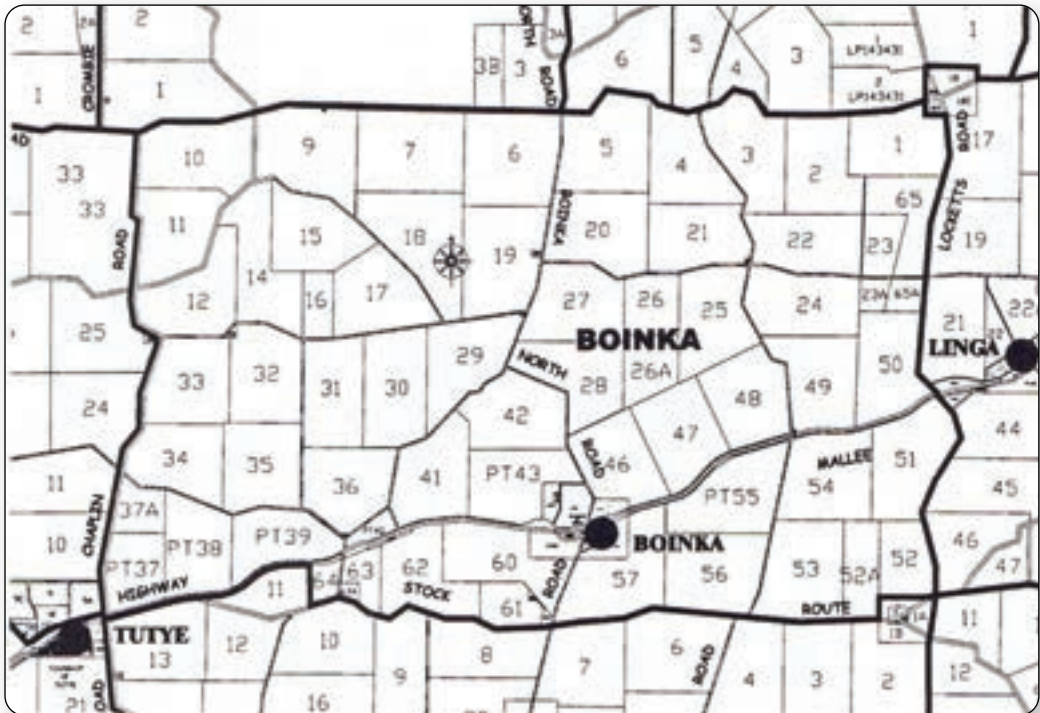
Tutye Sports Ground 1988 – Ian McIntosh, Ken Brown, Robert Lindner, Glen Chaplin, Bill Megaw, Ken McDonald, Wally McDonald, Claude Sims

SO WE ARE TOLD

DISTRACTION AT THE SCHOOL SPORTS as told by Bill McGaw - There was an interesting diversion for the children at the Sports in the mid-thirties when two men with their camels came from Linga salt lakes to make some earnings on the side by charging the children a few pence for a ride. When it was found this was distracting the children from their sporting events, the officials complained and the camel drivers left, making it a rather unprofitable venture for them.

Boinka

Parish of Boinka – County of Weeah
(flat black beetle)



The Parish of Boinka was originally in the Kow Plains Station run, therefore the following Station abbreviations are used:

D Danyo	CPE Clifton Plains East	CPW Clifton Plains West
CPA Chaves Plain A	CPB Chaves Plain B	KP Kow Plains

Boinka Farm Allotments

Station abb.	Block No.	Owners
CPE	1	A. Hutchinson; E. Southwell; R. Lockett; G. Lockett; K. Hayter
CPE	2	H. Scown; E. Jenkins; E. Southwell; R. Lockett; G. Lockett; K. Hayter
CPE	3	A. Stanislaws; Annie Lukely; Keith Hayter; Hayter Bros.; K. Hayter
CPE	4	N.R. Peter; Ted Efferett; Hayter Bros.; K. Hayter
CPE	5	A.E. Tilley; Ted Efferett; Hayter Bros.; K. Hayter
CPE	6	A. Nicholson; E. Hayter Lease; E.P. Hayter; L. Hayter
CPE	7	E. Nolan; Hayter Lease; E.P. Hayter; L. Hayter
CPE	8	J.I. Gates; J. & R. Chaplin; N. Westphalen
CPE & CPW	9	J.I. Gates; J. Grundy; R. & J. Chaplin; K.J. & J.Y. Chaplin; N. Westphalen
CPW	10	E.A. Daw; R. & J. Chaplin; K.J. Chaplin & J.Y. Chaplin; N. Westphalen
CPW	11	A. DellVedora; C.F. Layh; R. & J. Chaplin; D.G. & K.R. Chaplin; N. Westphalen
CPW	12	R. Coustley; Thos. O'Gorman; R. & J. Chaplin; K.J. & J.Y. Chaplin; N. Westphalen
CPW	13	R. Coustley; J. Chaplin; N. Westphalen
CPW	14	F. Fry; A. Carter; G. Barrell; J. Ewins; K.J. & J.Y. Chaplin; N. Westphalen
CPE & CPW	15	Jas Warren; A. Eldridge; R. Jones; J. Cummings; F.L. & A.M. Hayter
CPE	16	Timber Reserve
CPE	17	W. McKie; Win. McKenzie; J. Cummings; C. Wisneske; F.L. & A.M. Hayter
CPE	18	P. Worsley; E. Hayter; J. McKee; K. Hayter
CPE	19	Cath Jones; E. Hayter Lease; F.L. & A.H. Hayter
CPE	20	R. McBeth; E.E. Worsley; E. Hayter; L. Hayter
CPE	21	F.P. Hayter; E.P. Hayter; L. Hayter
CPE	22	R. Aitken; E.W. Bunstun; H. Bunstun; G. & M. Nichols
CPE	23	Timber Reserve; J. Cooper; D. Southwell; Crown Land
CPE	24	A.G. McKlean; A. & R. Lynch; McLean; H. Bunstun;

		G. & M. Nichols
CPE	25	J.A. Hctor; E.M. Morrison & Sons; Morrison Bros.; J.J. Morrison
CPE	26	J. Aikman; H.E. Hayter; S. Kinnersley; J. Kinnersley; F.L. & A.H. Hayter
CPE	27	J.T. Magain; H. Bunstun; G. & M. Nichols
CPE	28	A. McKinnon; Marg Holdsworth; C.A. Deckert; Wisneske's; G. & M. Nichols
CPE	29	A.I. McKenney; L. Walker; W. Megaw; J. McKee; K. Hayter
CPE	30	R. McQueen; Jas Lukey; A. Eldridge; J. Cummings; N. Kinnersley.
CPE	31	A.P. Walker; L. Wisneske; P. & P. Wisneske
CPW	32	T.G. Goodson; C. Pendlebury; J. Ewins; R. & J. Chaplin; N. Westphalen
CPW	33	F. Mossop; M. Free; L. Chaplin; K.J. & J.Y. Chaplin; N. Westphalen
CPW	34	W. McKeith; Les Chaplin; K.J. & J.Y. Chaplin; N. Westphaen
CPW & CPE	35	Alf Ewins; A.N. Parker & Sons; H.A. & K.H. Parker; H., M. & S. Parker
CPE	36	T. Megaw; W. Megaw; C.R. McDonald
KP	37A	M.E. Jones; Anderson; W.R. & E.D. Chaplin; S. Lindner
KP	37B	H., M. & S. Parker
KP	38	J.S. Ware; J. Ewins; A.N. Parker & Sons; H.A. & K.H. Parker; H., M. & S. Parker
KP & CPE	39	M. McGrath; H. Holdsworth; A.P. Walker; A.N. Parker & Sons.; H., M. & S. Parker
CPE	40	Reserve; H.A. & K.H. Parker; H., M. & S. Parker
CPE	41	T. Muir; N. Coles; W. Megaw; C. Wisneske; P. & P. Wisneske
CPE	42	E. Jenkins; J. Kinnersley; N. Kinnersley
CPE	43	M.O. Kelly; R. Long; J. Kinnersley; N. Kinnersley
CPE	44	Boinka Cemetery Reserve
CPE	45	Reserve
CPE	46	E. Canny; J. Kinnersley; N. Kinnersley
CPE	47	S. Kinnersley; J. Kinnersley
CPE	48	G. Gillon; S.M. Dunn; J. Hctor; Morrison Bros.; J.J. Morrison
CPE	49	R.J. Beasley; E.M. Morrison & Sons; Morrison Bros.; J.J. Morrison
CPE	50	J. Wisneske; M. Wisneske
CPE	51	J. Keating; Alb Walker; Mick Wisneske; Merv Wisneske; P. & P. Wisneske
CPE	52A	W.A. Ingwerson; J.J. Morrison
CPE	52B	W.A. Ingwerson; Morrison Bros.; J.J. Morrison
CPE	53	J. Dodd; Maud Cresp; L. Morrison; J.J. Morrison

CPE	54	H. J. Faulkhead; P. & L. McDonald; H. Bunstun; G. & M. Nichols
CPE	55	A. Crow; T. & E. Crow; G. & N. Crow
CPE	56	Thos. Heaney; T. & E. Crow; G. & N.C. Crow
CPE	57	H. McKinnon; T. & E. Crow
CPE	58	Boinka Township
CPE	59	Water Reserve; K.V. McDonald
CPE	60	G. Boulton; G. Rainbow; K. McDonald
CPE	61	Timber & Water Reserve; K. McDonald
CPE	62	M. McDonald; K. McDonald
CPE	63	Reserve; K. McDonald
CPE	64	Reserve; H.A. & K.H. Parker; H., M. & S. Parker

In 1911 the first of the Boinka settlers arrived and commenced rolling the dense Mallee scrub, some with bullock teams, others with horse teams drawing big steel rollers. A lot of scrub rolling was done by contract at 3 shillings & 6 pence to 4 shillings per acre. In 1912 the dry rolled scrub was burnt and preparation of the virgin land for cereal growing was commenced mainly with disc implements and an odd broadcaster. Further clearing took place that year and continued for many years.

The first harvest yielded between 2-3 bags per acre, the majority yielding 2 bags. No weighbridge existed, and all weighing was done on small platform scales one bag at a time.

In the early years some blocks were forfeited because sufficient improvements had not been made. Some properties changed hands after a few years and newcomers to the district arrived. New settlers largely appear to have stopped arriving after the late 1920s but after that the established farmers bought up blocks when available. Today there are only a few blocks that are farmed by the ancestors of early settlers.

SO WE ARE TOLD

STONE FENCE - Limestone is very prevalent throughout the district and many houses were constructed of it, but there is only one known fence. The fence which was built about 1920 and still stands today is along the highway on Allotment 43 Boinka now owned by N. Kinnersley. Mrs Bridie McPherson (nee Kelly) told the history of this fence: "The paddock along the highway was very stony and when ploughed up caused somewhat of a problem. The Mallee roots were put into heaps and burnt, but what to do with the stones, so my father and brother Fred built the stone fence, they had no experience but good heads. After the fence was built, along came a rabbit inspector Phil Gerrans from Cowangie and he said the fence would have to come down. My father was a very strong man, and no way was that fence coming down. So he laid poisoned bait on each side and that controlled the rabbits, thus the fence remained standing," and it still stands today as a reminder of an early settler who made use of what was a problem.

The fence is still standing in 2022 and has been listed on Mildura Rural City Councils Historic Overlay.



Stone fence at allotment 43 Boinka, 2022



Opening of Beasley Bore at Boinka

Boinka School 3800

Although Boinka was opened for selection in 1911 a school did not open until 14 July 1913, following representation from 13 parents led by C. Jenkins to the then District Schools Inspector, Mr Harley. The school opened in the Coffee Palace a 26ft x 14ft pine and canvas building with iron roof, leased from J.C. Calmont for £7 & 10 pence. The head teacher Robert Currie enrolled 23 pupils, but the number had increased to 34 when the school moved to the newly built Boinka Hall on 23 October 1913. The Department

of Education paid rent of £12 per annum for the use of the hall. A new school building 31ft 6in x 21ft was erected at a cost of £593, 18 shillings & 9 pence and was first occupied in April 1919.

A teacher's residence was purchased from Charlie Walton on allotment 21 block 2 in 1951. This house was used as a private residence for a number of years before being destroyed by fire. In 1979 the numbers on the roll fell dramatically and the children were obliged to attend the Murrayville Consolidated School, travelling by McDonald feeder bus to Cowangie then by the Boinka highway bus to Murrayville.

After closure of the Boinka School the school building remained on its original site. On 17 December 1981 Mr Glen Chaplin who at that time was Secretary of the Boinka School Council, received a letter from Mr Ken Wright MLC stating that: "following representations by various bodies and myself, the Regional Director of Education Mr Doug Weir has agreed to leave the primary school building at Boinka for use as a public hall, church services and general community use".

This school building is the only former one-teacher school building to remain on its original site in the district from Ouyen to Pinnaroo. The Boinka School is typical of the little rural schools which served students in isolated country areas for so long and so well.



Boinka State School



Boinka School pupils 1920



Boinka School pupils 1972

*Back row: Head Teacher-Peter Ryan, Alex McDonald, Ray Morrison, Lois McDonald,
Peter Jones, Margaret Bunstun
2nd row: Tracey Jones, Vicki Chaplin, Kathleen Campbell, Sharon Campbell, Murray Morrison*



Boinka School pupils 1967 Head Teacher, Ian Jamieson

Back - Wregg, Helen Hale, Janette McDonald, Linda McDonald, John Morrison, Ian Kinnersley

2nd row: Gary Morrison, ? Wregg, Robin Hale, Colin McDonald, ? Wregg

Front row: Diane Wregg, Ray Morrison, Peter Hale, Lois McDonald



Former Boinka School pupils at the Back to 1988

Boinka School building 1988-2022

Over the years because of the decline in population the use of the school building has diminished but it is still managed and maintained by a community committee. The building now houses memorabilia of the district, contact phone numbers are on the door for visitors who wish to view inside the building and take a trip down memory lane.

Pupils Boinka School in order of attendance

GILLON - Alex

RENFREY - Jean, Arthur

CRESP - Peter, Catherine, Nellie, Jerome, Kevin, Mary, Maudie, Ray, Eddie, Christine

HEARD - Arthur

RYAN - Ted, Vincent, Aileen, Kevin, Matthew, Honora

McKINNON - Marjorie, Jack, Jean, Margaret, Effie, Lockie, Hugh

BOULTON - Bill, Dorrie, Jack, Gladys, Keith, Lindsay, Amy, Shirley, Ted

KAY - Florence, Phyllis, Alma, Mavis, John

HENDY - Jack, Rolly, Stan, Rene, Daphne, Violet, Beatrice, Bill, Doreen, Lindsay,

Gordon, Sylvia, Bonny, Vincent, George, Ted, Frank

CLEMBOND - Jim

WATSON - Bill

HANDS - Daphne, Nellie, Lillian, Robert, Colin

BOURKE - Alma, Eric, Hazel

SCHACK - Phyllis

MILLER - Ron, Roma

HARROP - Avis

BEASLEY - Arthur

HOCTOR - Laurence, Maurice

KINNERSLEY - Tom, Mary, Jack

DUNN - Gladys, Marcus

HOLDSWORTH - Henry, Jack, George, Robert, Rose, William, Walter

KELLY - Fred, Walter, Maurice, Bridie, Leila

MEGAW - Ruby, William, Thomas, Jean, Robert, Mary

RAINBOW - Alan, Rupert, Gordon, Keith

LONG - Jessie, Pauline, Raymond, Jean

McKIE - George, Robert, Ruby

KIMPTON - Jeannie, Bell, Margaret, Britie, Bill, Tom, Cyril, Ron, Arthur, Percy, Laura

LAURENCE - Bill, Robert

QUICK - John, William, Elizabeth

PELL - Valmai, Kelvin, John, Brian

C. McDONALD - Walter, Kenneth, Doris

CAROLANE - James, Margaret, Mary

P. McDONALD - William, James, Bruce

BEASLEY - Dorothy, Norman, Joyce, James, Elizabeth, John, Laurence

HOLDSWORTH - Geoffrey, Valerie, Sheila, Kevin

CUNNINGHAM - Margaret, Shirley, George, James

CHAPMAN - Lois, Maureen, Hazel, Ron, Ian, Faye

WALTON - Reginald, Thelma, Evan, Melva

RENKIN - Roma, Harold, Jean

HAMPEL - Ian

TRANTER - Desmond, Norman, Allan, Bruce

HUGHES - Marjorie
GRAY- Elizabeth, Valerie, Margaret, Iris, Robert
POHLNER - Kenneth, Elizabeth
EFFERETT - Gladys
LEWIS - Joyce, Shirley, Tom
BELL - Norma, Shirley, Thelma
HENDY - Vera, Lorna, Audrey
WEDD - Robert, Barbara, Brian
HOCKING - Henry, Robert
SEXTON - Hilary, Margaret, Doreen
CAIN - George
ERNEST JONES - Myrtle, Maxwell, June, Raymond
BOND - Judith
HUNT - Margaret, Evan
LYNCH - David, Brendan, Rodney
WARREN - Ken, Keith, Frank, Donald, Beryl, Roy, Ray, Vera, Elvie, Jeanette, Marj,
Doris
SPARK - Walter, George
WALTON - Robert, Eunice
MORRISON - Joseph
SANDREY - Reginald, Robert
L. JONES - Charles, Lila, Kenneth, Shirley, Yvonne
J. CUMMINGS - John, Leonard, Marlene, Jeanette, Carol, Hazel
R. JONES - Herbert, Leslie, Rhonda, Shirley
McNAMARA - Joy
KELLY - Colin, Thelma, Graham
KINNERSLEY - Neil, Ian
BALL - Joyce, Kenneth, Cyril
BENNET - Alan
WILLIAMS - Glen
DENNIS - Raymond, Peter, William, Robert
MORDAUNT - Arthur, Stanley, Nancy
HOCTOR- Maurice, Terrence
BROWN - Leslie, Geoffrey
HARDING - Elizabeth, Albert
GIRI - John, Noel
RICE - Jennifer
VEGETER - Phillip
DARLOW - Shirley, Thelma, Lynda
MITCHELL - Fay, Leslie, Catherine, Denise, David
LEE - Brian, Mavis
HARMER - Leigh
LOFFELL - Stanley

K. McDONALD - Jeanette, Colin, Linda, Lois, Alexandra
HALE - Robyn, Helen, Peter, Bronwyn
R. CUMMINGS - Wayne, William, Debra
L. MORRISON - John, Gary, Wayne
BEGG - Peter, John
TRIGG- Glenda, Shirley, Lynette
WREGG - Carol, Raylene, Gregory, Julie, Diane, Wendy
D. JONES - Alan, Brian
D. MORRISON - Raymond, Murray, Barry, Anthony
CAMPBELL - David, Kathleen, Sharon
L. JONES - Peter, Tracey, Gail
J. MORRISON - Tracey, Nathan
BUNSTUN - Margaret
CHAPLIN - Vickie, Wesley, Shane, Kaylene
HAMILTON - Dale
K. JONES - Linda, Naomi, Stephanie, Adrian
STEVENSON - Craig
FTZSIMMONS - Gresham
WOOD - Danielle, Yvelle

Teachers Boinka School (records are incomplete)

CURRIE Robert, 1913
HARE Joseph, 1913
WADE Veronica, 1917
REIDY Mary, 1921
ROMERIL Louis, 1922
FURY Nellie, 1923
CARNIE Irene, 1924
SCANLON George, 1925
O'BEIRNE Margaret; BRIDI Kelly (Sewing Mistress) 1926
BYRNE. J.; McKINNON Margaret (Sewing Mistress) 1927
ROWE D.H., 1929
STEVENS Gordon, 1930
CROWE W.A., 1931
McCLEAN Ian D., 1934
MATHER Kenneth C., 1935
MATTHEWS H.J., 1937
BENNETS W., 1939
FRANKLING W.B., Jan-Nov 1940
GANNON Leo. F., Nov 1940-1942
POHLNER L.M., 1943
LESTER G.R., Jan-July 1950
BRIDGES M.L., July 1950-Sept 1953

QUINLAN Paul J., 1953
 O'BRIEN Peter, 1954
 COLCLOUGH R.J., 1958
 VAUGHAN P., 1961
 WHITE M.J., 1963
 JAMIESON Ian, 1967
 DENHOLM, R.T., 1968
 RYAN Peter, 1972
 REITHER R., 1973
 PUGH G., 1975
 WEASTIK Jan-June 1976
 STONE Wendy, July 1976- 1977
 KELLY L., 1978
 SKEWES Helen, 1979

Boinka Township

Boinka first allotment holders and date purchased

Block	Allotment No.	Owner	Date
1	6	Bank of Victoria	
1	7	N. Harcourt	21/11/1912
1	8	H.A. Steed	21/11/1912
1	9	J. Clarke	21/11/1912
1	10	H.A. Steed	19/04/1912
1	11	F. Lamond	13/11/1917
1	14	Presbyterian Trust Corporation	9/11/1921
		Public Hall	
1	22	Glen Chaplin	1971
1	23	Glen Chaplin	1971
2	1	F. Wilson & G.J. Brasier	2/07/1912
2	2	H.H. Jory	2/07/1912
2	3	J.C. Stirzaker	2/07/1912
2	4	C. Jenkin	29/07/1914
2	6	A. S. Constable	19/04/1917
2	20	C. Jenkin	13/11/1917
2	21	C. Jenkin	1921
2	22	J. Kay	2/01/1917

In the *Pinnaroo Border Times* of 5 January 1912 it was reported that:

Settlers and business people in the new district of Boinka and Worooa are putting in a lot of energy to obtain necessary facilities and ordinary conveniences for this newly opened country. A good, live Progress Committee has been formed, the

Secretary of which is Mr J. Moroney, and at present they are making a strong move to obtain better postal facilities.

On 2 July 1912, town blocks in the new town of Boinka went up for sale in Murrayville along with blocks from Murrayville and Copi (Kow Plains). The auctioneer was Mr. H.H. Whitfield; and Staff Surveyor Mr. R. Poole was on hand to complete transactions. Blocks were keenly sought after by local buyers, and there was also interest from outsiders. The prices at Boinka went a lot higher than blocks at Murrayville and Kow Plains. The average price per block at Boinka was £48.15. Some prices paid on this date were McCalmont £76, Stirzaker £45, J. Kay £57. Mr Calmont bought a further five blocks ranging in price from £41 to £46.

Block 1, Allotment 6 - For some years the Bank of Victoria operated in Boinka as an agency from Underbool and was opened for business each Thursday. A small building was erected in Boinka for this purpose; the building was typical of those used in other towns by banks.

Block 1, Allotment 7 - In 1913 Harcourt & Co. opened a grocery business. Popular personalities that operated this business in its first years operation were Mr. S. Taylor and Mr Bert Watson (Mr. Watson was killed in World War I).

Block 1, Allotment 8 - Mr. Steed operated a grocery business on this site in the 1920s. In the 1930s it was sold to Boinka resident Mr. Peter McDonald who did house building around the area. This building was later destroyed by fire.

Block 1, Allotment 9 - Mr. Jim Clarke ran a butcher's shop during the early days of settlement. Jim Clarke as well as having the butcher business was also a wheat buyer for a Mr. Dreyfus, his partner was Mr. Darcey. They conducted their wheat buying business from a tin shed down near the Boinka Railway Station.

When the butchers closed, the building was used as a residence by Mr. Frank Canny and after that by Mr. Bill Hall who worked at Steed's grocery. When Bill Hall vacated the building it remained vacant until Mr. Ted Minacle started a tinsmith business, he also did building around the district. When Ted Minacle closed his business the building was once again unoccupied until Mrs Miller took over the postal service for the township and set it up from the former butchers shop. Other owners of this allotment were Clarrie Hunt, John Rice, Ian Hayle and Blue Taylor.

The telephone exchange and postal service operated from the building on block 1 allotment 9 Boinka and in most cases a small amount of groceries were also sold. In 1975 the telephone exchange became automatic and operated from Cowangie and in 1979 a mail shed was built on land owned by Ken McDonald. The mail shed operates as a roadside delivery for the Boinka people.

Blue Taylor moved out of the shop and Mr Peter Fitzsimmons and family used it as a residence until 1985. This building was demolished in 1988.



Boinka Post Office & store 1988

Block 1, Allotment 11 - Brody's had a greengrocer's shop which is thought to have operated from this allotment. The allotment was later sold to Mr. Maurie Kelly who also ran a greengrocery business until he sold it to Mr Peter McDonald who was a builder. Neil Warren bought the shop from McDonald and moved it to his farm, allotment 29 Worroo, where he used it as a house.

Block 1, Allotment 14 - Church was held in the Boinka Hall from 1913 onwards. The Presbyterians planned to build a church and bought this block on 9 November 1921. The building did not eventuate. Sunday School was held in the hall in the early 1930s, Mr Flanagan was superintendent.

Block 2, Allotment 1 - A Coffee Palace was built by Mr. J. McCallmont and opened in 1912. This later became the Post Office and Boarding House owned by Mr F. Walton.

The first dance in the district was held in October 1912 to inaugurate the opening of the Coffee Palace. The building was sold in 1945 to Mr T. Drendel of Tutye who moved it to his farm and used it as a house.

Block 2, Allotment 2 - Purchased by H.H. Jory 2 July 1912. Mr Mullet opened a tinsmith shop on this allotment, this building was later used as a store by Mr. J. Day, then later was sold to Mrs. Anne Walton who rented it to Mr. J. Walker and son, a rabbit inspector. Later the building was rented to Mr Les Quick a storekeeper. This building was burnt down. In the 1930s it was rebuilt on the next block and operated as a general store by Mrs. Pohlner for some time.



Post Office and Boarding House, 1923, owner Mr F. Walker

Block 2, Allotment 3 - Mr. Stirton had a blacksmith shop on this allotment during the early years of settlement. Mr Murdoch McDonald operated a blacksmith business for about 6-7 years. It is thought he took over from Mr. Stirton. After Mr McDonald closed the business, Jacky Wilson rented it and carried on the blacksmith business for a short time. When Wilson closed down, McDonald's moved the shop out to their farm on allotment 62 Boinka.

In 1970 Mr. Glen Chaplin moved his house from Cowangie to Boinka and for a short time he operated a stock agency and merchandise business for Bennett and Fisher. The house was purchased by Colin McDonald.

Block 2, Allotment 6 - The Water Commission workshop was erected on this allotment and Jim Eagle also had a residence.

Block 2, Allotment 20 - Charlie Pell had a private residence here.

Block 2, Allotment 21 - Charlie Walton had a private residence on this allotment, this was later used and known as the teacher's house. After the Boinka School closed in 1979 Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Weise occupied the building. In the 1980s Robert Marshall and family owned the building and Robert drove the school bus. Subsequent owners and residents were David Anderson and family, then Mick and Jackie Parsons who added the Boinka Hall Supper Room previously the Tutye North School building to it. The final owners were a Mr. and Mrs. Gailth of Melbourne when the residence was destroyed by fire.



Boinka School building after addition of Tutye Hall Supper Room

Block2, Allotment 22 - A grocery store was operated by Mr J. Kay said to have begun in a tent.

Boinka Railway Station

The railway was fenced and the local railway station was opened in 1912. Mrs A. McKenny was installed as station mistress and officiated until October 1917. There were two station houses in early times; they were sold for removal in the late 1960s.

In 1912 Mrs. Jones operated a boarding house just outside the railway fence on the northern side about midway between the station and the old crossing

Boinka Hall

The Boinka Hall was built during 1913 by Mr Grundy of Tutye for £400. The original contract was signed by Mr. Grundy as contractor and Mr. Hampel Snr. and Mr. S. Kinnersley as Hall Committee members.

The cost of the Hall was met by an issue of debentures of £5 each and were taken up by practically every local resident for various amounts.

Mr Grundy subsequently sub-let the actual building work of the Hall to Mr Peters.

In October 1913 a big Sports Meeting, including horse races, foot running and hurdling was held to help defray expenses. An opening night was held on 26 October 1913. The Boinka School Committee minutes of 6 October 1913 recorded a motion granting a school holiday for the opening of the new Hall. On the opening night the Hall was packed and supper was served from the stage. Later a supper room was erected at the back of the Hall.

Like other hall buildings in newly settled areas the Boinka Hall became the focal points of the district for many years. It was the place for farmers' meetings, euchre parties, dances, school concerts and church services.

In 1958 the Hall Committee decided the original hall was in need of major renovations. The residents set about raising the necessary finance and approximately 100 acres of oats were sown that year by voluntary district labour on Mr O.C. Jones' property (block 41, Worrooa) and the resultant crop yielded approximately £600 worth of grain. The Victorian Government gave a grant of £430 and the committee decided to go ahead and renovate the Hall.

Early in 1960 the disused Tutye North School was purchased for £150. This was transferred bodily on a low loader loaned by Messer's W. Chaplin & Sons of Tutye and placed in position on the south of the main hall in the spot where the old supper room had been demolished. Messer's G. Bayles & Co. were contracted to make permanent and to paint the new building at a cost of £280 and this became what is now the supper room.

In 1961 Messer's G. Bayles and Co. were again contracted to remove the old weather boards from the outside of the main hall and to renew the walls with iron and at the same to line inside the main hall with masonite. This was completed at a cost of approximately £700 and in 1962 the Hall was painted inside at a cost of £40. A sum of approximately £1200, plus many hours of voluntary labour, had been spent over five years to improve the Hall.

A grand Golden Jubilee ball was held in the Boinka Hall October 1963. The Hall continued to be used regularly during the 1960s, but with the diminishing population and the improved roads the number of functions held gradually decreased. The Hall remained standing until the 1980s and was sold to Jack Parker who was employed at the Mallee Research Station Hall who transported the building to Nunga where it became a shearing shed.



Boinka Hall 1988

Victorian Wheat Growers Association Boinka Branch 1937-1955

The Boinka and Cowangie branches of the Victorian Wheat Growers Association were both formed on the same day – 18 February 1937, when four guest speakers attended meetings at both centres, among them State President Mr D.S. Anderson, Mr A. Wilson, Mr Jenkins and the Hon. A.L. Bussan MLA.

Office-bearers elected were President, I.A. Hampel; Secretary, Mr Ryan and members: J.A. Hoctor, A. Crow, E.W. Bunstun, J.A. Cresp, J. Adams, H.E. Walton, O.C. Jones, C. Jones, N.G. Warren, F.C. Jones, L.A. Jones, G.H. Hendy, A. McKinnon, C.J. Bond, C.L. Megaw, O.M. Lindner, Efferett Bros, C.A. Deckert, A.D. Aldridge, A.F. Weckert, T.J. Gould, H.A. McGain, O. Hughes, I.A. Hampel, M. Ryan, W. Holdsworth, Mrs Morrison, C. McDonald.

During the first year, three meetings were held. From one of these meetings a letter was written to the Shire requesting repairs to the South Boinka Road. The branch went into recess for seven years, reforming in 1944 with President, F.C. Jones and Secretary/Treasurer, V.R. Ryan. Request for erection of a silo at Boinka were made during 1944, 1947 and again in 1955. A request was made annually for bulk handling facilities and direct loading into trucks until 1952.

Other issues discussed during the years 1944-55 were: wheat stabilisation scheme in preference to open marketing; 5 shillings & 2 pence per bushel to be paid at country stations for a period of 10 years; higher price to be paid at country stations for a period of 10 years; support for oat pool in 1952 and that year concern was voiced that the cost of producing a bushel of wheat was 10 shillings while growers were paid only 8 shillings & 7 pence.

In 1955 it was decided to amalgamate the Boinka and Cowangie branches.

Boinka Sporting Clubs

Gun Club - The Boinka and District Gun Club was formed on 7 September 1983 with 17 members. Office-bearers were: President, Alan Lynch; Secretary, Peter Jones; Treasurer.

Shoots were held every monthly at the old Boinka School, which was the headquarters of the club. Facilities at the club included floodlights for night shooting and a hopper fed trap which was purchased in 1987.

The Boinka Gun Club was affiliated with the Australian Clay Target Association. Membership in 1988 stood at 21.

The Club disbanded on 2 May 2005.

Tennis - Like most small towns Boinka had tennis courts during the early years of settlement. The first tennis courts were located where the present day ones are, to the south of the town but later were transferred to south of the football ground which was

south of the reserve. Players in the 1920s were: Mr and Mrs O.C. Jones, Fred and Les Jones, Len Walker, Phillip Goldsmith, Murray Russell, Neil Warren, Bill Bolton, Mr and Mrs Mat Ryan.

From the first minutes of the annual meeting of the Boinka Tennis Club held on 8 October 1950, present were: W. Megaw, L. Hctor, Don Morrison, M.L. Bridge, Doris Warren, T. Warren, R. Warren, Mr & Mrs Chaplin, W. McDonald and Mrs L. Marshall. Office Bearers elected were: President, G. Cunningham; Secretary, Doris Warren; Capitan, L. Jones and Treasurer, G. Chaplin. Membership fees were to stay the same, that being 10 shillings and 7 shillings & 6 pence. At this meeting members decided to purchase material for courts. On the 23 September 1951 advice was to be sought for new courts and in 1953 the new courts were to be formed. At a meeting on the 22 July 1954 and the committee moved to leave the debt for the gypsum used on the courts and because of the financial situation G. Chaplin and Les Jones offered to loan nets. On the 26 September 1954 it was decided to buy two new nets.

There are no records of meeting held from 1957 until 1965. In 1968 Boinka had a team of six women and four men. On the 14 September 1972 an agreement was signed with the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission authorising a supply of water from the Public Bore to the courts. The courts were improved in 1974 and 1978 there was a team of six men and six women.

In 1982-83 there was a move made to establish the Boinka Tennis Courts at the school but this did not eventuate.

At a meeting held on 18 September 1984 it was moved "that due to lack of numbers available to field a team that the Boinka Club goes into recess for 12 months. On 26 September 1985, a general meeting took place, a motion was put forward "that the Boinka Tennis Club can no longer field a team and will here after cease to operate as a club or team." It was moved that the "financial assets be donated to the Boinka Gun Club and used for lighting fixtures etc. that will benefit both members of the Gun Club and those who use the Community Centre". Nets were to be retained at the Community Centre and all fixtures at the tennis courts were to remain for community use.



Boinka tennis courts and players



Past players for Boinka at tennis reunion 1950-2000
Back Row-Alex Mc Donald, Ken. Jones, Ray. Morrison, Lila. O' Meara (Jones),
K. McDonald, Olive Jones, R. Megaw
Front Row - Lois McDonald, E. Sporn, Pauline Jones (Kalms), Margaret Morrison, Dorothy Beer,
Mary Crane (Megaw), M. Megaw (Cossens), E. Lynch (Jones), Alison Rice (McKinley)

Cricket - No records are available, but cricket was played at Boinka for a number of years.



Boinka Cricket c.1950
Back S. Megaw, F. Hendy, R. Adams, T. Hendy, I. Hampel
Front. B. Quick, M. Ryan, K. Ryan, J. Caroline, J. Quick

Football – Football began to be played at Boinka during the first years of settlement, the first ground was located on the north side of allotment of 45 Reserve and later moved to the south side of the same reserve. Boinka were premiers in 1913. Just prior to the World War II the Boinka Club, due to lack of numbers, amalgamated with Linga to form the Centrals.



Boinka Football Club 1914

*Back row: Geo Boulton, C. McDonald, C. Lilley, Ivan Hampel, A. Renfrey,
2nd row: Billie Love, Dan Ryan, Ossie Young, Storry Taylor, Mullet, Walter Kelly
3rd row: Bert Watson, Geo Gillion, Matt Ryan, Jack Adams, Harry Matthews
Front row: Stokes, Jack Boulton (about 5years old), Billie Brodie*

Boinka North School No. 4276

The Boinka North School opened on 30 May 1926 in a timber building 21ft x 8ft on 4-5 acres of lot 19, parish of Boinka. A school at Boinka North had been requested by Mr H.W. Kimpton in 1924. The first teacher was Marjorie Cunningham and there were 13 pupils when the school opened. Ms Cunningham and the seven teachers that followed her until 1930 all boarded at Kimpton's.

The Boinka North School school closed on 31 October 1940 due to lack of numbers. For several months before the school closed, Mrs Pohlner, the teacher at the time conveyed children to Tutye North School by horse and gig. The Boinka North school building was transferred to Robinvale.

Pupils Boinka North School in order of attendance

BUNSTUN - Lois
DUNSTAN - Jack
GATES - Betty, Valmai
JONES - Brigit, Ron
BRIGHT - Ron
KIMPTON - Arthur, Perc, Lorna
LEWIS - Ern, Tom, Joyce, Shirley
LEWIS - Ray, Jessie
LINDNER - Charlie, Maureen, Ray
EFFERETT - Gladys, George
HAYTER - Eric
McKIE - James, Robert, Ruby
POHLNER - Elizabeth
POWELL - Gilbert, Phyllis, Dorothy
SCHURR - Reg, Doreen, Stewart, Nellie, Wally
WALKER - Len, Lily, Doris
WORSLEY - Bert, Ernest, June, Eileen

Teachers Boinka North School

CUNNINGHAM Marjorie, 1926
RYAN John, November 1926
NICHOLS Trevor, 1927
KEMP John F., 1928
MILLET-BRANDEN R., 1928
BOUCHER Reg, 1929
RODDA Adrian, 1929
GRIFFITHS R., 1930
FLANNAGAN Sydney, 1930-35
MITHEN Len, 1935-36
MURPHY Reg J., 1937
POHLNER Free, 1938-40



*Boinka North pupils: Back Row - Ron Jones, Gilbert Powell
Middle Row: Ern Worsley Len Walker, George Efferett, Arthur Kimpton Phyllis Powell
Front Row: Alf Walker, Dorothy Powel, Lill Walker, Perc Kimpton*



*Camels used for wheat carting from Boinka North. Children from
Boinka North School would ride on them when empty*



Boinka North School site 1988

Boinka West School No. 3964

The Boinka West School was built by local working bees using materials supplied by the Department of Education. The unlined building, which had two windows, was 15ft x 20ft and had an open fire place in the centre with a mantel piece on which stood a clock. The school was situated on the south-east corner of block 12, Parish of Boinka, owned by Mr Tom O’Gorman, 3 miles north-west of the 46 mile post on the Ouyen Road. The school opened in 1917 and closed in December 1921 due to falling attendance and difficulty in obtaining board for the teacher.

The first teacher was Miss C. Caudius for two weeks then Miss Block for one week, Miss Mary O’Gorman till early 1921 and Miss Thom until the school closed at end of 1921.



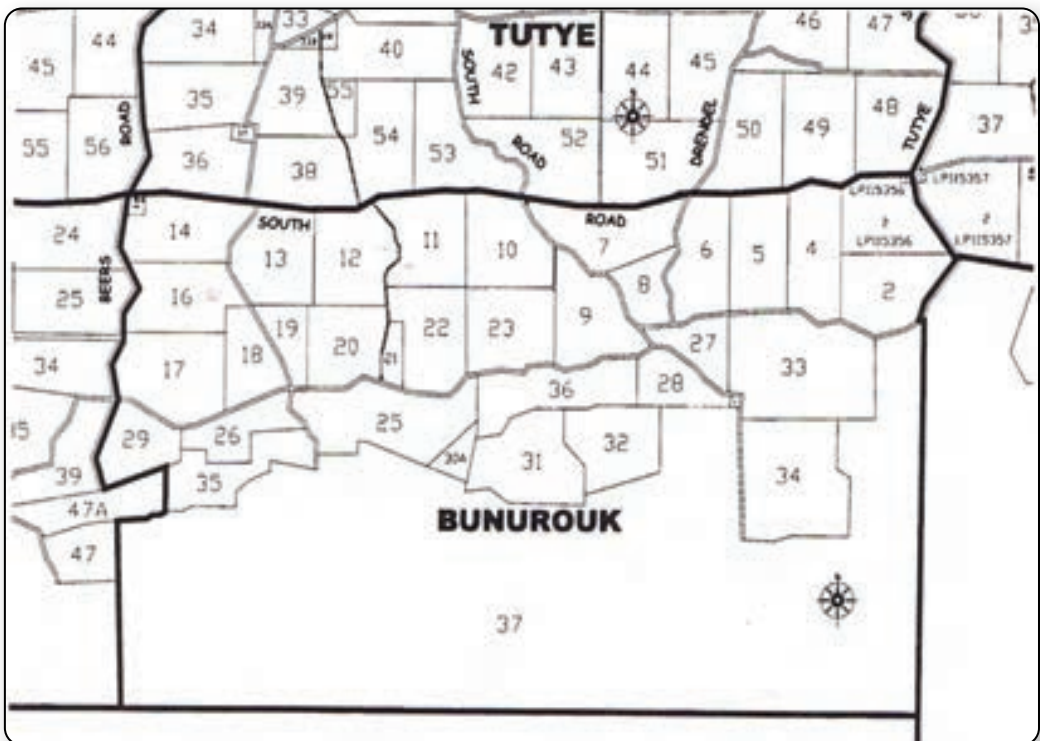
Boinka West School site 1988 Tress Barrell nee Ewins

Boinka West School pupils

BALL - Melville, Ken, Vincent, Eva, Mona
BOTHERAS - Stanley
COGLIN – Doris
EWINS - Arthur, Eric, Jack
GATES - Stan, Julia, Mervyn, Daphne
GOODSON - Jean, Ida
GRUNDY - Arthur
McKIE - Bob, George, Ruby
O’GORMAN - Frank, Alice, Dorothy
SEDGMAN - Claude

Bunurouk

Parish of Bunurouk – County of Weeah
(Bunurouk – *Eucalyptus dumosa*)



Bunurouk Farm Allotments

Station abb.	Block No.	Owners
CPA	1	Skeleton Well; Roger Wakeham; M. Heintze
CPA	2	T. Walters; T.C. Lindner; T. & R. Lindner; S.G. Lindner
KP	3	W. J. Amor; R.W. Lindner; T. & R. Lindner; S.G. Lindner
KP & CPA	4	T. Hearne; R.W. Lindner; T. & R. Lindner; S.G. Lindner
KP & CPA	5	H. R. Mossop; H. Thomson; A.A. McKee & Sons; P. McKee; K. James
KP & CPA	6	T.C. Lindner; C.M. Lindner; H.R. Thomson; A. A. McKee & Sons; P. McKee; K. James
KP & CPA	7	T. Walker; E.A. Walker; M. Heintze
CPA	8	Reserve; E.A. Walker; M. Heintze
CPA	9	W.J. Davies; W.C. Davies; M. Heintze
KP & CPA	10	M. O'Donnell; M. Jonasson; E. & V. Jonasson; D. & E. Jonasson; D. Jonasson
KP & CPB	11	Wm Lane; E.L. Hunt; B.B. Etherton
CPB	12	Arthur Brown; B. Etherton
CPB	13	T. H. Weckert; S.F. John; A. Pritchard; B. Pritchard; B. Etherton
CPB	14	A. Rewell; A.W. Etherton; B. Etherton
CPB	15	Reserve ; Hall & School site
CPB	16	T.C. Clarkson; L. Perkins; R.G. McKee
CPB	17	Mark Jones; F. Jones; M. Heintze
CPB	18	T. K. Archer; L. Perkins; R. McKee; R.G. McKee
CPB	19	T.K. Archer; L. Perkins; R. McKee; R.G. McKee
CPB	20	A.W. Beer; K.V. John; L. Perkins; R.G. McKee
CPB	21	A.W. Beer; K.V. John; L. Perkins; R.G. McKee
CPB	22	J.T. Hunt; L. Perkins; R.G. McKee
CPB & CPA	23	Thos Boyle; L.A. Beer; M. Heintze
CPB	24	Reserve
CPB	25	C.O. Perkins; L. Perkins; Perkins Agriculture
CPB	26	C.O. Perkins; L. Perkins; Perkins Agriculture
CPB	27	L.A. Walker; M. Heintze
CPB	28	E.A. Walker; M. Heintze
CPB	29	A.E. Beer; R.E. Beer; B. & C. Beer; Excel Farms
CPB	30	S. Monk; L. Perkins; Perkins Agriculture
CPA	31	N.G. Sim; M. Heintze
CPA	32	E.A.J. Davies; C. Davies; M. Heintze
CPA	33	H.C. Thomson; A.A. McKee & Sons; P. McKee; K. James
CPA	36	M. Heintze

Bunurouk School No. 3832

The Bunurouk School opened on 25 May 1914, the first child to be enrolled was Allan Rewell who lived with his family on a rise only half a mile or so east of the school. The weatherboard school was situated amongst Mallee trees in a reserve close to the Bunurouk bore, where horses were watered at midday on hot days, and pupils took dips in the tank to cool off.

Other children enrolled on that historic day were the Emerys – Pearl, Melvill, Colac and Eileen. Next day, Alice and Leo Fraser, Gertie Schultz and Hazel Fry were enrolled.

The last enrolment was on the 24 July 1942 when Graham Walker was enrolled, altogether there were 126 admissions.

The original school building was built with money raised by local farmers. According to an ex-pupil, Mrs Gertie Schultz, it was “an oven in summer and an icebox in winter”. During WWI, many fundraising functions were held in the Bunurouk School building including: euchre parties, dances and an occasional fete. A tarpaulin used to be erected out the back, where the ladies prepared supper, and the copper was boiled for making tea or coffee.

In the early years, the Church of England Minister, Rev. Walters of Murrayville used to visit the school regularly to conduct church services, riding a horse to and from Bunurouk. Another regular visitor was the District Nurse, from Cowangie. She gave advice on how to utilise whatever was available to treat calamities, such as snake bite, broken limbs or drowning, as well as helping and advising mothers on child-care and being on hand to deliver babies.

The first Committee members of Bunurouk School were: Messer’s Rewell (Chairman), Clarkson, Hendy, Emery, Schultz and Mesdames Rewell and Emery.

In 1929, a new modern school was erected by the Education Department only a short distance from where the original was located, Miss Bellingham being the teacher at that time. The old building was shifted to Danyo, and was used as a hall for a number of years.

Children travelled to and from school by foot; by horse-drawn conveyances, such as gigs, buggies or carts; some rode ponies; a few even rode bicycles over the sand hills and unmade roads.

For weeks prior to the annual Tutye and District Combined School Sports, on Sunday afternoons, parents and children would meet at the school for training sessions, Mr Bert Beer being the trainer-in-chief.

At the end of each year, a Christmas Tree and concert was held, an event eagerly anticipated and rehearsed for weeks before by the children. After the concert was over and Father Christmas had handed out gifts, the floor was cleared and dancing was enjoyed to the accordion music, supplied by locals like Mr Edgar Johns and Mr Oscar Reigner.

Throughout the history of Bunurouk School teachers coped alone with pupils from Grade 1 to Grade 8, as well as all kind of problems, such as toothache, bleeding noses in the heat of summer, coughs and cold in winter, complaints from parents and other difficulties as well as walking to and from school each day from neighboring farms, where they were boarded. Most of them were young and the majority were females.

Mrs "Bill" Harley was the last teacher when the school closed in 1943 and the children were transferred by bus to and from Murrayville Consolidated School which opened in February 1944.

Committee members at the time of closure in 1943 were: Messer's E. Schultz, E. Harley, A.W. Etherton, C. Perkins and D. Etherton. The building was shifted to a site on Consolidated School grounds at Murrayville, and used for woodwork lessons for a number of years.

To signify the site of the Bunurouk School and the 29 years of the schools existence, all that remains are two or three gum trees, planted on Arbor Days many years ago, and a few stones arranged for garden borders. However, most ex-pupils have many happy memories of the days spent there, and many friendships formed during those days have endured to this day.

Pupils Bunurouk School in order of attendance

REWELL - Allan 1914

EMERY - Pearl, Melvill, Colac, Eileen 1914 & Lynda

FRASER - Alice, Leo 1914

SCHULTZ - Gertie 1914

FRY - Hazel 1914

WECKERT - Gladysn 1915

CLARKSON - Claude, Ida 1915

SCHULTZ - Bert, Erwin 1915

FULLER - Olive, Sydney, Joseph 1915

WINTERTON - Margaret (Madge), Joyce

HEYLAR - Ron, Ethel, Laurence, Christina

FRY - Alan, Arthur

REWELL - Lola

JONES - Len, Bruce, Beryl, Ron, Allan

TOMLISON - Mavis, Wesley

WECKERT - Percy

HENDY - Bill

YETMAN - Bonnie

CORNELL - Joan, Violet

JONES - Bill, Harold, Ciceley, Mary

COOK - Ada, Ronald, Laurence

BROWN - Keith, Betty, Fred

JOHNS - Emil, Beryl, Marie, Phil, Leila, Ron
McLEAN - Eileen, Nancy, Jack
PERKINS - Hazel, Vernon, Madge, Russell
CASEY - Frank, Chris
ETHERTON - Jock, Oswald, Margaret, Jean, Donald
HUNT - Eileen
PERKINS - Eddie, Lance, Joan, Eunice, Leslie
HARLEY - Lindsay, Joan, Grace, Dorothy, Roy
ETHERTON - Dorothy, Coral, Laura, Brian
SCHULTZ - Shirley, Fay
WALKER - Graham

Children who attended Bunurouk School for a short period

ELLIOT - William
JONES - George
KINNERSLEY - Nancy
MARTIN - Vivian
PITT - Keith
WILSON - Ureta
WELSH - Lyla
WILLIAMS - Hilda

Teachers Bunurouk School

Misses O'Brien, Galloway, Brewer, Turpy, McMaster, Fox, Bellingham, Lindner, Morris, Hayes, Messers Campbell, Drake, Murphy, Astbury and Mr Bill Harley.



Bunurouk School and pupils 1938



Eddie & Lance Perkins



Bunurouk School concert 1930s

Jean Etherton, Dorothy Harley, Frank Beer, Carol Etherton, Margaret Etherton (Queen), Ron Johns, Leila Johns, Joan Perkins, Joan Harley, Roy Harley

Second Bunurouk School site 1988 Irene Etherton nee Perkins

Cowangie

Cowangie School No. 3829

The first pupil at Cowangie State School was Arthur Dayman who was enrolled on 28 January 1914 in the local hall. The school house opened on 11 June 1921. Laura and Marjory Jonasson received certificates for attendance, not missing a day.

School concerts including a "Maypole" were held in the hall at the end of the school year, when certificates were presented. Sports events were practiced for months before the Tutye and District Combined School Sports. Arbor Day was held each year. A gum tree planted by teacher Miss Till still stands in the school grounds in 2022.

The first head teacher was James Johnston. Other teachers were Miss Cuff, Miss Brewer, Miss Hogan, Miss Lutge, Miss Lillis, Miss Tonkin, Miss Till, Mr D. O'Brian, M D. Prentice, Mr D. Hackett, Mr J. Heffernan, Mr F. Cook, Miss R. Jackson (Kelly), Mr Les Harmer. Mrs Morrison taught during the war years. Last pupils transferred to Murrayville Consolidated School in March 1952. A total of 300 pupils attended Cowangie School.

Pupils Cowangie School (alphabetical order)

ALDAY- Mary
ALLAN - John
BAIRD - June
BEAUMONT - Ruth
BEDDELL - Dorothy, Jack
BELL - Edna, Catherine, Jean
BENNETT - Ivy, Joyce, Martha, Valerie, Helen, Audrey, Wilma, Robert, Noelle
BERTALLI - Kenneth
BIGHAM - Colin, Ray, Loris
BLIGHT - Arthur, Walter
BORTHWICK - Nelma, William
BOSCHERT - Beverly
BOSTON - Alfreda, Eric
BOWERY - George, Mirium, William
BREHAUT - Ronald
BROWN - Mavis, Isabel
BURTON - Charles, James, Edward, Jean
CHAPPEL - Eric, Ronald, Lois
CHATTERTON - Rebecca, Constance, Norman, Gordon
CLARK - Hazel, Elsie
CLARKSON - Violet
CLAY - Walter, Ada, Edna, John
COOK - Audrey

COOPER - Merle, Dorothy, Leslie
COX - Marion
CRAIGIE - Glen, Beth
CROUCH - Barbara
DALTON - Rosina, Elsie, Laura, Lily, Ethel, Laura, Lilian, Edith
DAVIES - Claude, George
DAYMAN - Arthur
DELLAR - Ralph
DEXTER - Ernest, Kevin
DITTON - Wilma
DOOLEY - Thomas, Mary
DOUGLAS - Walter, Joyce, James, Neil, Ruth, Doris
DREHNAN - Lorna
DUNCAN - Arthur
EAGLE - Nellma, Francis
ELSE - Dorothy
ERMEL - Dorothy
FORRESTER - Jean
GATES - Eliz, Valami, Lorna, Robert
GEORGE - Jessie
GERRANS - Philip
GIBSON - Keith
GOOD - Brian
GORHAM - Ray, Allan, Keith
GOULD - John, Raymond
GRIFFIN - Dorothy, Freda, Brenda
GRIFFITHS - May, Amy, Jonathon, Phyllis, Clarence
HARLEY - Sylvia, Dulcie
HARVEY - John
HASTINGS
HAYES - Eva, John, Leonard, Kevin
HECHT - Kenneth
HEINTZE - Ruth, Colin
HETHERINGTON - Mary
HILL - Albert, Kenneth
IRVING - Charlotte, Mabel
JACKSON - Arthur
JOHNSTON - Trevor
JONASSON - Marjorie, Laura, Eva, Noreen, Ernest, Beryl, Phyllis Victor
JONES - Beryl, Leonard, Bruce
KELLY - James, Ethel, Eric, Walter, Norman, Coral, Audrey, Ross, Wendy, Pamela, James
KERR - John
KIN - David, Clive, Graham

LE COUTER - Agnes, Leslie, Stuart
LENNON - Edward,
LEWIS - Charles, Lavinia
MANGAN - Thomas, Jennie
MASKELL - Fred, Norman
MATHIESON - Annie
McLEAN - Geoffrey
McNIVEN - Robyn
MEAGHER - Bernard, Patricia, Kathleen
MENZEL - Beryl, Kevin
MONK - Eileen, Christopher, Margaret
MOORHOUSE - Dorothy, Gertrude, Henry, Ellen
MORTON - Valerie, Neville
MURPHY - Mavis, Dorothy, Dennis
NALDER - George
NATTRASS - Betty, Jane, Ruth, Hilda, Dorothy
O'DONNELL - Michael, Rebecca
O'GORMAN - Alice, Dorothy
OLVER - Ella, Fredrick, John, Neil, Howard
OSBORNE - John
PEDLER - Donald
PERKINS - Joan, Anne
PERRY - James, Phyllis, Roderick, Eileen, Thelma, Gollan, John
POLKINGHOUSE - Howard, Lois
PURDUE - Cedric, Ruby, Brian
RANDLE - Ina
READ - Sonja
RICHARDSON - Elizabeth
ROBERTS - Reinhold, Elma, William
ROFFEY - Vera
ROSS - Gordon
RUBY - Leslie, Olive, Stanley
SCHADE - Peter, William
SCHULTZ - Erwin
SCOWN - Noelle, John, Alan
SEDDON - Alan
SHEPHERD
SHERRIT - Robert
SMITH - "
STEWART - Walter, Robert, John, Jeanette
SUGARS - Beverly, Fay, Kevin
TAVENER - Alfred, John
TAYLOR - Fay, Helena

TILL - Jessie
TORODE - Margaret
TOSH - John
TURNBULL - Jennifer, Colin, Dianne
WALKER - Nellie, Stanley, William, Edwin
WALSH - Rose, Eileen, Stasia
WATTERSON - Mary
WILLIAMS - Marjorie, James, Dorothy, Maxwell, Joan, Barbara
WILLS - Murray, Harold, Burken, Katie, Bernice, John, Peter
WILSON - George, Emily, Eileen, Dorothy
WRIGHT - Eric
ZERBST - Roy



Cowangie School



Cowangie School Teacher Miss Cuff & pupils when school was in the hall 1916



Pupils & parents c.1920

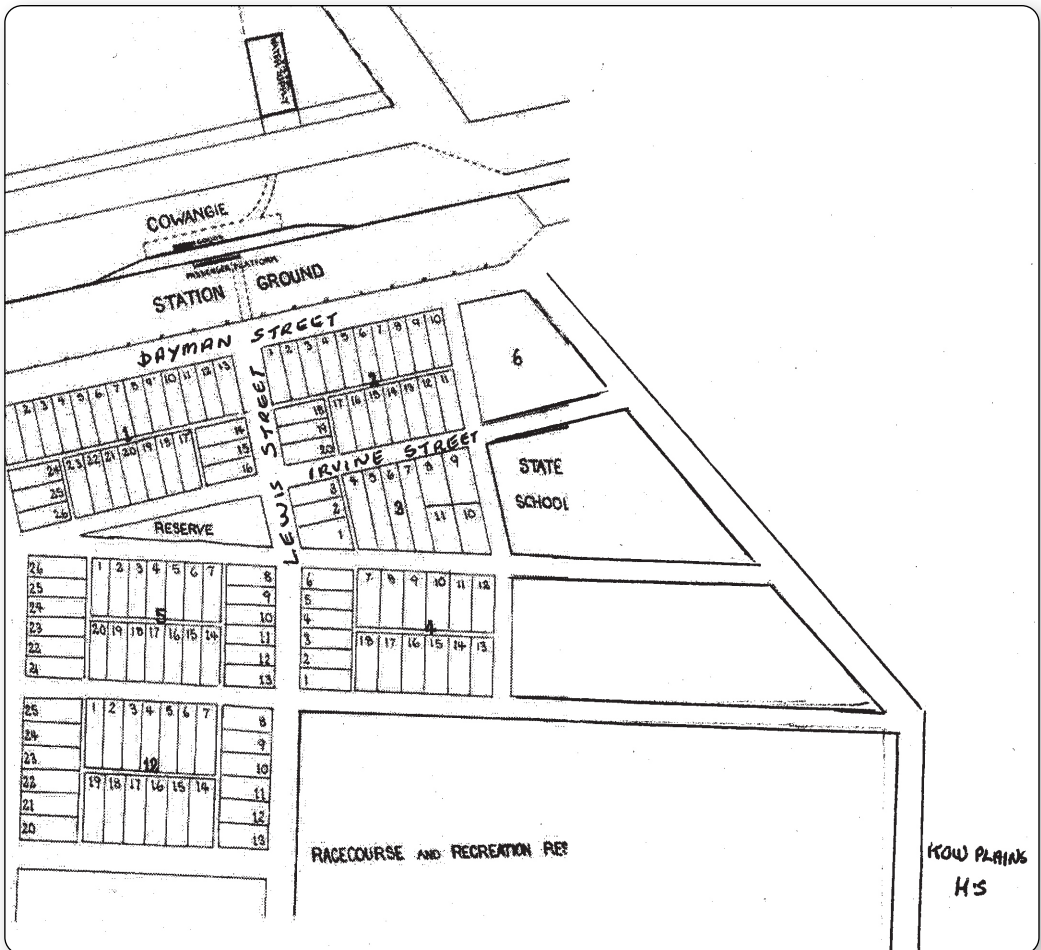


Ernest Emil Lessing Builder of Cowangie and other Mallee Schools



Past pupil, Phyl Jonasson at School Site 1988

Cowangie Township





Cowangie, Dayman Street 1923



Cowangie, East End Dayman Street 1939

Cowangie first allotment holders and date purchased

Block	Allotment No.	Owner	Date
1	1	A.H. Kelly	13/11/1917
1	2	F.J. Yetman	10/04/1917
1	3	J.D. Murphy	10/04/1917
1	4	W.T. Evans	19/04/1917
1	5	G.W.B. Harley	19/04/1917
1	6	J.L. Curtin	19/04/1917
1	7	H. LeCouter	19/04/1917
1	8	A.M. Kelly	2/07/1912
1	9	P. Schiffindecker (£12)	2/07/1912
1	10	F.M. Turnbull (£20)	2/07/1912
1	11	N. Harcourt (£20)	2/07/1912
1	12	W.J. Kelly	2/07/1912
1	13	J. Bauer	2/07/1912
1	14	A.M. Kelly	2/07/1912
1	15	B.T. Baldock	
1	16	S.R. Carman	

1	17	B.B. Craigie	10/10/1918
1	18	J.W. Menzel	10/10/1918
1	20	H. Le Couter	10/10/1919
1	24	H. Le Couter	11/11/1921
2	1	Bank of Victoria	
2	2	T. Walker	20/04/1915
2	3	C. Bedell	18/10/1915
2	4	E. Jones	18/10/1915
2	5	J.W. Lewis	18/10/1915
2	7	J. Irving	5/12/1924
2	8	M.M. Purdue	19/11/1917
2	9	J. Kelly	12/11/1917
2	10	J. Kelly	12/11/1917
2	18	Hall site	1913
2	19	Daw & Co.	29/10/1913
2	20	J.W. Lewis	28/11/1915
3	1	C.E. Wheeler	20/09/1923
3	2	C.E. Wheeler	20/09/1923
3	9	P.J. Yetman	10/10/1918

Dayman Street Cowangie was a very busy place during the early years of settlement, with a building on nearly every allotment. The early businesses opened in tents or crudely constructed bag and iron buildings. In many cases these were replaced by timber or brick constructions. In most instances it appears that the people who first bought the allotments did not use them.

Town allotments in Dayman Street, Copi (Cowangie) were reported in the *Pinnaroo Border Times* of 5 July 1912 as being sold for between £16 and £3, the average price being £28 & 8 shillings. Allotments in Boinka that day averaged £48 & 15 shillings.

Businesses & residences in Dayman Street

Block 1, Allotment 1 - A weatherboard house owned by Mrs Cooper was on this site. Mrs Cooper taught music. Mr & Mrs Winterton lived on this site from 1945-1970. The house has since been demolished and was a private orchard until the early 2000s.

Block 1, Allotment - There was a boarding house on this allotment owned by Mrs Le Couteur. The school teachers boarded here and at lunch-time school children would be sent to fetch a billy of tea for the teacher's lunch. Mr Le Couteur was the first railway repairer (ganger) at Cowangie and also had cattle yards, which were most likely on Allotment 24. He supplied milk to the town. Mr John Murnane built a home on this allotment in the late 1960s and lived there with his family until the early 1990s; the house was moved to Mildura several years later.

Block 1, Allotment 3 - this has always been a vacant block and was a private garden from the late 1960s to early 1990s. The Cowangie Fire Station was built on this allotment in 2012.

Block 1, Allotment 4 Uniting Church - 1926 to current. Purchased December 2021 by Mildura Rural City Council and placed under the management of the Kow Plains Community Assets Committee, a section 76 committee of the Council.

Block 1, Allotment 5 Bush Nurse Cottage - The Bush Nurse Cottage was built in 1918 for the comfort of the Bush Nurse, it operated until 1923.

Block 1, Allotment 6 Bakery - was on this site and it is believed that it opened during the first years of settlement. In 1913 Mr Hawkins was the baker he was followed by Mr Burton 1924-26, William Taylor 1930-32, Mr Sheritt 1932-1936 and Mr Bertalli 1936-Dec 1944 a Mr Witbourn worked for him.

The Bertalli family lived in the Bush Nurse cottage and the three boys slept in a tent at the rear of the house. Bertalli's used to deliver bread as far as Boinka, it was packed in flour bags.

From 1944-1952 Mr Harry Turnbull owned the Bakery and served a cup of tea after Saturday night hall functions. The Bakery closed in 1952.



Cowangie Bakery c.1920



Cowangie Baker's oven before restoration c.1990s



Volunteers restoring Cowangie Baker's oven 2001

Cowangie Baker's oven restoration - In August 1999 the surrounds were cleared of grass and rubbish and the interior of the oven cleaned out and assessed to be in good order.

In March 2001 a shelter was erected over the oven to protect it. The Baker's oven was put under the management of the Kow Plains Community Assets Committee.

The oven was fired up for the opening of Kow Plains Homestead Stage 1 restoration on 20 October 2001, with Denis Gneil from the Pinnaroo Bakery making pizzas. It took 2 weeks to heat the oven. The oven has been fired up several times over the last 20 years.

An interpretative sign was attached to the Baker's oven in 2015.



The Cowangie Baker's oven in action

Block 1, Allotment 7 - Archie Herd a retired builder lived on this site, he built several houses in the district of local stone. The framework of the building remained until the 1990s.

Block 1, Allotment 8 - About 1917 Mr John Bower Harley started up a business in a timber building. He later built a brick building beside it and lived in a timber residence at the back. He had a drapery business as well as a greengrocer and confectionary shop. Mr Harley was also the Postmaster, using a narrow room between the two buildings for the Post Office. Beatrice Dayman was Postal Assistant. Mr Harley managed the store until it was taken over by Mr Schiller and Mr Harry Taverner in 1923. They sold fruit and vegetables, drapery hardware, confectionary and haberdashery. In later years it operated as a store by George Chappell, then as tearooms and boarding house by Jacky Wilson – the men constructing the Cowangie silo which opened in 1939 boarded here. Mr Sim Perry used the building as a private residence before it was bought by Alf Evans and demolished.



Harley's Store, Cowangie

Block 1, Allotment 9 - P. Schiffendecker bought this allotment for £12 on the 2 July 1912, it remained a vacant block.

Block 1, Allotment 10 - F.M Thornell bought this block for £20 on the 2 July 1912 with the intention of building a shop. The brick butchers shop was constructed on this allotment after WWI; Jack Stewart owned the shop and Jack Holmes worked there until 1928.

Mr Muller took over ownership of the butchers in 1929 and opened the shop on Wednesday and Saturday mornings, Muller's also had a shop in Murrayville.

The Mallee Harvester on 14 June 1934 carried an advertisement for Muller's Meat, the prices per pound were as follows steak 9 pence, stewing steak 6 pence, mutton 5 pence, fritz 8 pence, beef 5 pence, and corned beef 6 pence.

The butchers shop closed in October 1958. The building was sold to Sim Perry. The butchers shop was demolished in 1984 and the bricks were used in the house built by Mr and Mrs Robert McKee's on their farm.



Cowangie Butchers Shop 1920s

Block 1, Allotment 11 - Mr N. Harcourt bought this allotment on 2 July 1917 for £20. In the *Pinnaroo Border Times* of 7 March 1913, it is reported that “*Messrs. Harcourt & Co., drapers, had a large marquee, which is well stocked with the usual goods in that line. The firm appears to be well satisfied with their business.*”

Mr Craigie and Mr Edward opened a general store on this site about 1918. Mr Craigie bought Mr Edwards out and operated the business until 1934, when Mr Borthwick took over. Mr Wally Bennett operated the store in the 1940s. The building was later destroyed by fire.



B.B Craigie's Store, Cowangie 1920s

Block 1, Allotment 12 - There was a private residence on this allotment owned by Mr J. Kelly. Later Murrayville District Farmers Co-op bought the house and turned it into a shop. It was operated by Messrs. Dahl and Kruse and later by Matt Cooper in the 1920s. Later the Co-op store moved to block 2, allotment 2.

Block 1, Allotment 13 - This is one of the few blocks that was occupied by the person who bought it. It was purchased at auction by Mr. Joe Bauer on 2 July 1912 the average price for a block that day was £28 & 18 shillings. The business first opened in a corrugated iron building which operated as a store and later as a saddlers shop by Mr. Vic Thomas. A brick building was added to the side, which was to have been a hotel but this did not eventuate because it was said to be too close to the Murrayville Hotel. Joe Bauer and Mrs Harris operated the premises as a café and store until it was taken over by Mr Borthwick In 1934. In 1935 as a child Bill Borthwick drove a spring cart to Tutye on Saturday mornings delivering grocery orders which were left for collection at Bill Carroll's store.

In 1936 Mr and Mrs Harry Taverner bought the business and operated it as a general store. Bill Clarke leased the store from 1956 for a few years, then Taverners returned and had it until 1974.

Taverner's Store in its years of operation had the reputation of being the shop where if you could not get something anywhere else you could purchase it there. They stocked everything from firearms and ammunition, musical instruments to grocery supplies, fresh fruit, vegetables, clothing, animal remedies, hard ware, and fuel.

The building including the first corrugated iron building still stands today but is in a poor state.



Cowangie Corner Store c.1920



Cowangie, Corner of Dayman Street & Lewis Street c.1930



Tavener's Store Cowangie 1988

Block 2, Allotment 1a Post Office - The first Post Office was conducted by the Porter family about 1912 and was situated not far from the gypsum ramp opposite the existing unoccupied post office building. Later the Post Office was believed to have been behind Kelly's and that Mrs Dooley, wife of a railway repairer was in charge for a year or two until March 1917, when it was moved to Harley's on Allotment 8 Block 1.

The Post Office was moved to a small weatherboard building, with a residence behind situated on the present site (Allotment 1a Block 2). It is thought this move took place about 1923. Mrs Kelly was postmistress from 1926-32 when it was taken over by Mr Ernie Boschert who was a popular and obliging postmaster until 1959, when Mr Alf Taverner became postmaster. In 1960 Mr Taverner built the present post office and residence on the site of the old weatherboard one. During Mr Boschert and Mr Taverners time there was a sub-branch of the Commonwealth bank of Australia at the Post office. In 1965 Mr Taverner transferred to Murrayville.

Mrs Jean Powell became postmistress in 1965 a position she held till the Post Office closed on the 14th July 1994. The manual telephone exchange closed in 1975. When the post office closed a small shed was erected next to the hall and the post box was placed beside it. Residents each have a key to the shed.



1st Cowangie Post Office 1912



Cowangie Post Office 1948



Cowangie Post Office c.1990 Jean Powell last Post Mistress

Block 2, Allotment 1b Bank - The Bank of Victoria purchased this block of land in 1915 and the Bank was opened on the 1 July 1918. The first Manager was Mr Dyton he was followed by Mr Alday in 1919, who stayed until January 1924. Mr Alday was actively involved in helping build the new Hall.

The Ouyen Mail of 26 July 1922 reported: "At Cowangie this week, handsome new premises opened by the Bank of Victoria. The building contains 11 rooms and the Gloria light and water are laid on. A garage has also been built. Mr H.A. Alday is the popular Manager of the bank and it augurs well for the future of Cowangie that the Bank of Victoria has seen fit to build such commodious premises".

Bank Manager from 1924 to May 1925 was Mr Forrester. Mr George Neate came as Manager in 1932 and stayed until the bank closed in 1940. During Mr Neate's time at Cowangie he prepared tax assessments free of charge for a number of his customers.

The Bank closed after the end of the WWII, and was used as a private residence by George Margetts and Max Johnston and his family, then Mrs Win Archbold until her death in 1984; her daughter Jean Powell and family then moved in, Jean lived there until August 2017.



Cowangie Bank of Victoria, 1935

Block 2, Allotment 2 - T. Walker purchased this block on the 18 October 1915. The Walker family had a hotel in Ballarat and they brought material from there to Cowangie to build a billiard room and confectionary shop. Tom Walker and daughters ran this business. In later years the building was owned and used as a residence by Mr Max Johnston, Mr Jim White and by Mrs Phyllis Bennett from 1955 to 1974, when the building was demolished. Mr Tom Walker also built and opened a grocery store on this same block. Later Mr Matt Cooper moved his Victorian Co-op business to this site. The building was demolished and the area is now a grassed area.



Walkers General Store and Billiard Room, Cowangie



*Gathering for Better Farming Train 1928-29 in
front of Walkers General Store, Cowangie*

Block 2, Allotment 3 - Mr Beadell had a shack on this allotment for a time. During the 1980s there was a school bus shelter on the site. The bus shelter has been moved across the road and now houses information boards of the district.

Block 2, Allotment 4 - Mr J.W. Lewis conducted the first hire car service in Cowangie district from here. The vehicle he used was a T-Model Ford. He also made the first wireless sets for sale in the district. The automatic telephone exchange is now on this site.

Block 2, Allotment 5 - Mr Jim Kelly Jnr. brought a weatherboard house in from the farm and put it on this site. He occupied it until 1975. The house is still occupied in 2022.

Block 2, Allotment 6 - Mr James Kelly Snr. had a blacksmith business at the Kow Plains Homestead and on his farm before setting up a blacksmith business on this allotment probably in the mid-1920s. Later his son Jim had a farm supply agency here and operated it until September 1975. From 1975-83 Colin Turnbull operated the farm supply agency. The building is still standing in 2022.



Kelly's Garage, Cowangie

Block 2, Allotment 7 - The corrugated-iron house on this site was brought in from the Kelly farm, the Kelly's lived there until the 1970s. It has been owned by a number of people over the years and is now unoccupied.



Kelly's House, Cowangie

Block 2, Allotment 8 - For a short time in the 1930s, Mr Doug Nalder had a barbers shop on this allotment, then Mrs Bennett operated a clothing shop in the building. The building was moved to Mr Ern Jonasson's farm. The block is now owned by the McDonald family.

Block 2, Allotment 9 - The first person to have a business on this allotment was Mr Johnson, who set up a blacksmith shop. In the early 1930s Mr Jack Nalder opened the shop as garage, he was followed by garage owners Keith Gray, Mr Jolly, Bill Thompson and Wally McDonald.



Nalder's Garage, Cowangie

McDonalds Engineering

Wally McDonald grew up at Boinka and attended the Boinka School till the age of 14. At the age of 16 Wally joined the Australian National Airways (ANA) in Melbourne and worked there during the war 1943 to 1945. He spent time as an aircraftsman, meaning he did maintenance on the airframe of the aircraft. The average wage at that time was £2 per week. ANA had the contract to service the American C.47s that were a military version of a DC3.

Wally worked from 1955 to 1957 for W. Thompson's Garage Cowangie, he took over this garage in 1957 and changed it from a garage to an engineering workshop. At this time rabbits were in plaque proportions and there was a demand for rabbit rippers that Wally manufactured. After this he made bulk grain cartage bins and then shed frames that he supplied to farmers.

In the late 1970s when his sons left school they made truck bodies for grain carting then hoists fitted to trucks and grain cartage bodies. The next project was to design trailing spray booms for spraying weeds in crops a few hundred of these were made. In the late 1980s the sons moved to Melbourne but Wally continued making and repairing equipment for farmers until c2010.



Photos of bins at silos made by Wally McDonald



Wally McDonald with one of his engines

Block 2, Allotment 10 - When Mr Jack Nalder had the garage on allotment 9 he built this stone house as his residence. It was used as a residence by the garage owners until the mid-1960s and has been owned and occupied as a private residence until the late 1990s. The house was vacant and deteriorating until 2020 when it was purchased and is now being restored.

Block 3, Allotment Mrs Bennett's Café - This café operated during 1934 and possibly for a year or two either of this date in Mrs Bennett's house on block 3, allotment 9. At least one wedding reception was held here. In the column "Cowangie District Happenings & General Comments" in the Mallee Harvester of the 14 June 1934 the wedding of Miss Rice and Mr Archbald was reported and it was mentioned that the reception was held at Mrs Bennett's Café where the guests sat at two tables and enjoyed a plentiful repast.

Block 6 - Mr John Clay had a carpenter's business on an allotment in Block 6 from the early 1920s to the late 1930s. Mr Clay built the Cowangie Hall.



*Mr Clay builder of
Cowangie Hall*

Other businesses that operated in Cowangie

Coffee Palace and Boarding House - In all new towns there was a need for a boarding house to accommodate wheat lumpers, travellers, etc. This building was situated in Lewis Street opposite the hall. Two of the proprietors in the early 1920s were George Griffith and then Edith Douglas. Mr Roberts owned the boarding house prior to it being burnt down.

Newsagency - After the fire Mr Wally Bennet opened a newsagency here. In 1946 Mr Allan Gibson built a timber and iron building, where he and his wife had a newsagency business. They also sold gifts, confectionery, groceries etc. Mr Allan Gibson had a fuel agency in a tin shed beside the newsagency. The newsagency closed down in 1972. Mrs Gibson lived in the house until her death in 2000. Since then the house and surround have been owned and maintained by the Gibson family.



Boarding House, Cowangie

Greengrocers - Mrs Brown, who lived on site and grew vegetables and sold them where the Water Commission house stands. This house is still occupied in 2022. One day the Murrayville Policeman, Constable Fitzgerald, called to check her hawker's license. Mrs Brown could not produce a license but gave him cucumbers and tomatoes. She continued to sell her vegetables.

It has also been said that the first shop was situated on this site and was owned by the Smith family.

After the WWII, Clarrie Hunt brought vegetables by truck from Adelaide and sold them in the Cowangie streets.

Butcher - Before there was a butchers shop at Cowangie but it is believed that Mr Fred Dayman operated a butchers business from his farm.

Towards the end of World War11, Mr Don Perry slaughtered out at Sunset and brought meat into Cowangie on a fly-proof covered spring cart. Customers would be waiting for him to arrive. He also delivered to farms.

This cart that was painted green was known as the ‘blowfly’.

The Black Bull - Most of the small towns in the district did not have a licensed drinking place and the nearest hotels were at Murrayville and Underbool, a long trip by horse or foot. The ‘sly grog’ trade flourished in these towns and Cowangie was no exception, the best remembered ‘sly grog shop’ here was the Black Bull which was situated out of town not far from the Kow Plains homestead. It must have had quite a reputation as many of the younger generation ask as to where it was. Drink was consumed there and sold by the bottle. By all accounts a number of devious dealings took place over the bottles sold to take home. At midnight on Saturdays the patrons never failed to sing God Save the King the drinking then resumed. The proprietor of the Black Bull was apprehended three times for sly grogging, the first time he was fined, the second time he was jailed for a few months and the third time when he was caught selling it from the railway station he was jailed for three years.

Blacksmith at Kow Plains Homestead - During the early years of settlement James Kelly had a thriving blacksmith shop located at the Kow Plains Homestead where he repaired farm machinery.



James Kelly's Blacksmith shop at Kow Plains Homestead

Gypsum industry

Gypsum was shoveled onto horse-drawn carts in the 1920s, but it was not until 1936-37 that the present gypsum industry was begun under very primitive conditions by Mr Max Johnston. The industry became a very progressive business, operated by Nypo Gypsum, Cowangie – K. & R. Lester. Truckloads of gypsum were brought in from the north of Cowangie about 30kms into an up-to-date washing plant near Cowangie and then clean gypsum was then brought into Cowangie and sent away by rail. Two ramps especially built for the gypsum industry were completed in 1987. Gypsum was also produced for Agricultural use.



Gypsum work at lease north of Cowangie



Gypsum work at Cowangie

In 2002 Boral Australia Gypsum Ltd contacted Ecology Australia Pty Ltd to conduct a flora and fauna assessment of two gypsum-mining leases between Tutye and Cowangie. 51% of plants recorded were indigenous the other 49% were introduced species. Nine of the species recorded were recorded as rare or vulnerable in Victoria. On the basis of this evaluation that was outside the area previously mined, the area was rated as having State-National conservation significance.

Mining was ceased in c2004 and Boral had to re-vegetate the mined area. In May 2005 a large area was direct seeded but with little success this could have been due to seasonal conditions and seed choice. In 2006 a consultant was employed to recommend and to assist with the re-vegetation of the mined land. The area was finally re-vegetated to a satisfactory standard and on the 8 September 2010 approval of the release of the leases was given and the area is now Crown land again.

The Quarry at Kow Plains Homestead 1962-1985

Peter Peers purchased the Kow Plains Homestead area of 50 acres at auction in 1962 for the purpose of establishing a quarry to crush limestone. At that time there was demand for high quality crushed limestone for use in bitumen to surface roads including the Mallee highway, which was then under construction. Prior to the auction Peter Peers took limestone samples from different sites including Kow Plains and submitted them to the Country Roads Board for testing which revealed the Kow Plains limestone to be the appropriate quality for road surfacing. If suitable local stone had not been sourced it would have had to come from Charlton.

Peter Peers purchased a heavy crushing plant for use at the quarry. Quarrying operations commenced in 1962. The rock was drilled; plugged with ammonium nitrate and diesel and electronically fired these blasts could be felt and heard for quite a distance. Many of us remember hearing and feeling these blasts. The crusher and some of the machinery can still be seen today.

The quarry was managed from 1971 to 1979 by Robin Kelly, Peter Peers son in-law, operations gave employment to many men for a number of years; some of these men remember their time at the quarry and how the old Homestead provided a cool spot on hot days for their lunch breaks.

The quarry operated until 1985 but during later years Peter Peers let the works on lease. Ultimately with increased regulatory demands including the higher levels of the quality of stone the quarry closed thus ending another era for Kow Plains.

In 2015 an interpretative sign detailing the history of the quarry was unveiled at the site by Robin Kelly.



Ripper used to rip stone after blasting Kow Plains Quarry late 1960s



Stone breaker at Kow Plains Quarry late 1960s



Kow Plains Quarry late 1960s

Cowangie Town Water

The Cowangie town bore was first situated north of the railway line where the old Water Commission house still stands. The water was piped across to the water-trough next to where the fire station is today; townspeople either relied on rainwater or carried water from the trough.

The problems encountered by the Shire in supplying Cowangie with a water scheme are reported in the *Underbool Mirror* of the 21 June 1952. "Mr Forsyth a contractor for the sinking of a bore in connection with the town water supply was interviewed at a recent Walpeup Shire Council meeting at Murrayville". In the interview Mr Forsyth said, "It would be necessary to continue boring for another 100 feet. He said he had been contracted for 400 feet but would have to go 500 feet to get a supply of 300 gallons an hour".

A public meeting was held in Cowangie on 9 July 1952 to discuss the town water scheme. A letter had been received from Mr E.L. Cresswell, Consulting Engineer for the Cowangie Water Supply Scheme, approving the drilling of the bore to 500 feet. The Commission wanted the Shire to find £1,800 to fund the tank stand, pump, excavating and trenching. It was suggested that a squatter's tank should be obtained, a pine post stand should be erected and the pipes could be laid at working bees, and an engine that was in Murrayville could be used. The bore was operated for a number of years and was turned off and on by residents appointed to do the job.

For some time there was a resident Water Commission serviceman who lived in the house where the original town bore was. The first Water Commission serviceman to live there was Gordon Wilson in the late 1940s. John McIvor followed him in 1971. There has been no resident serviceman in Cowangie since 1981. The house has been a private residence since the McIvor's left.

Cowangie Soldiers Memorial Hall

Cowangie Soldiers Memorial Hall 1913-1988

The earliest records available are in the account book of the Cow Plains Public Hall. The first hall, which stood on the same site as the present hall, was of unlined corrugated construction. Mr Grim was the contractor and the amount paid to him was £120. Cretonne fabric purchased for 18 shillings & 6 pence was used for the stage curtains. Money was contributed to the building fund by local people and the contributions ranged from 2 shillings & 6 pence to £2. A concert and ball was held before 5 November 1913 to mark the opening of the hall. Early office-bearers were President, Mr Dayman and Secretray, Mr J. Lewis – streets in Cowangie are named after these two gentlemen.

Some of the first entries in the account book of the Cow Plains Public Hall are:

11 November 1913, Methodist tea meeting 7 shillings & 6 pence; 16 February 1914, School rent £1; 18 February 1914, Lands Commission Board 5 shillings; 12 March 1914,

Church of England Social 7 shillings & 6 pence; 15 March 1914, Lutheran Church service 6 shillings; 3 April 1914, Seed Wheat Board 5 shillings; 30 April 1914, Methodist Church £1; 16 May 1914, Football Social 5 shillings; 23 May 1914, Marring picture 7 shillings & 6 pence; June 1914, Anglican Church 6 shillings.

Names of contributors to the building of the first Cowangie Hall in 1913 were: H. Hecht, A.S. Dayman, W. Dalton, J. Mole, J. Irving, Mr Higgins, S. Best, W. Coltman, Menzel Bros., B. Mead, A. Robertson, F. Schultz, T. Walsh, T. Reid, W.J. Davis, H. LeCouteur, P. Newsome, A.W. Beer, T. Herne, V. Higgins, W.M. James, V. A. Jonasson, T. Smith, J. Blyth, P. Schiffendecker, J. Lewis, W. Clohesy, Mr LeCoullard, J. Hunt, J.B. Abbott, J.E. Roberts, R. Perry, Dean, W. Newsome, W. Connell, Stewart, J. Johnstone, T. Lindner, Mr Purdue, J. Wiltshire, Progress Assoc., Sports Committee, T.W. Walker, Mr Tucker, Mr Stewart, Mr J.Wilson (Tyalla) Mr Gyton.

The first minutes available of the Cowangie Hall are those of the Annual Meeting dated 26 April 1919, Office Bearers appointed were President, Mr V.A. Jonasson; Secretray, Mr Alday and Treasure, Mr Schultz. The Committee elected comprised Mr Davies, Mr G. Harley, Mr. T. Walker, Mr F. Yetman, Mr A. Hecht, Mr Jacob, Auditors were Mr Archie and Mr Craigie.

A meeting was held 23 September 1919 when it was decided to have the piano tuned for a cost of 30 shillings and the tuner promised to play for a dance on the following Saturday.

The next meeting was held four days later on 27 September 1919 and from this meeting onwards the main item discussed was the building of the new Hall. Three members of the committee were to interview the builder of the Tutye South Hall Mr Albers, concerning the construction of a brick building. However, the outcome of this interview is not mentioned.

In 1920 ten seats 10 foot in length and an out-house (toilet) of painted pine were bought and approval was given to pay a cleaner.

On 21 October 1920 it was again moved to erect a new Hall. It was decided to approach Mr Chamberlain (owner of the first timber yard in Murrayville) to draw up plans and specifications. Messrs Alday, Hecht, Harley, Walker and Schultz were appointed to canvas for donations towards the building. On 24 September 1921 the meeting decided to call for tenders to erect a brick building; advertisements were included in the *Ballarat Courier* and *Star* twice and the *Sunraysia Daily* once. Tenders were also called for the purchase and removal of the old Hall.

Almost a year later on 22 November 1921, it was decided to postpone the erection of the new hall until the completion of harvest and the canvassers should endeavour to obtain more money. At this meeting Mr Jonasson intimated that if the building be started in six months he would give £15, to which Messrs Hecht and Schultz also agreed and the three handed in their £15 each. However, the building was not started in six months.

The meeting on 21 December 1922 decided to take necessary steps to have eight hundred £1 debentures issued, the interest to be 4% Mr Stewart promised to take £50 in debentures.

On 21 July 1923, a Committee comprising Mr Hecht, Mr V.A. Jonasson and Mr Alday was elected to confer with the shire engineer as to plans for the Hall.

On 12 January 1924 further tenders were called and these received were W. Southgate £1,906, T.W. Oliver & J.S. Kelly £65 and R. Beddue £51. None of these tenders were accepted. Plans and specifications were then sent to firms requesting a quote for cost of building materials. At this meeting it was decided that the old piano be donated to the Kookaburra Committee (the Kookaburras appear to have been a drama group) to be used by them as part payment for a new piano to be purchased and delivered to the Hall committee. At a meeting a week later on 19 January 1924 with two representatives from the Kookaburras, Mr Borthwick and Mr Geurans, it was decided to purchase a German piano, the price not to exceed £145.

On 8 March 1924, further tenders were called for new and old buildings and on the 28 April Mr Clay's tender of £194 & 10 schillings for building of new Hall was accepted; and Mr Moore & Sons price of £408 & 10 shillings & 8 pence for materials was also accepted. Mr V.A. Jonasson's tender for purchase and removal of the old Hall of £75 with promise of another £5 was accepted. Mr Jonasson moved the old hall to his home where it was lined and used as a two room extension.

On 5 July 1924, debentures were not being subscribed to as well as expected and only £19 & 1 shillings & 6 pence was paid into the Hall bank account. It was moved that a brick floor be placed in the Hall kitchen and a 14 gallon copper be purchased. The kitchen was at the rear of the Hall and in later years was replaced with the present supper room.

On 6 November 1924 the progress payment of £50 was paid to Mr Clay (builder). The exact date the Cowangie Soldiers Memorial Hall was opened is not documented, but it was shortly after 6 November 1924 as charges were set at this meeting for a crowning of the Queen Carnival at 5 shillings, 3 shillings & 6 pence, 2 shillings. This dance marked the opening of the Hall. During the Queen Carnival it was decided to fly flags at intervals to show which queen was in the lead. Mr. Walker, Snr, donated £1 & 1 shilling & 10 pence to the queen whose flag was flown the longest.

At the meeting of 6 December 1924 after the opening of the Hall, it was decided to purchase three lamps for lighting. It was also moved at this meeting that two cloakrooms be added to the front of the hall. Mr Clay's tender was accepted for building these rooms. Miss Flora Jonasson (Mr V.A. Jonasson's sister) was appointed caretaker, a position she held for many years.

In March 1925, Mr Clay was paid a progress payment of £20 for building work and James Moore and Son's £93 & 16 shillings & 10 pence for building materials. A Euchre party and dance was arranged to be held to celebrate the opening of the cloak rooms.

At the Annual Meeting held on 25 April 1925 a minute of appreciation was placed on record for the valuable service rendered by Mr Hecht during his long term as a member of the committee. Mr Hecht was one of the contributors to the first Hall in 1913 and had been on the committee from that time until 1925.

At the meeting of 18 August 1926 steps were taken to have seven electric lights installed, Mr G. Hendy donated poles and others donated money.

At the meeting of 19 July 1930 the financial position of the Hall was reported as poor, past drought conditions being blamed for this.

On 6 August 1930 the Hall Committee decided to hold a Sports Meeting on the Wednesday of Melbourne Show week to obtain money towards payment of the hall. The following events were on the programme: horse events; car driving competition; wheelbarrow race; pillow fight (pillows were sugar bags filled with cocky-chaff; nail driving (organised by School Committee); rooster race; guessing weight of sheep; old buffers' race. One hundred posters were obtained from the *Mallee Harvester* and distributed. Prize money was not to exceed £10. Gate charges were to be 1 shilling for adults, children free. These sports were held annually until 1936.

In 1931 residents were requested to donate a bag of wheat to boost funds. For many years the Hall was in debt, and in the expenditure column of the account book on 19 July 1930 interest and bank charges were listed as £83 & 2 shillings, but this was accrued from September 1927. Interest for one year was £31 & 7 shillings & 6 pence. Other fundraising activities held to boost funds included an annual ball held each June or July and sometimes a New Year's Eve ball and social entertainment every fortnight for a time in 1940. A sheep dog trial was organised in 1935.

Despite money owing on the Hall, further improvements to the Hall were made. In 1932 a Mr G. DuRieu's tender of £19 & 5 shillings was accepted to paint the exterior. In 1933 gravel was spread around the front of the Hall. Up until 1933 the Committee consisted only of men, but there was an organisation of women known as the Busy-Bees during 1933-35 who appeared to have worked for the Hall.

At the Annual Meeting on 25 July 1933 a suggestion was made and carried that the Committee should in future consist of three guarantors, three returned soldiers, three ladies and three others. The appointment of ladies was left to the Busy Bees. The new Committee comprised: V.A. Jonasson, Messrs. Schultz and Blight (Guarantors); J. Stewart, H. Borthwick and G Neate (returned soldiers); Messrs. Davies, Maloney and Chappell (other members); Mmes. Davies, Maloney and Clay.

During the war years the Hall was let free to the Comfort Fund. Church charges were £1 per annum.

From 1940 onwards further improvements were made. In July 1941 a collection was taken to purchase a flag. Mr Hendy donated the flagpole and Mr Kelly erected it. Lights were installed in 1942.

At the meeting of 20 November 1948 money was received from the Duddo Wells Committee. This money was used to build the supper room. A quote was called for to erect a room 12ft x 24ft to the side of the Hall; a copper and fireplace were to be installed and materials from the existing building to be used.

At the meeting of 15 October 1948 it was decided that the building known as Smerdons be purchased from D. Perry for £130 and materials used for building the supper room. At this meeting the Committee accepted the offer of the adjoining block of land belonging to the Country Party ladies. Mr Taverner offered to pay transfer fees. The minutes of the Country Party were: "that we sell the block of land belonging to the Hall for whatever expenses incurred, for the building of a memorial supper room to the soldiers of this war; that is if acceptable to the Hall."

At the meeting of 6 November 1950 the trustees of the Pallarang Hall were asked if they would be agreeable to donate money to help purchase a new piano. The trustees gave generously and a Beale piano was purchased from M. Brash and Co. for £140. The tender of £30 and F. Scown was accepted for the old piano. During the 1950s the following improvements were made: a shed was erected for the lighting plant, Hall was wired for 240-volt and in 1956 a 240v lighting plant was purchased. The floor was replaced in 1959 and new stage curtains and window blinds installed. The wood fire stove in the kitchen was donated by Mr V.A. Jonasson and was used up until the late 1980s. The supper room was painted and water was laid on.

During the 1960s a Belle and Howell film was projector, the interior of the hall was painted by working bees and the present seating was purchased. The SEC power was installed in 1966 and the Saturday night picture shows ceased.

The 1970s saw the supper room renovated and new toilets and septic tank installed.

During the 1980s the Hall Committee worked enthusiastically to improve the Hall. A gas stove which was partly financed by the Cowangie branch of the Country Women's Association (CWA) was installed and an amount of re-blocking was done and front doors replaced, with an awning erected above these doors. The roof and spouting were repaired and replaced where necessary and the flagpole was moved by RSL members, so that it could be used again and a number of trees were supplied and planted by volunteers. Seats were also repaired and re-covered.

The Hall was painted inside and out in 1988 and a sign was financed and erected by the Murrayville Lions Club. All windows were replaced thanks to finance from the Walpeup Shire. Many of the above improvements have been done by working bees and money has been raised by one main fund-raising effort each year. Office bearers in 1988 were President, I. McIntosh; Secretary, B. Boseley and Treasurer, B. Etherton.

When a Hall was first built in 1913, it was used mainly by people living in close proximity to the township of Cowangie, but with the passing of years and the closing of the Pallarang, Bunurouk, Tutye South, Tutye, Duddo Wells, Boinka, Danyo, and Tyalla

Halls, people from the wider area began to use it. The needs of our district people may have changed, as there are no longer picture shows, Euchre parties or regular dances and balls. Never-the-less the hall still has an important role in the community. In 1988 it was being used weekly during the winter months for table tennis, monthly for CWA and other community activities.



Cowangie Soldiers Memorial Hall opening 1924



Cowangie Hall 2022



*Garden Day at Lindner's for the Hall to raise funds for Cowangie Hall 1980s
Fay McKee, Joyce Purdue, Evelyn Purdue, Phyllis Jonasson*

Cowangie Soldiers Memorial Hall 1988-2022

New stage curtains were purchased with some of the proceeds from the Back-to, a section of the old curtains were made into curtains by Wanda Jonasson for the Kow Plains homestead.

The use of the Hall has gradually declined due to decrease in population, meetings such as Tyalla Traders and CWA were moved to the new Fire station in 2013 because of better heating and cooling systems. The annual CWA Christmas tree was held until 2005. Table tennis continued until 2002. An Honour Board was installed in 2016 listing all from the district who had served since the two world wars. The hall is seldom used now except for gatherings after funerals.

Despite the lack of use the Cowangie Soldiers Memorial Hall is maintained in excellent order. In recent years it has been repainted and a new sign installed on the front of the Hall.

Cowangie newspaper reports

Cowangie has never had a newspaper, but for many years there has been a Cowangie column in the *Pinnaroo Border Times*. During the 1930s and perhaps before, this column was headed "One woman to Another - Cowangie and District Happenings and General Comment", and was written in the form of a letter and commenced Dear Jan and was signed Emel. The report was very descriptive and chatty and the writer was Mrs Williams. In the 1960s and 1970s Miss Phyl Jonasson reported on Cowangie and District happenings in and during the 1980s Mrs Rosalie Marshall wrote reports on Boinka, Tutye and Cowangie happenings.

Cowangie home town of Larry Perkins signs

Sometime after the “Back to Cowangie, Tutye and Boinka” the Committee in conjunction with the Shire of Walpeup decided Larry’s achievements should be recognised in some form. It was decided that signs depicting Cowangie as the Home Town of Larry Perkins be erected alongside the highway on the eastern and western approach to the town.

The first Home Town sign of Larry Perkin was erected in 1993, this was replaced in 2005. A newly designed sign was erected in 2014 and the present day sign in 2021. The first signs were auctioned at the Kow Plains Homestead and the proceeds went to the Cowangie Hall and the Kow Plains Homestead committee.

Cowangie Sporting Events and Clubs

Cow Plains Sports Meetings - The *Pinnaroo Border Times* of 7 March 1913 reports that a large and representative gathering of residents of Cow Plains district met at the residence of Mr Newsome for the purpose of forming a sports club, “Mr J. Irving was elected President and Messrs. Newsome and Dayman joint Secretaries”.

These successful and eventful Sports Meetings, which were organised as an annual Easter Monday race meeting, were held from 1913 until about 1927. The racetrack was situated in the vicinity of the old football ground. Special trains ran from Ouyen leaving at 7.30am and from Pinnaroo at 9.30am (Victoria time) returning at 7.15pm., the trains brought some of the horses as well as riders and spectators.

Unfortunately no early records or programmes are available, but newspaper articles and references to the catering for the sports in the minutes of the Women’s Section of the Victorian Farmers Union (VFU) give some insight into these eventful days. In an issue of the *Murrayville Pioneer* a detailed report of the Cow Plains Sports Club Easter Monday Race Meeting on 5 April 1918 is printed. President was V.A. Jonasson; Vice-Presidents, T. Archer and J. Blight; Secretary A.S. Dayman; Assistant Secretary, A.R. Tuckett; Treasurer, H. Hecht; Judges H. Hecht, T. Walker Snr., Stewards, F. Schultz, C. Dorrington, T. Kane, W. Davies and J. Maher; Handicappers, T. Kane, R. Perry, J.J. Smith and F. Schultz; Clerk of Scales, J. Lewis; Colour Stewards, B.B. Craigie and Roffey. The correspondent reported that, “proceedings passed off without the slightest hitch.”

Liquid refreshments for the Easter Meetings were brought up by train and locked in the railway goods shed until needed. Some thirsty but enterprising locals once used a brace and bit to bore holes through the floor of the shed and the bottom of the kegs, catching the beer that poured out into 4-gallon buckets. It is said that at one of the race meetings 600 gallons of beer was consumed.

Afternoon-tea was served in the middle of the racecourse and the trees that provided shade are still there. Lollies and soft drinks were served from a spring cart, which moved amongst the crowd, which was drawn by a horse named Clarie, owned by Mr W. Kelly.

In the minutes of the Women's Section of the VFU of 20 March 1926 it is written that a letter was received from Secretary of the Turf Club Cowangie asking the VFU ladies to again conduct the luncheon booth on Easter Monday. The following arrangements were made: dinner from 11:00am to 2:00pm, afternoon-tea 3:30pm to 5:00pm, tea 5:00pm to 6.30pm; one table only to be kept set for afternoon-tea. Mr Craigie, was asked for loan of crockery, 6 dozen of each. Groceries were ordered from Mr Craigie, preserved fruit and ham from Co-op. store. £5 worth of pastry and 30 large loaves of bread from baker, 150lbs of meat from the butcher. Mr Jonasson and Mr Stewart kindly donated half a sheep each. Tablecloths leant by VFU ladies, seven plum puddings, jellies, custards and milk were donated by members and Mrs Craigie.

This was the last time the VFU ladies catered for the Race Meeting. They were asked in 1927 but refused because a number of members were to be away on Easter Monday.



Cowangie Sports Meeting 1913



Horses racing at Cowangie 1923

Cricket - The cricket pitch was in the centre of the football oval. Cricket started in the 1920s, and was actively supported until 1939, when it stopped due to a drop in numbers because of the war. Cricket began again in 1946 and continued until 1962. Teams from Bunurouk, Cowangie, Pallarang and Duddo Wells played on a Sunday at Cowangie.

On Sunday 31 October 2011 the Cowangie community organised an official cricket carnival comprising teams from Cowangie, Tutye, Danyo and Boinka in a round robin format. The oval was a picture on the day and temporary shade structure lined the oval. Boinka were the winners with Danyo runners up.



Boinka cricketers at Cowanie Cricket Carnival 2011

Football - Although football was played at Cowangie since the early days of settlement, unfortunately no record of the formation of the club can be found. The Cowangie Hall account book shows that three football socials were held in 1914 on 16 May, 20 June and 13 August. A footballer's ball was held in September 1914 probably to mark the end of season. Some of the players around 1915 were Wheatly, Wills, Smith, T. Archer, Yetman, Dayman and Mickey McLeod. Captain was Mr Fry and the umpire was Mr Gorham snr. The minutes dated 7 September 1926 of the Women's Section of the VFU read "The branch conveyed congratulations to Mr Bert Beer on his winning of the medal for best and cleanest player in the final football match."

In 1927 Cowangie fielded two teams, the first playing in the Pinnaroo & Border District Association and the second team in the local association. Some of the players were Bill 'Red' Ruby (ruckman), Ron Tully (rover), Lockie Richards, the Blight brothers, Ivan and Allan Gibson, T. Hefferman, Jim Kelly snr., Eddie Heintze, Fred Hare, the Douglas brothers, Gorhams, Dick Kelly, Jack and Doug Stewart. Mr V.A. Jonasson, was always a keen supporter of the club.

The minutes dated 14 July 1927 of the Women's Section of the VFU read "If Cowangie Rovers are minor premiers; members of the VFU will provide tea in the hall at a charge of 1/6."

Players in the 1930s were Jim Kelly jnr.; Eric, Norm and Wally Kelly; Ern Jonasson; Herb and Bill Hendy, Wal Bennett; Ern, Ab, Jack and Tal Griffiths; George Free; Eddie Menzel; Ervie and Bert Schultz; Len Sugars; Stan and Darcy Hickman; C. Thurlow, Jock and Tim Wills; and Cliff Ross who won the best and fairest award several times.

The Cowangie Rovers team played until 1948 and the Imperials were formed in 1949, made up of players from Tutye and Cowangie.



Cowangie Football Club 1924



Football used in Finals Match 1926



Imperials Football Club 1950

Gun shoots - In the early 1920s, gun shoots were held at Cowangie west of the sports ground.

Basketball - Basketball started after football commenced in Cowangie. The first courts were situated across Dayman Street approximately opposite allotment 8, block 1. The courts were later located on the recreational ground. Some of the ladies who played in the 1930s were Jean Boschert, Bell Craigie, Doreen Harvey, Bell Anderson, Jean Sherritt, Beryl Jonasson, Bernice Wills, Katie Wills, Coral Kelly, Lavine Lewis, Jean Jones, Doreen Jonasson.

Cowangie Tennis Club - There are no records of tennis matches during the early years, but a number of photos have come to light.

In 1949-50 season the registered players were: ladies - A. Rhode, V. Rhode, A. Bennett, H. McIntosh, N. Gibson, J. Sporn; gents - V. Jonasson, A. Etherton, C. Davies, E. Rodgers, E. Thompson, T. Wills, R. Tait.

The following is a list of names found in minutes of 26 September 1953: C. Griffiths, H. Purdue, A. McKee, Mrs Rhode, A. Bennnett, H. McItosh, N. Gibson, H. Bennett, A. Gibson, H. Bennett, R. McKee, W. Clarke, E. Griffith, P. Jonasson and T. Perry.

New players who joined the club in 1959-60 were: V. Bennett, S. Taverner, E. Bennett, J. Archbold, L. Margetts, R. Margetts and H. Abbetmeyer.

The first annual general meeting of the Underbool and District Tennis Association was held on the 5 October 1950 at the Boinka Hall, with the five clubs being represented by the following seven persons: Alan Gibson (Cowangie), J. Ewins (Tutye), H. Wills (Cowangie), R. Jenkins (Linga), J. Calland (Underbool), and E. Fahey (Underbool). Officer bearers elected were Alan Gibson, President; Vice-President, R. Jenkins and Secretary, Jack Calland. The first round was played on the 25 November 1950. There are no records of the season's matches but it is known that Underbool defeated Linga in the Grand Final.

The Cowangie Tennis Club has had its ups and downs since it first joined the Underbool and District Association, they were unable to form teams in 1960, 61, 62 but reformed in 1963. Again in 1970 it was decided to disband owing to lack of players.

The Underbool and District Association were very concerned over this and decided to allow Cowangie to try and continue, having teams of four gents instead of six and four ladies. The other clubs would play with six gents to their team. This proved a good idea and after Christmas break, Cowangie managed to come up with six gents in line with the rest of the clubs.

With many new young players showing interest in the mid-1970s including Helen and Robert McKee; Leslie, Joylene, Jeanette, Ken and Glenis Chaplin; Bronwyn and Meredith Brown; Stephen, Andrew, Craig and Brett McDonald; Graeme, Barry and Karen Beer and Joanne Gibson the Cowangie tennis team started to show promise at last.

In the season 1976-77 they won the first premiership, 36 years after joining the association. The members who played in the winning side were: Stephen McDonald (Captain), Andrew McDonald, Robert McKee, Ken Chaplin, Bill Millikin, Graeme Beer, Bessie Boseley, Helen McKee, Glenis Chaplin and Bronwyn Brown.

Then followed boom years of the Cowangie Club as they won six premierships from 1977 to 1984 and were runners-up twice,

After four years of being out of the grand final they again won easily in the 1987-88 season. This team consisted of Bessie Boseley, Janine Chaplin, Helen Bathgate, Fiona Chaplin, Nicole Gibson, Joy Brown, Ken Chaplin (Captain), Robert McKee, Ian Powell, Brett McDonald, Terry Gibson and Daryl Chaplin. Robert McKee, Ken Chaplin and Bessie Boseley played in all the Cowangie Tennis Club grand final victories.

Other players who played in premiership teams for Cowangie (other than those listed above are): Craig McDonald, Barry Beer; Sandra, Joanne and Tricia Gibson; Karen Beer, Carolyn Boseley, and Gaynor McIntosh.

Cowangie Tennis Club provided entertainment in the district over the years. In the early days, many dances were held, some in conjunction with the Cricket Club. The Tennis Club organised their dances so they did not clash with Danyo's. In 1961 it was decided at a meeting that a new water-bag was required and a 3 gallon one was purchased.

When Cowangie started to win premierships, balls were held as well as a New Year's Eve Ball. Tennis members would decorate the Cowangie Hall for the occasion, and then they would have an hour or so of dancing lessons so they could join in and enjoy the celebrations the following night.

The courts have been in various locations over the years, the first tennis courts were laid by Mr Tom Archer and Mr J. Kelly at the east end of Dayman Street, but later new courts were opened over the hill south of the hall. In 1957 the courts were re-sited in the vicinity of the old football ground.

In 1976 courts were re-established on the former site south of the hall, these two gypsum courts were officially declared open by Cr. Ken Brown on 11 April 1976. In 1984 another court was laid, to make three and to keep up with the other clubs in the association.

A lawn area, with picnic table and chairs as well as a barbeque was established to make it a pleasant spot to be while waiting to play a set of tennis, it is also a popular spot for barbeques. These courts were laid by the following families: A. McKee, Ron Beer, Jeff Boseley, Rod and Jack Chaplin, Wally McDonald, Keith Gibson, John McIver.

Life Membership medals and trophies

Bessie Boseley was awarded a life membership of the Cowangie Tennis Club in 1998 after completing 32 seasons with the club. Bessie was a member of all seven premiership teams.

A.K. Gibson Medal named after Allan Gibson, this medal is awarded to the most consistent Underbool and District Tennis Association player throughout the season. The first count was held in the 1992/93 season. Winners from Cowangie have been Terry Gibson 1993/94 and Ken Chaplin 1994/95.



Cowangie Tennis 1930



Cowangie Tennis Premiers 1981-82



Cowangie Tennis Premiers 1988

Cowangie, Boinka, Tutye Tennis Reunion 1950-2000

The President Terry Gibson at the Tennis Reunion in his Thanks stated that “Tennis in the Mallee has been and still remains to be an important part of social interaction. Being a sport that everybody can be involved in, this in turn creates lifetime friendships. The Reunion has been organised to rekindle some of these friendships.” The Tennis Reunion was a wonderful weekend and many friendships were rekindled.



Cowangie Tennis Group 1940's

*Back Row - Ted Drendel, Bert Schultz, George Neats, Bob Crombie, E. Schultz.
Front Row - Jean Sherrit, Hilda Drendel, Herb Hendy, Rene Hendy, Phyllis Schultz*

Cowangie Golf Club - Cowangie had a 9 hole golf course which operated from the early 1920s to the late 1960s. The course was situated west of the football ground.

After the restoration of the Kow Plains Homestead there was increased interest in the area opposite the Homestead gate, where many sporting activities including golf took part. In 2015 Terry Gibson took past Cowangie golfer Phyl Jonasson for a walk around the old golf course and marked out where the greens were. This was the beginning of reforming the golf course. Eight holes are now operating and a number of locals enjoy a social game of golf.

Terry Gibson and others continue to maintain and improve the course and several working bees are organised during the year.

Cowangie Table Tennis Club - The Cowangie Table Tennis Club was formed in 1975, as at this time Underbool had a successful table tennis club so Mr Jack Chaplin of Tutye approached Mrs Bessie Boseley of the Tennis Club to see about forming a Table Tennis Club at Cowangie. From this starting point a meeting was held with 30-40 interested people attending. At this meeting it was decided to form a club, and Mr Jack Chaplin loaned the money for making and painting of the tables which were made by members at working bees.

Cowangie Hall was hired on Friday nights, and players turned up to learn the game and generally have a good time. As time went by and more members learnt the skills of the game, teams were formed so many were keen that six teams were formed, with four gents and three ladies to each team.

A fourth table was made and put up in the supper room for use. This proved to be inconvenient for a number of seasons, so the fourth table was put back in the hall where it proved to be very congested, but still thoroughly enjoyable for all.

As young ones moved away or took up other interests, numbers dwindled. In 1988 the club had six teams, consisting of two ladies and two gents.

The winners of the first grand final in 1976 were Barry Beer, Craig McDonald, Ashley Purdue, Helen McKee, Nerida Henderson.



Cowangie Junior Table Tennis Winners 1981

Back row: Sally Parker, Fiona Chaplin, Joanne Gibson (Coach/ Co-ordinator), Bessie Boseley (Coach),

Shane McIntosh, Troy Henderson, Jarrod Drendel

Middle row: Kylie McKee, Claire Lindner, Heidi Lindner, Renay Drendel

Front row: Desi Boseley, Andrew Milikin, Devlin Selkrig



Cowangie Table Tennis 1980s

Front row: Diana McKee, Gaynor McIntosh, Peter Jones, Wally Ray, Bessie Boseley

Front: Terry Gibson, Ian Powell

A very successful tournament was held every year and grand final night was always a special night, with play starting at 6.30pm followed by a casserole tea for members and

families. After this a tournament was held to end off the year. President for the 1988 season was Mr Robert McKee and Mrs Bev Brown Secretary.

During this time many juniors were trying to break into the game, but because the club had so many senior members it was impossible to get them into the teams.

Mrs May McIntosh and Mrs Bessie Boseley decided to organise junior table tennis one night a week after school; this proved very popular and started about 1978 and continued until 1986 when it was decided to have a break.

In 1988 there was renewed interest again and 15 juniors from Cowangie - Boinka were eager to learn the skills of table tennis. Mrs Rosalie Marshall and Mrs Bessie Boseley organised the teams and tournaments.

To Mr Jack Chaplin holds the credit for his insight in believing that a Table Tennis Club for Cowangie was a worthwhile ordeal. It certainly proved popular for 13 years and several more.

Victorian Wheat and Wool Growers Association (VWWGA)

The Cowangie Branch of the Victorian Wheat and Wool Growers Association was formed on 18 February 1937 when four guest speakers who had earlier that day opened the Boinka branch attended. Office bearers elected were President, A. W. Hendy; Secretary, A.W. Hendy jnr.; Vice-Presidents, Bert Porter and R. Crombie; Committee members: W. Stewart, F. Thompson, C. Davies, B. Schultz, W. Bunker, later H. Thompson and E. Jones.

Topics that arose were the Crown Lease Adjustment Act in 1937 and 1938 and the wheat stabilisation scheme from 1940 to 1944. In 1941 it was claimed that the scheme would be wrecked by growers increasing acreages sown to wheat and a branch committee was formed to control wheat acreages.

In 1939 a request for 2 shillings per bushel initial payment of wheat was made.

The opening dates of the Tutye and Cowangie silos are not recorded but on 27 July 1939 an enquiry was made into the opening date for that year. The request was made for both silos to open full time for the 1946-47 season and for the earlier delivery of bags.

It is interesting to note that many of the concerns discussed then are still relevant today. From 1948 there were many requests to repair public bores and in 1954 and in 1954 and for an enquiry into the sale of these bores.

In 1950 and 1951 the branch opposed wool tax and in 1954 third party insurance; freight increases were opposed in 1952 and 1953 when increases were 60% and 33% respectively; requests for the formation of an oat pool in 1950; stacking and loading of barley in 1952.

The branch has continued over the years to oppose and request any issue relevant to their needs. The name of the organisation has changed a number of times over the years and is now known as the Victorian Farmers Federation. In 1988 the office-bearers were President, H. Parker and Secretary, P. McKee. The Cowangie branch folded in the 1990s.

Women's Section Victorian Farmers Union (VFU)

The Women's Section Victorian Farmers Union, Cowangie Branch, was formed at Cowangie on 3 June 1919. At this meeting office bearers elected were President, Mrs Hecht and Secretary/Treasurer, Mrs Gallatly. Members present at early meetings were Mrs Moorhouse, Mrs Beer, Mrs Harley, Mrs Davies, Mrs Jonasson, Mrs Jacobs, Mrs Stewart, Mrs Dalton, Mrs Williams, Mrs Smith. Auditors were Mr J. Craigie and Mr H. Alday.

In April 1927 the minutes are headed Victorian Country Party (VCP) Women's Section Cowangie Branch and on 13 January 1931 the name was change to Women's Section United Country Party, Cowangie Branch.

Meetings were held monthly until April 1934, and there was one more meeting in October 1934, when the branch appears to have gone into recess.

On 12 March 1938, it was reformed as the Women's Section United Country Party, Cowangie-Tutye Branch. Present at this meeting were President, Mrs R.O Baird; Vice-Presidents Mrs H. Thompson and Mrs J.L Willims; Secretary, Mrs J. Kelly jnr.; members: Mrs Kely snr., Mrs Davies snr., Mrs Davies jnr., Mrs Schultz, Mrs C.G. Wills, Mrs W. Bennett, Mrs R. Kelly and Mrs Etherton.

Meetings were held monthly until March 1941 then on an irregular basis until March 1944. The next meeting was on the 23 April 1949 and there were annual meetings only until 1958. The last reported meeting was on 12 February 1958 when the following members were present: President, Mrs Etherton; Secretary, Mrs Kelly jnr. and members: Mrs Kelly snr, Mrs Marshall, V. Menzel and A. Wilson.

Many were the concerns of women of the day as recorded in the minutes. Late in 1920 there was a request to Parliament to have Whooping Cough proclaimed a contagious disease, and it was made so the next year. From 1921 several requests were made to the railways regarding unclean conditions and poor lighting on the Murrayville-Ouyen train, and there were numerous requests for cool storage of primary products especially cream. In 1932 the women objected to the Saturday train on the Murrayville-Ouyen line being stopped.

In 1922 the Chief of Police was requested to appoint a policeman to Cowangie to protect the women during the wheat carting season. After due consideration a letter was received stating that police protection would be granted.

From 1925 there were many moves to build a rest room 20ft x 16ft in Cowangie, a block of land was finally bought from the Methodist Church for the sum of £35 plus £4 & 5 shillings & 6 pence for registration and transfer of lands, but the rest room never eventuated.

Many urgent requests were made to the Shire Council from 1925-1929 asking them to provide a lavatory for the convenience of strangers. In 1929 a decision was made to build it on the land owned by the Womens Section of the VCP. It is very doubtful that the lavatory was built.

Fund raising was the main concern to this group and this was done by holding Euchre Parties and Balls, catering for the Easter Sports and for the VCP Spring Sports. The Branch worked hard to purchase cutlery in 1925 and this was engraved 'C.F' (Cowangie Farmers) by Mr L.A Beer. The cutlery was hired out for many years and proved to be a good fund'raiser. Some of the cutlery was still in use in 1988.

Funds were set aside for the rest room, and money was given to Central Council to the relief fund for starving children in Russia in 1922; to the local Murrayville Cottage Hospital; to a local resident Mr Downie whose home had been destroyed by fire; to the Cot Fund and the Paralysis Fund.

The members of the branch in 1928 voiced their desire to support the Council of Churches in an effort to suppress impure literature. Their disapproval was shown in 1930 of appointing an Australian Governor General.

In 1938 a request was made for the Baby Health Caravan to call at Cowangie, as there were many babies about and mothers were requiring advice.

In 1939 an attempt was made to get higher elementary classes at Murrayville.

The primary concern during the war years was for soldiers. The Soldiers Comfort Committee in Cowangie was set up through the United Country Party Branch.

Cowangie Country Women's Association (CWA)

The first meeting of the Cowangie Branch of the Country Women's Association was held on 2 October 1946. Office bearers elected were President, Mrs Una Baird and Secretray, Mrs Katie Stewart. Also present were Mrs Hendy, N. Gibson, R. Kelly, Mrs Bennett, J. Purdue, A. Menzel, A. Etherton, Mrs Lewis, P. Turnbull, Mrs Marhall, Mrs Schultz and Mrs Winterton.

By 1948 the Branch had 44 members. Members travelled to conferences by bus dressed in their Sunday best, hats and gloves etc. being the order of the day for the smartly dressed woman.

Fund-raising efforts included catering for afternoon tea at football matches, and after football tea at the local hall which consisted of saveloys (savs) and rolls, the savs being cooked in kerosene tins over an open fire, or a selection of cold meats.

The odd clearing sale was also catered for. In 1951 the Branch was asked to cater for a wedding, the cost being 4 shillings per person.

Points of interest through the years:

1947 - Hall hire for meetings was 1 shilling. Delegates were allowed 2 shillings for lunch at group conference. Parcels were packed and sent to England also tins of fat for 'Fat for Britain', knitted rugs were also sent to CWA headquarters. Rugs of knitted squares were sent to 'Miranda' for Sutherland children's home; one dozen CWA cups and saucers,

two kerosene burner primases and tin kettle were purchased; a collection from members was used to purchase a doll and pram for Helen Bennett a polio victim and daughter of member Mrs Dorothy Bennett.

1950 - Clothes were sent to War Widows Appeal.

1954 - Branch was responsible for furnishing a ward at the new Murrayville Memorial Bush Nursing Hospital, known as the Cowangie CWA ward. Each year a stall was held at the football to raise funds to provide any article the hospital might require.

In the 1950s two women were adopted by the Branch from the Queen Elizabeth Home for the Aged, Miss Hayden a local pioneer being one. These women were sent gifts and remembered for birthdays and at Christmas. £5 was sent to a radio appeal for servicemen in Korea. Local servicemen were remembered; also elderly citizens.

1965 - Save-the-Forests campaign made trees available for member's children at the cost of 1 shillings. Any local families in distress have been helped over the years with donations of money etc.

A visit by the CWA Home Service Van was always enjoyed, some of the demonstrations were: dressmaking, basketry, millinery, floral art, cooking, Papier Mache and articles for fetes. Other demonstrations were given by Mrs Slade and Mrs Beckman snr.

The highlight of the year was the annual birthday celebrations held in July which took the form of a social afternoon with items performed by members.

Mrs Winterton a foundation member was given life membership in 1961. Since then two other foundation members have been given this honour, Mrs Nell Gibson, and Mrs Joyce Purdue (daughter of Mrs Winteron). Joyce held numerous positions in office since joining. Nell was elected Magazine Secretary in 1947 and still held this position in 1988, after 41 years- a dedicated effort. Two long serving members Mary Beckmann and Fay McKee were awarded life membership on 16 March 1988.

Membership has fluctuated over the years, but the branch continues to be very active. Members attend group conferences, craft days and also send delegates to the State Conference in Melbourne.

In 1988 those who hold office were President, Mrs J. Lindner and Secretary, Mrs E. Boseley.

Cowangie CWA 1988 to 2022

During these years the numbers have steadily decreased as members retire from the district and it has become increasingly difficult to find new members. In 2003 it was decided not to hold the annual Christmas tree which had been a high light for local children for 50 years. 80 children attended in 1956 and in 2002 there were only 20.

The branch has continued to support the community and has provided an important social link during COVID-19 restrictions. Members continue to knit and sew articles for

charity. Raising funds has become more difficult. CWA members have been fortunate in being able to join with the Kow Plains Committee of Management in catering for group tours to the homestead, these visits are always interesting and enjoyable social events and our cooking is always appreciated.

The Cowangie Branch was part of the North East Mallee Group until 1947. On 11 April 1947 a meeting was held in Ouyen and it was decided that branches from Mittyack to Murrayville be known as the Ouyen Group consisting of Mittyack, Ouyen, Walpeup, Underbool, Cowangie, Patchewollock and Murrayville. In 1957 the Group was renamed the North West Mallee Group. Patchewollock disbanded in 1965, Murrayville in 1969 and Speed in 1984 leaving only 4 branches. The Underbool and Walpeup branches disbanded in 2000 and 2001 respectively. In 2003 the North West Mallee and South West Mallee Groups combined to form the Mallee Group.

The Group met at Ouyen on the 22 February 2020 the main purpose of the meeting was to formally close the Ouyen Branch and to decide whether to continue with the Mallee Group. The members decided that it was not viable with only two branches (Ouyen & Cowangie) miles apart. It was moved that the Mallee Group be officially closed and join the Central Wimmera Group and that the group be renamed the Central Wimmera Mallee Group.

CWA has existed in the Mallee for 92 years. The Cowangie Branch has only 6 members and we will continue to meet as long as we are able.



Mrs. Robde, Mrs. Una Baird, Mrs. Joyce Purdue attending CWA State Conference 1950



*Cowangie CWA members 1967- Back Row: Joyce Purdue, Mary Backmann, Ruby Kelly, Bessie Boseley, Betty Russell, Marj Sugars, Gladys Wills, Nell Gibson, Betty Brown
Front row: Dorothy Thomson, Phyl Bennet, Agnes Etherton, Mrs Beckman, Ida Margetts*



*Cowangie CWA members 1988 - Betty Brown, May McIntosh, Bessy Boseley, Jocelyn Marshall, Rosalie Turnbull, Phylis Jonasson, Evelyn Purdue, Jocelyn Lindner, Maisie Conlin, Wanda Jonasson, Denise Chaplin, Gladys Wills, Margaret Morrison
Front row life members: Fay McKee, Joyce Purdue, Nell Gibson, Mary Beckman*

Cowangie Fire Brigade

At a public meeting in the Cowangie Hall on 3 April 1941 when C.G. Wills of the Country Fire Authority (CFA) addressed the meeting, a decision was made to form a fire brigade in the Tutye and Cowangie district. Office bearers elected at a meeting on the 6 April 1941 were: Captain, W.D. Stewart; J.L. Williams, 1st Lieutenant; 2nd Lieutenant, E. Schultz; 3rd Lieutenant, V.G. Margetts; 4th Lieutenant, A. Hunt; Foreman, G. Hankinson and Apparatus Officer, J. Kelly jnr.

Over the years equipment was gradually procured. In 1946 water bags and some knapsacks were distributed to members. More knapsacks and a tank was bought in 1949. Grazcas Marks 1 L.P pumping equipment was purchased in 1961 and the CFA was asked to supply hydrant and fittings. The fire shed was constructed in 1971, and an Austin truck was obtained from the CFA in 1973 for use during the fire season. An International C13 4WD fire truck was supplied in 1983 and replaced another obtained in 1978. The brigade purchased a Davey gusha pump for filling trucks in 1981, this pump was bought with \$500 donated by M. Heintze which was given in appreciation for help given in fighting a fire on his property at Cowangie. In 1983 a UHF radio was purchased.

The brigade has been called at times to assist in burning off around the Cowangie Hall and Cemetery. Levies were imposed for some years to raise money for equipment these levies varied from 2 shillings & 6 pence per property owner in 1953 to \$10 per landholder in the 1980s.

From 1946 to 1976 fires were reported to post mistresses at Danyo, Cowangie, Tutye, and Boinka who relayed calls to farms. When the exchange became automatic in 1975 a four person fire reporting system was organised consisting of Phyl Jonasson, Jean Powell, Joan McDonald and Bessie Boseley, these ladies took reports of fires and relayed them to farms, The first three ladies were still operating the system in 1988. The introduction of UHF radio has sped up the reporting of fires.

On the 1 July 2012 the new fire shed next to the Church in Dayman Street was opened. A new fire truck is to arrive in 2023.



Cowangie Fire Shed 1971



Cowangie Fire Station 2021

Cowangie North School No. 3908

Proposed by Stewart, Hecht, Menzel, Nicholas, Purdue and Parkinson parents of early pupils, Cowangie North School stood on three acres of R.C Purdue's block No.26, Parish of Danyo. Mr Oliver who built the school presented the first flag. The weatherboard building which was opened in 1916, was divided by partitions to include porch and library, while an enclosed verandah at the rear acted as a shelter shed.

Though the building was removed to Werrimull about 1936, trees planted by the pupils at Arbor Days and a bore in the ground still mark the site.

Incidents that happened at Cowangie North School as remembered by former pupil Tal Purdue:

"I remember a humorous happening in the classroom one morning. My older brother found a bottle with a recess in the bottom and bent a piece of wire like a trailer pull, with one end in the neck and one in the bottom of the bottle. He tied this to a stumpy tail lizard and sneaked it into the classroom, released it, and the lizard took off across the floor towing the bottle like a roller."

Mis Elsie Harding, who taught at Cowangie North, left and married Mr Ern Harley and lived on the farm south of Danyo. She was visiting at our home and all the older members of her family were calling her Elsie. I did also, but was kept in after school the next day until I wrote out 50 times, "I will be respectful to my teacher". It was a good lesson and one I never forgot. In later years, my late wife Roma and Mr and Mrs Harley were very great friends.

Clive Crouch, a pupil at Cowangie North School, fell from his horse and was dragged by the stirrup, resulting in his death. I remember this was a very sad time. Clive is buried in the Murrayville cemetery.

Cowangie North School pupils

NICHOLLS - Dulcie, Marjorie, John Russell Olive, Nancy

ROBERTS - Eileen, Harold

MENZEL - Victor, Norman, Linda, Elsie, Edna, Trudy

FRASER - Tom, Alice

STEWART - Robert, Walter

JACKEL - Leo, Tom, Kathleen, Dulcie

PURDUE - Roberta, Dudley, Talisker, Harry

CROUCH - Norman, Barbara & Clive

HECHT - Kenneth

HETHERINGTON - children

PARKINSON - Joe, Francis, George, Naomi

McINTOSH

Teachers Cowangie North School

Misses Violet Meere, M.C. Donald, Doyle, Adams, Elsie Harding; Mrs Howard; Messrs Elliot and Shallcross



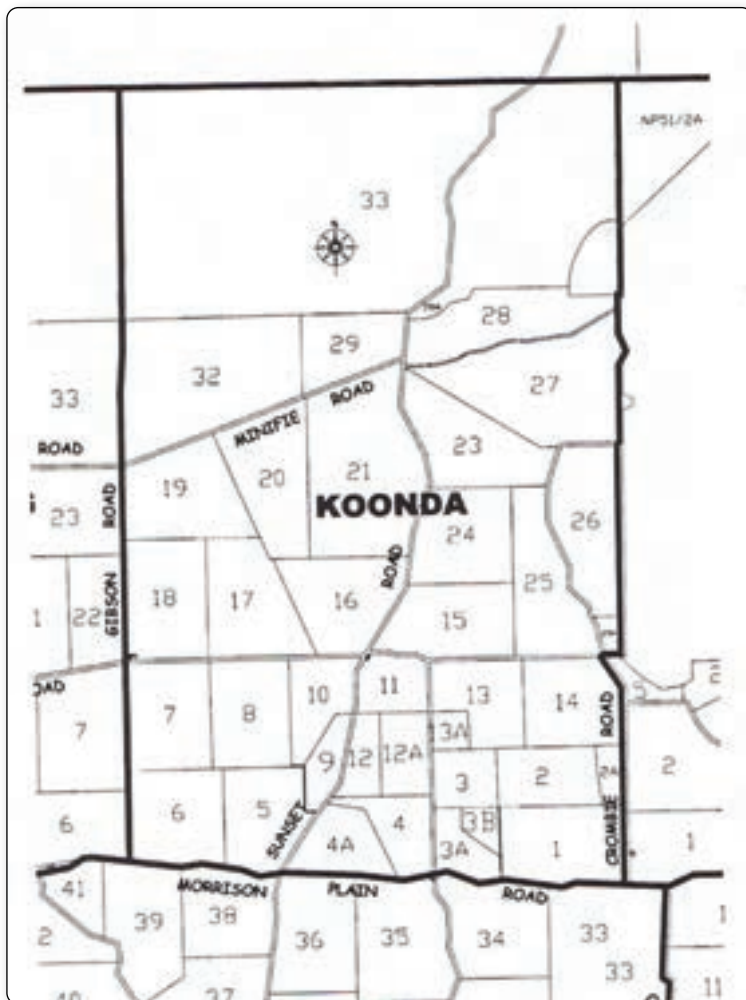
Cowangie North School Pupils



Past pupils 1988

Koonda Parish

Parish of Boinka – County of Weeah
(root of plant, a yam)



Koonda Farm Allotments

Station abb.	Block	Owners
	No.	
CPW	1	Crown
CPW	2	J.F. & A. Blight; Crown land
CPW	2A	J.F. & A. Blight; W.R. & J.N. Chaplin; K. & J. Chaplin
CPW	3	J.F. & A. Blight; H.S. Glanville; J. & M. Boseley; J. McKee; Excel Farms
CPW	3A	J. & M. Boseley; J. McKee; Excel Farms
CPW	4	J.E. Brennan; J.A. & M. Boseley; J. McKee; Excel Farms
CPW	5	G. Bird; J. Murphy; J. Blight; B.A. Blight; J. & M. Boseley; I & B. Brown; Excel Farms
CPW	6	W.H. Bird; C.C. Houghton; R.F. McKee & Sons; G. & P. McKee; I. & B. Brown; Excel Farms
CPW	7	A.S. Rogers; R.F. & D.M. Gebert; R.F. McKee & Sons; G. & P. McKee
CPW	8	R.J. Porter; R.O. Baird; R.F. & D.M. Gebert; R.F. McKee & Sons; G&P. McKee
CPW	9	A. Hunt Snr.; A.M. Johnston; A.N. Parker & Son;; H., M. & S. Parker
CPW& D	10	H.A. Jacobson; A.M. Johnston; A.N. Parker & Sons; H., M. & S. Parker
CPW & D	11	A. Jacobson; A.M. Johnston; A.N. Parker & Sons; H., M. & S. Parker
CPW & D	12	A. Hunt Snr; M. Johnston; A.N. Parker & Sons; H., M. & S. Parker
CPW & D	13	S. Glanville; J.F. & A. Blight; J.A. Boseley; J & M. Boseley; J. McKee; Excel Farms
CPW & D	14	G.P. Conlin; R.H. Crombie; W.R. Chaplin; K. & D. Chaplin; N. Westphalen
D	15	J.L. White; A.M. Johnston; A.N. Parker & Son: H., M. & S. Parker
D.	16	H.M. White; A.M. Johnston; A.N. Parker & Son: H., M. & S. Parker
D	17	S. Perry; K.F. Gibson; T. & J. Gibson
D	18	E. Hart; E. Thompson; A.K. & K.F. Gibson; K.F. Gibson; T. & J. Gibson
D	18A	K. F. Gibson; T. & J. Gibson
D	19	A.H. Thompson; K.F. Gibson; T. & J. Gibson
D	20	G.R. Nattrass. K.F. Gibson; T. & J. Gibson
D	21	G.T. Bennett; A.M. Johnstone; P.R. Peers; R.A & C.L Kelly; K.A. & B.A. Kelly
D	22	C.J. Porter; G.T. Bennett; P.R. Peers; R.A & C.L Kelly; K.A & B.A Kelly

D	23	A. Hunt Jnr.; P.R. Peers; R.A & C.L. Kelly; K.A & B.A Kelly
D	24	F.E. Thompson; A.M. Johnston; A.N. Parker & Sons; H., M. & S. Parker
D	25	L.T. Sellman; A. M. Johnston; A.N. Parker & Sons; H., M. & S. Parker
D	25A	A.N Parker & Sons; H., M. & S. Parker
D	26	A. Burstal; K. Hayter
D	27	Hunt; P.R. Peers; R.A. & C.L. Kelly; K.A. & B.A. Kelly
D	28	A.C. Hunt; P.R. Peers; R.A & C.L. Kelly; K.A. & B.A Kelly
D	29	P.R. Peers; R.A & C.L. Kelly; K.A. & B.A. Kelly
D	31	D.G. Boseley; B. Boseley

Kadoon School No.4121 1922-1944

The earliest mention of the Kadoon School in the minutes of the Women's Section Victorian Farmers Union, Cowangie Branch of 11 April 1922, when it is stated "that a letter written to F.E. Old Esq. MLA stating the need of a teacher at Koonda. Mrs Thompson expressed her willingness to find a school room and board a teacher." This proposal was approved by the Education Department; as Mr and Mrs Thompson had just built a new home, they offered a room for school and one for the teacher.

As there was already a Koonda School a name for the new school was necessary. Mrs Thompson was asked to suggest a name so "Kadoon" from (Koonda) was chosen and accepted.

Kadoon School opened in Thompson's front room when Irene Carney, the first teacher, enrolled John Bird and 11 other pupils in grades Prep to 5 on 30 January 1923. The room proved so small that some classes had to be accommodated on the verandah.

A new portable school building 12ft x 18ft opened on 12 August 1925. The school building was situated on Thompson's land near the Government Bore No. 2 Koonda. Of this building District Inspector, W.H Elwood wrote: "It is altogether too small, and there is not sufficient floor space to allow freedom of movement." The Kadoon School Committee in 1925 consisted of Messrs. N. Fury, Thompson, Rogers, Bird, Lawrence, and Miss Fury (Head Teacher). The school closed on 15 December 1944, K. C. Fulton teaching the last of the 86 pupils who had enrolled over the years at Kadoon.



Kadoon State School and shelter shed that had been the original school



Kadoon School pupils 1941



Thompson's off to Kadoon school



Nell Gibson nee Thompson at Kadoon School site 1988

From time to time functions were held in the building to raise funds for the school. These took the form of Euchre Parties followed by a dance with accordion music supplied by local people. At Christmas time there was a tree for the children of the district and a concert by the pupils. A School Picnic was held once a year with a lollie scramble and games. Tea and coffee for suppers and afternoon teas at the school was made in a kerosene tin swung over an open fire.

Church services were conducted in the school, a local lady providing music with violin.

Pupils Kadoon School in order of attendance

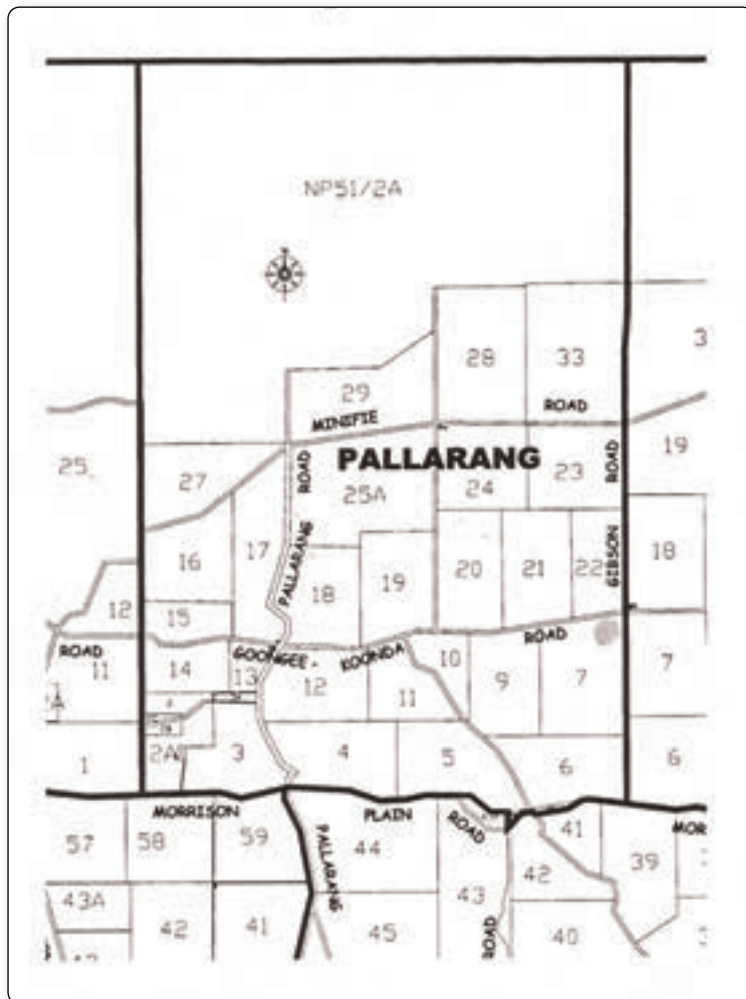
BIRD - Jack, Les, Edna, Cliff, Murray, Leon (1923-35)
THOMPSON - Ellen (Nell), Bill, Lily, Ernie, Arthur
FREE - George, Marg, Amie, Elsie, Mavis (1923-29)
TARNEY - Verna (1923)
LAWRENCE – Ethel, Percy, Gladys (1923-42)
WILTSHIRE - Robert (1924)
MINIFIE - Lawrie, Nellie, Clifford (1924-25)
COOK - Ada, Ronald, Lawrence (1924-25)
RICKARD - Bessie, Jean, Allan (1926-28)
HAND - Daphne (1930)
SMERDON – Beryl (1930-36)
BLIGHT - Clarrie, John, Kevin (1930-44)
BEATTIE - Jean, David (1933)
NATTRASS - Florie, John, Allan, Jessie, Jane, Ruth (1933)
SNADDEN - Joseph, Jean, Robert (1934-42)
BENNETT - Iris, Hector, Elva, Leonard, Robert, Lance, Fay (1935-43)
ROGERS - Eric, Valmae (1935-43)
STEWART - Dorothy (1936-41)
BIGHAM - Colin, Ray, Loris (1937-39)
FOX - Daphne, Myrtle (1937)
BADDELEY - Duddley, Bruce (1938-39)
PITT- Cecil, Thomas, Keith, Valerie (1938-39)
HUNT - Elsie, Dorothy (1940)
BENNETT - Audrey, John, Wilma (1942-44)

Teachers Kadoon School

Irene Curney, Nell Fury, Freda Beattie, Horace Baddeley, Alister Keilerup, Rosa Ruidon, Alice Hall, Vera Hall, Verna Andrews, Vera McKenzie, Jim Tighe, Rex Daube, Jack Diamond, Phyllis Geoghegan, Gordon Wilson, Mollie Dow, Kevin Fulton.

Pallarang Parish

Parish of Pallarang – County of Weeah
(to bow down)



Early settlers at Pallarang were: Ern Free, Fred Minifie, George Griffiths, Jack Bennett, Ab Bennett, Herb Bennett, Bert Evans, Fred Oliver, Perce Hickman, Perce Morrow, Tom Close, Tom Rundle, Alex Gunn, Phillip Gunn, Ted Clarke, Bill Chatterton, Ben Free, Matt McGough, Harry Duplanteur Arthur Morrison, Roke Saltmarsh, Jack Little, Martin Manning, Ralph Wallace, Joe Archbold, Pat O'Brian, Norman Hetherington, Fred Higgins and Rob McKee.

Pallarang Farm Allotments

Note: Not all Pallarang Parish allotments were not part of the Kow Plains Station run.

Station abb.	Block No.	Owners
	1	
	2	Water Reserve; Recreation Reserve; Pallarang School; A.J. Ross; J.A. Boseley; I. & B. Brown; Excel Farms
	2A	W.E. Chatterton; A.J. Ross; J.A. Boseley; I. & B. Brown; Excel Farms
	3	P.F. Hickman; M.P. & L. Sugars; J. Marshall; R. McKee; D.A. Crane
	4	E. Hickman; M.P. & L. Sugars; R. McKee; D.A. Crane
CPW	5	L. Lawrence; P. Lawrence Jnr.; J.A. Boseley; J. & M. Boseley, unknown
CPW	6	P. Doyle; J.C. Smerdon; P. Lawrence; J.A. Boseley; J. & M. Boseley; I. & B. Brown; Excel Farms
CPW	7	B. Rickard; C.E. Hogan; Rogers & Abraham: R. McKee; G. & M. McKee; G. & P. McKee
CPW	8	W.S. Rogers; Ron McKee: G. & P. McKee
partCPW	9	P. Lawrence Snr.; P. Lawrence Jnr; Lawrence, Hall & Bird; W.D. & F. Bird
	10	P.A. Gunn; E. Griffiths; P.R. Peers; R.A. Kelly & C.L. Kelly
	11	P.A. Gunn; E. Griffiths; P.R. Peers; R.A. & C.L. Kelly
	12	P.A. Gunn; E. Griffiths; P.R. Peers; R.A. & C.L. Kelly
	13	Public Hall; Reserve; Sugars; R. McKee; D.A. Crane
	13A	M.P. & L. Sugars; R. McKee; D.A. Crane
	14	H.E. Duplanter; A.J. Ross; J.A. Boseley; I. & B. Brown; Excel Farms
	15	A.J. A.J. Ross; J.A. Boseley; I. & B. Brown; Excel Farms
	16	I.E. Hickman; W.M. Archbold; R. Selkrig; C. Inglis; W. Crane
	17.	H.J. Bennett; J.E.M. Powell; R. Selkrig; C. Inglis; W. Crane
	18.	R.G. Griffith; A.E. Bennett; S.J. & C.E. McKee; J. McKee; Excel Farms
	19	R.G. Griffith; P.R. Peers; R.A. & C.L. Kelly
	20	B. Edwards; A.B. Jones; P. & R. McKee; J. McKee; Excel Farms

D	21	M.A. Hogan; W.S. Rogers; P. & R. McKee; J. McKee; Excel Farms
D	22	W.S. Rogers; P. & R. McKee; J. McKee; Excel Farms
D	23	B. Lavery; R.M. Rogers; P. & R. McKee; J. McKee; Excel Farms
	24	H.E. Haeusler; E.O. Free; E.G. Griffith; P.R. Peers; R.A. & C.L. Peers; R.A. & C.L. Kelly
	25	E.G. Tompkins; Now 25A R.R. Selkrig; B. Boseley
	26	E.G. Tompkins; Now 25A R.R. Selkrig; B. Boseley
	27	F. L. Higgins; J. Archbold; R.R. Selkrig; C. Inglis; W. Crane
	28	P.J. Hogan; D.G. Boseley; B. Boseley
	29	J. Archbold; D.G. Boseley; B. Boseley
	30	N. Etherington; D.G. Boseley; B. Boseley
	31	A.E. Groffith; Crown Land
	32	A.G. Pritchard; Crown land
D	33	D.G. Boseley; B. Boseley
	34	P.J. Hogan; D.G. Boseley; B. Boseley

Pallarang State School No. 3969

On 10 April 1918 the Pallarang School commenced in the local hall. The hall was situated in a corner paddock owned by Mr P. Hickman. First to attend the Pallarang School was Patrick Hogan, and 14 other pupils who were enrolled under the teacher Ruby Morrison.

In 1929, land was given by Mr William Chatterton, and a new Glenmore type school was opened. The last pupil enrolled on the 5ly July 1942.

After closure the school was moved to the Murrayville Consolidated School and used as a classroom. The last teacher at Pallarang was Mrs F. Morrison.

Pupils Pallarang School (alphabetical order)

BENNETT - Ivy (1921-24) Kevin, Elwyn (1931-35) Joyce, Fred, Gwen, Ross, Shirley (1932-40) Jim, John, Audrey, Wilma (1932-42)

BOSELEY- Beris, Wilma (1941)

BIGHAM - Colin, Ray, Loris (1932-37)

CHATTERTON - Rebecca, Connie, Norman, Gordon, Malcom, Lyle, Joyce, Ross (1921-36)

COOK - Ada, Ronald (1922)

CLARKE - Harry (1931-39)

EVANS - William, Charles (1918-22)

FREE - Lillian, Mick, Mary, George, Amy, Elsie, Mavis (1918-22)

GUNN - Colin, Alex, Walter, William, Kenneth, Fred, Stanley, Patrick (1925-36) Dorothy, Winifred, William (1929-30)

GRIFFITHS - Ernest, Florence, Amy, Jack, Clarence, Phyllis

HOGAN - Patrick (1918)

HICKMAN - Oswald, Stanley, Clarence, Darcy, Mabel, Marjorie, Maisie, Jean (1918-35)

JONASSON - Jean, Annie (1929)
KAVANAGH - Kenneth (1932)
LAWRENCE - Ethel, Percy (1918-22)
LITTLE - David, Richard, Robert, Phyllis (1936-42)
MINIFIE - Henry, Verna, Laurence, Elizabeth (1918-24)
McGOUGH - Murray (1927-31)
MORISON - Marjorie, Joan, Maxwell (1932-38)
NEWMAN - Edna (1922)
NURTON - Flora (1927-31)
OLIVER - Ella, Fran, Jack, Henry (1919-25)
O'BRYAN - Alma (1930)
RICKARD - Bessie 1918-20)
SALTMARSH - Neava (1926-34)
SMITH - Thomas (1930)
THOMPSON - Ellen, William (1921)
TAYLOR - Margaret (1939)
WALTERS - Clarence, Lionel, Donald, Naomi, Cecilia (1924-25)
WILLIAMS - Nellie (1923)

Teachers Pallarang School

Miss R. Morrison, Miss Kerley, Miss Cavanagh, Mr G. Thompson, Mr J. Curley,
Mr McIntyre, Mr F. Hickey, Mr J. Rae, Mr K. Kirk, Mrs F. Morrison



Pallarang School pupils 1922

*Back Row: Henry Minifie, Stan Hickman, Vera Minifie, Clarrie Hickman,
Jack Griffiths, Wally Griffiths*

*2nd Row: Darcy Hickman, Fred Oliver, Ivy Bennett, Ela Oliver, Amy Griffiths,
Phyllis Griffiths, Jack Oliver*

Front Row: Rebecca Chatterton, Connie Chatterton



Pallarang School pupils 1928

*Back Row: Murray McGough, Gordon Chatterton, Norman Chatterton,
Alex Gunn, Colin Gunn*

*Middle Row: Marj Hickman, Neava Saltmarsh, Flora Nurton, B. Chatterton,
Maisie Hickman, Connie Chatterton*

*Front Row: Lyle Chatterton, Joan Hickman, Dorothy Gunn, Winnie Gunn,
Jean Jonasson, Wally Gunn*



Marj Sugars nee Hickman at Pallarang School site 1988

Pallarang township and organisations

Pallarang Hall - When the Education Department built the new Pallarang school in 1929 and the hall building was no longer required for classes, so it was moved to an area of land which had been provided by Mr William Chatterton for the school, football oval and tennis court. Dances were held after football, at the hall and many balls were held. Large crowds attended and it was often a competition among the ladies of the district to see who wore the nicest evening gown, and there really were some beautiful gowns worn in those days.

Pallarang Church - The Methodist Church held services in the hall each Sunday. Early ministers were Vinear, Collett, Peck, Christian, Gallagher, Herriot, Joyce and Collard. Sunday school was held each Sunday, Mr John Graham being Superintendent. Catholic and Anglican services were also held in the hall.

Pallarang Football Club - During 1927 the local Football Association was formed. Teams comprising Murrayville 2nds, Mulcra, Duddo Wells, Pallarang, Danyo and later Bolton's Bore entered the association. Pallarang managed to win their only premiership in 1936, the last year of the association. Player names of Pallarang Football Club in 1936 were: P.H. Bigham (Captain), A.K. Gibson (Vice Captain), S.A. Hickman, D.C. Hickman, J.W. Little, F.C. Gunn, W.J. Thompson, P.J. Hogan, L. Sugars, A.C. Hunt, A.J. Shugg, W.C. Williams, J.W. Griffiths, J.T. Daley, G.H. Oliver, W.H. Wyatt, E.W. Wheeler, F.J. Wheeler, G.E. Croft, L.W. Bird, R. Duffield, R. Ribbons, C.H. Bird.

Girl Guides - Miss Dulcie Nicholls (Pritchard) of Duddo a Lone Ranger connected to the 1st Vic. Lone Ranger Unit started a Guide Patrol at Pallarang. Meetings were held in the school shelter shed. Guides were Betty Hetherington, Flora Nurton, Connie Chatterton, and Neava saltmarsh.

When the Cowangie North School closed Dulcie Nicholls wrote to the Education Department asking for the school flag for her Danyo guide patrol – this request was granted.

There are no guides or lone guides in Pallarang but over the years as well as their being guides and brownies throughout the district that attended Murrayville meetings there have been a few lone brownies, guides and ranger guides. These girls do their guiding by correspondence from leaders based in Melbourne like Dulcie Nicholls did her initial guiding. One lone guide Heidi Lindner of Tutye received her Queens Guide award in 1991 the highest award in Guiding.

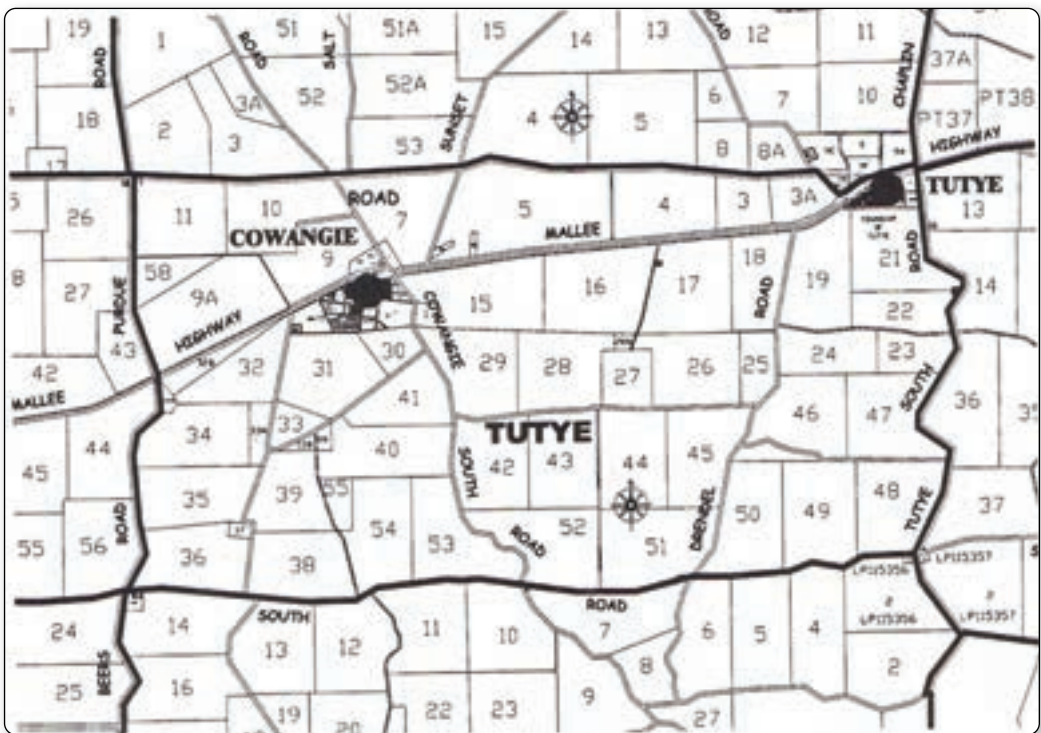
Pallarang Post Office - The first Pallarang Post Office was situated in the home of Mr P. Hickman about 1914. The mail was delivered from Cowangie twice a week by Mrs J. Hogan in a buggy. Mrs A. Bennett took over the telephone exchange in 1927. This later closed and was operated from Cowangie.

Pallarang tennis courts - Tennis courts were put down in 1930 at the new sports ground. At first, social matches were played, then a competition was formed, many players coming

from Koonda. Some of the first players were A. Gibson, Nell and Lill Thompson, Bill Thompson, Griffiths family, Chatterton family, Neavea Saltmarsh, Gunn family, Jack and Jaen Little, Hickman family, Clem and Jack Hogan.

Tutye

Parish of Tutye – County of Weeah
(resting place)



There was a great demand for land when the County of Weeah was opened up and the Land Settlement Board had a difficult time selecting the allotment holders. In 1911 when the parishes of Tutye and Bunurouk were thrown open there were 100 allotments covering 64,809 acres and 3,007 applicants for these blocks.

A badly damaged map of part of the County of Weeah showing allotments in parishes of Danyo and Tutye dated 19 April 1911 still has the following interesting information

on it. Land was divided into first and second class land, unfortunately the value of Tutye land is illegible but some of the Bunurouk values can be read. Allotment 2 Bunurouk, which was second class land was valued at 17 shillings & 6 pence per acre and the half yearly payment was £6 & 11 shillings & 11 pence. Allotment 3 first class land valued at £1 & 2 shilling & 6 pence per acre and half yearly payment of £8 & 9 shillings & 8 pence. These values appear indicative of allotments in adjoining parishes at that time.

The survey fee ranged from £9 - £11 per allotment and was to be paid within 28 days of demand. The license was subject to the following conditions:

That substantial and permanent improvements shall be made on the land, if first class to the value of 3 shillings & 4 pence per acre before the end of the second year from the date of the license, another 3 shillings & 4 pence per acre before the end of each year of the third and fourth year, and the balance of 10 shillings per acre before the end of the sixth year of the license. Second class land improvements to the value of 2 shillings & 6 pence per acre must be made, and 2 shillings & 6 pence for the like periods and the balance of 7 shillings & 6 pence per acre before the end of the sixth year of the license.

A special condition was inserted in the lease and the crown grant, providing that the land referred to be used at all times and be maintained and used for the purpose of agriculture grazing and residence and that no person be permitted to subsequently acquire or hold or have an interest in more than 1,000 acres if the land be in the first class or more than 1,500 acres if the land be in any other class. Mention was also made about preserving timber but unfortunately this part of the map is badly torn and cannot be read.

The document issued to land holders in 1911 was titled 'Agricultural allotment residence license (*Mallee*) the King to landholder'. Mr Ern Jonasson had the copy of this document which was issued to his father for allotments 30 and 41 Tutye a total of 640 acres on 2 October 1911. It is a very wordy three page document and contains similar information but in more detail to that given on the map.

Tutye Farm Allotments

Station abb. Block Owners
No.

KP	1	Kow Plains
KP	2	Reserve
KP	3	Reserve; S. McIntosh; I. McIntosh; K. McDonald
KP	3A	Reserve; A. Parker; S. McIntosh; I. McIntosh; H.,M. & S. Parker
KP	4	Jos Lewis; S. McIntosh; I. McIntosh; K. McDonald
KP	5	N.V. Hanley; A.L. Lewis; B. Murnane; K. McDonald
KP	6	G.E. Jones; A.L. Lewis, unknown
KP	7	John Irving; Murray Valley Gypsum; Boral Australia; DEECA
KP	8	Reserve

Part CPB	9	D. Etherton & Sons; H.G. Moorhouse; E. & V. Jonasson; D. & E. Jonasson; R. Jonasson
CPB & CPW	10	R. Hecht; A. McIntosh; D. Etherton; R. Selkrig; S. McKee; Excel Farms
Part CPB	11	S. Best; J.M. Stewart; H.S. Purdue; B. & E. Purdue; A.J. & C.P. Lynch
CPB	12	Whitfield 1911; Railway Dept.
CPB	13	Whitfield 1911; Water Reserve (Railway Dept.)
CPB	14	Cow Plains Railway Station & Reserve
KP	15	A.S. Dayman; S. Perry; J.W. & K.M. Murnane; unknown
KP	16	J.J. Smith; J. Lewis; G. Gould; Wedding; K. McDonald
KP	17	W.H. McLeod; C. Houghton; C.E. Carter; J. Murnane; K. McDonald
KP	18	Reserve; C.C. Houghton; McDonald
KP	19	W. Moroney; A.B. Wedding; M.A. Wedding; B. Wedding; H.,M. & S. Parker
KP	20	Reserve; M. Brennan; O.C. Jones; R. & B. Brown; Excel Farms
KP	20A	Reserve; M. Brennan; O.C. Jones; R. & B. Brown; Excel Farms
KP	20B	Reserve; M.E. Jones; R. & B. Brown; Excel Farms
KP	21	D. McGrath; Miles; Grundy; A.B. Wedding; I. McIntosh; H.,M. & S. Parker
KP	22	Wallenhaffer; A.G. Parker; A.N. Parker & sons; H.,M. & S. Parker
KP	23	Wallenhaffer; A.B. Wedding; M.A. Wedding; B. Wedding; H.,M. & S. Parker
KP	24	P.F. Hickman; A.B. Wedding; M.A. Wedding; B. Wedding; H.,M. & S. Parker
KP	25	A. Brown; C.R. Drendel; T.R. Drendel; K. Drendel; P. & D. McKee; K. James
KP	26	J. Cumming; A. Brown; C.R. Drendel; T.R. Drendel; K. Drendel; P. & D. McKee; K. James
KP	27	Reserve
KP	28	P. Perry; J.N. & K.M. Murnane; K.M. Murnane; unknown
KP	29	J.J. Moyle; R. Perry; J.N. & K.M. Murnane; R. & G. McKee
KP	30	V.A. Jonasson; E. & V. Jonasson; E.W. Jonasson; D. Jonasson
CPB	31	Jos Blight; V.A. Jonasson; E. & V. Jonasson; E.W. Jonasson; D. Jonasson
CPB	32	withheld in 1911; M. Heintze
CPB	32A	withheld in 1911; E.W. Jonasson; D. Jonasson
CPB	33	Reserve; M.A. Blight; V. Jonasson; E. & V. Jonasson; E.W. Jonasson; D. Jonasson
CPB	33B	W.A. McKee; R. & G. McKee
CPB	33A	withheld in 1911; M. Heintze
CPB	33C	V.J. Jonasson; D. Jonasson

CPB	34	A.W. Hendy; J.O. & D. Etherton R. Selkrig; M. Heintze
CPB	34A	M. Heintze
CPB	35	T. Fry; E.W. Geue; G.R. Gramp; D. Etherton; R. Selkrig; M. Heintze
CPB	36	J.E.D. Smith; G. Yetman; A.A. McKee & Sons; B.A. Etherton
	37	B.A. Etherton
CPB.	38.	J.J. Schultz; A.W. & R. McKee; R. & G. McKee
CPB	39	P. Schiffendecker; F. J. J.Schultz; A.W. & R. McKee; R. & G. McKee
CPB & KP	40	J.W. Roberts; J.H. Schmidt; E. & V. Jonasson; V.J. Jonasson; D. Jonasson
KP	41	V. Jonasson; E. & V. Jonasson; E.W. Jonasson; D. Jonasson
KP	42	Thos Reid; C. Davies; M. Heintze
KP	43	Jos Williams; E. & V. Jonasson; D. & E. Jonasson; D. Jonasson
KP	44	Thos Walsh; A.E. Williams; E.M. Drendel; T.R Drendel; K. Drendel; S. McIntosh; K. James
KP	45	C.R. Drendel; E.M. Drendel & C.R. Drendel; T.R. Drendel; K. Drendel; S. McIntosh; K. James
KP	46	C.E. Andriske; F.P. Perret; J.K. Brown; S.,R. & A. Brown; Excel Farms
KP	47	R. Porter; T Draffin; T.E & D. Draffin; A.N. Parker & Sons; K. & H. Parker; H.,M. & S. Parker
KP	48	John Wilson; H.C. Davidson; M.E. Evans; J.K. Brown; S.,R. & A. Brown; Excel Farms
KP	49	W.T. Evans; W.W. Wiltshire; J.K. Brown; S.,R. & A. Brown; Excel Farms
KP	50	T. Carmichael; H.H. Walton; J.K. Brown; S.,R. & A. Brown; Excel Farms
KP	51	H. Mead; J.J.E. Cain; T. Drendel; K. Drendel; S. & N. McIntosh; K. James
KP	51A	K. Drendel; S. & N. McIntosh; K. James
KP	52	Wm Dalton; J.J. & D.D. Downie; C. T. Davies; M. Heintze
KP	53	A. Jacob; G.G. Wills; E. Perkins; M. Heintze
KP	54	W. Clohesy; J.H. Schimdt; E. & V. Jonasson; V. J. Jonasson; D. Jonasson
KP	55	P. Schiffendecker; F.J. Schultz; A.W. & R. McKee; R.G. McKee
KP	56	withheld in 1911; R.G. McKee

Tutye School No. 3839 (1914 - 1969)

On 6 August 1913 a proposal for a school at Tutye to be set up in the local hall was submitted by inspector J.C. Loughrey. Family names submitted for likely attendance were: Richardson, Corbett, Porter, Grundy, Blackmore, Carter, Travis, Healey, McNamara, Waters, Anderson, Moroney, Megrath, Bigham, Goreham and Murphy.

The school was opened on 16 April 1914 with Mary Green as the first Head Teacher and five pupils. In 1920 the Department supplied a building, the contractor was J.H. Brown. Contract records show that the building cost £558 & 1 shilling & 3 pence. In 1927 a further contract was awarded to W.G. Stoddart for painting and repairs at a cost of £86 & 9 shillings & 3 pence.

During the 55 years of the school's existence many men and women taught there, some only stayed a short time, but several stayed many years such as Mr Hatley and Mrs Ewins.

Many teachers were keen sports persons, several coaching the local football team to victory. Ex-pupils can remember the silver cup the winning school of the Tutye and District Combined School Sports would hold if they won the Sports and perhaps lose the next year to another school. Tutye won at least one cup outright.

Education Department Inspectors would visit irregularly, the first school to be inspected letting the next know he was coming. The teacher would prepare the children so they would have ready answers when he gave them a quick test. How did teachers cope with eight grades in one class room?

Then there were traumatic times like the arrival of the school dental van with the foot-pedal-driven dental drill that could stall in an aching tooth.

One day the rainwater tanks and wooden stands were given their annual inspection and declared safe and sound by the tanks inspector. Much to the delight of the students the tank collapsed the very next day. A great day was had by all, making and sailing paper boats in the precious liquid.

The annual School Concert meant much effort by all, making costumes and trudging down to the hall to practice and 'set up'. Well remembered is the year a large bush fire called all able bodied men to attend at the commencement of the Concert; they arrived back in time for the last item, covered in soot and ash.

The children who walked and rode horses south of the school were delighted in the late 40s when Thompsons started a bus service.

The last student enrolled at Tutye School was Glennis Chaplin pupil number 396, allowing for a few people re-enrolling, that is the approximate number of pupils who attended Tutye School in 55 years of existence. The school closed on 30 September 1969, C.R Thompson being the last Head Teacher. After the closure, teacher and pupils were transferred to Murrayville Consolidated School.



Tutye School Pupils 1918



Tutye School



Jack Corbett, one of the first pupils unveiling plaque 1988

Pupils Tutye School (alphabetical order - list incomplete as original records lost)

ANDERSON - Arthur, Howard, Rita, Albert, Hazel
AYRES - Judith, Jennifer, Lynette, Graham
BEER - Geoffrey, Graeme, Rhonda
BOWN J.K Snr. - Val
BROWN J.K. Jnr. - Stephen, Robert, Meredith, Andrew, Bronwyn
BIGHAM - Muriel, Audrey, James, Elsie
BOSELEY W.D. - Beris, David, Wilma, Jeffrey, Janice, June, Christopher
BOSELEY G. - Jim
CANNY - Jim
CARROL - Bob, Geoff, Bill
CASEY - Peter, Ivy
CAVANAGH - Percy, Colin
CHAPLIN J. - Leslie, Joylene, Janette, Ken, Glennis
CHAPLIN L. - Michael, Rodney
CHAPLIN Denise - Gary
COE
CORBETT - John
CUMMINGS - Daisy, Kath, Grace, Myrtle, Emily, Charlie, George, Jim, John, Lennie, Hazel
DICKINSON - Eddie, Olive, Florence
DRAFFIN - Tom, Eric, David, Gladys, Vera, Dulcie
DRENDEL - Evelyn, Norma, Dorothy, Joy, Kelvin, Irene, Carl
EVANS - Tony
EWINS Snr - Arthur, Eric, Charlie
EWINS Eric - Josie,
EWINS Harry - Beryl
GUNN - Joan
GOREHAM
GRUNDY - Margaret, John
HALE - Robin, Helen
HALL - Anita, Yvonne, Shirley
HANKINSON - Dawn
HARVEY - Stan, Harold, Eddie, Ella, Daphne, Lila
HODGE - Peter
HOLDSWORTH - Bill, Kevin, Margaret, Alice, Henry
JONES E. - Sylvia, Jean, Gladys, Phyllis, Ida, Gertrude, Teddy
JONES L. - Charles, Ken, Lyla, Shirley, Yvonne,
KENNEDY - Thomas, Mary
KIMPTON - Graeme
LITTLEJOHN
LOFFEL - Margaret, Robert, Leslie, John, Stanley, Ian, Vickie
McINTOSH - Brenda, Heather, Ian

MURPHY
MCLEOD
MENGLER - Pam, John
McGRATH
MARTINUSSEN - Sissel, Ganove
MORONEY
MALIN
McNAMARA - Percy, Timothy, Ellen, Mary
O'SHANNASSY - Eileen
PARKER - Allan, Margaret
Alan PARKER - Henry, Ken, Patricia
PERKINS - Garry, Larry, Terry, Peter, Anne
PEAT
PORTER - Richard, William, Hubert, Annie, Jimmie
PITT
RICHARDSON - Elizabeth, Mavis, Olive
RICKARD - Bessie, Jean, Anita, Jack, Allan
SCOWN - Ina, Robin, John, Olwyn, Moyne, Merle, Loris
SHEPPERD - Jack, Victor, Alan, Terry
THOMPSON - Rosemary, Jennifer, Hugh, Anne
TREADWELL - Zabie
TURNBULL - Colin
VECTOR - Phillip, Jennifer
VOIGHT - Fred, Alf, George
WATERS - Clive
WALKER Len - Len, Lily, Doris, Jack, Iren, Alf, Frank
E.L WALKER - Peter, Margaret
WALKER Jack - Alf, Stewart
W.H WALKER - Dawn, Geoff
WALTON - Melva
WARE - Grace
WATTS - Amy
A.WEDDING - Maxwell, Raymond, Leslie
M. WEDDING - Maxine, Wayne, Vicky
R.WEDDING - Tony, Lee
WILLIAMS - Geoff, Glen
WINSCOME - Gordon, Debra, Julie
WOODHOUSE - Helen

Teachers Tutye School (alphabetical order)

Raymond Aisbett, Brewer, Bill Coleman, Casey, Carrol, Cowan, Mrs Ewins, Etherton, Farrell, Mary Green, Mr Hatley, Andy Handcorne, Krick, Lockhead, Mr Lynes, Laudigus,

Orr, Preston, Purcell, Pittaway, Fred Rogers, Roberts, Shelton, Sharrock, Solocome, C.R Thomason, Tomlinson, Thorn, Mr Williams, Walsh.



Tutye School pupils 1946

*Back row: Wilma Boseley, Rosemary Thompson, Doris Carter, Dawn Hackinson, Beryl Ewins,
Anita Hall, Yvonne Hall*

Front row: Les Carter, Jeff Boseley, Ian McIntosh, Hedley Parker, Geoff Willsmore



Mrs. Thompson with Tutye School Bus, Worrooa pupils

Tutye Township



Tutye first allotment holders and date purchased

Block	Allotment No.	Owner	Date
2	1	G.V. Grundy	25/10/1915
2	2	T. Kennedy	21/11/1912
2	3	W.H. Kruse	21/11/1912
2	4	Bank of Victoria	21/11/1912
2	5	J. Wilson	21/11/1912
2	6	S. Kennedy	7/10/1913
2	7	G. Grundy	7/10/1913
2	10	E. H. Jones	19/04/1917
2	11	Public Hall	
2	12	'Police purposes'	
2	18	L. Mitchell	21/11/1912
2	19	L. Mitchell	21/11/1912
2	20	L. Mitchell	21/11/1912
3	1	M.E. Jones	10/10/1918

The General Store

Allotment 2, block 2 was taken up by T. Kennedy on 21 November 1912 and it was on this block that he opened a general store. From all accounts it operated as a typical

country general store, selling everything that customers required, including groceries, haberdashery, clothing and hardware. At one time when Tom Kennedy owned it, it was managed by Tom Roberts who had Bill Hall working for him.

After Tom Kennedy's death, the store was taken over by Simmerings of Murrayville; then a succession of owners namely Sharrock, Bill Carrol, Scown and Bill Carrol again, Jacky Wilson, Jim and Lil Cummings 1943 operated it until the store was sold to Mr W.D. Boseley in 1944.

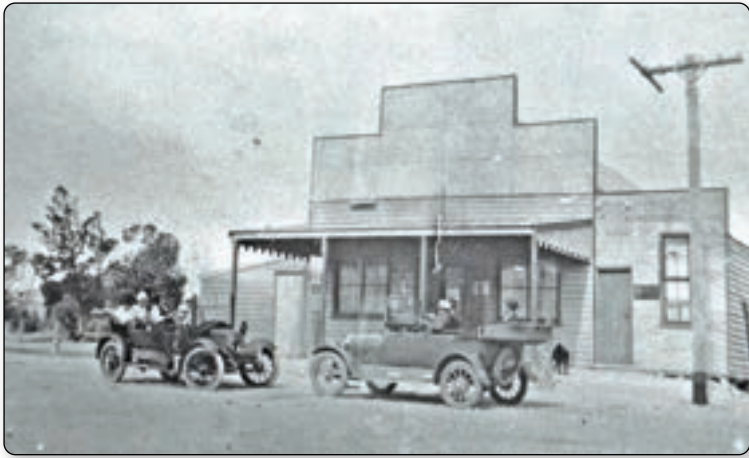
Mr Boseley as well as operating the store, also had a number stock agencies including: Elders, Goldsbrough Mort, Crawford Dowling and Dalgety's, as well as an Ampol agency and he was agent for the Barley Board.

The store continued to sell a wide range of items as well as the newspapers that arrived three times a week. Fresh bread was delivered from Murrayville every Saturday morning and fresh fruit and vegetables came from Adelaide every Friday night.

The passing of time and improved transport gradually saw the decline of this business as people travelled further to do their shopping. The shop closed in 1970 after serving the people of Tutye for about 56 years. The store remained standing until it was demolished in 1988.



Bush Store at Tutye c.1913



Tutye Store c.1920s



Boseley's Store - Beris, Wilma, Janice and June Boseley c.1950

Post Office

The Post Office is said to have been in the general store. It was not until some years later that it had its own building. The Post Office was a mud brick construction on allotment 6 Block 2.

The first postmaster was Mr Kennedy, the owner of the store. The Post Masters who followed were Mr McLeod, Mr Ted (Poddy) Dickinson (who was also a wheat buyer in the district), Mr McPhee and Mr Ern Scown 1926. The telephone exchange opened at the beginning of Scown's time. The Scown family operated the Post Office and exchange from 1926-948 during which time they sold a number of grocery items.

Mr and Mrs Bert Hall ran the exchange and Post Office and continued selling groceries from 1948-1954. During Hall's time they became agents for Commonwealth Savings Bank.

In 1954 Arthur and Evelyn Kimpton took over the Post Office, telephone exchange and bank agency. Arthur also had the Mobile fuel agency and was an agent for stock firms. In 1971 a railway house was moved and placed on the block to the east of the post office, the old Post Office being demolished.

The telephone exchange closed in 1975 when the STD exchange opened at Cowangie. Mrs Kimpton continued to handle the Post Office until they left in 1980. After the closure of the Post Office a small concrete building originally built behind the Post Office by Ern Scown and finished by Bert Hall was used as a roadside delivery depot by Tutye residents. In later years the barley testing shed was moved across the road for the roadside delivery depot, it is still in use is 2022.

After Kimptons left the house was occupied as a private residence by Bob and Bev Brown. It was destroyed by fire in 1987 – this was the last residence in Tutye.



c.1950 Tutye Post Office



Tutye Post Office and fuel agency 1970



Tutye Roadside delivery. Bob Brown 1980s

The Bank of Victoria

The Bank of Victoria erected a small weather board building on allotment 2, block 4 which they had taken up on 21 November 1912. The building was used as a bank agency. In early times a Manager from Murrayville would be in attendance once a week and later the Manager from Cowangie attended each Tuesday. The bank is believed to have operated for 20 years or more.

Blacksmith Shop

Jacky Wilson had a blacksmith business from 1916 till 1920. This was situated directly behind the Post Office.

Boot and Shoe Repairs

A boot and shoe repairs business was opened in 1939 in the vacant bank building by Mr George Barrell, who saw the need for this type of business in the district. Mr Barrell lived approximately one mile east of Tutye and would cycle to work each day. Mr Barrell's trading hours were flexible. Varying from 8.30am to between 8.30pm and 10.00pm. Shoes to be repaired were either delivered, or sent to him by train. The business closed in late 1950s due to Mr Barrell's failing health. Mr Arthur Kimpton bought the premises for the storage of his Mobil products.

Wilson's Shop

A grocery and confectionery shop was operating on allotment 1 block3 about the time of World War I. It was owned by Mr Bill Wilson.

Tutye gypsum factory

From 1953 to 1956 gypsum was brought to Tutye and sent away by rail. A ramp was constructed at the station for this. In 1954 a factory situated near the hall and owned by Geoge Castley, but trading under the name of Australian Plaster Industries (API) commenced operation. There were big plans for this industry at Tutye and a Melbourne daily newspaper carried the headline "Tiny Tutye boom town", fifty houses were to be built but these plans did not eventuate. Two houses were built and there was a cookhouse near the factory which operated about three years. A few plaster walls were made, but plaster of Paris which was sent away in bags was the main product.



View of Tutye taken from the silo of Post Office and Gypsum works

Builder

Mr G. Grundy of Tutye was contracted to build both the Cowangie and Boinka Halls in 1913. G. Grundy purchased allotment 7, block 2 in 1913 and allotment 1 block 2 in 1915 but it is believed that he did not use either of these blocks as headquarters for his building operations. Mr Grundy did a considerable amount of building in the area.

Tutye sheep dip

This was the only sheep dip for miles around and was situated over the railway line to the east of the town. Syd McIntosh was for many years the organiser for the issue of dip for use and roster for local farmers. The yards were also used as the local stock pound. The remains were still there in 1998, but as at 2022 nothing can be seen of the former sheep dip.



View of Tutye railway houses taken from silo



Tutye railway



Tutye sheep dip and yards

SO WE ARE TOLD

THE FIRST MOTOR CAR AT TUTYE as told by Jack Corbett – I can remember the first motor car that came to Tutye. I was riding home on my pony bare back, when rounding a slight bend in the road “bush track” this monster appeared. The pony had never seen anything like it before, with the result another “cow boy bites the dust”. It was Big Dinny McGrath in his brand new T model Ford. However we sorted ourselves out, brushed the dust off very pleased no-one was hurt and went on our merry way just a little bruised and shaken.

EUCALYPTUS DISTILLERY - THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY

There were stories in the early days of farming in the Tutye district of a man starting up a eucalyptus distillery, located at the foot of a steep hill (known as the “Eucalyptus Hill”) on the road down to the desert, on allotment 43 Worrooa.

It was reported that he procured some eucalyptus, cut from Mallee-shoots and carted them in drays from allotment 4, Bunurouk. Evidently some law-abiding citizen became suspicious when two rail-trucks of bagged potatoes arrived at Tutye station, and reported him to the police. The rumour has it that he intended to use the plant as an illicit whisky-still, using the potatoes as raw material: but when he heard the detectives were after him, he disappeared leaving everything behind.

Tutye Hall

The Tutye Hall built in 1913 was an unlined corrugated iron building typical of the type of hall in the area at this time. The school opened in the hall in April 1914. The hall served the community until the late 1960s and was sold by tender to S. McVicar of Torrita in 1970. The building was moved to McVicar’s property where it still remains.

A former resident Mr Jack Corbett, who lived with his father on allotment 12 Worooa in the early days of settlement about 1914, recalls of:

The little Tutye Town Hall it should have been called 'the Hall of Fame', because it meant so much to many of the pioneers of the district. I don't know of another building that served the purpose so well for so many different organisations. First of all it was the local public hall, where all functions of the district were held, such as public meetings, concerts, dances, euchre parties etc. and then it was the primary school for six years, and I might add the quality of education was excellent. Then on Sunday it became what you might term the Ecumenical Church. It was Catholic one Sunday, Anglican the next, Presbyterian and Methodist in turn.

This description of the Tutye Hall could apply to any of the halls in the district in the early years. They were the focal point for each closely-knit area.

During WWII, special functions were held to raise funds for the Comfort Funds. One such function organised by the Tutye School Committee was published in the Mallee Harvester in 1941:

Then on Saturday night, the children gave a concert, embracing school recitations, choruses, plays and piano-forte items. It was very creditable performance. Their enthusiasm and skill in the crafts displayed speak volumes for the guidance and interest given to them by their teacher, Miss Pittaway. She has achieved so much in such a short time and we congratulate her on her work. The Comfort Fund branch takes this opportunity to thank Miss Pittaway and the children for making half the proceeds available for their work. The other half will be given to the Murrayville Hospital and the auxiliary is grateful for this.

There was a large appreciative audience in attendance, contributing the sum of £5 in door collection, so that each section mentioned above receives £2/10-. Following on from the concert the dancers enjoyed a good programme. The concert, items and prize-winners for the games and novelty dances are given hereunder:

National Anthem; Advance Australia Fair; school children recitation (Grades 1 and 3); play 'Tony Lumpkin's tricks' (senior pupils); recitation 'Silver' (Jack Walker); song 'Mary Peasant'; recitation 'The Man who was away' (Emily Wilson); Pianoforte solo 'The Indian' (Heather McIntosh); recitation 'For England' (Pat Carter); song 'Waltzing Matilda'; recitation 'The Travelling Post Office' (Heather bcIntosh); play 'Jack Horner's pie'; song 'Brown Thrush'; recitation 'The last of his tribe' (Val Brown); recitation 'The three foxes' (Josie Ewins); song 'Oh Dear, what can the matter Be?'; recitation 'To the fallen' (Betty Walker); play 'Jack and Jill' (junior school); pianoforte solo 'The ocean' (Heather McIntosh); recitation 'Bertie Bunnie' (Grade3); song 'Fox cubs beware'; recitation 'The bunny ears' (Grades1 and 2); The Empire is marching. Mr McIntosh acted as Chairman and MC.

Winners of games and dances were: musical bobs, Val Brown; statue barn dance, Mr and Mrs A. Parker; Monte Carlo, Miss Pittaway and Mr J. Cummings; window shopping, Mrs H. Ewins.



Tutye Hall c.1930

At the end of the war a big celebration concert and dance was held.

In the 1950s Tutye like other areas joined the square dancing craze and square dancing was held in the hall.

One of the last organisations to function in the hall was the Tutye and District Gymnastic Club, which operated in the mid-1950s. It was the first club of its kind to function in the district. They had special membership tickets. President was T.I. Perrin, Secretary J.K. Brown. When the club folded the equipment was given to the Murrayville High School.

The hall was used less and less as population decreased and roads and transport improved, and it was finally decided at a public meeting in 1970 to sell the hall.

SO WE ARE TOLD

NOISES IN THE NIGHT as told by Tom Stevenson – On finding there was no music available for dancing at one Saturday night dance in the hall at Tutye, I offered to take a young chap home in the side car of my bike to get his piano accordion, twenty minutes later when we returned the hall was deserted, the small crowd were not far away on a cleared flat spot with all available car lights blazing in a circular formation. In the distance could be heard the roaring of a “plane in distress” then for a while silence followed by further roaring, more roaring, and more silence. The cars kept formation for quite a while, but no plane took advantage of the well-lit landing. All returned to the hall hoping the plane had not crashed. A few days later the cause for concern was learned; it came from over 10 miles

north of Tutye. P. Chatterton was towing his boring plant behind a truck, roaring up the sandhill's and idling down the other side.

Tutye Mother's Club

The Tutye Mother's Club formed in 1944; office-bearers were President, Joyce Parker and Secretary, Dorothy Thompson – these two ladies were in office for the major part of the club's life. The club change its name to the Tutye Ladies Club, the reason being that as well as helping the school, it worked for and helped many of the sporting clubs in Tutye. Some of the members were: Mrs Mary Lindner, Bessie Hall, Laureen Boseley, Kath Drendel, Mary Williams, Beryl Wedding, Alma Walsh, Gwen Wedding, Mrs McIntosh, Mrs Barrell, Evelyn Kimpton, Ruby Hankerson, Pearl Pitt, Yvonne Evans, Betty Brown and Joan Chaplin.

At one of the last Christmas functions in the hall for the children, a suit was required for Father Christmas so young Yvonne Evans set to work and made one.

During the last years of this club there were only five dedicated members that carried on and worked in the club for their community; the last Christmas tree was held in the late 1960s.

Tutye Sporting Clubs

Tennis - It is believed that tennis was played at Tutye as early as 1912. During the 1930s, challenge matches were played against Cowangie, Boinka and Worooa. When tennis was at its peak in Tutye, there were two teams each with eight gents and six ladies. When numbers declined, there was only one team of six men and four ladies. The courts were situated across from the town and over the present highway. Some players were Alan and Joyce Parker, Bob Crombie, Bob Hay (Secretary at one time), Hugh Thompson, Gladys Jones.



Tutye Tennis Courts



Past Tutye Tennis players at Tennis Reunion 1950-2000

Back Row - Hedley Parker, Lila Jones, Jack Walker

2nd Row - Evelyn Drendel, Janice Bosele, Dorothy Jones

Front Row - Ken Parker, Melva Walton, Edna Jones, Wilma Boseley, Elsie Jones

Croquet - Mrs Harry Marjory moved to start this sport at Tutye but information as to whether a club was formed, and if so and how long it went for is vague.

Tutye races - In 1916 a racecourse was opened and operated in the north reserve until the early 1920s. The course reopened in 1929 for a short time.

Cricket - The Tutye cricket team was formed in 1912 and competed until the late 1930s.

Golf - There was nine hole golf course situated north of the train line near the cemetery. This was an attractive course and opened in the 1920s. The club closed for a period, then reformed and finally closed in the early 50s. The clubhouse was moved to the football ground.



Tutye Golf Club House, about 1940

Football - The Tutye football team was formed in 1912 and apart from the war years operated continuously until 1949. Tutye won the premiership in 1928. Other teams in

the league were Underbool, Boinka and Tyalla. The Ewins family can claim the family of having had a member of the family playing in every match in which Tutye took the field. The club disbanded in 1949 and amalgamated with Cowangie to form the Imperials team.



Tutye Football Team Premiers, 1928

Back row: E. Scown, C. Ewins, E. Ewins, H. Holdsworth, A. Ewins, A. Gilbert, V. Bateson, G. Davidson, H. Ewins, T. Jones

Middle row: A. Parker, B. Porter, P. Walker, F. Orchard, W. Ewins, H. Thomson, Herb Walton

Front row: J. Brennan, P. Faulkhead, S. Neagle, P. McNamara, F. Foley

Tutye North State School No. 4368 1928 - 1942

Built in 1928 by W. Warne and C. Piper on the south west corner of block 1 Wootwoara owned and donated by Mr H. Gorham. Tutye North was the last and one of the smallest schools to be erected in this area it was built to house 10 pupils, the maximum number ever on the roll was 16. The small building could be freezing cold in winter, as the only heating initially was a small colonial stove in one corner, this was later replaced by an open fire.

Tutye North School opened with nine pupils under Eric Shellcross, a temporary teacher. Names of the first committee and early pupils include Crombie, Chaplin, Gorham, Werrett and Margetts. The next teachers, both temporary were C. Matthews and Miss Puncheon, they were followed by a permanent teacher Mr Tom Stevenson, who along with Tutye school teacher Mr Andy Hancorne inaugurated the Tutye & District School Sports Association. These two teachers must take much credit for the success of the Sports Association and for the enthusiasm of athletics in the area.

Tom Stevenson writes of his time at Tutye North:

I was appointed the first permanent teacher. In late 1928 and early 1929 I had been in charge of small part time schools near Melbourne – Mt Cotterill, Parwon South, Melton Park.

Just before being appointed to Tutye North I was involved in a motor bike accident and actually received my official appointment while a patient in the Old Royal Melbourne Hospital in Swanston Street. My instructions were to take up duty at Tutye North at the beginning of the second term. After six weeks in hospital, I was allowed out on crutches and was still using a walking stick when I was met by Bob Crombie at Tutye on a freezing morning late July 1929.

For the rest of that year I boarded with people by the name of Werrett nearly two miles from the school and quite close to where Viv and Vera Bateson and Ken Ball lived. From the beginning of 1930 until I left the area, I lived with Bob and Kit Crombie. There were four children in the family: Cran, Jennifer, Helen and Bill. We travelled the two miles to school, either in a horse-drawn vehicle, or on my new 1930 BSA motorbike & sidecar.

The school was small, but had plenty of windows on one side of the room. These windows were hinged at the bottom and swung in only a few inches. I removed all the hinges so that the windows could be lifted right out during hot weather. This however did prevent them from being securely locked when closed.

Tom Stevenson was followed by Mr Alex Cato who stayed for two or three years, he was a very artistic man and the blackboards were always decorated with a colourful freeze. The next teacher was Mr Herb Ilton who stayed for five years. The children whose schooling often ended at grade 8, the time spent with them constituted a large part of their schooling. His wife Jenny taught the girls sewing and craft. Mr Ilton rode a push bike several miles on rough bush tracks to get to the school with his small son Edward on the carrier. During this time at the school he proved to be an excellent teacher who had great perseverance with the children.

In 1940 Mr Ilton was followed by Mr Woodberry who spent one year at Tutye North before enlisting in the army.

The school then operated part time with Boinka North under Mrs Pohlner a former teacher, and local farmer's wife. She would drive her horse and gig the several miles from her home to school bringing her two children Ken and Betty and the Efferett girls two days one week, three the next. The children did not make the journey to Boinka North on the days when the school was held there, but would do lessons at home which would set. This arrangement did not last very long as Mrs Marjory Ewins, another former teacher and farmer's wife took Mrs Pohlner's place and the school was full-time again.

The school closed in 1942 due to lack of numbers, the remaining children transferred to the Tutye School and Mrs Ewins went on to teach there for some years. The last pupil to be enrolled was Jeffery Boseley just six months prior to the school closing. Women teachers (farmer's wives) like Mrs Pohlner and Mrs Ewins did a marvelous job under difficult circumstances during the war years to fill much needed gaps in teaching staff.

School break-up days when we would when we would nervously do our "piece", bird days when we would journey into the scrub to observe the local bird life, the time when

the horse went home without us, picnic days at the salt lakes are some of the happy memories that will always be with us of life at our old bush school.

Pupils Tutye North School (list incomplete as original records lost)

MARGETTS - John

HASTINGS - Arthur

CHAPLIN - Leslie, Rod, Jack, Glen, Betty

CROMBIE - Cran, Jennifer, Helen, William, Disney

BRENNAN - Patricia

BARRELL - Teresa

BAIRD - Helen, Elizabeth

WYATT - Edward, Daphne, Audrey

BOSELEY - Beris, David, Wilma, Jeffery

EWINS - Beryl

STEWART - Dorothy

WERRETT - Max, Marj

GORHAM - Norman, Iris

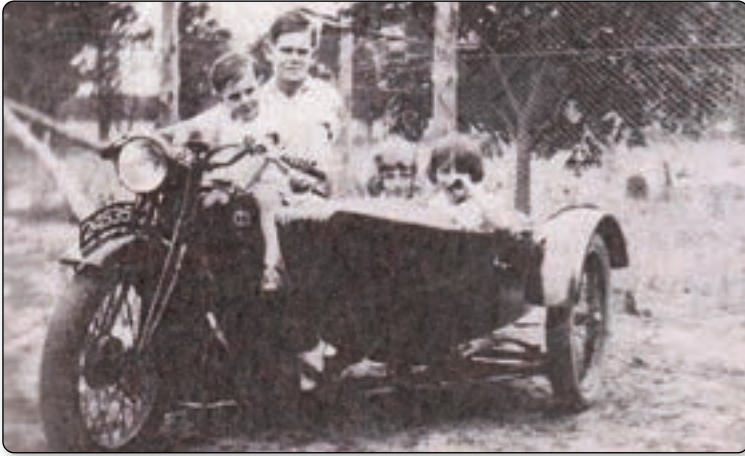
ILTON - Edward

Teachers Tutye North

Eric Shellcross, C. Mathews, Miss Puncheon, Tom Stevenson, Alex Cato, Herb Ilton, Ron Woodberry, Mrs Pohlner, Mrs Majory Ewins



Tutye North school 1938



Tom Stevenson and 1930 motor bike, Crombie children- Bill, Cran, Helen, Jennifer



Tutye North School site 1988 Betty Brown nee Chaplin

MEMORIES OF TUTYE NORTH SCHOOL

SNAKES ALIVE as recalled by Tom Stevenson

It was a very hot summer's day when I went out to talk to Bob Crombie who had pulled up outside the Tutye North School. I looked down, and there on the "running board" of his 1927 Pontiac car was stretched out five feet six inch brown snake, he had just killed. I was quite interested because the shape of its body showed it had recently had a good meal.

Back I went into the schoolroom to collect a large snake chart. Taking the children out to the car I proceeded to give them a lesson on how to tell the different kinds of snakes by the formation of the scales, and other points of interest, and even opened its mouth to expose the fangs. I asked Bob to take it home so I could open it up and see what it had just had for lunch.

The reptile was left on the ground near the house, but when Bob came out some time later it had disappeared. Thinking the fowls or cats had dragged it away, he went snake hunting only to find it wriggling slowly-and painfully away.

This time he really did kill the snake and was able to safely perform the operation to remove a very large “bearded Dragon”

MOTORING ESCAPADES as recalled By Tom Stevenson

One Tutye North Farmer had an old Model T Ford that he couldn't get going. He offered to lend the car to the Bateson boys for a few weeks if they could get the motor running. They accepted and enlisted my support. Well, we got it going and took it for a run into Cowangie about 8 miles away. We drove out south and had tea with the Johns family (Mrs Johns was their sister). It was nearly midnight when we left for home, but about 4 miles from Cowangie we ran out of petrol. I think it was Viv who walked back, knocked up Mr Craigie at his store, picked up a 4 gallon tin of petrol and carried it back to the car. A little further along the “track” the low band of the transmission cut out and we were left with insufficient power to get us through the sandy spots. We had all taken a turn at driving but I did most of it. I think I was the only one with a drivers licence – not that that mattered.

Whenever we got stuck in deep sand, into reverse we went, back out and still in reverse backed out and backed through – the steering wheel did take some holding. Once through the car had to be pointed to home again, pushed into neutral and get it rolling, and then quickly engaged the high band. The Sun was up before we arrived at our destination. I think the car was “towed” back to its owner the next day.

Tutye South State School No.4022 1920 - 1940

Teacher Miss Lilah Embling enrolled the first pupil Thelma Beer, and 18 others in grades prep to 3 when Tutye South School opened in an unsealed hall on the 11 March 1920. Early school committee members include the names Hunt, Davies, Downie, Walker and Drendel. The last enrolment was John Cain in 1939; the last attendance recorded was 19 December 1940, when children transferred to Tutye State School, and the last Head Teacher was Ilma Lethbridge. The final school committee, chaired by F.P. Perret transferred the school piano to Tutye.

The following appeared in the *Underbool Mirror* of 2 January 1941 regarding the closing of the Tutye South School:

It is very much regretted that this fine school at Tutye South is to be closed on account of there not being enough children. It is one of the best equipped schools in the Mallee and is a beautiful building, which was erected about 21 years ago. The people of the district subscribed for the material to erect this hall, which later, the Education Department took over as a school. The builder was Mr Alber a pioneer settler who would not accept any payment for his good work.

Pupils Tutye South School (alphabetical order)

ALBERS - Eileen, Yvonne 1920-21
BEER - Thelma, Bonnie, Harold 1920-26
BIGHAM - Muriel, Audrey, James, Elsie 1920-25
BRENNAN - Kenneth 1924
BROWN - Albert 1920
BROWN - John. K, Jean, Alex, Valma, Alex, Betty 1926-36
CAIN - Metla (Joan), Loris, George, John 1934-39
CAINE - Doris, Margaret 1921
CARTER - Vera 1937
DAVIES - Claude, Clifford, Howard (Ross) 1920-26
DALTON - Elsie, Laura, Lily, Ethel, Edith 1921-23
DRENDEL - Theodore, Lena, Hilda 1920
EVANS - Mavis, Charles, William 1922-23
EVANS - Beatrice, Mary 1920
FAVRE - Emilio (Emil) 1930
HERNE - Alice, Lillian, Edmana, James, Joyce 1920-26
HILL - Violet 1923
HUNT - Marjorie, Eileen 1924-35
LINDNER - Christina, Thomas, Robert 1930-40
LOBB - Elvie, Jean, Leslie 1927-30
MEAD - Marjorie, Mavis, Gladys, Coral 1920-24
McMASTER - John, Archibald 1925-26
McNAMARA - Percival 1922
O'DONNELL - Michael 1921-27
RICKARDS - Allen 1927
RUBY - Leslie, Jean 1933-35
SHEPERD - Jack, Victor, Alan 1930-39
SIM - Gladys, Claude 1931
WALKER - Stanley, William, Edwin, Eileen, Ethel 1926-36
WALTON - Carolyne 1933
WILTSHIRE - Gladys 1925-27

Teachers Tutye South School

Miss Lilah Embling, 10/3/1920 - 26/4/1920

Miss E. Thorn, 1/5/1920 - 17/5/1921
G. Jenkins, 1/9/1921 - 19/3/1926
Miss Kathleen Bolger, 24/1/1927 - 20/9/29
H.M. Barnes, 1/10/1929 - 6/12/1929
L.H.X. McDonald, Jan 1930
H.O Williams, 12/3/1930 - 1/1/1934
J.C Knights, June 1934
Murray Wilkie, June 1934 - Dec1934
Miss C.J. Collins, 1935
Miss V.M. Delahenty, 1936
Miss I.M. Jennings, 1937-38
Miss I.G. Leatherbridge, 1939-40



Tutye South Hall/School



Tutye South School 1928

*Back row: Hilda Drendel, Marj Hunt, Ross Davies, Eileen Hunt
Front row: Stan Walker, Bill Walker, Ted Walker, Ken Brown*



Tutye South School 1940

Back row: Alex Brown, Tom Lindner, Jean Brown, Val Brown

Front Row: Robert Lindner, Betty Brown



Tutye South School excursion to Ross's Spring 1940



Tutye South School past pupils 1988

Loris Newton (nee Cain), John Caine, Tom Lindner, Claude Sims, Gladys Wills (nee Sims), Jean Walton (nee Brown), Ken Brown, ?, Christina Tulloch (nee Lindner), Robert Lindner, Alex Brown

The Tutye South Hall and School

The Tutye South Hall was built on an attractive site set amongst Mallee pines and large Mallee trees, on land donated by Bert Mead on the south east corner of his allotment no. 51 Tutye, a few chains from the crossroad.

The Hall was built in 1919 by Otto Albers a qualified architect and also a teacher of languages including German. Otto and young family lived on their selection, block no.43 Worooa, Otto being un-naturalised during the First World War it was suggested that he should have been interned. He was given the choice of building the hall without payment or internment. His decision to work without payment was also claimed to be a good will gesture, as there was a great deal of animosity felt towards Germans at that time.

A small number of settlers supplied carting and labour. The following description of the hall appeared in the *Pinnaroo Border Times* of 3 October 1919:

Mr. Alber planned everything himself and did all the skilled labour from the foundation to the roof except the plumbing which was done by Mr. W Evans. Mr Alber's generous offer supplied a valuable addition to the Mallee. The hall 42 x 24 feet situated amongst a clump of pines on land presented by Mr H. Mead was built of a wooden frame with a tuck pointed brick facing and a neat porch, sheltering the front doors, facing the east. Massive doors and ventilation are in accordance with Board of Health regulations. On the south are three windows, and at the rear two glass paneled doors with fanlights, one on either side of the chimney which is central. The inside presents a pleasant appearance, the wall being plastered, woodwork painted and the brick fireplace pointed. A concert

platform is built across the hall, the full width, and underneath same is a dressing room, with door allowing exit.

There is no information concerning the cost of the hall, or where the materials were obtained. The bricks, timber, corrugated iron for roofing and other fittings would have been transported by rail to either Tutye or Cowangie. Donations were probably collected to pay for the cost of materials. Local residents called working bees and assisted transporting materials by horse-drawn wagon from the railway station. They also helped with the construction of both the hall and the surrounding fence.

Existing photographs of the hall show it was a very substantial building for the time, as the settlement had only started in 1911. An opening ceremony of the Hall was conducted on 15 October 1919 the ceremony was performed by Cr Hecht of Cowangie. A concert followed the opening,

In the mid-1930s, builders Mat Hunt and Pat Casey installed the ceiling during a school holiday break. Records show the school was commenced in the hall on 11 March 1920. The district had been at a great disadvantage as it was too far for children to travel to either Cowangie or Tutye to school.

During the 1920s Church services were conducted in the hall. School committees were probably formed to organize functions to raise funds for school improvements and of organise social events for the district.

Functions included combined euchre parties and dances and balls held at regular intervals during the year. After school the desks were stacked up by the pupils in one corner of the room to make way for dancing and cards. The children would also polish the floor for dancing, dragging a bag partly filled with sand over a sprinkling of saw-dust, lighting kerosene and grated candles. Lights consisted of four large kerosene wick-lamps suspended from the roof timbers. Cards were held early in the evening before dancing and later on the stage during dancing. Tables were set on trestles and seats were long planks on kerosene cases. Hearty laughter could be heard from the jovial players when they produced a winning card or trumped an opponent's card. A winners and a "booby" prize were presented.

During the 1930s, Tom Walker was prominent in organising the evening functions, he rang the cow bell to start and finish the games at the 'King table' and snipped each card player's card to show the scoring.

There were usually competition dances, such as lucky spot and cut the cards. Winners each received a prize. Occasionally the children were given the floor for games such as twos and threes during the evening.

As well as the locals, those attending the evenings came from nearby districts. Some regulars in later years included Mr. and Mrs Alex Etherton and family, Mr and Mrs. Cliff Perkins and family, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Jones of Danyo South, Joe and Rae Wills, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Nalder, Mr. and Mrs Dick Bertalli, Claude and Gwen Davies and the Wills and

Williams families of Cowangie, Len Walker and family, the Parkers, Weddings, Draffins of Tutye and Clarie and Les Jones of Boinka. Len Walker had a carrying business and often brought out quite a few young people on the back of his truck.

Music for dancing was provided in early times by Harrold and Eddie Heintze accordion and M.C., and later Emil Johns on accordion and Tom Dexter on mandolin banjo, Cliff Ross on piano with his bother 12-year-old Gordon on drums and Tim Wills on piano. Tom Walker and Mrs Wedding occasionally filled in during the evening to give the musicians a break. A gramophone was purchased to provide music during the 1930s, but wasn't successful as it could not be heard above the dancing feet. It was later used in the school when children's records were purchased. Ted Drendel a former pupil, acted as MC during the 1930s.

Just before the end of a school year, the teachers trained the pupils for a concert which preceded a Christmas tree, and Santa Claus, who gave gifts to the local children and others who attended. A dance then completed the evening.

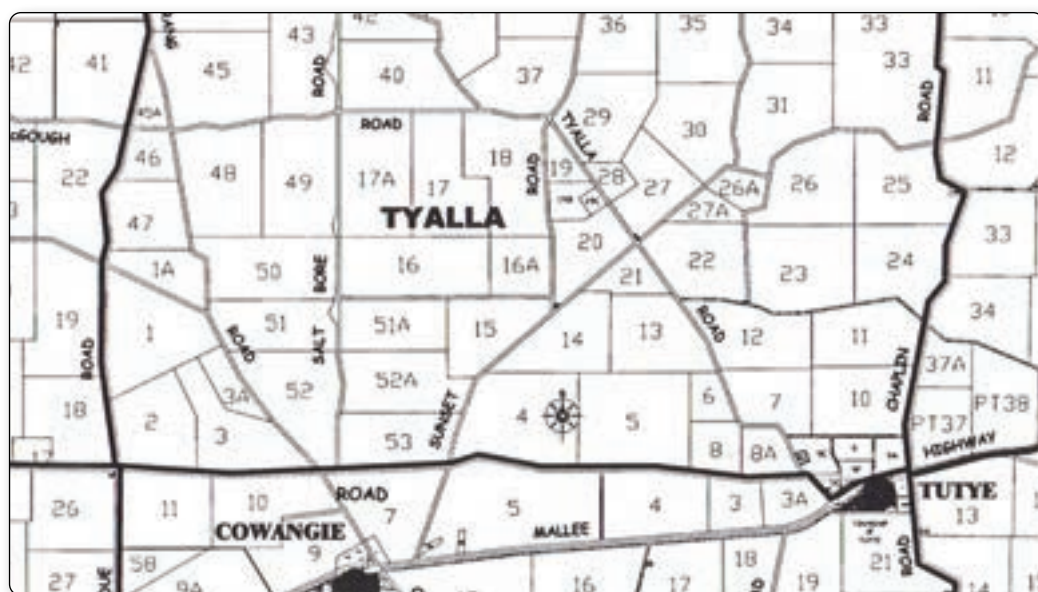
After the school closed, a local Comfort Funds Committee was formed to organize functions in the hall to raise funds to send parcels etc. to servicemen during the World War II. There were also euchre parties and dances. Emilo (Emil) Favre, a former pupil played the piano for the war-time function free of charge. Each serviceman was given a "farewell" evening prior to being sent overseas and a "welcome home" when he was discharged. Among the servicemen to enlist from the district were Claude Sim, Ross Davies, Stan and Bill Walker, Ken and Alec (Bill) Brown and Eddie Hearne.

Supper was always provided at these functions by the women. During the 1930s, Mr Frank Perrett, the bachelor Uncle of Emil Favre, always made the coffee for the supper. Water was boiled outside in a four-gallon tin over an open fire in all weathers. The brew produced was renowned for its flavour. After the war, functions ceased for several years, the last being a 'tin-kettling' evening given to Emil Favre and his new bride Agnes Sharp of Underbool, in November 1947.

The Education Department had taken over ownership of the hall, as it was a requirement that they had ownership before they would conduct a school or pay for improvements or supply equipment etc. In the early 1950s, the Department put the hall up for tender. It was purchased by Don Perry, who demolished it and removed the materials to his secondhand yard at the Cowangie homestead.

Tyalla

Parish of Tyalla – County of Weeah
(one of the Mallee Eucalyptus)



Tyalla Farm Allotments

Station abb. Block No. Owners

	1A	withheld in 1911; B. & E. Purdue; A. & C. Lynch
	1	W.G. Hayden; H.S. Purdue; V.L. Menzel; R. Selkrig; B. & E. Purdue; A. & C. Lynch
	2	M.A. Hecht; H.S. Purdue; B. Purdue; A. & C. Lynch
	3	A. Robertson; V.L. & N.W. Menzel; C.A. Purdue; A. & C. Lynch
KP	4	A. Zerbst; R.J. Kelly; G.H. Nunn; B. Murnane; K. McDonald
KP	5	A. Zerbst; R.J. Kelly; G.H. Nunn; B. Murnane; K. McDonald
KP	6	G. Grundy; M. & B.A. Wedding; B. Wedding; H.,M.&S. Parker
KP	7	G. Grundy; M.F. & B.A. Wedding; B.A. Wedding; H.,M.&S. Parker

KP	8	J. J. Brennan; S. McIntosh; I. & M. McIntosh; K. McDonald
KP	9	Reserve
KP	9A	A.P. Ewins; S. McIntosh; I. & M. McIntosh; K. McDonald
KP	9C	Tutye Cemetery
KP	10	E.J. Dickinson; Mrs E.I. McIntosh; I. & M. McIntosh; K. McDonald
KP (part)	11	A.B. Carter; W.L. Chaplin; J.N. Chaplin; K. Chaplin, N. Westphalen
KP	12	G.V.E. Grundy; W.D. Boseley; J.A. Boseley; J. & M. Boseley; B. & I. Brown; Excel Farms
KP	13	A.B. LeCoulliard; R.C. Wedding; L.C. & C. Houghton; R.F. & D.M. Gebert; J.K. Brown & Sons; Excel Farms
KP	14	W.H.J. Connell; A. Zerbst; L.C. & C. Houghton; R.F. & D.M. Gebert J.K. Brown & Sons; Excel Farms
KP	15	C.J. Porter; W.H. & H. Connell; J. & D. Etherton; S. McKee; Excel Farms
CPW	16	E.M. Bird; W.A. & R.F. McKee; J. & D. Etherton; S. McKee; S. & C. McKee; Excel Farms
CPW	16A	A.E. Rohde; S. McKee; Excel Farms
CPW	17	J.D., D.M. & E.E. McKee; S.J. McKee; S. McKee; Excel Farms
CPW	18	R.O. Bird; A.E. Rhode; W.A., R.F. & S.J. McKee; S. McKee; S. & C. McKee; S. McKee; Excel Farms
CPW	19	J. Baird; A.E. Rhode; S. & C. McKee; S. McKee; Excel Farms
CPW	19	D. Zerbst; L.C. & C. Houghton; R.F. & S.J. McKee; S. McKee; J.K. Brown & Sons; Excel Farms
CPW	20	A. Zerbst; C. & C. Houghton; R.R. & D.M. Gerbert; J.K. Brown & Sons; Excel Farms
CPW	21	A. Zerbst; L.C. & C. Houghton; R.F. & D.M. Gerbert; J.K. Brown & Sons; Excel Farms
CPW	22	G.M. & D. Chappell; W.D. Boseley; J.A. Boseley; J. & M. Boseley; I. & B. Brown; Excel Farms
CPW	23	R.J. Margetts; V.G. Margetts; J.K. Brown & Sons; Excel Farms
CPW	24	A.H. Carter; J. Shaw; J. Baird; Chaplin Bros; K.J. & J.Y. Chaplin
CPW	25	J. Medlyn: R.G. Margetts; V.G. Margetts; J.K. Brown & Sons; Excel Farms
CPW	25A	J. K. Brown & Sons; Excel Farms
CPW	26	R.J. Margetts; V.G. Margetts; J.K. Brown & Sons; Excel Farms
CPW	26A	R.J. Margetts; F.C. Margetts; V.G. Margetts; J.K. Brown & Sons; Excel Farms
CPW	27	H.N. Gorham; R.C. Wedding; L.C. & C. Houghton; R.F. & D.M. Gebert; J.K. Brown & Sons; Excel Farms
CPW	27A	J.K. Brown & Sons; Excel Farms
CPW	28	C.E. Murphy; R. Gebert; J.K. Brown & Sons; Excel Farms

CPW	29	J.D. Murphy; R. Gebert; J.K. Brown & Sons; Excel Farms
CPW	30	H. Hastings; W.D. Boseley; J.A. Boseley; J. & M. Boseley; I. & B. Brown; Excel Farms
CPW	31	Carmichael; A.R. Hastings; W.D. Boseley; J.A. Boseley; J. & M. Boseley; I. & B. Brown; Excel Farms
CPW	32	Ellen; S. O’Gorman; V.C. Margetts; J.K. Brown & Sons; Excel Farms.
CPW	33	Ellen; S. O’Gorman; J. Bateson; V. G. Margetts; J.K. Brown & Sons; Excel Farms
CPW	34	M.LeGouillard; Bateson; W. McNamara; Mrs L. M. Boseley; C.W. Boseley; D. J. Boseley; B. Boseley; Excel Farms
CPW	35	Land Mart & Co; W. McNamara; Mrs L.M. Boseley; J.A. Boseley; M.E. & D. Boseley; I. & B. Brown; Excel Farms
CPW	36	D. Richards; D.M. Stewart; L.C. & C Houghton; R.F. & D.M. Gebert; J. K. Brown & Sons; Excel Farms
CPW	37	D.A.Richards;A.E.Rhode;W.A,R.F.&S.J.McKee;S.&.CMcKee; S. McKee; Excel Farms
CPW	38	H. Bird; W.J. Bunker; C.C. Houghton; A.E. Rhode; S. & C. McKee; S. McKee; Excel Farms
	39	J. Wilson; W.J. Bunker; W.R.S. McKee; S. & C. McKee; S. McKee; Excel Farms
CPW	40	Mrs A.E. Free; G. Wilson; B. & E. Purdue; A. Lynch
CPW	41	A.E Free; W.D. Boseley; Wilson; B. & E. Purdue; A. Lynch
CPW	42	A.E. Free; W. D. Boseley; G. Wilson; B. & E. Purdue; A. Lynch
CPW	43	A.E. Free; I.A. & A.M. Wilson; B. & E. Purdue; A. Lynch
CPW	43A	land withheld 1911; B. & E. Purdue; A. Lynch
	44	J.W. Bennett; P. Morrow; L. Sugars; J. Marshall; B. Purdue; A. Lynch
	45A	land withheld; H.C. Abbetmeyer
	45	Mrs A.E. Free; Wilson; B. Purdue; A. Lynch
	46	Mrs A.E. Free; Wilson; B. Purdue; A. Lynch
	47	Mrs A. E. Free; Wilson; B. Purdue; A. Lynch
Part CPW	49	Mrs A.E. Free; B. Purdue; A. Lynch
Part CPW	50	R. Porter; Etherton; J.D, D.D. & W.E. Etherton; R. Selkrig; C.A. Purdue; A. Morrison
KP	51	Etherton; R. Selkrig; C.A. Purdue; A. Morrison
KP	52	Etherton; R. Selkrig; C.A. Purdue; A. Morrison
KP	53	W.G. Bennett; Murray Valley Gypsum; Boral Aust.; Parks Vic

Tyalla State School No.3896 1915 - 1929

Tyalla area was opened for selection in 1911, but dingoes and drought forced selectors to seek government assistance. Not until after the harvest in 1915 did parents band together to provide a building for the school, which opened with 15 pupils under Lilian Peddler on 26 July 1915. In 1917 the school was moved to the public hall, which had a fence and garden by 1920. However the school closed on 5 January 1929.

The hall was sold to Wally Bennett during the late 1930s, he moved it to Cowangie and made it into a house.

Mrs Gibson (Nell Thompson) recalls some of the early history of the Tyalla Hall. The hall opened in September 1916 with a grand opening ball followed by a large supper. Mr Gorham donated the land and Frank Margetts built the hall. The hall was used for church, Sunday school, meetings, concerts, dances, and fund-raising activities during the war. Skating was also enjoyed, but this was halted when the floor began to deteriorate. Mrs Gibson's parents, Mr and Mrs Fred Thompson, were among those married in the hall.

Pupils Tyalla School (alphabetical order - list incomplete as original records lost)

BIRD - Jack, Les, Edna
CHAPPELL - Les, Doris, George, Ron, Eric
CHAPLIN - Ron, Glen
GORHAM - Keith, Lindsay, Norman, Iris
JACOBSON - Alf, Anna
HASTINGS - Fred, Molly, Jean, Arthur
MURPHY - Dennis, Dorothy, Mavis
MARGETTS - Jim, Jack, George
ZERBST - Daphne, Les, Ruth, Cathy

Teacher Tyalla School

Miss Black, Miss Stewart, Miss Scott (married Vic Grundy), Miss Miers, Miss Dowling, Miss Ritchie, Miss Bolger, Miss Squires, George Scanlon



Tyalla School c.1923

The Tyalla "Major Mitchell."

Editorial

This little school has been in existence for more than seven years and during that time numbers of girls and boys have passed through it and are growing up in this district. This year the first of our number to continue her education has gone to Strat High School, we wish her every success and hope that in the future many others will follow her example.

This little magazine is our first attempt and its aims are to interest the parents in the education of their children, to secure their co-operation in school interests and activities, to cultivate the children's power of expression and to encourage what latent literary talent they possess.

D. E. M.
(Dorothy Miers)

Tyalla Editorial Major Mitchell

Early Days

In 1910, our first settler just around here - Mr. Murphy - came, then others followed - Messrs. Richards, Mr. Tamara, Hastings, Gorham, Zerbat. They obtained water from the nearest bores, or wells, usually some miles away. Mr. Murphy carted it with his bullock team. He also did the first clearing and had the first crop.

The first wedding was that of Mr. Thompson and Miss Hart, who were married by Mr. Downton. Nearly all the district was invited and there was dancing outside in the moonlight.

The wild dogs and dingoes were very bad and would follow people for miles. Some very good dogs were killed by them.

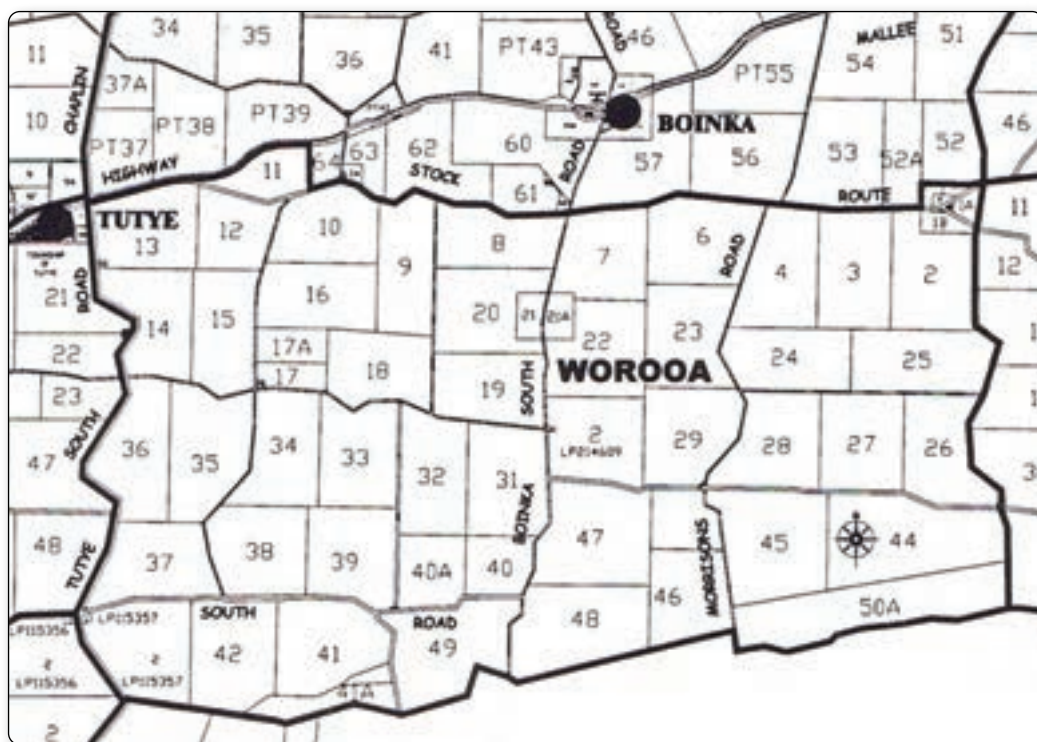
There was no fencing at that time and it was very difficult to save the crops from bullocks. On account of having no fences people had to go very far to find their horses when they wandered away. Often they would go as far as Guyen or Rainbow; and some horses were never found at all.

In the first two or three years there were not many rabbits, but since then they have become very numerous. 1914, drought year, there were no crops and the stock died. There was no work to do, so sports and picnics were held. After the drought year, better seasons came and good crops were harvested.

The first school was held in a room in Mr. Gorham's house, our first teacher was Miss Pedler. The hall was built in 1916, and then school was held there. Miss Dowling was the first teacher who taught in the hall.
Jean Hastings. Grade VII

Worooa

Parish of Worooa – County of Weeah
(green)



Worooa Farm Allotments

Station abb.	Block No.	Owners
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1A	J.L. Morrison; W. & J. Morrison
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1B	W. & J. Morrison
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CPE & CPA 2	T. Gould; C. Gould; R.K. Burstall
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CPE	3	J.L. Morrison; L. Morrison; W. & J. Morrison
CPE	4	A. Renfrey; C. Wisneske; P. & P. Wisneske
	5	
CPE	6	H. Mathews; L. Morrison; W. & J. Morrison; J.J. Morrison
CPE	7	E. Ryan; P. & P. Wisneske; G. & W. Crow
CPE	8	J. Kay; G.H. Hendy; D. Morrison; A.F. Morrison
CPE	9	G.H. Hendy; C. Brown; K. McDonald
CPE	10	G.T. Bond; J. Williams; L. Wyatt; F.O. Beer; H.A. Parker; H.,M. & S. Parker
CPE	11	G.T. Bond; J. Williams; F.O. Beer; S. & R. Brown; Excel Farms
KP	12	J. Corbett; E.H. Jones; J. Williams; L. Wyatt; F.O. Beer; A.J. Brown & J.L. Brown; Excel Farms
KP	13	E.H. Jones; J. Williams; L. Wyatt; F.O. Beer; S. & R. Brown; Excel Farms
KP	14	A.G. Parker; A.N. Parker & Sons; K. & H.A. Parker; H.,M. & S. Parker
CPA & KP	15	McLean; A.G Parker; A.N Parker & Sons; H.,M. & S. Parker
CPE	16	Wm. Watson; Parker Bros; H.A. Parker; H.,M. & S. Parker
CPE & CPA	17A	F. Walton; H. Walton; Parker Bros; H.A Parker; H.,M. & S. Parker
CPA	17	Reserve; H. Walton; Parker Bros; H.A. Parker; H.,M. & S. Parker
CPE&CPA	18	F. Walton; H. Walton; Parker Bros; H.A. Parker; H.,M. & S. Parker
CPE & CPA		19J.E. Adams; L. Adams; D. Morrison; A.F. Morrison
CPE	20	H. Hand; A. Cunningham; D. Morrison; A.F. Morrison
CPE	21	H. Hand; A. Cunningham; D. Morrison; A.F. Morrison
CPE	21A	A. McKinnon; C.R. Chaplin; W.G. Chaplin; K. McDonald
CPE & CPA	22	A. McKinnon; J. Pearson; W.G. Chaplin; K. McDonald
CPE	23	C. Lilley; J. Foley; C. Wisneske; P. & P. Wisneske
CPE	24	W. J. Moroney; J.D. Brown; H.J. Brown
Part CPE	25	A.J. Gillion; Lynch Bros; M. Lynch; A.H. Lynch
	26	M.J. Brown.
CPE & CPA	27	E.G. Lukey; J.D. Brown; M.J. Brown
CPA	28	D. Hughes; N. Warren; J.D. Brown; M.J. & H.M. Brown
CPE & CPA	29	R.B. Stephens; J.W. O'Sullivan; O. Hughes; N. Warren; B.W. Brown; C Brown; G.C. Brown; Excel Farms
CPA	30	W. Brodie; A. Hampel; I.G. O'Sullivan; C.R. Chaplin; W. Chaplin; S.G. Lindner
CPA	31	F.G. Jones; C.R. Jones; W. & V. Chaplin; S.G. Lindner
CPA	32	T.A. Hampel; O.C. Jones; Les Jones; C. Jones; G.C. & D.M. Brown; I. & B. Brown; Excel Farms
CPA	33	W.H. Adams; J.J. Cummings; I. & B. Brown; Excel Farms
CPA	34	R. Bigham; J.J. Cummings; I. & B. Brown; Excel Farms
CPA & KP	35	J.R. Wilson; J.J. Cummings; I. & B. Brown; Excel Farms
KP	36	H.W. Harvey; M. Wilson; A.N. Parker; H. & K. Parker; H.,M. & S. Parker

CPA & KP	37	Travers; G.M; Grundy; T. & R. Lindner; S.G. Lindner
CPA	38	J. Brennan; C. Jones; Laurie Jones; A. & J. Brown; Excel Farms
CPA	39	C. Jones; L. Jones; G.C. & D.M. Brown; I. & B. Brown; Excel Farms
CPA	40A	G.H. Hampel; Les Jones; G.C. & D.M. Brown; I. & B. Brown
CPA	40	G.H. Hampel; W. & V. Chaplin; S.G. Lindner
CPA	41	O.C. Jones; Les Jones; R. & B. Brown; Excel Farms
CPA	42	J. Mole; E. Allen; Les Jones; R.B. Brown; Excel Farms
KP	43	O.J. Albers; A. McMaster; T.G. & A.J. Lindner; T. & R. Lindner S.G. Lindner
KP	44	M.E. Hendy; M.R. & E. Lynch
CPA	45	R.J. Beasley Jnr; Crown Land; J.L. Morrison; W.J. & C. Morrison
CPA	46	W.W. Townsing; N. Warren; G. Lynch; M. McVicar; L.A. Jones; R. Burstall; M. Brown
CPA	46A	W.W. Townsing; N. Warren; G. Lynch; M. McVicar; L.A. Jones; I. & B. Brown; Excel Farms
CPA	47	H. Burke; L.H. Hendy; L. Morrison; W. & J. Morrison; J.J. Morrison
CPA	48	M. Ryan; L. Jones; R. & M. Burstall; M. Brown
CPA	49	D. Cunningham; Laurie Jones; J.K. Brown & Sons; Excel Farms
CPA	50	R.W. Bigham; A.K. Burstall; R. & M. Burstall

Worooa State School No.4435 1929 - 1959

Woorooa State School opened in a private home on 3 April 1929 with eight pupils in grade 1, 2, 4 and 5 under Miss Pearl Kerminng. When first inspected on 7 August 1929 eleven pupils were in attendance, and by the end of the year there were twelve. They were Florrie Winfield, Hazel Bourke, Doris Winfield, Richard Adams, Bonnie Adams, Hazel Winfield, Neta Hampell, Ian Hampell, George Walker, Lilian Walker, Leslie Lobb (male) and Joyce Bigham registered in that order. The total number of students enrolled for the duration of the school was 83.

The school served the district for 30 years and during that time there were 14 teachers, although only 13 were recorded, the reason being that one teacher Miss M. Morrison only attended for one day and because of a bicycle accident was unable to carry on so a replacement teacher Mr F. Livingstone was sent.

In 1930 the school was moved from the private home to a leased weatherboard room on the North West corner of block 47 parish of Worooa 4½ miles south of Boinka.

Worooa was closed due to insufficient numbers in 1949 then reopened in 1950 with 11 pupils. It was eventually closed due to low enrolment on the 18 December 1959, when the pupils were transferred to Boinka State School.

Like other schools in the district the Worooa School building was used for other purposes. In the 1930s when the tennis club was active an occasional dance and euchre party was

held here to raise funds. Church services were conducted during the 1940s when Rev. Noack a Lutheran Minister would visit.

Pupils Worrooa School (alphabetical order)

WINFIELD - Florrie, Doris, Hazel 1929-30s
BURKE - Hazel, Hurtle, Norman, Joyce 1929-33
ADAMS - Richard, Bonnie, Geoffrey 1929-40
HAMPEL - Neta, Ian, Fay, Bruce 1929-42
WALKER - George, Lillian, Alfred 1929-35
LOBB - Leslie 1929-31
BIGHAM - Joyce 1929-31
BEASLEY - Dorothy, John, Norman, Edna 1930-33
BENNETT - Martha, Edwin 1930-33
LOUGHHEED - Annie 1931-32
HINES - Violet 1931-35
CUNNINGHAM - Margaret, Shirley 1934-35
C.WALTON - Reginald, Thelma 1933
CHAPMAN - Lois, Maureen, Hazel 1934-35
BEASLEY - Edna
ALLEN - Lorna 1935
WARREN - Neville, Doris, Marjorie, Trevor Douglas, Kenneth, Keith, Frank, Beryl
Ray, Roy, Donald 1935-48
HITCHCOCK - Margaret 1935
O.C JONES - Elsie, Edna, Olive Lawrence, Dorothy 1936-39
H.WALTON - Marjorie, Gwenda, Eunice, Robert 1937
F. JONES - Ronald, Joan, Lecia
PELL - Valmai 1939
L.A JONES - Charles, Lila, Kenneth, Shirley 1947-55
CUMMINGS - Hazel, John, Leonard, Marlene, Jeanette, Carol 1950-59
HENDY - Audrey – Audrey, Lorna 1950-51
CHAPLIN - William, Barbara 1950-57
THOMPSON - Marie, Heather 1955-57
WILLSMORE - Carol 1958

Teachers Worrooa School

Pearl Kewming, 1929-30
Agnes O'Shannassy, 1931-34
Olive M. Forbes, 1935-36
Alice R. Hocking, 1937
Alfred R. White, 1938
W.P. Kean, 1939-42
Miss S. Noonan, June 1942-43
Mr F.A. Livingstone, 1944-45

Mr J.M. Ansell, 1946-48
Mr G.W. Dawes, 1950-53
Mr E.C. Thompson, 1954-57
Mr T.E. Noble 1958, ½ year
Mr B.L. Coleclough second half 1958-59



Worroo pupils late 1930s

*Back row: Mary Warren, Neville Warren, Reg Walton, Ivan Hampel,
Geoff Adams, Thelma Walton, Doris Warren
Front row: Doug Wareen, Ron Jones, Kay Hample, Olive Jones, Edna Jones,
Trevor Warren, Elsie Jones, Mary Walton*



Worroo sports team c.1950

*Carol and Hazel Cummings, Barbara Chaplin, Marie Thompson, Jeannette Cummings,
Dorothy Jones, Marlene and Les Cumings*



School Site 1988 Bill Chaplin

Worroo Sporting Clubs

Tennis

At a meeting of the Tennis Club held on 30 August 1931 it was decided to open the courts on the 20 September 1931 and to invite Boinka Club members. A tennis net was to be purchased at a price not to exceed 25 shillings and six balls were brought for 10 shillings.

Members present at this meeting were Mr and Mrs I.A. Hampel, Mr and Mrs N.G. Warren, Mr and Mrs J. Adams, E. Burke, Mr and Mrs O.C. Jones, E. Adams, S. Nagel, L. Brown, J.M. Butler, C. Piper, W. Hendy, V. Ryan and Miss O'Shannasy.

On 4 October 1931 the club accepted a challenge with Boinka and a letter was written to Tutye, Cowangie and Boinka Clubs with a view to form a tennis association. In October 1932 Worroo was invited to the opening date of the Cowangie Tennis Club.

It is not known if an association was formed in 1932, but it seems unlikely. During 1932, 33, 34 and early 35 a number of challenge matches were played against Tutye, Boinka and Cowangie. The last minutes recorded are on the 10 November 1935.

Gun Club

The Worroo Gun Club formed in 1953 with 25 foundation members, office-bearers being Mr Jim Cummings, President and Mr George Thompson, Seretary. The first shoot was held on 19 June 1955 at Morrisons. The club had special badges struck and letterheads printed for correspondence. The Worroo Gun Club joined the Australian Target Association on 15 June 1955. The Gun Club went from strength to strength and featured in competitions from Sea Lake to Mildura. Membership at this peak was 109

members, including some ladies. The biggest annual event was the North West Mallee championship, which attracted many visiting shooters and the Worroo Gun Club members did well.

The Gun Club folded in 1958, when the Secretary left the district and young men went further afield for entertainment.

Back-to Cowangie, Tutye and Boinka District 24-25 September 1988

Early in 1987, the Walpeup Shire President announced that a Bicentennial Grant of \$250 was to be allotted to each CWA Branch in the North West Mallee Group to commemorate the Bicentennial. At the July meeting the of the Cowangie CWA it was agreed that the Shire Grant be used to help fund a Back-to during which school signs would be placed at all school sites of those which had been involved in the Tutye & District School Sports Association. A public meeting was held on the 24 August 1987, and a Committee formed, comprising of representatives of families from all school sites.

Committee

President - Ken Brown

Vice-President - Jocelyn Lindner

Secretary - Fay McKee and Beris Etherton

Treasurer - Ian McIntosh



Back to Committee

Beris Etherton, Ian McIntosh, Ken Brown, Fay McKee

Book Committee

Jocelyn Lindner, Tom Lindner, May McIntosh and Irene Etherton

Catering Committee

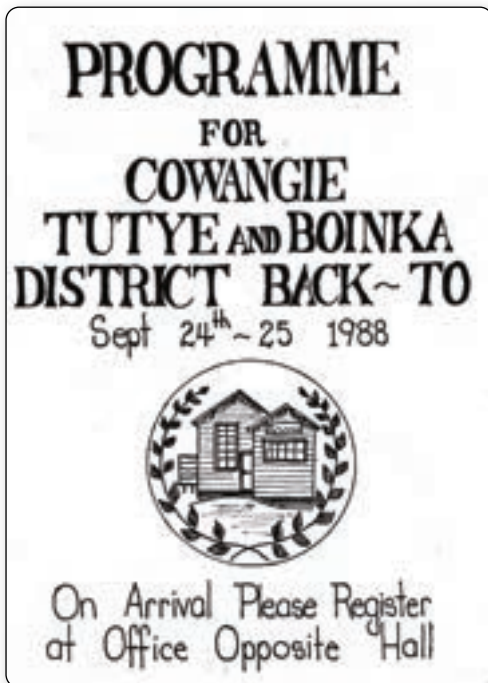
Betty Brown, June Beer and Bessie Boseley

Members

Phyl Jonasson (Cowangie); Laurie Jones & Verna Chaplin (Worooa); Ken McDonald (Boinka); Nell Gibson (Kadoon); Gladys Wills & Karen Wills (Tutye South); Tress Barrell (Tutye North); Marj Sugars (Pallarang); Bill Chaplin (Worooa); Alan Archball; Kevin Sugars; Brian Etherton (Bunurouk); Kelvin Drendel (Tutye); Ron Beer (Bunurouk).

Regular meetings were held to plan the 'Back-to' and names of past residents gathered. Invitations were sent out to many and information was placed in local papers and the *Weekly Times*. Contact was made with Tom Stevenson one of the inaugurators of the T&DCSSA.

Past pupils of the schools were to erect appropriate cairns at the school sites. May McIntosh offered to make pottery plaques for school sites and for unnamed graves. Drinking glasses and teaspoons were designed and ordered. It was decided to have a display of memorabilia at the Bush Nurse Cottage and at the corner store. The programme for the weekend was designed by Heidi Lindner then 15 years of age (eldest daughter of Tom & Jocelyn Lindner of Tutye South).



Copy of programme



Tom & Alexia Stevenson 1988

Past residents and descendants of early settlers came from Western Australia, Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and all parts of Victoria for the weekend's celebrations.

Visitors arrived and registered on Saturday morning and met up with old school friends. Lunch was provided by the Murrayville Lions Club and local ladies this was followed by the official opening by Tom Stevenson one of the instigators of the T&DCSSA. Past pupils then gathered in school groups and set off to their old school sites to unveil the pottery plaques made by May McIntosh. During the day visitors viewed the displays in the corner store.



Welcome sign to Back-to visitors in Lewis Street Cowangie, 24 September 1988

A concert was held in the hall in the evening some returning old residents provided musical items and individuals sang, gave recitations and the CWA ladies put on a short play. There was much laughter during the evening.



Marj Sugars delivering recitation



Cowangie CWA members play

*Betty Brown, Bessy Boseley, Marg Sugars, Jocelyn Lindner, Beris Etherton,
Alma McDonald, Margaret Morrison, Jocelyn Marshall*

An Ecumenical Church Service was held in the hall this was followed by a picnic sports meeting featuring a 'Back-to Gift' where prizes and a sash was awarded.

The weekend closed with the planting of a tree near the Cowangie Hall by the two oldest residents Mrs Nell Gibson and Ern Jonasson.



Ern Jonasson and Nell Gibson (nee Thompson) planting tree at Cowangie Hall, 1988

Honoring the service men and women of the district

The district was only 3 years old and farms were still being cleared when World War I broke out. During World War 1 and II many of the young and able men of the district left to serve their country; a number did not return and a number passed away at an early age due to the effects of the war.

In 1918 Avenues of Honour were planted at Danyo, Cowangie, Tutye and Boinka to honour those who served abroad many of these trees still remain today.



Tutye Tree planting Avenue of Honour July 1918

On 2 August 2015 plaques listing those who served were placed at the Avenues of Honours. It was noted that it was exactly 97 years to the day that: *“the residents of Cowangie district assembled in the main street to plant an avenue of trees to perpetuate in memory the brave soldiers who had enlisted to fight for the world’s freedom and liberty. Many of who made the supreme sacrifice – 42 enlisted and 11 did not return”.*

A representative of a descendant from each town who served in the war unveiled the plaques, at Cowangie:

Boinka - Joe Morrison, nephew of W. Beasley and A.J. Beasley

Tutye - Scott Lindner grandson of Robert W. Lindner

Cowangie - Mary Brown, daughter of Charlie Marshall

Danyo - Sandra Lutz, granddaughter of S.E Chidlow and niece of J.J. Forsyth and J.F. Forsyth



*Unveiling of the plaques at Cowangie to Commemorate Avenues of Honour;
Left to right Mary Brown; Sandra Lutz; Hedley Parker; Sergeant Timothy Brown;
Joe Morrison and Scott Lindner*

Boinka Avenue of Honour

The trees in the Boinka Avenue of Honour were planted in July 1918 by the residents of Boinka as a mark of honour to the men of the town who enlisted for active service abroad in the 1914-18 war. The Shire of Walpeup granted permission to plant the trees and contributed to the cost.

J.E. Adams

A.J. Beasley

*A. Binmore

I.A. Hampel

N.R.A. Peter

J. Megain

R.B. Stephens

A.P. Walker

*A.B Watson

M. Vallance

E. Allen

*W. Beasley

P. Franks

H. Holdsworth

H. Matthews

A.B. Muir

E.J. Stokes

J.L. Walker

R. Watson

**Supreme sacrifice*

Tutye Avenue of Honour

The trees in the Tutye Avenue of Honour were planted on 24 July 1918 by the Tutye Progress Association as a mark of honour to the men from the town who served abroad in the 1914-18 war. The Walpeup Shire Council granted permission on the 10 July 1918 to plant the trees and contributed to the cost.

The *Pinnaroo Border Times* reported:

On 24 July 1918 the residents of the district assembled to pay tribute to the brave men who had gone to the battle for liberty and freedom of the world. The occasion was celebrated by a picnic for the school children. The Avenue was opened by Cr Hecht, other speakers were Mr A.E. Parker, President of the Progress Association, Mr W. Evans. President of the Return Soldier's Association, Mr M. Magrath and Rev. Walters.

H. Anderson	W. Carmichael
*R. Close	C.W. Collins
*J. Cummings	P. Errin
R.W. Lindner	J.J. McGrath
H. Mossop	S.T. O'Gorman
*A. Preece	C.J. Porter
P. Snider	S.A. Wearne

**Supreme sacrifice*

Danyo Avenue of Honour

The trees for the Danyo Avenue of Honour were planted in July 1918 by the Danyo residents as a mark of honour to the men from Danyo who served abroad in the 1914-1918 war. On 10 July 1918 Danyo applied to the Walpeup Shire for permission to plant the avenue and this was granted.

W.J. Brown	S.H. Duff
S.E. Chidlow	J.F. Forsyth
J.J. Forsyth	E.A. Harley
W.H. Harley	H.R. Hart
N. John	A.A. McKee

Cowangie Avenue of Honour

The *Pinnaroo Border Times* carried the following report regarding the planting of trees for the Cowangie Avenue of Honour in 1918:

A large gathering of residents from Cowangie and district gathered in the main street to plant an avenue of trees to perpetuate in memory the names of soldiers who enlisted from here to fight for the world's freedom and liberty, many of whom had made the supreme

sacrifice. The tree guards consisted of jarrah posts and pointed pickets painted white, a portion of one side was made easily removable to gain access for further attendance of the trees. The guards were constructed by Mr J. Kelly of Cowangie. Councillor Hecht and Rev Walters addressed the crowd; the first tree was planted by Mrs Donald Clark wife of the first married man to enlist from the district. A representative of each of the soldiers enlisted was appointed to plant the trees which consisted of peppers on one side and sugar gums on the other, each tree had a plate with the name of the soldier there on.

H. Anderson	*W.S. Brideson	*W. Caudry
D. Clarke	N. Clark	*R. Close
W.H.J. Connell	A.S. Dayman	*A. Dean
W. Dicken	H.E. Duplantur	P.R. Dyll
F.D. Gallatly	A. Grey	R.H. Gorham
E.V. Higgins	F.L. Higgins	M.F. Higgins
C. Hogan	G.E. Jobson	P.A. Jobson
V.L. Lanfranchi	F. Lecouilliard	L.J. Locke
W. Love	C. Marshall	*C. McLean
J.T. Mole	W.J. Mole	P. Morrow
J. Northcote	E. Parnell	*E. Perkins
*H. Preece	E.L. Robertson	*P.L. Robertson
W.S. Rogers	T.F. Rundle	#D.L. Stewart
J.M. Stewart	D.A. Sweeny	*E. Walsh
*A. Watson	S.A. Wearne	C. Wilson

**Supreme sacrifice*
Killed in action

Each tree in the Cowangie Avenue of honour bore the name of a soldier on a brass plaque. Unfortunately all the plaques disappeared but in 1988 five were located and placed on white wooden crosses these have now been remounted on metal crosses and plaques have been made to place on crosses beside the remaining pepper trees.

The sugar gums on the south side of Dayman Street were removed because of the power lines but these have been replaced with coral gums.

War Trophy Train 1920

The War Trophy Train travelled throughout Victoria in 1920 to sell bonds for the Second Peace Loan. In the *Pinnaroo Border Times* of Friday 10 September 1920 it reports that:

On Tuesday last week a war trophy train travelled along the Ouyen Murrayville line. On arrival here (Cowangie) a large crowd had assembled on the platform and listened to the speakers who were on board, their purpose being to sell Peace Bonds. After selling approximately £500 worth of bonds the people were able to inspect the war trophies on board. £370 was donated at Tutye.



War Trophy Train at Cowangie

Honour Boards

Honour Boards listing those who served in the World War I and II were installed following the Wars in the Cowangie Soldiers Memorial Hall and the Boinka Hall. The Boinka Honour Boards are now located in the Boinka School building.

In 2016 an Honour Board was installed in the Cowangie Hall listing those from the district who had served in wars since the World Wars.



Boinka WWII Honour Board

*Boinka 1914-18*

Cowangie WWII Honour Board



Cowangie WWII Honour Board



Cowangie Vietnam Afghanistan, Timor, Iraq

Mail Runs

Pine Plains to Kow Plains mail run

Owen (Hugh) O'Sullivan was living with his parents at Albacutya Station when in 1883 at 14 years of age he commenced the mail route on horseback from Dimboola, the then railhead to Kow Plains Station. He rode along the old bullock track which was used for 70 years by teamsters, mailmen and itinerants travelling between Cowngie (Kow Plains) and the southern railheads. Each week on Monday he rode to Pine Plains on Tuesday to Kow Plains, Wednesday back to Pine Plains on Thursday to Albacutya, Friday to Dimboola and then back to his home at Albacutya where he had Saturday and Sunday off. Own (Hugh) O'Sullivan did this for about 8 years with only one exception.

Re-enactment of Pine Plains to Kow Plains mail run

A re-enactment of the Pine Plains to Kow Plains mail run took place on Sunday 13 June 2004 when a large gathering including over 50 descendants of the O'Sullivan family gathered at the entrance to Pine Plain Station to witness the arrival of the grandson of the original mailman Owen (Hugh) O'Sullivan. A plaque commemorating the mail run and the efforts of Owen (Hugh) O'Sullivan was unveiled by his descendant Sister Carmel O'Sullivan. A Letter to the O'Sullivan family from the Governor of Victoria John Landy was received and read

The re-enactment continued on Monday 14 June 2004 when in cold, windy and damp weather the mailman Hugh O'Sullivan (grandson of Owen (Hugh) O'Sullivan) rode into Kow Plains along part of the original track. His arrival was announced by Terry Gibson. Hugh tied his horse to a pepper tree near the cookhouse and proceeded to the stable where he handed the mail carried in one of the original mail bags to Dugald Macpherson great grandson of Dugald Macpherson lease holder from 1867 to 1897, who read the letter from the Governor of Victoria John Landy to the Kow Plains Committee and the Cowangie Community.

A Plaque at the stable was unveiled by Hugh O'Sullivan and Dugald Macpherson.

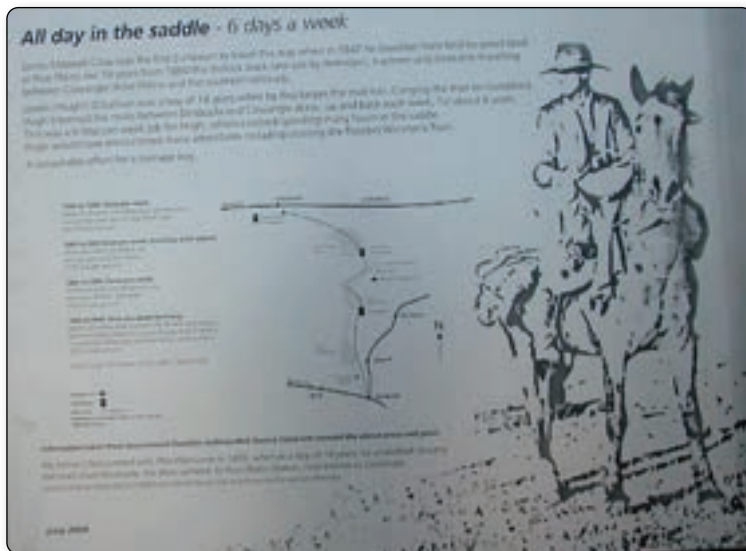


Plaque unveiling Dugald Macpherson, Hugh O'Sullivan



Hugh O'Sullivan Carmel O'Sullivan (standing)

Wild Dog Mail Trail walk



Plaque at Kow Plains

The idea of a walk from Pine Plains to Kow Plains following what was the Wild Dog Mail Trail arose from a conversation between locals including Terry Gibson. The Wild Dog Mail Trail walk in 2009, the Bicentenary year of Australia Post, was sponsored by Mildura Rural City Council, the Salvation Army and Australia Post.

Approximately 50 participants consisting of locals and others from Mildura and away met at Pine Plain on 17 April 2009 and were up at 5am to commence the walk. Some walkers were transported part of the way to the 12 mile patch, others did the hard slog up and down the sand hills. Warm showers awaited the walkers at the 12 mile patch. The next day started at 6am and concluded at Kow Plains and was reported to be easier.



Wild Dog Mail Trail walk participants at Kow Plains Homestead 18 April 2009

The Environment of Cowangie, Tutye and Boinka Districts – Then and Now

The natural vegetation of the Mallee has been described as unique with its wonderful diversity of plants growing in the harshest of climatic conditions and on windblown and saline soils. The Mallee is also host to many bird and animal species.

When the land was first explored and surveyed the main plants mentioned were the spiny grasses (Porcupine grass) that caused problems by piercing whatever came in touch with it and *Eucalyptus Dumosa*, little mention is made of the wildlife.

There are a number of brief references to the indigenous plants and the birds of the Mallee in the *Story of the Mallee* by Alfred S. Kenyon, which included an account by Mr Beilby who was in search of a run in 1849. He gives a detailed description of the Mallee trees *Eucalyptus Dumosa* and of Porcupine grass *Triodia irritans* and stated that there are “many beautiful flowering and evergreen shrubs many of them thorny also dwarf pines and cypress of at least two varieties.” He described the country we now refer to as the Big Desert as: “a very broken and irregular country heathy undulations interspersed with lofty sandhills and patches of pine and Mallee scrub”.

In November 1853 the great botanist and intrepid explorer, Baron von Mueller tracked from the Grampians to Lake Lalbert and then through the Mallee and along the Murray to the Darling Junction. It has been said that he left little for any succeeding botanical collector to discover. The Mueller daisy-bush *Olearia muelleri* which is a common sight along our roadsides and in un-cleared areas was no doubt named after him or by him.

When the district was first cleared a number of reserves were left throughout the area. In recent years signs have been erected at reserves at Tutye, Boinka and other towns along the highway. Drifting sand in the Mallee became a constant problem and dust clouds over various parts of Victoria including Melbourne were for many years attributed to the Mallee.



Tutye Reserve

Under the original Closer Settlement Act settlers in the Mallee were required to keep 3 percent of their holdings under Mallee scrub on portions of the holding directed by the Closer Settlement Board. Strips of the Mallee scrub parallel to certain roads varying in width from two to five chains were retained by the Crown Land Department with the object of preventing drift sand from accumulating on the roads. In spring time today parts of the highway and back roads are ablaze with the yellow flowers of wattles and cassias.

In 1923 the State Parliament yielded to pressure from some land holders and allowed the clearing of native vegetation which led to major problems associated with sand drift. In December 1929 Mr A.D. Hardy of the Forests Commission said that:

The remedy lies in arresting the wholesale and indiscriminate clearing of vegetation from potential wheat fields and from roads and in planting trees where too much exposure has already been made. The sand-hill flora on Crown Lands should be absolutely protected now and strictly conserved in the days when further settlement will cause them to be raided for fuel.

The sand drift continued to be a problem and in 1936 the Walpeup Shire Council decided to extend the limit of fallowing from one chain to three along all roads. Penalties for breaches included a fine of not less than £10 in addition to removal of sand, or repayment to the council of all expenses incurred in removing of drift from the road.

Today thanks to modern farming methods and the awareness of the importance of our native vegetation and soil conservation, dust storms and sand drift have been greatly reduced.

Today the area covered by this book lies between the Murray-Sunset National Park which was declared in 1991 and The Big Desert. The two parks are quite different but both are home to a diverse range of flora and fauna.

An early report of the bird life and the unique beauty of the Mallee is given by L.G Chandler a student of ornithology. He along with his father camped amongst a thicket of Mallee saplings and Murray pines 5 miles south east of Kow Plains in the spring of 1912. Many locals and visitors to the Mallee will be able to relate to his first impressions:

My first early impressions of the Mallee will not readily fade from my memory. All the vegetation was aglow with water-jewels and the air pulsated with the songs of waking birds. I eagerly listened to every strange call, and influenced by the beauty of my surroundings. I lost all thought of time, and sauntered on in careless happiness. Mallee-gums in blossom scattered honey sweetness on the air, and, consequently, honeyeaters were seen in hundreds. Striped, Spiny-cheeked, Yellow-plumed, White-fronted, Tawny-crowned and many other Honeyeaters, added their notes to the morning song of joy. I have listened to the "Psalm of Dawn" in Gippsland forests; I have heard the vociferous chorus at day-break of sweet-voiced birds in French and English woods, but the early morning choir of the birds of the Mallee was the most wonderful music of all. As the light grew brighter, and the sun's rays began to burnish the tops of the tallest trees, yellow-plumed and spiny-cheeked honeyeaters mounted high into the air with curious light and bubbling notes.

L.G Chandler also described in details the habits of many of the birds including the Mallee fowl and made the following fortuitous warning:

Unless a large area of this interesting Mallee country can be converted into a National Park, with a warden to patrol and protect the wild life, the Mallee fowl and other ground birds are doomed to early extinction. The spread of settlement, introduced curses in the shape of foxes and domestic cats gone wild, and other causes, have lessened the numbers annually of many unique forms of wild creatures and birds.

The bird species observed by L.G. Chandler during his visit were:

White-browed woodswallow	Masked woodswallow	Black-eared cuckoo
Major Mitchell cockatoo	Owlet night jar	Many-coloured Parrot
Red-backed Parrot	Purple-crowned parakeets	Mallee fowl
Purple-gaped honeyeater	Striped Honeyeater	Striated grasswren
Mallee emu-wren	Grasswren	Superb warbler
Purple-backed warbler	Black-backed warbler	White-winged chough
Rufous songlark	Brown songlark	Fieldwren
Pipits	Black-breasted plover	Orange-fronted chat
White-fronted chat	Tri-coloured chat	Galah
Magpie	Crow	Gilbert whistler
Crested bellbird	Black-winged bell magpie	Boo-book owl
Black & white fantail	Spotted night-jar	

He also mentioned that he observed four species of whistlers and over a dozen species of honeyeaters. Today warblers are referred to as blue wrens.

Since the early days of settlement the natural bush country has been a place for family, church and school picnics and a place to explore and relax in.



*Picnic at Mountain Pine 1935 – families present
Beers, Sam Johns, Dave. C. Etherton, Alex. W. Etherton*

Today the Big Desert and Sunset country are visited by four wheel drivers and motor bike groups from away but they remain very special places for locals.

Further extract from L.G Chandler's book could still apply to the Big Desert State Forest today:

Many miles south of Kow Plains (this could be in the White Springs area) we came upon acres of land covered with luxuriant growth of porcupine grass, tea tree, dwarf scrub pine, and mallee-gum, and numerous small plants. The sand here in places was almost pure white, and formed a contrast to the reddish sand of richer land further north. It was a nasty spot to lose one's sense of direction. However owing to the large variety of trees and plants, it hardly deserves the false title of desert. Although it looks very uninviting to the casual observer, to a naturalist, an area of land covered with porcupine-grass (Triodia) is a haven of delight. These grass tracts are the homes of innumerable insects and lizards, and are frequented by many rare and shy birds.

From late July until late November an array of wild flowers can be found along the highway, some that are easily recognisable are the many varieties of wattle Acacias, the hop bushes Dodonaea, several species of daisy bushes Olearias, Halganias, Melaleucas, Quandongs, cassias and many others. During the last 30 years there has been an increase in the vegetation along the roadside due to changes in the practice of caring for our roadside vegetation.

The Big Desert and the Murray Sunset National Park are very different but both are a naturalist delight with a large number of plant species and wild life including the Mallee

fowl. During spring time the Big Desert is a blaze of colour and many small delicate orchids can be found. The Murray Sunset Park with its more open spaces is appealing in a different way. Some areas are covered with a sea of small white or yellow everlasting daisies and other areas contain numerous salt bushes that vary greatly in leaf texture and vary in colour from a silver grey to a deep red. These areas are dotted with patches of pig-face with its large pink flowers. A number of kangaroos and emus can be seen and often parrots and cockatoos can be seen flying from a hollow in a tree.

In 2002 the Big Desert was ravaged by bush fires leaving only black sticks and white sand, regeneration was slower than expected this was thought to be due to the extreme heat of the fire and the dry year that followed. Even though, some orchids that only flower after fire were found these were the tall leak-orchid *Prasophyllum elatum* and red-beaks or Undertaker orchid *Lyperanthus nigricans*. Most areas have come back well and it is interesting to note how some species have increased both in numbers and in area. One example of this is the azure daisy *Olearia rudis*; masses of them can now be seen where there were only odd ones before the fire. Some of the plants have regenerated from seed and others have grown from existing roots.

In 2006 a large area of the Murray Sunset National Park was also burnt. A good autumn brought about good regeneration and re-growth, by early October some tracts will be ablaze with the pink Mulla-Mulla *Ptilotus exaltatus* var *semilantus*, these appear to have increased significantly since the fires.

The area covered by this book has seen many changes during the last 97 years both socially and environmentally, these have been brought about by closer settlement. Vast areas of virgin Mallee scrub have been converted to prosperous farming land. In c.1892 George Everard who sunk the wells on the Kow Plains leases forecasts the future of the Mallee in the closing paragraph of his Journal Story of the Mallee where he writes:

I would remind the press and parliament of their miserable doubts the Mallee was worth saving. In a very few years the whole of north-western portion of Victoria will be one vast wheat field. Affording homes to thousands of prosperous families. I will now conclude, wishing that the present holders of the land may have the good luck their strenuous labours are worthy of, and which was denied most of the pastoral tenants.



The aim of this book was to document from all available sources the story of the development of the towns and district, and in doing so to give an insight into the lives of our early pioneers. It is hoped that this record will be a valuable resource for current and future generations. We hope you have enjoyed it.



Big Desert and Murray Sunset National Park

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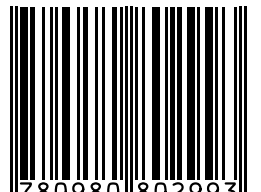


*Rose Garden, Dayman Street
Cowangie, established 2002*



Grain Train at Cowangie 2011





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Photo: Shane Strudwick