

# Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.



**Front Cover:** Marrar streetscape. Robert's building c.1920's.

**Geoff Burch**  
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## Early Settlement

When Charles Sturt travelled down the Murrumbidgee in November of 1829, the furthest settlement inland was just downstream from what we now know as Gundagai<sup>1</sup>.

It was 1832 before settlement had extended as far as Wagga Wagga<sup>2</sup>, but by the end of 1833 settlement extended past Narandera.<sup>3</sup>

In 1848 the squatting runs along the northern side of the river, starting from Wagga Wagga and moving west were Gobbagumbalin, Tooyal, Ganmain, Kockibitoo (Deepwater), Berembed, Bundidgerry, and Narandera.<sup>4</sup>

The area to be known as the Marrar run would have originally been a back block of the Gobbagumbalin Run.

In July 1859 the Government Gazette had listed various *Runs of Crown Lands* that were now “*offered up for competition*” on the basis that they had “*become vacant by forfeiture or otherwise,*” – the list included the *Marar Run*, which consisted of some 16,000 acres in the Lachlan District. It was described as follows:

*“Commencing at Lord Audley's marked tree, at the north-east corner of Gobergomblin Run, and bounded on the south by the northern boundary of that run; on the west by the eastern boundary of Keandra Run; on the north by the southern boundary of Maroolbah Run; and on the east by the western boundary of Junee Run.”<sup>5</sup>*

Armstrong et al,<sup>6</sup> claim that the Marrar Run was put up for tender in 1850, and that the successful tender was that of Angus, John, Ronald and George Rankin [or Ranken]. I can find no listing of this, and in fact the earliest listing found to date is in October 1859, when notice was given that the tender of A., J., R., and G. Rankin for the run named *Marar*, had been accepted.<sup>7</sup>

Marrar is south of Murrulebale, and the descriptions hereunder (*Murolebale* and *Junee* runs) suggest that Marrar was part of the *Junee* run in 1850.

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<sup>1</sup> Two Expeditions into the Interior of Southern Australia, Charles Sturt, 1833 (1982 facsimile edition), p29. In Step with Sturt, Keith Swan & Margaret Carnegie, 1979, Ch.2.

<sup>2</sup> The Murrumbidgee and Wagga Wagga, James J. Baylis, R.A.H.S., Vol.13, part 4, 1927, p254.

<sup>3</sup> Narrandera Shire, Bill Gammage, 1986, p30.

<sup>4</sup> New South Wales Government Gazette 1848, pp1305-1328, and New South Wales Government Gazette 1849, pp1871-1874.

<sup>5</sup> Government Gazette 1859, p1572. July 1859.

<sup>6</sup> A History of Marrar and District, 1979, p11.

<sup>7</sup> Sydney Morning Herald, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1859, p7.

In 1850 *Murolebale* run was described as being approximately 22,400 acres, with a grazing capacity of 4,000 sheep. It was licensed to Colin & George McDonell, and its location was described as follows:

*“Bounded on the north by a dry forest altogether destitute of water; **on the south by Mr Leopold de Salis’ run, called Junee** ; on the east by Mr Hurley’s run, called Hooglaghan’s (sic) Creek ; on the west by Cunilabah Plain, which is a dry unoccupied country ; this run is situated between the Murrumbidgee & Lachlan Rivers, and is from want of water available only about six months in the winter season ; during the summer season it is quite destitute of water<sup>8</sup>.”*

In 1848 Junee run was described as being approximately 150,000 acres, with a grazing capacity of 4,000 sheep. Its location was described as follows:

*“Bounded on the south by a line running due east and west across a point in the Junee watercourse 2 miles above Leith’s waterhole, and embraces all the country northward and above the said line, whose waters fall into the Junee Creek [Houlaghan’s Creek] ; **it is bounded on the south by Thompson’s [Gobbagumbalin]** ; on the east by Thorn [Eunonyharrenya], Nicholson [Joonbong], and Hurley [Hoolahan’s Creek] ; on the north by Cummins [ ? ] ; on the west the country is unoccupied<sup>9</sup>.”*

Armstrong also claims that the Messrs Ranken sold out to Auber George Jones in 1856, which is incorrect. Auber George Jones was still studying in Melbourne at that time and did not move to Wagga Wagga until the early 1860’s when he managed Gobbagumbalin for Mr Robey<sup>10</sup>. Certainly, Jones would have acquired a good knowledge of the Marrar run during his time at Gobbagumbalin, but it was 1864 before Jones purchased Marrar from the Rankin brothers.<sup>11</sup>

The sale was reported by the SMH, in May of 1864, as follows:

*“I report the sale of the Marrar Station, in the Lachlan district, New South Wales, together with 4200 sheep, 60 cattle, 10 head of horses, at the prices of 22s 6d for the sheep, 40s for the cattle, and 60s for the horses; stores and extras to be paid at the price of about £700; the sale will amount to £6000.<sup>12</sup>”*

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<sup>8</sup> New South Wales Government Gazette, 1850, p943.

<sup>9</sup> New South Wales Government Gazette, 1848, p1310.

<sup>10</sup> Belmore House & Auber George Jones, Geoff Burch. Wagga Wagga & District Historical Society Newsletter, February/March 2010.

<sup>11</sup> Government Gazette, 1865, p409, 16<sup>th</sup> February.

<sup>12</sup> Sydney Morning Herald, 28<sup>th</sup> May 1864, p6.

Within a year the property was again being advertised for sale, which fits with Jones's reputation as a property trader:

*"Powers, Rutherford and Co. are instructed to offer for private sale, the MARRAR Station, situate in the Murrumbidgee district of New South Wales, about 20 miles to the north of Wagga Wagga, with an area of from 40,000 to 60,000 acres, and capable of carrying about 20,000 sheep. The present stock on the run consists of  
1300 ewes, two, four, six and eight tooth, now lambing  
1700 ditto, full-mouthed, ditto  
2000 weaners (Peters's breed), mixed sexes, July lambing  
1800 ditto, wethers, lambed in September and October  
1200 wethers, six and eight tooth, in fine condition  
Total, 8000 head.  
60 head of well-bred, quiet dairy cattle and 10 station horses.  
The sheep are of a most superior description, being carefully culled and very well woolled - the weaners have never been shorn. From present appearances a good percentage of lambs is expected, and the 1800 wether weaners are cross-bred Leicesters and Southdowns.  
The improvements are very good, and consist of home station, huts, stocky yards, horse paddock, drilling yards, replete with everything necessary for conveniently working 10,000 sheep; seven substantial sheep stations, with first-class huts, tanks and yards.  
The country is of the soundest description and free from all disease, and consists of fine undulating open box forest, most luxuriantly grassed; and the New South Wales Crown Lands Occupation Act entitles the holders to a ten years' lease of the run. Altogether, it is a really fine property, and holds out to persons wishing to invest in a nice compact station, in thorough working order, most tempting inducement to treat for it.  
For further information and particulars apply at the offices, 122 Queen-street, Melbourne<sup>13</sup>."*

This claim is supported by evidence in a local court case, in 1866 which stated that the complainant, one Thomas Kingsland, worked for the "*Messrs Lavender and Wilkinson at Marrar station.*"<sup>14</sup> The transfer to Lavender & Wilkinson, from Jones, took place sometime in 1866. In the same year, James Smith Lavender & Robert Bliss Wilkinson transferred the lease to the Trust & Agency Company of Australasia Ltd.<sup>15</sup>

In July 1866 the lessees were listed as the Trust & Agency Company of Australasia Ltd,<sup>16</sup> which means that the transfer from Jones to Lavender & Wilkinson, and the transfer from the latter to the Trust and Agency Co., must have taken place in the first six months of 1866.

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<sup>13</sup> Melbourne Argus, 14<sup>th</sup> July 1865, p2.

<sup>14</sup> Wagga Wagga Express. 19<sup>th</sup> May 1866, p2.

<sup>15</sup> Government Gazette. 1867, p329, February 1867.

<sup>16</sup> Government Gazette. 1866, p1552, July 1866.

Lavender & Wilkinson also owned the Temora Run at one time. Wilkinson was the brother-in-law of Lavender, and the two men were very successful commission agents in Wagga Wagga for several decades.

Wilkinson immigrated to Australia with his father and family in 1852. He resided in Victoria initially, for some ten years, before moving to Wagga Wagga and taking up pastoral pursuits. He took a partner, James Smith Lavender, and occupied several runs including Marrar. The drought of 1868 forced the two men to give up squatting and they then entered into the business of stock & station agents.<sup>17</sup>

In August 1869, the property was advertised for sale again, by public auction, on instruction from the mortgagees. It was described as occupying about 44,000 acres, and holding 18,000 sheep<sup>18</sup>.

In 1870 there were several references to a Mr Hunt of Marrar, and, presumably, he was the manager acting on behalf of the Trust & Agency Company of Australasia Ltd.<sup>19</sup>

The property was still being advertised a year later (1870) with a bit more detail,<sup>20</sup>

*“That very desirable station, within 20 miles of Wagga Wagga, known as MARRAR, comprising an area of about 43,000 acres of open box country and she-oak rises, well watered by dams, and thoroughly fenced and subdivided; together with about 18,000 Sheep, all first-class merino, young, and fair proportions of sexes ; among them some choice breeding ewes.*

*The rams have been selected from Messrs. Learmonth and Mr. Godfrey Mackinnon's flocks. The whole have been most carefully culled, and every old and inferior sheep has been removed. The improvements are very complete, comprising two excellent residences, with outhouses, woolshed, huts, stable, store, stock yards, horse and cultivation paddocks, and every convenience, the whole having recently been put in thorough working order at considerable expense. The completion of the Northern Railway will enable fat stock to be brought to market in a few days, and render this station equal in value to any other in Riverina.”*

It appears the sale did not achieve the desired price and was passed in, but in October 1872 it was reported that Mr. Cox had purchased the Marrar station *“with all improvements and about 19,000 sheep.”*<sup>21</sup> The latter consisted of some 13,000 *grown sheep* and 6,000 *lambs*. The vendors were Messrs Robert and Herbert Power who were paid in cash.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Australian Town & Country Journal. 25<sup>th</sup> June 1887, p13.

<sup>18</sup> Melbourne Argus, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1869, p3.

<sup>19</sup> Evening News (Sydney). 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1870, p2.

<sup>20</sup> Melbourne Argus, 26<sup>th</sup> October 1870, p3.

<sup>21</sup> Melbourne Argus, 25<sup>th</sup> October 1872, p2s. / Australian Town & Country Journal. 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1872, p10.

<sup>22</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1872, p2.



## Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.

Cox must have considered a favourable offer, to return a quick profit, for it was reported in December 1872 that he had sold the Marrar run to a Mr J. B. Brooks of Victoria,<sup>23</sup> but it would appear the report was premature and that the sale did not eventuate.

In May 1873 a bushfire broke out on Mr J. Cox's Marrar property and some three and a half miles of fencing was destroyed.<sup>24</sup>

In April 1874 Dennis Phelan, Michael Phelan, and Mary Ann Phelan all selected 320 acres each at Marrar.<sup>25</sup> Selections on Marrar were common throughout 1875. In 1876 John Cox applied to purchase 640 acres of land at Marrar under the 31<sup>st</sup> clause [intended improvements]. Items contemplated were a dam, a tank, wire fencing, a shed, and troughs.<sup>26</sup> As was the case on all large runs, selections started in earnest in the early 1860's and became more extensive with each subsequent decade.

When John Cox died in April 1877<sup>27</sup>, the property passed to his eldest son, Richard Cox<sup>28</sup>. Richard had in fact been running Marrar for some years, his brand being used at Marrar from 1874 onwards.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> Australian Town & Country Journal. 21<sup>st</sup> December 1872, p13, p28. / Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 14<sup>th</sup> December 1872, p4

<sup>24</sup> Australian Town & Country Journal. 17<sup>th</sup> May 1873, p12.

<sup>25</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 8<sup>th</sup> April 1874, p2.

<sup>26</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 25<sup>th</sup> March 1876, p2.

<sup>27</sup> Maitland Mercury, 10<sup>th</sup> April 1877, p3. Quoting Wagga Wagga Express, 4<sup>th</sup> April 1877.

<sup>28</sup> Sydney Morning Herald, 30<sup>th</sup> September 1891, p8.

<sup>29</sup> Melbourne Argus, 15<sup>th</sup> January 1874, p13.

Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.



**Above:** 1879 map of Riverina Pastoral Runs – Compiled and Published by A. C. MacDonald. Courtesy New South Wales State Archives.

In July 1885 the NSW government notified that the Crown Lands constituting the Marrar Pastoral Holding (comprising the Marrar Run) had been categorised as either *leasehold* or *resumed* and that:

*“The leasehold areas shall be exclusive of lands within population boundaries, or to which a right of conditional lease or annual lease is attached, under the provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, or improved lands applied for under the repealed Acts, the sale of which may be hereafter approved, or lands reserved from lease or otherwise exempt under the said Act, or any Act thereby repealed.”*

The division was described as follows:

*“Leasehold area, No 16, counties Bourke and Clarendon. The Crown Lands within the boundaries of that part of Marrar Run lying to the westward of the dividing line here-under described. Resumed area, No. 17, counties Bourke and Clarendon. The Crown lands within the boundaries of that*

Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.

part of Marrar Run lying to the eastward of the dividing line hereunder described. Description of dividing line referred to:— Commencing on the north boundary of the holding at the north-east corner of portion 13 of 186 acres, parish Kinlilabah, county Bourke; thence by road forming the east boundaries of portions 13, 14, 15, 10, 4, 22, 23 in that parish, and portions 13,12, 11, 10, 9,18, 17,6, 5, 4, 2, 1, 103, 104, and 152 in the parish of Marrar, bearing southerly to the south boundary of the holding.”<sup>30</sup>

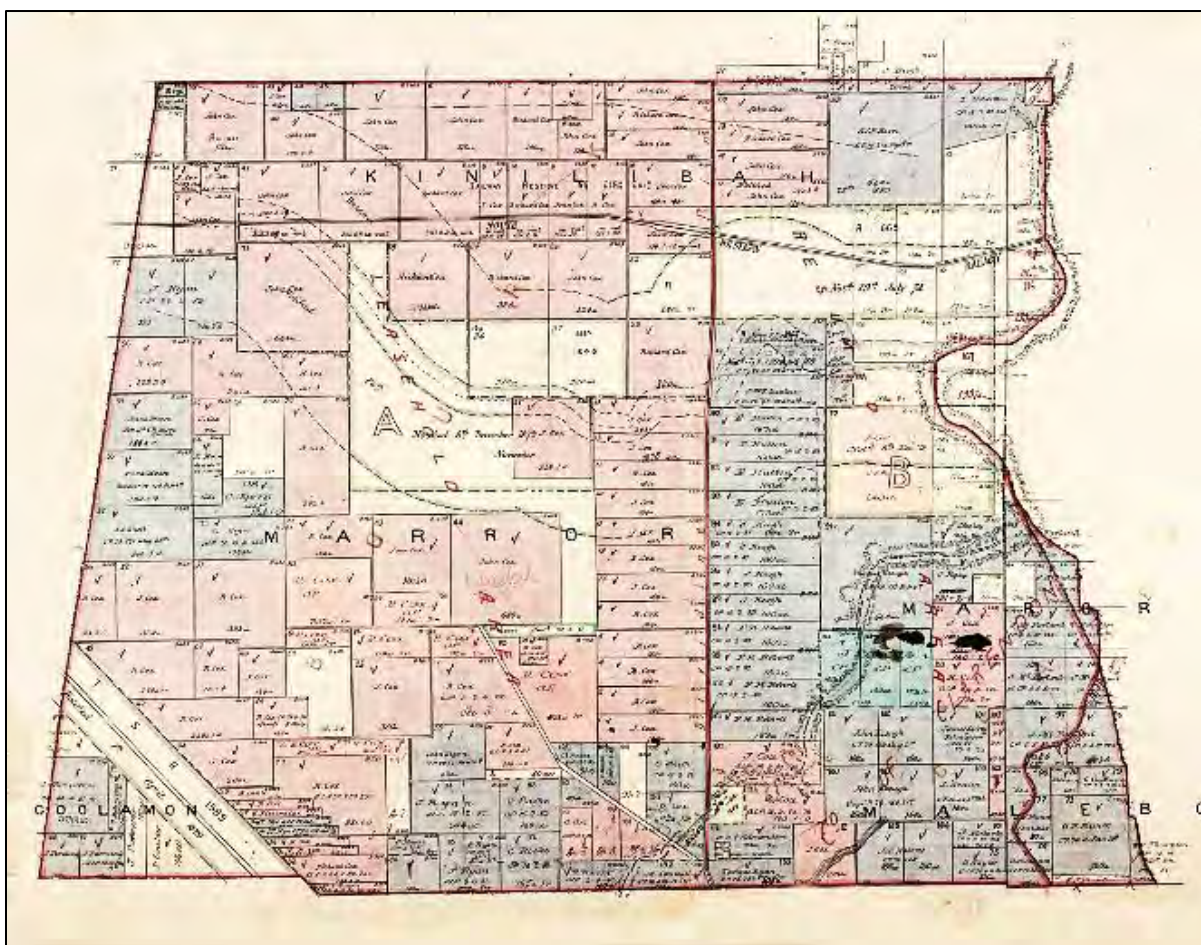


**Above:** A mud map showing the proposed division of the Marrar run. Section A had an area of 25,500 acres and consisted of leasehold land. Section B had an area of 14,700 acres and was identified as the area to be resumed. There was a total of 40,200 acres of land within these boundaries. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

<sup>30</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 16<sup>th</sup> July 1885, p3.



## Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.



**Above:** A more detailed plan of the portions that made up the Marrar Run and associated lands in 1885. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

In August 1885 Richard Cox reported the first finding of a rabbit on the Marrar Run. It was found in a paddock near the Kiandra boundary by a selector named Stallworthy. Cox forwarded the skin to the inspector of stock and reported that no other trace of rabbits could be found in the paddock.<sup>31</sup>

In the early part of 1886, a reserve at Marrar became a *bone of contention* for many, and the situation was well described in a letter to the editor of the Australian Town & Country Journal:

*“Marrar Reserve. To the Editor.*

*Sir,-With your kind permission I desire to draw public attention to the action of Government re the above reserve made on the 23rd instant in accordance with the 101st section, part V. Crown Lands Act,1884, as a site for a village.*

*The land referred to comprises an area of 2104 acres intersected by the Narrandera-Hay railway line, one and a half mile from Marrar platform,*

<sup>31</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 31<sup>st</sup> August 1885, p8.

*and about eight miles from Junee Junction, within the resumed area of Junee and Marrar pastoral holdings, Murrumbidgee district. It was previously a railway reserve, but on January 23 last, was revoked and thrown open for selection, and would be available for that purpose on the 25th instant. Since the former period the land had been inspected by a number of people with a view of conditionally purchasing it. However, on the 24th instant a wire was sent from the Lands Department in Sydney to the land agent at Wagga, informing him that the land referred to had been withdrawn from sale. About the same time the mail train arrived bringing the GAZETTE, containing the official notification. By the time this news reached Wagga large number of intending selectors were either in town or en route, and had no opportunity of hearing about the alteration until it was too late to stay away. Their feelings can be better imagined than expressed at the unnecessary inconvenience and expense they had been subjected to, and had to re-trace their steps sadder and wiser men. There probably would have been about 100 applications for the land alluded to. Amongst those present were many who had come from distant parts of the country, while others had come from the neighboring colony of Victoria. Collectively, I should imagine it cost them some £200 or £300 expenses in connection with the matter, which have been absolutely wasted by the vacillating policy of the Government. Such is, briefly, the particulars of the "Marrar reserve business," which has caused so much indignation among the selectors of this district, and, to say the least of it, appears to be a shady transaction. Regarding the dedication of this portion of land as a site for a future village, the matter is so absurd and ridiculous that there cannot be two opinions about it. Fancy a waterless tract of country, about one-sixth of it suitable for agricultural purposes, the remainder pastoral land, and no other ground in the vicinity open for the people to settle upon-close to Junee Junction, to be selected as a site for a town or village. The merest tyro must understand that there must be some good inducement existing to draw a fair or large population together for their own common benefit. Here we have none, and in all probability, never will until the crack of doom. In conclusion, Mr. Editor, I venture to promise that it will be in the very, far future - never at the farthest - before anything will be heard in the village of Marrar, excepting the bleating of sheep and the chirping of birds. The ring of the honest artisan's hammer will never disturb the woolly backs from the sheep camps. Yours, &c., E. A. FITZGERALD. Wagga, March 27."<sup>32</sup>*

There was an expectation in the community that the government should release reserves around the state for selection, as had been promised when the 1884 Land Act came into being.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> Australian Town & Country Journal. 10<sup>th</sup> April 1886, p22, & 27<sup>th</sup> March 1886, p13.

<sup>33</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 25<sup>th</sup> March 1886, p2.

This particular reserve was # 1847 which had been originally notified on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 1879 and included the *“greater portion of the Marrar run south of the railway line.”*<sup>34</sup>

It was in the late 1880’s and into the 1890’s that grain growing (wheat primarily) was adopted on a large scale (1,000 acres upwards) and Richard Cox was to the fore in such ventures.<sup>35</sup> It was claimed that Cox was the third person to grow wheat in the region. The first was Mr T. W. Milne, of Clifton Hill, Coolamon. The second was Mr David Robertson of Bethungra Park, Illabo, and Rockview, Old Junee.<sup>36</sup>

In 1891 Richard Cox of Marrar passed away on the 29th September, at the age of forty eight.<sup>37</sup> The property, including the leased area known as Marrar Pastoral Holding No.16, was controlled for some years by the executors - A. M. Cox, A. T. Bolton, and H. T. Davidson. In 1894 the Wagga Land Board decided not to extend the aforementioned lease,<sup>38</sup> but this was overturned by the Land Appeal Court who recommended a further 5-year lease.<sup>39</sup>

Early in January 1892 a bushfire destroyed some 2,000 acres of grass and a quantity of fencing.<sup>40</sup> At this time Mr W. Duncan was the manager of both the Marrar & North Eunonyhareenyha stations.<sup>41</sup>

In May 1895 Mr George Webb was the manager of the Marrar Station.<sup>42</sup> Webb was still manager in August 1897.<sup>43</sup>

The introduction of the Robertson Land Acts in 1861 had the desired outcome of increased settlement. Subsequent acts addressed shortcomings in the first act. Squatters and settlers both took advantage of the shortcomings, for their own financial benefit.

An example of the difficulties that could be experienced with settlers was revealed in an 1899 court case. David Beazley was accused of stealing a sheep from the Marrar run. The following details were revealed in court,

*“George Webb, manager of Marrar Station, said he knew accused, who occupied about 80 acres of land divided into three paddocks, one on the east and two on the west, of the T.S.R. The accused's premises being on the east side; the two blocks on the west side were originally attached to Marrar station and adjoined the Marrar boundary paddocks; there were 2000 merino breeding ewes belonging to the station running in the two boundary paddocks on the 27th May; no one had permission to take any of the sheep away; he saw the carcass of a sheep in the possession of Constable Duprez; it was a merino ewe and the skin had been taken off;*

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<sup>34</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1886, p2.

<sup>35</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 13<sup>th</sup> August 1892, p6.

<sup>36</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 13<sup>th</sup> June 1895, p2.

<sup>37</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 1<sup>st</sup> October 1891, p2.

<sup>38</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 29<sup>th</sup> May 1894, p4.

<sup>39</sup> Australian Town & Country Journal. 29<sup>th</sup> December 1894, p44.

<sup>40</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 6<sup>th</sup> January 1892, p5.

<sup>41</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1892, p4.

<sup>42</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 7<sup>th</sup> May 1895, p4 & 6<sup>th</sup> August 1895, p3.

<sup>43</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 14<sup>th</sup> August 1897, p3.

*the head was only partly skinned; it had been dead about a week ; the near ear was on, the off ear being missing ; ewes were marked on the off ear; he was unable to identify the sheep more that it was a merino ewe; the sheep running in the second boundary paddock on May 27th were earmarked; he was also shown three sheepskins by Constable Duprez at the accused's residence; two were merinos and the other a young crossbred; there were no marks by which no could identify them; accused to witness's knowledge had not had any sheep on his property during the past six years; in case of travelling sheep dying it was the practice of drovers to cut off both ears; station managers would not accept one ear and always demanded both; while the search warrant was being executed he was on the T.S.R., but saw no traces of travelling sheep having recently passed along the road nor indications of a sheep having been dragged along the ground.*

*By Mr. Coleman—He could not recognise any of the skins as being off Marrar sheep; tar brands were used at Marrar but the sheep in the boundary paddock referred to were not tar branded. Beazley was committed to stand trial at the Wagga Wagga Circuit Court.”<sup>44</sup>*

The squatters were mortified that their long-held monopoly of Crown Lands was being eroded and many went to extreme lengths to repel the settlers, by exploiting the vagaries of the legislation.

In November 1906 the Closer Settlement Board concluded its enquiry into the government's proposal to acquire the Gobbagumbalin & Marrar estates, with a recommendation to proceed with the resumption of both,<sup>45</sup> and in December the purchase of same was passed by the legislature.<sup>46</sup> In the ensuing years this was to result in a massive migration of settlers and labourers into these areas along with an associated explosion of community groups and regional development. Sporting groups and progress associations were prominent amongst these as was the development of both existing and new towns.

Marrar run adjoined the northern boundary of Gobbagumbalin and consisted of a total of some 26,589 acres, which the government paid a total of £68,777 for the land and improvements<sup>47</sup>.

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<sup>44</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 13<sup>th</sup> June 1899, p2.

<sup>45</sup> Sydney Morning Herald, 14<sup>th</sup> November 1906, p7.

<sup>46</sup> Sydney Morning Herald, 4<sup>th</sup> December 1906, p6.

<sup>47</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 7<sup>th</sup> December 1906, p3c1.

## Early Development of a Village

The Robertson Land Act of 1861 elicited a proliferation of settlers, and, along with the coming of the railways in the latter 1870's and early 1880's, was responsible for an expanding population that catalysed the development of existing centres and the creation of many new towns.

The works associated with the expansion of the rail track network were particularly influential in promoting commerce, although such activity was often transitory moving with the progress of the rail head. The towns through which the railways passed were the recipients of more lasting benefits, generally.

The progress of the railway towards Albury as it passed through Cootamundra, Junee, and then Wagga Wagga in the late 1870's generated a large demand for labour, timber, and ancillary services and provisions. Such activity often led to short term stimulus for smaller centres. Such would have been the case when the tender of Messrs Fishburn & Norton for the construction of the railway line from Junee Junction to Narrandera was accepted on the 6<sup>th</sup> September 1879. The first sod was turned on the 25<sup>th</sup> September of that year.<sup>48</sup>

No doubt in expectation of profits to be made Edward Finnister applied, in June 1879, for a publican's license for premises to be known as the Marrar hotel (on the Marrar Road). The application was adjourned for one week,<sup>49</sup> but when the court did resume the application was refused.<sup>50</sup> The applicant on this second occasion was listed as William Forrester.

It was a common event for licenses to be granted for hotels at camp sites along the progressing rail line. These "*premises*" were of a temporary and simple nature, such as would allow for ease of removal and re-erection. Such was the license issued in the latter part of 1880 to Martin Thomas Lennon for the Dublin House at the twelve-mile camp on the railway line of road from Junee to Narrandera.<sup>51</sup> The license was not renewed in 1881.

Works on the line were described in September 1880 as follows:

*"..leaving the camp [Junee Junction] the line proceeds towards Old Junee where a platform station is to be erected...no provision is yet made for a goods shed there.... The line crosses Junee Creek, near the residence of Mr T. W. Hammond. This is actually the only place during the whole route where water can be obtained, and even here the supply is anything but good; for the water so often becomes thick that filtering has to be resorted to. Water from this creek is carried to supply the navvies for a distance of fifty miles. Leaving the Junee Creek the line ascends a steep gradient of one in fifty for a considerable distance. The cutting through which the line passes is a place nearly twenty feet deep. Twelve thousand yards of earth have been excavated from this cutting. **The next stopping place is the contractor's camp, twelve and a half miles from Junee, on***

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<sup>48</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 7<sup>th</sup> September 1880, p2.

<sup>49</sup> Wagga Daily Advertiser, 11<sup>th</sup> June 1879, p2.

<sup>50</sup> Wagga Wagga Express, 18<sup>th</sup> June 1879, p2.

<sup>51</sup> New South Wales Government Gazette 1880, p3448.



***Mr Cox's Marrar station. This place was chosen for the excellent ballast, which it provides, no labour being required for breaking of the stone, which in its natural state is ready for use. This must have saved the contractors a considerable amount of money. The land in question should be permanently reserved for a quarry...a short distance from the quarry there is a party of prospectors at work, and they seem to be favourably impressed with the gold bearing nature of the country around Marrar. They have taken up a prospecting claim, and...had sunk to a depth of twelve feet.....Messrs Fishburn and Morton have sunk for water here, but were unsuccessful; .....at the twelve mile camp there is a public house called the "Dublin" kept by, I think, a person named Lennon. There is also a large eating house kept by Mr Crosby. This restaurant could have reasonably been named the "Full & Plenty" for I have never met such an establishment where such a huge bill of fare was provided – everything being in superabundance...<sup>52</sup>***

Whilst there was no village in 1880 there was commercial activity – R. J. Montgomery was the government contractor who carried the mail between Wagga Wagga and Wollongough in that year, and he resided at Marrar keeping grazing paddocks there for his horses.<sup>53</sup> In the following year, 1881, an interesting report appeared in the papers – Mrs Robert Montgomery of Marrar had occasion to visit the meat-safe whilst preparing for breakfast and found a large brown snake inside. She called for help and the snake was dispatched with – it measured four feet six inches long.<sup>54</sup>

Marrar railway station was opened on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 1882.<sup>55</sup> It was located on the new line from Junee to Carrathool and was fourteen miles from the Junee Station.<sup>56</sup> Gormly noted that in 1882 *"there was one house where the village came into existence later. That house was the railway gate keeper's house."*<sup>57</sup>

Marrar was proclaimed a village on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 1904.<sup>58</sup> Armstrong et al,<sup>59</sup> erroneously claim that the first building of any significance was the Royal hotel and that it was completed in 1900, but this date is incorrect. The same publication also listed Campbell as the first licensee – this too is incorrect. The hotel was not licensed until 1905 and Francis Flood was the first licensee.

In September of 1904 Frances Joseph Flood of Grong Grong gave notice of his intent to apply for a publican's license for premises to be erected at Marrar, on allotment five of section three. It was to be known as the Royal hotel and was to contain ten rooms in addition to those required by family and staff.<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser, 7<sup>th</sup> September 1880, pp2-3.

<sup>53</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 26<sup>th</sup> August 1880, p3.

<sup>54</sup> Burrowa News. 11<sup>th</sup> February 188, p2. Quoting the Wagga Wagga Express.

<sup>55</sup> Public Transport Commission Archives.

<sup>56</sup> Goulburn Herald. 7<sup>th</sup> March 1882, p2.

<sup>57</sup> Gormly Indexes: Marrar village.

<sup>58</sup> NSW Lands Department. Village of Marrar, 1924 map.

<sup>59</sup> A History of Marrar and District, 1979, p14.

<sup>60</sup> Junee Southern Cross, 27<sup>th</sup> September 1904, p2.

Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.



Above: 1924 Map – Village of Marrar. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

There was some local resistance to the granting of the license,<sup>61</sup> and when the bench heard the application in November, they refused it on the grounds that the specifications submitted were insufficient.<sup>62</sup>

Flood applied again in April 1905 and this time, despite opposition from the police, the application was granted (conditional license). Messrs G. Webb of Marrar and N. MacCallum of Merulebale, were called as objectors but did not show.<sup>63</sup>

It was said that the building would be pise with a verandah all round and would cost some £600 to £700. It was stated that Mr Flood was a publican with thirty years' experience having been in business in both Grong Grong and Narandera.<sup>64</sup>

The hotel construction did not proceed immediately, and it was to be over a year before the premises were opened.

Early in 1906 Marrar Siding, as it was then commonly known, was devoid of any significant buildings. The railway siding had been opened as a booking station, and there were large

<sup>61</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser, 8<sup>th</sup> October 1904, p5.

<sup>62</sup> Junee Southern Cross, 8<sup>th</sup>

<sup>63</sup> Wagga Daily Advertiser, 13<sup>th</sup> April 1905, p4.

<sup>64</sup> Junee Southern Cross, 14<sup>th</sup> April 1905, p2.

quantities of wheat being stacked there, but as one correspondent put it “*other local improvements appear to consist entirely of promises.*”<sup>65</sup>

A correspondent recorded that telephone connections had been established in March and also hinted that construction of the hotel might commence shortly.<sup>66</sup> There was some frustration at Flood’s delay in erecting the hotel as many saw this as a much needed catalyst for further development.

A catalyst did come along in the form of the Marrar Estate, which was offered to the government for closer settlement.<sup>67</sup> Gobbagumbalin had already been put forward and the breakup of the two estates would trigger a major migration into this region.

The news, no doubt, was music to the ears for Flood and almost immediately construction commenced. The walls (pise) were almost finished by end June, and the hotel was projected to be finished in October [1906].<sup>68</sup>

It was at this very same time that a tragedy struck the small town. It appeared that a stranger had arrived on the train from Junee, he had stripped down to his flannel shirt, tied his hands behind his back (by forming a noose in a corded necktie), and then walked into the Marrar Tank (dam). The body was found in the tank on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June, and an inquiry on the following day returned a verdict of suicide. There were no papers on the body that allowed for it to be identified<sup>69</sup>.

A month later, on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July, another suicide took place. The receiving officer, Mr P. Galvin shot himself through the head. “*He was found around half past six, sitting in his chair, in his office, with a breach loading gun at his side.*”<sup>70</sup> The young man (he was only twenty-five) was a native of Yerong. There was no apparent reason for his actions.

Construction of the hotel was not all smooth sailing, as was explained in the following report in August 1906,<sup>71</sup>

*“Good progress has been made lately with Flood’s hotel, the carpenters being now busy putting on the roof. It was originally intended to have it entirely finished before now, but delays and disappointments in the material, and the wet weather, hampered the construction. At one time work was stopped for three weeks awaiting timber, and several lesser delays occurred. The walls are of pise, eighteen inches thick and thirteen feet high, and are finished up to the plastering, which will be done throughout both inside & out. The building is of the L shape, with a frontage of eighty one feet to York Street and the railway station, by a*

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<sup>65</sup> Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, 25<sup>th</sup> January 1906, p3.

<sup>66</sup> Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, 29<sup>th</sup> March 1906, p2.

<sup>67</sup> Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, 19<sup>th</sup> June 1906, p2.

<sup>68</sup> Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1906, p3.

<sup>69</sup> Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1906, p2,3.

<sup>70</sup> Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, 24<sup>th</sup> July 1906, p2.

<sup>71</sup> Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1906, p2.

## Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.

*depth of twenty nine feet. The wing forming portion of the main building runs back thirty five feet by a depth of twelve feet, and contains three bedrooms (each ten x twelve, starting from the north west corner, which will be the bar-room, eighteen feet by twelve feet; we then come to the bar parlour, thirteen feet; bedroom, eleven feet; passage, six feet wide, and two bedrooms, each thirteen feet. These will be the front rooms. Behind these will be a private parlour, eighteen feet; two bedrooms, thirteen feet by eleven feet; passage and dining room, twenty seven feet; all the rooms will have a depth of twelve feet, and a height from floor to ceiling of eleven feet. At the back, and within the angle of the hotel building, is the kitchen (twenty two feet by thirteen feet), with two bedrooms attached. This portion of the structure is built and will be finished off in the same manner as the hotel, the whole, with the stable in course of erection, will make a block of buildings that would do credit to any town or district. Indeed the contractor, (Mr Webster, of Coolamon) who appears to have a special aptitude for this style of building is to be congratulated on the excellence of his work, the alignment of the walls being perfect. I understand the whole building is larger and more commodious than the specifications as submitted to the licensing board.....of course the whole will be surrounded by a wide verandah."*

Another month passed and still no hotel. A correspondent advised that work had been delayed whilst waiting for timber, but the hotel roof was now on, which would allow work to proceed regardless of the weather. It was also stated that a new general store had been opened by Mr Croke in premises constructed by Mr Cummins of Junee<sup>72</sup>.

Finally, on the 8<sup>th</sup> November it was reported that the new hotel was expected to open that very week.<sup>73</sup>

The opening was confirmed in December of 1906 when the following description was given of the town,<sup>74</sup>

*"...Mr Flood has set a good start by building and opening a very fine hotel of twelve rooms, finished and furnished in a most creditable style....The only other business opened yet is a general store run by Messrs Croke & Flood jnr., and a boarding house and newsagency run by Mr Henry.."*

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<sup>72</sup> Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, 6<sup>th</sup> September 1906, p4.

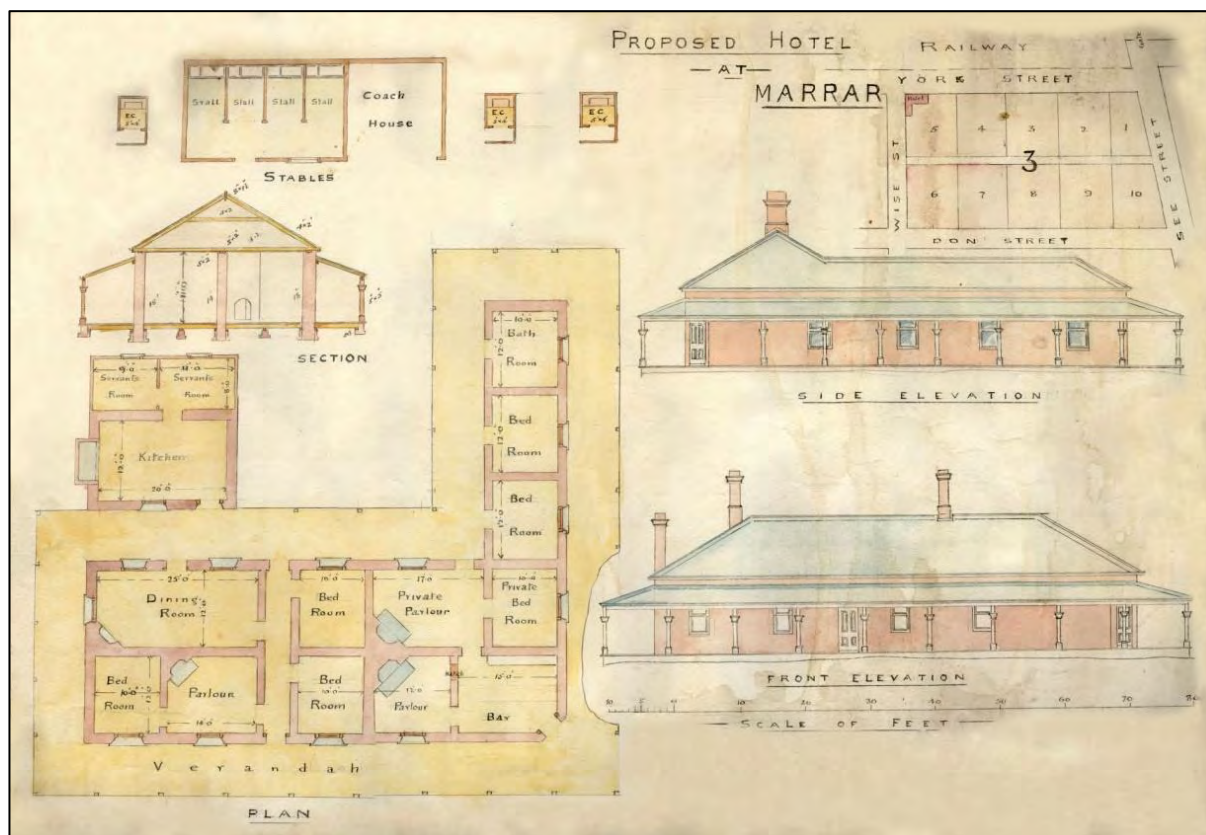
<sup>73</sup> Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, 8<sup>th</sup> November 1906, p4.

<sup>74</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 28<sup>th</sup> December 1906, p3.



## Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.

William Monks, an architect from Wagga Wagga, prepared the plans in 1905 and these are displayed hereunder:



**Above:** 1905 plans for Royal Hotel, Marrar. Courtesy Charles Sturt University Regional Archives.

In April 1907, Mrs Campbell purchased the goodwill of the hotel from Mrs Flood,<sup>75</sup> and took possession on the 9<sup>th</sup> June.<sup>76</sup> The license was in the name of Mr AJ Campbell, a former resident of Wagga Wagga [for the previous thirty five years].<sup>77</sup>

Other businesses in 1907 were:

- A blacksmith's shop erected by Mr White (which was welcomed by teamsters during the wheat season).<sup>78</sup>
- Croke's store and baker's shop, which was taken over by Mr Magill in June 1907, he having purchased the freehold from Mrs Flood as well.<sup>79</sup> Magill, like Campbell, was a former citizen of Wagga Wagga.<sup>80</sup>
- A butcher's shop and a baker's shop were also planned by May 1907, with the bricks for the latter already on the ground.<sup>81</sup>

<sup>75</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 19<sup>th</sup> April 1907, p2.

<sup>76</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 7<sup>th</sup> June 1907, p7.

<sup>77</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 8<sup>th</sup> June 1907, p2.

<sup>78</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 15<sup>th</sup> March 1907, p2c4.

<sup>79</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 17<sup>th</sup> June 1907, p7c5.

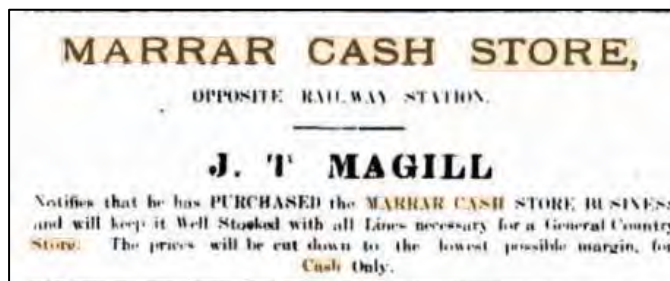
<sup>80</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 18<sup>th</sup> June 1907, p2.

<sup>81</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1907, p4c3.



**Left:** Advertisement in the Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, 8<sup>th</sup> June 1907.

**Below:** Advertisement in the Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, 18<sup>th</sup> June 1907.



An article in the Wagga paper in May of 1907 noted that the village of Marrar was now practically surrounded by settlers. The newer ones were busy clearing, fencing and preparing for putting in crops. The older settlers were already ploughing and sowing with some crops already above ground. One side line from all of this activity was a large trade in rabbits. It was noted that in one instance ten crates, each with sixteen pairs of rabbits, were delivered to the railway for shipment and that the current price was 4d per pair.<sup>82</sup> Mr Rowe was the station master at this time and it was stated that Railway Commissioners had already prepared plans for “*removing the station about 100 yards further west, and on the opposite side of the line,*” as the present site was too small to cope with the demands.

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July a meeting was held at the Royal hotel to consider the formation of a Progress Association. The meeting resolved to proceed with the formation of same and the following office bearers were elected,<sup>83</sup>

President: Mr R. Henry

Vice- Presidents: Messrs J. T. Magill and A. J. Campbell [a subsequent report on the 11<sup>th</sup> July stated that Mr G. Flood was the Vice-President.]

Secretary and Treasurer: Mr P. Herrick

Their first priorities were the establishment of a public school, the Government tank fence, and relocation of the post office from the railway station to a more central position.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> February 1908 Ashwood Bros opened their new branch store at Marrar, advising that timber, bricks, lime, and all kinds of building materials were always on hand. At the same time Mr Magill advertised his store offering grocery, ironmongery and drapery goods, and boots<sup>84</sup>.

<sup>82</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1907, p4c3.

<sup>83</sup> Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, 9<sup>th</sup> July 1907, p2c3.

<sup>84</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 24<sup>th</sup> January 1908, p8c2,3.

**PUBLIC NOTICE.**

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**NEW STORE for MARRAR**

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**A**SHWOOD BROS., LTD., of Coolamon, have pleasure in announcing to the residents of **MARRAR** and surrounding districts that they will **OPEN A BRANCH STORE AT MARRAR** on the 1st **FEBRUARY**.

---

The Business is to be a Permanent Fixture, and Customers may rely upon being treated in the same manner at our **Coolamon Store**.

**TERMS** may be arranged with our Manager at **MARRAR**.

A Large, and Varied General Stock, at reasonable prices, will be found at our **Marrar Store**.

---

**TIMBER, BRICKS, LIME** and all kinds of **BUILDING MATERIAL**, always on hand.

---

Correspondence and Inquiries Solicited

---

**ASHWOOD BROS., LTD.,**  
General Merchants,  
Coolamon and **Marrar**.

The establishment of Ashwood Bros was a boost for the village as they not only planned erection of a cottage for their manager, Mr Little, but they also arranged connection of the telephone between their businesses in Marrar and Coolamon. Another business had also opened by this time, this being Mr Ray's butcher shop, and Mr Winter was planning a new hall which he hoped would be completed in nine weeks' time.<sup>85</sup>

At the same time the Coolamon Shire Council were erecting a wind powered pumping plant at the shire tank with a trough to water stock, and enclosing the tank with a wire-netted fence.

**Left:** Advertisement in the Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1908.

Whilst the hall was being erected for Mr Winter, a new shop was also being erected for Mr White and it was expected the latter would be a fruit & green grocery operated by Mrs Bartholomew. Mr Ryan was about to commence building a five roomed cottage next door to his bakery shop.<sup>86</sup>

In the latter part of May it was announced that Mr Peter Herrick, who had been with Mr Magill at the Marrar Cash Store for the past twelve months was about to depart the town. It was felt that he would be sorely missed, both as a popular businessman and as a driving force for issues of local interest - in his role as secretary of the Progress Association.<sup>87</sup> Herrick was destined to return to Marrar in the not too distant future, if he in fact left at all.

Five months after it was first flagged Marrar was the proud possessor of a public hall, erected for Mr H. Winters by Messrs Tinker & McDonald. It was formerly opened on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1908, with a ball & supper at which Mr Hogan thanked Mr Winter on behalf of the residents. It was the intention of Mr Winter to "*let the hall, at a moderate charge, for all meetings and amusements, and to all denominations for church services for free.*"

<sup>85</sup> Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, 4<sup>th</sup> April 1908, p8c8.

<sup>86</sup> Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, 7<sup>th</sup> May 1908, p4c1.

<sup>87</sup> Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, 21<sup>st</sup> May 1908, p3c4.



The building was described as follows,<sup>88</sup>

*“The main hall, which is sixty four feet from stage to door by twenty feet wide, is lined and ceiled throughout with pine, and is fourteen feet from the floor to ceiling; ventilation is supplied by eight side windows and two large windows in front; behind the stage, which is sixteen by twenty, are two dressing rooms separated with a folding partition, making it convertible into a supper room the full width of the hall.... Mr Forsyth, of Junee & Ganmain, did the plumbing and fitted up the acetylene gas plant, consisting of fifteen lights, including four footlights on the stage. The light was splendid and reflected great credit on Mr Forsyth, who, I understand, is the patentee of the same.*

In the second half of 1908 Mrs Giddins opened a boarding house in her new and commodious cottage, and the Minister for Public Instruction finally confirmed that a public school would be built at Marrar,<sup>89</sup> although it would be some time before the building was commenced.<sup>90</sup> Mr Flood’s new cottage was also being finalised around that same time.<sup>91</sup>



Shortly afterwards, Messrs Campbell & Herrick bought the store business from Mr Magill taking over on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 1908<sup>92</sup>. The business was now known as the Marrar Railway Stores.<sup>93</sup>

**Above:** Advertisement from Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, 13<sup>th</sup> February 1909.

Before the end of the year (1908) Mr White was erecting another brick shop *“to be used as a harness and boot making establishment.”*<sup>94</sup>

On the 15<sup>th</sup> February 1909 the Public School opened. Mr Carnell was the first teacher, having relocated from Derrain<sup>95</sup>.

<sup>88</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 10<sup>th</sup> July 1908, p6c5.

<sup>89</sup> Wagga Daily Advertiser, 6<sup>th</sup> August 1908, p4c3.

<sup>90</sup> Wagga Daily Advertiser, 29<sup>th</sup> October 1908, p4c1.

<sup>91</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 28<sup>th</sup> August 1908, p7c1.

<sup>92</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 18<sup>th</sup> September 1908, supplement.

<sup>93</sup> Wagga Daily Advertiser, 26<sup>th</sup> November 1908, p2c4.

<sup>94</sup> Wagga Daily Advertiser, 29<sup>th</sup> October 1908, p4c1.

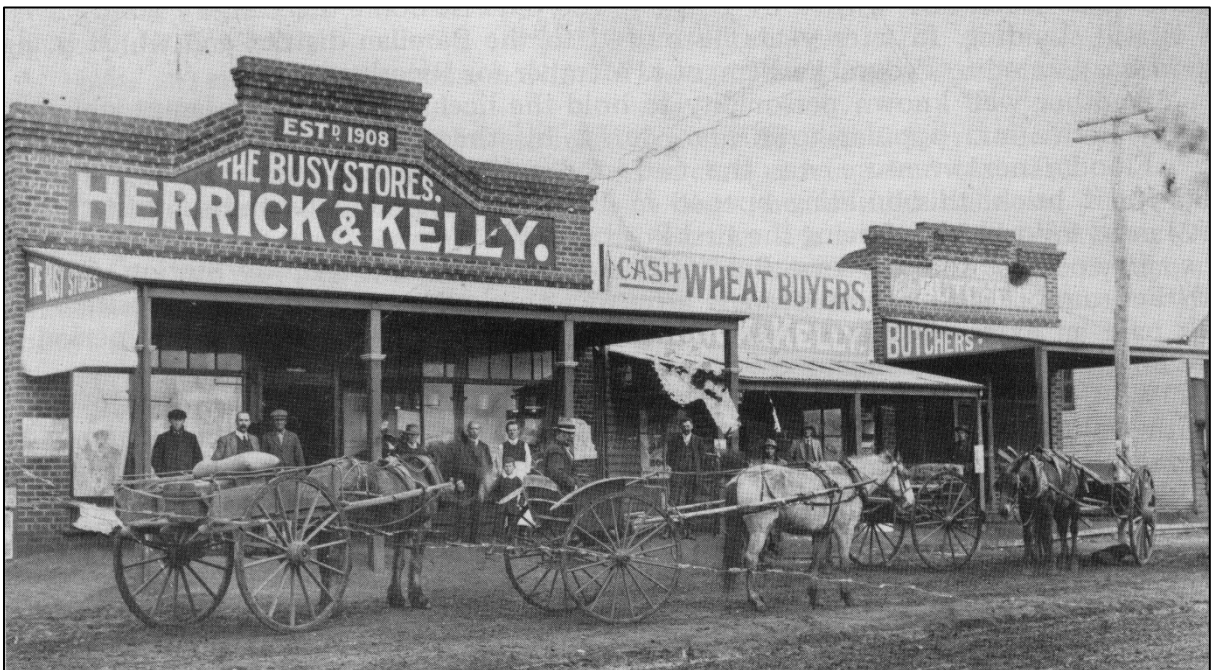
<sup>95</sup> Wagga Daily Advertiser, 20<sup>th</sup> February 1909, p8c8.



Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.



**Above:** Herrick & Kelly's Railway Stores, c.1909.<sup>96</sup>



**Above:** Herrick & Kelly's Busy Stores, c.1914 [pre fire].<sup>97</sup>

<sup>96</sup> Alby Armstrong. *A History of Marrar and District*, 1979.

<sup>97</sup> Alby Armstrong. *A History of Marrar and District*, 1979.

## Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.

In June 1909 it was reported that Mr Flood was building a two-storey brick shop in York Street,<sup>98</sup> while in July Mr Herrick, the proprietor of the Railway Stores, took on a new partner in Mr A. M. Kelly. Kelly had been employed for the previous three years as manager of a branch store at Barmedman for Mr Thom's of Temora and had originally worked in the Temora store as a draper.<sup>99</sup> Kelly was also married to the sister of Mrs Herrick.<sup>100</sup> In that same month Mr T. C. Humphrys of Junee announced the opening of a branch of his Stock, Station, & Commission Agency business at Marrar, to be managed by his son, Mr H. P. Humphrys.<sup>101</sup>

In September 1909 the license of the Royal hotel was transferred from Mr A. J. Campbell to Horace Stinson, late of Narrandera.<sup>102</sup>

In the same year (in November) it was noted that Mr Winter had completed a new building next to the hall in which he had installed a first-class billiard table, which would be open to the public.<sup>103</sup>

A social was also being organised in this same month for Mr H. White, one of the oldest residents of the town and one who had done so much to promote the development of the village.<sup>104</sup> Mr White was intending to leave the district.

A second social was being organised for Mr W. Ryan, the baker, who had sold out to Mr Crouch.<sup>105</sup> Ryan planned on moving to Ardlethan to start a new business.<sup>106</sup> Something must have caused a change of plans because a year later, in November 1910, Mr Ryan announced that he had sold his bakery business to Mrs S. Winter and that he planned to stay in Marrar, operating as a commission agent.<sup>107</sup>

In an unusual twist of fate, Mr Crouch was also advertising his services as a commission agent by December 1910.<sup>108</sup>

Another new business created in June of 1910 was the partnership of Mr P. Henry of Marrar and Mr T. Kelly, late of Newcastle, as builders, joiners and cabinet makers.<sup>109</sup>

In March of 1911 it was reported that Mrs Flood, of Haberfield, Sydney, had sold the freehold of the Royal hotel along with the post office, bank, and Mr Crouch's office, to Mr H. A. Stinson of Marrar.<sup>110</sup>

Stinson was to hold the license for nine years until September 1918 at which time it was transferred to Claude H. Barber.<sup>111</sup>

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<sup>98</sup> Wagga Daily Advertiser, 12<sup>th</sup> June 1909, p8c3.

<sup>99</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 16<sup>th</sup> July 1909, p4c5.

<sup>100</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 27<sup>th</sup> February 1914, p2c7,8.

<sup>101</sup> Wagga Daily Advertiser, 24<sup>th</sup> July 1909, p2c4.

<sup>102</sup> Gormly Indexes: Marrar Village.

<sup>103</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 5<sup>th</sup> November 1909, p6c4.

<sup>104</sup> Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, 17<sup>th</sup> November 1910, p4c1.

<sup>105</sup> Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, 4<sup>th</sup> November 1909, p3c1.

<sup>106</sup> Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, 18<sup>th</sup> November 1909, p4c1.

<sup>107</sup> Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, 10<sup>th</sup> November 1910, p4c1.

<sup>108</sup> Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, 15<sup>th</sup> December 1910, p1c8.

<sup>109</sup> Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, 18<sup>th</sup> June 1910, p2c5.

<sup>110</sup> Gormly Indexes. Wagga Daily Advertiser, 15<sup>th</sup> March 1911.

<sup>111</sup> List Publican's Licenses 1865-1921. Geoff Burch.2007.

There was a butcher shop by 1911, which changed hands in that year, the new proprietor being Mr McKennar of Coolamon<sup>112</sup>.

In February 1912 two new buildings were reported - a two storey brick building for Mrs S. A. Winter, which was to be a baker's shop and dwelling and which was almost finished; and a new butchers shop for Mr Arthur Ray. It was noted that Messrs Ashwood Bros. had purchased a block and planned to erect a general store.<sup>113</sup> In the following month it was noted that Messrs Herrick & Kelly were planning to erect new premises and that Mr Linsell, who planned to open a branch of his business in Marrar, would lease the butcher shop being erected by Mr Ray.<sup>114</sup>

A newspaper representative visited Marrar in March of 1912, and gave the following account,<sup>115</sup>

*"A butcher's shop is now being erected by Messrs Condon and Crane, to the order of Mr A. Ray...solidly built of lime concrete, the front presents a pretty design of "imitation tiles" the top being surmounted by a figure of a Herefordshire bull, on each side of which is a rams head....the counter even is built of Keen's cement, blocked out to imitate tiles...*

*Another fine new building, in course of erection, to the order of Mr Winter, is a two storey brick shop adjoining the local billiard room, to be used as a baker's shop and dwelling. Composed of six rooms and bakehouse, it also is splendidly adapted for the purposes of a modern bakery. The bakehouse is fitted with a fine furnace oven, the ceilings are built of steel and the floors of two of the lower rooms are cemented...it is to be fixed with a lighting plant, patented by Messrs Quirk & Co of Melbourne, as the "Light of Australia" [same system has been installed at Mr Horace Stinson's hotel, where it gives great satisfaction]. It is also to be introduced at the Marrar hall, owned by Mr Winter...*

*Mr T. Roberts is about to build a new brick store for Messrs Herrick & Kelly, whose present premises have outgrown their business. The new building is to be 60 x 30 [ft],...including special and up-to-date windows for the display of their goods...*

*It is probable that Mr Roberts will shortly erect a new building between the present store carried on by Messrs Herrick & Kelly and the machinery depot of Messrs King & Clark.*

*As before stated Messrs Herrick & Kelly's business has outgrown their present premises, and whether the owner builds between the store and the private dwelling house, or the store and King & Clarke's depot, is practically immaterial."*

The same article confirmed that some of the bricks for the aforementioned works were procured from Ashwood's local yard, but that it was necessary to purchase additional bricks from Wagga Wagga as the local firm were unable to meet the total demand.

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<sup>112</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1911, p2c6.

<sup>113</sup> Wagga Wagga Express, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1912, p2.

<sup>114</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 1<sup>st</sup> March 1912, p5c1.

<sup>115</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 15<sup>th</sup> March 1912, p2c6.

### 1912 Fire

Several days later on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1912, a fire engulfed three premises belonging to Mr Winter. Specifically, the premises leased by Mr Crawford as a billiards saloon and a barber's shop, and the bootmaker's shop leased by Mr E. Minton - the three premises adjoined each other. The shops occupied by Crawford were destroyed, while the bootmaker's shop escaped with some slight damage.<sup>116</sup> This was to be the first of three significant fires in the village of Marrar.

Mr Winter's new two storey bakery & dwelling was completed in May, and it was described as a brick building fitted with steel ceilings and featuring a large balcony that provided a good view of the neighbourhood. The site adjoining on the east was that of the premises destroyed by fire and the bricks were already on the ground ready to erect a new billiard room and a new hairdressing saloon.<sup>117</sup>

Messrs Herrick & Kelly's new premises were commenced in that same month (May) and were situated between the old stores and Mr Herrick's private dwelling [to the east of the old store].<sup>118</sup> The new stores were officially opened on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 1912, with some 150 people in attendance for the event. The following description was given,<sup>119</sup>

*"The dimensions of the building are 30ft x 60ft, the foundation of which is composed of solid cement, while the ceiling is of ribbed galvanised iron... Underneath the flooring is a cellar 12ft x 12ft, and in addition there are two offices, one being 8ft x 9ft, and the other 10ft x 10ft. An acetylene lighting system is installed from which twenty lights have been affixed in different parts of the buildings. ...Mr Fred Waters was the contractor, who, ...completed the whole of the work in about nine weeks...the approximate cost of the building was &1,000."*

Mr Roberts was one of the speakers on the occasion and he stated that when he first came to Marrar some thirty years ago the only building in the town was the railway station, that the area of cultivation in the district would not have exceeded fifty acres, and that progress was very slow until closer settlement commenced.

In the same year, 1912, Mr Roberts had new premises erected for a butcher's shop to be leased by Messrs Brook & Crouch,<sup>120</sup> and he sold his bakery business to Messrs Ferguson Bros of Rockview.<sup>121</sup>

In 1912 the local progress association resolved to proceed with tree plantings in the town in order to improve the aesthetics and the village environment. Mr Stinson set a fine example when he went ahead, at his own expense, and planted some sixteen trees around the hotel.<sup>122</sup>

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<sup>116</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1912, p2c6. / Albury Banner. 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1912, p43.

<sup>117</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 17<sup>th</sup> May 1912, p2c3.

<sup>118</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 24<sup>th</sup> May 1912, p2c5.

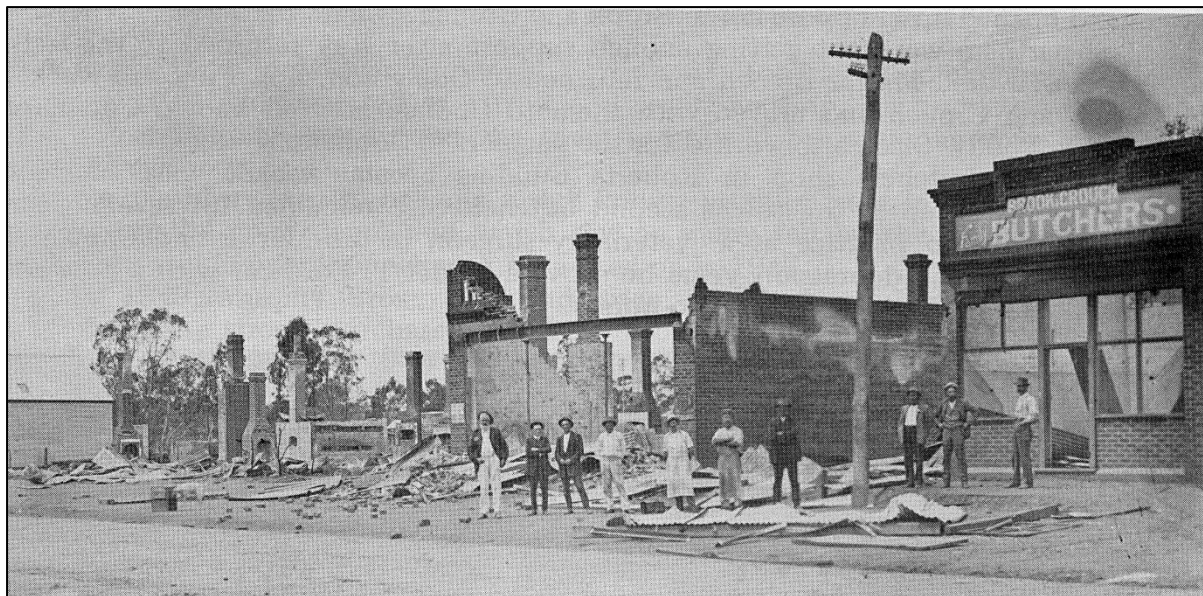
<sup>119</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 20<sup>th</sup> September 1912, p4c1-3.

<sup>120</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 26<sup>th</sup> July 1912, p5c1.

<sup>121</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1912, p4c1.

<sup>122</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1912, p4c1.

Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.



**Above & Below:** York Street at the time of the 1912 fire.<sup>123</sup>



In October 1912 there were two butcher's shops and two baker's shops,<sup>124</sup> but before the end of the year Ferguson Bros bakery had been taken over by Mr D. Nolan and became a green grocers and soft drinks store.<sup>125</sup> Also before year end, Ashwood Bros had commenced erecting their new store, Mr Ryan's machinery depot was completed, and work had commenced on the new railway station.<sup>126</sup>

The post office, of which Mr Flood was the postmaster, had moved to new premises away from the Royal hotel where it had previously been located.<sup>127</sup>

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<sup>123</sup> Alby Armstrong. *A History of Marrar and District*, 1979.

<sup>124</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 4<sup>th</sup> October 1912, p5c2.

<sup>125</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 15<sup>th</sup> November 1912, p2c6.

<sup>126</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 29<sup>th</sup> November 1912, p4c1.

<sup>127</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 4<sup>th</sup> October 1912, p5c2.

### 1913 Fire

The second major fire was in January 1913, which was reported as follows,<sup>128</sup>

*“At Marrar on Monday morning several business places in the centre of the village were totally destroyed. The fire broke out in a weatherboard building in Wise street occupied by Mr W. Rapley, as a fruit and refreshment shop, and boarding house. Mr & Mrs Rapley and one of the daughters were away from the house, and left a son & eldest daughter in charge. About 2 o’clock a crackling sound was heard, and it was only too evident that the safety of the property was doomed.....the only water available was from a tank nearly half a mile away, and the water cart was requisitioned, but the process was too slow, and the whole of the block of buildings stood in imminent danger. As much of the goods in the building as could possibly be removed were placed out of the reach of the fire...the flames leaped through the building and in a short space of time the place was gutted, and soon collapsed. Next door was the well stocked saddlers shop owned by Mr S. A. Ray of Junee and managed by Mr T. Ringwood. There was a large stock of goods in the shop and nothing was saved. The flames spread across this building which was also of weatherboard, into another similarly constructed shop adjoining, and occupied by Mr A. Weale as a drapers shop. Mr Weale, who is in partnership, had only opened the business a day or so before, and had the place fairly well stocked. When the alarm was first given they set to work shifting the goods and by the time this building was on fire the contents had been removed to a place of safety. Exaggerated reports state that most of the stock, which was only just opened up was dragged out and scattered about the roadway & ruined. This was not so....nothing could be done to save the 3 buildings...fortunately the wind was blowing from the north otherwise the big store of Ashwood Ltd on the opposite corner would have caught fire...later in the morning after many tanks of water had been poured on the debris the wind blew the ashes everywhere and it was a wonder that a further outbreak did not occur...the buildings were owned by Mr W. H. White of Marrar who valued them at £1,500, and had them insured for £500.”*

Two days earlier the Advertiser had reported that the fire had started in the boarding house and fruit shop occupied by Mrs Wakely and her children.<sup>129</sup> It stated that the premises occupied *“the corner of an important business portion of Marrar”* and described them as a large wooden residence and shop combined. They noted that a small wooden structure between the premises of Mr Weale and a blacksmith’s shop was removed, which helped prevent the fire from spreading further.

Progress continued throughout 1913. The new railway station opened on 31<sup>st</sup> May,<sup>130</sup> in September the Bank of NSW established a branch office (the first banking facilities in

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<sup>128</sup> Wagga Wagga Express, 16<sup>th</sup> January 1913, p3.

<sup>129</sup> Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, 14<sup>th</sup> January 1913, p1c4.

<sup>130</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 6<sup>th</sup> June 1913, p2c8.

Marrar),<sup>131</sup> Mr Winter erected a new brick building alongside the hairdressing saloon occupied by Mr Haddon (late of Coolamon), the Roman Catholic Church was opened on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August,<sup>132</sup> and the first building on the northern side of the railway line was erected (a shed built for Mr F. Cowell by Messrs Black Bros).<sup>133</sup> It was rumoured that Mr Weale would move his business from the premises he then occupied adjoining the hotel, to the new building of Mr Winter.

### **1914 Fire.**

The third and most damaging fire occurred in February of 1914, and was reported as follows,<sup>134</sup>

*"..in the early hours of Saturday morning a fire broke out in the fruit shop of Mr French at Marrar, and wrought great destruction before it practically burnt itself out. The alarm was given at 2am...in a short space of time Mr French's shop was entirely gutted, and the flames spread so rapidly to Messrs Herrick & Kelly's large store, the only store in Marrar, adjoining, that it was possible only to save a very few articles from those premises. Mr Herrick's residence adjoining the store was also destroyed. In turn the boarding house of Misses Pearce, and an unoccupied house, the property of a Mr Willis, were consumed in the flames. Little of the contents of any of the buildings was saved. After the extreme heat of the few days previously, woodwork etc was in a state ready to take fire easily, consequently the flames burnt fiercely and there being no water available, and a strong wind blowing, the large crowd of people gathered could do nothing but watch the flames complete their work. The hotel was only saved owing to there being a right of way to check the fire..."*

Another report appeared in the Wagga Wagga Advertiser,<sup>135</sup>

*"The flames commenced in French's fruit and cool drink shop....The fire quickly spread to a weatherboard house owned by Mr. Henry Withers and then to Mr Herrick's private house, also of weatherboard. The large store of Messrs. Herrick and Kelly, Messrs. Brook and Crouch's butchering establishment, and Pearse's boarding house, were gutted in turn....The most valuable rescue was of the money and books belonging to the Government Savings Bank, which was contained in Messrs. Herrick and Kelly's establishment. The greater portion of the destroyed property belonged to Mr. Frank Roberts of Marrar and was insured for £1,800."*

A third report confirmed the destruction of six premises:

1. The residence of Mr H. Withers Jnr, lately vacated by the Misses Pearce.
2. The fruit shop and dwelling occupied by Mr French.

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<sup>131</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 1<sup>st</sup> September 1913, p2c5.

<sup>132</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 8<sup>th</sup> August 1913, p2c8.

<sup>133</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 5<sup>th</sup> September 1913, p4c2.

<sup>134</sup> Wagga Wagga Express, 10<sup>th</sup> February 1914, p2.

<sup>135</sup> Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, 10<sup>th</sup> February 1914, p2c3.



3. Mr P. J. Herrick's residence.
4. Messrs Herrick & Kelly's general store.
5. Messrs Herrick & Kelly's bulk store.
6. Messrs Brook & Crouch's butcher's shop.

This same report stated that the fire was prevented from spreading further west by the presence of a space between the premises of Messrs Brook & Crouch, and Messrs Lindley Walker & Co's machinery depot (lately King & Clarke's), as the flames were unable to gain hold of the iron walls of the latter building. The report also noted the curious coincidence that a fire had broken out in Mr French's store exactly three weeks ago and that it was only due to the early warnings of the misses Pearce that a serious conflagration was avoided at that time.<sup>136</sup> An enquiry was held in the same month and although the line of questioning indicated there were some who thought that French was implicated, the inquest found that the cause of the fire could not be determined.



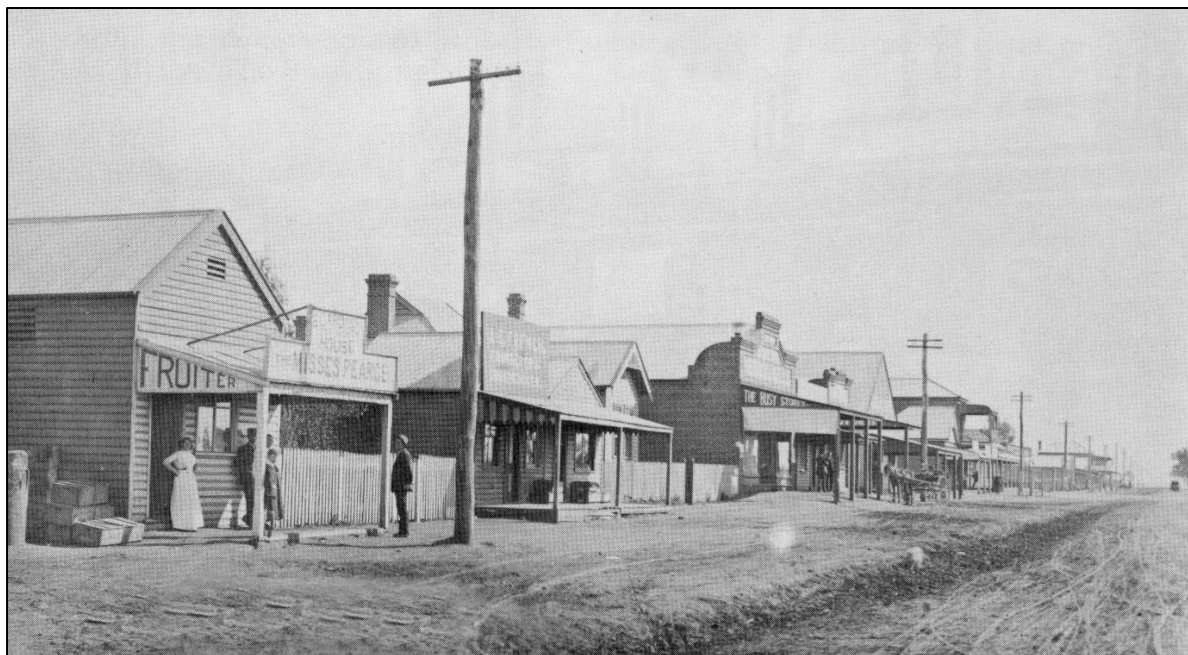
**Above:** The boarding house of the Misses Pearce, c.1914 [pre fire].<sup>137</sup>

<sup>136</sup> Coolamon Ganmain Farmers Review, 13<sup>th</sup> February 1913, p6c2-3.

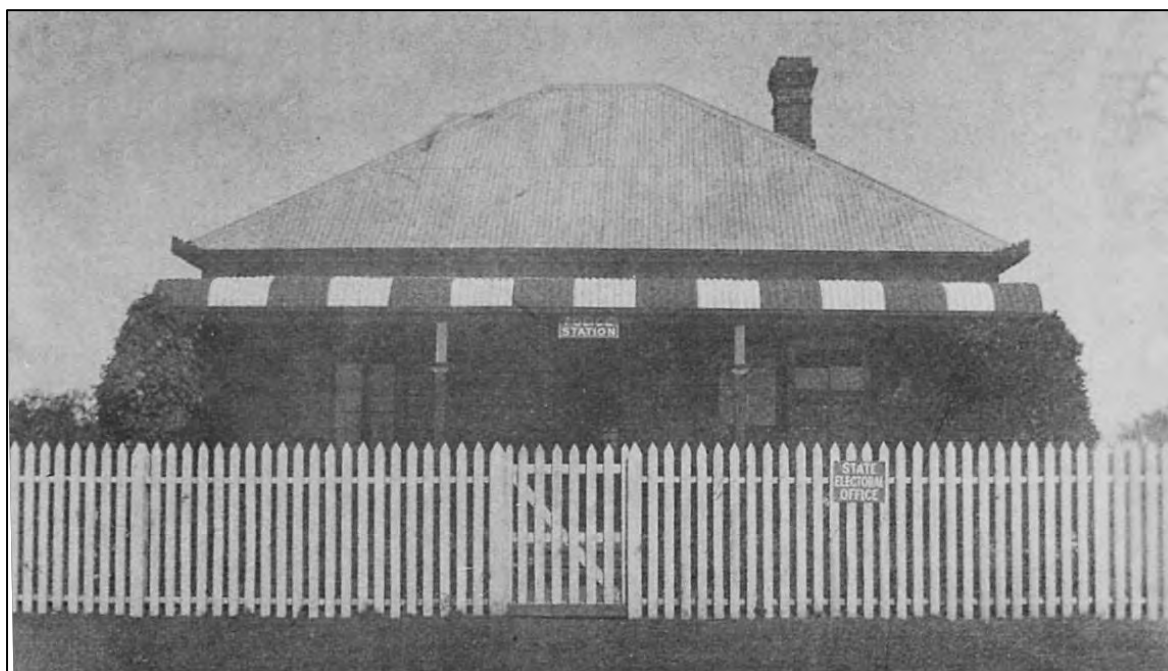
<sup>137</sup> Alby Armstrong. *A History of Marrar and District*, 1979.



Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.



**Above:** York Street view. The Misses Pearce's boarding house on extreme left, and the Busy Stores mid photo.<sup>138</sup>



**Above:** Marrar Police Station, c.1918.<sup>139</sup>

These premises, in Lime Street, were originally leased from Mrs Esther Fairweather. The building was destroyed by fire in 1930.

<sup>138</sup> Alby Armstrong. *A History of Marrar and District*, 1979.

<sup>139</sup> Courtesy Historic Houses Trust. [Item 42385]

### **Police Station**

The first police presence at Marrar was in December 1911, when Constable Rose was transferred from Corowa to the new Marrar police station.<sup>140</sup>

In July 1916 Constable Barber of Gundagai was promoted to take charge at Marrar.<sup>141</sup>

In May 1921, Constable Thomas Gunther was in charge of the Marrar police station,<sup>142</sup> and he remained so until June 1927 at which time he and Mrs Gunther relocated to Kew on the north coast.<sup>143</sup>

In October 1930 Constable Murphy was the resident officer at Marrar. On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October, at 2am in the morning, the Marrar police station was destroyed by fire. Constable Murphy escaped with only a few clothes. Fortunately, his wife and children were away at the time. Several days earlier Constable Murphy had received an anonymous letter threatening to burn down the station. Foul play was immediately suspected. The adjoining house, that of Mr A Hillan, was saved thanks to the efforts of the local citizens.<sup>144</sup>

The police residence building was weatherboard with an iron roof and contained five rooms.<sup>145</sup> An inquest was unable to determine if the fire was an accident or not.<sup>146</sup> Construction of a new brick building [police station] was underway by the end of 1931.<sup>147</sup>

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<sup>140</sup> Wagga Wagga Express. 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1911, p2. / NSW Police Gazette. 20<sup>th</sup> December 1911, p469.

<sup>141</sup> Wagga Wagga Express. 6<sup>th</sup> July 1916, p2.

<sup>142</sup> Daily Advertiser. 30<sup>th</sup> May 1921, p1.

<sup>143</sup> Daily Advertiser. 10<sup>th</sup> March 1925, p3. / Albury Banner. 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1927, p25.

<sup>144</sup> Albury Banner. 24<sup>th</sup> October 1930, p37.

<sup>145</sup> Daily Advertiser. 20<sup>th</sup> October 1930, p2.

<sup>146</sup> Daily Advertiser. 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1930, p2.

<sup>147</sup> Daily Advertiser. 29<sup>th</sup> August 1931, p4.

Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.



**Above:** Robert's buildings, 1914 [post fire].<sup>148</sup>



**Above:** Robert's buildings [possibly 1920's].<sup>149</sup>

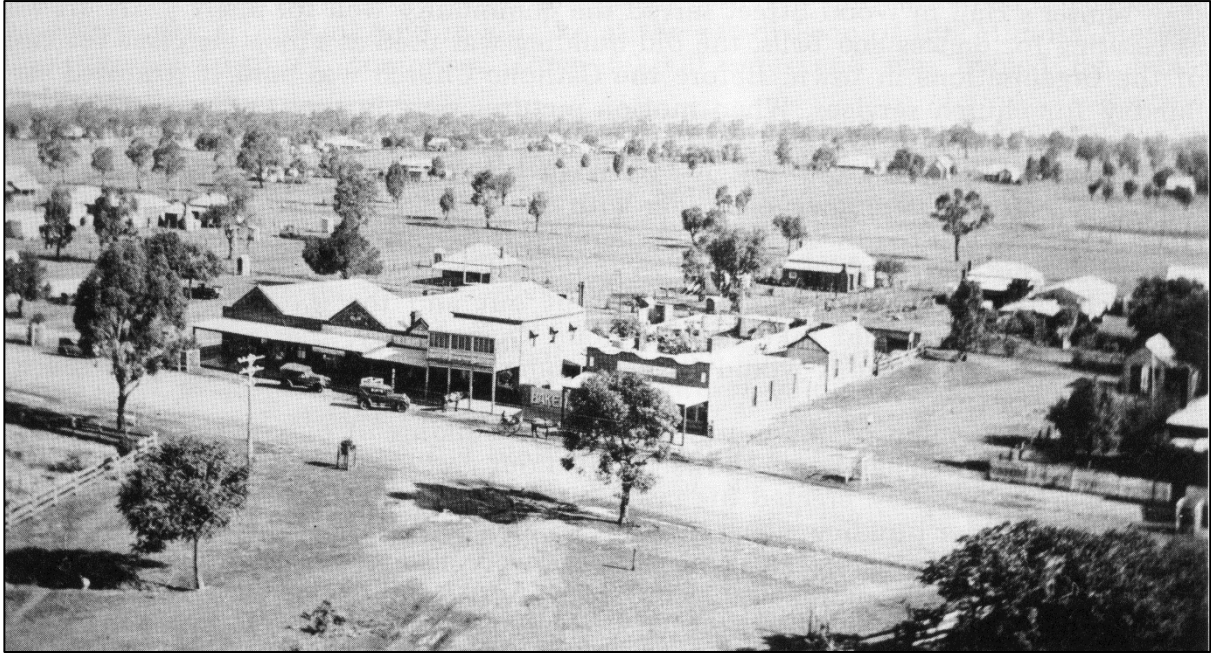
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<sup>148</sup> Alby Armstrong. *A History of Marrar and District*, 1979.

<sup>149</sup> Alby Armstrong. *A History of Marrar and District*, 1979.



Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.



**Above:** A section of York Street, c.1930's.<sup>150</sup>



**Above:** The same buildings in February 2010.

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<sup>150</sup> Alby Armstrong. *A History of Marrar and District*, 1979.



Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.



**Above:** 33 York Street in February 2010.



**Above:** 31 York Street in February 2010.



Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.



**Above:** 31 York Street in February 2010.



**Above:** 31 York Street in February 2010.



Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.



**Above:** 31 York Street in February 2010.



**Above:** 5 York Street in February 2010.



Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.



**Above:** 3 York Street in 1914.



**Above:** 3 York Street in February 2010.



Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.



**Above:** 45 York Street in February 2010.

### The Subsequent History of the Hotel.

Claude Barber held the license of the Royal from September 1918 until 15<sup>th</sup> February 1923, when it was transferred to Joseph Ignatius Langtry.<sup>151</sup>

In November 1924 Tooth & Co. were asked to advance £2,500 to Arthur James. The owner at this time was Mr G. Langtry [Langtry must have purchased the property from Stinson at some time since 1920. Possibly in 1923 when Langtry took over the license]. The property was subject to a first mortgage to Mrs Stinson (£5,300), and there was also a bill of sale held by Lincoln & Co. for £1,800. Mr James signed a contract to purchase the freehold for £5,600 cash, plus take over the liabilities of the first mortgage and the bill of sale held by Lincoln & Co. - the total price being £12,700. The Mortgagees would not accept the transfer unless the first mortgage was reduced by £2,500...hence the request to Tooth & Co. On the 13<sup>th</sup> November 1924, Arthur James became the owner of the freehold, and was the licensee from the 18<sup>th</sup> November<sup>152</sup>. The hotel was described as being of brick & pise and containing about twenty rooms. Takings from the bar & house were £185 per week.



**Above:** The Royal hotel, Marrar, in 1924. Courtesy Tooth & Co. records.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> May 1928 the freehold and the license were transferred to Ernest Henry West, late of the Commercial hotel, Parkes, and before that of the Empire hotel, Orange. West was an engineer and at one time had installed machinery at Kent Brewery, and also for Toohey's. The full price was £14,000. Tooth & Co. noted that the house was tied until 1933, and also that the trade had decreased consistently over the last five years. A local contact, in

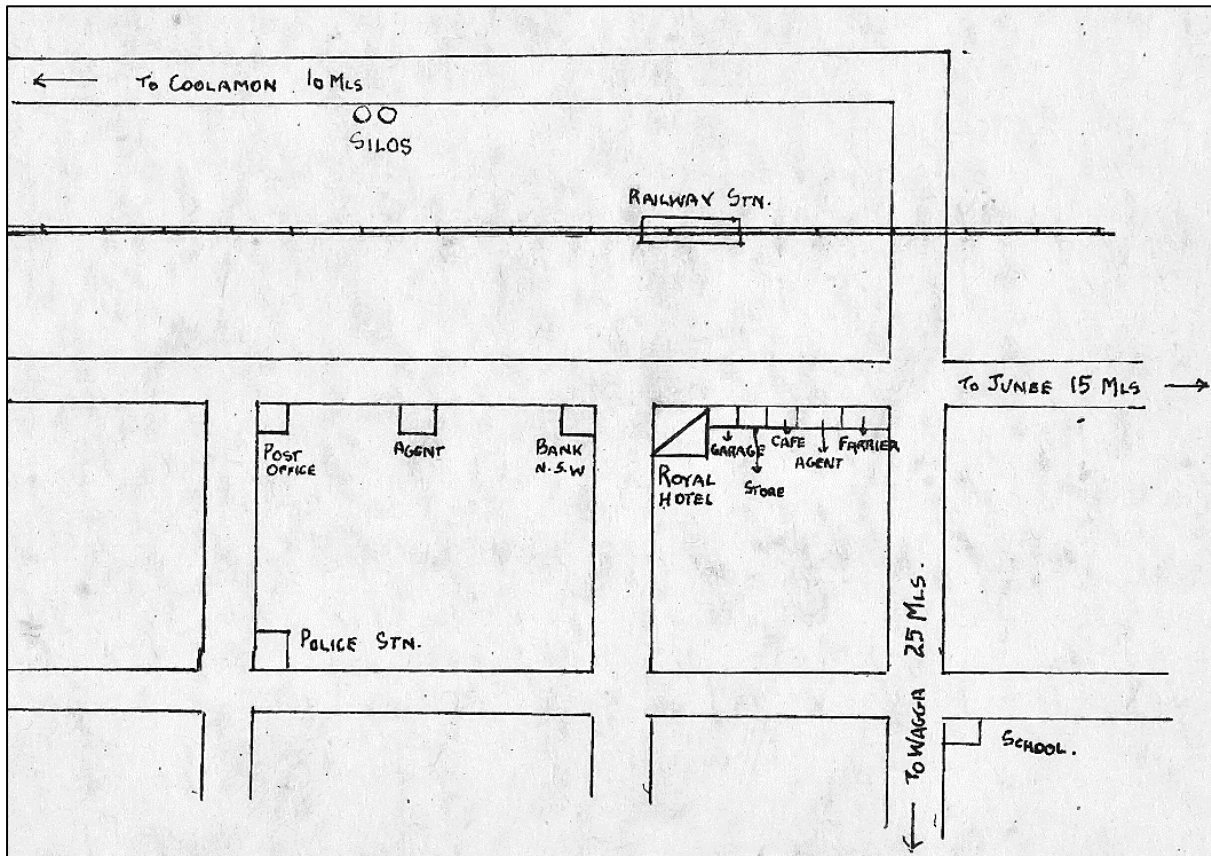
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<sup>151</sup> NSW Archives: Licensing Records. Royal hotel, Marrar.

<sup>152</sup> Noel Butlin Archives Centre, Australian National University: Tooth and Company Country Managers Files, N60-4458, Royal Hotel, York Street, Marrar. 1924-1959.

Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.

recommending the purchase, advised that this was due to seasonal variations and that the hotel took £178 last week.<sup>153</sup>



**Above:** A mud map showing the location of the Royal hotel and other prominent businesses in July 1929. Courtesy Tooth & Co. records.

A report in December 1930 was much blunter about the prospects of the hotel. The hotel was described as a single story weatherboard building [incorrect], being in fairly good order. The report was generated as a consequence of a request from Ernest West for Tooth & Co. to take over the first mortgage – an amount of £5,000 - to be repaid over 15 years, and in return West would give the company a 25 year tie. The writer valued the property at no more than £4,000 (on current trade), which was well below the £14,000 paid by West. The recommendation was that the company decline the request.<sup>154</sup>

The decline in trade can be seen in the yearly turnover as submitted to the Licensing Reduction Board – in 1928 turnover was £3,000 for the year, but by 1930 it was £1,400.<sup>155</sup>

In September of 1932 Arthur James assumed legal ownership of the freehold from Ernest West, in satisfaction of the mortgage held by the former (£8,000). James also became the

<sup>153</sup> NBAC: Tooth and Company Country Managers Files, N60-4458, Royal Hotel, Marrar.

<sup>154</sup> NBAC: Tooth and Company Country Managers Files, N60-4458, Royal Hotel, Marrar.

<sup>155</sup> NBAC: Tooth and Company Country Managers Files, N60-4458, Royal Hotel, Marrar.



new licensee on the same date. Trade had further declined in 1931 to £1,060 for the year.<sup>156</sup> A memo in January 1933 noted that West had “*lost his money*” in this venture.



**Above:** The Royal hotel, Marrar, in March 1930. Courtesy Tooth & Co. records.

By 1934 trade had increased to £1,431 p.a., and in June of 1935 Tooth & Co. agreed to purchase the hotel for the sum of £7,225, including the furniture, from Arthur James. The company was motivated by a desire “*to consolidate against the expiry of the Carlton agreement in 1941,*” especially as they were getting very little of the then trade.<sup>157</sup> The building was pise and said to contain 12 bedrooms. It had an electric light plant but no hot water. The water supply came from tanks.<sup>158</sup> The furniture was said to be in “*good order*”.

Tooth & Co. immediately arranged a five year lease (including furniture) with Mrs V. Muddell, late of Tattersall’s hotel, Hillston, for £1,500, plus £5 per week rent. The license was to be in the name of her husband, Mr Wilfred Lancelot Muddell.<sup>159</sup>

As part of the agreement with Mrs Muddell, Tooth & Co. agreed to “*put the premises in order*” and to that end commissioned a report on what works would be required. The report was prepared by Mr Robertson of Narrandera in July 1935 and included the following details,<sup>160</sup>

“The Licensed premises consist of buildings of four characters:  
The old original building is of pise construction, 18” thick walls of puddle red local soil. One floor only.

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<sup>156</sup> NBAC: Tooth and Company Country Managers Files, N60-4458, Royal Hotel, Marrar.

<sup>157</sup> NBAC: Tooth and Company Country Managers Files, N60-4458, Royal Hotel, Marrar.

<sup>158</sup> Noel Butlin Archives Centre, Australian National University: Tooth and Company yellow cards, N60-YC-1723, Royal Hotel, York Street, Marrar, circa 1920’s-1970’s.

NBAC: Tooth and Company Country Managers Files, N60-4458, Royal Hotel, Marrar.

<sup>159</sup> NBAC: Tooth and Company Country Managers Files, N60-4458, Royal Hotel, Marrar.

<sup>160</sup> NBAC: Tooth and Company Country Managers Files, N60-4458, Royal Hotel, Marrar.

## Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.

The second building is a ground and first floor one in brick, 9" external and 4½" internal walls. It is connected to the pieise structure, on the eastern side, with a 10' verandah roof over. Originally banking premises. The third addition, consisting of Dining Room, Kitchen etc., is of cement bricks, and built in the court yard, on the South and connected up to the pieise building with a 9' verandah.

The fourth addition is weatherboard and fibro cement bedrooms, four in number. Two under verandah roof at the Southern end of the Wise Street wing to pieise building, and two between pieise and brick buildings on front elevation.

The laundry is an unlined wooden skillion at the back of the cement brick block."

Robertson recommended the replacement of various timber components, which had been attacked in several places. He also reported on the underground tank as follows,

"I located this tank without any trouble. Its presence was quite evident on walking across the court yard inside the Wise street wing. The tank should be filled in as soon as possible, as the spring in the ground indicates that the timbering is either rotting or being attacked by white ants. Evidently the tank did not hold water; otherwise the new adjoining one would not have been sunk..."

He estimated it would take about 70 cubic yards of soil to fill the old tank, at an estimated cost of £13.10s., based on 90 tip dray loads at 3/- each.

In referring to the roofing he reported that:

"The main roof over the pieise building is in fair order [iron sheeting]...63' of 9' verandah at back of pieise building and forming covering to Dining Room block, has evidently been roofed with old galv. Iron, with insufficient lap and full of nail holes. It is like a sieve when it rains and is beyond repair.....

This applies also to 39' of 10' verandah joining the pieise building with the two floored brick one..."

Other buildings referred to were the men's and ladies lavatories, with only the men's requiring any work.

The report went on with a room by room description of the remaining rooms as detailed hereunder:

### **"Main Building (Pieise).**

Bar Room . .....The wooden 3' high dado round bar requires three coats of oil colour.....Walling above dado should be stripped , walls repaired

## Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.

and repapered .....wooden ceiling well rubbed down and painted three coats of oil colour.....

Cellar. The cellar is very primitive and I do not know what should be done to it. A new trap door from the footpath is new and fairly good; but no skids have been provided and the beer is dropped vertically to the floor with ropes. The northern and western walls are of very rough concrete, not rendered, and the southern & eastern ones consist of 7 x 1½ planking holding back the natural soil. The floor is of rendered concrete and fairly good. Access from the bar is very bad. The trap door is too small and the ladder is too steep with treads too far apart.....

Bar Parlour. Walling is very untidy. 6' of it is fitted with a 4' 6" high dado of three ply wood. The dado should be continued round the room, and painted three coats. Wooden ceiling requires one coat of varnish and the lighting wellhole in same, three coats of white paint. Papered walling above dado to be treated as for bar.....

Store Room. Originally a parlour. Nothing requires doing. The shelving therein consists of empty packing cases.

Office. In good order.

Room No.5. Used as passage for night trade.....

Room No.6. One new door panel required...

Room No.7. Door key required.

Bath Room. Under verandah of Wise street wing. Chip heater is burnt out....New lock required for door. Shower screen required. Paint walls and ceiling one coat and a second coat of Bergers enamel for small corrugated iron dado and all joinery.

Room No.4. Ceiling, light well hole & joinery two coats of oil paint. Repaper walls as before. Provide door key.

Room No.2. In good order....

Entrance Hall. Reglaze with Cathedral glass, five panes in sidelights. Provide key for door. Provide and fit trapdoor for manhole in ceiling. Walls to be stripped and papered as before.....

Private Parlour. Repair jamb linings & Architraves to entrance door and provide key.

Room No.1. Strip and repaper as before. Ceiling good....



## Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.

Room No.12. Strip and repaper as before....

Room No.11. Provide and fit two 2" Redwood quadrants. White ant eaten.

### **Cement Brick Building.**

Bathroom. Clean dirty paper of cement dado and give two coats of paint and one enamel. ....Walls above dado and ceiling two coats of paint.....

Dining Room. Requires a 4' dado of three coats of oil colour. Walling above two coats kalsomine, after cutting out and repairing all plaster cracks. Steel ceiling three coats of oil colour finishing flat cream.....

Kitchen. Reglaze one pane of glass in sash. Repair all plaster cracks. Paint a 4' dado three coats in oil with flat 2" band on top. Walls and ceiling two coats of kalsomine....

Servery. Treat as kitchen; but three coats of oil colour for ceiling (wood).....

Pantry. Repair plaster. Walls two coats kalsomine. Ceiling twice oil colour. ....

Laundry. The concrete floor must be re-rendered and properly graded and wastes fitted to the concrete troughs.....Empty window opening should be filled.....

Galvanised Iron Workshop. Reglaze sash. 3 panes of glass.

### **Brick Building.**

"In the brick building [two storey] there is a narrow very steep 3' wide stairway from the lobby, as it is called, or sitting room, to the first floor narrow passage between the two bedrooms. It has no light, natural or artificial. I had to use my electric torch to find my way up and round the passage. It is very dangerous and in the event of an accident the licensee would be liable. It will be necessary and would be practical to open the 9" eastern wall and build in a 2' 10" x 4' 6" box frame window to match an adjoining one to bedroom. Electric light should be extended to hall.

Bedroom No.1. New stops and architraves are required for door.....Strip and repaper walls.....

## Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.

Bedroom No.2. Remove old lock from street door, fill holes. Fit two barrel bolts. Provide and fix new stops and architraves. Walls two coats kalsomine. Ceiling oil stain. Reglaze both fanlights.

Cooks Room. The cook's room is not fit for human habitation. It has no ventilators or light of any description. This room is on the ground floor of the brick building. The 9" wall can be opened as before and a 4' x 2' box frame window fitted. Cut through for two 9 x 6 ventilators.

Lobby. Repair plaster. Repair wooden ceiling. Strip walls and repair. Wood ceiling two coats of oil colour. Burn paint off joinery of staircase and paint three coats oil colour...Fit key for door.

First Floor Bedroom. Two coats of oil colour for walls, ceiling, and joinery. Fit key for door.

Private Parlour. Two coats of oil colour for joinery.

The total estimated cost of all repairs was £487 15s. The company subsequently settled for a less expensive set of repairs when a Section 40A notice was served on them by October of the same year.<sup>161</sup>

Late in June 1935, the hotel broker, Hugh Heavener & Co., wrote to Tooth & Co. advising that subject to approval by Tooth, they had arranged the sale of the lease, license and goodwill to Harold Arthur Lidbetter for the cash sum of £1,250. In addition, Lidbetter would take over the balance of the company's loan. The transfer was to take place on the 29<sup>th</sup> July, but the sale fell through when Lidbetter discovered that the license fee for 1937 would be about £57. Mrs Muddell had previously advised Lidbetter that it was £69, which was the 1936 fee. As the fee was directly related to the turnover of the hotel, the higher license fee would have misrepresented the financial viability of the business.<sup>162</sup>

By the end of September 1935, the same broker had found a new buyer in Francis Leo Galvin. The cash sum was now £1,050, plus the balance of the company loan (£382). This transfer was finalised on the 15<sup>th</sup> October.<sup>163</sup>

Galvin did not renew at the end of his lease and in June 1936, Hugh Heavener & Co., again wrote to Tooth to advise a new licensee, in the name of William Joseph Powell. The sale price was now £925, plus the balance of the company loan which stood at £276. Powell had operated a motor garage business at Orange and this was his first venture into hotels.<sup>164</sup>

Powell was only in the business for a short time when the lease, license, etc., were again transferred. The new licensee was Sarah Lillian Page, and the price was now £1,050 cash,

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<sup>161</sup> NBAC: Tooth and Company Country Managers Files, N60-4458, Royal Hotel, Marrar.

<sup>162</sup> NBAC: Tooth and Company Country Managers Files, N60-4458, Royal Hotel, Marrar.

<sup>163</sup> NBAC: Tooth and Co., N60-YC-1723, Royal Hotel, York Street, Marrar, circa 1920's-1970's.

NBAC: Tooth and Company Country Managers Files, N60-4458, Royal Hotel, Marrar.

<sup>164</sup> NBAC: Tooth and Company Country Managers Files, N60-4458, Royal Hotel, Marrar.

plus the residual of the company loan to the amount of £171. Sarah was the wife of J. V. Page, late of Rankin Springs, and the documents noted that the whereabouts of Mr page where unknown, and that a separation order had been issued.<sup>165</sup> Mrs Page renewed the lease for another five years in July 1940, but in March 1941 Tooth & Co. wrote to their solicitors advising that,<sup>166</sup>

“We have received a letter from Mrs Page informing us that she has left the hotel and does not intend to return. The keys have been given to an employee named Alf Shirley, who, as far as we know, is carrying on. We have decided to take possession of the hotel and our nominee will be Mr George James Howe at a salary of £5 per week..... Mr Howe is prepared to go away tonight, and we confirm having asked you to arrange for him to take possession tomorrow [7<sup>th</sup> March]....”

On the 9<sup>th</sup> March Howe wrote to Tooth & Co. summarising the condition of the hotel and equipment.<sup>167</sup> He noted that the lighting plant was very old and was supposedly responsible for two recent fires. The beer raising plant was said to be “*beyond redemption*”, whilst the extractors were rusted and the lead pipes were “*old and impossible*”. The chip heaters in the bathrooms did not work and neither did the National cash register. There were no bar towels, and Mrs Page had taken the wireless set. The latter was particularly complained of.

Howe went on to explain why the business had been struggling,

“The township is suffering stagnation due to the growth of a weed known as Skeleton Weed, which has taken charge of hundreds of acres of rich wheatlands; a large number of local enlistments, and an extra strict Constable (Derrick), who appears a likeable fellow but who interprets memo’s from H.Q.’s in their literal sense and furthermore carries them out to the letter. I had a long talk to him but got no further than that “Horders were horders.” Result: The drinking fraternity vanished after 6pm Saturday and also today and were apparently accommodated at Coolamon.”

Howe advised that the local preference was for Old Kent, and that he had ordered two nine gallon kegs from Wagga, but that these did not arrive on Saturday as promised and he was compelled to borrow one nine gallon of Old Kent from the Coolamon hotel. He explained that Mrs Page had been contemplating leaving the hotel for some time. This was brought on by the depressed state of the village and district, and the fact that Constable Derrick had caught her on a Sunday in March, with the local bank manager, his clerk, and the hotel useful, all in her bar.

The license was officially transferred to George Howe on the 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1941.<sup>168</sup>

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<sup>165</sup> NBAC: Tooth and Co., N60-YC-1723, Royal Hotel, York Street, Marrar, circa 1920’s-1970’s.

NBAC: Tooth and Company Country Managers Files, N60-4458, Royal Hotel, Marrar.

<sup>166</sup> NBAC: Tooth and Company Country Managers Files, N60-4458, Royal Hotel, Marrar.

<sup>167</sup> NBAC: Tooth and Company Country Managers Files, N60-4458, Royal Hotel, Marrar.

<sup>168</sup> NBAC: Tooth and Co., N60-YC-1723, Royal Hotel, York Street, Marrar, circa 1920’s-1970’s.

## Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.

It didn't take long to find a new tenant and on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 1941 the license was transferred to Mr Patrick Walsh, of the Hotel Willoughby, for the sum of £750 (included the furniture), with the lease expiring in July 1945.<sup>169</sup>



**Above:** The Royal hotel, Marrar, in September 1939. Courtesy Tooth & Co. records.

Albert Cochrane was the next licensee/lessee, when he purchased same from Patrick Walsh on the 5<sup>th</sup> January 1943 for the sum of £635. The rent had been £5 10s per week when leased to Mrs Page, but was now down to £2 per week, no doubt due to the tough economic times.<sup>170</sup> In June of the same year Tooth & Co. agreed to a three year extension of the lease from July 1945, for the price of £500.

In September 1945 Cochrane sold out to Mr William John Burns for the amount of £1,317. Burns had recently been discharged from the R.A.N. with the rank of Petty Officer, and had previously been employed by the Shell Oil Co. He had never held a license before, but had recently married the widow of E. Saville, late licensee of the Imperial hotel, Wagga Wagga. Tooth agreed to install some refrigeration equipment – a draught beer box with two taps, and a four ft. bottle cabinet with eight dozen capacity – on the condition that the weekly rent was increased by 15s. per week. Burns had hitherto been dependant on ice from Coolamon for cooling purposes.<sup>171</sup>

Like many before him Burns didn't last long, and in January 1946, Mr Stephen O'Meara, a farmer from Grong Grong, purchased the business for the sum of £2,374. This was O'Meara's first license.<sup>172</sup>

In June 1946 J. H. Robertson, architect of Narandera, advised Tooth & Co. that he had purchased the vacant block of land adjoining the hotel from Mr H. A. Stinson, of Bondi. The

<sup>169</sup> NBAC: Tooth and Company Country Managers Files, N60-4458, Royal Hotel, Marrar.

<sup>170</sup> NBAC: Tooth and Company Country Managers Files, N60-4458, Royal Hotel, Marrar.

<sup>171</sup> NBAC: Tooth and Company Country Managers Files, N60-4458, Royal Hotel, Marrar.

<sup>172</sup> NBAC: Tooth and Company Country Managers Files, N60-4458, Royal Hotel, Marrar.

Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.

land was part of allotment no. 4 of section 3 and was purchased for “*drainage purposes.*”<sup>173</sup> It had a frontage of 132’ to York street, and 165’ 7” to Wise street.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> September 1947 the license was transferred to Mr Bernard J. Rafferty, who had purchased the lease, furniture, etc., from O’Meara for the sum of £1,713. Rafferty’s father was licensee of the Albert View hotel, Redfern. Rafferty was single and was to be assisted in his new venture by his mother. It didn’t take long for Rafferty to become disillusioned and a couple of months later he announced the sale of the business to Mrs Mary Violet Rickards for the sum of £1,690. Fortunately, or unfortunately, for Rafferty the sale fell through. In March of the following year Rafferty thought he had another buyer in Arthur Melvern Allison, formerly of the Caledonian hotel at Hay, for the sum of £1,575, but this too fell through.<sup>174</sup>

In July 1948 Rafferty paid a bonus of £650 for a three year extension of the lease, and then finally in November 1948 he sold the business to Walter Anderson for the sum of £2,313. This was Anderson’s first venture into hotels, having previously been a building contractor in Queensland.<sup>175</sup>



**Above:** The Royal hotel, Marrar, in 1949. Courtesy Tooth & Co. records.

On the 8th March 1950 the license was transferred to Richard Whittaker, who had taken over from Anderson for the sum of £2,018. Whittaker negotiated a three year extension of

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<sup>173</sup> NBAC: Tooth and Company Country Managers Files, N60-4458, Royal Hotel, Marrar.

<sup>174</sup> NBAC: Tooth and Company Country Managers Files, N60-4458, Royal Hotel, Marrar.

<sup>175</sup> NBAC: Tooth and Company Country Managers Files, N60-4458, Royal Hotel, Marrar.

the lease until July 1954 at a cost of £960, plus an increase in weekly rent from £5 to £6. The price was indicative of an ongoing increase in trade. When Whittaker made the decision to sell the business, Tooth expressed their regret at losing such a good tenant and promised to keep an eye out for another hotel for him.<sup>176</sup>

Whittaker sold the business to Thomas Arthur Maher in June 1952 for the sum of £2,900. This was Maher's first license. He had been a Commonwealth public servant, and had retired on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1952. In 1948 the annual trade was £1,732 - there had been a steady increase ever since, and in 1952 this had risen to £4,313. The building was still in a poor condition and when an architect reported on the building in 1954 he estimated an expenditure of £9,000 was required "*to bring the place up to a reasonable standard.*" He predicted that it was only a matter of time before a 40A Order was issued. He recommended the company sell the freehold, which they did - Mr Maher being the purchaser in February 1955, for a total cost of £10,000 (including a £6,500 loan from the company and a fifty year tie).<sup>177</sup>

The freehold and the license were to change hands again on the 20<sup>th</sup> June 1956 when a new company, Marrar Hotel Pty Ltd, purchased same for the sum of £13,500. The two major shareholders were John Klug and Ernest Sheridan, who had both been publicans in the Newcastle area. Sheridan was still licensee of the Neath hotel, Neath, whilst Klug had been licensee of the Grand hotel, Newcastle, and of the Carrington hotel in that district. The hotel brokers, Studderts, of Newcastle, were also shareholders. It was the intention of the buyer to lease out the property, and this was achieved in June 1956 when they leased the property to Henry Peter Sandford and his wife Katherine Grace Sandford for the amount of £5,000 plus £15 per week rental. The license was transferred to Henry Peter Sandford on the 20<sup>th</sup> June. On the 7<sup>th</sup> October 1958 Tooth's depot at Wagga wrote to the head office to advise that Henry Sandford collapsed and died on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October, whilst picking up stock from their depot. In June 1959 a new three year lease was under negotiation with Mrs Katherine Grace Sandford, for a bonus of £1,500, and with the rental at £15 per week,<sup>178</sup> but the agreement was never executed.

Katherine remained as licensee until November 1960 when the lease, license, etc., was sold to George William Mohr (1st license) for the sum of £2,650.

Mohr broke the cycle of almost yearly turnover of licensees and went on to hold the license for the next thirteen years, until the 14<sup>th</sup> February 1973. During this period he renewed the lease every three years. It was during Mohr's tenancy that Australia converted to decimal currency, on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1966. Now it was dollars and cents, instead of pounds, shillings and pence. Trade continued to grow during this period, but there was still no hot water or septic systems. The main bar was noted as being of "*thirty six feet serving length.*"<sup>179</sup>

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<sup>176</sup> NBAC: Tooth and Company Country Managers Files, N60-4458, Royal Hotel, Marrar.

<sup>177</sup> NBAC: Tooth and Company Country Managers Files, N60-4458, Royal Hotel, Marrar.

<sup>178</sup> NBAC: Tooth and Company Country Managers Files, N60-4458, Royal Hotel, Marrar.

<sup>179</sup> NBAC: Tooth and Co., N60-YC-1723, Royal Hotel, York Street, Marrar, circa 1920's-1970's.



Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.



**Above:** The Royal hotel, Marrar, in 1960. Courtesy Tooth & Co. records.

The new joint lessees to follow Mohr were Mr & Mrs Alexander & Colleen O'Brien, and the license was transferred to Alexander on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 1973. Total payment was \$16,000. Some two years later on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1975 the O'Briens purchased the freehold for the sum of \$38,000.<sup>180</sup>

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1978 Ronald & Terasita Mary O'Brien became the new owners of the freehold, for the total sum of \$90,000. By now the furniture was valued at the nominal value of \$10,000.<sup>181</sup>

A bit over two years later the license was transferred to William Ivan Madden on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 1980. A group of four, consisting of William Ivan Madden, Annette Patricia Madden, Phillip Arthur Blakely, and Barbara Gayle Blakely, were now the joint lessees.<sup>182</sup>

In October 1981 Geoffrey Charles Dudley and Irene Dudley became the new owners of the freehold, and Geoffrey became the new licensee.<sup>183</sup>

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<sup>180</sup> NBAC: Tooth and Co., N60-YC-1723, Royal Hotel, York Street, Marrar, circa 1920's-1970's.  
Wagga Wagga Court House – Licensing Records

<sup>181</sup> NBAC: Tooth and Co., N60-YC-1723, Royal Hotel, York Street, Marrar, circa 1920's-1970's.  
Wagga Wagga Court House – Licensing Records.

<sup>182</sup> NBAC: Tooth and Co., N60-YC-1723, Royal Hotel, York Street, Marrar, circa 1920's-1970's.  
Wagga Wagga Court House – Licensing Records.

<sup>183</sup> Wagga Wagga Court House – Licensing Records.

## Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.

In a relatively short period the freehold exchanged hands again when it was purchased by Geoffrey Ernest Hathaway on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1983. A few days earlier, on the 12<sup>th</sup> September, the license had also been transferred to Hathaway.<sup>184</sup> Hathaway came from Hay, where he had worked for the local shire.<sup>185</sup>

Hathaway remained for some five years, until the 30<sup>th</sup> June 1988 when both the freehold and the license were transferred to Allan Russell Gillett [and Jennifer Merylyn Gillett – freehold partner].<sup>186</sup> Gillett came from Granville [Sydney].<sup>187</sup>

On the 21<sup>st</sup> January 1991 Gillett transferred the license to Geoffrey John McGarry and Helen McGarry.<sup>188</sup> The freehold had been transferred shortly before. Geoff, affectionately known as McGoo, had been a taxi driver in Wagga Wagga before he took over the pub. Geoff ran the pub in a similar manner to the previous licensee, which included the unusual habit of closing the pub every Sunday afternoon, between 3 and 5pm. It wouldn't matter if the pub was full of drinkers, Geoff would still close up for the two hours. The supposed reasoning was that it was a period for the men to spend some time on a Sunday afternoon with their families.

On 25<sup>th</sup> November 2004, McGarry transferred the license to Stephen John Lidden.<sup>189</sup> The freehold was transferred in the same month.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009, the license was transferred to Paul Flanigan.<sup>190</sup> Stephen Lidden still retained the freehold of the Royal, and also owned the freehold of the Red Cow at Juneee.<sup>191</sup>

On the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016 Daniel Ian Burkenshaw succeeded Paul Flanigan as the licensee. Daniel was followed by Marty Crawford and Michelle Steiner, in 2018. Marty came from Tarcutta originally but had also lived in Wagga Wagga.<sup>192</sup>

On the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020, Helen Majella McNamara became the new licensee. It was her first ever publican's license. The freehold was still owned by Stephen John Lidden and Sonja Therese Lidden.

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<sup>184</sup> Wagga Wagga Court House – Licensing Records.

<sup>185</sup> Des Crowley. 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

<sup>186</sup> Wagga Wagga Court House – Licensing Records. / Liquor & Gaming NSW. Licensed Premises Report. Marrar Hotel.

<sup>187</sup> Des Crowley. 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

<sup>188</sup> Wagga Wagga Court House – Licensing Records

<sup>189</sup> Wagga Wagga Court House – Licensing Records

<sup>190</sup> Paul Flanigan, 21<sup>st</sup> February 2010. / Liquor & Gaming NSW. Licensed Premises Report. Marrar Hotel.

<sup>191</sup> Stephen Lidden, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2010.

<sup>192</sup> Des Crowley. 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.



**Above:** The hotel complex in February 2010.



**Above:** The old two storey building and the adjoining building to the east, in February 2010.



Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.



**Above:** The Royal hotel, Marrar, in February 2010.



**Above:** Thirsty locals.



Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.

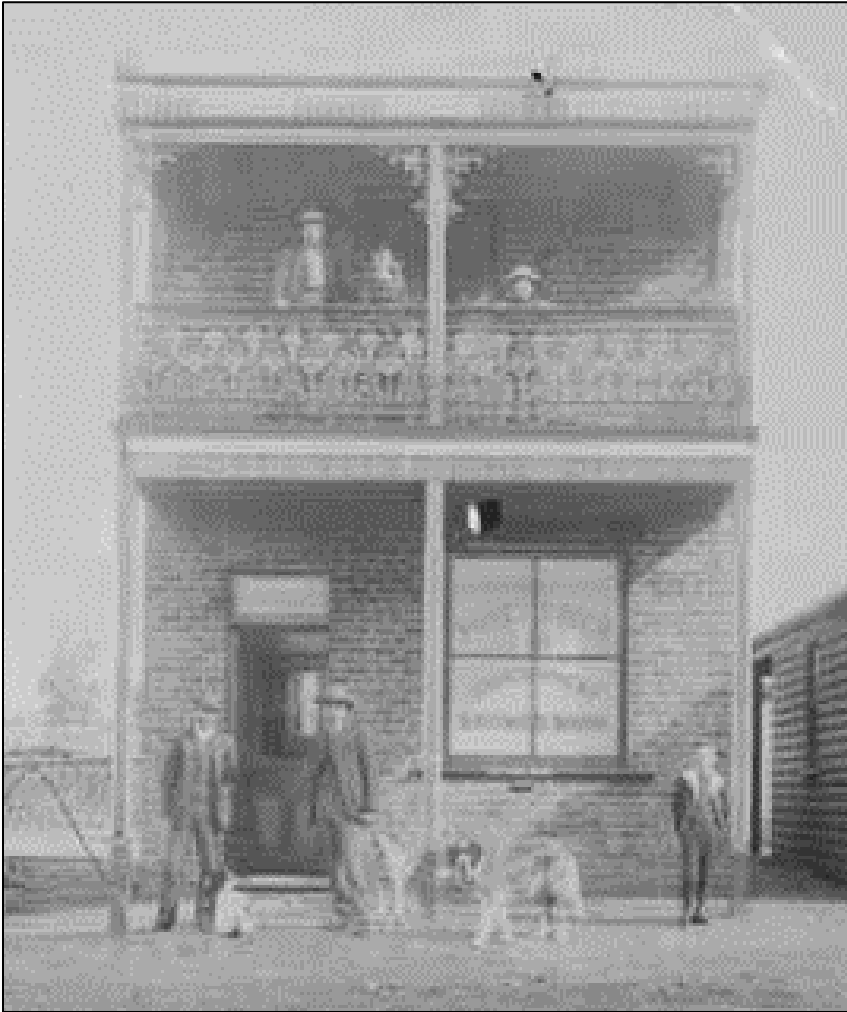


**Above:** The erroneous date.



**Above:** The wall mural out back in February 2010.

### The Marrar Post Office



**Above:** The first dedicated post and telephone office at Marrar, c.1908. The building to the immediate right would be the Royal hotel. Courtesy National Archives of Australia. [Series SP32/1, Item Marrar part 6].

The first post office at Marrar was within the Railway Station complex. Having the post and telegraph office next to a hotel was always contentious and in September 1912, the services were relocated to new premises at the corner of Wood and York Streets,<sup>193</sup> where the same building still stands today.

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<sup>193</sup> Daily Advertiser. 4<sup>th</sup> October 1912, p3.



Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.



**Above:** Marrar post office in 1926.

Courtesy National Archives of Australia. [Series SP32/1, Item Marrar part 6]



**Above:** The Marrar post office in 1959. Courtesy National Archives of Australia. [Series C4076, Item HN8173]

Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.

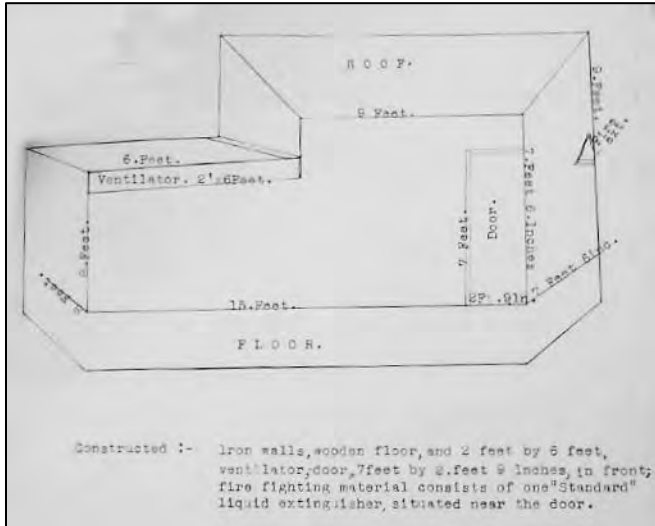


**Above:** The old post & telegraph office in February 2010.

### Marrar Public Hall.<sup>194</sup>

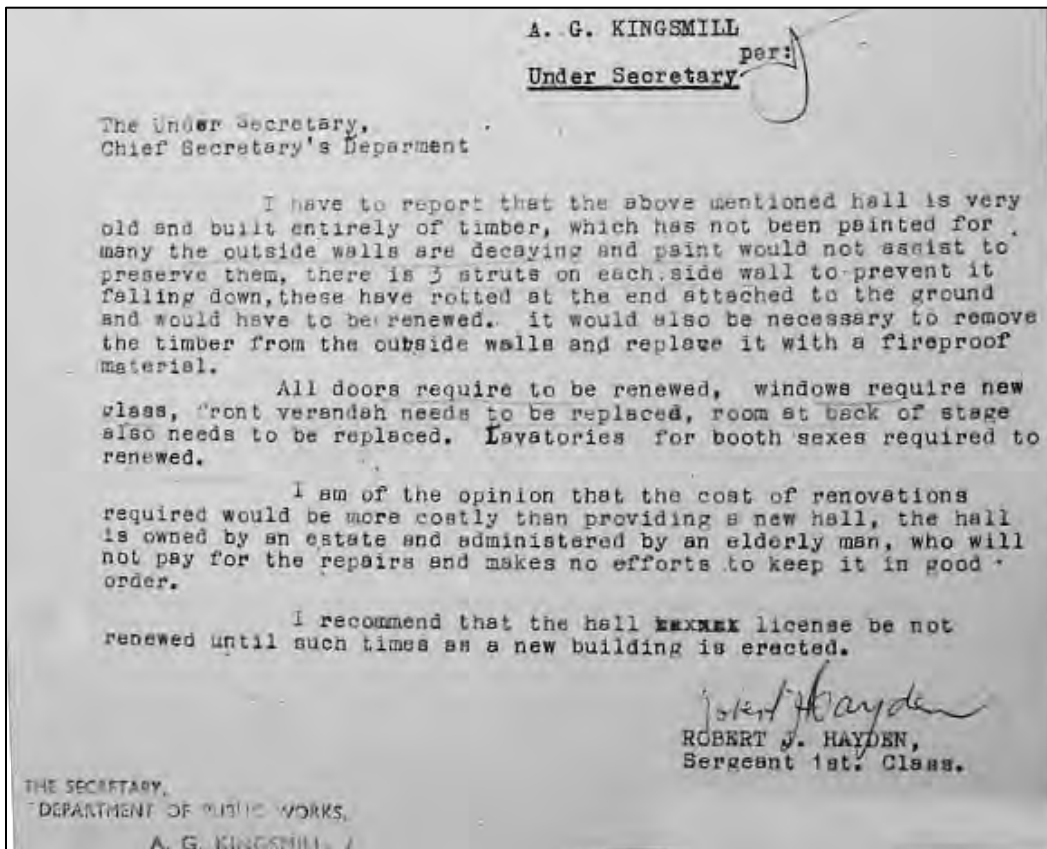
In August 1927, A. Winter applied for the yearly renewal of his license for the “*hall and additions known as the Marrar Hall.*”

The building was described as being 65ft long and 20ft wide. The walls and floor were timber, and the roof was iron. It contained a stage 20ft x 16ft, plus 2 x dressing rooms, and could accommodate 285 people (seated). The “operating box” adjoined the hall, on the outside. There was also an “*open air picture building*” adjoining the hall – it was 70ft long by 37ft wide.



**Left:** A drawing of the “operating box,” in October 1928. Courtesy NSW State Records. [NRS-15318-1-[10/53156]-T2766]

By 1962 Winters Hall was in a state of poor repair, as can be seen in the following extract from an official report,



<sup>194</sup> Government Records – Theatres & Public Halls. Held by State Archives. [NRS-15318-1-[10/53156]-T2766]



Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.

Winter's hall served the community up until the mid 1960's when the decision was made to construct a new hall. This, the Marrar War Memorial Hall, was completed and opened in 1965. This hall still serves today.



**Above:** The Marrar War Memorial Hall. Courtesy TracesofWar.



## Public schools

In 1878 the local citizens of Marrar wrote to the minister requesting that a provisional school be established at Marrar. Their suggested location for the school was on the southeast corner of reserve no.666, eleven miles from the Marrar railway station on the right hand side of the Marrar Road [from Wagga Wagga to Marrar]. The application stated that the next nearest school was seven miles distant [probably Downside] and that there were twenty-four children of school age eligible to attend school in the locality. Initially the locals envisaged that the government would erect the necessary building, but when that was not forthcoming, they offered to construct same themselves.

William Henry Taylor, of Green Hill Farm, represented the local citizens, while the person representing the Council of Education was district Inspector O'Byrne. Taylor wrote to the Council in December 1878 to advise that a building had been constructed, and that it was larger than that suggested by the inspector. The dimensions of the building were thirty feet by fourteen feet. It was a timber building with wood floor and an iron roof. The inspector wrote to the Council requesting that an application be made to the Minister for Lands, to secure the necessary title to the land. He sought two acres for the school and an adjoining ten acres for a reserve. The land was described as being located on reserve no.666 in the parish of Malebo and bounded on the north by the road from Wagga Wagga to Marrar. A note from the Lands Dept. noted that the road from Wagga Wagga to Marrar ran in a south to north direction and could not possibly form the northern boundary of the site. In any case the site was approved.

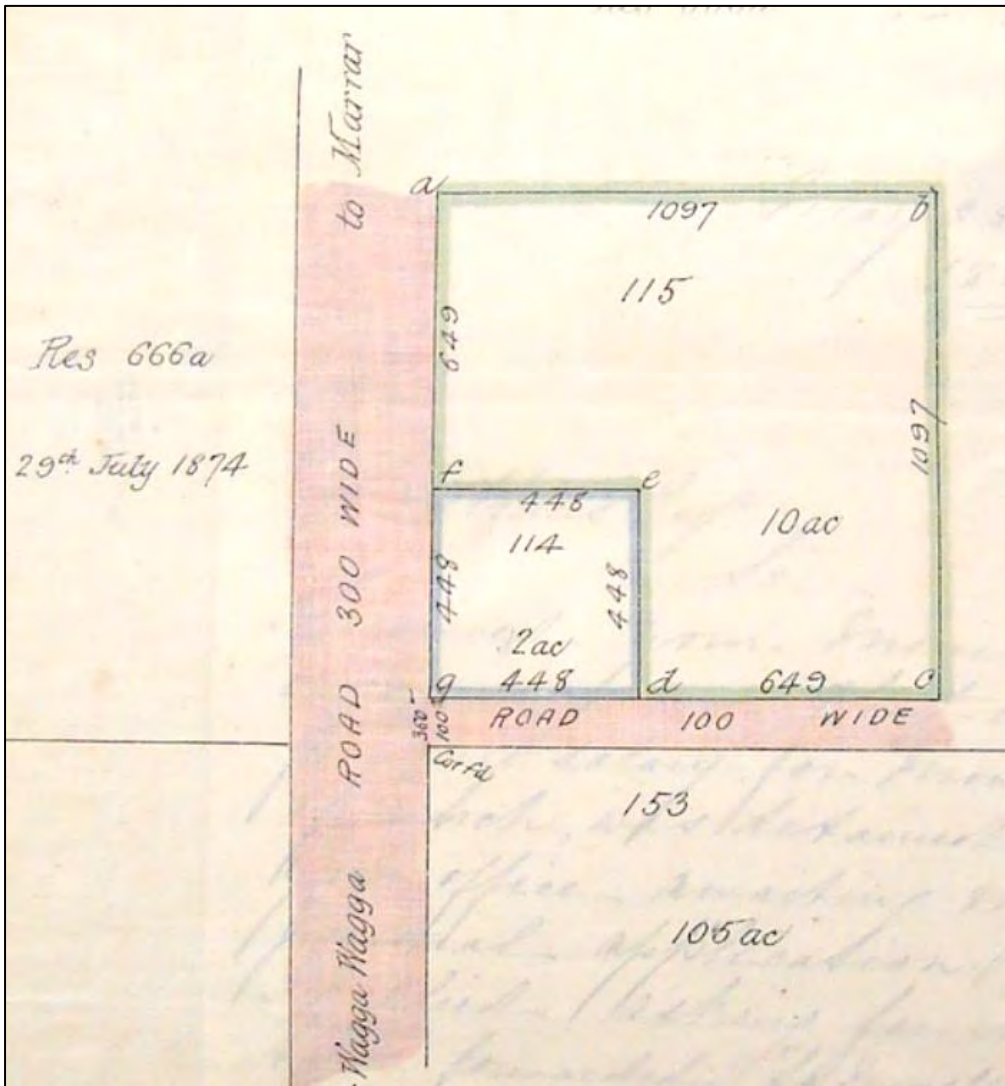
In September 1880 it was gazetted that Mrs Sophia Stafford had been appointed to the school,<sup>195</sup> and it is assumed she was the first ever teacher. Mrs Stafford resigned in 1881, and in June of that year Mr William Gray was appointed as her successor. By February 1882 attendances had fallen away and the Council made the decision to close the school and transfer Mr Gray, who was well regarded, to another school.

In March 1896 the Minister accepted the tender of Charles Hardy & Co., to construct a new provisional school at Marrar, for the sum of £57. The building was completed by the end of May 1896. The building was the same design as that at Big Mimosa, except that the dimensions were slightly different. The Marrar building was eighteen feet long and fifteen feet wide. The ceilings, which were tongue and grooved pine, were set at nine feet high. The structure was a timber building [weatherboard], all colonial pine, with a galvanised iron roof. The building featured a brick chimney and fireplace, and there were two detached water closets nearby.

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<sup>195</sup> NSW Government Gazette. 1880, p4886.

Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.



**Above:** The site of the Marrar Provisional School in 1878. Courtesy State Records.

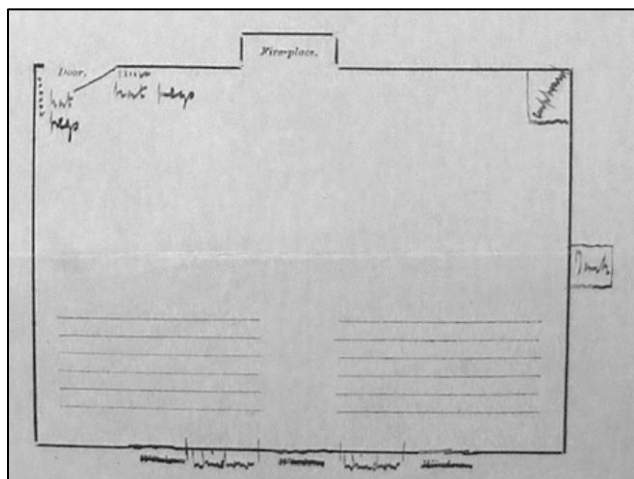


The above site was located in the parish of Malebo, in a corner of a portion of land owned by Richard Cox. The site consisted of portions 114 and 115, both of which were crown land. Gazetted in February 1881.

**Above:** Cox's portion 118, which encompassed the first Marrar school site.

## Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.

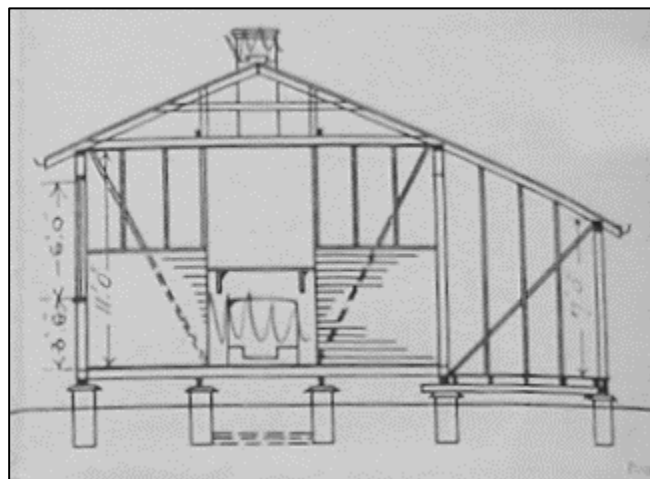
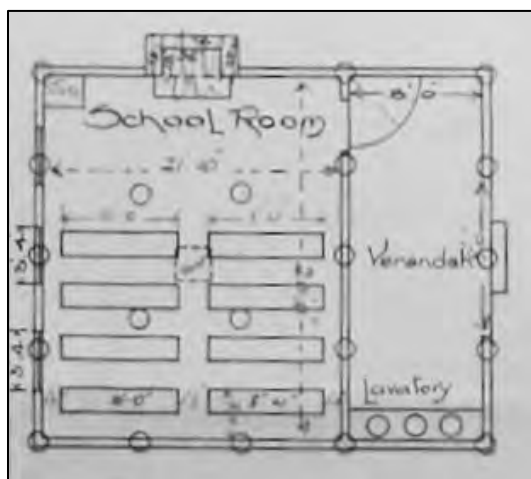
It was a simple building as can be seen by the following mud map,



**Left:** Mud map of the new school building constructed by Charles Hardy & Co., in 1896.

The new school was said to be distant about 2½ miles [easterly] from the old provisional school, and near to the selection of J Bell. This was later known as the Woodville School, and it stood on portion 191, in the parish of Maror.

In July 1908 the Department of Lands approved the allocation of a new site for a public school at Marrar, in the parish of Kinilibah [county Bourke], consisting of an area of two acres, two roods and sixteen perches. This was section 12 in the village Marrar [sic], with frontage to See Street, between Lime and Webb Streets. The school still stands on this site in 2020. The nearest schools at this time were Woodville Public [4 miles], and Soumara Provisional [6 miles]. A new school building had been constructed on the site by January 1909. The contractor was John Gray, and the cost was £148. Like all of its predecessors it was a timber building.

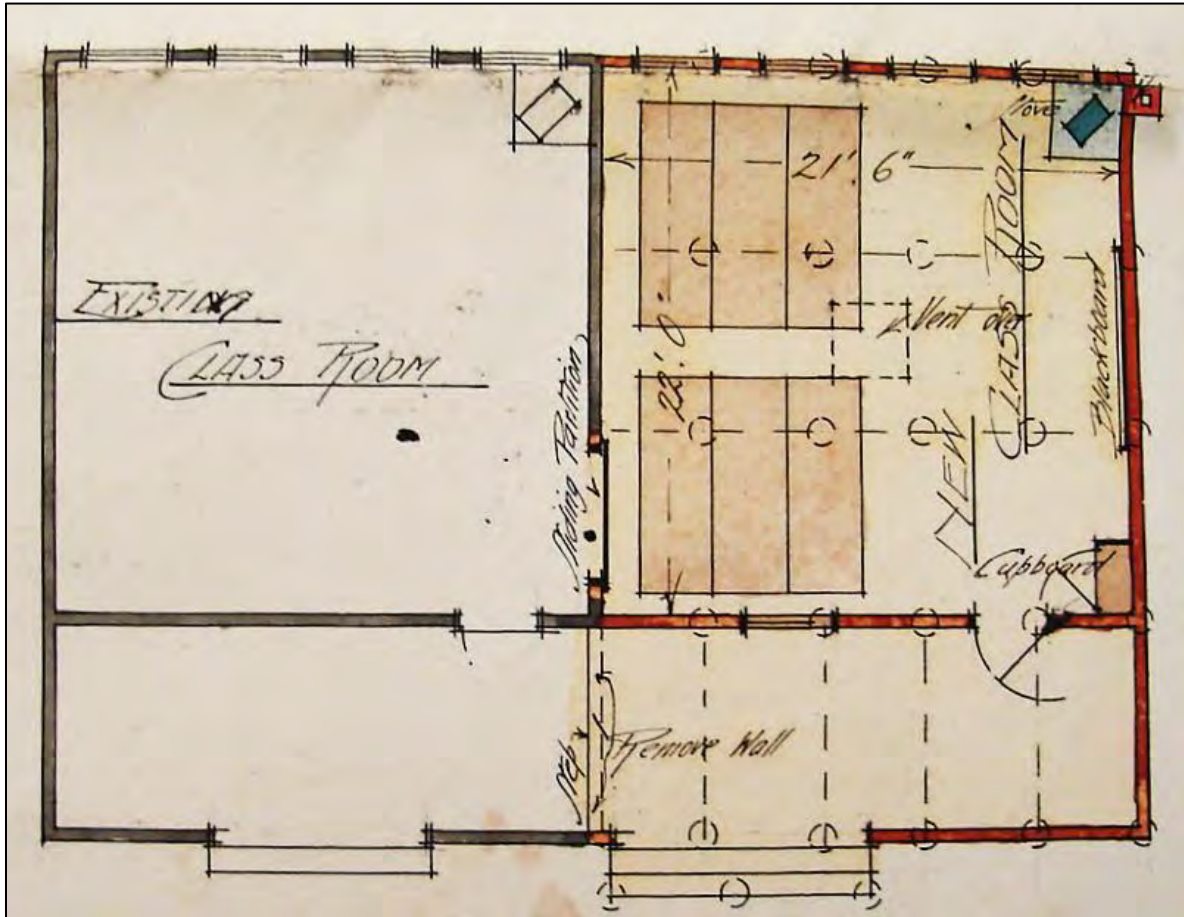


**Above:** A floor plan and section plan of the 1908 Marrar Public School building.

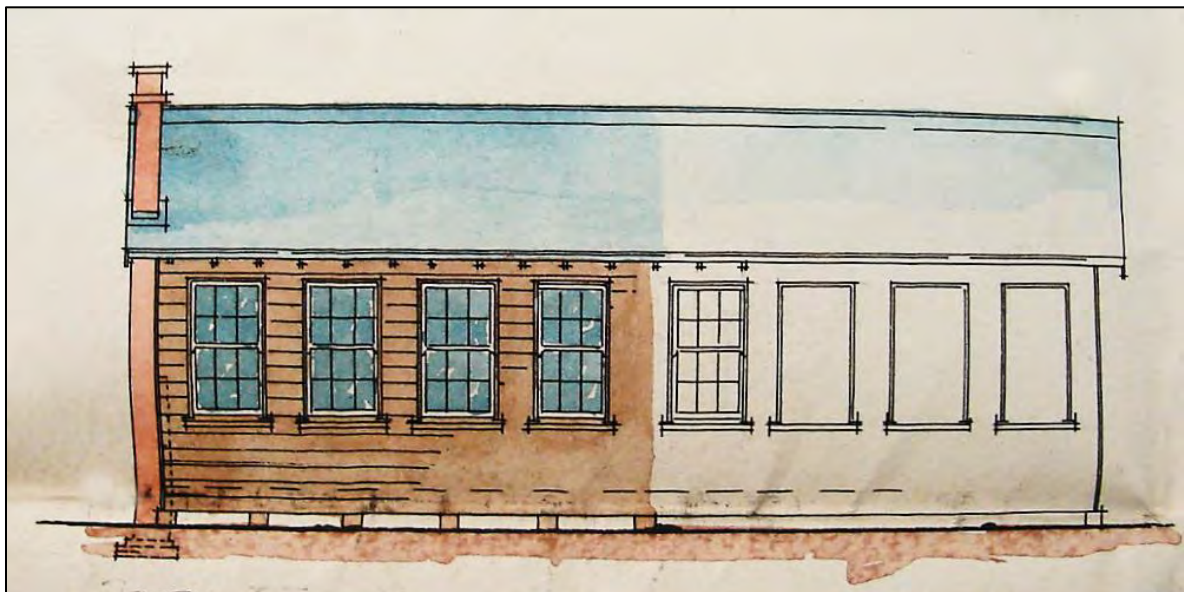
An additional classroom was added in 1914. The contractors for this building were the Black Bros. – James G., William and John. Their tender was accepted at a cost of £218.

Construction of a residence for the teacher had started in 1913, and it also was constructed by the Black Bros.

Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.



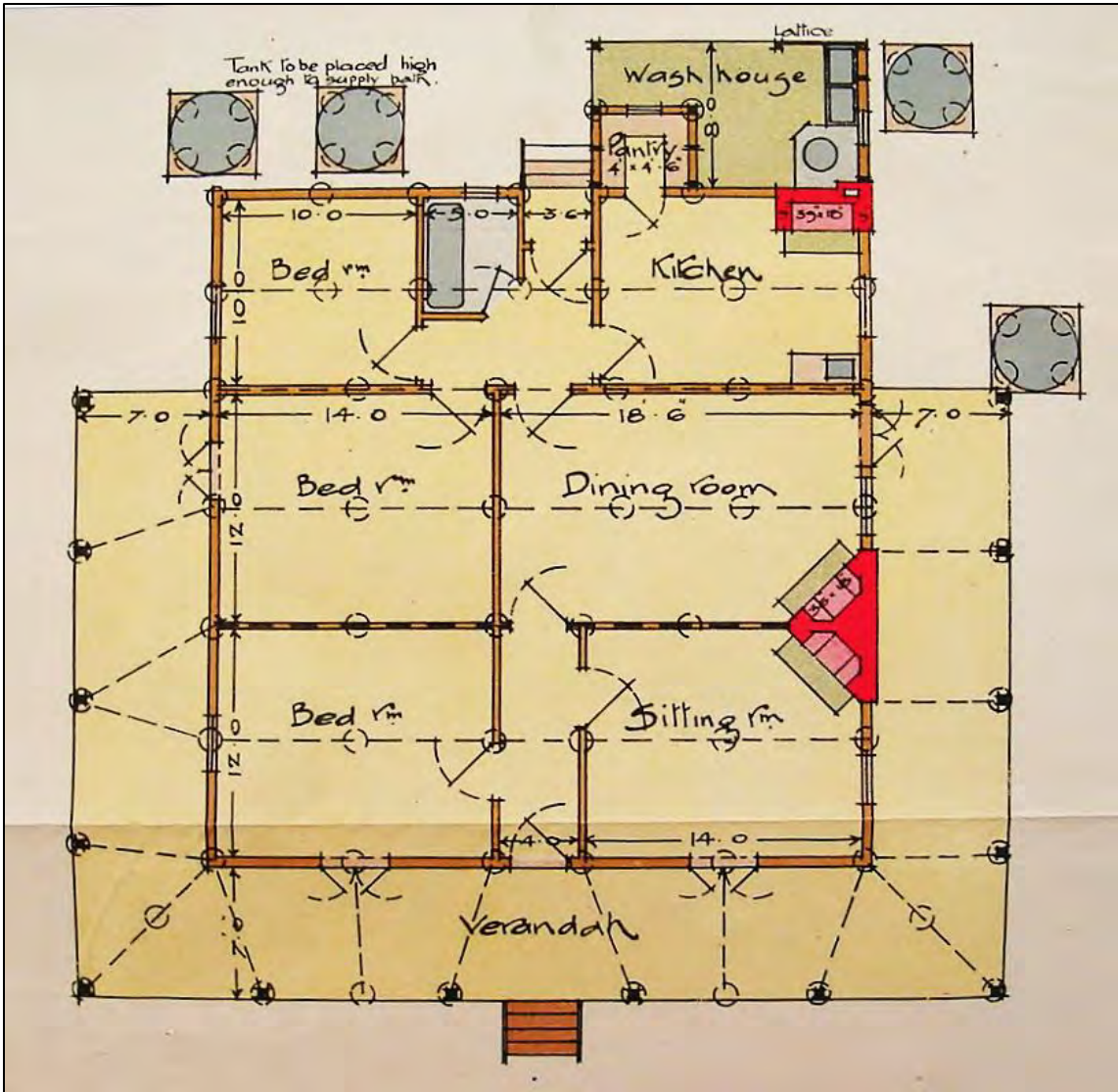
**Above:** A floor plan of the 1914 additions [coloured section].



**Above:** An elevation view [from the south] of the 1914 additions [coloured section].



Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.



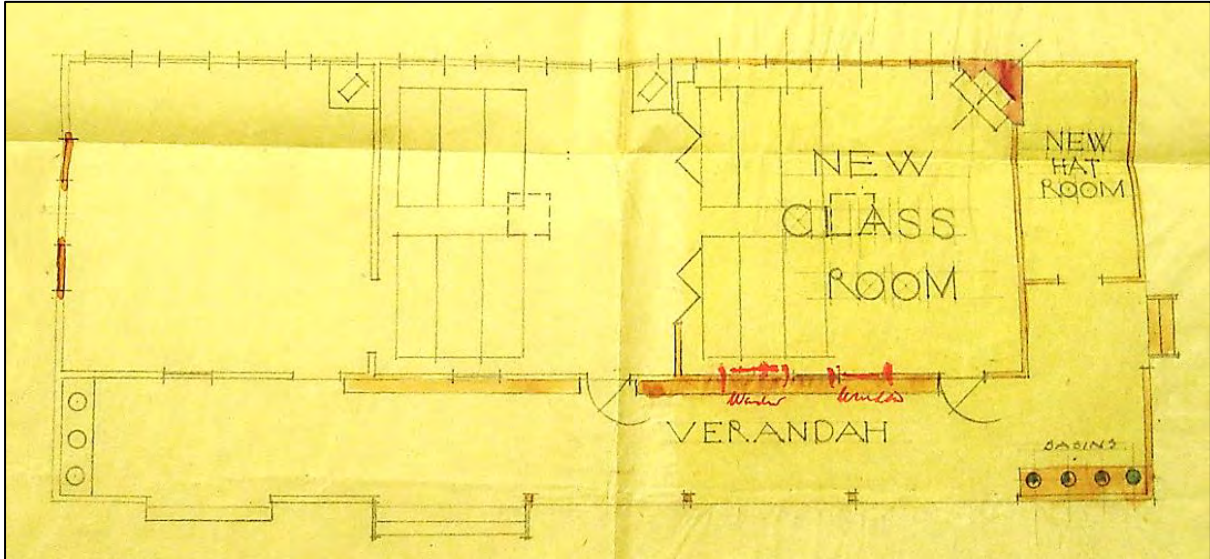
Above: The floor plan of the new teacher's residence [1913].



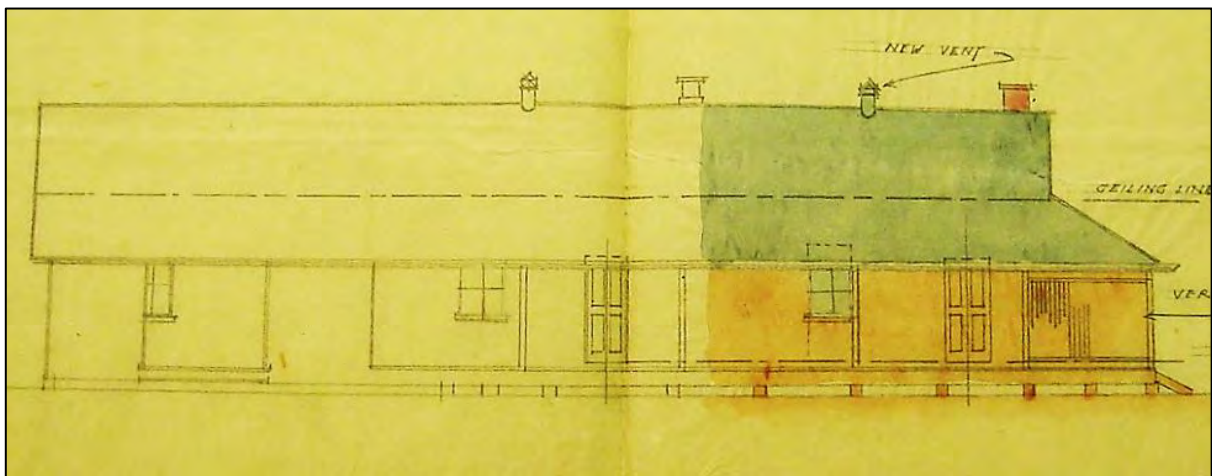
Above: The front elevation of the new teacher's residence [1913].

Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.

A third extension was added in 1925. The contractor was H Pollock, junior, of Epping, and the contract was for five hundred and ninety-eight pounds and ten shillings.



**Above:** Floor plan of the 1925 extensions [coloured section to the right]

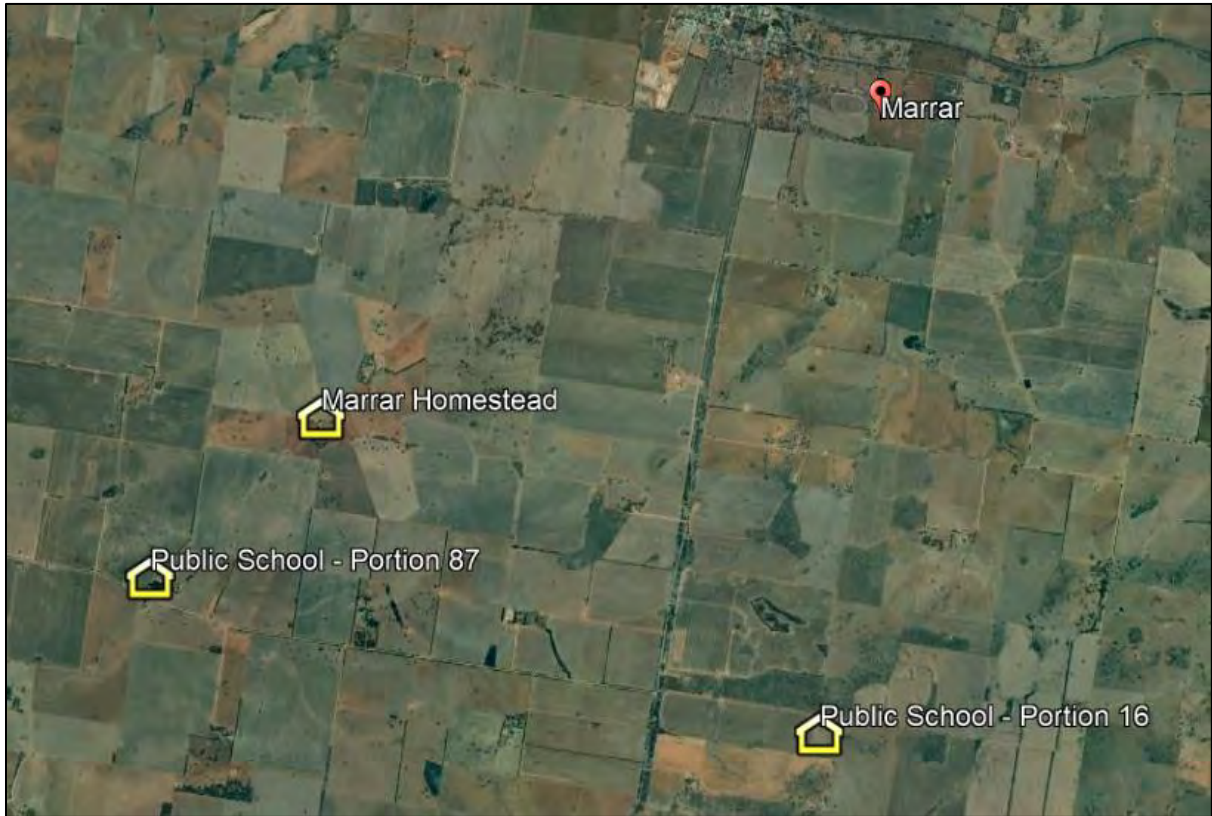


**Above:** Elevation view of the 1925 extensions [coloured section to the right]

Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.



Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.



**Above:** An aerial view of the district showing the location of two areas set aside for public schools [portions 16 and 87], in the parish of Marrar. It is not known if a school ever existed on portion 16, which was gazetted in 1901. Portion 87 was gazetted in 1929, and this became the Marrar Vale Public School, which opened in May 1929.



**Above:** Marrar Public School during construction in 1913. Courtesy NSW State Records. [NRS-15051-1-22-[1181]-1]



Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.

Some History of Marrar and the Royal Hotel.