

HOTELS
AT
QUANDARY
BROKEN DAM
AND
ARIAH PARK



Front Cover: Early photo sourced from Facebook. Enhanced "MyHeritage."

Geoff Burch ©December 2021

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Hotels at Quandary, Broken Dam and Ariah Park.

Early Settlement

Early settlement along the Merool Creek dates from the late 1840's.¹

In July 1848, Commissioner Beckham visited three runs on the *Marule Creek* - Edward Ryan's *Gogeldry Run*, supervised by John Ryan; Thomas Bray's *Narraburra Run*, which was supervised by Alexander McGregor; and Horatio Beckham's *Marule Creek Run*, which was supervised by Horatio. Each property featured "*slab huts*." The first two runs accommodated two residents each, while Beckham's run housed eleven residents. *Gogeldry* [25,600 acres] and *Narraburra* [75,600 acres] were stocked with cattle [600 and 1,000 respectively], but the *Marule Creek Run* [32,000 acres] was stocked with sheep [3,700].²

In 1849, Horatio Beckham lay claim to the lease of a run called *Marule Baale Creek*, which had an area of some 61,400 acres. It was described as follows,³

"Name of Run - Marule Baale Creek.

Estimated Area - 61,440 Acres.

Estimated Grazing Capabilities - 7,000 Sheep.

Bounded on the east by a range of mountains which divides it from Narraburra, Mr. Bray's Station; on the west by a line running north and south 5 miles west of Marule Head Station, which separates it from Barmedman, Mr. Cartwright's Station; north by a marked tree line running east and west 6 miles north of Marule Head Station, which divides it from Mr. White's and Mr. Walton's Stations; south by a range of mountains and a line running from thence east and west 6 miles south of Marule Head Station, which divides it from the stations of Messrs. Bray, Taylor, and Salting."

In 1849 John Richard Hardy left the Bland country, with his brother and a Lachlan Aboriginal, for the purpose of discovering new runs. They travelled through unoccupied country for some three weeks before they reached the Murrumbidgee River. Having determined which land would be suitable Hardy submitted a tender for same and received a letter in 1850 from Colonel Barney, the Chief Commissioner of Crown Lands, authorizing him to occupy the run. This run was called *Bungumbil*. Hardy did not visit the run again until 1854.⁴

The severe drought from the late 1840's up to 1852 would have discouraged Hardy from returning as there was no grass or water for stock during these years. 1852 and 1853 were years of extensive flooding, which would have filled the creeks and water holes and restored the vegetation. Hardy himself confirmed three failed attempts to establish stock at the location during the period 1849 to 1851.⁵

Webster notes that by 1850 Horatio Beckham "*had erected huts for an outstation on the creek at Quandary, at a place where there was good water, later the site of the Quandary Inn.*"⁶ It was at this

¹ Geoff Burch. Early hotels on the Mirrool Creek [west of Quandary], the establishment of Ardlethan and the history of its two hotels. 2016.

²Itineraries, Commissioners of Crown Lands. Beckham, Lachlan. 18th July 1848.

³ NSW Government Gazette. 1849, p1871.

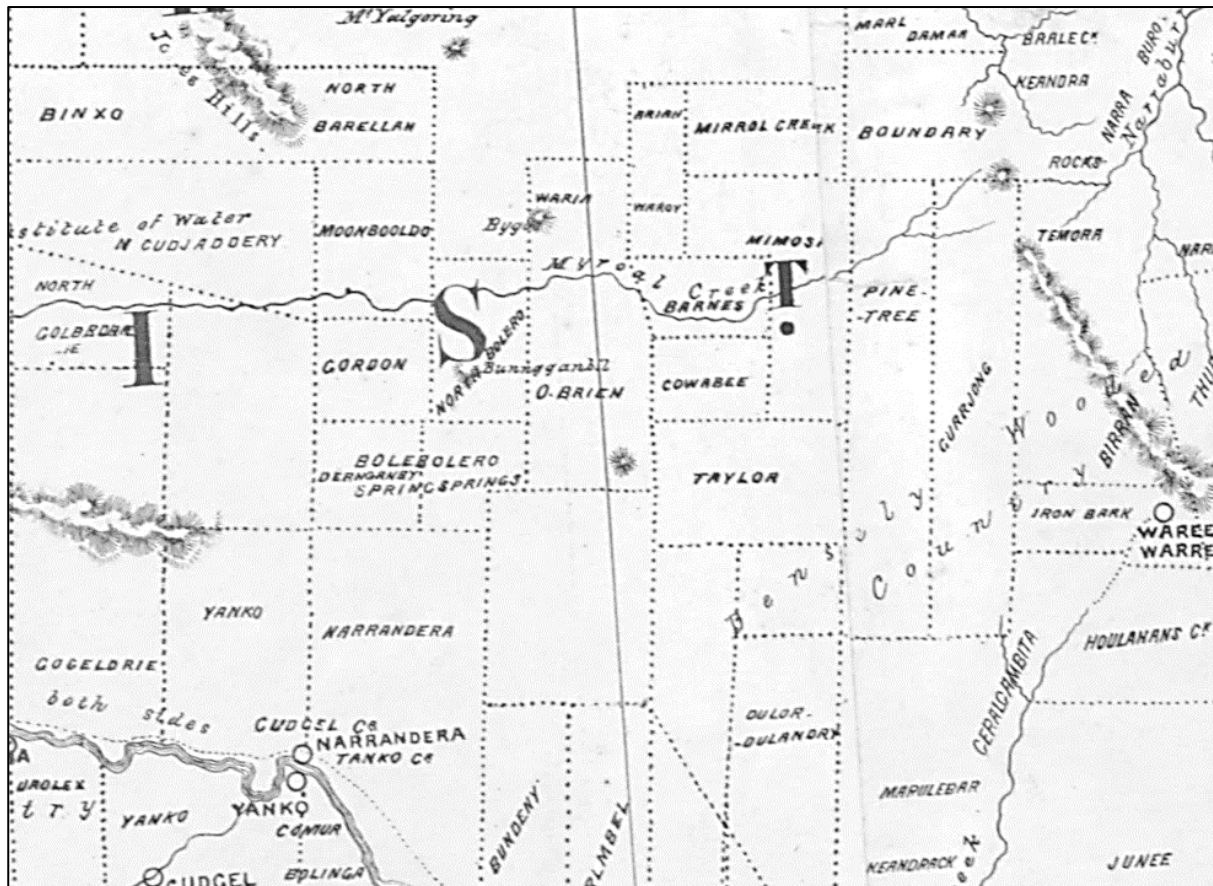
⁴ Empire. 30th September 1856, p3. / Goulburn Herald. 4th October 1856, p4.

⁵ Goulburn Herald. 12th July 1856, p4. / 23rd August 1856, p4.

⁶ Bygoo and Beyond. p6.

point, to the east of what is now Aria Park, that several other smaller creeks joined the Mirrool forming “a well-defined watercourse.”⁷ The surveyor, James Larmer, confirmed the settlement at *Quondary* noting huts there in 1850.⁸

The early runs along the Merool included *North Bolero*, *Bygoo*, *Quondary* [sic], *Bungumbil*, and *Ariah*, all of which were well established by July 1854.⁹



Above: Extract from Owen’s 1868 map of NSW squatting Runs. *Quondary* is erroneously identified as “Boundary.” Courtesy NSW State Library.

⁷ Bygoo and Beyond. p1.

⁸ Bygoo and Beyond. p8.

⁹ Sydney Morning Herald. 1st October 1856, p3.

Quandary Station

In January 1856 *Quondary* was one of numerous runs listed by the government under the category of “*adjusted, forfeited and vacated runs,*” and as a consequence was now up for tender. The brief description of the run read as follows,¹⁰

“Estimated area – 20,000 acres. Commencing at the head of the Maroole Creek, on the east, and running down that creek 10 miles, with a width of about 4 miles.”

By June 1857 notice was given that Barnes and Harman [sic] were the successful tenderers for the run.¹¹

A travelling correspondent visited the area in March or April 1856, and provided the following description,¹²

“The common name of “The Levels,” is a great misnomer (as many of the colonial names are). A great portion of the country certainly is flat, but it is intersected with three or four distinct chains of ranges, that extend for many miles, the peaks of which vary in elevation from 600 to 1000 ft. The points of the mountains run out and terminate in abrupt headlands, so that the traveller may easily imagine himself to be on a sea coast. It is impossible to look on these appearances, and the vast plains between the headlands, and doubt for a moment that the whole country has been at some former period a vast inland sea. The country is watered by the Merool Creek and its tributaries. This is a singular creek, being in many cases quite lost in swamps, and again appearing, as the channel becomes narrowed by the approach of hills. This loss and reformation occurs several times, until the creek at length joins the Lachlan, near the junction of that river with the Murrumbidgee. At times a large body of water must come down the creek, as is made evident by the flood wreck, in many places, from ten to eleven feet high, in the trees growing in the bed of the creek. The name Merool, in the native language, means pipeclay, and the creek takes its name from a place near its source, where there is a large quantity of that substance.”

Sometime during the year ended the 30th June 1861, Joseph Barnes and G Harmon transferred the *Quondary Run* to George Harmon.¹³ George still held the license in 1871,¹⁴ and in 1876.¹⁵

George Harmon still held *Quondary* in 1881, but renewal of the lease in January 1882 was dependent on the payment of the “*fair annual rent,*” as determined under the latest amendments to the Crown Lands Act.¹⁶ The annual rent was now ninety-five pounds.

¹⁰ NSW Government Gazette. 1856, p201.

¹¹ NSW Government Gazette. 1857, p1253.

¹² Goulburn Herald. 12th April, 1856, p7.

¹³ NSW Government Gazette. 1861, p1710.

¹⁴ NSW Government Gazette. 1871, p2497.

¹⁵ NSW Government Gazette. 1876, p4402.

¹⁶ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 10th January 1882, p4.

**5000 Acres Pastoral Property
WITHOUT STOCK.**

QUANDARY, MEROOL CREEK.

MONDAY, 28TH JULY.

STAPLETON MINCHIN has received instructions from Mr. John Armour to sell by Public Auction, at Baker's Pastoral Hotel, Wagga Wagga,

ON MONDAY, 28TH JULY,

At 12 o'clock,

THAT PORTION OF THE QUANDARY RUN north of the Merool Creek (formerly occupied by Mr. George Harman), with a frontage to that creek, containing about 5000 ACRES Crown Lands, and containing a Water Reserve of 640 ACRES. Fenced and well watered.

By July 1884, John Armour was the lessee of the northern portion of the *Quandary Run*, which consisted of some five thousand acres of Crown Lands to the north of the Merool Creek.¹⁷ Armour had, in fact, purchased the property from Mrs Annie Harmon in August 1883.¹⁸

Left: Notice for sale of *North Quandary Run* in July 1884.

In 1885 the government gave notice that it was about to break up the *Quandary South Run* [leasehold area # 590].¹⁹

**To persons in want of small Station
Property.**

QUANDARY NORTH,

Within about 9 miles of Temora, 40 from Coolaman, and 50 from Wagga.

CHAS. L. GRIFFITH and CO. have received instructions from the owner to sell by auction, on 23rd OCTOBER, at their Sale Rooms, Albury, immediately after the sale of Barlow's properties, **NORTH QUANDARY**, area 10,000 Acres; 8000 acres leased for 15 years, all securely fenced with exception of two miles, principally post-and-wire, chock-and-log, and part brush; watered by 2000yds tank, good creek, also dam on creek; 1000 acres ringbarked, and permission already obtained to ring 4000 acres. Homestead w.b. and slab, sheepyards, woolshed, &c.; will carry in present state 2000 sheep, and with the permission already granted to ring 4000 acres, will easily carry 6000 sheep. The property may be purchased with or without sheep at present on the run. To small capitalists this presents a rare opportunity, as the instructions are to sell.

In October 1886 the owner placed the *North Quandary* property on the market.²⁰

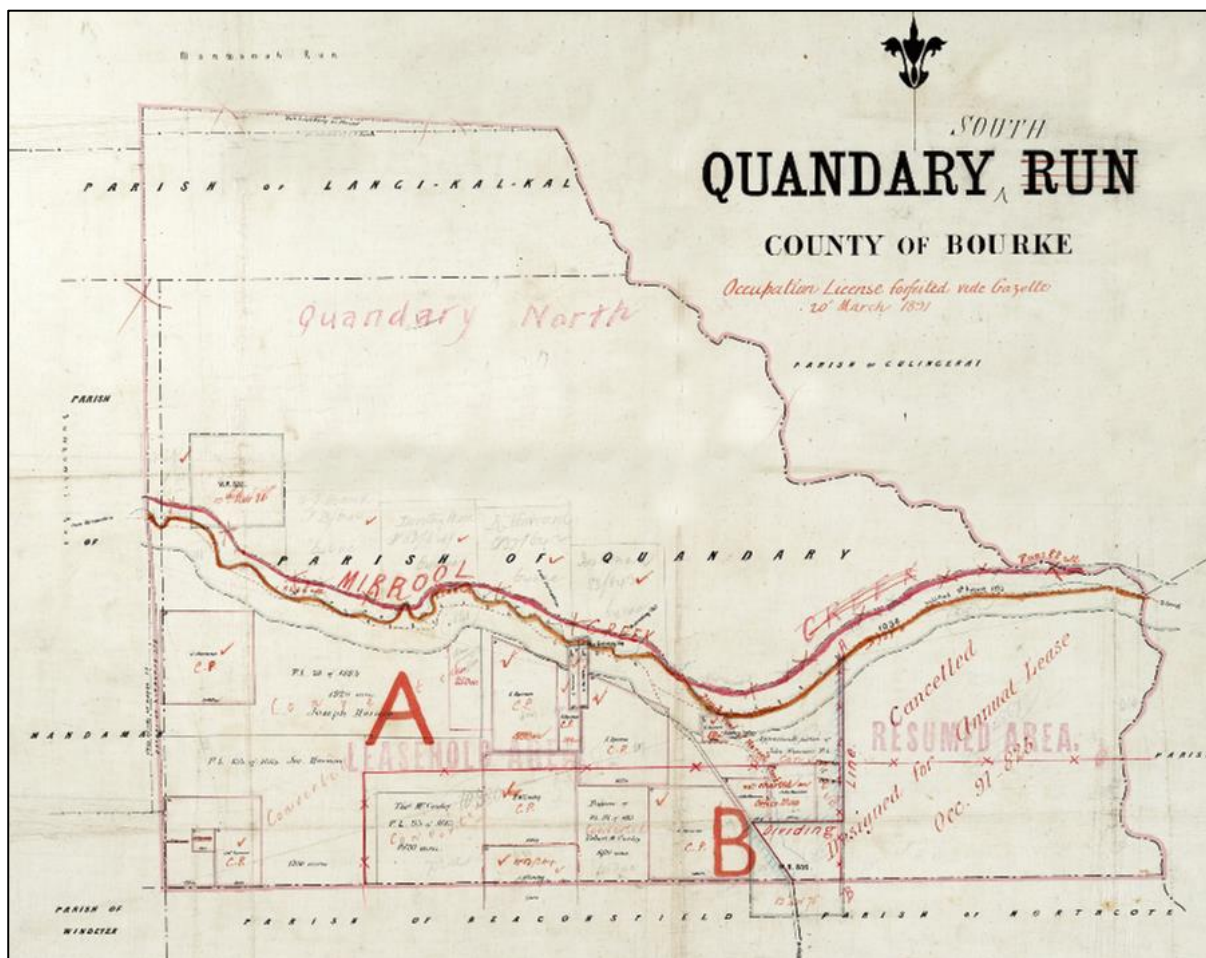
Left: Notice for sale of North Quandary Station in October 1886.

¹⁷ Burrangong Argus. 16th July 1884, p3.

¹⁸ Albury Banner. 12th September 1884, p21.

¹⁹ NSW Government Gazette. 1885, p4908.

²⁰ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 2nd October 1886, p3.



Above: 1885 plan of the Quandary Run, showing North & South Quandary, on either side of the Merool Creek. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services. Historic Pastoral maps.

In 1893, William Preston was the lessee of *North Quandary*, which consisted of some twelve hundred and sixty-four acres.²¹ William had taken over *North Quandary* in 1891.²²

William Preston passed away on the 23rd July 1926 at a private hospital in Randwick, aged eighty five. He was buried at Temora.²³ William's wife, Elizabeth Ann Preston [nee Parr], passed away about a year later on the 26th June 1927, aged seventy six.²⁴ The couple's son, William Carter Preston, purchased a property known as *Quandary South* in 1902 and remained there until his death in April 1936.²⁵

In February 1893, the government gave notice that it would not renew the pastoral lease no.590, *Quandary South*, which was held by the Union Bank of Australia.²⁶

²¹ NSW Government Gazette. 1893, p7682.

²² Arian Park News. 7th July 1927, p9.

²³ Daily Telegraph. 24th July 1926, p6.

²⁴ Arian Park News. 7th July 1927, p9.

²⁵ Lachlander and Condobolin and Western Districts Recorder. 29th April 1936, p1.

²⁶ Wagga Wagga Express. 25th February 1893, p7.

Annie Harmon owned *Quandary* in 1893, and in March of that year she placed the property up for sale by public auction.²⁷

QUANDARY STATION.

—

Nine Miles from Temora Railway Terminus.

—

SATURDAY, 18TH MARCH, 1893.

—

TOMPSON, MANNING, & JEREMY have been favoured with instructions from Mrs. Annie Harmon to sell by public auction, at the Australian Hotel, Wagga Wagga, on Saturday, 18th March, at 3 o'clock,

QUANDARY STATION,

In the Central Division.

AREA:

3730 ACRES	C.P. LAND
4045 ..	C.L. LAND
3919 ..	LEASEHOLD AREA

11,694 ..

All first-class Wheat Land, within nine miles of Temora, where the railway is nearly completed,

All beautiful open country interspersed with clumps of box and pine, and splendidly grassed land, carrying a sheep to the acre. The fencing is all new, being 6 wires, and divided into 10 Paddocks and watered by 5 tanks and 4 dams.

There is a good Homestead and Garden, and all necessary outbuildings. Two sets of Drafting Yards, also Cattle and Horse Yard. A Wool Shed for six shearers, and a second comfortable Homestead on the back of the run.

200 acres have been cleared for the plough. Yield for portion cultivated this season 20 bushels to the acre.

The property is wonderfully compact, easily workable, and the whole could be cleared for a small sum per acre, as all is ring-barked, except shade trees.

The Auctioneers have much pleasure in recommending this Estate to any probable buyers, it is a splendid investment, and a rare opportunity offers to a Syndicate to buy it, and cut it up into small Farms.

In 1893 *Quandary Station* consisted of a total land holding of 11,694 acres, but not a single acre had been converted to freehold.

Left: Sale notice for *Quandary Station* [South] in March 1893, p3.

The pastoral lease for *Quandary North* also expired in 1893. The local Wagga Wagga Land Board declined to extend the lease for either *North Quandary* or *South Quandary* but appeals in 1894 resulted in both leases being extended for another five years.²⁸

Annie Harmon was still trying to sell *Quandary Station* in February 1894. The details were unchanged from March 1893.²⁹

QUANDARY FARMS.

—

12 MILES FROM TEMORA RAILWAY STATION.

—

THE APPLICATION for these FARMS will CLOSE with us on TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5TH, 1897, at 6 p.m.

They comprise

5 FARMS	of	640 ACRES
1	"	870 "
1	"	220 "

At Fair Rentals.

Can be Leased for 5 years, with the option of purchase during term of lease.

Improvements in lieu of rent for the first 17 months.

Full particulars and orders to inspect can be obtained from

TOMPSON, MANNING & JEREMY,
dv Wagga Wagga

Above: A number of farms were offered for sale in September 1897.³⁰

By 1910 the original *Quandary Run* had been substantially subdivided.

²⁷ Wagga Wagga Express. 16th March 1893, p3.

²⁸ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 22nd December 1894, p2.

²⁹ Wagga Wagga Express. 6th February 1894, p3.

³⁰ Wagga Wagga Express. 23rd September 1897, p3.



Above: An early photo of Quandary homestead. Courtesy Mr Lin Walker.³¹

STUCKEY and Co.

—HAVE FOR SALE—

QUANDARY ESTATE,

AREA : 50 acres freehold, 3410 acres conditional purchase—due to the Crown £1060—and 3085 acres conditional lease—rental £30 18s 3d per annum. Total 6545 acres. Situated, Central Division, county and parish of Quandary, 60 miles north of Wagga Wagga, and 15 miles from the Temora Railway Station.

IMPROVEMENTS : On freehold, Seven-roomed House, Store, Office, Kitchen, Wool-shed, Men's Hut, Stable, Cattle-yards, Cement Tank, Dam, partially cleared, and fenced on all three sides with 6-wire fence. On the C.P., 286 acres cleared, all ring-barked, and 380 acres scrubbed, Three Tanks, and One Dam, 13 miles of Rabbit-proof Fence, 2-Room House and Kitchen, Men's Hut, Shed, Yards, 18 miles 6-wire Fencing. On the Leasehold Area, Two Tanks approximate of carrying sufficient water in ordinary seasons. 4000 sheep within netted area—which comprises 4566 acres of C.P. and C.L. land. Nearly all the land is secured and suitable for Agriculture.

PRICE : £1 5s per acre. Very easy terms.

Above: 1901 notice of sale – Quandary Estate.

³¹ Bill Speirs. *The Beehive and the Broken Dam*. 1987, p4.

Bungumbil

John Richard Hardy had successfully tendered for the Bungumbil Run by 1851.³² The run had an area of some 25,600 acres and was a strip of land about ten miles long and four miles wide running back from the Bungumbil Mountain towards the Murrumbidgee River. At the same time Hardy had also leased Ariaah Run, with an area of 23,000 acres, and Warry, with an area of 25,600 acres.³³

No. 9.
Hardy John Richard. Name of Run—Warry. Estimated Area—25,600 Acres. Estimated Grazing Capabilities—4,000 Sheep. Commencing at Warry Mountain, about 55 miles north from Goorinny Goorinny, on the Morumbidgee River, along a line of hills running north-west about 10 miles, with a width of 4 miles.
No. 10.
Hardy John Richard. Name of Run—Bungumbil. Estimated Area—25,600 Acres. Estimated Grazing Capabilities—4,000 Sheep. Commencing at Bungumbil Mountain, about 40 miles north of Narrandary, on the Morumbidgee River, to Buzzoo, a hill about 10 miles south south-east from Bungumbil, with a width of about 4 miles between those points.
No. 11.
Hardy John Richard. Name of Run—Ariah. Estimated Area—23,000 Acres. Estimated Grazing Capabilities—4,000 Sheep. Commencing at Ariaah Mountain, about 55 miles north of Yonyo, on the Morumbidgee River, along a line of hills about 9 miles south south-east to Miralalong, with a width of about 4 miles along the above line.

Above: 1851 descriptions of the three runs.

³² NSW Government Gazette. 1851, p1202.

³³ NSW Government Gazette. 1851, p1202.

In March 1850, John Richard Hardy conveyed all of his assets to John Jobbins, a farmer and grazier of *Nanamah*, near Yass, to hold in trust for Hardy's creditors.³⁴

In June 1850, the estate of John Richard Hardy, a Police Magistrate of Parramatta, was placed under sequestration, on application by David Jones & Company, merchants of Sydney.³⁵

In 1863 each of these three runs were transferred from Hardy [deceased] to Thomas Laidlaw.³⁶

In 1866 Laidlaw transferred the Ariaah and Bungumbil Runs to John Cameron Welman.³⁷



Left: John Cameron Welman. Courtesy kayewelman [Ancestry]



Right: Amelia Georgiana Welman [nee Beckham] the wife of John Cameron Welman. Amelia was the sister of Edgar Horatio Beckham, Crown Lands Commissioner. Courtesy kayewelman [Ancestry]

³⁴ NSW Government Gazette. 1850, p366.

³⁵ NSW Government Gazette. 1850, p923.

³⁶ NSW Government Gazette. 1863, p97.

³⁷ NSW Government Gazette. 1863, p406.

John Cameron Welman passed away at Sydney on the 28th July 1871.³⁸ An obituary provided some details of his life,³⁹

“Mr. Welman was the son of the late Captain [Major] Welman, who died in Tasmania at a ripe old age some few years ago. The deceased was well known throughout the colony. At an early age he received an appointment under the Government, and the various offices he filled caused him at times to be stationed at Morton Bay, Bathurst, and in this district. We understand he succeeded the late Mr. Welby as commissioner of Crown lands for the Lachlan, an office which he resigned in order to engage in pastoral pursuits. The deceased was a warm-hearted and liberal man and was much respected by a very large circle of friends and acquaintances, by whom his loss I will be long lamented. Mr. Welman was married to a sister of Mr. Beckham, late commissioner of Crown lands, and leaves a widow and grown-up family.”

John Cameron Welman resided at *Moppity*, a part of what was originally *Barwang*, near Murrumburrah, prior to taking ill. He sold the *Moppity* property in 1862, to Mrs Eliza Marina.⁴⁰



Above: Part of the original Ariah homestead c.1875. Courtesy kayewelman [Ancestry]

³⁸ Sydney Morning Herald. 3rd August 1871, p1.

³⁹ Yass Courier. 4th August 1871, p2.

⁴⁰ RJ Gormly Indexes. John Cameron Welman. NSW State Library [online].

In June 1873, Mrs JC Welman offered the Ariaah and Bungumbil Stations for sale by public auction. The auction took place in Melbourne on the 13th June 1873. The property consisted of some seventy thousand acres carrying some twenty two thousand sheep. The property included the Ariaah homestead, which was a simple building of four rooms and a separate kitchen, with associated out buildings.⁴¹

STATIONS FOR SALE,
NEAR NARANDERA.
FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 1873.

ETTERSHANK, EAGLE-
STONE, AND CO. have been favoured with instructions from Mrs. **WELMAN**, to Sell by Public Auction, at Menzies' Hotel, Bourk-street West, Melbourne, on **FRIDAY**, the 13th JUNE, 1873, at 3 o'clock,
Those first-class Runs in the Lachlan District, near Narandera, known as

A R I A H
AND
B U N G U M B I L,

Having a frontage of about 18 miles to both sides of the Merool Creek, and comprising an area of about 70,000 acres of sound healthy sheep country, thinly timbered and heavily grassed.—Rental, £115 per annum.

Together with the undermentioned Sheep :—

- 3417 Full-mouth Wethers
- 600 6-tooth ditto
- 8183 3, 4, and 5 year-old Ewes
- 400 Aged Ewes
- 9300 Hoggets, mixed sexes
- 100 Rams from stud flocks of Bayly and Macansh.

22,000 more or less.

The improvements are of a substantial character, and include Homestead of 4 rooms, kitchen, and all requisite outbuildings. Ariaah is enclosed with chock-and-log fencing, sheep and cattle proof; and Bungumbil is partially fenced requiring only a few miles to enclose it.

These runs are worthy the attention of Capitalists, being an improving district with the additional advantages of water carriage within 40 miles, and Railway terminus at Albury within 120 miles.

For further particulars, apply to **ETTERSHANK, EAGLESTONE, AND CO., 43 Queen-street, Melbourne**; or, to **G. MAIR, Wagga Wagga.**

Left: An 1873 advertisement for the sale of Ariaah and Bungumbil Stations on account Mrs JC Welman.

Two of John Cameron Welman's sons, Harvey Hercules Welman and Sydney Welman, were well known residents of Wagga Wagga for some years. Around 1890 Harvey and Sydney were well known graziers at Ariaah, where they ran some ten thousand sheep on an area of approximately thirty seven thousand acres.⁴²

Sydney Welman was managing Ariaah Station for the Bank of New South Wales in December 1893, when, under instruction from the bank, he commenced burning fire trails around the Ariaah homestead, despite concerns expressed by his neighbours. The fire did break away and it caused extensive damage to adjoining properties. A well publicised court case found that Welman had not broken any laws,⁴³ but the matter aroused considerable anxiety in the district.

Sydney managed Ariaah Station for the Bank of NSW up until February 1909,⁴⁴ when he moved the family to Campbelltown, where he had purchased the Club hotel.⁴⁵ His occupation of the hotel was short lived, he having disposed of same early in 1910. He subsequently passed away on the 20th March 1910, while visiting friends near Temora. His death took place at the entrance gates of the Temora hospital. Sydney was only forty five years old, and was survived by his wife who was, at the time, a patient at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. An obituary noted that

⁴¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 14th May 1873, p3.

⁴² RJ Gormly Indexes. John Cameron Welman. NSW State Library [online].

⁴³ Wagga Wagga Express. 8th April 1893, p4.

⁴⁴ Narandera Argus. 29th April 1947, p1.

⁴⁵ Wagga Wagga Express. 16th January 1909, p2.

Sydney was a passenger in the fatal Cootamundra rail crash in 1885, and that he was “*instrumental in saving several lives.*”⁴⁶



Above: The scene at the 1885 train crash at Salt Clay Creek.⁴⁷

On Sunday 25th January 1885 the train travelling north between Bethungra and Cootamundra crashed into the Salt Clay Creek some three miles south of Cootamundra. The bridge over the creek had been washed away by heavy rains. Five people were confirmed dead and many more were injured. Sydney Leslie Welman, Henry Giles, and a third man, believed to be John Pattison, “*did splendid service in helping the survivors to escape.*”⁴⁸

In February 1877, Harvey Welman, acting for his company, Harvey Welman & Co., took charge of the *Naveena Station*, in the Brewarrina district, having purchased the same from the former owners, Messrs Sawyers & Orr, of Bundabulla.⁴⁹

On the 20th December 1877, Harvey Hercules Welman married Martha Suzanne Constance Bourke, the eldest daughter of James Bourke of Big Springs [deceased], and of Mrs Charles Evans Scriven.⁵⁰ The marriage took place at Wagga Wagga.⁵¹ Martha was the grand daughter of Robert Holt Best.

⁴⁶ Wagga Wagga Express. 24th March 1910, p2.

⁴⁷ Courtesy Powerhouse Museum.

⁴⁸ Cootamundra Herald. 31st January 1885, p4.

⁴⁹ Australian Town & Country Journal. 24th February 1877, p11.

⁵⁰ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 4623/1877.

⁵¹ Sydney Morning Herald. 25th December 1877, p1.

In January 1881, Harvey Welman was residing at the Estella homestead when a fire broke out on Gobbagumbalin and caused extensive damage. Both the Gobbagumbalin and Estella homesteads were consumed by the flames.⁵²

Harvey Hercules Welman passed away on the 26th October 1884, at 296 Moore Park Road, Sydney. He was only thirty five years old.⁵³ Harvey had travelled to Sydney for surgery to address a long standing medical condition.

Martha subsequently married Herbert Edward Manchee on the 8th August 1894, in St John's Church, Darlinghurst.⁵⁴

Martha Manchee [nee Bourke] passed away at Windsor on the 26th September 1901 in tragic circumstances. Mrs Manchee, the wife of Mr Manchee, a teller in the Windsor branch of the Commercial Bank, was reading in bed, by candlelight, when her clothes caught fire causing extensive burns, which resulted in her death.⁵⁵ Her burnt body was discovered on the bedroom floor by her husband when he returned home at around 9pm.⁵⁶

⁵² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 22nd January 1881, p3.

⁵³ Sydney Mail. 8th November 1884, p966. / Albury Banner. 7th November 1884, p22.

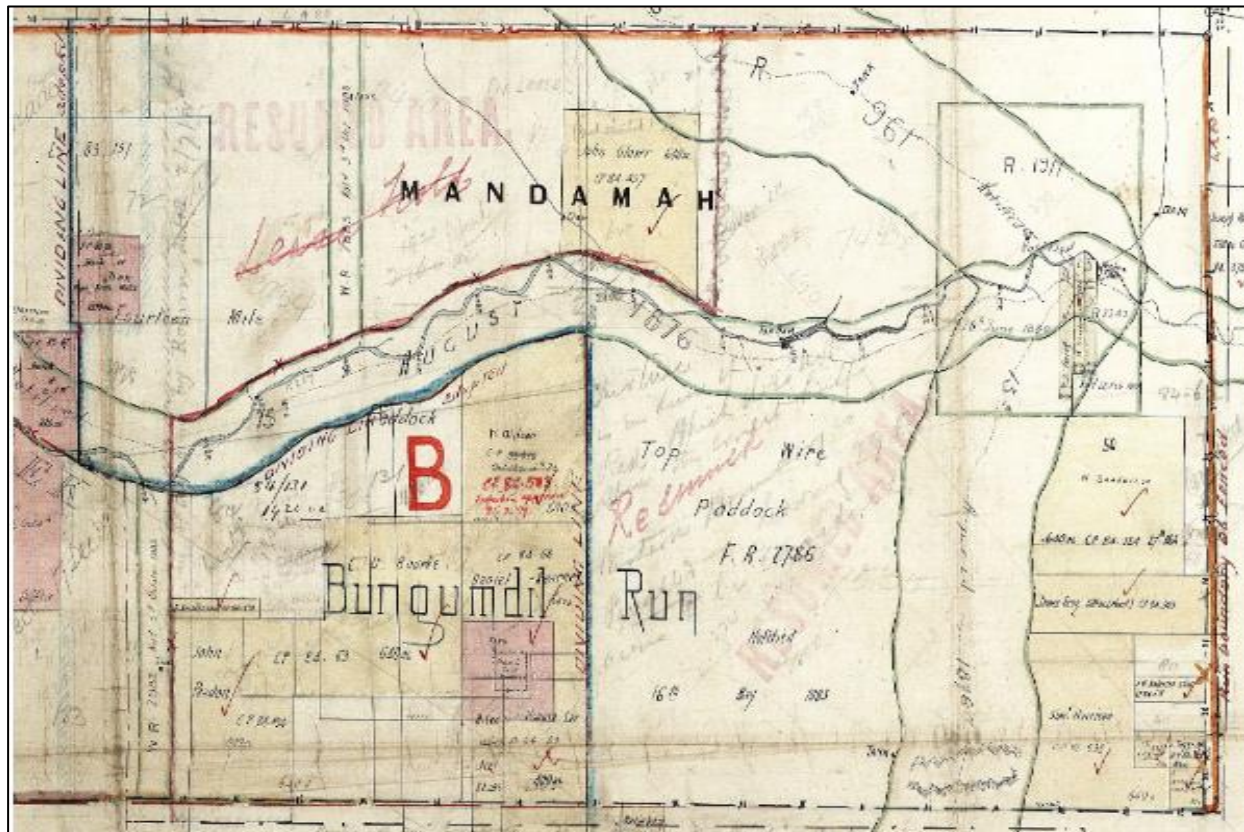
⁵⁴ Sydney Morning Herald. 8th September 1894, p1.

⁵⁵ Daily Telegraph. 30th September 1901, p4.

⁵⁶ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 1st October 1901, p2.

By 1881 the Bank of NSW was in possession of the Bungumbil Run.⁵⁷

In 1885 the Ariaah Pastoral Holding, consisting of the Ariaah and Bungumbil runs, was being considered for break-up by the government – into leasehold and resumed areas.⁵⁸



Above: Extract from an early pastoral map of the Ariaah Pastoral Holdings, showing the eastern half of those lands, this being the former *Bungumbil Run*, and featuring Sanderson's portion 2, in the parish of Mandamah. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services. Historic Pastoral Maps.

Ariaah Station was still owned by the Bank of NSW in 1893⁵⁹ although an attempt had been made to sell the property in November 1892.⁶⁰ The station manager was Sydney Leslie Welman.⁶¹

The bank was finally able to sell the run in November 1908 when it was purchased by the Hon. GH Greene, MLC, of *Iandra Station*, Grenfell.⁶²

Greene proceeded to clear the land and by the end of 1909 was ready to subdivide the property. In February 1910 he auctioned thirty farms containing 18,700 acres in total.⁶³

⁵⁷ NSW Government Gazette. 1881, p6232.

⁵⁸ NSW Government Gazette. 1885, p4915.

⁵⁹ Wagga Wagga Express. 11th November 1893, p4.

⁶⁰ Sydney Mail. 8th October 1892, p792.

⁶¹ Daily Telegraph. 23rd March 1910, p8.

⁶² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 3rd November 1908, p2.

⁶³ Narandera Argus. 14th January 1910, p6.



Above: Plan showing the runs of Ariah and Bungumdil. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services. Historic Pastoral maps.

The Ariah Station.

IN THE CENTRAL DIVISION.

ON THE MEROOL CREEK,
adjoining Messrs. Robertson's Mimosa.

Fifty miles N.E. of the Narrandera Railway Station, forty miles from the Coolamon Railway station, sixty miles from the Wagga Railway Station.

WITHOUT STOCK.

TERMS: One-third cash; the balance at one, two, three, four, and five years, with 6 per cent. interest.

TREBECK, SON, and CO. have been instructed by the Mortgagees to sell by Auction, at the Chamber of Commerce, Exchange, Sydney, on

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16,

at half-past 2 o'clock,
THE ARIAH STATION,
consisting of about

2,170 acres of Freehold Land
5,710 acres of Conditionally Purchased Land
7,938 acres of Conditionally Leased Land
25,000 acres of Crown Leasehold
3,000 acres of Resumed Area

Total, 43,818 acres, all areas more or less.

The country is undulating, Yarran and Box.

Every acre of the secured land is rich, and **VERY SUITABLE** for GROWING LUCERNE or WHEAT. For fattening and growing **HIGH-CLASS WOOL** it is equal to any station in Riverina. It is abundantly and permanently watered by the Merool Creek, running through the centre of the property, and by 25 tanks and dams. It is all fenced, and divided into 16 convenient paddocks by six and five wires, nearly new.

The **IMPROVEMENTS** comprise a perfect Homestead, a fine irrigated Garden, splendid Woolshed, Drafting Yards, &c., &c., making "Ariah" one of the most complete properties in the district.

"**ARIAH**" is equidistant from the Sydney and Melbourne markets. The whole of it has been ringbarked for 10 years, and 30,000 acres scrubbed, cleared, and burnt, so that it will carry fully one sheep to the acre in all seasons.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT SUB-DIVISION!

30
WHEAT
FARMS.

"ARIAH"
ESTATE.
18,700 acres.
On the Railway

30
WHEAT
FARMS.

FROM

TEMORA TO BARELLAN!

By Order and on Account of the Hon. G. H. GREENE, M.L.C.

FIRST GREAT SUB-DIVISION
OF 1910!

"ARIAH" A SECOND "IANDRA."

THE HON. G. H. GREENE, M.L.C., says: "'Ariah' is in all respects the equal of my 'Iandra' property."

NOTE.—"Iandra" is universally admitted to be one of the richest and most highly-developed properties in the State.

"ARIAH" will be submitted for Sale by PUBLIC AUCTION, at TEMORA, on

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1910, 9 a.m.

Improvements and Advantages:—

1. Whole Estate completely rabbit-netted.
2. Excepting some 1,800 acres, it is all high-class WHEAT land.
3. The 1,800 acres will provide an admirable grazing area and shade and shelter for stock, and furnish abundance of timber and firewood.
4. 9,000 acres now cleared and ready for plough. Large proportion fallowed.
5. Each farm will have a good area cleared, so that purchasers can commence operations immediately.
6. Beckom Railway Station is nearly in the centre of Estate, and train runs regularly three times a week each way; railway station but 300 yards from homestead.
7. A Government and a Private Township have been surveyed, thus giving a solid value to surrounding farms.

TERMS: 10% deposit, balance in 9 equal annual payments, bearing interest at 5%, payable half-yearly.

Lithos and other information obtainable upon application to either

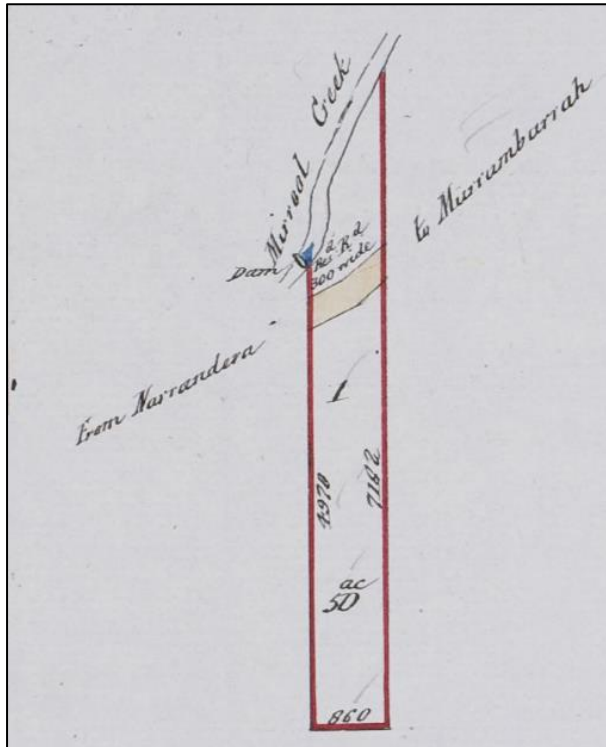
Conjoint Auctioneers: **THE PASTORAL FINANCE ASSOCIATION, 13 Phillip St., Sydney; or GELLING & SONS, Temora.**

Above: 1910 notice for auction sale of thirty farms in the Ariah Estate.

ARIAH STATION HOMESTEAD

Ariah Station Homestead

The Ariah Station homestead was located on portion 1, in the parish of Ariah. Portion 1 had an area of fifty acres and was purchased from the Crown by Amelia Welman, of Barwang, in December 1874.⁶⁴



Left: Portion 1, in the parish of Ariah, as purchased by Amelia Welman in December 1874. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

Transactions to follow were as follow,⁶⁵

1875, 11th October – Conveyance from Amelia Welman to Edwin Lowe, a grazier of Ariah Station.

1880, 24th September – Conveyance from Lowe to Harvey Welman, a grazier of Wagga Wagga.

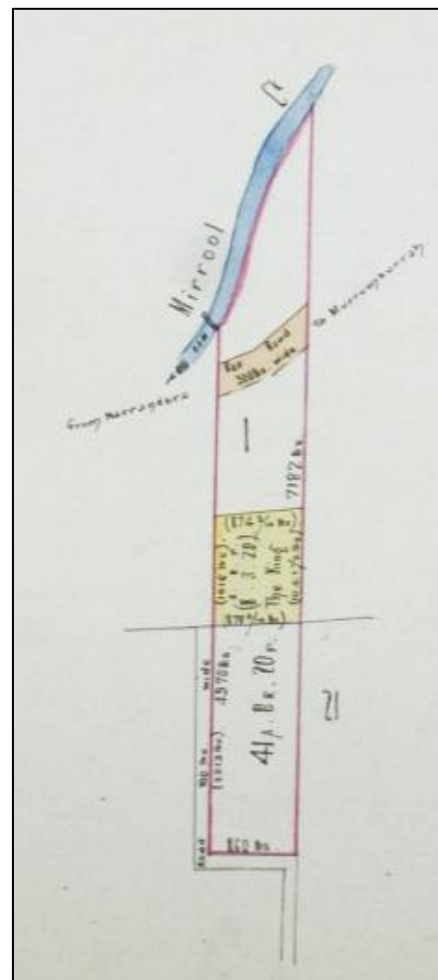
1904, 5th February – Property transmitted to Phineas Hann, a stock dealer of Wagga Wagga.

In 1904 part of the portion was resumed by the Crown.

Right: Plan showing the piece of portion 1 resumed by the Crown in 1904. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

1909, 16th February – The Mortgagee, the Bank of NSW, forced a sale to George Henry Greene, MLC of landra.⁶⁶

In April 1912, Greene sold parts of portions 1, 31 and 32, to James Griffin, a farmer of Beckom. This was the northern piece of portion 1, which featured the homestead.⁶⁷

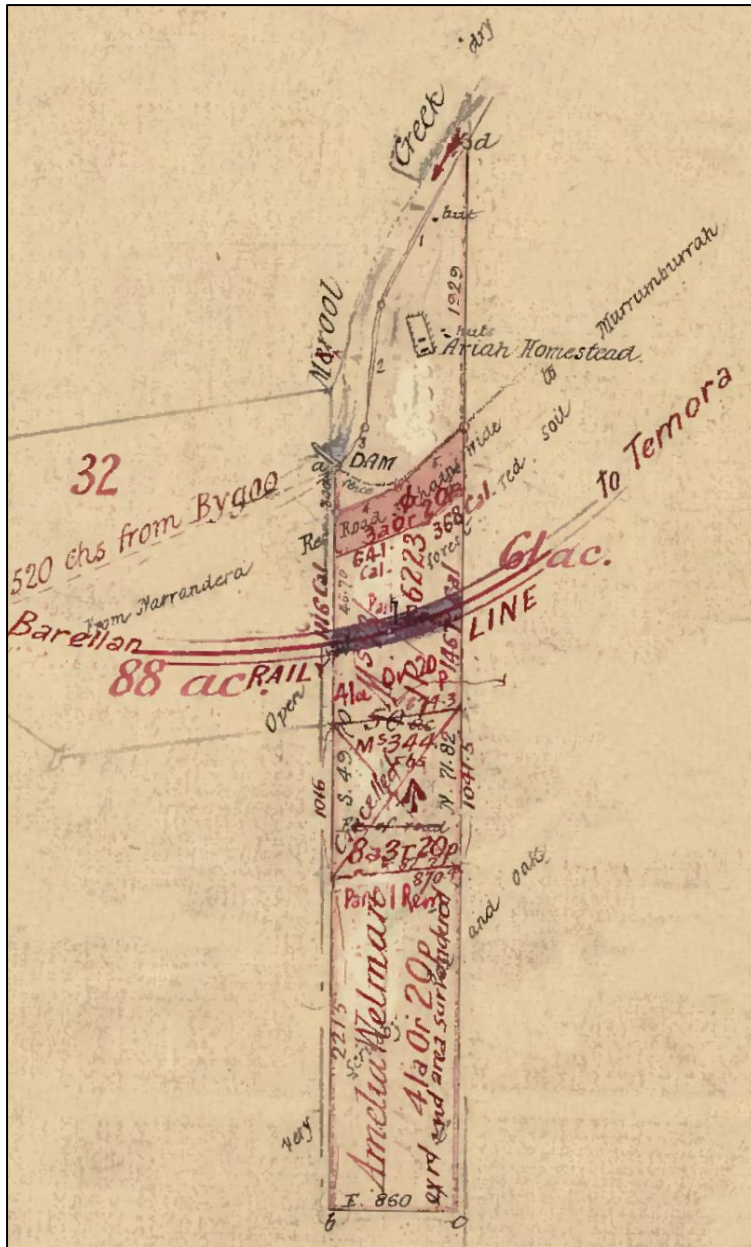


⁶⁴ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 218, folio 63.

⁶⁵ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 218, folio 63.

⁶⁶ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 1561, folio 181.

⁶⁷ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2241, folio 130.

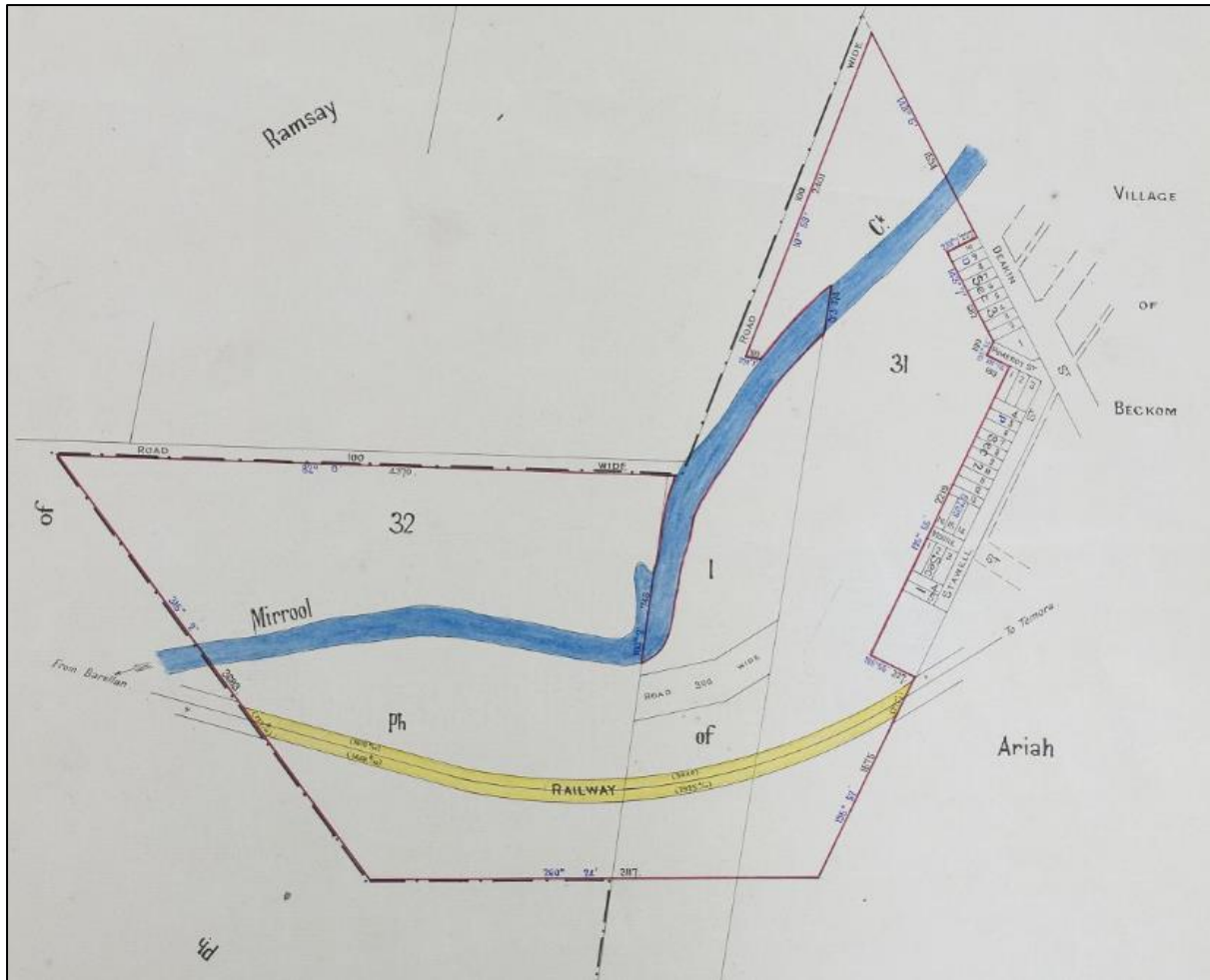


Left: Extract from an early crown plan showing the location of the Aria homestead building. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services. [Crown plan # 127.1806]

A report in July 1897 provided the following information,⁶⁸

“The Minister for Works has submitted to the Public Works Committee a batch of light railways to act as feeders to the main lines....The most southerly of these is 24 miles of line from the main southern line from The Rock (formerly known as The Hanging Rock) to Green's Gonyah, latterly called Lockhart. The line runs through good wheat country, chiefly undulating, but flat at both ends, and it intersects but little private land. The estimated cost of construction (apart from land) is £65,939. The Rock is 327 miles from Sydney, and 18 south of Wagga Wagga. Coming north there is the line from Coolamon to Aria. This strikes north-west from the Junee-Hay line, and also goes through good wheat country. Its cost is estimated at £91,307, and the length is 41 miles 63 chains. It finishes at Aria Homestead.”

⁶⁸ Sydney Mail. 17th July 1897, p128.



Above: The northern end of portion 1, along with parts of portions 31 and 32, as sold to James Griffin in April 1912. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

A part of the holding was resumed by the Commissioner of Railways in April 1916.⁶⁹ The property was transmitted to Annie Griffin, a widow of Beckom, in March 1922.⁷⁰

Following Annie's death the property passed to her daughters – Alice Gertrude Griffin [later O'Callaghan], and Agnes Griffin.⁷¹ In January 1975 the property was transferred to Leo Michael Griffin.⁷²

Current title is DP.1.657628

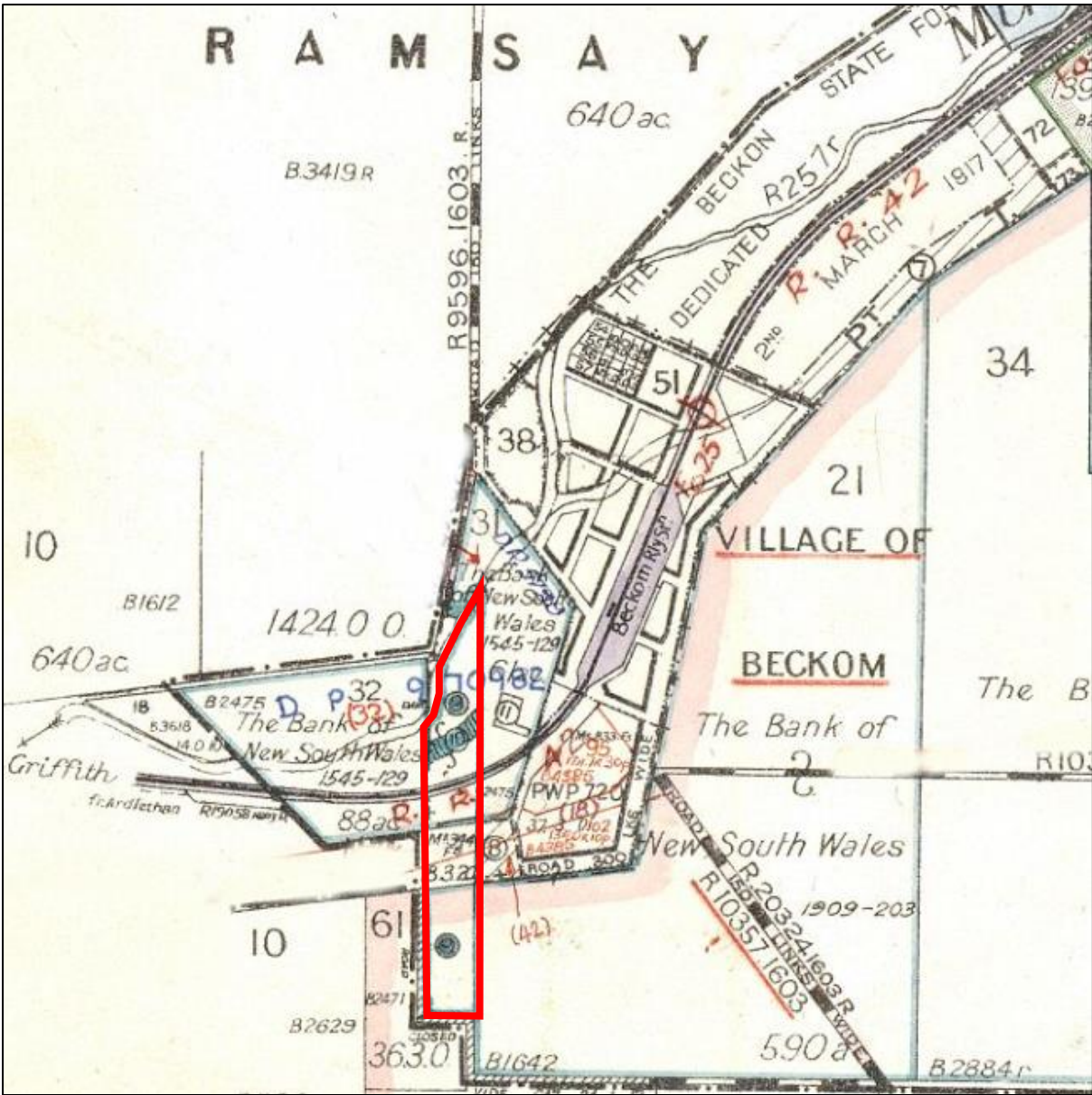
END

⁶⁹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2241, folio 130.

⁷⁰ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2771, folio 21. / Volume 3294, folio 209.

⁷¹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 3294, folios 213 & 215. / Volume 8439, folios 197 & 198.

⁷² NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 12967, folio 131.

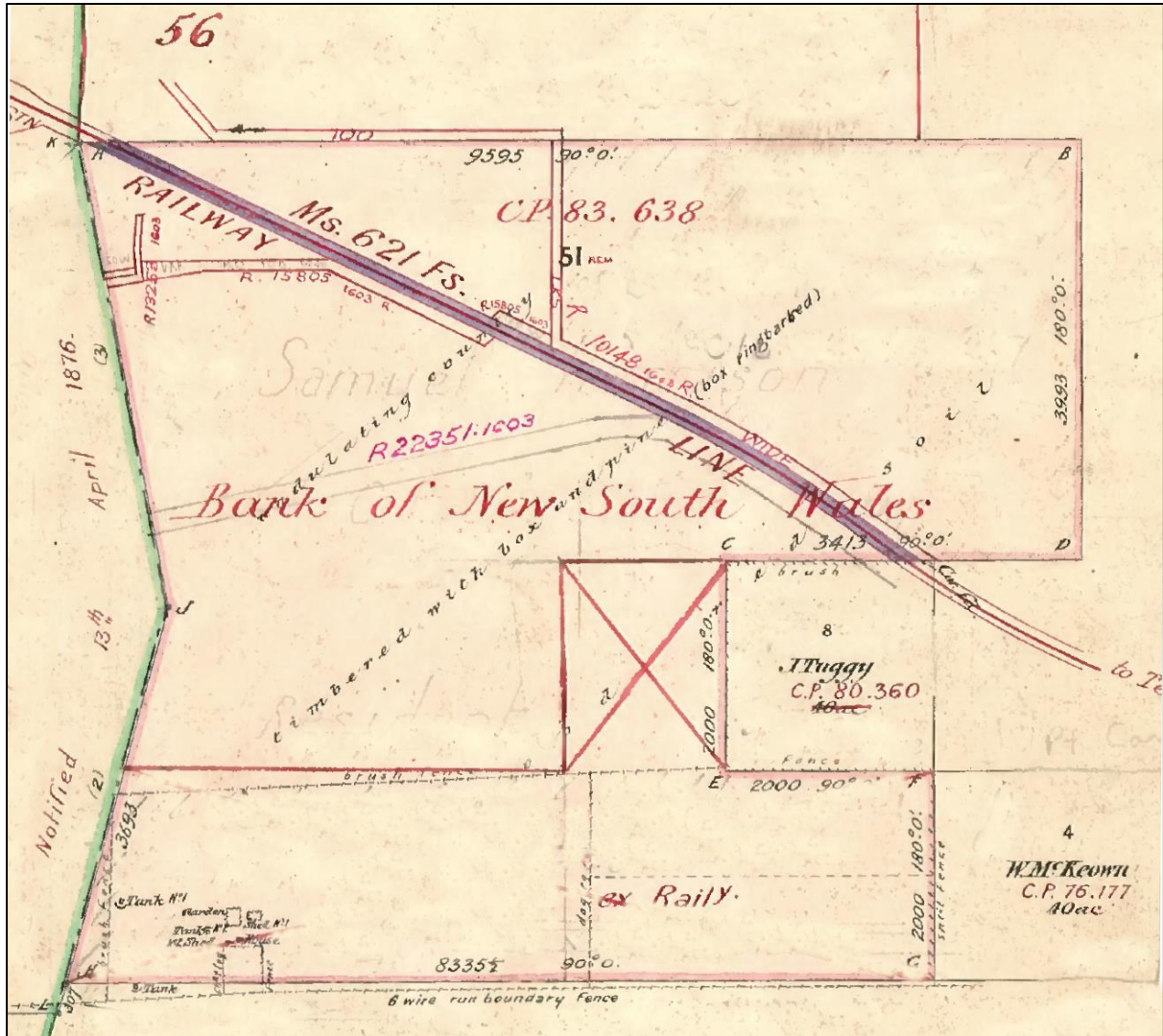


Above: Extract from parish map showing portion 1 [highlighted in red], next to the village of Beckom. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

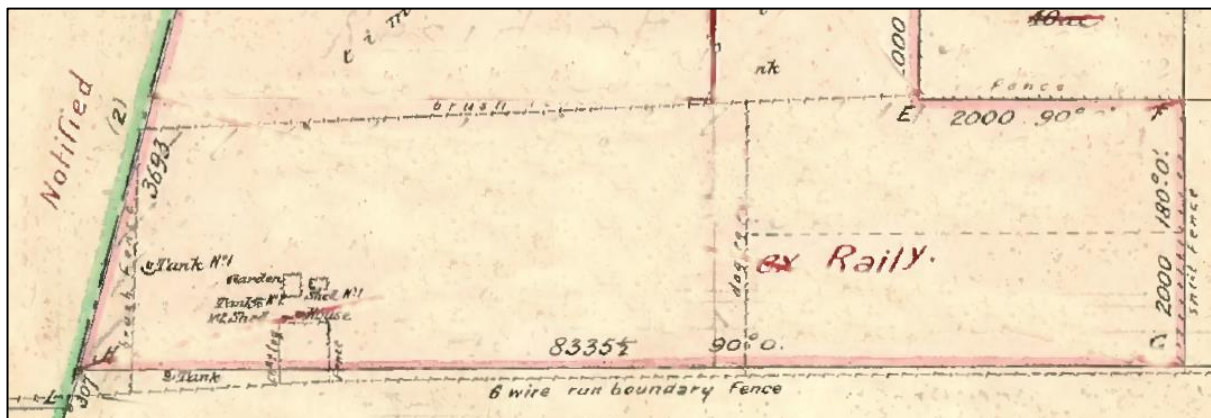
**ARIAH
PARK
HOMESTEAD**

Ariah Park Homestead

Sam Harrison built his Ariah Park homestead on portion 51, in the parish of Mandamah, to the south of the Ariah Park village [CP.83.638]. This is the same portion on which the Ariah Park hotel was built.

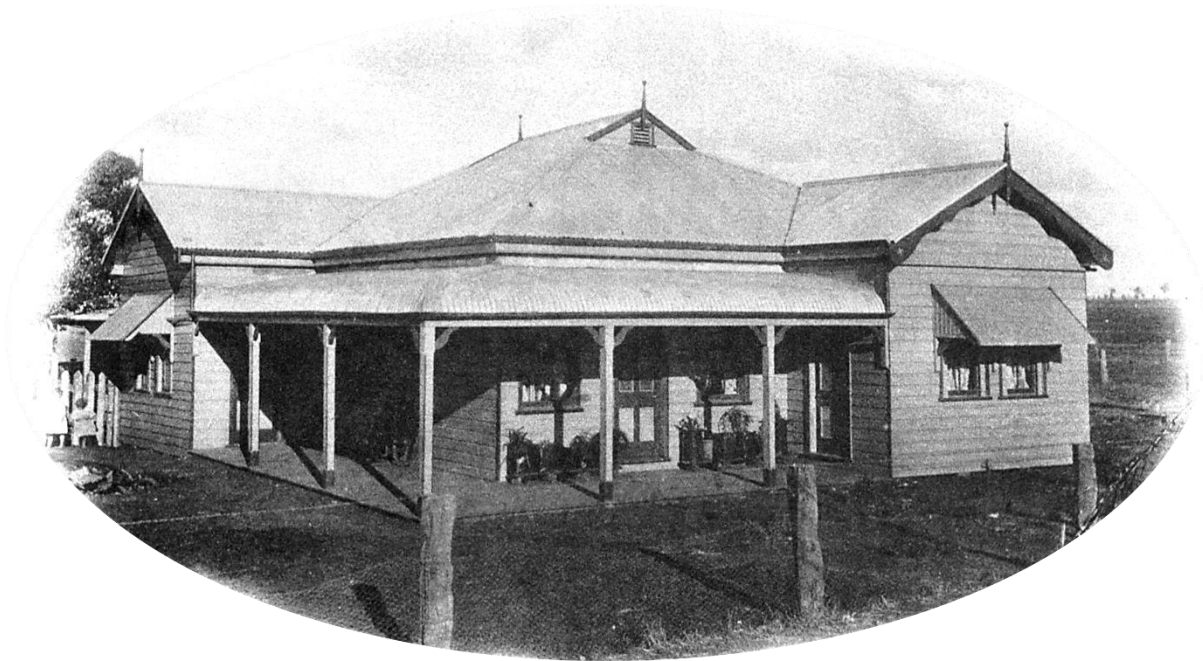


Above & Below: Extracts from 1884 Crown Plan [# 1391.1806] showing location of Harrison's homestead on portion 51, within the Bungumbil Run. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.



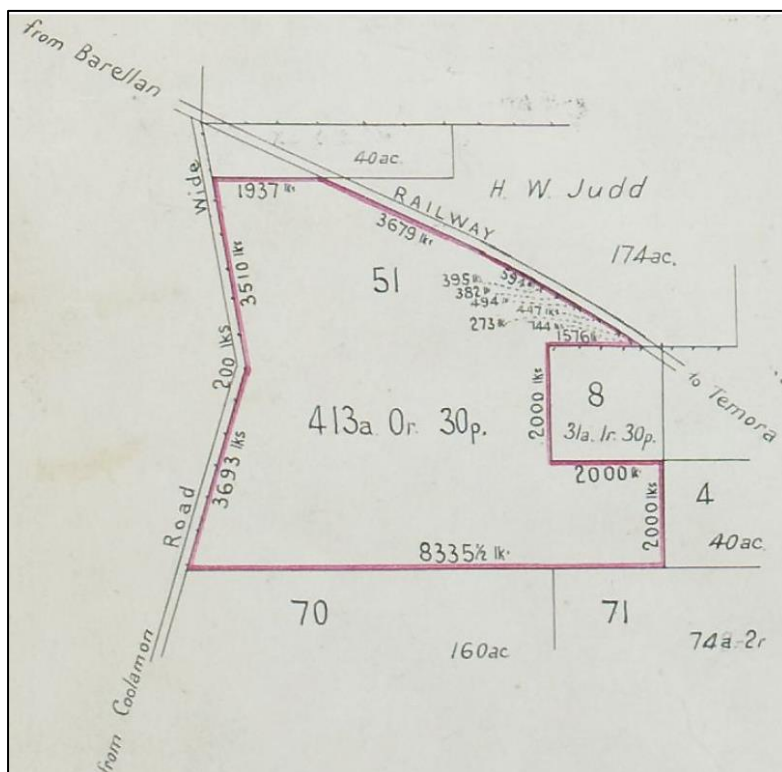


Above: A contemporary aerial view showing the former location of Sam Harrison’s Ariah Park Station homestead.



Above: Ariah Park homestead. Courtesy Ariah Park Community Project Committee.

On the 6th November 1908 Harrison sold the lower piece of portion 51 to Arthur Henry Judd. The land had an area of four hundred and thirteen acres and thirty perches and included the homestead.⁷³ Harrison had sold the land to the north of the railway line to Arthur's brother, HW Judd.



Left: The piece of portion 51 purchased by Arthur Henry Judd in 1908. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

Judd sold off several pieces of the land but retained the majority, up until September 1911 when he conveyed the residue to Frederick Thomas Judd, a farmer of Ariah Park.⁷⁴

Not traced past this point in time.

Current title: DP.157.750852

Prior title: Volume 15414, folio 185.

⁷³ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 1920, folio 207.

⁷⁴ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2142, folio 175.



Above & Below: Aria Park homestead in October 1976. Since destroyed. Courtesy Aria Park Community Project Committee.



**EARLY
HOTELS
AT
QUANDARY
AND
BROKEN DAM**

The First Hotels

The genesis of a village at Aria Park started with the construction of the railway line from Temora to Barellan. By July 1906 wheat was being loaded out of the new Aria Park siding,⁷⁵ and this part of the line was officially opened to the public on the 6th November 1906.⁷⁶ The line through to Barellan was completed in November 1908.⁷⁷

Aria Park, as we know it today, evolved from 1903, by which time the first businesses were established in the vicinity of the railway siding. Aria Park village was proclaimed on the 13th November 1907.⁷⁸

When the line through to Barellan was opened in November 1908, there were three stores at Aria Park along with one hotel, a police station, and a number of houses.⁷⁹

Before the establishment of Aria Park village there were two hotels in the vicinity - to the north and north-east of the future town - both on the southern side of the Merool Creek. The first at a location known as Quandary, and the second at a location known as Broken Dam.



Above: An aerial view showing the location of the three hotel sites. Courtesy Google Earth.

⁷⁵ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 24th July 1906, p2.

⁷⁶ Sydney Morning Herald. 1st November 1906, p2.

⁷⁷ Sydney Morning Herald. 19th November 1908, p7.

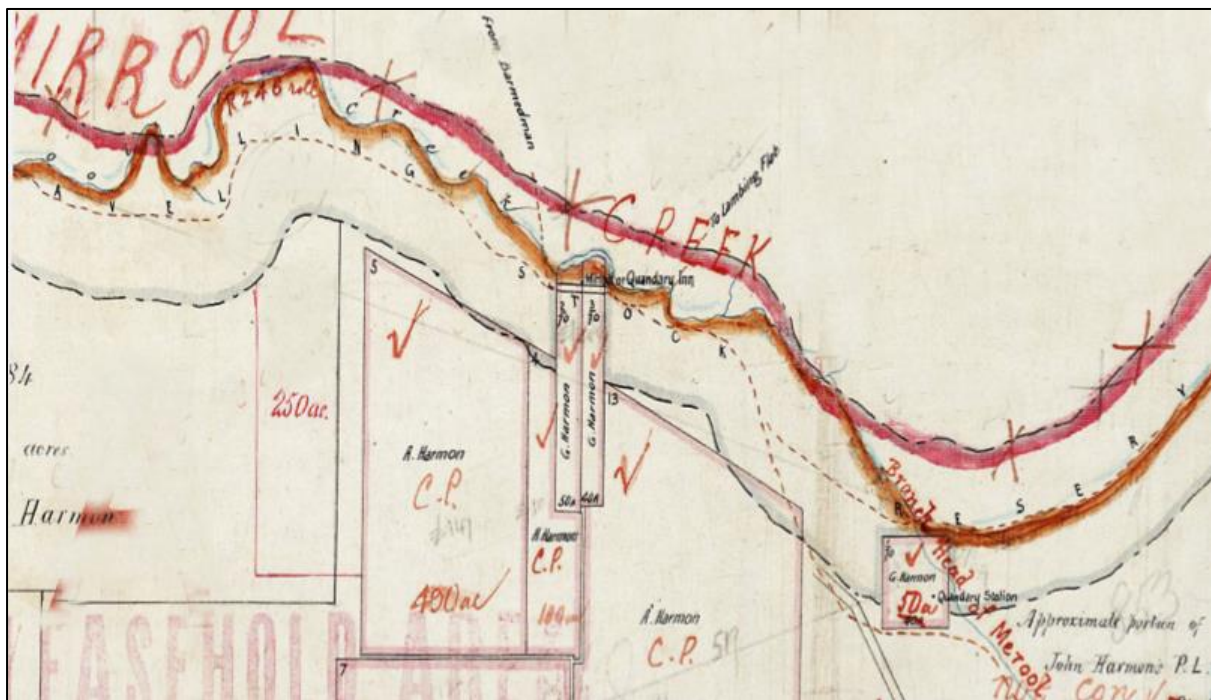
⁷⁸ NSW Government Gazette. 13th November 1907, p6274.

⁷⁹ Sydney Morning Herald. 19th November 1908, p7.

Quandary - Freehold

The hotel at Quandary was located on portion 2, in the parish of Quandary.

Portion 2 had an area of 50 acres and was purchased from the crown on the 26th September 1872, by George Harmon of Quandary Run, for the sum of fifty pounds.⁸⁰ The format was “*purchase of improved crown lands.*” George also purchased the adjoining portion, # 3 [see volume 147, folio 173], at the same time.



Above: Map of Quandary South Run, showing location of Harmon’s Quandary Station homestead block [portion 1], and Harmon’s portion 2, which featured the “*Mirrool Creek or Quandary Inn*”. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services. Historic maps.

According to Speirs, George Harmon built a slab homestead, with a shingle roof on his Quandary Run c.1860, and he dammed the creek just west of that location in the same year.⁸¹

In 1862 Sir Frederick Pottinger called at the homestead, having captured Harry Manns and Charlie Gilbert. After leaving the homestead the escort was attacked allowing the two bushrangers to escape.⁸²

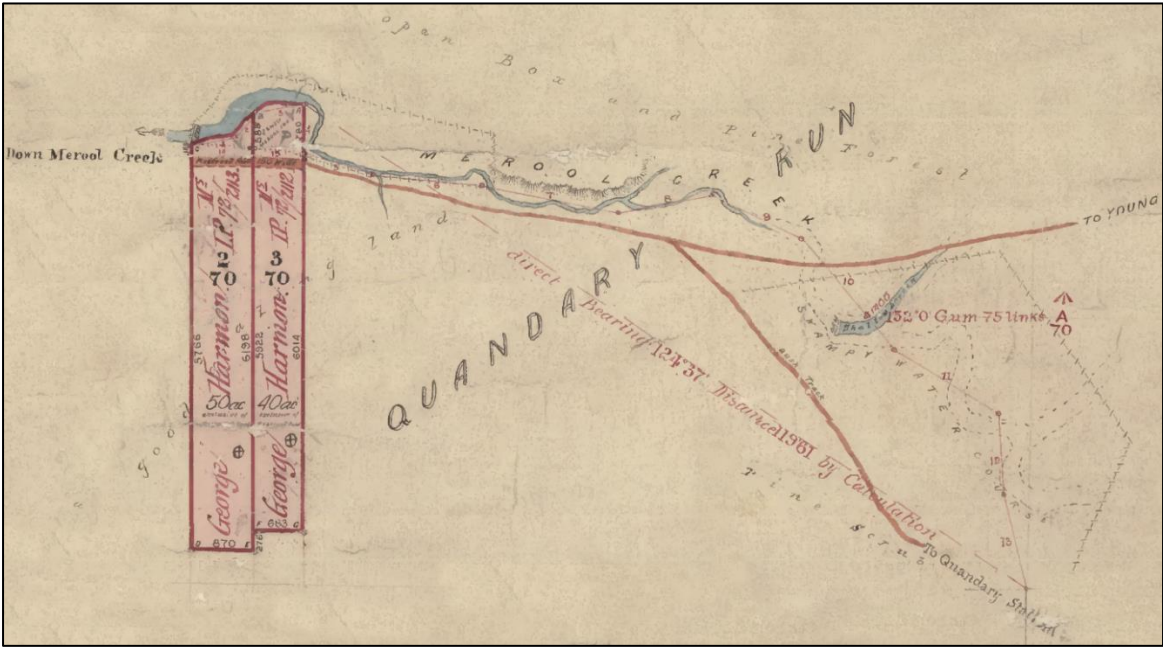
In 1869 George moved to his new homestead on portion 1,⁸³ and the old homestead became a hotel – the Merool Creek Inn.

⁸⁰ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 147, folio 172.

⁸¹ Bill Speirs. *The Beehive and the Broken Dam*. 1987. ‘p3.

⁸² Sydney Morning Herald. 22nd July 1862, p3.

⁸³ Bill Speirs. *The Beehive and the Broken Dam*. 1987. ‘p3.



Above: Extract from 1870 crown plan showing location of the Merool Creek Inn spread across portions 2 & 3, in the parish of Quandary. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.



Above: A contemporary aerial view showing the locations of the Merool Creek Inn [aka Quandary Inn], and George Harmon's original Quandary Station block. Courtesy Google Earth.

On the 11th June 1885, the hotel property was transferred to Annie Harmon, a hotel keeper of the Merool Creek.⁸⁴

Less than three years later, on the 31st December 1888, the property was transferred to John Francis Walker, a grazier of Quandary.⁸⁵ Walker, described as a publican of Quandary, combined portions 2 & 3 under the one title.⁸⁶

Another three years later, on the 18th December 1891, Walker conveyed the holdings to Thomas McCawley, a farmer of Merool Creek [and mortgagee].⁸⁷

Other transactions to follow were,⁸⁸

1893, 27th February – Conveyance to William Preston, hotel keeper of Merool Creek.

Important Subdivision
— OF —
Quandary Township
To be held on
WEDNESDAY, Sep 14th
commencing at 12 30 p.m
MILLER and JAMES, under in-
structions from the owner will
sell by Public Auction on the Ground
(adjoining Quandary Railway Station)
on the above date
**114 Splendid Building Allot-
ments**
Comprised in the township of Quandary
TERMS: One fifth cash on the fall of
the hammer; two fifths on March
1st 1911; two fifths on March 1st
1912. Unpaid balance to bear in-
terest at the rate of 5 per cent per
annum
The auctioneers would draw special
attention to this attractive subdivision
as Quandary is already one of the most
important stations on the Temora-Barell
lan line. The rapid progress of the dis-
trict assures a speedy increase in the
value of these allotments
For lithos and particulars app'y to—
MILLER and JAMES,
AUCTIONEER,
Temora.

1920, 20th October – Conveyance from William Preston to Harriet Hannah Harmon, a widow of Temora.

1934, 7th April – Conveyance from Harriet to Norman Donald Preston, a farmer of Quandary.

It appears that Preston was still the legal owner in May 1969 when the deed was converted to a new title, volume 11057, folio 24.

Current plan is DP.2.750859 > Volume 11057, folio 24

Left: Sale of town allotments in September 1910.⁸⁹

⁸⁴ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 147, folio 172.

⁸⁵ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 147, folio 172.

⁸⁶ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 1044, folio 42.

⁸⁷ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 1044, folio 42.

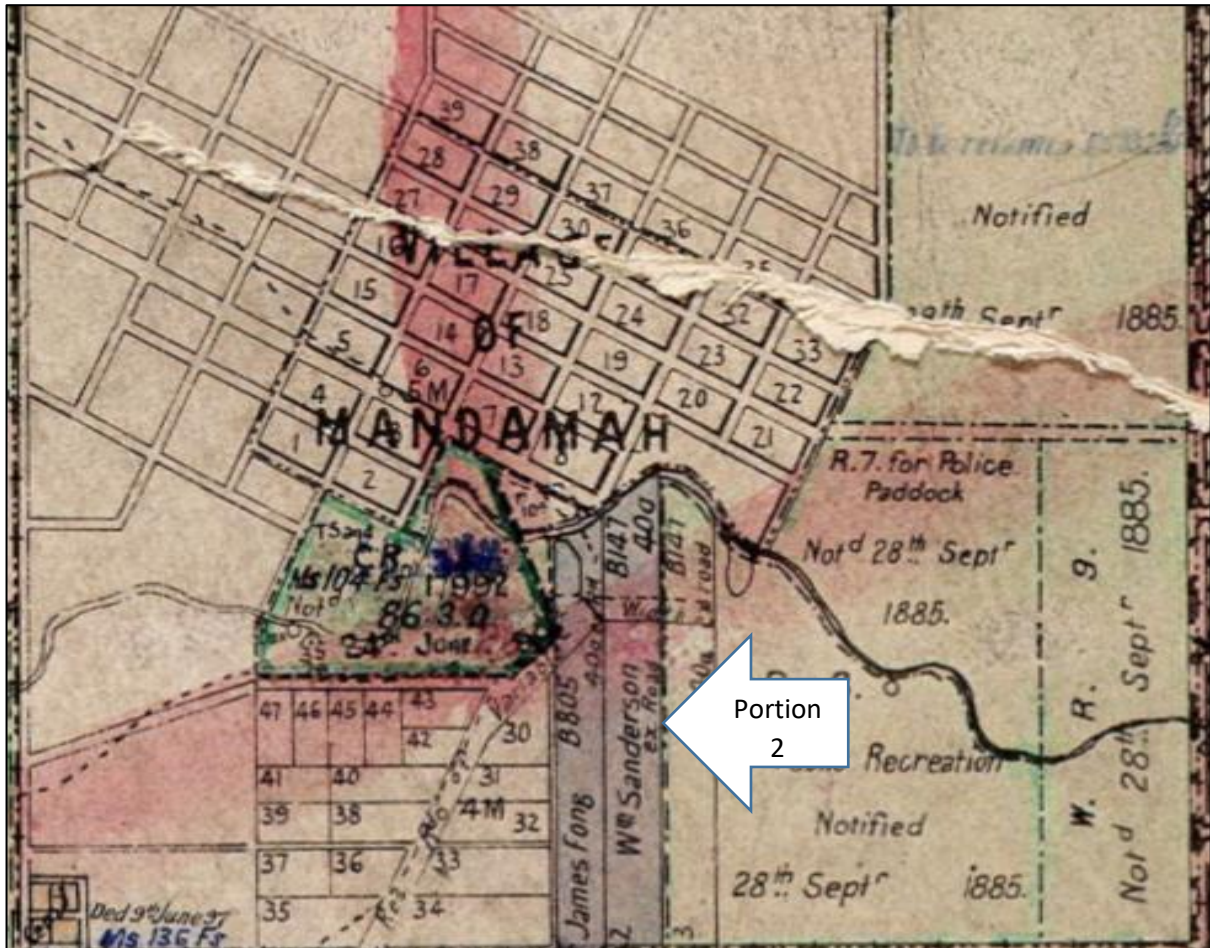
⁸⁸ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 1044, folio 42.

⁸⁹ Wyalong Advocate. 31st August 1910, p3.

Broken Dam - Freehold

The hotel at the Broken Dam was located on portion 2, in the parish of Mandamah.

Portion 2 had an area of 40 acres and was purchased from the crown on the 11th April 1872, by William Sanderson, for the sum of forty pounds. The format was “*conditional sale without competition*,”⁹⁰ and it assumed that William and his brothers had occupied the land since 1868 or earlier.



Above: Extract from parish map, showing location of portion 2, and the layout for the village of Mandamah. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services. Historic parish maps.

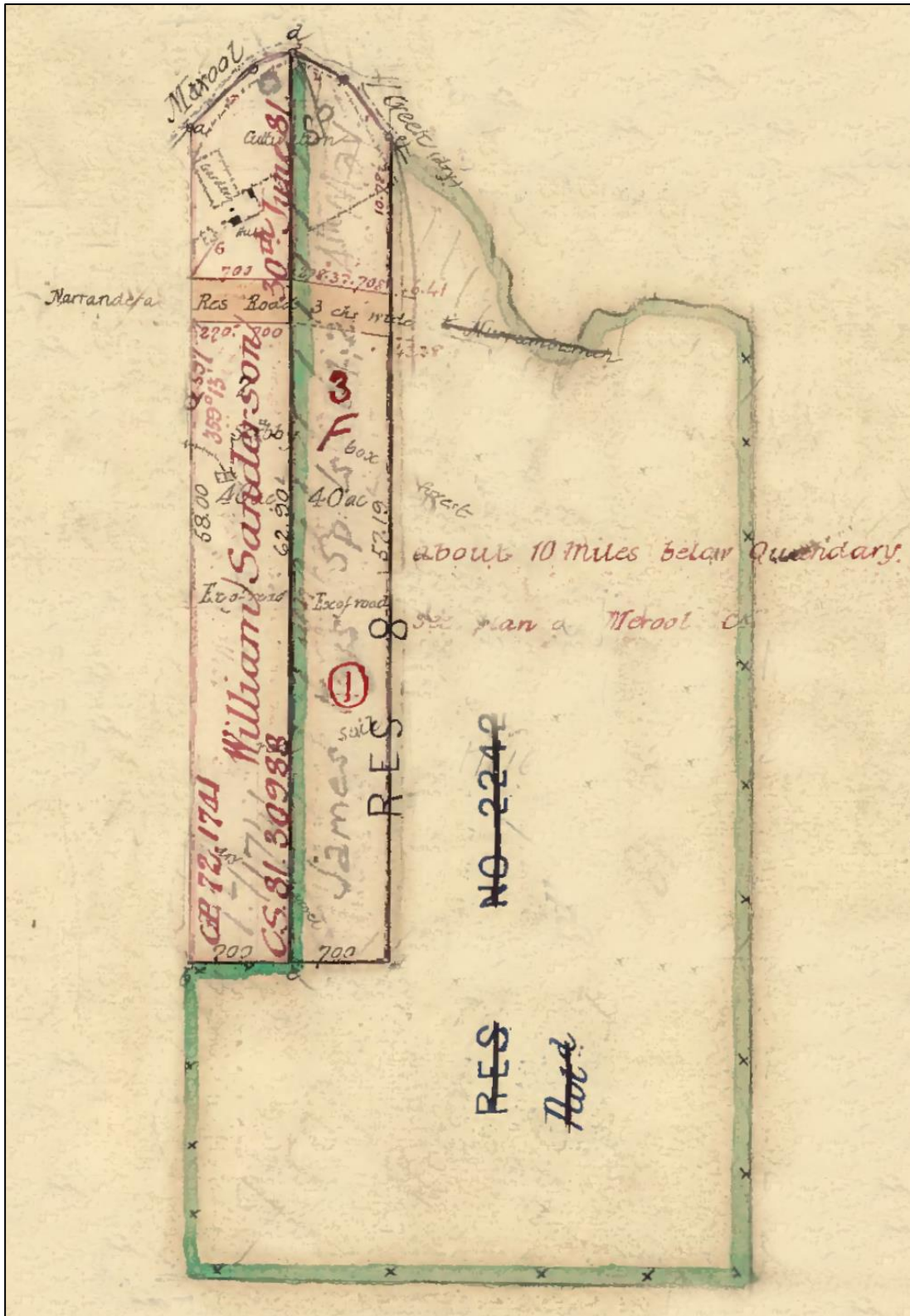
The road originally cut through portions 2, 3 & 5 [each a forty-acre lot]. Portion 5 was purchased by James Fong. The Beehive hotel was located on the northern side of the road through portion 2. This road can be seen in the old parish maps [Mandamah].

The village of Mandamah, and the associated suburban lands, were gazetted in September 1885,⁹¹ and some allotments were put up for sale,⁹² but it appears that no businesses or houses were ever erected on any of these lots.

⁹⁰ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 569, folio 236.

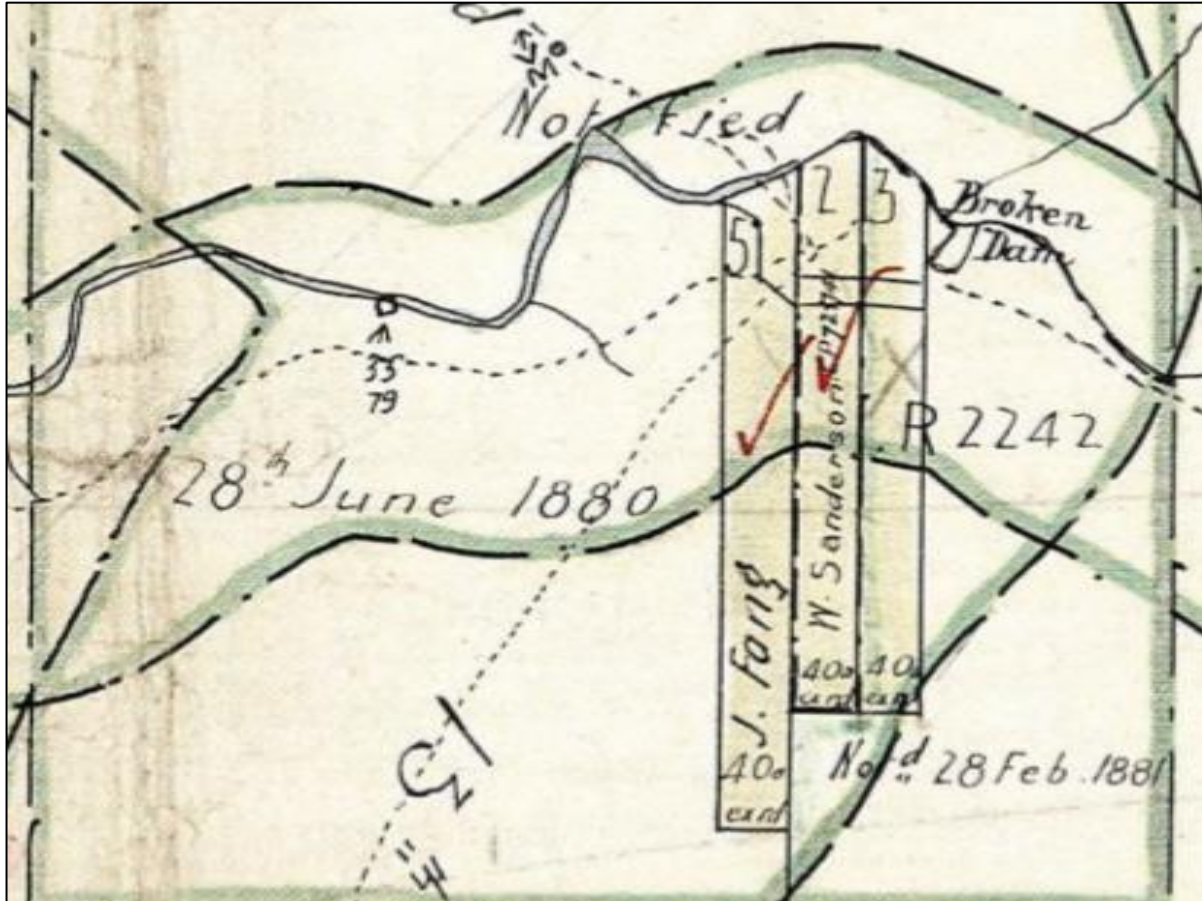
⁹¹ Government Gazette. 1885, p6313.

⁹² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 14th September 1886, p4.



Above: Extract from 1872 crown plan showing infrastructure on portion 2, parish of Mandamah, and the reserve [# 2242] to the east. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

By 1903, with the extension of the railway line from Temora to Aria Park well under way, the government revoked a number of reserves that had been gazetted back in 1885, within the village of Mandamah. These had been originally reserved for a school, and other public purposes.⁹³ The government had clearly acknowledged that the development of a village at this location was no longer a realistic outcome.



Above: Extract from an early pastoral map of the Bungumbil Run, showing Sanderson’s portion 2 [parish of Mandamah] within the boundaries of that run. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services. Historic Pastoral Maps.

On the 2nd August 1885, William transferred the property [portion 2] to Thomas Peadon, a farmer of Broken Dam, near Wagga Wagga [not so near!].⁹⁴

Peadon held the title for eighteen years [up until the time when the Temora-Barellan railway line was being laid] at which time he sold the property to Duncan Cruikshank, a farmer of Barmedman.⁹⁵

Owners to follow were,⁹⁶

1909, 31st August – James Keys, a labourer of Broken Dam.

⁹³ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 23rd June 1903, p4.

⁹⁴ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 569, folio 236.

⁹⁵ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 569, folio 236.

⁹⁶ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 569, folio 236.

1924, 8th March – Conveyance from Keys to Jane Heydon, a spinster of Aria Park.

1951, 28th May – James Stephen Clarke, a mine owner of Aria Park, and James Richard Keys, a mine owner of Gibsonvale, were now joint owners of the property.

1951, 21st November – Conveyance from Clarke and Keys to William Smith Clarke, a farmer and grazier of Aria Park.



Above: A contemporary aerial view, showing the location of the Beehive hotel [aka Merool hotel and Bushman's hotel], and Fong's general store. Courtesy Google Earth.

Post 1951 the land was converted to a new title and the subsequent conveyances were as follows,⁹⁷

1954, 9th April – Conveyance from William Clarke to Albert Edgar Judd, a farmer and grazier of Aria Park.

1972, 13th June – Marie Judd, a married woman, was now the legal owner of the property.

1972, 30th December – The property was owned by Glenn Elwyn Weise [one fourth share], his wife, Suzanne Daphne Weise [one fourth share], and Bruce Milton Weise [one half share].

1982, 14th December – Old deed cancelled and new edition issued [auto folio]. Current title is DP.2.750852

Current plan is DP.2.750852 > volume 9394, folio 225.

⁹⁷ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 6855, folio 115.

The Hotels

The Merool Creek Inn [aka Quandary Inn] [1868-1895]

The first hotel at either of the aforementioned locations was the Merool Creek Inn, on portion 2, in the parish of Quandary. This hotel was first licensed to John Henry Levett on the 17th November 1868, by the Wagga Wagga bench. The evidence presented to the bench was that a public house was sorely needed in this district. The police had no objections and with Frederick Chisholm and George McDonald, Esquires, testifying to his [Levett's] good character, there was no hesitation in issuing the license.⁹⁸

Henry, who had come from Mandamar [county Bland], advertised his new hotel at Quandary in October 1868, advising that he had erected a spacious and comfortable house to be known as the Merool Creek Inn, which he proposed opening on Friday the 13th November 1868. He expressed his wish that the inn would become known as, "*the house which no one passes without a call.*"⁹⁹

Henry's reign came to an end on the 23rd April 1870, when he drowned in the Merool Creek. One report claimed that he was, "*suffering severely from the effects of drink,*" and that he was seen by his wife and children, sitting on the bank of the creek. When his children approached, he got up and walked into the creek, which was quite deep as a consequence of the recent rains. His wife and children watched as he struggled before sinking below the surface. He left a family of eight children, the eldest of whom was fourteen years old.¹⁰⁰

His widow, Flora, took offence at the report and sent a letter to the editor claiming that Henry had been attempting to swim to the other side of the creek where his children were when he drowned and that he had not committed suicide, but rather had made every effort to escape the waters.¹⁰¹

When the license was renewed for the period from the 1st July 1871 till the 30th June 1872, it was in the name of Henry Levett, who had been deceased for over twelve months.¹⁰² Shortly afterwards, in September 1871, the license was transferred to his widow, Flora Levett.¹⁰³ In the following year it was Flora who renewed the license.¹⁰⁴

John Henry Levett [Lovatt, Lovett, Lovat]

John Henry [Harry] Levett, was born at Bungonia, on the 24th December 1833,¹⁰⁵ the son of John Henry and Abigail Levett. His father was residing on Grogan in November 1852, when he cautioned any one against purchasing any stock branded J-L from his son, John Henry Levett.¹⁰⁶

John Henry Levett married Flora McDonald at Goulburn on the 17th April 1854.¹⁰⁷ This would be the same John Levett that was licensee of the Bangus Inn at the Adelong Crossing Place [Tumblong] in

⁹⁸ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 18th November 1868, p2.

⁹⁹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 31st October 1868, p3.

¹⁰⁰ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 27th April 1870, p2.

¹⁰¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 14th May 1870, p2.

¹⁰² NSW Government Gazette. Publicans' Licenses. 1871, p1964.

¹⁰³ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 2nd September 1871, p2.

¹⁰⁴ NSW Government Gazette. Publicans' Licenses. 1872, p2421.

¹⁰⁵ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 951/1833 V1833951 18.

¹⁰⁶ Goulburn Herald. 27th November 1852, p6.

¹⁰⁷ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 80/1854 V185480 100.

1854.¹⁰⁸ He was still there in 1855, and in addition to the hotel business, was trading in gold.¹⁰⁹ In December 1857, John Henry Levett took over the license of the Adelong Inn, from Lawrence Roach.¹¹⁰

The couple had eight children and when Henry drowned in April 1870,¹¹¹ his eldest child, John, was sixteen years old and his youngest, Vine, was only four years old.

Flora held the license up until 1877. When it fell due in June that year it was renewed in the name of George Harmon.

Flora Levett died in 1903, at Wyalong.¹¹² She was the daughter of John and Catherine McDonald.

George Harmon

George Harmon passed away on the 19th January 1882,¹¹³ and the license was subsequently transferred to his wife Annie Harmon.¹¹⁴ George Harmon was born in England c.1831, and subsequently immigrated to Australia. He married Annie Macauley at Yass, on the 9th December 1858,¹¹⁵ and shortly after that the couple settled on the Merool Creek.

Annie Harmon organised a race meeting to come off on the 4th November 1882, which proved fatal for one itinerant worker. Alfred Paton had been working on Cunningham's *Gildary Station* during the shearing spell but was heading elsewhere when he called in to enjoy the day's festivities at the hotel. He agreed to ride one of the horses belonging to Mr O Roberts of Lower Tarcutta, in a race, but his horse ran off the track and ran him into a tree smashing his [Paton's] ribs and piercing his lungs. He was taken to the Temora hospital in a wagonette but died soon after arriving at that place.¹¹⁶

The racetrack was immediately opposite the Quandary hotel.¹¹⁷

Annie held the license for the next seven years, up until 1889, when it was transferred to Francis Walker.¹¹⁸

The Quandary Inn

In 1884 Annie changed the name of the hotel to the Quandary Inn.¹¹⁹ This change occurred in the same year that a court case was settled over the sale of the northern half of the Quandary Run to John Armour of Cocopara Station. Annie had overseen the sale, as administrator of her late husband's estate, in August 1883. The two parties had a disagreement over the sale brought about

¹⁰⁸ Goulburn Herald. 1st July 1854, p1c1.

¹⁰⁹ Goulburn Herald. 13th January 1855, p1c5.

¹¹⁰ Gundagai Bench Books. 8th December 1857.

¹¹¹ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 6105.

¹¹² Temora Star. 27th May 1903, p3. / NSW BDM's. Death registration # 8554.

¹¹³ Sydney Morning Herald. 22nd August 1885, p5.

¹¹⁴ NSW Government Gazette. Publicans' Licenses. 1882, p4752.

¹¹⁵ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 2984.

¹¹⁶ Temora Star. 8th November 1882, p2.

¹¹⁷ Temora Star. 1st November 1882, p2c6.

¹¹⁸ NSW Government Gazette. Publicans' Licenses. 1889, p5568.

¹¹⁹ NSW Government Gazette. Publicans' Licenses. 1884, p5895.

by the fact that some 10,000 acres of conditionally purchased lands and pre-lease lands had been taken up after the sale and a portion of these had been sold. Armour had subsequently declined to go ahead with the purchase. The matter went to arbitration to determine the value of the lands sold to Armour. Armour disputed the original price of £1,800 and the arbitrators' decision, after hearing both sides' evidence, was to value the land at £650.¹²⁰ Annie retained Quandary South, for some years after this.¹²¹ In 1886, she registered 1,000 sheep on the run.¹²²



Above: The former Quandary Inn building as it was in the mid 1890's, when it served as William Preston's *Quandary North* homestead. Courtesy Mr Lin Walker.¹²³

Annie appears to have been a capable businesswoman, settling the estate, selecting additional lands, managing the farm, conducting the hotel, and all the while raising a family on her own.¹²⁴

Annie Harmon

In June 1886 Annie appeared in court charged with having her licensed premises open for business on Sunday 13th of that month. Annie admitted the bar door was open but explained that the only entries into the bar were the front door and a door from her bedroom. She was compelled to keep the bar door open in order to allow entry by the travelling public. The police magistrate, Mr Baker,

¹²⁰ Albury Banner. 12th September 1884, p21. / Sydney Morning Herald. 5th September 1884, p8.

¹²¹ Albury Banner. 20th May 1887, p27.

³⁶ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 27th February 1886, p2.

¹²³ Bill Speirs. *The Beehive and the Broken Dam*. 1987, p4.

¹²⁴ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 1st June 1889, p4.

declared, from personal knowledge, that there was not a more respectable hotel in the colony and applied a nominal fine of 10s.¹²⁵

Quandary Station was up for sale by public auction on the 18th March 1893, on account of Annie. The property consisted of 3,730 acres of CP land, 4,045 acres of CL land, and 3,919 acres of leasehold land.

The following description was provided,¹²⁶

“All first-class Wheat Land, within nine miles of Temora, where the railway is nearly completed. All beautiful open country interspersed with clumps of box and pine, and splendidly grassed land, carrying a sheep to the acre. The fencing is all new, being 6 wires, and divided into 10 Paddocks and watered by 5 tanks and 4 dams. There is a good Homestead and Garden, and all necessary outbuildings. Two sets of Drafting Yards, also Cattle and Horse Yard. A Wool Shed for six shearers, and a second comfortable Homestead on the back of the run. 200 acres have been cleared for the plough. Yield for portion cultivated this season 20 bushels to the acre. The property is wonderfully compact, easily workable, and the whole could be cleared for a small sum per acre, as all is ring-barked, except shade trees.”

The property did not sell in 1893 and Annie put it up for auction again a year later, on the 8th February 1894.¹²⁷ It was 1899 before the property was eventually sold and Annie moved the family to Temora to live.¹²⁸

In 1901, Annie was granted an old age pension.¹²⁹

In December 1913 Annie was burning some rubbish in her back yard [Temora] when her clothes caught fire causing serious burns to her body, which resulted in her death at the age of 84.¹³⁰

When the license fell due in June 1889, it was renewed in the name of Francis Walker,¹³¹ who had taken over from Annie Harmon.

Frank Walker held the license for three years up until 1892, when he was succeeded by William Preston as the licensee of the *Quandary* hotel.¹³²

In February 1893 Preston's eldest daughter was sitting on the verandah of the hotel when she was bitten by a black snake just above her ankle. A ligature was applied, and the wound was cut and sucked. She was placed in a buggy for transport to the hospital at Temora but had not gone far when the wheel of the vehicle ran into a deep rut, causing the horse to bolt and smash the pole. By the time the young lady reached Temora she had collapsed. The doctor administered strychnine, and it took a second dose of same to have an effect. Although weakened by the ordeal she was soon on the way to recovery.¹³³

¹²⁵ Cootamundra Herald. 3rd July 1886, p6.

¹²⁶ Wagga Wagga Express. 7th March 1893, p3.

¹²⁷ Wagga Wagga Express. 6th February 1894, p3.

¹²⁸ Albury Banner. 25th December 1913, p2.

¹²⁹ Cootamundra Herald. 17th July 1901, p3.

¹³⁰ Daily Telegraph. 18th December 1913, p10. / Albury Banner. 25th December 1913, p2.

¹³¹ NSW Government Gazette. Publicans' Licenses. 1889, p5568.

¹³² NSW Government Gazette. Publicans' Licenses. 1892, p6671.

¹³³ Wagga Wagga Express. 25th February 1893, p4.

William Preston renewed the license in 1893 and 1894,¹³⁴ but not in 1895. The hotel ceased to trade from that time onwards.

On Sunday the 8th January 1899, the Quandary hotel, which was, by then, the residence of Mr Preston, was completely destroyed by fire between 1am and 2am in the morning. The building was described as “*one of the old land marks of the district*” and said to be commonly referred to as “*Little George’s hotel*.”¹³⁵

William Preston

William Preston was born in England, in February 1843, and immigrated to Australia in 1863, as a single man. He married Elizabeth Ann Parr at Moama [NSW], in November 1869,¹³⁶ and the couple had eleven children. The last three of these, including twins, all died in infancy.

When his second son, William Carter Preston was born, in December 1876, the birth took place at *Moira Farm*, Moama.¹³⁷ William [senior] had selected 300 acres of land on *Moira Farm* in 1874.¹³⁸

On the 12th July 1882, three of William’s children set off to school – Mary Eleanor, Louisa, and William [junior]. On the way they passed the residence of Henry Tester, a young man who had been working for William for about a month. Mary testified that she threw a stick at the house as they walked by and that after they passed Tester ran out with an axe and struck her little sister Louisa on the head. Mary and William ran back home. Tester followed them for a way and then went back to his house. Louisa was taken to the Echuca Hospital where she subsequently died. Tester was arrested and charged with murder. Tester’s only explanation for his actions was that William [senior] had told him a lie.¹³⁹

In court, William [senior] confirmed that he was a farmer, residing at *Moira*, some fourteen miles from Moama. He testified that Tester had been employed by him clearing off and burning timber and that the axe used in the attack was his [William’s]. Louisa’s mother broke down while giving evidence and had to be excused.

In April 1887, William Preston sold his lands at *Moira*, by public auction, along with the stock and farming equipment.¹⁴⁰

He held the license of the Quandary hotel from 1892 to 1895.

By January 1894, William Preston was farming at Quandary [North Quandary].¹⁴¹ William was still a land holder at Quandary in 1907.¹⁴²

¹³⁴ NSW Government Gazettes. Publicans’ Licenses. 1893 [p6442], 1894 [p5352].

¹³⁵ Sydney Morning Herald. 10th January 1899, p5.

¹³⁶ NSW BDM’s. Marriage registration # 2744.

¹³⁷ Riverine Herald. 28th December 1876, p2.

¹³⁸ Riverine Herald. 20th June 1874, p2.

¹³⁹ Riverine Herald. 20th July 1882, p3.

¹⁴⁰ Riverine Herald. 13th April 1887, p3.

¹⁴¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 13th January 1894, p3. / 22nd May 1894, p4.

¹⁴² Farmer & Settler. 29th November 1907, p8.



William Preston's death took place on the 23rd July 1926, at the age of eighty-five, in a private hospital at Randwick [buried at Temora].¹⁴³ At the time of his death most of William's children lived in the region surrounding Temora. His son George lived on the site of the old Quandary hotel.¹⁴⁴

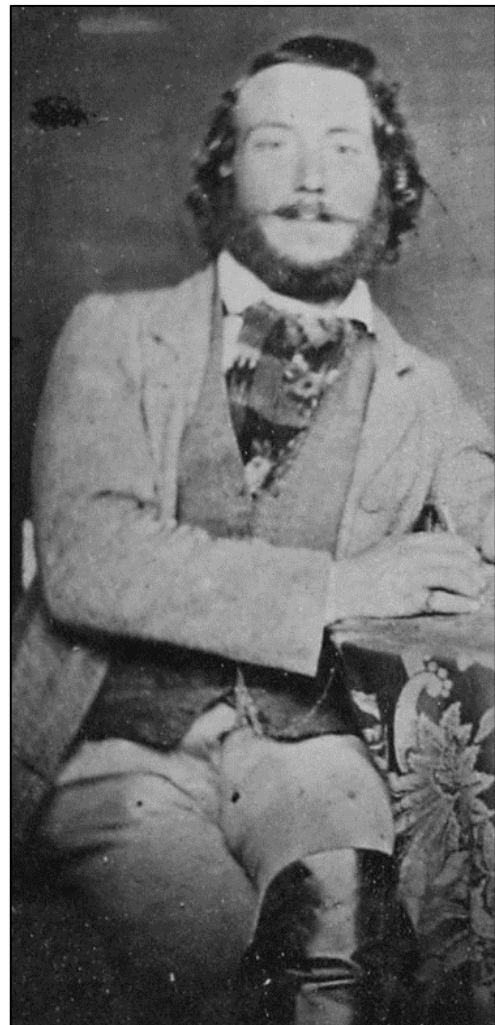
Left: William Preston. Courtesy Jason Telford [Ancestry]

The Eugowra Holdup

In June 1862 a group of bushrangers held up the Eugowra Gold Escort and stole gold worth fourteen thousand pounds. A small group, consisting of Sir Frederick Pottinger, Mr RB Mitchell [the son of Sir Thomas Mitchell], and detective Lyons, took off in search of the thieves. On Tuesday 8th July they reached the "*Marool station*" some seventeen miles from Narandera, where they came across three of the bushrangers and captured two, along with a quantity of the stolen gold. The group of three, along with their prisoners, subsequently camped at the *Quandary station*, another thirty five miles to the east. On Wednesday 9th July, as they travelled further east, the group was attacked and overwhelmed by Johnny Gilbert and three other bushrangers resulting in the rescue of the two prisoners by their fellow bushrangers. Pottinger and Mitchell fled the scene and rode to Horatio Beckham's *Narraburra station*, where they waited for assistance before riding on to Forbes, with the recovered gold. The leader of the bushrangers was Frank Gardiner.¹⁴⁵

The Eugowra holdup occurred before the establishment of a hotel at Quandary or Broken Dam.

Right: Frank Gardiner.



¹⁴³ Aria Park News. 29th July 1926, p3. / Daily Telegraph. 24th July 1926, p6.

¹⁴⁴ Aria Park News. 29th July 1926, p3.

¹⁴⁵ Ovens & Murray Advertiser. 31st July 1862, p3. /

The Merool hotel [aka Bushman's Home, Beehive hotel]

There was an application for a publican's license before the Wagga Wagga Court of Petty Sessions in December 1868. The application had been submitted by Robert Sanderson for a house on the Merool Creek on Bungumbel [sic] Station. Sanderson was not at the hearing and his legal representative was unable to proceed with the application due to difficulties he had experienced in communicating with Sanderson. The matter had been before the court on several previous occasions,¹⁴⁶ and as a consequence the bench refused to give a further extension.¹⁴⁷ It may well have been a fact that Sanderson was residing in the building and selling alcoholic fluids without a license. The Wagga Wagga Express noted in April 1869, that there was no magistrate residing in the district and it was a ride of seventy, eighty, or a hundred miles to secure a constable.¹⁴⁸ It could also have been that Sanderson was busy with farming activities and that he was not yet ready to conduct a hotel. The fact that a hotel had been established at Quandary may also have influenced Sanderson not to open a hotel.

In February 1869 some areas of the Riverina received a good rainfall while others were not so fortunate. George Harmon, who was located at the head of the Merool Creek did not record any significant fall nor did Mr Levett at the Merool Creek Inn but Mr Welman's dam, known as the Broken Dam, was filled.¹⁴⁹ There was no mention of a hotel at the Broken Dam.

Later, in September 1869, the Wagga Wagga bench issued a publican's license to Robert Sanderson for the Merool hotel located at Merool Creek.¹⁵⁰

Drought conditions existed in 1868 and early into 1869. The conditions can be judged by the following report in the Wagga press,

"Anyone contemplating a trip to the Merool and the back country, should do three things - insure his life, make his will, and lay in a good supply from that inestimable institution - Forsyth's pump. A gentleman who has just returned from a tour, not in search of the picturesque, in these parts has given us the following notes of his journey which will be read with interest. Beyond Mr. McPherson's Temora run there is little or no water. The whole of the stations out back are deserted by all stock, and the only residents to be seen are single men at each station in charge, who got their supply of water from the remains left in the tanks, or carry it some twenty miles. Mr. Harmon's cattle are all removed to find means of existence at Stockinbingal, the station of Mr. W. O'Brien. Mr. Barnes' cattle have found quarters at Gerildra, the station of Messrs. Allan and Elliott. Mr. Levett, of the Merool Creek Inn, has to carry water for the use of his establishment a distance of fourteen miles. This station is entirely dry, so, also, is Mr. Welman's. Mr. Hume, of Mandemar, was the last to remove his stock, which he did last week.....These sheep have gone towards Burrowa."

On the 11th April 1872, William Sanderson, of Merool Creek, purchased portion 2, in the parish of Mandamah, for the sum of forty pounds.¹⁵¹ It was a conditional sale without competition, and it is believed that Sanderson had been residing on this portion from 1868 onwards, or earlier.

¹⁴⁶ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 17th October 1868, p2.

¹⁴⁷ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 9th December 1868, p2.

¹⁴⁸ Maitland Mercury. 13th April 1869, p4.

¹⁴⁹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 10th February 1869, p2.

¹⁵⁰ NSW Government Gazette. 1869, p1503.

¹⁵¹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 569, folio 236.

From September 1870 to November 1874 there is no record of a hotel at the Broken Dam site, and although it is possible that Sanderson conducted a hotel without a license it is unlikely for that period of time.

In November 1874 the Bushman's Home hotel at the Broken Dam, was licensed, and it is assumed that this was the same building as the former Merool hotel [on portion 2, parish of Mandamar].

Bushman's Home

The Bushman's hotel was first licensed on the 10th November 1874, to Jeremiah Joseph Ryan. It was described as being, "*on the road from Narandera and Cootamundra.*"¹⁵²

At the same time it was announced that Ryan had won the mail contract between Narrandera and Cootamundra. The contract was described as follows,¹⁵³

"Cootamundra and Narandera, via Merool Creek and Comans', twice a week. Contractor to travel alternately by the two routes, viz: To and from Cootamundra and Narandera, via Dacey's, O'Brien's, Comans', Mimosa, Wallaruby, Cowabee, Boree (Flood's), and Medium; and to and from Cootamundra and Narandera, via Dacey's, O'Brien's, Comans', Temora, Quandry, Welman's station, Ramsay and Johnson's station, Bolero, and Medium — Jeremiah J. Kyan [Ryan], horseback, 3 years. £230 per annum."

In April 1875, Ryan testified in a court case, declaring, "*I am a publican at Broken Dam, Merule Creek,*" thereby indicating that the hotel was always located on portion 2, in the parish of Mandamah.¹⁵⁴

On the 9th November 1875, Mary Ann Smith and her husband, John Smith, were camped near the hotel, on the Merool Creek, at Broken Dam, with their two children. The couple were headed for a nearby station. They were both drinking at the hotel in the evening. Her husband was playing cards inside the hotel while Mary Ann was drinking in a private room. Around 1 or 2am in the next morning they returned to the camp and she put the children to bed. Her husband felt ill so Mary Ann went back to the hotel to get some rum or brandy. On her return to the camp she was attacked and raped by a man called Peter Brennan. Brennan and an accomplice of his, John Gerrard, then assaulted her husband and threatened to kill them both. Mary Ann claimed Ryan was aware of the goings on but did nothing to stop the violence. Both Mary Ann and John Smith claimed to have had very little to drink, which was in contradiction to the evidence of Ryan who testified that they were both drunk when they left the hotel in the early hours of the 10th. Ryan claimed that both he and his wife had served the couple with drinks from about 4pm onwards [on the 9th]. Ryan suggested Mary Ann had received half a sovereign from Brennan and stated that she had asked him to protect her from her husband who she feared would kill her. At least one other witness testified that he had been intimate with Mary Ann.

The jury found the two men guilty, as charged, and clearly had not accepted the evidence of Ryan or the two accused men, nor the other witness. The judge accepted the evidence of Mary Ann and her husband and was scathing in his remarks to the two accused men both of whom he sentenced to death. Gerrard broke down sobbing while Brennan appeared nonchalant.¹⁵⁵

¹⁵² Wagga Wagga Express. 11th November 1874, p2.

¹⁵³ Wagga Wagga Express. 11th November 1874, p2.

¹⁵⁴ Burrangong Argus. 14th April 1875, p2.

¹⁵⁵ Burrangong Argus. 10th May 1876, p4.

The judge indicated that he believed Ryan and the other witnesses had perjured themselves and that if there had been additional witnesses to support the evidence of Mr & Mrs Smith, he would have recommended that they [Ryan et al] be tried and imprisoned.

The evidence revealed that Ryan's hotel was open to the wee small hours of the morning and suggested this was a common custom.

Ryan renewed the license in 1875, for a period of twelve months starting from the 1st July, and the hotel was still known as the Bushman's Home.¹⁵⁶

Beehive hotel

When Ryan renewed the license one year later, for the period commencing the 1st July 1876, it was now called the Beehive hotel.¹⁵⁷

The location given in 1875 and 1876, was "*on the road Narandera to Merool Creek.*"

Ryan was before the court in March 1877, charged with stealing a money order from a man named Patrick Coady. The latter testified that he was a tank sinker working on Nariah Station in December 1876. On the 25th of that month [Xmas Day] he was drinking at Ryan's hotel. He claimed to have been carrying two cheques – one for £5 8s 6d, and another for £39 3s 2d. Coady testified that he cashed the smaller cheque, to pay for a few drinks, and that he remembered nothing further until he woke up in a bed and found all of his money gone. Evidence proved that the cheque had been deposited in Ryan's bank account. Charles Allman was behind the bar on that day and he testified that Coady had cashed the larger cheque with him and that he (Allman) had borrowed £5 from another drinker named Dunn in order to have sufficient funds to do so. Dunn supported Allman's evidence and the case against Ryan was dismissed.¹⁵⁸ A report in the Sydney press noted that such cases, where men are possessed of substantial funds, lose their senses through drink, and then wake up to find all is gone, were all too common.¹⁵⁹ The innuendo was that publicans were complicit in many instances.

Jeremiah Joseph Ryan

Jeremiah Joseph Ryan was born in Ireland around 1847. In August 1874 he married Anne O'Brien, the daughter of John & Catherine O'Brien of Walleroobie, at Wagga Wagga.¹⁶⁰

In November 1874, Jeremiah Joseph Ryan's tender for delivering mail was accepted. The details of the mail run were as follow,¹⁶¹

Coramundra and Narrandera, via Merool Creek and Coman's twice a week.
Contractor to travel alternately by the two routes, viz: To and from
Coramundra and Narrandera, via Dacey's, O'Brien's, Coman's, Mimosa,
Wallaruby, Cowarby, Boree (Flood's), and Medium; and to and from
Coramundra and Narrandera, via Dacey's, O'Brien's, Coman's, Temora,

¹⁵⁶ NSW Government Gazette. 1875, p2776.

¹⁵⁷ NSW Government Gazette. 1876, p3660.

¹⁵⁸ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 7th March 1877, p2.

¹⁵⁹ Australian Town & Country Journal. 17th March 1877, p11.

¹⁶⁰ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 4049.

¹⁶¹ Wagga Wagga Express. 11th November 1874, p2. / Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 18th November 1874, p2.

Quandry, Welman's Station, Ramsay's and Johnson's Station, Bolero, and Medium. Jeremiah J, Ryan, horseback, 3 years, £230 per annum.

It is believed that Jeremiah Joseph Ryan was in Queensland in January 1878, and that he passed away at Thargomindah, on the 19th of that month.¹⁶² It is not known why he was in Queensland.

Ann subsequently married John Dillon,¹⁶³ a successful publican and businessman of Hay, at Deniliquin on the 12th May 1879.

Anne Ryan passed away at the Criterion hotel, Hay, on the 2nd April 1904.¹⁶⁴ Her second husband, John, had predeceased her. Ann was a native of Appin and she was survived by two children – a daughter, Maria, from her first marriage and a son, PJ Dillon, from her second marriage.¹⁶⁵



Above: The Beehive hotel, c.1890's, when Thomas Peadon was the licensee. Courtesy Mrs Ethel Wright.¹⁶⁶

On the 9th October 1877, the Wagga Wagga Licensing Bench granted a publican's license to Thomas Sanderson, for the Broken Dam Inn at Merool Creek.¹⁶⁷ Although referred to as the Broken Dam Inn in the local paper the official record shows the name to be the Beehive hotel.¹⁶⁸

¹⁶² Australia, Death Index: 1787-1985 [Ancestry]. Registration no.003145, page no.13000.

¹⁶³ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 2917.

¹⁶⁴ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 5603.

¹⁶⁵ Riverine Herald.

¹⁶⁶ Bill Speirs. *The Beehive and the Broken Dam*. 1987. 'p34.

¹⁶⁷ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 10th October 1877, p2.

¹⁶⁸ NSW Government Gazette. 1877, p4328.

Ryan's license would have expired on the 30th June 1877, and it is assumed the hotel was technically unlicensed for the period from the 1st July until the 9th October. It is believed that Ryan's hotel and Sanderson's hotel were one and the same.

Sanderson renewed the license in 1878, for the twelve-month period commencing 1st July.¹⁶⁹ Sanderson was still at the hotel in June 1879 when he organised a race meeting over two days [27th & 28th June] at his hotel on the Merool Creek. The local press notice referred to the hotel as, "*Sanderson's, Traveller's Rest Hotel.*"¹⁷⁰

Three months later in September 1879, the Wagga Wagga Licensing Bench granted a license for the Beehive hotel at Broken Dam on the Merool Creek to Donald Cameron [the father of Dame Mary Gilmore].¹⁷¹ By October 1879 Cameron was advertising his hotel in the Wagga Wagga paper highlighting the "*first-class accommodation*" and the "*extensive stabling.*"¹⁷²

A coach service was operating in 1879 - from Wagga Wagga to Hillston, via Merool Creek, Broken Dam, Willandry, and Rankin's Springs, which no doubt contributed, beneficially, to the finances of the Beehive hotel.¹⁷³

The license was renewed by Donald Cameron each successive year - 1881,¹⁷⁴ 1882,¹⁷⁵ and June 1883, when it was again renewed for another twelve months.¹⁷⁶ The local press report stated that Donald Cameron renewed the license in June 1883, but the gazette listing records Ann Sanderson as the licensee.¹⁷⁷ It is assumed that Cameron's lease had expired and that it was in fact Ann who renewed the license.

Donald Cameron

Donald Cameron was born in Scotland around 1835, and immigrated to Australia in 1838, along with some one hundred fellow members of the extended Campbell family. His mother died young in 1839, aged thirty-one years, leaving her husband to care for three young children.¹⁷⁸

Donald married Mary Ann Beattie at Cotta Walla near Goulburn on the 21st June 1864. Their first child, Mary Jane [later Dame Mary Gilmore] was born in 1865. It was at about this time that Donald entered into partnership with James Gormly, conducting a mail run between Goulburn, Braidwood, and Queanbeyan.¹⁷⁹ By 1866 he had resumed his trade as a bush carpenter and had made his way to the Wagga Wagga district. He built many new structures including the church at Brucedale, and he helped to build Stinson's homestead on *Klindra*.¹⁸⁰

¹⁶⁹ NSW Government Gazette. 1878, p3423.

¹⁷⁰ Australian Town & Country Journal. 28th June 1879, p38.

¹⁷¹ Wagga Wagga Express. 10th September 1879, p2.

¹⁷² Wagga Wagga Express. 25th October 1879, p1.

¹⁷³ Wagga Wagga Express. 31st December 1879, p1.

¹⁷⁴ NSW Government Gazette. Publicans' Licenses. 1881, p4717.

¹⁷⁵ NSW Government Gazette. Publicans' Licenses. 1882, p4752.

¹⁷⁶ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 16th June 1883, p3.

¹⁷⁷ NSW Government Gazette. Publicans' Licenses. 1883, p4753.

¹⁷⁸ Bill Speirs. The Beehive and the Broken Dam. 1987. 'p19.

¹⁷⁹ Bill Speirs. The Beehive and the Broken Dam. 1987. 'p19.

¹⁸⁰ Sherry Morris. Biographical Listings. Donald Cameron.

Prior to taking the license of the Beehive hotel at Broken Dam Cameron had been the licensee of the Houlaghan's Creek hotel at Downside [1878] and the Caledonian hotel at Cartwright's Hill [1879].¹⁸¹ Donald Cameron passed away on the 17th November 1896, at West Wyalong.¹⁸²

Ann Sanderson held the license of the Beehive hotel for some three years up until the 30th June 1886, at which time Thomas Peadon became the new licensee.¹⁸³

In September 1888 Thomas Peadon was still listed as the license holder of the Beehive hotel at Broken Dam but evidence to a court case in October of that year recorded that Mr & Mrs Stephen occupied the hotel. It is assumed that they were acting as managers for Peadon.

The court case involved a young girl, Mary Tuthill, who was employed by Mr & Mrs Stephen as a general servant. On the 19th September [1888] she was serving behind the bar and took a drink to a patron named James Golding. The latter was, according to Mary, not sober. Golding made some indecent comments to Mary, and she fled the hotel towards the store on the opposite side of the road. Golding chased her, knocked her down and then attempted to rape her. In Mary's words, "*he exposed his person, and used indecent language.*" Mary cried out to William Peadon who worked in the store and he came to her assistance and carried her to the hotel and safety. William Peadon testified that he was a storekeeper at Broken Dam and that he lived in the Chinaman's store. His evidence supported Mary's testimony and the jury found Golding guilty as charged. He was sentenced to two years and nine months in jail.¹⁸⁴

1891 was a good season for the farmers and graziers. The crops were good, and it was claimed that "*more wool teams have passed Broken Dam this year than was ever known before.*"¹⁸⁵

In January 1892, Thomas Peadon hosted the annual Broken Dam Races.¹⁸⁶ Race meetings had been held as early as December 1889,¹⁸⁷ and possibly earlier. Race meetings continued to be held at Broken Dam right up until February 1903.¹⁸⁸

In October 1892 a travelling reporter noted that a village had been marked out at Broken Dam [Mandamah] and that "*several buildings were to be seen from the hotel.*" He noted that a travelling stock route passed by the hotel and that a substantial bridge spanned the creek at a point where four major roads – from Coolamon, Narandera, Wollongough, and Morangorell – all converged. A public watering place had been surveyed but nothing had evolved due to a lack of funding by the government.¹⁸⁹ The annual race meeting was held on the 2nd January 1893.¹⁹⁰

In the latter part of December 1892, a serious fire started on the Ariaiah Run and spread to the east causing extensive damage.¹⁹¹ According to Webster, Sid Welman, the manager of the Ariaiah Run,

¹⁸¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 10th September 1879, p4c1. / NSW Government Gazettes. Publicans' Licenses. [1878, p3443] [1879, p4072].

¹⁸² Wagga Wagga Express. 1896, p2.

¹⁸³ NSW Government Gazette. Publicans' Licenses. 1886, p5380.

¹⁸⁴ Burrangong Argus. 10th October 1888, p2.

¹⁸⁵ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 1st December 1891, p3.

¹⁸⁶ Wagga Wagga Express. 2nd January 1892, p4.

¹⁸⁷ Evening News. 27th December 1889, p5.

¹⁸⁸ Temora Star. 4th February 1903, p3.

¹⁸⁹ Cootamundra Herald. 8th October 1892, p8.

¹⁹⁰ Sydney Mail. 14th January 1893, p93.

¹⁹¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 29th December 1892, p2.

acting on instructions from the owners [Bank of NSW] commenced to burn off several paddocks, despite the pleas of his neighbours. The burn offs jumped the fire breaks made by Welman, and the catastrophe commenced. Webster gave the following account,¹⁹²

“Welman set the country ablaze and the fire soon got away from the scanty breaks not far from the old woolshed west of the present town of Mirrool. Fanned by a strong breeze it swept through Ariaiah, part of Little Mimosa and right through to Quandary Station, devastating everything in its path.”

Margaret Clarke confirmed that the original slab hotel [Beehive] was destroyed by the December 1892 fire, and that a new hotel was subsequently erected.¹⁹³

A new public dam was completed by February 1902, and a correspondent provided the following account of the Broken Dam,¹⁹⁴

“The location which bears this unique and uneuphonious name is situated about 12 miles W. from Temora and 40 N. from Coolamon. It was so named from the fact that the dam over the Merool Creek in its immediate vicinity was for a long time in a broken or damaged condition, so that the singular appellation of the little settlement is at least expressive of an actuality of the spot. Broken Dam has for the last 16 years been identified in the mind of the travelling public with Peadon's Beehive Hotel, one of the few roadside hostelries which is holding its own and justifying its existence in these parlous times. The Beehive is really an attractive, comfortable, homelike house, and is kept up to the mark in every respect. The attached 'cottage' in particular is a model of elegant comfort. Beautiful blooms are seen in the verandah, and the transverse hangings suspended from the ceiling of the rooms are a pretty and ingenious device. The cleanliness of the 'Beehive' amounts to a proverb in the district; the table is of the best, and the hostess, Mrs. Peadon, is a housekeeper par excellence. A new ground tank has just been finished at Broken Dam. The excavation has a depth of 16,000 yards, and is a finished piece of work. It was all accomplished by day labour. There is a post office at the 'Beehive,' a small store adjacent thereto kept by Mrs. Clark, and a public school and Union Church not far away.”

In 1903 it was reported that the Beehive hotel at Broken Dam had been totally destroyed by fire, on the evening of Thursday 16th April, *“together with a large quantity of bank notes [£175].”* The hotel was said to be insured, *“for a substantial sum [£500].”* The owner of the hotel was Mr Peadon, a very old resident of the district.¹⁹⁵ The fire, which was attributed to a lamp bursting while Mr Peadon was attending to some horses in the stables,¹⁹⁶ would have been convenient. The new railway line from Temora was well advanced and a new hotel was under construction in the new town of Ariaiah Park.

¹⁹² Rob Webster. *Bygoo and Beyond*. p22. [see Wagga Wagga Express. 8th April 1893, p4, which supports Webster's description]

¹⁹³ Ariaiah Park News. 17th July 1936, p4. *Reminiscences by Mrs M Clarke, Broken Dam*.

¹⁹⁴ Albury Banner. 14th February 1902, p25.

¹⁹⁵ Cootamundra Herald. 22nd April 1903, p2. / Narandera Argus. 1st May 1903, p3.

¹⁹⁶ Temora Star. 18th April 1903, p2.

Thomas Peadon

Thomas Peadon was born around 1846, in England.¹⁹⁷

It is believed that Thomas Peadon, and his brothers – John and Peter – arrived in Australia around 1865, looking to try their luck on the gold fields. In 1878 Thomas married Ellen Ryan, in Victoria.¹⁹⁸ By the end of 1880 the brothers were living on part of Kerarbury Station between Narandera and Hay where Peter had selected land. On the 26th December 1881 Peter was thrown from his horse and died almost instantly. In 1884, Thomas selected a 640-acre block at Broken Dam and the family resided there up until the time that Thomas retired and moved to Woollahra.

William Peadon, the elder brother of Thomas, arrived in Australia in the 1880's and joined his brothers at Broken Dam.

Ellen Peadon [nee Ryan] passed away on the 7th September 1913, in her home at 64 Paddington Street, Paddington, aged seventy seven.¹⁹⁹



John Peadon died at his home in Hoskins Street, Temora, on the 31st May 1917, aged seventy seven. His obituary recorded that he was born in county Durham, Ireland, and that he came to the colony around 1861. He spent a number of years on the gold fields at Bendigo and Araluen before taking up farming at Aria Park. Around 1907 he retired to Temora where he lived up until the time of his death.²⁰⁰

Thomas Peadon died at 40 Oxford Street, Woollahra, on the 25th November 1915

Left: Thomas Peadon. Courtesy Temora Rural Museum and Aria Park Community Project Committee.

¹⁹⁷ Bill Speirs. *The Beehive and the Broken Dam*. 1987. 'p19.

¹⁹⁸ VIC. BDM's. Marriage registration # 2008.

¹⁹⁹ NSW BDM's. Death registry # 12651. / Catholic Press. 18th September 1913, p22.

²⁰⁰ Federal Standard. 15th June 1917, p3.



Above: Rubble at the old hotel site, in 2009.



Above: Former well at the old hotel site, in 2009.



Above: Sinking the tank at Broken Dam. Courtesy Aria Park Community Project.



Above: The Broken Dam store c.1891.²⁰¹ Courtesy Aria Park News.

²⁰¹ Aria Park News. 17th July 1936, p4. *Reminiscences by Mrs M Clarke, Broken Dam.*

The Store at Broken Dam

The store at Broken Dam was located on portion 5 [parish of Mandamah], which was the portion adjoining the western boundary of Sanderson's portion 2.

Portion 5 had an area of 40 acres and was purchased from the crown on the 13th July 1876, by James Fong for the sum of forty pounds.²⁰² The format was "*conditional sale without competition*,"

On the 2nd July 1907, Margaret Clarke, a widow of Broken Dam, became the legal owner of the property.²⁰³

Transactions to follow were,²⁰⁴

1938, 25th March – Conveyance from Margaret Clarke to herself and Mildred Sovenia Robinson, wife of William David Robinson, a labourer of Aria Park, as joint tenants.

1938, 16th November – Conveyance from Margaret and Mildred to William Smith Clarke, a farmer of Aria Park.

1954, 9th April – Conveyance from William to Albert Edgar Judd, a farmer & grazier of Aria Park.

1972, 13th June – Marie Judd, a married woman of Aria Park is not the legal owner of portion 5.

1972, 30th December – Glenn Elwyn Weise, a farmer of Aria Park, and his wife, Suzanne Daphne Weise, own a quarter share each of the property. The other half is owned by Bruce Milton Weise, a farmer of Aria Park.

Title converted to DP.5.750852 [Prior title: volume 691, folio 205.

James Fong

According to Speirs, James Fong came from China to Australia around 1856 and adopted this Anglicised name. He worked as a hawker in the hinterlands and then on the 13th May 1876 he married Margaret Smith at Wagga Wagga.²⁰⁵

The couple arrived on the Merool in June 1876, and first camped at *Quondary Station* after which James selected forty acres downstream [portion 5, parish of Mandamah].

By August 1878, James Fong had a store on portion 5 at the Broken Dam on the Merool Creek.²⁰⁶

Thomas Sanderson was the licensee of the Beehive hotel when James Fong's store at Broken Dam was stuck up by bushrangers in 1878. He [Sanderson] had in fact entered the shop and was carrying about one hundred pounds with him, which he managed to hide in his slipper. Along with others he was ordered into the kitchen under threat of being shot but was fortunate enough not to lose his money.²⁰⁷

²⁰² NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 691, folio 205.

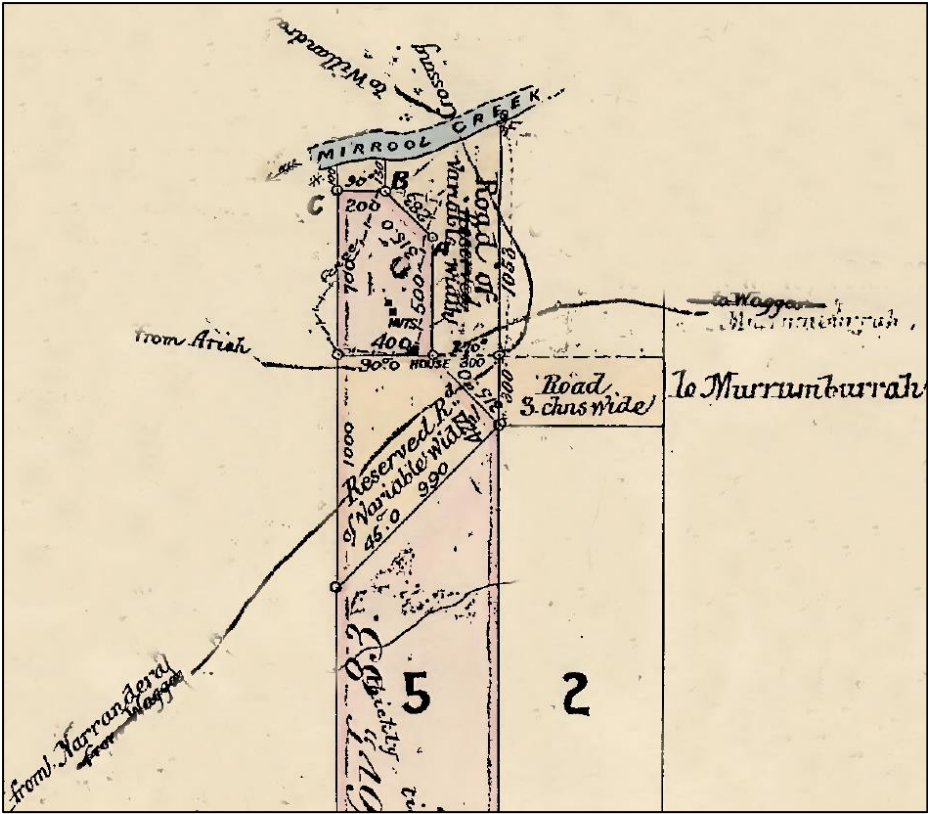
²⁰³ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 691, folio 205.

²⁰⁴ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 691, folio 205.

²⁰⁵ Bill Speirs. *The Beehive and the Broken Dam*. 1987. 'pp12-17. / Aria Park News. 3rd July – 7th August 1936. Six-part series of articles titled "*Sixty Years at Aria Park*," the reminiscences of Mrs Margaret Clarke.

²⁰⁶ Australian Town & Country Journal. 17th August 1878, p41.

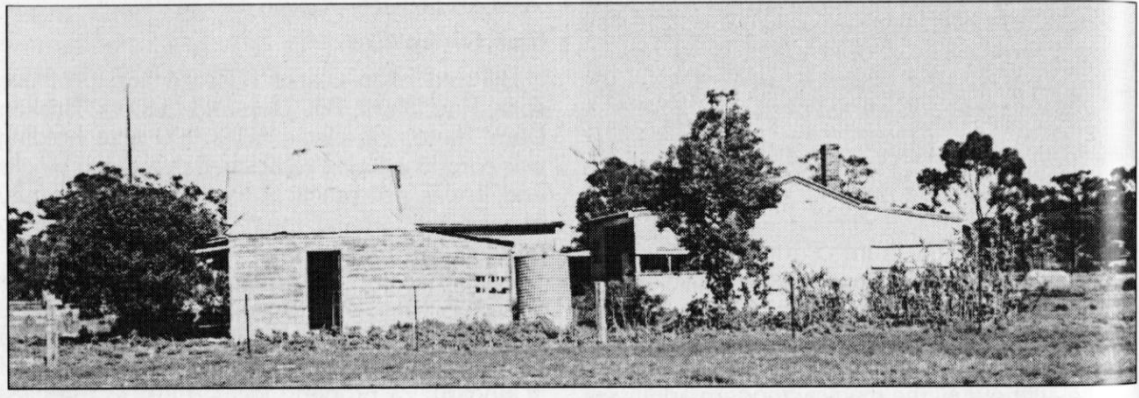
²⁰⁷ Aria Park News. 19th November 1925, p4.



Left: Extract from 1881 crown plan [# 805.1806] showing buildings [house and huts] on James Fong's portion 5, in the parish of Mandamah. Courtesy NSW Land Registry.



The ruins of the Clarke homestead at Broken Dam in 1971 (looking north). The portion of the building to the right of the gable was James and Margaret Fong's original store.



Above: A photo of the building that once housed the Broken Dam store. Courtesy, "The Beehive and the Broken Dam." Courtesy Ariah Park Community Project.



James Fong passed away in October 1890. His widow continued to operate the business and remarried in 1894, to Millington Clarke. This couple had three children in quick succession, and then in 1897 Millington was killed when he struck his head on a tree while riding his horse.²⁰⁸

Left: James Fong. Courtesy “Laurel Turner” [Ancestry]

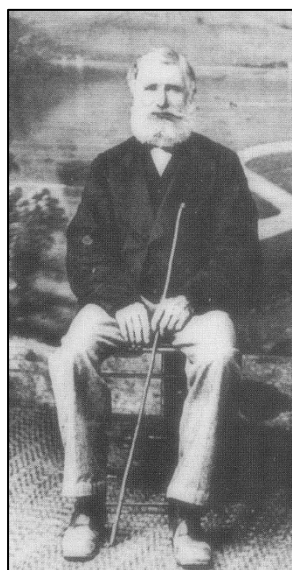


Right: Margaret Fong [nee Smith]

Margaret Smith

Margaret Smith was born in what she described as a “*canvas town*,” at Tuena in 1859, the daughter of Stephen Smith and Margaret Smith [nee McDougall].²⁰⁹

Her father and mother both arrived in the colony in 1855,



disembarking at Sydney. Stephen, a native of Durham, arrived on the *Donald McKay* while Margaret, a native of Scotland, arrived on the *White Star*, with her family. Motivation for immigrating to Australia can be attributed to the pessimistic conditions back home and the attraction of the discovery of the gold in the colonies.

In 1858 Margaret McDougall married Stephen Smith at Maitland.²¹⁰ The couple had one child only – Margaret Smith, born in June 1859. According to the respective death certificates Stephen was thirty seven years old when he married, and Margaret [snr] was forty one.

Left: Stephen Smith. Courtesy Bill Speirs.²¹¹

²⁰⁸ Bill Speirs. *The Beehive and the Broken Dam*. 1987. ‘p36.

²⁰⁹ NSW BDM’s. Birth registration # 6579/1859. / Arian Park News. 3rd July 1936, p2. *Reminiscences by Mrs M Clarke, Broken Dam*.

²¹⁰ NSW BDM’s. Marriage registration # 2099/1858.

²¹¹ Bill Speirs. *The Beehive and the Broken Dam*. 1987.

Stephen Smith passed away on the 28th June 1894, at Temora.²¹² The executors named in his will were Margaret Fong and Thomas Peadon.²¹³

Margaret Smith [nee McDougal] passed away at the Broken Dam on the 25th April 1908, aged ninety two years.²¹⁴



Above – [L to R]: Margaret Fong [nee Smith], Margaret Smith [nee McDougall], Lena Margaret McPherson [Eleanor’s daughter, seated front], and Eleanor Margaret McPherson [nee Fong], c.1900. Courtesy Roslyn Clarke [ancestry].

²¹² NSW BDM’s. Death registration # 13170/1894.

²¹³ Sydney Morning Herald. 12th July 1894, p2.

²¹⁴ NSW BDM’s. Death registration # 7445/1908.

Margaret and James had seven children. Margaret remarried following the death of James Fong, to Millington Clarke, on the 18th June 1894, at Wagga Wagga.²¹⁵ Three children followed before the death of Millington Clarke in 1897.²¹⁶ Reports on Clarke's death referred to him as William Clarke. He was described as an old resident of Temora and a storekeeper at the Broken Dam. Clarke had more recently been employed as an engine driver on the Reefton Battery, and he was riding back from that place, on a Saturday evening, when he was supposedly "*thrown from his horse against a tree*" causing his death. He was found by two shearers on the Sunday with his head "*frightfully smashed.*"²¹⁷

Margaret and her children continued to conduct the store for a number of years afterwards, even after the town of Aria Park was established in 1907. Margaret's second youngest son, William Smith [aka Bill] Clarke, and his wife Ellen [nee Cuddy] subsequently enlarged the old store and occupied it as a residence. After the family moved to Dubbo in 1953 the abandoned buildings quickly deteriorated.²¹⁸

Margaret "*Granny*" Clarke passed away on the 19th July 1943.²¹⁹ She was survived by five sons and five daughters.



Above: Margaret Clarke, with some of her children, in front of the Broken Dam store. Courtesy, "*The Beehive and the Broken Dam*. Bill Speirs, 1987."

²¹⁵ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 6983/1894.

²¹⁶ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 10957/1897.

²¹⁷ Cootamundra Herald. 16th October 1897, p5. / Daily Telegraph. 13th October 1897, p7.

²¹⁸ Interpretive Signage. Compiled by the Aria Park Community Committee.

²¹⁹ Narandera Argus. 3rd August 1943, p2.



*Back Row - Margaret (nee Smith), ???, Eleanor Margaret (Lena), Clara Francis
Middle Row - Christina May, James Stephen, Margaret Smith (nee McDougall), Walter George, Linton Leslie (Les)
Front Row - Richard Millington (Dick) Clarke, Mildred Sovenia (Vena) Clarke, William Smith Clarke*

Above: The family of Margaret Clarke. Courtesy “mariapotts58” [Ancestry] Originally courtesy Mrs Elva Westcott.²²⁰

²²⁰ Bill Speirs. *The Beehive and the Broken Dam*. 1987. ‘p45.

Thomas Sanderson

Thomas Sanderson was the son of John Sanderson and Ann Sanderson [nee Brooks]. Ann was born in Ireland, while John was born in England.

John was a Nottinghamshire gardener who was 19 years old when he fought at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. He survived that and married Elizabeth and had two sons. On 23rd October 1823 he was court-martialled at Portman Street Barracks, London, on a charge of assaulting an officer. He was sentenced to 14 years transportation to New South Wales. He arrived on 12 July 1824 on the Countess of Harcourt after 112 days at sea. He was assigned to George Forbes, as a gardener at Minto near Campbelltown. He petitioned the governor to have his wife and children sent over but was unsuccessful.²²¹

After receiving his certificate of freedom, in October 1839, he subsequently married Ann Brooks at Muswellbrook on the 5th July 1840.²²² It is not known what happened to John's first wife and their two children.

John & Ann had four children – Fanny Eleanor [b.1843,²²³ d.1882²²⁴], Robert [b.1847,²²⁵ d.1898²²⁶], Thomas [b.1849,²²⁷ d.1930²²⁸], and William [b.1851,²²⁹ d.1927²³⁰].

Their first child and only daughter Fanny (Frances Eleanor) was baptised in Maitland but shortly after they moved to the Lachlan district and were living at Demondrille Station when Robert was born on 25 September 1847. John was the overseer. By 18 March 1849 when Thomas was born, John was the overseer at Curiong or Kuriong run at Binalong. William was also born there in February 1851. The family remained there until 1863, at which time they headed for the virgin bush area of the Merool Creek.²³¹

It is not known when John Sanderson died. Some sources claim 1876, but no evidence could be found to verify that claim. He was, however, buried at Broken Dam.²³²

Ann, known affectionately as “Granny” Sanderson, passed away on the 10th July 1896, aged ninety four.²³³

Thomas Sanderson was born at Curiong, near Yass, on the 18th March 1849,²³⁴ where he lived up until 1863 when he moved to the area north of modern day Aria Park. It is believed that it was in this same year George Harmon [Little George] built the dam across the Merool Creek, which area became known as Broken Dam. Heavy rains in February 1869 filled the dam to capacity.²³⁵

²²¹ Ancestry.com. [mariemcgregor138]

²²² NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 673/1840 V1840673 24B.

²²³ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 2975/1843 V18432975 121B.

²²⁴ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 8445.

²²⁵ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 1658/1847 V18471658 65.

²²⁶ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 7766.

²²⁷ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 404/1849 V1849404 67.

²²⁸ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 13687. / Sydney Morning Herald. 17th September 1930, p12.

²²⁹ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 2004/1851 V18512004 68.

²³⁰ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 19458.

²³¹ Ancestry.com. [mariemcgregor138]

²³² Bill Speirs. March 2022.

²³³ Evening News. 23rd July 1896, p5.

²³⁴ NSW BDM's. Birth registration #

²³⁵ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 10th February 1869, p2.

Sanderson acquired land [forty acres] nearby on which he erected the Beehive hotel [also known as the Broken Dam hotel], and he also built the first bridge across the creek [about 200 yards east of the where it was in 1925].²³⁶

Mr Welman owned most of the land on either side of the creek and he called his run Ariaiah Station. In 1885 the government built a bridge across the creek and in 1925 the remains could still be seen on the western side of the crossing.²³⁷

Thomas Sanderson married Isabella Rebecca Barnes on the 10th May 1876,²³⁸ and the couple had eight children – two daughters and six sons.

Thomas died on the 15th September 1930, at his home near Ariaiah Park, aged eighty one years.²³⁹

Thomas Sanderson, junior, passed away on the 13th August 1938 at Ariaiah Park.²⁴⁰

Early Bridges at Broken Dam

The first bridge at the Broken Dam, a “*home made*” effort, was washed away during an early flood. This bridge was built by Thomas Sanderson, at a spot some two hundred yards east of the 1925 bridge.²⁴¹

The second bridge was constructed in 1888 or 1889 [1885, according to Webster]²⁴², and a third followed in 1933. Mary Clark witnessed all three structures.²⁴³ The 1880’s bridge was located west of the 1933 structure.²⁴⁴

In September 1888, the government sought tenders for construction of a bridge over the Merool Creek at Broken Dam,²⁴⁵ and in October 1888 it was announced that JE MacDonald’s tender was the lowest of fourteen tenders received. His tender was for the amount of two hundred and eighty five pounds and three shillings.²⁴⁶

In April 1889, District Road Superintendent, JB Meldrum, sought tenders for construction of approaches to the bridge at Broken Dam.²⁴⁷

In June 1889 it was noted that “*the bridge over the Merool Creek excites laughter in flood times, owing to the state of the approaches.*”²⁴⁸

²³⁶ Ariaiah Park News. 19th November 1925, p4.

²³⁷ Ariaiah Park News. 19th November 1925, p4.

²³⁸ NSW BDM’s. Marriage registration # 4353. / Ariaiah Park News. 26th November 1925, p5. The Pioneers. No. 2. Thomas Sanderson. By RH Webster.

²³⁹ Wagga Wagga Express. 20th September 1930, p9.

²⁴⁰ Lachlander & Condobolin & Western Districts Recorder. 25th August 1938, p6.

²⁴¹ Ariaiah Park News. 19th November 1925, p4. The Pioneers. No. 2. Thomas Sanderson. By RH Webster.

²⁴² Ariaiah Park News. 19th November 1925, p4. The Pioneers. No. 2. Thomas Sanderson. By RH Webster.

²⁴³ Ariaiah Park News. 15th May 1933. Supplement.

²⁴⁴ Ariaiah Park News. 19th November 1925, p4. The Pioneers. No. 2. Thomas Sanderson. By RH Webster.

²⁴⁵ NSW Government Gazette. 1888, p6303.

²⁴⁶ Australian Town & Country Journal. 13th October 1888, p15.

²⁴⁷ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 27th April 1889, p2.

²⁴⁸ Sydney Mail. 29th June 1889, p1386.

A big flood in July 1891 washed away the approaches to the new bridge.²⁴⁹

In September 1891 it was noted that the bridge, which was some forty eight feet in length, was devoid of any fencing on the approaches, which presented a danger to those crossing due to the "*abrupt precipice on either side.*"²⁵⁰

In August 1907, the Ariaiah Park Progress Association listed a number of achievements for the previous year, which included "*repairs and tarring*" of the Broken Dam bridge.²⁵¹

The 1889 structure was also destroyed, presumably by floods, and in May 1928 the Farmers & Settlers Association at Ariaiah Park resolved to organise a petition demanding construction of a new bridge across the creek.²⁵²

It was 1933 before the new bridge was officially opened, on the 10th May, by the Transport Commissioner, Mr Newell. The contractor for the bridge was Mr W Argaet of Murrumburrah.²⁵³

The 1933 bridge was ninety foot long and eighteen feet wide and cost one thousand six hundred and thirty pounds to construct. Argaet had commenced work on the 9th January [1933] and completed the contract on the 9th May. It was a timber beam bridge, with three spans of thirty feet each. It was said to be fourteen feet above "*the surface*", which was expected to be clear of the highest floods. The highest known flood level was said to be ten feet. The approaches were formed by the shire council.²⁵⁴



Above: Broken Dam bridge c.1916. Courtesy Ariaiah Park Community Project Committee.

²⁴⁹ Daily Telegraph. 20th July 1891, p5.

²⁵⁰ Sydney Mail. 5th September 1891, p552.

²⁵¹ Albury Banner. 2nd August 1907, p31.

²⁵² Ariaiah Park News. 1st March 1928, p7.

²⁵³ Murrumburrah Signal. 18th May 1933, p3.

²⁵⁴ Ariaiah Park News. 15th May 1933. Supplement.



Above: Broken Dam bridge c.1933. Courtesy Ariaah Park Community Project Committee.



Above: A view of the contemporary bridge during a major flood in 2016. Courtesy Darryl Harper.

**THE
ARIAH
PARK
HOTEL**

Ariah Park Hotel

Ariah Park hotel is located on portion 51, in the parish of Mandamah. In 2020 it is situated at 73 Coolamon Street, Ariah Park.

In January 1903, Samuel Harrison, complied with the requirements of the licensing act by placing a notice in the local paper confirming his intention to apply for a publican's license at the next meeting of the Temora Licensing Bench, on the 15th January 1903. The application was for a new hotel to be erected at Ariah Park on the northwest corner of portion 51, in the parish of Mandamar. The hotel was to be called the Ariah Park hotel.²⁵⁵ When the court met on that day it had no hesitation in granting Harrison a conditional license.²⁵⁶

Harrison was given twelve months in which to construct the hotel. His original plan was to construct the hotel of brick, pise, timber, and wood, but one report claimed that Harrison had difficulty securing timber, explaining that,²⁵⁷

"He tried to negotiate with a saw miller for the supply of wood, but the party, being opposed to the liquor tirade, declined being a party to the erection of a temple to Bacchus. It is certainly refreshing to see an inflexible adherence to principle, but all the same the house will go up, and probably flourish."

28th October 1903 was the official opening day of Sam Harrison's Ariah Park hotel. It was a pise building with fourteen rooms situated opposite the Ariah Siding.²⁵⁸ Some two hundred people attended the opening, which included a lunch followed by a series of sporting events.²⁵⁹ The hotel was constructed by Jack McDermott.²⁶⁰

Harrison organised a sporting day in March 1904, featuring a number of foot races, bike races, and several horse races. The day's events were followed by an evening social, but many people left as a consequence of a bush fire that had broken out.²⁶¹

In August 1904 the final for the Harrison trophy was played at Ariah Park, between the Tara and Ariah Park teams [Aussie Rules]. Tara won with 3 goals, 8 behinds, to Ariah Parks, 2 goals, 5 behinds. Celebrations followed at Harrison's hotel where he entertained some sixty players *"to a few bottles of his best and a smoke social."*²⁶²

Like all regional hotels it was the centre of business and community activity. Politicians regularly addressed constituents at the hotel,²⁶³ and a variety of community groups met at the hotel on a regular basis.²⁶⁴ In August 1906, the town's first ever stock sales were held in the hotel's yards [Rowston & Sanderson].²⁶⁵

²⁵⁵ Temora Star. 3rd January 1903, p3.

²⁵⁶ Temora Star. 21st January 1903, p3.

²⁵⁷ Narandera Argus. 6th March 1903, p3.

²⁵⁸ Albury Banner. 3rd August 1906, p27.

²⁵⁹ Temora Star. 31st October 1903, p2.

²⁶⁰ Ariah Park News. 26th November 1925, p5. The Pioneers. No. 2. Thomas Sanderson. By RH Webster.

²⁶¹ Temora Star. 26th March 1904, p2. / 12th March 1904, p4.

²⁶² Temora Star. 24th August 1904, p2.

²⁶³ Temora Star. 20th July 1904, p2.

²⁶⁴ Temora Star. 21st June 1905, p2.

²⁶⁵ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 28th July 1906, p4. / Albury Banner. 3rd August 1906, p27.

On the 5th October 1905, Harrison transferred the license to Daniel O'Brien.²⁶⁶ O'Brien came from Wyalong and Harrison, whose wife was very ill, returned to farming.²⁶⁷

Samuel Harrison

Samuel Harrison was born on the 16th January 1857, at Beechworth, Victoria,²⁶⁸ the son of William Harrison and Janet Harrison [nee Shadden]. In February 1881, he married Emily Maunder at Chiltern, Victoria.²⁶⁹ The couple had eleven children before Emily died in December 1905,²⁷⁰ at the age of forty-four years.

Some three and a half years later Samuel married Agnes McGann at Beckom,²⁷¹ and two more children were born to this couple, although the second child, Herbert, died four days after his birth.

Harrison was a pioneer farmer on Ariaah and was one of the first men to grow wheat in the district.²⁷² He held the license for the Ariaah Park hotel from 1903 until 1905, after which he took up farming again.

By January 1909, Harrison had established a boarding house at Beckom directly opposite the new railway station and was conducting business as a land, commission, and machinery agent.²⁷³

Harrison resided at Ariaah Park up until 1919, at which time he moved to Temora,²⁷⁴ to take over the license of the Railway hotel at that place.²⁷⁵

Harrison involved himself in community affairs and was a member of the hospital committee and of the trotting and racing clubs at Temora, as well as several other community groups.²⁷⁶

Samuel passed away on the 7th December 1920 at the Railway hotel, Temora, aged sixty four.²⁷⁷ His death was the result of a double dose of pneumonia.²⁷⁸ He was survived by his wife and thirteen children.

Daniel Joseph O'Brien held the license of the Ariaah Park hotel from 1905 till the 24th July 1908,²⁷⁹ at which time it was renewed in the name of his brother, Thomas Joseph O'Brien.²⁸⁰

By August 1906, plans for a village had been prepared but the town had not yet been surveyed. The plans showed a row of businesses along Coolamon Street, all on private property. These were, in order, the Ariaah Park hotel, Rowston's auctioneer's office, Cook's blacksmith's shop, and a residence used as a post & telephone office. The railway station was under construction and a five-hundred-

²⁶⁶ Temora Star. 7th October 1905, p4.

²⁶⁷ Albury Banner. 20th October 1905, p2.

²⁶⁸ VIC BDM's. Birth registration # 7874.

²⁶⁹ VIC BDM's. Marriage registration # 71.

²⁷⁰ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 14489. / Albury Banner. 7th December 1906, p48.

²⁷¹ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 6143.

²⁷² Daily Express. 10th December 1920, p2.

²⁷³ Coolamon Ganmain Farmers' Review. 22nd January 1909, p1c1.

²⁷⁴ Daily Advertiser. 10th December 1920, p2.

²⁷⁵ Daily Express. 10th December 1920, p2.

²⁷⁶ Daily Express. 10th December 1920, p2.

²⁷⁷ Daily Advertiser. 10th December 1920, p2.

²⁷⁸ Young Witness. 11th December 1920, p2.

²⁷⁹ NSW Government Gazette. 1907, p4880.

²⁸⁰ NSW Government Gazette. 1908, p4590.

foot-long platform had been constructed for “*wool dumping*.” Directly opposite the hotel, Mr J Moriarty [a former mayor of Wyalong], was erecting a general store.²⁸¹



Above: Cook's blacksmith's shop. Courtesy Aria Park Community Project Committee.

Another report in October noted that Mr Quail was building a brick oven and hoped to be shortly baking bread. Mr Bullman was about constructing a large general store but because there had yet to be a sale of village lots he was compelled to carry out the construction on private land. The building was sitting on skids and it was his intention to slide the whole building onto a town lot once he had procured a block.²⁸² Bullman was able to open his store on the 1st December 1906.²⁸³

The railway line from Temora to Aria Park was officially opened on the 5th November 1906,²⁸⁴ and was conveying members of the public from that date onwards.

The village of Aria Park was gazetted in November 1907, covering village and suburban lands.²⁸⁵

In February 1908 the Aria Park Sports Club was formed, a new recreation ground was being cleared and fenced, and intentions were to include a new bicycle track. The bad news was that Mr Coulter's chaff store had been burnt to the ground.²⁸⁶ Buildings were going up as fast as timber and carpenters could be procured. HW Judd opened a new general store in March 1908. Judd had already opened a butcher shop and was planning a bakery as well. Mr Bullman had sold out to Mr C Edmunds. Others erecting buildings were Messrs Coulter, Pratt, Cook and Lane.²⁸⁷

Mr Moriarty was erecting a general store and a butcher shop on his land [allotment 17 of section 8], Mr Coulter was pegging out his site for a large produce store on the adjoining allotment [number 16, section 8], Mr S Cook was building a blacksmith's shop, and Mr Pratt was erecting a private residence.²⁸⁸ Cook's blacksmith's shop and Bullman's general store were both on portion 51, facing onto Coolamon Street.

²⁸¹ Albury Banner. 3rd August 1906, p27.

²⁸² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 13th October 1906, p8.

²⁸³ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 29th November 1906, p4c2.

²⁸⁴ Wagga Wagga Express. 14th February 1903, p3.

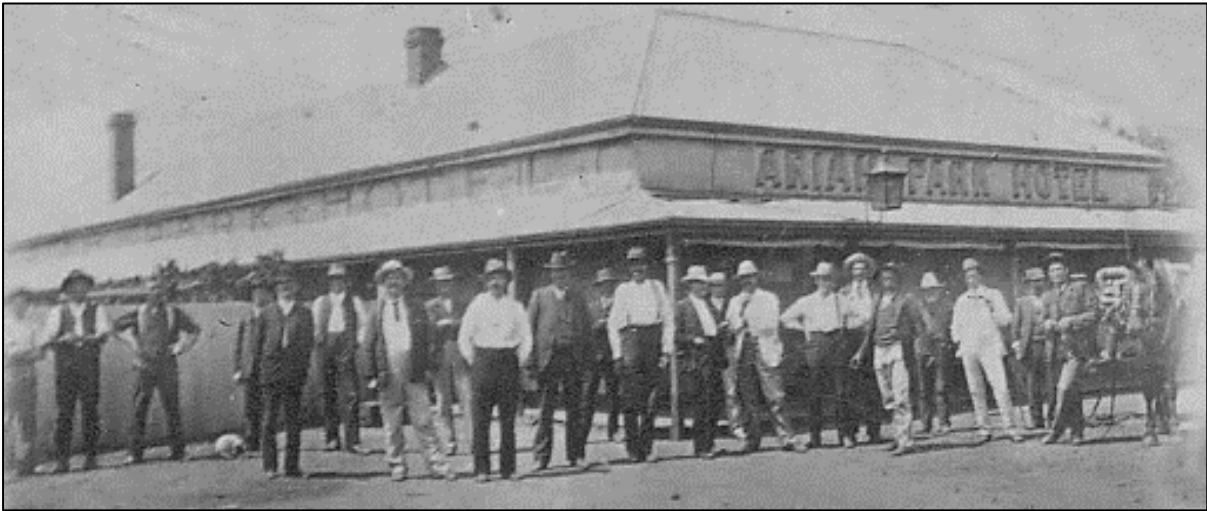
²⁸⁵ NSW Government Gazette. 1907, p6274.

²⁸⁶ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 13th February 1908, p4.

²⁸⁷ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 26th March 1908, p3c1.

²⁸⁸ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 28th April 1908, p4c1.

By November 1908 the town also boasted a police station,²⁸⁹ and by 1910 there were two banks in the town, five general stores, and two tobacconist shops. Four churches were under construction.²⁹⁰



Above: An early photo of the Aria Park hotel when it was a pise building [pre-1913]. Courtesy Aria Park Community Project Committee.



Above: Another early photo of the single storey pise hotel building, c.1910.

By April 1910, Patrick Corbett had sold the hotel freehold to James Hoskinson, for the sum of £4,500,²⁹¹ and the license was transferred from Thomas O'Brien to Hoskinson, who renewed the license in June 1910.²⁹² Hoskinson had previously licensed the Coolamon hotel at Coolamon [1906-1910].

²⁸⁹ Sydney Morning Herald. 19th November 1908, p7.

²⁹⁰ Gundagai Independent. 3rd August 1910, p2c2.

²⁹¹ Albury Banner. 8th April 1910, p3.

²⁹² NSW Government Gazette. Publicans' Licenses. 1910, p4675.

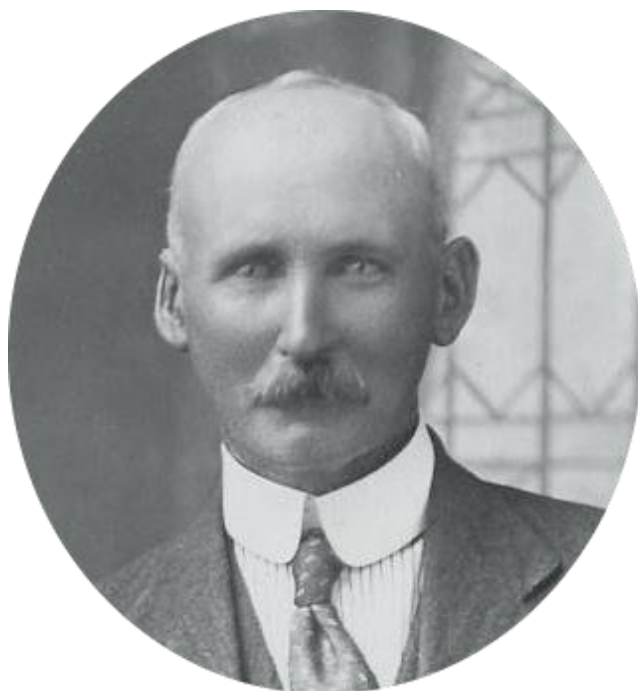
Daniel Joseph O'Brien

Daniel Joseph O'Brien was born at St Petrox [near Lochinvar, NSW] on the 23rd July 1869,²⁹³ the son of Daniel O'Brien and Maria Bridget O'Brien [nee McDermott].

In July 1901 he married Emma Jane Parrott at St Mary's Catholic Church, Wyalong,²⁹⁴ and the couple had five children.

Daniel passed away on the 10th December 1937, at his property, *Meraldom*, Beckom. An obituary provided some details of his life,²⁹⁵

“The sudden passing of Mr. Daniel Joseph O'Brien, of 'Meraldon,' Beckom, on December 10, came as a great shock to the members of his family and his many friends. Deceased, who had always enjoyed good health, contracted a chill only a week before his death and pneumonia intervened. Despite careful nursing and medical attention, he gradually became worse and passed away as previously stated. Born at Lochinvar in the Maitland district 67 years ago, the deceased was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Daniel O'Brien, of Bulahdelah. He came to Wyalong in 1894, and later, in 1905, took over the licence of the Ariah Park Hotel during the construction of the Temora-Barellan railway line. In 1910 he acquired the property known as 'Meraldon,' midway between Ardlethan and Beckom, where he successfully carried on farming and grazing pursuits up to the time of his demise. The late Mr. O'Brien was one of the best known residents of the district, held in the highest of respect and esteem by all who knew him, and his friends were legion. A man of a genial personality and one who was ever ready to do a good turn to his fellow man, his passing means a big loss to the district. Married at West Wyalong in 1901 to Miss Connie Perrott, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Perrott, he is survived by his sorrowing wife, three sons and two daughters to mourn his loss. The sons are Daniel (Jack), James and Thomas, the daughters Nell and Mary, all of 'Meraldon.' Three brothers, Messrs. J. J. O'Brien (Bellevue Hill), ex-Sergeant W. J. O'Brien (Waverley), and T. J. O'Brien (Canowindra), and three sisters, Mesdames Nell Hart (Bellevue Hill), Winfred Worms (Manly) and Catherine Terry (Albany, W.A.) also survive. One brother, Michael, and three sisters - Julia (Mrs. Byrne), Mary (Mrs. Berkam) and Bridget (Mrs. J. E. Rowston) predeceased him.”



Left: Daniel Joseph O'Brien. Courtesy "JayTee57" [Ancestry].

²⁹³ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 13227.

²⁹⁴ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 7938.

²⁹⁵ Catholic Freeman's Journal. 14th January 1937, p33.

Thomas Joseph O'Brien

Thomas Joseph O'Brien was the brother of Daniel Joseph O'Brien. Thomas was born in 1867 and his birth was registered at Maitland.²⁹⁶

In September 1907 he married Rose Mullavey at Mandamah.²⁹⁷ Rose was the third youngest daughter of the late Patrick Mullavey, of Avondale, Bowna, near Albury.²⁹⁸



Left: Rose Mullavey. Courtesy "cherylryan163" [Ancestry]



Right: Thomas Joseph O'Brien. Courtesy "JayTee57" [Ancestry].

Thomas and Rose had a family of six – four girls and two boys.

Rose O'Brien [nee Mullavey], of Old South Head Road, Bellevue Hill, died tragically on the 23rd October 1952, when she fell beneath a moving train at Central Station. It was reported that,²⁹⁹

"People at the station had seen Mrs. O'Brien saying her Rosary as she sat on the platform. No one saw her fall beneath the train as it pulled into the platform. A bundle of religious papers was found beside the Rosary beads on the platform."

Thomas Joseph O'Brien passed away at his residence, *Agincourt*, 120 Old South Head Road, Bellevue Hill, on the 12th February 1945,³⁰⁰ at the age of seventy six.³⁰¹

²⁹⁶ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 11599/1867.

²⁹⁷ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 10001/1907. / Catholic Press. 3rd October 1907, p29.

²⁹⁸ Albury Banner. 4th October 1907, p2.


²⁹⁹ Newcastle Morning Herald. 24th October 1952, p3.

³⁰⁰ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 6365/1945.

³⁰¹ Sydney Morning Herald. 13th February 1945, p10.

Thomas Joseph O'Brien at Mandamah

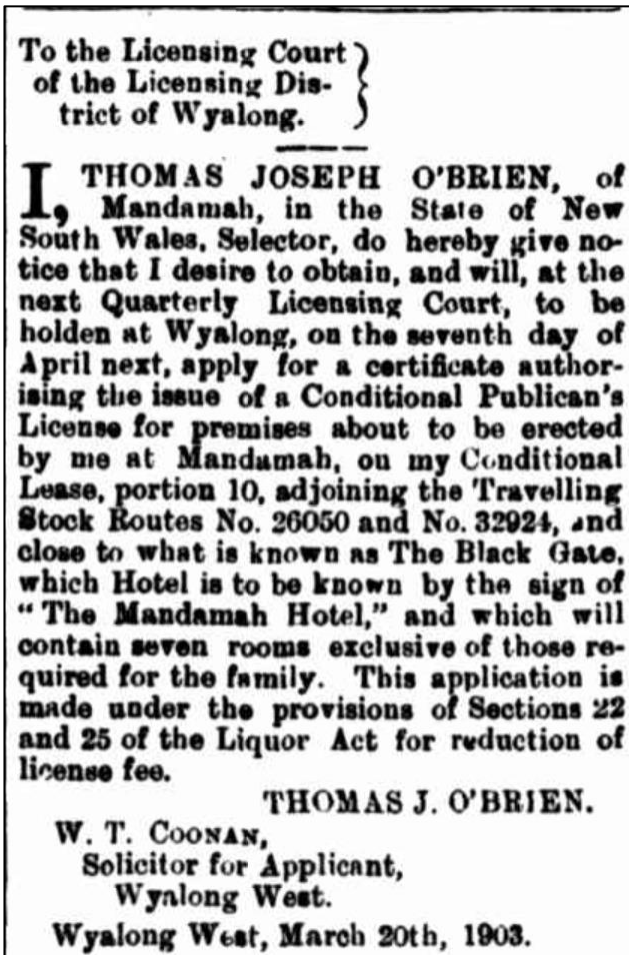
In December 1901, Thomas was settled at West Mandamah.³⁰² He had previously selected land as early as October 1891, when he made a conditional purchase of portion 13, in the parish of Mandamah, county Bourke. This block had an area of some 562 acres.³⁰³



OATS FOR SALE.
GOOD CLEAN ALGERIAN SEED
OATS. For particulars apply to
T. J. O'BRIEN,
West Mandamah.
Or D. O'BRIEN,
West Wyalong.

Left: An advertisement placed by Thomas O'Brien in December 1901.

In March 1903, Thomas gave notice of his intention to build a new hotel at Mandamah. The hotel was to be erected on his conditional lease, being portion 10, adjoining the TSR's # 26050 and # 32924, at a location known as the "Black Gate." The hotel was to be known as the Mandamah hotel.³⁰⁴ [Portion 10, parish of Davidson, county Bourke – see crown plan B.2443.1806]



To the Licensing Court
of the Licensing Dis-
trict of Wyalong. }

I, THOMAS JOSEPH O'BRIEN, of Mandamah, in the State of New South Wales, Selector, do hereby give notice that I desire to obtain, and will, at the next Quarterly Licensing Court, to be holden at Wyalong, on the seventh day of April next, apply for a certificate authorising the issue of a Conditional Publican's License for premises about to be erected by me at Mandamah, on my Conditional Lease, portion 10, adjoining the Travelling Stock Routes No. 26050 and No. 32924, and close to what is known as The Black Gate, which Hotel is to be known by the sign of "The Mandamah Hotel," and which will contain seven rooms exclusive of those required for the family. This application is made under the provisions of Sections 22 and 25 of the Liquor Act for reduction of license fee.

THOMAS J. O'BRIEN.
W. T. COONAN,
Solicitor for Applicant,
Wyalong West.
Wyalong West, March 20th, 1903.

Left: O'Brien's notice of his intention to apply for a conditional publican's license, in 1903.

In April 1903, Thomas Joseph O'Brien was granted a conditional publican's license for a hotel at Mandamah.³⁰⁵ In October 1903, the hotel was referred to as the Black Gate hotel at Kildary.³⁰⁶

³⁰² Wyalong Star. 31st December 1901, p3.

³⁰³ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 10th October 1891, p4.

³⁰⁴ Wyalong Star. 24th March 1903, p3.

³⁰⁵ Wyalong Star. 7th April 1903, p2.

³⁰⁶ Wyalong Star. 9th October 1903, p2.

In August 1906 a roving reporter travelled through the Mandamah district, and his reports included a description of the recently completed Roman Catholic Church.³⁰⁷

“A pretty little church has recently been built on two acres of land, situated near to the hotel. It is under the control of Father Fallon, of Temora. The building is 50ft x 20 ft, of weatherboard, lined throughout with varnished boards, and nicely furnished, the whole structure reflecting the good taste of the Roman Catholics of Mandamah. The situation being on the 'Wyalong-Barmedman-Kildary roads makes the position particularly central.”

The reporter also described the O'Brien property, as follows,³⁰⁸

“MANDAMAH HOTEL. Messrs. O'Brien Bros, have 600 acres in, with 200 acres fallowed, and 400 more acres they are now clearing, leaving 1300 acres for their sheep. They have been about here a long while - 15 years. It was a bush wilderness when they came, and out of this time, good, bad and indifferent seasons have been experienced. The greatest difficulty, however, has been transit, the carting to the railway in times gone by being a big consideration. This, of course, has now been overcome, for they are only 15 miles from Ariaiah Park railway station, and when the new section of the Barellan line is completed, their siding will be 'just over there,' about four or five miles away. They have always been the owners of the Mandamah Hotel - a well-kept house of 13 weather board rooms. The place is a great blessing to the traveller after land - or any other business - for Mrs. and Miss O'Brien and Messrs. O'Brien (2) are veritable encyclopedias of information concerning the country about Mandamah.”

Thomas remained as licensee up until 1908, from whence forth it was licensed to James J O'Brien [from 1908 through till 1913]. The license appears not to have been renewed in 1914, and it is assumed business was falling away.

In March 1915, Thomas Joseph O'Brien was one of a trio of men who applied for a conditional publican's license in the village of Mirrool. The three applicants were O'Brien, BS Lincoln of Narrandera, and T Hemsley of Ariaiah Park. The bench resolved to grant the license to O'Brien with a condition that proper provision was made for a water supply.³⁰⁹

Although no record could be found of a license renewal, for the Mandamah hotel in 1914, it may have been retained, as in 1915 George Bertram renewed the license for the Mandamah hotel, for the period 30th October 1915 till 29th October 1916.³¹⁰

In 1916 and 1917 Henry Prentice renewed the license for the Mandamah hotel, up until till 29th October 1918.³¹¹

It would appear the hotel did not trade past 1918.

³⁰⁷ Albury Banner. 10th August 1906, p26.

³⁰⁸ Albury Banner. 10th August 1906, p26.

³⁰⁹ Farmer & Settler. 9th March 1915, p4.

³¹⁰ NSW Government Gazette. 1915, p7021.

³¹¹ NSW Government Gazette. 1917, p6270.

New Hotel at Aria Park

In May 1913 WJ Monks invited tenders to erect a new fifty room hotel at Aria Park for James Henry Hoskinson, with bricks supplied.³¹²

Five months later in October 1913 it was confirmed that WJ Monks, architect of Wagga Wagga, had secured the contract to erect a new sixty room hotel at Aria Park for Hoskinson. The contractor was Mr Montieth Benjamin Meller, of Cootamundra.³¹³

No references to the opening of the new hotel could be found. It is assumed that it was sometime in the first half of 1914.

In April 1914, Aria Park featured a butcher's shop, three stores, two barber shops, four fruit shops, one baker's shop, a stationery shop, a public hall, a school of arts, two banks (Bank of NSW and the Commercial Bank), a billiard room, one hotel, three commission agents, a doctor, a private hospital, and a number of private residences.³¹⁴

In June 1914 Montieth Meller was issued a license for the Aria Park hotel, for twelve months, commencing on the 25th July 1914, he having superseded Hoskinson.³¹⁵

1914 Fire

A fire in late November 1914, destroyed a number of buildings in the town including four that belonged to Thomas Joseph O'Brien. Specifically, a hairdressing saloon (occupied by B Kennedy), a billiard saloon (occupied by R Gregory), a saddler's shop (occupied by J Lynch), and a school of arts. In addition to O'Brien's losses, the new Bank of NSW building, which had only been occupied for a couple of weeks, was also destroyed.³¹⁶ Four buildings belonging to Mr R Speirs, a jeweller of Temora, were also destroyed. These were a tailor's shop (occupied by Hill & Rolfe), a fruit shop (occupied by G Conson), a commission agents office (occupied by J Bargwanna), and an auctioneer's office (occupied by Webster Bros). All of the above premises were situated on the western side of Coolamon Street. The next building to the south, the Commercial Bank, was saved by the brick wall on Webster's building, which stopped the fire from spreading, while a brick wall on the northern end of the Bank of NSW building stopped the fire from spreading to Moriarty's store. Total damage was estimated at some £6,000, a large part of this being the value of the new Bank of NSW building.³¹⁷

James Henry Hoskinson

James Henry Hoskinson was born at Eddington, Victoria, on the 7th March 1870,³¹⁸ the son of John Hoskinson and Ann Hoskinson [nee Hawksley]. He married Margaret Walker at Junee in 1905 and the couple had six children. James passed away at Sans Souci on the 25th April 1915. The executors of the estate were his wife, Margaret Hoskinson, Alphonse Reed Tewksbury, and Edward Rowston. His entire estate, valued at some £13,000, was left to his wife and children the eldest of whom was only nine years old and the youngest not yet one year old.³¹⁹

³¹² Cootamundra Herald. 23rd May 1913, p3.

³¹³ Sydney Morning Herald. 7th October 1913, p10.

³¹⁴ Albury Banner. 10th April 1914, p12.

³¹⁵ NSW Government Gazette. 1914, 5187.

³¹⁶ Canowindra Star. 4th December 1914, p6.

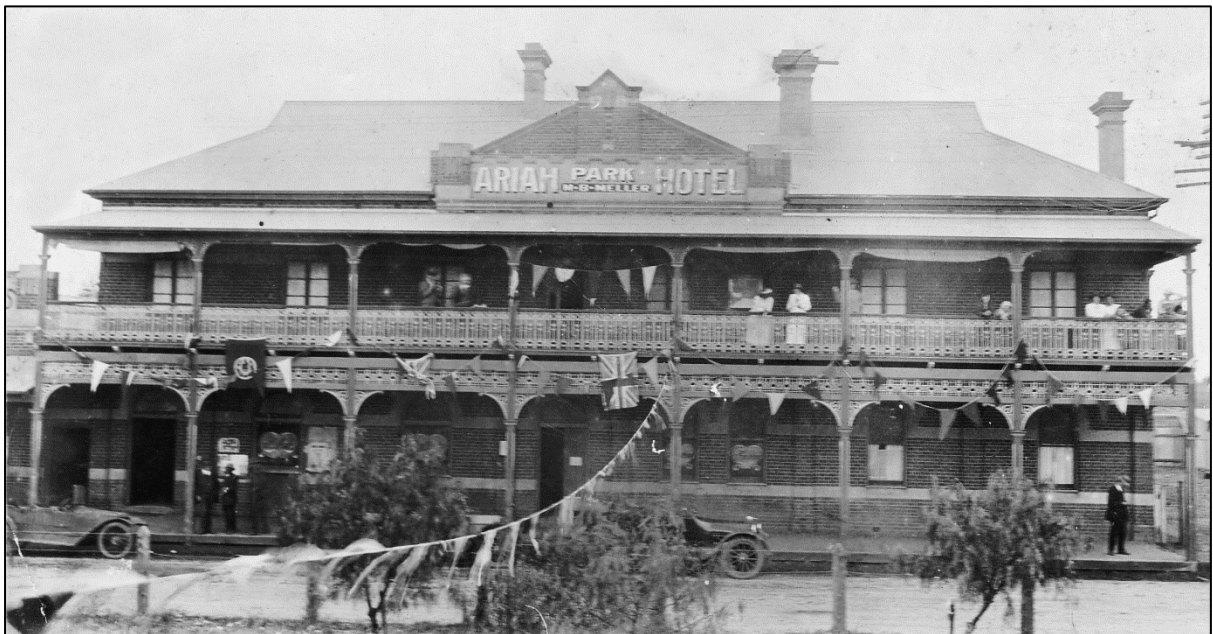
³¹⁷ Narandera Argus. 1st December 1914, p2. / Sydney Morning Herald. 26th November 1914, p8.

³¹⁸ VIC. BDM's. Birth registration # 11608.

³¹⁹ Sydney Morning Herald. 3rd July 1915, p8.



Above: The newer Ariah Park hotel with the old hotel just discernible, to the left.



Above: Montieth Meller's Ariah Park hotel c.1919.

Monteith Benjamin Meller [also commonly spelt, Montieth and Mellor].

Monteith Benjamin Meller was the son of Joseph & Ellen Meller. He married Marguerite Bettina Hunter at Junee, on the 18th June 1902,³²⁰ and they had one child, Cyril Vance Ludlow Meller [1903³²¹-1958]

In 1913 Monteith secured the contract to erect the new two storey Aria Park hotel. He was the licensee of this same hotel from 1914 till 1919, and then, in 1920, he became the licensee of the Royal Exchange hotel at Temora.³²²

In 1919 he was a Labor candidate for the seat of Murrumbidgee, in the state election that took place in November of that year.³²³

By 1924 Monty was residing in Sydney and had established a prosperous business as a hotel broker,³²⁴ which he continued to conduct up until the late 1930's or the ensuing decade.

In December 1926 Monteith owned the Royal hotel at Bourke when he was granted an injunction to prevent his son, Cyril Vance Ludlow Meller, the licensee of the hotel, and Tooheys Ltd, from making any arrangements with regard to the freehold, business, or license of the hotel.³²⁵

In March 1931, Marguerite was granted a divorce from her husband on the grounds of desertion.³²⁶

At this time Monteith was living at 17 Greville Street, Randwick, and his occupation was that of a hotel broker.³²⁷ He was living at Coogee in 1937 and at Balmain by 1949. In the 1943 census he was residing at the Palace hotel, Ardlethan, on his own and his occupation was listed as "*agent*."³²⁸ It is assumed Monteith was only staying there for business and that his permanent place of residence was still in Sydney.

Meller died on the 4th September 1950, presumably at his late residence, 40 Trouton Street, Balmain.³²⁹

In March 1920 it was announced that Monty Meller had purchased the license and business of the Royal Exchange hotel at Temora, from Mr & Mrs Carew Northcote.³³⁰ The license of the Aria Park hotel was transferred to Frederick Arthur Coombe in that same year.³³¹ This is probably the same Frederick Arthur Coombe who was licensee of the Imperial hotel at Rooty Hill, from June 1910,³³² till January 1918.³³³ Frederick passed away in 1945 at Belmore [Sydney],³³⁴ and his widow, Maude Alice Coombe, passed away at Belmore in December 1951.³³⁵

³²⁰ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 7867. / Sydney Morning Herald. 26th March 1931, p6.

³²¹ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 22110.

³²² NSW Government Gazette. Publicans' Licenses. 1920, p5000.

³²³ Australian Worker. 13th November 1919, p18.

³²⁴ Aria Park News. 13th March 1924, p4.

³²⁵ Daily Telegraph. 16th December 1926, p11.

³²⁶ Sydney Morning Herald.

³²⁷ Australian Electoral Rolls. 1931. Randwick North.

³²⁸ Australian Electoral Rolls. 1943. Ardlethan.

³²⁹ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 17338. / Sydney Morning Herald. 7th September 1950, p22.

³³⁰ Cootamundra Herald. 26th March 1920, p4.

³³¹ NSW Government Gazette. Publicans' Licenses. 1920, p5007.

³³² Nepean Times. 4th June 1910, p4.

³³³ Nepean Times. 19th January 1918, p3.

³³⁴ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 1406. / Sydney Morning Herald. 21st March 1945, p12.

³³⁵ Sydney Morning Herald. 31st December 1951, p8.

In this period the licensee changed just about every year for the life of the hotel. Licensees that lasted more than one year were the exception. Licensees to follow Coombe were as follows,³³⁶

1922, 6th April – Edwin John Moore. Moore had owned and licensed the Royal hotel at Coolamon prior to this [1911-1921]. Before that he had licensed Moore's Royal hotel at Ganmain [1896-1898] and the Royal hotel at Ganmain [1898-1900]. He was to be assisted in his new hotel by his son, Mr Jack Moore.³³⁷ In July 1923 it was reported that Edwin had taken over the license of Cooney's Ganmain hotel.³³⁸

1923, 16th April – Leslie Joseph Parer. Parer was a returned soldier and a capable sportsman. He came from a family who had established an enviable record as publicans. He had previously licensed the Terminus hotel at Darwin,³³⁹ and a hotel at Manangatang in Victoria.³⁴⁰ Parer later returned to the Terminus hotel in Darwin [1918].³⁴¹

The change in licensee resulted in the departure of Mrs Reardon who had been the manageress of the hotel for the previous twelve months. She was given a farewell by staff prior to her departure for Sydney.³⁴²

Mr F Thorpe was the chef at the hotel in 1923, but he was compelled to leave for Sydney due to poor health in June of that year when he was given a farewell presentation by fellow staff. He was described as an excellent chef who had raised the standard of the hotel in the time he had been there.³⁴³ A report in May 1923 praised the hotel, describing it as "*one of the best conducted on the lin,*" and declaring "*the excellence of the meals provided is common talk amongst commercial travellers and others.*"³⁴⁴

In December 1923 Parer was before the court charged with selling liquor out of hours. The evidence from the arresting constable was as follows,³⁴⁵

"At 9 p.m. on the 5th November he went to the Aria Park Hotel and saw the licensee, and said to him, 'There is a man, who lives in the town, in the bar and I want to see him;'" He replied, "I don't think there, is anyone there," and he opened the bar, and we went in. There were four men in the bar and none of them were boarders, and each had a beer glass in front of them. Said to Parer, 'What have you to say to this!' and he replied, "None of them have any right here, I did not know they were here."

In his defence Parer testified,

"Remember evening of the 5th November, I left the hotel at 7 p.m. and went to the hall to rehearse for a concert, returning to the hotel about 9 p.m. Left the hotel in charge of my wife, and I have always given instructions for nobody, but travellers and boarders, to be served after hours. Had just

³³⁶ Noel Butlin Archives Centre, Australian National University: Tooth and Company Yellow Cards. AU NBAC N60-YC-819, Aria Park hotel, Coolamon Street, Aria Park, circa 1920-1980. / State Records. Index of Publicans' Licenses: 1920-1937.

³³⁷ Albury Banner. 17th March 1922, p45.

³³⁸ Aria Park News. 5th July 1923, p4.

³³⁹ Northern Territory Times. 4th November 1922, p17.

³⁴⁰ Aria Park News. 19th April 1923, p3.

³⁴¹ Northern Territory Times. 1st June 1928, p4.

³⁴² Aria Park News. 26th April 1923, p4.

³⁴³ Aria Park News. 28th June 1923, p4.

³⁴⁴ Aria Park News. 3rd May 1923, p3.

³⁴⁵ Aria Park News. 6th December 1923, p2.

returned when Constable Smede walked in. I opened up without demur, the door was locked, and saw four men in there...David Hogg was behind the bar. He has a duplicate key, and is employed by me....Hogg had no authority to be in the bar after hours, and was there, against my expressed wishes. The reason, for him having a duplicate key is for the purpose of opening up and cleaning up at 6am, otherwise I would be disturbed for the key every morning."

The police magistrate commented that *"he had never heard a more truthful or more reliable evidence given by a publican"* but still convicted Parer, choosing to apply a small fine. It is quite plausible that Parer did what many publicans did in such situations – they perjured themselves to protect their business interest.

On his departure from the hotel, Parer was given several farewell presentations and one of these was held at the hotel. A press report noted that a number of toasts were drunk and *"So deep was the sorrow of one of the speakers at Mr Parer's departure that he was too full for words."*³⁴⁶



Above: The Aria Park hotel in October 1924. Courtesy Tooth & Co. records.

1924, 1st May - John Hay McRitchie. McRitchie made an immediate impression donating £5 5s to the local Australian Rules Football Club, by refereeing a game of Rugby Union between Aria Park and Barmedman, and by displaying a capable ability at golf.³⁴⁷ Before coming to Aria Park, John Hay McRitchie had been the licensee of the Murrumbidgee hotel at Narrandera.³⁴⁸ He left the Aria Park hotel in 1925, and in November 1927 he was granted a license for the Royal hotel at

³⁴⁶ Aria Park News. 8th May 1924, p5.

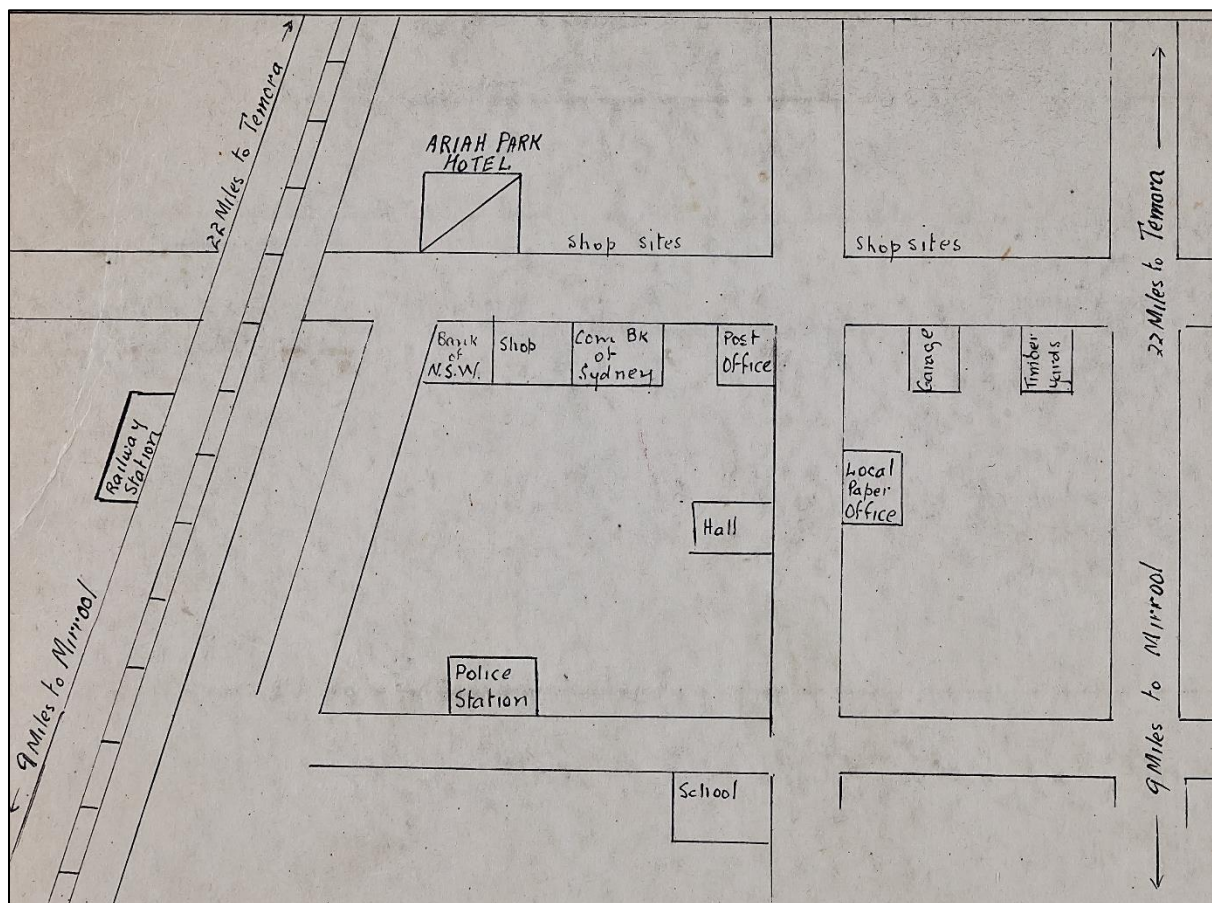
³⁴⁷ Aria Park News. 8th May 1924, p4.

³⁴⁸ Narandera Argus. 17th November 1922, p5.

Muswellbrook,³⁴⁹ where he stayed until August 1935.³⁵⁰ In 1937 he was the licensee of the Royal hotel at Appin and he passed away there on the 11th December of that year, at the age of fifty one years.³⁵¹ He was survived by his wife, Maud Elizabeth McRitchie, and his son, Laurence John McRitchie.

On the 29th September 1924, at about 3am, a fire completely gutted the billiard room of the Aria Park hotel. The parapet and roof of the hotel caught fire but was extinguished by a bucket brigade before it could do any substantial damage, although it was a close call due to a shortage of water. Peard's saddlery shop [O'Brien & Co.] was also destroyed. Total damage was estimated at £2,000.³⁵² The hairdressing and billiard saloon was occupied by Mr Archie McLean. A press report provided the following description, "All that now remains of what was nice brick premises are three tottering walls, the front one falling across the roadway." Peard and Mr Reece [the hairdresser] both set up temporarily in Mr FT Judd's buildings opposite the post office. The destroyed buildings were owned by the Hoskinson Estate.³⁵³

In December 1924 a wireless set with a loudspeaker was installed on the balcony of the hotel.³⁵⁴



Above: A 1920's plan of Aria Park. Courtesy Tooth & Co. records.

³⁴⁹ Muswellbrook Chronicle. 18th November 1927, p1.

³⁵⁰ Muswellbrook Chronicle. 30th August 1935, p2.

³⁵¹ Sydney Morning Herald. 13th December 1937, p7. / Daily Telegraph. 13th December 1937, p12.

³⁵² Daily Telegraph. 30th September 1924, p3. / Singleton Argus. 2nd October 1924, p1.

³⁵³ Aria Park News. 2nd October 1924, p4.

³⁵⁴ Aria Park News. 11th December 1924, p4.

1925, 23rd March - Frederick John Elliott. Elliott had come from Moree.³⁵⁵

Elliott applied for the transfer of the license in March 1925, and the application was heard by the Temora Licensing Court. It was an intensive interrogation of Elliott who had a number of convictions against his name. Elliott testified that he was a married man and that he and his wife had been living at Randwick.

Elliott listed a number of hotels he had licensed, as follows,³⁵⁶

1. Harp of Erin, Riley Street, Sydney – no convictions recorded.
2. Post Office hotel, Moree [1921-1923]
 - a. Charge of selling out of hours [1922]
 - b. Conviction for selling out of hours
3. Victoria hotel, East Moree [1923-
 - a. Conviction for selling out of hours [on his first day].
 - b. Conviction for selling out of hours [1925]

One police witness, Sergeant Arthur Loomes, believed Elliott was not a fit person to hold a license because of his propensity to trade out of hours. The same officer conceded that Elliott was a first-class hotel keeper and that his wife's conduct in the hotel "*could not be improved on.*" The bench granted the transfer.

After leaving the Aria Park hotel Elliott took up the licensee of the Royal hotel at Windsor in July 1926.³⁵⁷ By October 1927 he was back at the Victoria hotel in Moree and was convicted, in this same month, of selling liquor outside of regulation hours.³⁵⁸ Another similar conviction followed in 1928.³⁵⁹

In August 1931 Elliott was still at the Victoria hotel but was now also an alderman on the Moree Council. He suffered an indignity in that same month when his Cadillac sedan was set on fire.³⁶⁰ Elliott held the license of the Victoria hotel up until 1935 or 1936 and was regularly in court to face charges of selling outside of hours. It was clearly a cost of doing business for Elliott. Elliott's wife, Irene, passed away in October 1936 at a private hospital in Darlinghurst.³⁶¹

In August 1937, Elliott was living in Randwick, when he applied to take over the license of the Great Central hotel, which he planned to conduct in association with his twenty-year-old daughter, Gwen Elliott. He subsequently changed his mind and the court heard that Elliott had on sold the hotel to Andrew Thomas Morgan, formerly of the Britannia hotel at the corner of King and Castlereagh Streets, Sydney.³⁶²

In February 1938 Elliott took over the license of Pfahlerts hotel in Margaret Street, Sydney,³⁶³ but three months later transferred the license to Studley Woolcott Lush.³⁶⁴

In October 1940, Elliott was back in Moree, and was again elected as an alderman on the Moree Municipal Council.³⁶⁵

³⁵⁵ Narandera Argus. 13th March 1925, p2.

³⁵⁶ Aria Park News. 2nd April 1925, p8.

³⁵⁷ Windsor & Richmond Gazette. 2nd July 1926, p4.

³⁵⁸ North West Champion. 6th October 1927, p4.

³⁵⁹ Moree Gwydir Examiner. 22nd November 1928, p5.

³⁶⁰ Moree Gwydir Examiner. 9th November 1931, p2.

³⁶¹ Sydney Morning Herald. 9th October 1936, p10.

³⁶² Glen Innes Examiner. 10th August 1937, p5. / 24th August 1937, p4.

³⁶³ Sydney Morning Herald. 22nd February 1938, p7.

³⁶⁴ Sydney Morning Herald. 19th May 1938, p4.

³⁶⁵ Moree Gwydir Examiner. 14th October 1940, p3.

Frederick John Elliott, the son of Robert Henry Ernest and Mary Elliott, passed away in 1943 at Moree.³⁶⁶

1926, 18th May - William John Wills. Wills had previously licensed the Ganmain hotel at Ganmain,³⁶⁷ and the Victoria hotel at Narrandera [1920].³⁶⁸

Wills would have been horrified to hear of an application for a second hotel in the town. The application, by Mr WE Berry, was heard by the Temora court in October 1925. Objections were heard from Wills, from the Rev. Woods, and from a number of other citizens. Wills would have been relieved when the court refused the application.³⁶⁹ To top it all off Wills crashed his car into a tree on the journey to Temora causing extensive damage to the vehicle. Wills was fortunate to escape unharmed.

The court hearing revealed some interesting details,³⁷⁰

- The application was supported by Mr GM Harrison, the son of Samuel Harrison.
- The court heard that Frederick Elliott was, “*not a popular licensee.*”
- WE Berry, the applicant, was a builder and contractor residing in Aria Park for the past fourteen years. He testified the current hotel had sixteen bedrooms. [Berry Bros completed a new hotel at Weethalle in September 1928, and Alf Berry took out the first license].³⁷¹
- Part of the accommodation at the existing hotel was in a detached pise building, known as, “The Trenches.”
- Statements from a number of people who stayed at the hotel confirmed how difficult it was to get a bath at the hotel, most notably in the summer months.
- Wills declared that he had conducted hotels in five other towns.

Evidence from Constable Brown, who had inspected the hotel, was that there were twelve single beds available to the public, on the ground floor. These would have been in the pise section of the hotel complex [The Trenches]. The bedrooms in the main building were all upstairs and these consisted of seventeen single beds and four double beds.

His evidence also revealed that there were five parlours on the ground floor of the main building. There was a total of four bathrooms and two large dining rooms. An engine pumped water from a 75,000-gallon underground tank to a head tank of 800 gallons, which presumably gravity fed the bathrooms.

Wills appears to have been a far more popular host than Elliott ever was, and he was one of the few licensees who stayed for more than one year – he lasted a bit over a year and a half.³⁷²

After leaving Aria Park he took a world trip but was back in Australia by September 1928 and visited Aria Park in that month.³⁷³

William John Wills eventually retired to Narrandera where he passed away in May 1949. An obituary provided the following details,³⁷⁴

³⁶⁶ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 28733.

³⁶⁷ Narandera Argus. 11th May 1926, p2. / Aria Park News. 27th May 1926, p5.

³⁶⁸ Narandera Argus. 12th March 1920, p2

³⁶⁹ Albury Banner. 15th October 1926, p7.

³⁷⁰ Aria Park News. 14th October 1926, p3. / 21st October, pp4,8,9.

³⁷¹ Aria Park News. 27th September 1928, p2.

³⁷² Aria Park News. 24th June 1926, p5.

³⁷³ Aria Park News. 27th September 1928, p2.

³⁷⁴ Narandera Argus. 17th May 1949, p2.

“In the Narrandera hospital on Friday last, the death occurred of an old and well known resident of Narrandera, Mr. William John Wills, at the age of 54 years. Mr. Wills was a native of Narrandera, being a son of Mrs. Wills and the late Mr. W. J. Wills, of this town. Some years ago he conducted hotels at Whitton, Ganmain, Orange, Lismore and elsewhere. About eight or nine years ago he returned to Narrandera and resided here until the time of his death. For some years he was practically an invalid, but he bore his infirmity with great fortitude. He was a soldier of the First World War, serving in the Gallipoli and Palestine campaigns. He was a great grandson of Wills, the Australian explorer. Deceased is survived by his widow and a family of two daughters, Mary and Nancy. He is also survived by his aged mother, three brothers and two sisters. The brothers are Thomas (Sydney), Charles (Melbourne) and Bob (Narrandera). The sisters are Anna (Mrs. A. Knight, Sydney) and Daphne (Mrs. T. Jensen, Atalla Bay, Victoria).”

His wife, Martha Alice Wills [nee Smith] passed away some five years later in March 1951.³⁷⁵

His father, also William John Wills, passed away at Narrandera in September 1946 [see obituary for biographical details].³⁷⁶ [See also Narandera Argus. 22nd October 1946, p2. for additional biographical details of Will’s father and grandfather].

1928, 23rd January – Wilfred Aubrey Bangster Hunt. Hunt had moved from Bellingen on the north coast.³⁷⁷ His stay was very brief - six months after taking over he transferred the license to Manus Patrick Heffernan. In December 1931 Hunt took over the license of the Entrance Hotel [Gosford].³⁷⁸

Wilfred Aubrey Bangster Hunt was born at Katoomba in 1886, the son of James Goldie Hunt and Emily Sarah Hunt [nee Hinch].³⁷⁹ In 1912 he married Mary Alice Davies at Newcastle.³⁸⁰

In 1963 Hunt was living on his own at 11 King Edward Avenue, Bayview [Pittwater],³⁸¹ where he still resided at the time of his death [15th January 1967].³⁸²

In April 1928 the hotel had some competition for the provision of meals. Theo Georgeson had opened his Excelsior Refreshment Rooms next door to the hotel. He offered meals at all hours along with fresh seafood, confectionery, small goods, cigarettes and tobacco.³⁸³

1928, 1st August – Manus Patrick Heffernan. Heffernan had moved from Dubbo,³⁸⁴ and Aria Park was obviously not to his liking. Three and a half months after taking over the hotel he transferred the license to John James Williamson,³⁸⁵

Manus Patrick Heffernan was born at Helensburgh in 1897, the son of William Heffernan and Annie Heffernan [nee McFadden].

³⁷⁵ Narandera Argus. 5th March 1951, p2.

³⁷⁶ Narandera Argus. 27th September 1946, p2.

³⁷⁷ Aria Park News. 19th January 1928, p2.

³⁷⁸ Gosford Times. 22nd December 1932, p13. / 10th December 1931, p7.

³⁷⁹ NSW BDM’s. Birth registration # 25067.

³⁸⁰ NSW BDM’s. Marriage registration # 14972. / Sunday Times. 29th September 1912, p27.

³⁸¹ Australian Electoral Rolls. 1963. Pittwater.

³⁸² Sydney Morning Herald. 16th January 1967. {Ryerson}

³⁸³ Aria Park News. 26th April 1928, p7.

³⁸⁴ Aria Park News. 12 July 1928, p7.

³⁸⁵ Aria Park News. 15th November 1928, p2.

In May 1920 Manus Heffernan married Miss Elizabeth Wallace Jones at Helensburgh [Wollongong]. They were both natives of that place.³⁸⁶ He subsequently took the license of the Commercial hotel at Dubbo but vacated this position in August 1925.³⁸⁷ He then moved to the Camelia Grove hotel in Alexandria but vacated that hotel in April 1927.³⁸⁸ In 1930 the couple were conducting the Royal hotel at Warren.³⁸⁹ In 1949 the couple were living in Meurants Lane, Parklea, and Manus's occupation was that of a primary producer.³⁹⁰ In 1963 the couple were living at 10 The Crescent, Helensburgh.

Manus passed away on October 1967 at Katoomba.³⁹¹

1928, 13th November - John James Williamson. Williamson had previously held the licenses of the Coolac hotel at Coolac [1909-1921] and the Terminus hotel at Cootamundra [1921-1922]. His tenure at Aria Park was well above average – he stayed there for the next five years.

John James Williamson was born at Sydney in 1886,³⁹² the son of John Samuel Williamson and Annie Maria Williamson [nee Wilkes]. In 1908 he married Eileen May Benedict Mangan at Cootamundra.³⁹³

In July 1938 Williamson was living in Sydney and his occupation was that of a salesman. He was in financial difficulties with several creditors petitioning him before the bankruptcy court.³⁹⁴

In 1942 Williamson was conducting the Criterion hotel at Murrumburrah and in August of that year his wife, Eileen, passed away three weeks after entering the local hospital. Her obituary in the local press provided the following biographical details,³⁹⁵

“The late Mrs. Williamson, who was the second daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Mangan, of Cootamundra, was born there in the year 1888, and was married at Cootamundra by late Fr. Butler (who had also christened her when a child) on the 17th March, 1908, to Mr. Williamson, and they lived there, until 1st January 1909, when her husband took over the Coolac Hotel and controlled it up to the time it was delicensed, having lived there for 13 years. They returned to Cootamundra and conducted the Terminus hotel. From there they came to Harden and took over the Commercial hotel. Other hotels conducted by them were the Star (Cootamundra), Railway (Liverpool), Nambucca (Maxwell), Aria Park hotel, Central (Cootamundra). Owing to the illness of his wife, Mr Williamson gave up hotel keeping, and for seven years followed the calling of hotel broker in Sydney. Mrs. Williamson's health having improved they decided to return to hotel keeping and acquired the Criterion at Murrumburrah about 18 months ago. However, her health again began to fail and for the past, twelve months she had suffered considerably, and about three weeks ago it became so serious that she was taken to Young, where death took place. The remains were taken to St. Mary's, Young, where Mass for the repose of deceased's soul was offered up by Very Rev. Dean Devine on Sunday morning. Deceased is survived by her husband one son, Jack (Pte. J. T. Williamson, Young), and two, daughters, Tilly (Mrs. Stan Last, Muttama), and Eileen (Bondi). There are three grandchildren. Sole surviving brother is Thomas Mangan (Cootamundra), and sisters are Elma (Mrs.

³⁸⁶ South Coast Times and Wollongong Argus. 4th June 1920, p14.

³⁸⁷ Western Age. 7th August 1925, p2.

³⁸⁸ Sydney Morning Herald. 5th April 1927, p8.

³⁸⁹ Australian Electoral Rolls. 1930. Warren.

³⁹⁰ Australian Electoral Rolls. 1949. Quaker's Hill.

³⁹¹ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 41830.

³⁹² NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 2590.

³⁹³ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 1375.

³⁹⁴ Sydney Morning Herald. 6th July 1938, p11.

³⁹⁵ Murrumburrah Signal. 20th August 1942, p1.

Shoemith, Five Dock), and Rae (Sister Fridolin, Rozelle Convent). Her brother, Edward Mangan, died about a month ago at Cootamundra."

Jack Williamson passed away at Bega in May 1949,³⁹⁶ and an obituary provided some details of his working life,

"The death occurred suddenly on Sunday last at Bega, of Mr Jack Williamson who was well known in the hotel business throughout N.S.W. Many years ago the late Mr Williamson, conducted hotels at Coolac, Kempsey (Tattersall's), Liverpool (Railway), Macksville (Nambucca); he afterwards had licenses at Aria Park, Cootamundra. (Central) and Murrumburrah (Criterion). While at Murrumburrah he took a keen interest in football, and for 12 months occupied the position of president of Group Nine. He was also very interested in greyhound racing and reared dogs himself."



Above: The Aria Park hotel in March 1930. Courtesy Tooth & Co. records.

1933, 12th December - Ernest John Robson. In 1923 Robson was the licensee of the Marengo hotel at Young when he was convicted of selling a cigar to a young boy under the age of eighteen.³⁹⁷ In March 1933 he took over the license of a wine bar at 1 Regent Street, Kogarah.³⁹⁸ After this he took the hotel at Aria Park. In April 1935 he took over the license of the New Zealand hotel at the corner of William and Yurong Streets, Sydney.³⁹⁹ Five months later he took the license of the Golden Fleece hotel at the corner of Campbell and Castlereagh Streets, Sydney.⁴⁰⁰ In February 1937 he moved to the Empire hotel at the corner of Park & Castlereagh Streets, Sydney.⁴⁰¹ In October 1939 he took

³⁹⁶ MacLeay Argus. 24th May 1949, p5.

³⁹⁷ Sydney Morning Herald. 12th June 1923, p9.

³⁹⁸ Sydney Morning Herald. 28th March 1933, p6.

³⁹⁹ Sydney Morning Herald. 11th April 1935, p5.

⁴⁰⁰ Sydney Morning Herald. 5th September 1935, p6.

⁴⁰¹ Sydney Morning Herald. 25th February 1937, p6.

over another wine license at Military Road, Mosman.⁴⁰² In February 1941 he took over the wine bar in Maitland Road, Mayfield [Newcastle],⁴⁰³ where he stayed until November of that same year.⁴⁰⁴ Ernest John Robson was born in 1895 at Uralla [NSW],⁴⁰⁵ the son of William Henry Robson and Clara Robson [nee Seaman]. He served with distinction in WW1 and after returning to Australia married Dorothy Jane Waldron, at Hornsby, in 1918.⁴⁰⁶ Ernest passed away on the 23rd November 1940, while holidaying with friends at Cardiff.⁴⁰⁷ His body was found lying on the bed on that morning. There were no suspicious circumstances.⁴⁰⁸

1934, 9th October - Eugene Charles Smith. Eugene stayed for two years before moving to the Federal hotel at Narromine in June 1936 [known as the Narromine hotel from 1948],⁴⁰⁹ which hotel he still licensed when he passed away on the 30th December 1940, in the Dubbo District hospital at the age of 56. He had suffered a seizure two weeks earlier and had never recovered from that event. He was well known in the west - especially around Narromine.⁴¹⁰ He was survived by his wife and an adult family.

1936, 11th February - William Sullivan. Sullivan had moved from Springwood,⁴¹¹ where he had licensed the Oriental hotel up until August 1935.⁴¹²

In 1919, Sullivan married Charlotte Ann Carruthers, in Sydney.⁴¹³

William Sullivan, late of 5 Beach Street, Curl Curl, died on the 29th June 1952.⁴¹⁴ He was described as a retired hotel keeper. His wife, Charlotte, survived him.

1937, 11th May - Mary Jane Fitzalan.⁴¹⁵ According to a local report the hotel had undergone "*great renovations and extensive improvements*" when Mrs Fitzalan took over. The improvements included "*new and expensive cutlery and modern furniture,*" and the reading rooms were said to be "*a delight to rest in.*" A new refrigerator costing three hundred pounds had been installed and Mrs Fitzaland was providing enhanced accommodation.⁴¹⁶

Mary Jane Fergus was born in February 1879 at Bredbo River [NSW], the daughter of John Adam Fergus and Mary Fergus [nee Hilley].⁴¹⁷ In January 1901, she married Edward Sidney Fitzalan at Cooma.⁴¹⁸ The couple had four children but only one survived infancy – their first child, Madge.

⁴⁰² Sydney Morning Herald. 26th October 1939, p4.

⁴⁰³ Newcastle Sun. 25th February 1941, p2.

⁴⁰⁴ Newcastle Morning Herald. 19th November 1941, p7.

⁴⁰⁵ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 17541.

⁴⁰⁶ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 12154.

⁴⁰⁷ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 22279.

⁴⁰⁸ Newcastle Sun. 23rd November 1940, p3.

⁴⁰⁹ NBAC: Tooth and Company, N60-YC-1888, Narromine hotel, Dandaloo Street & Derribong Avenue, Narromine, circa 1920's-1970's.

⁴¹⁰ Dubbo Liberal. 31st December 1940, p4.

⁴¹¹ Arian Park News. 24th January 1936, p40.

⁴¹² Nepean Times. 31st August 1935, p2.

⁴¹³ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 11272.

⁴¹⁴ Sydney Morning Herald. 10th January 1953, p13.

⁴¹⁵ Albury Banner. 21st May 1937, p36.

⁴¹⁶ Arian Park News. 17th September 1937, p3.

⁴¹⁷ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 11859.

⁴¹⁸ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 3580.

Mary Jane, late of 1 Vista Street Parramatta, passed away on the 24th September 1950, at the Ryde District hospital, aged seventy two. She was survived by her daughter, Madge [Mrs J Estell], and her granddaughter, Gwen.⁴¹⁹ Her husband had predeceased her in 1943.⁴²⁰

In January 1938, George Myers, was staying at the hotel. He went to bed around 11pm and as a consequence of the very hot weather he, and several other guests, pulled their beds out onto the balcony. His fellow boarders were awakened around 2pm to find that Myers had gone over the balcony and fallen to the ground below. He was rushed to the Temora hospital and diagnosed with two broken arms and two broken ribs. Myers, who had previously been employed by Messrs John Meagher & Co. at Temora, up until two weeks ago, could remember nothing of the incident.⁴²¹

1938, 15th November – Clifford H Dowse took a five year lease of the hotel and put Ernest Edward Follett in as the manager, and presumably as licensee.⁴²²

Ernest Edward Follett was born at Bungendore in 1890, the son of William Henry Follett and Margaret Follett [nee Frazer].⁴²³ In 1922 he married Irene Maud Janson [nee Worthington] at Goulburn,⁴²⁴ and the couple had one child before Irene, late of Wallerawang, passed away in August 1929 at Lithgow.⁴²⁵ Ernest remarried in 1933, to Edna Estelle Cook, at Woollahra.⁴²⁶

In December 1920 Ernest E Follett was a barman at the Terminus hotel in Goulburn.⁴²⁷ In 1929 he was the licensee of the Royal hotel at Wallerawang.⁴²⁸ Ernest passed away at Burwood in 1955.⁴²⁹

1939, 24th January - Clifford Henry Dowse took over the license in this month.

Clifford Henry Dowse was born at Inverell in 1891,⁴³⁰ the son of James Frederick Dowse and Rebecca Wood Dowse [nee Blagg]. In April 1923 he married Dagmar Olga Nielsen at Aloomba, in Queensland, and the couple had two children. In August 1924 he licensed his first hotel, the Mulgrave hotel at Gordonvale, in Queensland.⁴³¹ In February 1926 he gave notice that it was his intention to transfer the license to his wife, Dagmar Olga Dowse, at the next sitting of the Licensing Court.⁴³²

In 1932, Clifford took over the license of the Milson's Point hotel in Alfred Street, North Sydney.⁴³³ In November 1932 he moved to the Hampshire hotel at 91 Parramatta Road, Camperdown.⁴³⁴ After this he held the license for Ackland's hotel in Moncur Street, Woollahra, and in June 1934 he was licensee of the Mansion House hotel, in Elizabeth Street, Sydney.⁴³⁵ In March 1937 Dowse was the

⁴¹⁹ The Sun. 25th September 1950, p8.

⁴²⁰ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 4317.

⁴²¹ West Wyalong Advocate. 14th January 1938, p11.

⁴²² NBAC: Tooth and Company, N60-YC-819, Aria Park hotel, Coolamon Street, Aria Park, circa 1920-1980

⁴²³ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 8719.

⁴²⁴ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 4019.

⁴²⁵ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 18071.

⁴²⁶ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 12768.

⁴²⁷ Goulburn Evening Penny Post. 28th December 1920, p2.

⁴²⁸ Lithgow Mercury. 10th June 1929, p6.

⁴²⁹ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 17644.

⁴³⁰ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 17173.

⁴³¹ Cairns Post. 18th June 1924, p1.

⁴³² Cairns Post. 12th February 1926, p2.

⁴³³ Sydney Morning Herald. 3rd February 1932, p10.

⁴³⁴ Sydney Morning Herald. 1st November 1932, p6.

⁴³⁵ Sydney Morning Herald. 13th June 1934, p8.

licensee of the Fitzroy hotel at Coff's Harbor.⁴³⁶ Dowse held the license for the Ariaiah Park hotel for some seven months up until the 29th August 1939.

On the 10th April 1948, Clifford Dowse took his own life at the Club House hotel in Yass.⁴³⁷ Clifford was found dead in an upstairs bathroom of his licensed hotel with his throat cut "from ear to ear" and an open blade razor laying in the hand basin. He had moved to Yass some two months earlier to take over the license of the hotel.

Alerted by a housekeeper, Sergeant Byers of the Yass Police, used an axe to gain entry into the bathroom the door to which had been locked. According to Byers,⁴³⁸

"He found Mr. Dowse clad in his pyjamas and he was dead. There was a deep gash across his throat. Deceased, whose body was still warm was lying with his feet in the bathtub and his body was bent over the side of the bath. There was a considerable amount of blood on the bathroom floor, in and on the hand basin, and an open blade razor was found in the hand basin."

Despite Dowse's reputed financial security police investigations determined that he was obsessed with the idea that he could lose it all because of the beer strike and the impact it had had on his business. A local press report provided some biographical details,⁴³⁹

"The late Mr. Dowse, who was aged 57, took over the licence of the Club House Hotel on February 19 this year. He came from Queanbeyan where he had conducted the Tourist Hotel for a number of years. He was a widower (his wife having predeceased him some seven years ago) and his two children, Clifford, aged 17, and Olga, aged 9, resided with him at the hotel. His son is in the employ of Mr. R. Haddon, accountant, and Mayor of Yass. Since his arrival in Yass, the late Mr. Dowse had proved his worth as a citizen and was popular amongst those with whom he came into contact. He had become a keen supporter of the Yass Rugby League Football Club and was instrumental in securing the services of Mr. Allan Lloyd, one of the club's star players. A close friend of the deceased described him as being a "vigorous, conscientious, publican who did his utmost to maintain faith with his guests and the general public." He said he had known Mr. Dowse for many years" and had found him to be "as honest and as straight they come." "He was a keen sportsman and assisted all sporting activities wherever he resided. He threw his weight financially and otherwise behind the Queanbeyan Rugby League and I have no doubt that his assistance has already been gained by the local club."

It seems the Club House hotel had run out of beer and Dowse's fears were not unfounded.

The housekeeper referred to above was Ethel May Thomson who was in reality much more than a house keeper. At the inquest into Dowse's death, she gave the following testimony,⁴⁴⁰

"Ethel May Thomson said she was a divorced woman residing at the Club House hotel. She had been in the employ of deceased for a number of years, both before his wife died seven years ago, and since then continuously. She was housekeeper and manageress at the Club House. She had cared for deceased's two children, Clifford Stanley, aged 17 years, and Olga, aged nine years, since the death of his wife. During recent weeks she had noticed that Mr. Dowse appeared to be somewhat worried over business matters at the hotel, particularly the beer strike. "He remarked to me on several occasions, I think we have bought a dud hotel here." Some two or three weeks ago she advised him to see a doctor as she was of the opinion that he was not in his usual state of health. He was

⁴³⁶ Daily Examiner. 12th March 1937, p6.

⁴³⁷ Sydney Morning Herald. 12th April 1948, p10.

⁴³⁸ Yass Tribune-Courier. 12th April 1948, p2.

⁴³⁹ Yass Tribune-Courier. 12th April 1948, p2.

⁴⁴⁰ Yass Tribune-Courier. 27th April 1948, p1.

examined by Dr. Holmes. Witness remembered the Friday night prior to deceased's death. They were talking together and he appeared to be in his normal state of health. At the dining table about 6.30 p.m. that night the four of them— deceased, his son and daughter and witness—were seated at the same table. Mr. Dowse remarked he had been to the solicitor that day and had made another will. He said: "I have left you each a cottage and the balance of my property is to be sold and equally divided amongst the three of you. Mr. Dowse told witness some time ago that he had made a will at Queanbeyan and had appointed her [Mrs Thomson] executrix. Witness told the Coroner that deceased's life was insured with the A.M.P. Society but she did not know for what amount. "

An acquaintance, Mr McInnes, gave the following testimony,⁴⁴¹

"He had known Mr. Dowse and Mrs. Thomson for several years, and had stayed at their Tourist Hotel at Queanbeyan. ...witness said on Friday night, April 9, Mr. Dowse visited his room and they had a conversation. Mr. Dowse said: "I have lost my punch as a publican. I've bought a dud hotel here." He also told witness about making a will that day and said he had sold the freehold of his hotel at Ashford and would get £8,000 on June 8 this year."

1939, 29th August – Alexander M Henderson, formerly of the Royal hotel at Warren. Alexander stayed at the hotel for four years. In December 1940, he and his wife, Ida, suffered a tragedy when their seven-month-old daughter, Anne, passed away.⁴⁴²



Above: The Ariah Park hotel in September 1939. Courtesy Tooth & Co. records.

In April 1942, the hotel had some unusual guests. Fifty-six children from the Redfern Day Nursery had been evacuated by train to Ariah Park [in response to the war]. The children, ranging in age from 1½ to 6 years old, were to be accommodated at the hotel and other buildings in the district. It was expected that up to two hundred children would be relocated to Ariah Park in this way. The children were accompanied by eleven escorts from Sydney, which included four teachers, a laundress, a cook, and three assistants.⁴⁴³

⁴⁴¹ Yass Tribune-Courier. 27th April 1948, p1.

⁴⁴² Sydney Morning Herald. 30th December 1940, p4.

⁴⁴³ Daily Telegraph. 23rd April 1942, p6.

1943, 17th November – Albert WH Nicholson.

1944, 23rd February – Bertie Valentine Dudley Clarke

1946, 18th September – Stanley G Colling [with Gwenda M Colling]

In June 1947, a fire smouldered overnight in the carpet of the upstairs lounge room burning through the floor and causing extensive damage to that room. It was prevented from spreading to the dining room below by the pressed metal ceiling. The fire was detected early in the morning.⁴⁴⁴

In February 1948, low lying areas in Ariaiah Park, Ardlethan, and Temora were subject to flooding as a consequence of heavy rains. In an hour and a half Ariaiah Park recorded 394 points of rain, which flooded the entire ground floor of the hotel and filled the cellars below.⁴⁴⁵

1949, 8th March – Albert Edward Cartwright – formerly of the Haymarket hotel, George Street, Sydney. Albert had previously licensed the Grosvenor hotel at 617 Harris Street, Ultimo [November 1941].⁴⁴⁶ He later conducted the Exchange hotel at Tenterfield and in February 1947 he was conducting a hotel in Sydney.⁴⁴⁷



Above: The Ariaiah Park hotel in September 1949. The billiard room to the left of the hotel and two shops left of that belonged to the hotel, as did the café to the right of the hotel. Courtesy Tooth & Co. records.

⁴⁴⁴ West Wyalong Advocate. 30th June 1947, p5.

⁴⁴⁵ Daily Advertiser. 5th February 1948, p1.

⁴⁴⁶ Sydney Morning Herald. 18th November 1941, p3.

⁴⁴⁷ The Sun. 24th February 1947, p7.

1951, 28th February – Arthur Leonard Digby – formerly of the Locomotive hotel at Tamworth.

1954, 6th July – Albert Edgar Kitchen – formerly of Tattersall's hotel at Gilgandra [1952-1954]. Kitchen had apparently won a major prize in the NSW Lottery, which provided the funds for his new venture.⁴⁴⁸

Six o'clock closing ended on the 1st February 1955. The temporary measures introduced in 1916 had lasted for some thirty-eight years. Sunday trading was restricted to bona fide travellers and legend has it that patrons used to drink downstairs in the cellar of the Aria Park hotel after 6pm and on Sundays. There was even a fireplace in the cellar to keep them warm.

1957, 9th May – Victor Hilton Sully [with wife, Edith Jean Sully]

1958, 11th July – John Leslie Miller [with wife, Christine Carr Miller]

In the 1960's the hotel had 26 bedrooms, four of which were used by the licensee.⁴⁴⁹

1960, 7th October - Peter Bishop – 1st license [with wife, Dorothy Joyce Bishop]

1966, 13th May – Thomas William O'Connor [with wife, Rita Maria O'Connor]

1969, 30th May - Percy Shepherd [ex Bathurst]



Above: The Aria Park hotel in September 1959. Courtesy Tooth & Co. records.

⁴⁴⁸ Aria Park locals. 2nd December 2021.

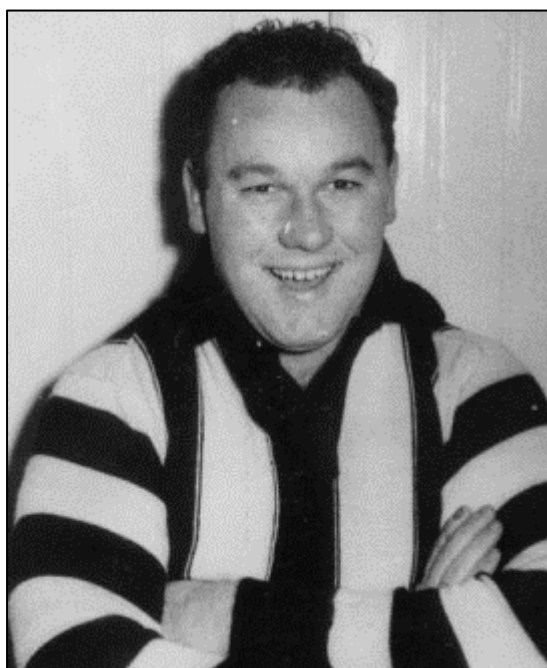
⁴⁴⁹ NBAC: Tooth and Co., N60-YC-819. Aria Park hotel, Coolamon Street, Aria Park, circa 1920-1980.

1970, 2nd October - Ian Henry Finch [his wife was Sheila Finch]. After leaving the hotel, Ian was a manager at the Bowling Club and he was also the local mailman.⁴⁵⁰

1975, 28th February - Barry Gordon Rist – 1st license [with wife, Janet Fay Rist]. Barry was well known as a former Collingwood 1st grade player.

1976, 9th July – John Bernard Fenelly [with wife, Norma Fenelly]. There was a major beer strike in Fenelly's time and at one stage he was forced to drive to Albury to secure enough beer to keep the pub going.⁴⁵¹

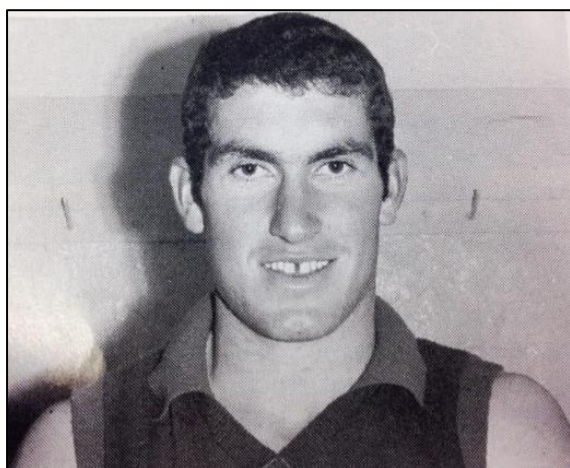
1978, 30th June – Melville "Mal" Roy Yates [with wife, Jenny Yates]. On one rowdy occasion the patrons locked Mal in the cool room.



Left: Barry Rist, Collingwood 1st Grade player.

Barry Rist played for Collingwood from 1961-1963. He came to Aria Park in the capacity of captain/coach in 1965 and stayed in the district for six seasons. Three at APM and another three at Ardlethan. He returned to Melbourne in 1969 but took the license of the Aria Park hotel in 1975 and played one more year with APM. The team that year featured a young kid called Terry Daniher.⁴⁵²

The coach in 1975 was none other than Ricky Quade, who had a n illustrious career with South Melbourne, both before and after his stint at APM. Quade, of course, went on to coach the Sydney Swans.⁴⁵³ It was Quade who convinced Rist to pull on the boots one more time in 1975.



Left: Ricky Quade in 1969 – the year he kicked one hundred and thirty-one goals for APM.

1980, 28th November - Leo John Lucas. Leo was a local Beckom farmer. It was Leo who removed the wall on the southern side of the bar to open up the ladies lounge area.⁴⁵⁴

1985, 26th June - Kevin Parry.

⁴⁵⁰ Aria Park locals. 2nd December 2021.

⁴⁵¹ Aria Park locals. 2nd December 2021

⁴⁵² https://websites.mygameday.app/assoc_page.cgi?client=0-1046-0-0-0&slD=13441&&news_task=DETAIL&articleID=3893526. Accessed 4th December 2021.

⁴⁵³ https://websites.mygameday.app/assoc_page.cgi?client=0-1046-0-0-0&slD=13441&&news_task=DETAIL&articleID=65779. Accessed 4th December 2021.

⁴⁵⁴ Aria Park locals. 2nd December 2021

1986, 11th September - John Francis Carthew [with wife, Mary Carthew].

1988, 1st July - Robert Geoffrey [Bob] Tyack [with wife, Bev Tyack]. Bob and Bev subsequently divorced.

Bob Tyack

Bob Tyack trained racehorses and in 1990, his horse, *Mill Court*, won the Wagga Cup. The jockey was Wal Bowditch who had to lose six kilo's in nine days to make the weight at 52.5kg. Mill Court won ten races at Wagga Wagga. Other prominent wins included the Forbes Cup and the Goulburn Cup. Bob Tyack was born in Tullibigeal.⁴⁵⁵

1992, 2nd March – Shane Francis Brustolin [with wife, Bridget Anne Brustolin]. A popular Boniface.

1997, 10th April - Rex Eric Vane [with wife, Deborah Lee Vane]. After leaving the hotel Vane conducted a bus run for the mine at Nyngan.⁴⁵⁶

2000, 22nd May – Gregory Trent Tyack [with wife, Michelle Fay Tyack]. It was Greg Tyack who sold off the poker machine rights in 2000.⁴⁵⁷

2002, 26th June - John Roy Cameron McLean [with wife, Gillian Lea McLean]. John McLean's nickname was *Warrigal*. John and Gillian remained in Aria Park after leaving the pub.⁴⁵⁸

2003, 26th November – Sandra Luanne Johnson. Sandra was Bob Tyack's partner.

2004, 27th October - John William Connors [with wife, Caroline Connors]. It was the Connors who brought a bit of culture to the town. The couple had purchased a number of props used in a Sydney production of *Aida*, which they spread around the hotel, as a feature.⁴⁵⁹

2005, 20th October - Peter Christian Aurick [with wife, Alana Gay Aurick]. Peter's nickname was "Dutchy." It was *Dutchy* who started the Punters Club, which is still running.⁴⁶⁰ Peter was a carpenter by trade and still does regular work in and around Aria Park in 2021. The couple's daughter was a fantastic cook, specialising in Thai cooking. The whole family was very popular.⁴⁶¹

2010, 23rd November – Friday 13th Pty Ltd

Friday the 13th was the Albury based family company of Angela Barnes, and initially Angela was the registered licensee. She remained so up until January 2014, when John Draper took a lease on the hotel. According to one source Angela was superstitious and accepted the rumours that the hotel was haunted. On one occasion Angela supervised "*crystal cleansing*" of the hotel rooms in an effort to expel the ghostly spirit. Folk lore is that a young girl who hanged herself in one of the hotel rooms still haunts the hotel.⁴⁶²

John Draper was formerly from Campbelltown and had purchased property at Aria Park. John conducted a business, Rapid Cooling, at Campbelltown, and it was John who installed the Glycol Cool Room from where the beer is drawn. The old timber doors to the cool room were replaced with

⁴⁵⁵ Daily Advertiser. 29th April 2014. Les Muir.

⁴⁵⁶ Aria Park locals. 2nd December 2021.

⁴⁵⁷ Aria Park locals. 2nd December 2021.

⁴⁵⁸ Aria Park locals. 2nd December 2021.

⁴⁵⁹ Aria Park locals. 2nd December 2021.

⁴⁶⁰ Aria Park locals. 2nd December 2021.

⁴⁶¹ Aria Park locals. 2nd December 2021.

⁴⁶² Aria Park locals. 2nd December 2021.

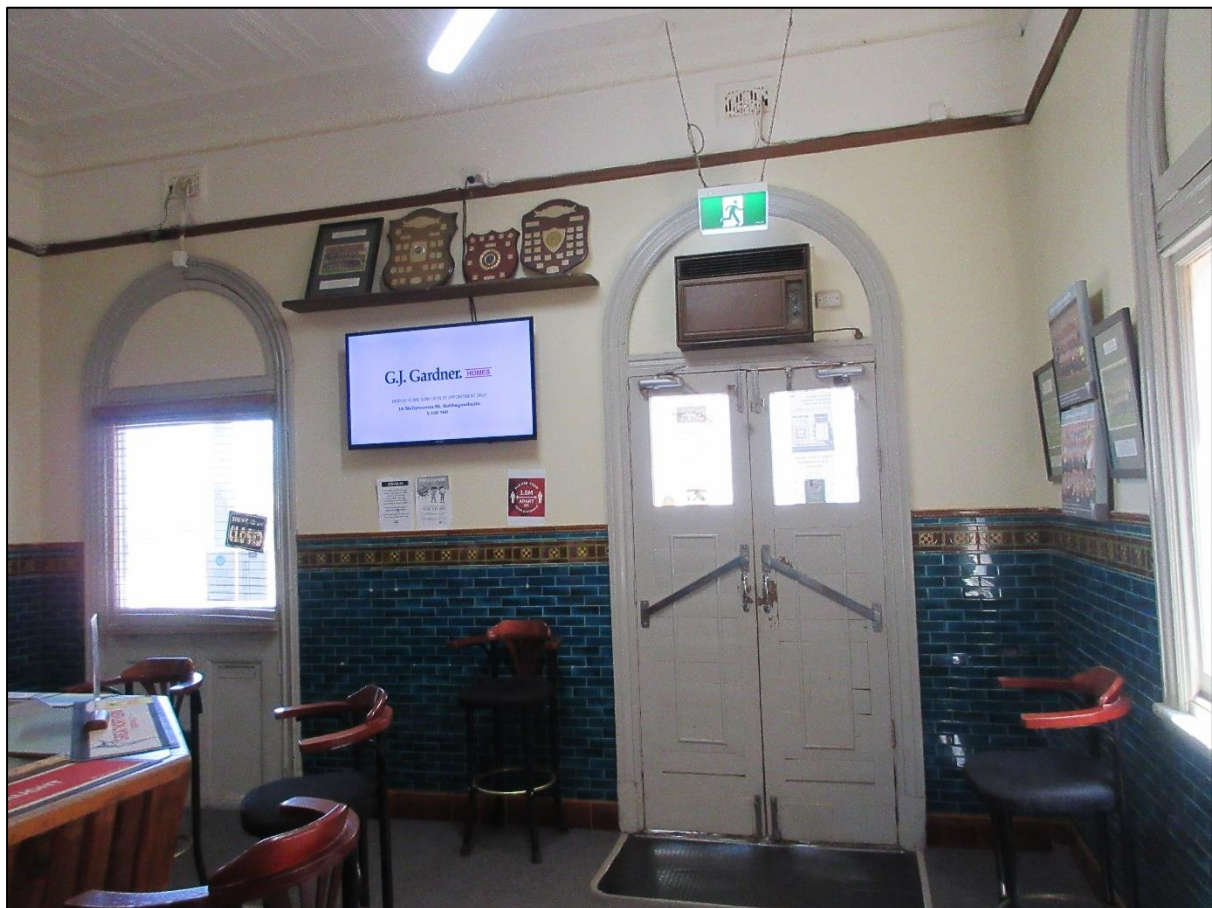
more modern glass doors. The cool room and tap system cost some seventy-five thousand dollars to install. John was also the president of the Southwest chapter of the Sydney Hoggs.⁴⁶³

John Draper put Brian Lighfoot in as manager of the hotel. It was Brian's first publican's license, but he had considerable experience as secretary/manager of a number of bowling clubs.

Angela Barnes experienced difficulties at the hotel. Anecdotal evidence is that she was not a very successful publican and she clearly had financial difficulties. The conduct of the hotel was less than optimal and there were many stories circulating regarding her time at the hotel. No doubt it was a difficult time for Angela, which climaxed in July 2014 when the banks foreclosed on Friday 13th Pty Ltd and the hotel was shut down.

The hotel re-opened in September 2015 with Brian Lighfoot as licensee, assisted by his son in law, Paul Hawker. Brian held the license up until the 23rd January 2018, when Paul Meeks took over.

There are tales of a horse being ridden into the hotel, but no one could remember the details. They could though remember a vintage car rally in 2017 when two women drove an old Triumph car through the double doors at the front of the hotel and left it parked inside while they had a drink or two. The vehicle could only just fit through the doorway.⁴⁶⁴ There were plenty of stories from the B&S balls but they can't be printed here.



Above: Front room of bar, featuring the double doors through which the ladies drove the vintage car into the hotel. Courtesy Paul Meek and Jacqui Collins.

⁴⁶³ Ariah Park locals. 2nd December 2021.

⁴⁶⁴ Ariah Park locals. 2nd December 2021.

2018, 20th January - Paul Meek (1st License). Paul, and Jacqui Collins, purchased the freehold in January 2018 from Brian Lightfoot and Paul Hawker, and took over the license at the same time. The historic building is protected by a local government heritage order. When Paul took over the hotel did not have any poker machines.⁴⁶⁵

The pub had sixteen rooms upstairs – all bedrooms plus three bathrooms. Downstairs featured the bar, kitchen, dining room, and beer garden. The hotel has a cellar, but it is no longer used. It once opened up onto the footpath, in order to accept delivery of kegs. The original stables are still located to the rear of the hotel.

At one stage one of the licensees purchased a number of square marble tables at an auction sale of hotel furniture in Sydney. These items are stored in a shed at the back of the hotel.⁴⁶⁶



Above: Ariah Park hotel in June 2009.

In earlier times the tin mines at Ardlethan were a boon to the village. A number of mine workers resided in and visited the town during the heydays of the mines.

In the 2016 Census the town had a population of some five hundred people. In 2021 the town of Ariah Park was a vibrant community - the hotel was thriving, the post office was also an agent for the Commonwealth and Westpac Banks, while both the supermarket and hardware stores were well supported. Other businesses included the chemist shop, a garage, and a cafe. The Bowling Club was also a valued institution within the town.

October was an important month for the town, with two major events – the Ariah Park Mary Gilmore Festival and the annual B&S Ball taking place in that month. Both events were cancelled in 2021 due to COVID 19 restrictions.

⁴⁶⁵ Paul Meek, 4th S September 2019.

⁴⁶⁶ Ariah Park locals. 2nd December 2021.

The Aria Park hotel and the other town businesses all benefitted from these events. Other events that benefitted the hotel were family re-unions, which attracted significant numbers of visitors to the town.

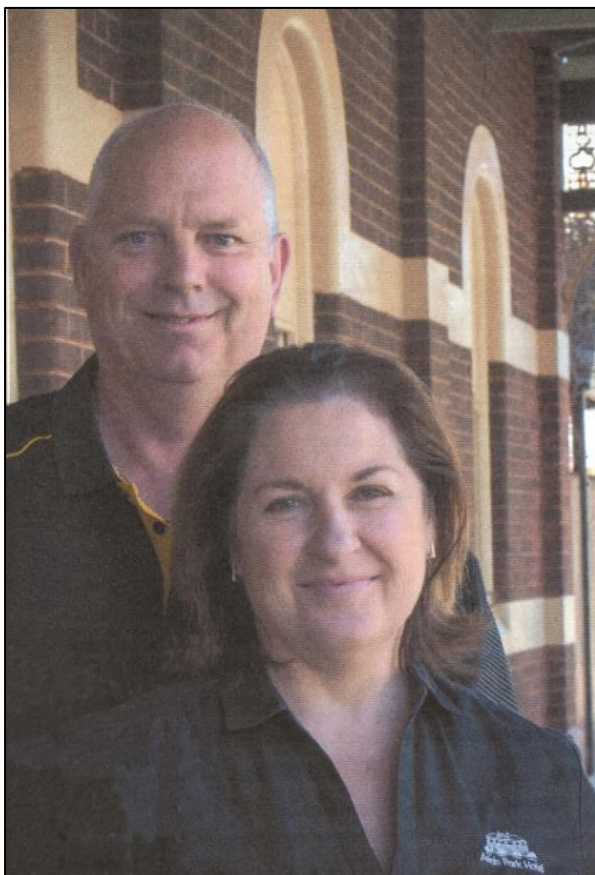
In general, the licensees of the hotel supported a number of local sporting groups. In Brian Lightfoot's time he sponsored the Cricket Club and what was then the Northern Jets Aussie Rules Club.

The Aria Park-Mirrool Football Club was formed in 1953 and the team was known as the Bombers. In 2004 the club merged with Ardlethan and became known as the Northern Jets, competing in the Farrar League. Aria Park was always a strong Aussie Rules town, to the extent that most of the beer consumed in the town came from Melbourne.

In 2021 the hotel sponsored the local Cricket and Netball Clubs.



Left: Small metal plaque located on a pillar in the bar room.

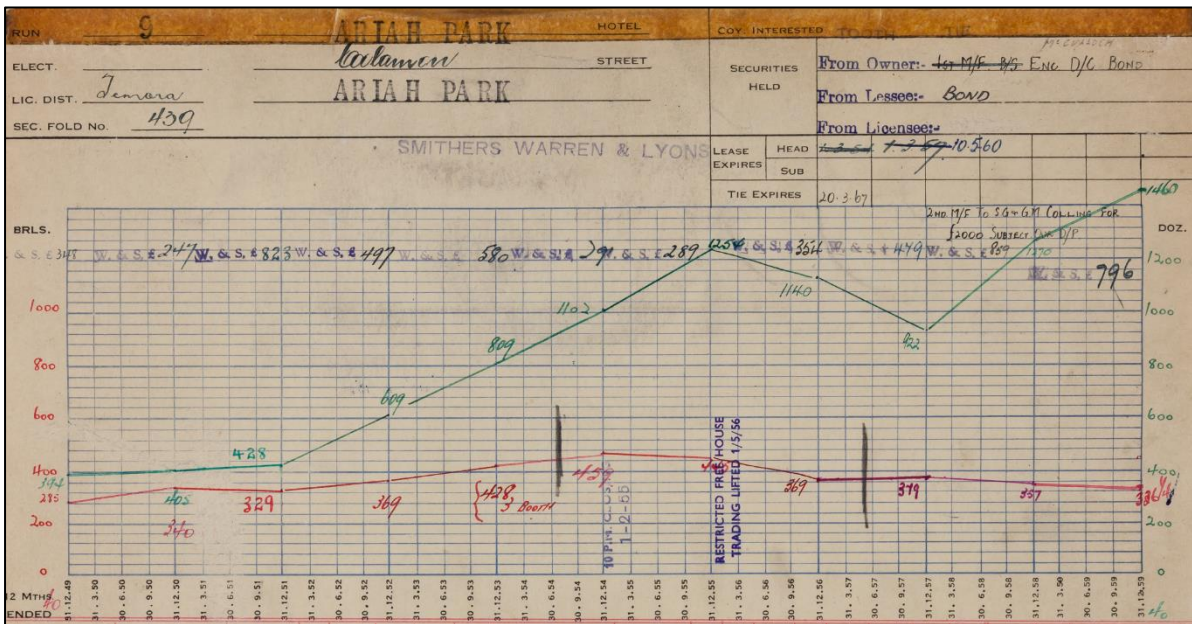


Left and Below: Paul Meek and Jacqui Collins.





Above: Ariah Park hotel in 1949, with the pool room to the south of the hotel. Courtesy Tooth & Co. records.⁴⁶⁷



Above: Extract from Tooth & Co. yellow cards showing beer purchases for the period 1949-1958.

⁴⁶⁷ NBAC: Tooth and Co., N60-YC-819. Ariah Park hotel, Coolamon Street, Ariah Park, circa 1920-1980.



Above: Ariah Park hotel in January 1970. Courtesy Tooth & Co. records.⁴⁶⁸



Above: Ariah Park hotel in September 2019.

⁴⁶⁸ NBAC: Tooth and Co., N60-YC-819. Ariah Park hotel, Coolamon Street, Ariah Park, circa 1920-1980.

Freehold – Aria Park Hotel

The Aria Park hotel was built on portion 51, in the parish of Mandamah, which joined the eastern boundary of the village of Aria Park when it was proclaimed in 1908. [See crown plan B.1391.1806]

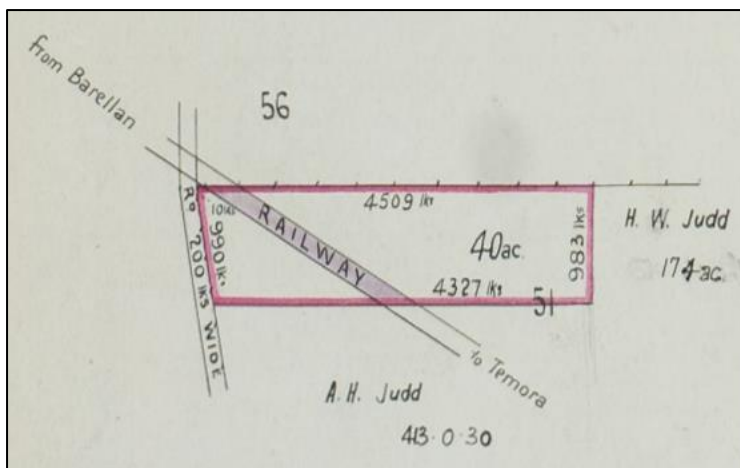
Portion 51 was originally a conditional purchase [CP.83.638], secured by Samuel Harrison on the 11th October 1883. Harrison erected his *Aria Park* homestead on this portion of land.

The land, which had an area of just over 627 acres, was subsequently purchased by the Bank of NSW in April 1908. The new railway line from Temora cut through the block dividing it into two parts.⁴⁶⁹ It is assumed that the bank held a mortgage over the property, but that it was always occupied by Harrison.

In May 1908, the bank transferred the property to Samuel Harrison, a farmer of Aria Park.⁴⁷⁰ In the same month Harrison sold the area north of the railway line to Arthur Henry Judd, a farmer of Aria Park, and most of the land to the south of the railway line to Henry Walter Judd. Excluded was a forty-acre block that included the hotel, which he sold to Thomas Joseph O'Brien in the same month.⁴⁷¹

Thomas Joseph O'Brien was the brother of Daniel O'Brien who licensed the hotel from 1905 till 1910. After selling the hotel at Aria Park he subsequently purchased the Royal hotel at Canowindra for the sum of £6,600 [1914]. Thomas had previously resided at *Hartwood*, Narandera, and on Narraburra Station.⁴⁷²

Thomas O'Brien died on 12th February 1945 at his home, Agincourt, 120 Old South Head Road, Bellevue Hill, aged seventy-six.⁴⁷³



Left: A plan of the forty-acre block purchased by Thomas Joseph O'Brien in 1908. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

O'Brien sold of some small lots facing Coolamon Street but retained the bulk of the forty acres including the hotel site. On the 14th February 1910, this residue [38 acres, 2 roods, and 26¼ perches] was conveyed to Patrick Corbett, a publican of Aria Park.⁴⁷⁴ There is no official record of Corbett being the licensee of the Aria Park hotel and it is assumed the quick transfer of the property explains this anomaly.

⁴⁶⁹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deeds. Volume 1871, folio 247.

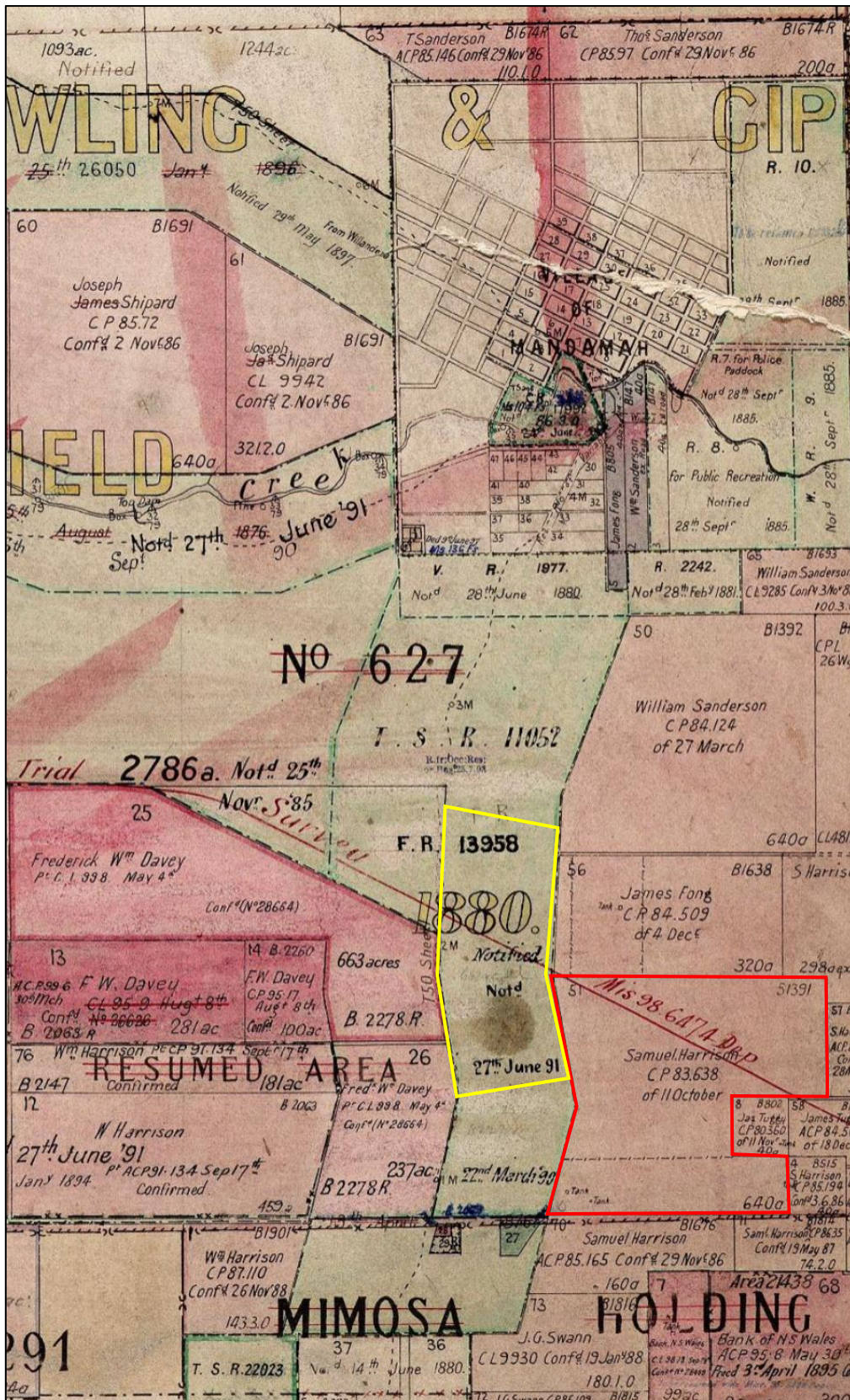
⁴⁷⁰ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deeds. Volume 1871, folio 247.

⁴⁷¹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deeds. Volume 1871, folio 247.

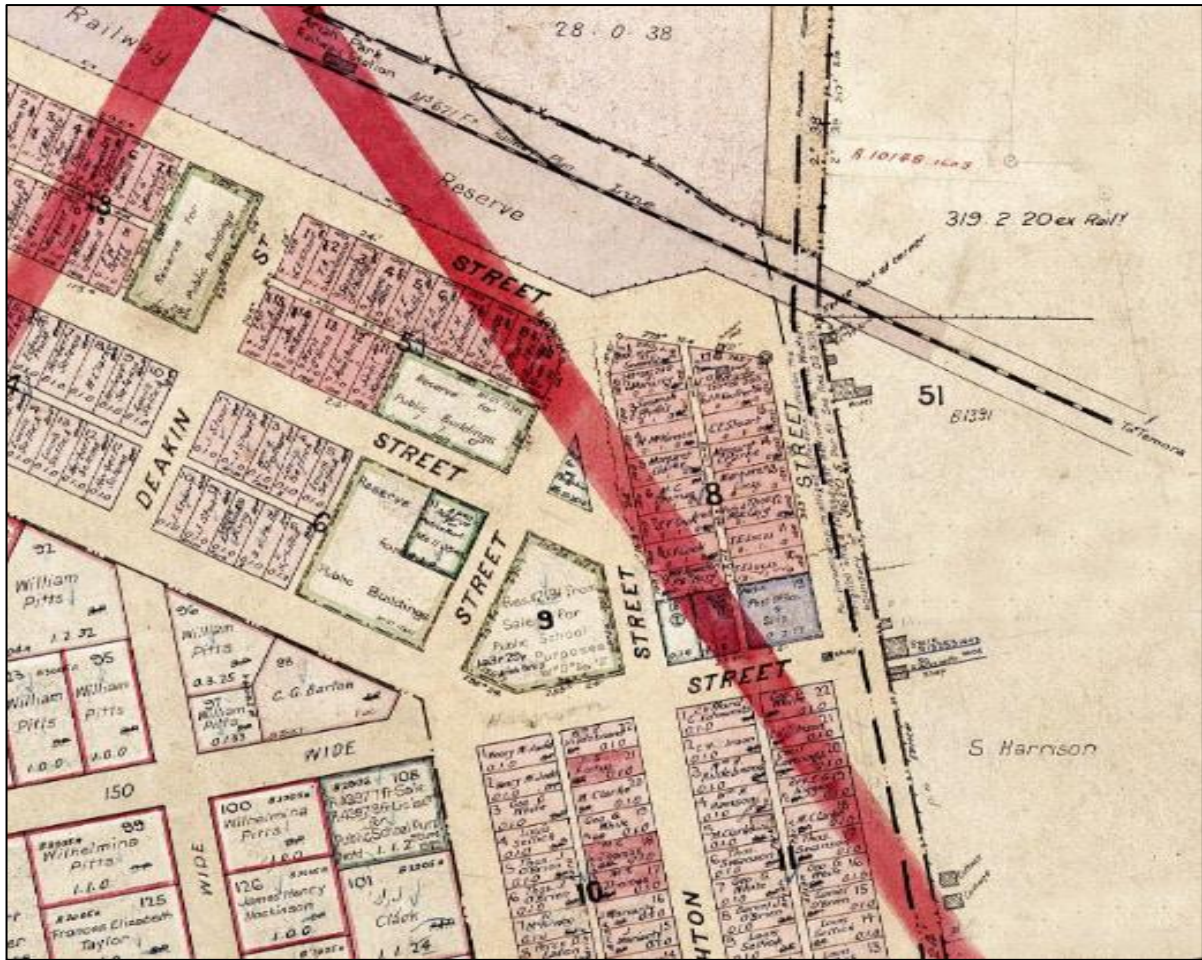
⁴⁷² Albury Banner. 21st June 1912, p30. / Canowindra Star. 20th March 1914, p11.

⁴⁷³ Sydney Morning Herald. 13th February 1945, p10.

⁴⁷⁴ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deeds. Volume 2030, folio 109.

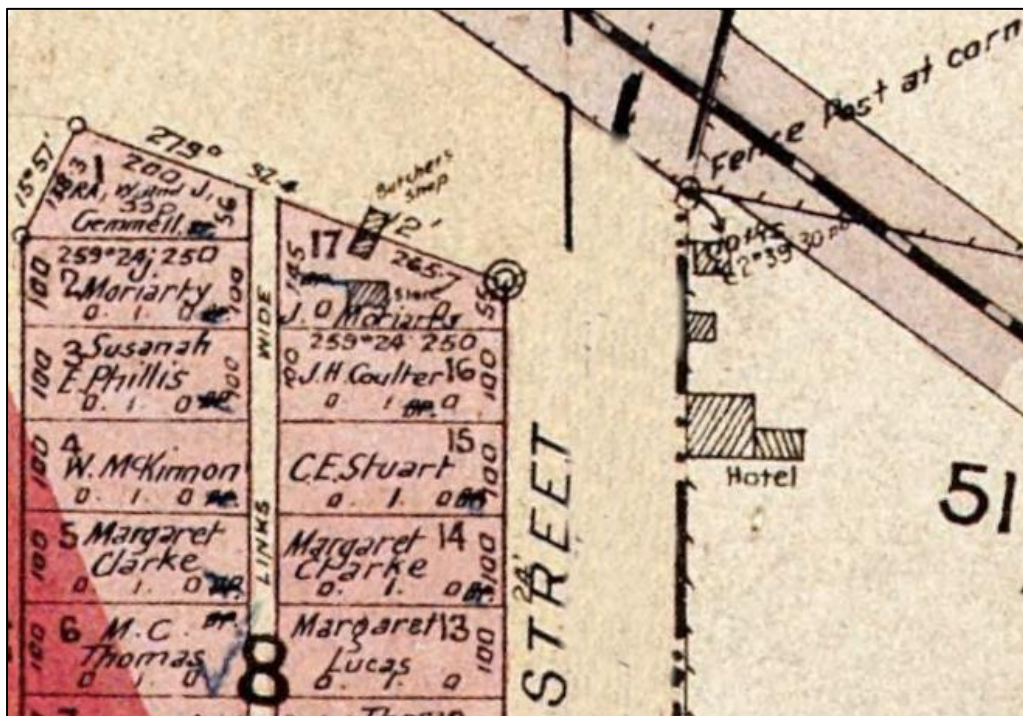


Above: Extract from 1889 Mandamah parish map showing location of Harrison’s portion 51 [highlighted with red boundary], the travelling stock routes [TSR’s] as they existed, at that time [coloured green], and an outline of where the village was subsequently laid out [yellow boundary]. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.



Above: Extract from 1908 village plan, showing location of hotel on suburban portion 51. Courtesy NSW Land registry Services. Historic maps.

Below: Extract from above map, zoomed in on hotel.



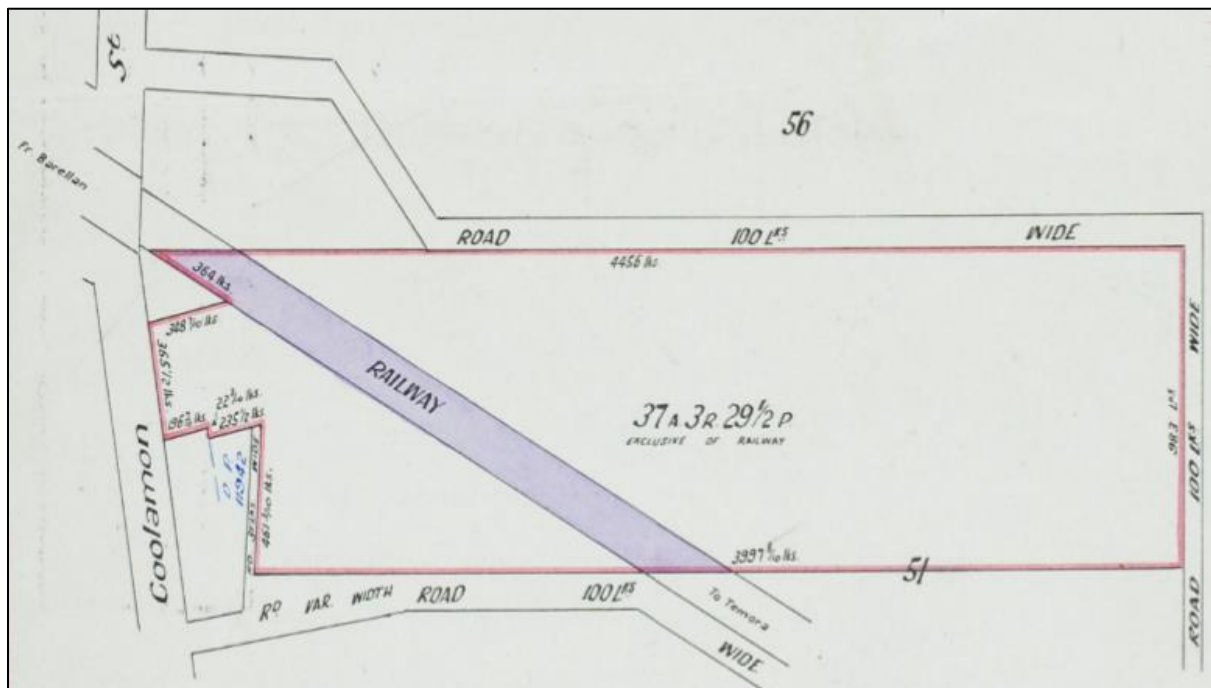
1910, 30th March – Patrick Corbett sold the Aria Park hotel to James Hoskinson for the sum of £4,500.⁴⁷⁵

1919, 11th March – James Hoskinson was now deceased and the property was legally owned by Alphonso Reed Tewkesbury of Temora, along with Margaret Hoskinson [James' widow] and Joseph Edward Rowston of Oxford Street, Epping, who were all acting as trustees for the estate of the late James Hoskinson.⁴⁷⁶ This group sold off several smaller lots but kept the bulk of the property, including the hotel.

On the 11th February 1924, Margaret Hoskinson and Joseph Edward Rowston of Oxford Street, Epping, became the legal owners of the property.⁴⁷⁷ It now had an area of 37 acres, 3 roods, and 29½ perches.

On the 19th November 1928, the property was conveyed to Manus Patrick Heffernan, a hotel keeper of Aria Park.⁴⁷⁸

Some eight years later, on the 18th March 1936, the mortgagee, Lily Loughlin [a spinster of Randwick], forced a sale to Matthew Ryan, a hotel keeper of Sydney, and his wife, Elizabeth Ryan.⁴⁷⁹



Above: The property as purchased by Matthew & Elizabeth Ryan in 1936, showing the bits that had been sold off along Coolamon Street

⁴⁷⁵ Albury Banner. 8th April 1910, p3. / NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deeds. Volume 2030, folio 109.

⁴⁷⁶ State Records. Index of Publicans' Licenses: 1920-1937. / NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deeds. Volume 2030, folio 109.

⁴⁷⁷ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deeds. Volume 3514, folio 92.

⁴⁷⁸ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deeds. Volume 3514, folio 92.

⁴⁷⁹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deeds. Volume 3514, folio 92.

Transactions to follow were,⁴⁸⁰

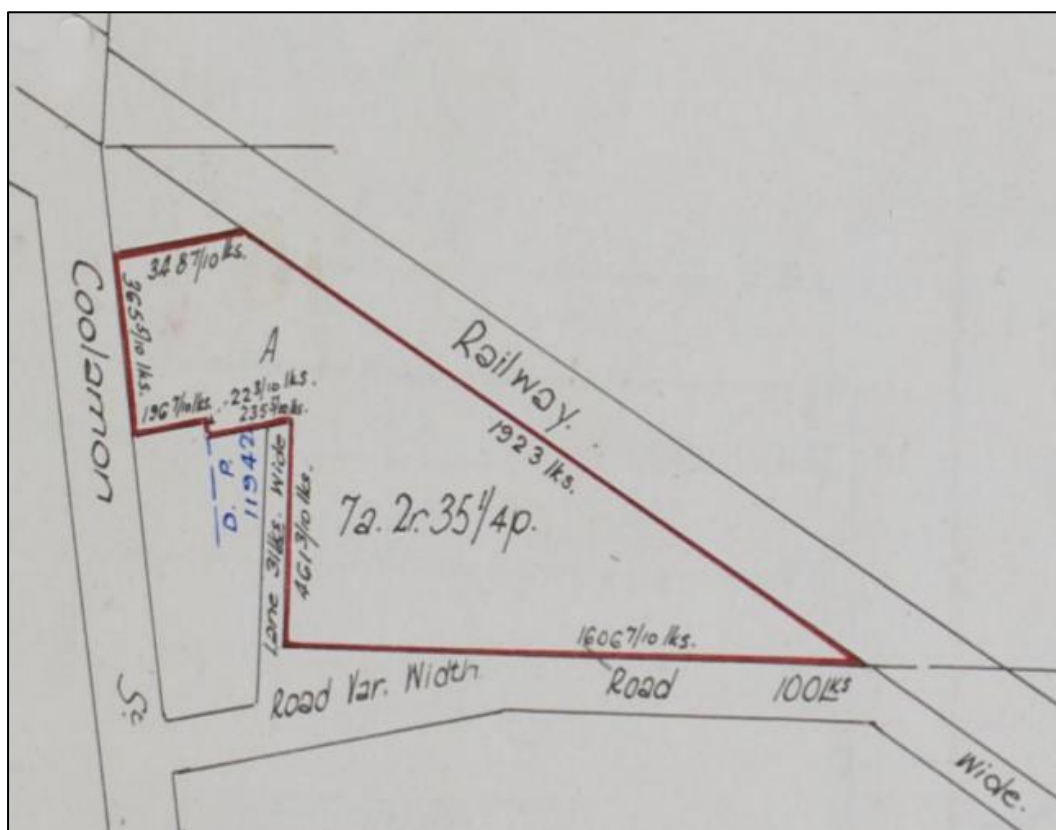
1947, 17th March – Conveyance to Stanley Gordon & Mrs Gwenda Mavis Colling, hotel keepers of Aria Park.

1949, 8th March – Conveyance from the Collings to Albert Edward Cartwright, a publican of Aria Park. Cartwright sold the part of the holding that lay to the north of the railway line to Arnold Ellis Judd in July 1951, which had an area of 30 acres and 34 perches.

Cartwright sold the section of land to the south of the railway line to Christopher Joseph McCulloch and his wife, Edith May McCulloch, on the 27th March 1951.⁴⁸¹ The property now had an area of 7 acres, 2 roods and 35¼ perches. In the 1950's the property included the pool room and a café [to the south of the pub].⁴⁸² In May 1969 Christopher became the sole owner, and it is assumed his wife had passed away.

After some twenty-three years of ownership, Christopher McCulloch transferred the property to Barry Gordon Rist, a hotel licensee of Watsonia, and his wife, Janet Fay Rist, on the 11th December 1974.⁴⁸³

The title was converted to a computer folio shortly afterwards – volume 12699, folio 161.



Above: Extract from title deed showing plan of the odd shaped block of land purchased by the Rists in 1974. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

⁴⁸⁰ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deeds. Volume 5005, folio 200.

⁴⁸¹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deeds. Volume 6358, folio 25.

⁴⁸² NBAC: Tooth and Co., N60-YC-819. Aria Park hotel, Coolamon Street, Aria Park, circa 1920-1980.

⁴⁸³ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deeds. Volume 6358, folio 25.

1974-1988 – Ownership unknown, but owners to follow this period were,⁴⁸⁴

1988, 1st July till 2003, 7th July – Beverly Fay Tyack.

1988, 1st July till 2004, 27th October – Robert Geoffrey Tyack

2004, 27th October - John William and Carolyn Connors. It was John Connors who first started doing up the rooms in the hotel.⁴⁸⁵

2005, 20th October – Peter Christian and Alana Gai Aurick

2010, 23rd November – Friday 13th Pty Ltd. This company was registered, on the 26th October 2010. It was deregistered, by ASIC, on the 8th March 2013.

Brian Lightfoot purchased the hotel from the bank [mortgagee] after the latter had foreclosed on Friday 13th Pty Ltd.



Above: Ariah Park hotel in July 2005. Courtesy Ariah Park Community Project Committee.

⁴⁸⁴ NSW Office of Gaming & Liquor. Licensed Premises Report, Ariah Park hotel.

⁴⁸⁵ Ariah Park locals. 2nd December 2021.

A number of improvements were made during Brian Lightfoot's time at the hotel. These included the children's playground, and the outdoor garden settings – sleepers, tables, and chairs. The verandah floor was replaced as was some of the iron lacework. The latter was sourced from the Wagga Wagga Iron Foundry. The main verandah support posts were replaced at the same time the council concreted the footpath [2016].⁴⁸⁶



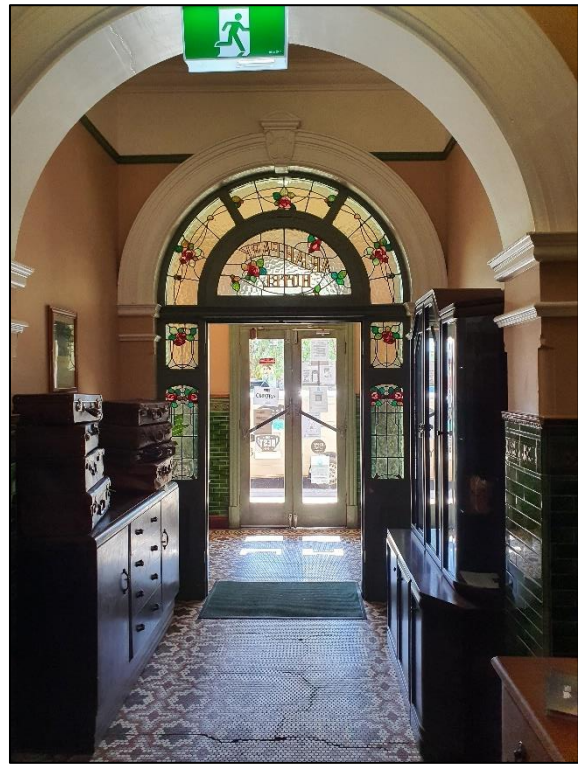
Above: 2016 works on the verandah and the footpath. Courtesy Ariah Park Hotel Facebook page.

2018, 20th January - Paul Grant Meek and Jacqui Collins, purchased the freehold in January 2018 from Brian Lightfoot and Paul Hawker, and took over the license at the same time.

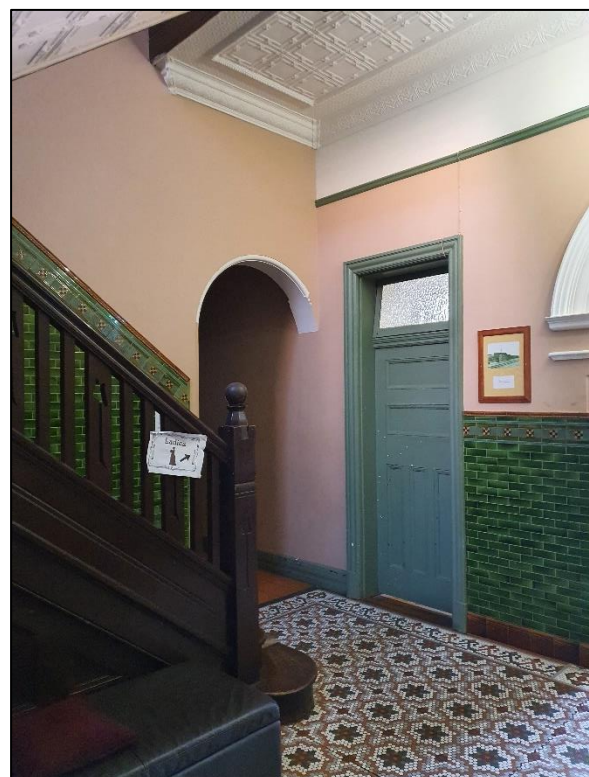
Paul and Jacqui continued to improve the hotel. They installed air conditioners in all of the rooms and refurbished the three bathrooms upstairs. Additional works included restoring polished floorboards. All sixteen of the upstairs rooms were available for accommodation.

Current title is DP.14.1114243 [Prior title DP.10.1071146 > DP.1.774824 > DP.1.734636 > volume 12699, folio 161]

⁴⁸⁶ Ariah Park locals. 2nd December 2021.



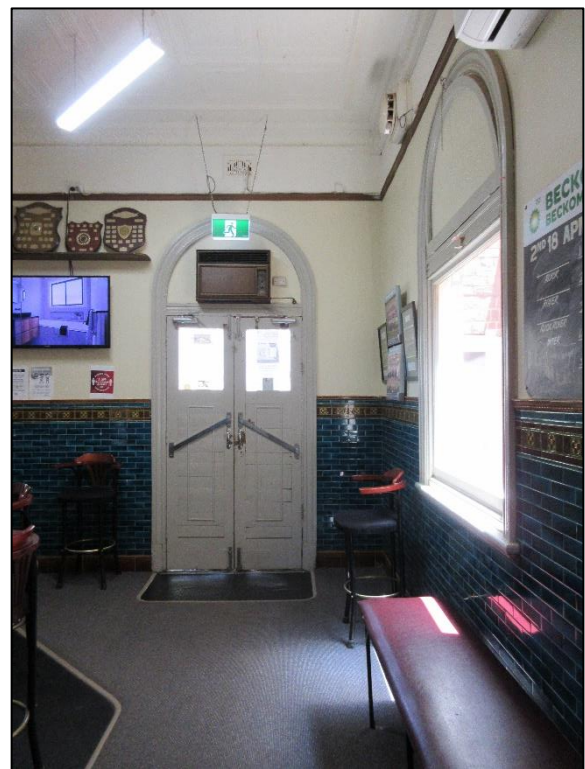
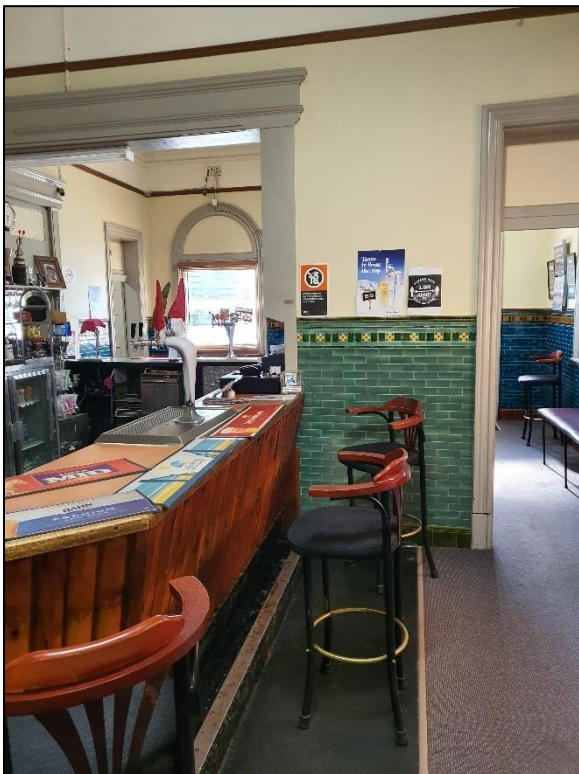
Above [Left and right]: The main entry. Monks use of arches is a prominent feature of the hotel both internally and externally. Courtesy Paul Meek & Jacqui Collins.



Above [Left and right]: Staircase to upper floor off main entry foyer. Monks use of subway tiles and pressed metal ceilings is another prominent feature of the hotel. Courtesy Paul Meek & Jacqui Collins.



Above: The bar. Monks used different coloured tiles in different rooms. Courtesy Paul Meek & Jacqui Collins.



Above [Left and right]: Two sides of the bar area. Courtesy Paul Meek & Jacqui Collins.



Above: The verandah.
Courtesy Paul Meek & Jacqui Collins.



Left: The south hallway
[first floor] to bedrooms
and bathroom. Courtesy
Paul Meek & Jacqui
Collins.

Village Businesses

In 1906 the town was in its infancy. On the eastern side of Coolamon Street was Daniel O'Brien's Aria Park hotel. To the north lay JE Rowston's auctioneer's office, then S Cook's blacksmith's shop, followed by the residence that housed the post and telephone office. To the north of this lay the new railway station, which was still under construction. Opposite the hotel, on the western side of Coolamon Street, Mr Moriarty was busy erecting his new store.⁴⁸⁷

In July 1909 Aria Park businesses included the Aria Park hotel and numerous others on the southern side of the railway line. The only business on the northern side of the line was that of H Judd, which consisted of a general store and a butcher's shop.

Businesses on the southern side included Moriarty's general store, Newsted's general store, two blacksmith's shops, two fruiterers, a saddler's shop, a boarding house, a small hall [used to conduct religious services], and a public school. All the buildings, with the exception of the hotel and one of the stores, were constructed of Cyprus pine.⁴⁸⁸

Jeremiah Moriarty

Jeremiah Moriarty was born at Gortcullinane Gap of Dunloe, Kerry, Ireland, on the 21st June 1853, the son of John Francis Moriarty and Mary Moriarty [nee Ferris]. In 1874 he migrated to New Zealand and spent some ten years there before moving to Australia. Once in the colony he commenced business as a shopkeeper and over a period of time conducted similar businesses at a variety of locations including Temora, Mudgee, Sydney, Illawarra, Broken Hill, Wyalong, and Aria Park. While residing at Wyalong he was elected mayor of that place. After retiring from shopkeeping at Aria Park he took up farming for a few years and then travelled to the old country for a while. After returning from Ireland, he chose to reside in Sydney.⁴⁸⁹

In October 1885, Jeremiah married Mary Harrington, at Woollahra.⁴⁹⁰ Mary was born at Faha, near Bantry Bay, Ireland, in 1858. She was the daughter of Timothy Harrington and Margaret Harrington [nee Sullivan]. Nineteen year old general servant, Mary, arrived in the colony in November 1878. She could read and write, and she listed her religion as Roman Catholic.



Mary passed away on the 14th November 1913, at Aria Park. She was survived by her husband and five children: John Moriarty, a storekeeper of Mirrool; Daniel Moriarty, a storekeeper at Moombooldool; Denis Moriarty, manager of his father's business at Aria Park; Mona Moriarty, aged sixteen; and Kathleen Moriarty aged eleven. The two girls were both students at the Convent of Mercy, Yass. Three sons had predeceased her.⁴⁹¹

Left: Mary Moriarty [nee Harrington]. Courtesy "Tom Mann" [Ancestry]

⁴⁸⁷ Albury Banner. 3rd August 1906, p27.

⁴⁸⁸ Australian Town & Country Journal. 14th July 1909, p36.

⁴⁸⁹ Aria Park News. 30th April 1925, p3.

⁴⁹⁰ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 3226/1885.

⁴⁹¹ Freeman's Journal. 27th November 1913, p15.

Reports on Jeremiah failed to record some of the less memorable aspects of his life in the colony.

In January 1884 Jeremiah was fined twenty shillings for illegally occupying Crown lands at the Field of Mars.⁴⁹²



Left: Jeremiah Moriarty

In April 1886, Jeremiah Moriarty was charged with stealing a horse and cart. The charge was subsequently reduced to illegal use of a horse and cart, for which he was sentenced a month's hard labour.⁴⁹³ In September 1886, Moriarty, and his partner, Thomas Wall, both storekeepers of Bulli and Otford, assigned their "*real and personal estate and effects*" to trustees, for the benefit of their creditors.⁴⁹⁴

In February 1887 Moriarty attempted to stand as a candidate for the electorate of Illawarra, in the NSW parliament.⁴⁹⁵ One P Carrick wrote to the editor of the Illawarra Mercury disputing an earlier report that he had supported the nomination of Moriarty. Carrick wrote,⁴⁹⁶

"Will you kindly permit the misunderstanding to be removed by allowing me to state that I was not present at the meeting, nor did I ever allow him to use my name in connection with what everyone but himself considers a freak worthy of Gladesville."

Moriarty, a storekeeper of Culcairn, was declared bankrupt in 1892.⁴⁹⁷ His certificate was suspended for two years, on the basis that he had failed to keep proper financial records and that he had continued to trade while knowing he was bankrupt.⁴⁹⁸

The first Municipal Council election was held in the early months of 1900 and the first meeting of the newly elected aldermen took place on the 8th March in that year. Jeremiah Moriarty was elected the first mayor of Wyalong at that meeting.⁴⁹⁹ Moriarty appears to have been a divisive figure and when the mayoral election took place a year later, Frederick Chudleigh was elected to the position.⁵⁰⁰

In September 1901, Jeremiah Moriarty, of Cassin Street, Wyalong, was appointed a justice of the peace.⁵⁰¹ Jeremiah Moriarty passed away at Enfield on the 31st May 1940.⁵⁰²

⁴⁹² Evening News. 26th January 1884, p5.

⁴⁹³ Globe. 20th April 1886, p5.

⁴⁹⁴ Sydney Morning Herald. 24th September 1886, p2.

⁴⁹⁵ Illawarra Mercury. 15th February 1887, p2.

⁴⁹⁶ Illawarra Mercury. 15th February 1887, p3.

⁴⁹⁷ Goulburn Herald. 22nd June 1892, p2.

⁴⁹⁸ Evening News. 9th March 1893, p6.

⁴⁹⁹ Wyalong Star. 9th March 1900, p2.

⁵⁰⁰ NSW Government Gazette. 1901, p1783.

⁵⁰¹ Evening News. 4th September 1901, p7.

⁵⁰² NSW BDM's. Death registration # 9896/1940. / Narandera Argus. 11th June 1940, p4. / Ariah Park News. 12th June 1940.

Town Fires

A fire in late November 1914, destroyed a number of buildings in the town including four that belonged to Thomas Joseph O'Brien. Specifically, a hairdressing saloon (occupied by B Kennedy), a billiard saloon (occupied by R Gregory), and a saddler's shop (occupied by J Lynch), used as a school of arts. In addition to O'Brien's losses, the new Bank of NSW building, which had only been occupied for a couple of weeks, was also destroyed.⁵⁰³ Four buildings belonging to Mr R Speirs, a jeweller of Temora, were also destroyed. These were a tailor's shop (occupied by Hill & Rolfe), a fruit shop (occupied by G Conson), a commission agents office (occupied by J Bargwanna), and an auctioneer's office (occupied by Webster Bros). All of the above premises were situated on the western side of Coolamon Street. The next building to the south, the Commercial Bank, was saved by the brick wall on Webster's building, which stopped the fire from spreading, while a brick wall on the northern end of the Bank of NSW building stopped the fire from spreading to Moriarty's store. Total damage was estimated at some £6,000, a large part of this being the value of the new Bank of NSW building.⁵⁰⁴



Above: Streetscape post 1914 fire. Building far right is the Bank of NSW offices. Courtesy Aria Park Community Project Committee.

In January 1915 WJ Monks, a Wagga Wagga architect, sought tenders, on behalf of JH Hoskinson, for the construction of two blocks of business premises at Aria Park. The first building was to include a billiard saloon, a hairdresser's shop, a tobacconist's shop, and a tailor's shop, with residential quarters.

The second building was to feature a fruiterer's shop, a confectioner's shop, refreshment rooms, and residential quarters.

The first building would have replaced the old pise hotel and it is assumed this is when the old hotel was demolished, although parts of it may have been retained.⁵⁰⁵ It is believed that the building on the site of the old hotel was constructed by Monteith "Monty" Meller for James Hoskinson. The second block of buildings would have been to the south of the hotel and may have been limited to the refreshment rooms.

⁵⁰³ Canowindra Star. 4th December 1914, p6.

⁵⁰⁴ Narandera Argus. 1st December 1914, p2. / Sydney Morning Herald. 26th November 1914, p8. / Cootamundra Herald. 27th November 1914, p3.

⁵⁰⁵ Daily Advertiser. 9th January 1915, p5.

There was another serious fire on the 10th April 1922 in which two buildings amongst a block of ten shops were destroyed. The buildings lost were those housing the businesses of Chalmers & Collins [auctioneers – machinery rooms and offices] and G Seymour [storekeeper]. Both buildings were owned by JN Taylor of Epping.⁵⁰⁶ These were part of the buildings to the south of the hotel.

Less than a month later, on the 2nd May, three more shops, with residences, were destroyed by a fire. The three shops adjoined those destroyed in the previous month. The three businesses effected were those of Mrs Brown [fruiterer]; Morton [baker]; and Mrs Biggar [drapery and dressmaking]. The buildings were all owned by Mr FT Judd.⁵⁰⁷



Above: A scene from the April 1922 fire. Courtesy NSW State Library [FL.168755]



Above: Another photo of the 1922 fire. Courtesy Ariah Park Community Project Committee.

⁵⁰⁶ Sydney Morning Herald. 11th April 1922, p11.

⁵⁰⁷ Wyalong Advocate. 5th May 1922, p5.

Late in September 1924 [29th], a fire destroyed two business premises in the main street. Specifically, those of O'Brien & Co. [saddlery], and of A McLean [hairdresser]. These two premises adjoined the Arianah Park hotel, which suffered "severe damage."⁵⁰⁸ Total damage bill was estimated at three thousand pounds. A second source listed the two businesses as Peard's saddlery and the hotel's billiard room.⁵⁰⁹ These were all contained within the building to the immediate north of the hotel, which had been newly constructed in 1915. Renewal of the building after the 1924 fire saw the facade changed. Before the 1924 fire the façade matched that of the chemist shop.



"Crommelin's" Boarding House and Fruit Shop.
AT ARIAH PARK.

WE have been instructed by Mrs. Crommelin to sell the above well-known business as a going concern. Nine rooms and shop, all conveniences, opposite P.O.; 14 boarders at £1; fine country trade; big possibilities in Fruit Shop this Summer; a lucrative business in a live town; Price £225, including Piano worth £60 and complete furnishings; 3 years lease at 28s per week; a grand opportunity for anyone with required strength; will stand closer investigation; terms may be arranged.

**WEBSTER BROS.,
 Auctioneers, Etc.,
 Arianah Park.**

Above: Mrs Crommelin's dining rooms. Courtesy Arianah Park Community Project Committee.

Left: Advertisement for sale of Mrs Crommelin's boarding house in October 1913.⁵¹⁰

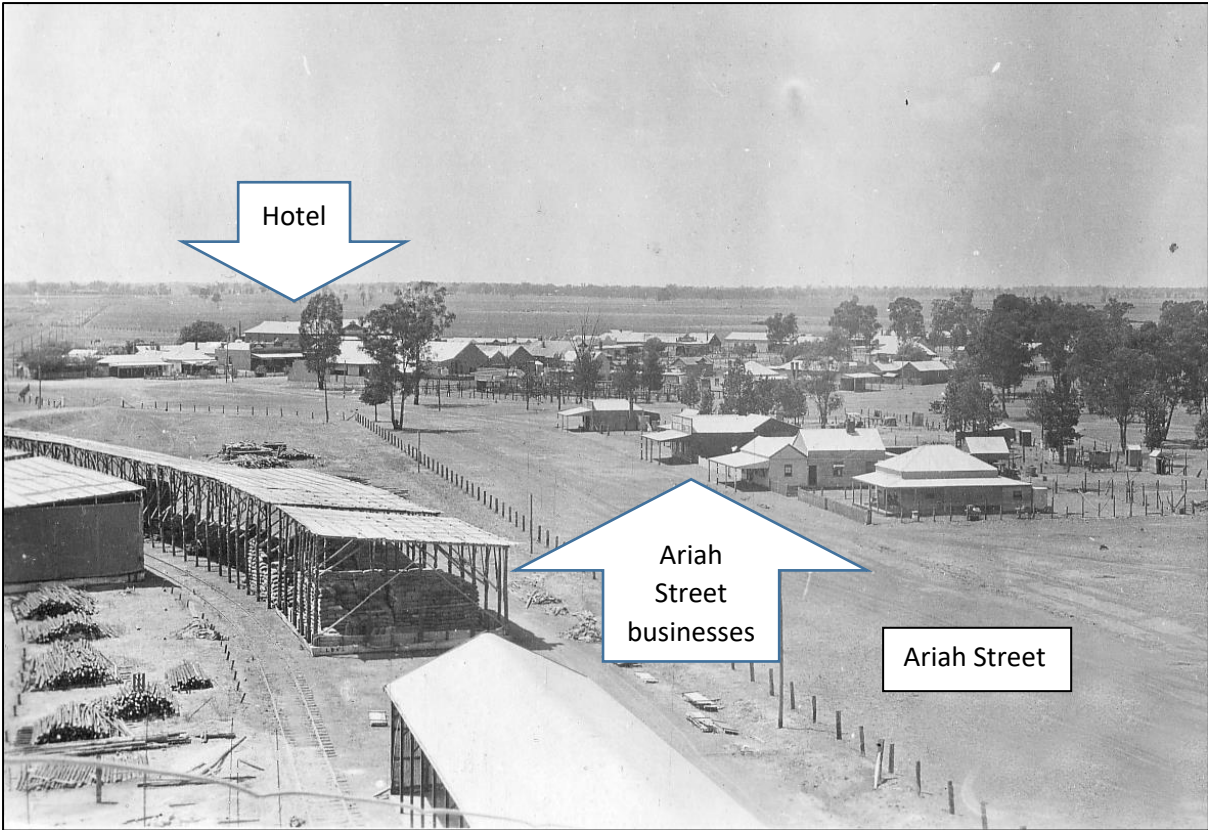
Mrs Crommelin had opened her business [fruit, confectionery, and tea rooms] in July 1908.⁵¹¹

⁵⁰⁸ Daily Express. 30th September 1924, p2.

⁵⁰⁹ Daily Telegraph. 30th September 1924, p3.

⁵¹⁰ Wagga Wagga Express. 16th October 1913, p2.

⁵¹¹ Albury Banner 17th July 1908, p3.



Above: Ariah Park looking east along Ariah Street towards Coolamon Street. Courtesy Ariah Park Community Project Committee.



Above: An earlier photo of the hotel and the adjoining billiards room building. Courtesy Ariah Park Community Project Committee.

Buildings on the eastern side of Coolamon Street – between Pitt and Aria Streets [from north to south].



Above: The 1915 building to the immediate north of the Aria Park hotel in December 2021. Former businesses are displayed on the parapet. This building is located partly on the footprint of the original pise hotel – the original hotel was set back from the street. Damage in the December 1924 fire saw the façade changed when rebuilt.



Above: An earlier photo showing buildings to the north of the Aria Park hotel. Courtesy Aria Park Community Project Committee.

The Museum

The museum building formerly housed a saddlery shop, a hairdresser 's shop, and a billiards room. The building was purchased by the local Ariaah Park Community Committee in 2004 from Robert Tyack, who owned the hotel complex at the time. Now [2022] operated by the local community as a museum and an Op shop.



Above: Streetscape - taken from corner of Ariaah and Coolamon Streets. Moriarty's store on right. On left is strip of shops to the south of the Ariaah Park hotel. Courtesy Ariaah Park Community Project Committee.



Above: Streetscape – eastern side of Coolamon Street. JE Rowston's business on extreme left. The setback building would be the original pise hotel. Courtesy Ariaah Park Community Project Committee.



Above: G O'Keeffe, saddlers and VJ White, hardware merchants, c.1912. The building extreme right is the original pise hotel. Courtesy Ariah Park Community Project Committee.

In February 1912, VJ White, an ironmonger at Ariah Park, was the lucky subscriber in a draw by the Coolamon Starr-Bowkett Society. White held five shares and was entitled to the sum of two hundred and fifty pounds.⁵¹²

ARIAH PARK
 In the new year over 20 farms will charge hands in the Temora, Ariah Park, Beckom, Ardlethan, and Bar-medman districts. The prices paid average about £3 per acre above the cost to the sellers, which means that 20 farmers will have made small fortunes in a very short time; and their successors will make good fortunes.

Left, Right & Below:
 1910's progress.⁵¹³

**HIGHLY ATTRACTIVE
 Farm Properties for Sale.**
 At **ARIAH PARK**, N.S.W.
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1914,
 12 Noon.
 At the **ARIAH PARK HOTEL,**
 The Day after **ARIAH PARK**
SHOW.

**TENDERS ARE INVITED FOR THE UNDERMENTIONED
 WORKS:—**
 1.—New two-storey **BRICK BANKING PREMISES**, at **THE ROCK**, for the Commercial Banking Co., of Sydney, Ltd. Tenders close March 30th, 1912. Bricks secured.
 2.—New **BRICK BANKING PREMISES**, at **ARIAH PARK**, for The Commercial Banking Co., of Sydney, Ltd. Tenders close April 6th, 1912.
 For full particulars apply,
ERNEST R. LAVER,
 Architect, Cootamundra.

⁵¹² Daily Advertiser. 28th February 1912, p2.

⁵¹³ Leader [Orange]. 9th January 1912, p6. / Construction: Supplement to Building [Sydney]. 18th March 1912, p7. / Daily Advertiser. 26th August 1914, p3.



Above: Ariah Park hotel in 2021.



Above: The strip of shops to the south of the hotel, in 2021.



Above: The chemist shop in 2021. Believed to have been built for Hoskinson in 1915 and occupied as Refreshment Rooms. [DP.2.734636 > Vol.12699, folio 161]

In 1912 Mr A Nicholson, "*a Greek*," had businesses at Aria Park and Junee. It was in this year that he opened new refreshment rooms at Mudgee. It is assumed he conducted a similar style of business at Aria Park.⁵¹⁴ Nicholson was still living at Aria Park in 1926, when he purchased a bakery shop and a refreshment room business at Ungarie.⁵¹⁵ It is not known which building Nicholson occupied in Aria Park.

In 1928 refreshment rooms were being conducted in this building by Theo Georgeson.⁵¹⁶

It was still a refreshment rooms business in the period 1938 to 1940. The building was then owned by the hotel proprietors, Matthew & Elizabeth Ryan.⁵¹⁷

In 1975 this shop was still a part of the hotel property,⁵¹⁸ as was the old billiard room building to the north of the hotel. Whoever owned the hotel was receiving rent for what was then the café, or refreshment room, to the south, and from the three shops to the north.

⁵¹⁴ Mudgee Guardian. 23rd September 1912, p2.

⁵¹⁵ Aria Park News. 18th February 1926, p3.

⁵¹⁶ Aria Park News. 23rd August 1926, p5..

⁵¹⁷ Temora Shire Rate Valuation Books. A Riding. 1938-1940. [Held by the Temora Rural Museum]

⁵¹⁸ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 6358, folio 25.

Below: Advertisement placed by Georgeson and others in 1928.

Theo. Georgeson's
EXCELSIOR REFRESHMENT ROOMS
Next Ariaah Park Hotel
Meals at All Hours
Fresh Vegetables, Thursdays
New Stocks of Confectionery, Small
Goods, Tinned Fish, Cigarettes
and Tobacco
Phone 83.

J. J. CLARK
Motor House
ARIAH PARK
Tyres, , Motor Spirits and Oils always in stock.
CAR FOR HIRE
Note Address—J. J. CLARK, Motor House Ariaah Park
Phone : 2 Ariaah Park

Ariah Park Hotel

Excellent Cuisine

—

Only Best Brands of Wines and Spirits Stocked

—

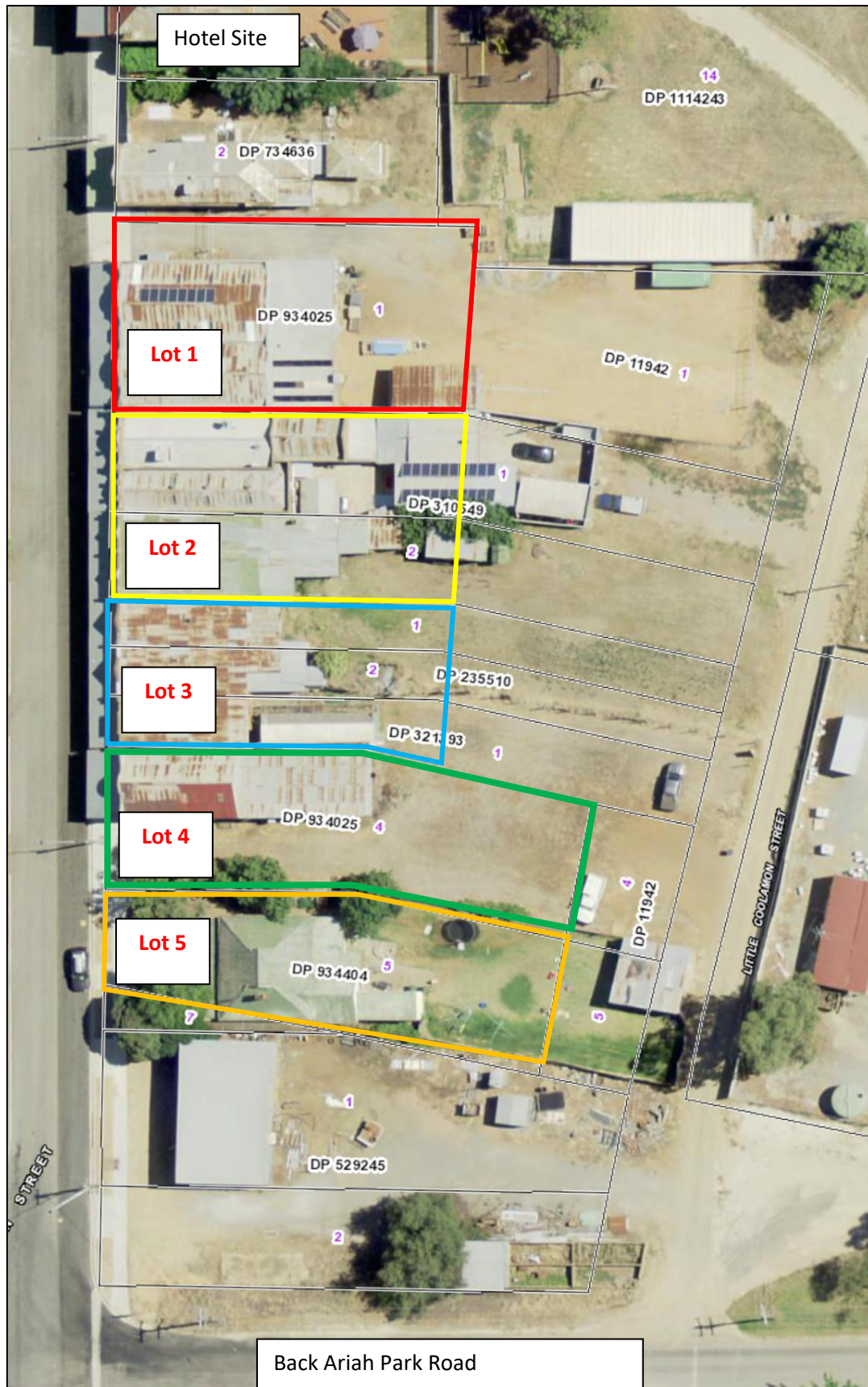
Large and Roomy Garage and Stable

—

Telephone 5



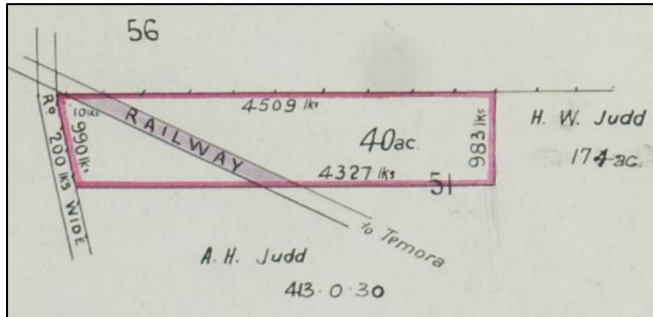
W. A. B. HUNT, Proprietor



Above: Contemporary aerial view of O'Brien's subdivision. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services. SIX.

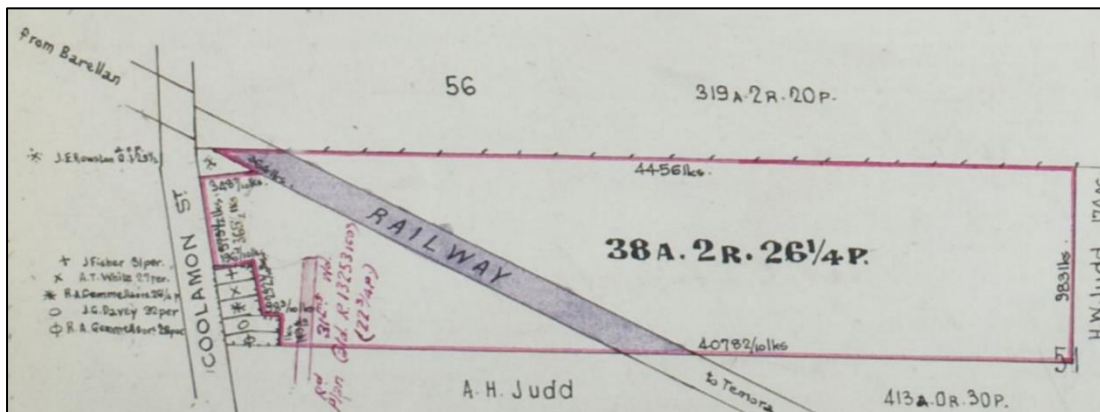
O'Brien's Subdivision

In December 1908, Thomas Joseph O'Brien purchased a forty acre piece of portion 51 from Samuel Harrison. This was the north east corner of portion 51, which was dissected, diagonally, by the railway line. The property had a frontage of some 653 feet to Coolamon Street.⁵¹⁹



Left: The forty acre piece of portion 51 purchased by Thomas Joseph O'Brien in 1908. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

O'Brien created five new lots along Coolamon Street, being the southern part of the frontage. He subsequently sold these five lots.⁵²⁰



Above: Extract showing the five lots created by O'Brien. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

The purchasers of the five lots were,⁵²¹

- Lot 1 – James Fisher.⁵²²
- Lot 2 – Arthur Thomas White.⁵²³
- Lot 3 - Robert Alexander Gemmell, James Gemmell, and William Gemmell, all farmers of Aria Park.⁵²⁴
- Lot 4 – John Greig Davey.⁵²⁵
- Lot 5 – Robert Alexander Gemmell, James Gemmell, and William Gemmell, all farmers of Aria Park.⁵²⁶

The plan also shows that O'Brien had sold a piece of land to the north of the hotel, to JE Rowston.

⁵¹⁹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 1932, folio 59.

⁵²⁰ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2030, folio 109.

⁵²¹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2030, folio 109.

⁵²² NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2028, folio 116.

⁵²³ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2028, folio 115.

⁵²⁴ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2030, folio 93.

⁵²⁵ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2028, folio 114.

⁵²⁶ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2030, folio 93.

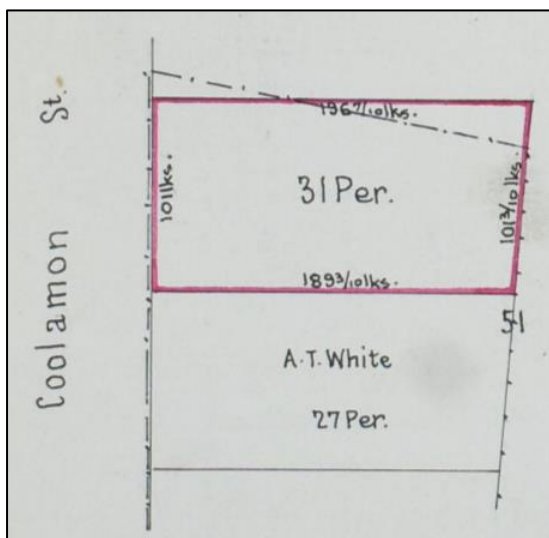
The Five Lots of O'Brien's subdivision - on the eastern side of Coolamon Street



Above: The strip of shops to the south of the chemist shop, in 2021.

Lot 1 – James Fisher

In January 1910, James Fisher, a farmer of Aria Park, purchased a small lot within O'Brien's forty acre lot. This was the most northerly lot of a subdivision that would subsequently feature a strip of five buildings facing onto Coolamon Street [eastern side].⁵²⁷ Fisher's property had a frontage of 101 links [20.3M] to Coolamon Street.



Left: The lot purchased by James Fisher in 1910. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

Transactions to follow were,⁵²⁸

On the 17th November 1910, Fisher conveyed the property to Frances Elizabeth Taylor, the wife of John Neale Taylor, a storekeeper of Aria Park.

1922, 8th August – Conveyance from Frances Elizabeth Taylor to Andrew George Gordon Seymour, a storekeeper of Aria Park.

For the period 1938 to 1940 Andrew George Gordon Seymour carried on business in these premises.

1961, 6th September – George John Seymour, a storekeeper of Aria Park, was now the legal owner of the property.

⁵²⁷ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2028, folio 116.

⁵²⁸ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2028, folio 116.

1963, 16th November – George Ligakis of Barmedman, Dimitrios Ligarkis of Aria Park, Nicholas Ligarkis of Barmedman, and Alex Tritsinotis of Barmedman, all of whom were café proprietors, became the legal owners of the property.

END

Title Deed Trail: DP.1.934025 > 2028-116 > 1932-59 > 1871-247.

The Aria Park Community Committee have placed information leaflets at the front of a number of the old shops, highlighting their history. The following details are taken from one such leaflet.

“Ariah Park Hardware.

The original shop on this site was built by John Taylor as a general store and operated in partnership with Lou Deutscher. In 1917 it was leased to George Seymour. It was burnt down in 1922 and George built the two shops presently on this site. Seymour and his son opened Seymour’s general store in the southern shop.

Chalmers and Collins conducted an auctioneer and commission agency business here from around 1928. Seymours opened up an archway between the two shops in 1935 and moved their drapery department onto the newly acquired area. Seymours closed up in 1966 after forty four years in business.

Purchased by the Ligarkis family the shops have since housed Traders, operated by Hari Ligarkis; S & M Traders run by Marie Noack; and Sandra Lyons and Margaret Well’s Gifts n Gear business. Also operated from these premises were Trevor Marshman’s agency, John Murphy’ motor repairs, and Keith Dyason’s Hardware. Terry Ryall opened the present hardware business in 2004, leasing the building from Jim Ligarkis, until purchasing the property a few years ago.”⁵²⁹

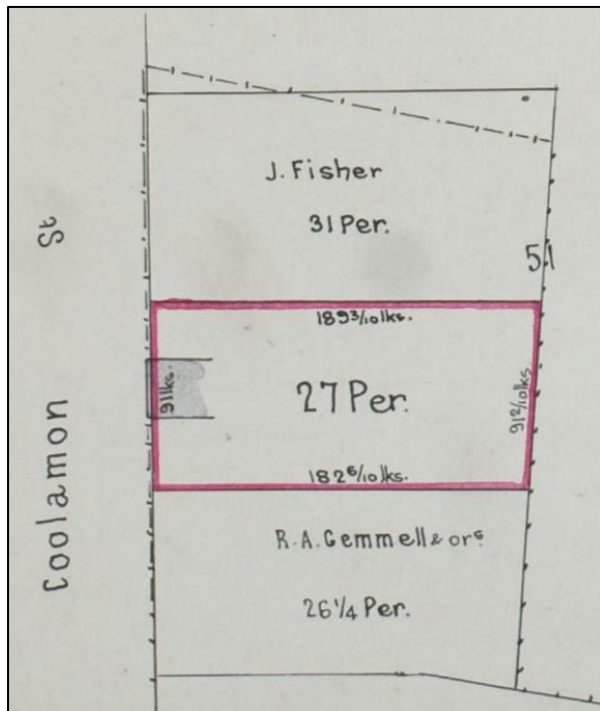


Above: The hardware shop in 2021.

⁵²⁹ Aria Park Community Committee. Interpretive Signage. 2021

Lot 2 – Arthur Thomas White

In January 1910, Arthur Thomas White, a school teacher of Aria Park, purchased lot 2 of O'Brien's subdivision.⁵³⁰ The property had an area of twenty seven perches and a frontage of 91 links [18.3M] to Coolamon Street. Lot 2 was subsequently subdivided to create two distinct lots. One became the White Rose Café and the other became an adjoining newsagency. The two lots were later recombined as the White Rose Café.



Left: The lot purchased by Arthur Thomas White in 1910. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

Transactions to follow were,⁵³¹

1911, 29th May – Conveyance from White to Frederick Thomas Judd, a farmer of Aria Park.

Part of the pre 1922 building was leased by Frederick Thomas Judd to John William Gillespie, George Gillespie, Robert Winton Gillespie, and Daniel Cadwallader, all of Sydney, and Arthur Pardy of Temora, for the period 1st November 1911 till 1923. The men were described as “millers.”

From 3rd December 1919 till December 1923, Judd also leased a part of the premises to Elizabeth Jane Soles, a widow and fruiterer of Aria Park.⁵³²

The building was destroyed by fire in 1922 and it is assumed the tenants resumed business in the new buildings.

In January 1924, Frederick Thomas Judd purchased lot 3 from the Gemmells. In May 1924, Judd transferred a part of his holdings to his wife, Edith May Judd. The transfer included parts of lots 2 & 3 of O'Brien's subdivision, along with land to the east of these. The land had an area of twenty five perches, with a frontage of 45½ links [9.1M] to Coolamon Street.⁵³³ This parcel of land is identified as Lot 2[B].

The residue, retained by Frederick Judd, is identified as Lot 2 [A]. This lot encompassed the White Rose Café and the adjoining newsagency.

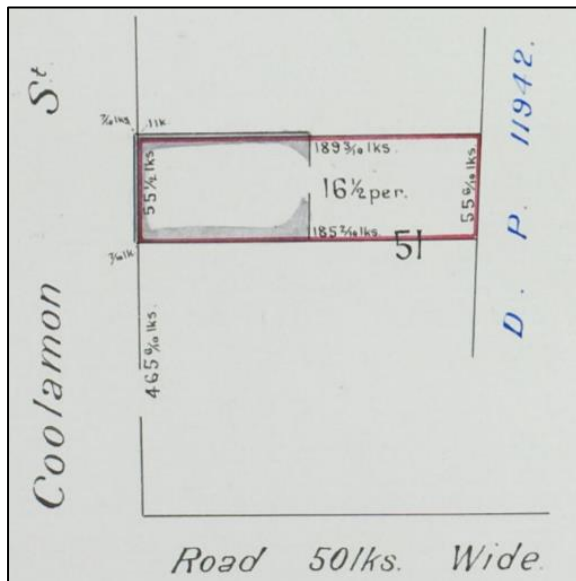
⁵³⁰ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2028, folio 115.

⁵³¹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2028, folio 115.

⁵³² NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2028, folio 115.

⁵³³ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2028, folio 115.

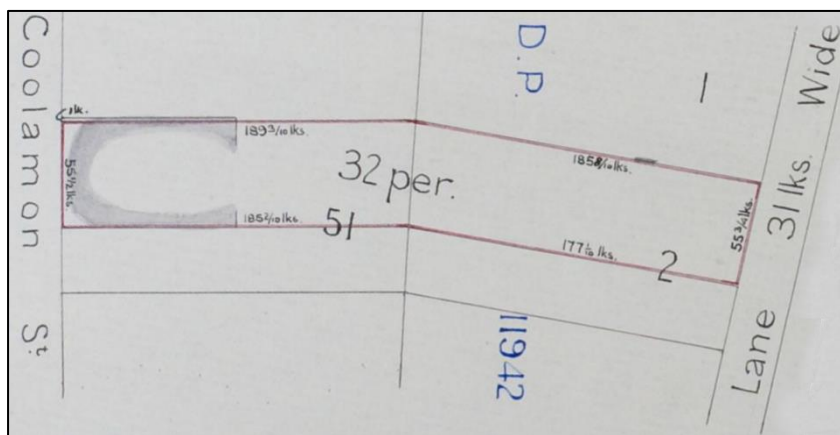
Lot 2 [A]



Frederick Thomas Judd retained the part of lot 2 not transferred to his wife. This parcel of land had an area of sixteen and a half perches, and a frontage of 55½ links [11.2M] to Coolamon Street. The buildings on the common border between Frederick and Edith shared a nine inch thick brick party wall. Frederick's building became the White Rose Cafe at a later date.

Left: The land retained by Frederick Thomas Judd in November 1924. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

On the 23rd February 1927 Judd transferred his holding to William Charles Brown, a fruiterer of Aria Park, and his wife, Emma Janet Brown.⁵³⁴



Left: The property sold to the Browns included adjacent land to the east. The parcel of land now had an area of thirty two perches, but the frontage to Coolamon Street was unchanged.

In 1936 William and Emma Brown leased the building to Perricles Koulmandas, a restaurateur of Aria Park. Koulmandas renewed the lease in August 1937, but only for part of the building. Koulmandas continued to lease the premises until March 1947 when he purchased the freehold.⁵³⁵

In August 1938 the Browns leased the southern part of the building to Stanley George Harrison, a newsagent of Aria Park. Harrison renewed the lease in November 1943.⁵³⁶

On the 10th March 1947, the Browns conveyed the property to Perricles Koulmandas.⁵³⁷

In August 1949, Koulmandas leased the newsagency section to John Daniel Hart, a newsagent of Aria Park.⁵³⁸ When the lease was renewed in June 1955, the new lessee was Maxwell Henry Robinson, a newsagent of Aria Park, and his wife, Vera Joan Robinson.⁵³⁹

⁵³⁴ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 3690, folio 170.

⁵³⁵ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 3993, folio 113.

⁵³⁶ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 3993, folio 113.

⁵³⁷ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 3993, folios 113 & 114.

⁵³⁸ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 5741, folio 124.

⁵³⁹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 5741, folio 124.

In July 1956, Koulmandas leased the café section to Efstratios Michailaroo, a café proprietor of Aria Park.⁵⁴⁰

In May 1964, Nick Protogeros a café proprietor of Aria Park, and Con Harellis, a café proprietor of Barmedman, became the legal owners of the property.⁵⁴¹ In March 1969 these two gentlemen leased the café to George and Nicky Ligakis.⁵⁴² It was this latter couple who opened up the wall into the adjoining newsagency to create additional storage space, thereby combining the two shops.

In January 1976, George Ligakis, a café proprietor of Aria Park, and his wife, Nicky Ligarkis, purchased the freehold.⁵⁴³

In November 1978, Dimitrios Ligakis, a shopkeeper of Barmedman, and his wife, Harriklia Ligakis, became the legal owners of the property.⁵⁴⁴

In 1980 the interior of the shop was destroyed by fire. Jim renovated the shop and conducted the business up until 1986.⁵⁴⁵

In February 1988, Christopher Despotellis and Xanthoula Despotellis became the legal owners of the property.⁵⁴⁶

From 1991 till 2009 the business was conducted by Lil and Eric Ansley. They sold to Terry and Fiona Annings who stayed for a short time only before closing the café.

In 2010 local community members formed the company Broken Dam Pty Ltd specifically for the purposes of purchasing the freehold and the business, and to retain local services. The company subsequently leased the café to Julie and Richard Seymour; Debbie Gaudi and Mick; then Dana and Jeremy Colwill.⁵⁴⁷ In 2021 it was leased to Gurpreet Kaur.⁵⁴⁸

Adjoining Shop

Stan Harrison later opened a newsagency in the adjoining shop. In 1945 Harrison sold the business to Steve and Erna Collier who stayed until 1949, at which time they sold to John and Joan Hart. The business was later owned by Max and Joan Robinson. This shop was subsequently integrated into the café next door.⁵⁴⁹ Part of the White Rose Café in 2021.

END

Title Deed Trail: DP.1.310549 > 5741-124 > 3993-113, 114 > 3690-169, 170 > 3509-18 > 2030-109 > 1932-59.

⁵⁴⁰ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 5741, folio 124.

⁵⁴¹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 5741, folio 124.

⁵⁴² NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 5741, folio 124.

⁵⁴³ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 5741, folio 124.

⁵⁴⁴ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 5741, folio 124.

⁵⁴⁵ Aria Park Community Committee. Interpretive Signage. 2021

⁵⁴⁶ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 5741, folio 124.

⁵⁴⁷ Aria Park Community Committee. Interpretive Signage. 2021

⁵⁴⁸ Aria Park Community Committee. Interpretive Signage. 2021

⁵⁴⁹ Aria Park Community Committee. Interpretive Signage. 2021



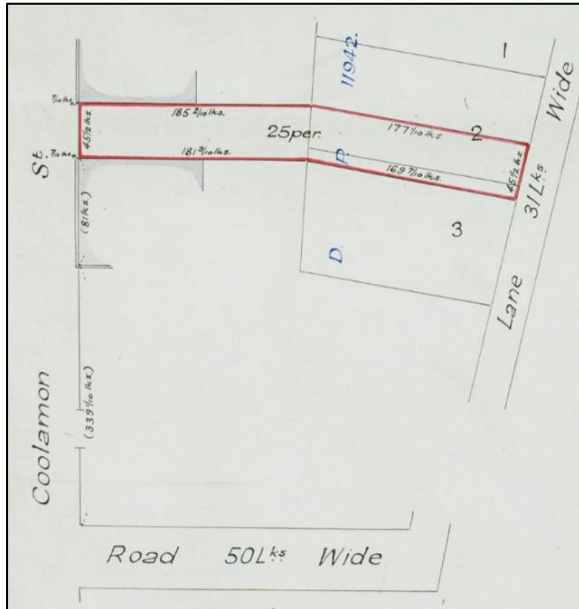
Above and Below: The White Rose Café in 2021. Courtesy Google Maps.

In the period 1938 to 1940, Charles William Brown conducted a refreshment room in the northern section of the building, while Stanley George Harrison conducted a newsagency business in the southern section of the building.



Lot 2 [B]

In May 1924, Judd transferred a part of his holdings to his wife, Edith May Judd. The transfer included parts of lots 2 & 3 of O'Brien's subdivision, along with land to the east of these. The land had an area of twenty five perches, with a frontage of $45\frac{1}{2}$ links [9.1M] to Coolamon Street.⁵⁵⁰



Left: The land transferred to Edith May Judd in November 1924. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

Subsequent transactions for Edith's block were as follow,⁵⁵¹

1946, 14th November – Conveyance from Edith May Judd to Maurice Harrison, a baker's assistant of Aria Park.

1950, 14th June – Conveyance from Maurice Harrison to Lloyd Harrison, a baker of Aria Park.

1960, 16th May – Laurence Merison, a baker, Stella Constance Merison, his wife, and Bernard Merison, a baker, all of Greenthorpe, became the legal owners.

1961, 24th October – Transfer to Frank Bamford, a baker, and Claire Mildred Bamford.⁵⁵²

1973, 17th July – Claire Mildred Bamford, a widow of Aria Park was now⁵⁵³ the legal owner. [See volume 12214, folio 101]

END

Title Deed Trail: DP.2.310549 > 12214-101 > 8330-22, 23 > 8109-20-22 > 3664-237 > 2028-115.

⁵⁵⁰ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2028, folio 115.

⁵⁵¹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 3664, folio 237.

⁵⁵² NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 8109, folios 20-22.

⁵⁵³ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 8330, folios 22-23.



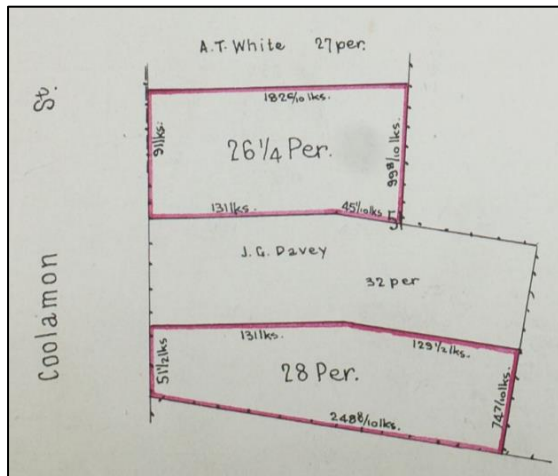
Above and Left: Contemporary photos of Edith Judd's buildings. Above in 2021 and left in March 2010. Courtesy Google Maps.

For the period 1938 to 1940, the northern section was a bakery shop, while the southern section was a hairdresser and billiard room business.⁵⁵⁴

⁵⁵⁴ Temora Shire Rate Valuation Books. A Riding. 1938-1940. [Held by the Temora Rural Museum]

Lot 3 – Robert Alexander Gremmell, James Gremmell, and William Gremmell

In January 1910, Robert Alexander Gremmell, James Gremmell, and William Gremmell purchased lots 3 & 5 of O'Brien's subdivision.⁵⁵⁵

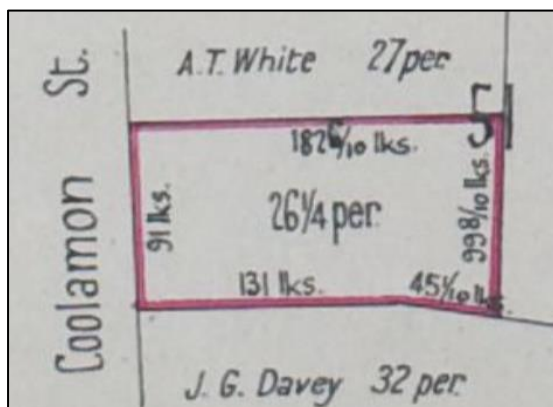


Left: The lot purchased by the Gemmells in 1910. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

On the 1st April 1911, the three men conveyed a part of their holding to Robert Alexander Gremmell.⁵⁵⁶ This was lot 5 [see lot 5 history]. James and William held a half share each in a holding that included lot 3 plus allotment 1 of section 8.⁵⁵⁷

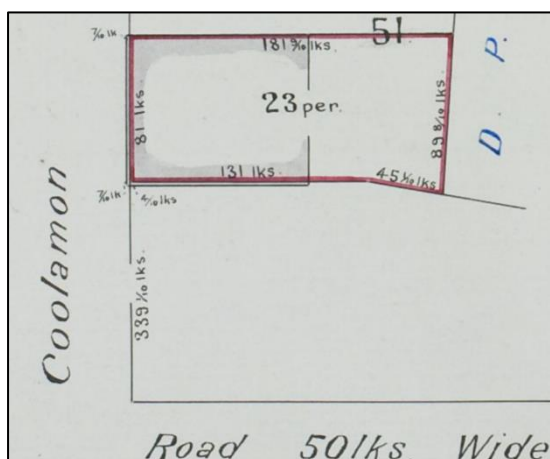
On the 9th January 1914, the two brothers sold allotment 1 of section 8 to Thomas Alfred Sanderson.⁵⁵⁸

On the 15th January 1924, James Gremmell and William Gremmell conveyed lot 3 to Frederick Thomas Judd.⁵⁵⁹



Left: The lot [# 3] transferred to Frederick Thomas Judd in January 1924. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

On the 16th May 1924, Frederick Thomas Judd conveyed a parcel of land to his wife, Edith May Judd. This was primarily the southern section of lot 2 combined with an adjoining, narrow slice of lot 3. [See lot 2B history]



Frederick retained the northern, and largest part of lot 3. The land had an area of twenty three perches with a frontage of 81 links [16.3M] to Coolamon Street].

Left: The part of lot 3 retained by Frederick Thomas Judd in May 1924. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services

⁵⁵⁵ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2030, folio 93.

⁵⁵⁶ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2030, folio 93.

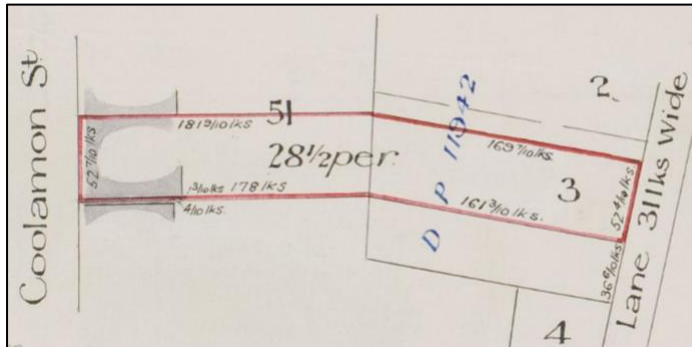
⁵⁵⁷ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2148, folios 4 & 5.

⁵⁵⁸ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2148, folios 4 & 5.

⁵⁵⁹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2440, folio 197.

Lot 3 [A & B]

On the 10th February 1928 Judd conveyed a part of lot 3 to Mageed Khan [see Lot 3C], but retained the majority of the property. This residue had an area of twenty eight and half perches with a frontage of some 53 links [10.6M] to Coolamon Street.⁵⁶⁰



Left: The part of lot 3 retained by Judd in February 1928. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services

On the 20th July 1929, Judd conveyed his residual holding to Frederick John Young, a butcher of Aria Park, and Percy Evelyn Troy, also a butcher of Aria Park, as tenants in common.⁵⁶¹

On the 2nd April 1930, Young transferred his half share to Percy Evelyn Troy.⁵⁶²

On the 6th August 1946, The Perpetual Trustee Company [mortgagee] forced a sale to Frederick Hanley Hill, a farmer of Aria Park.⁵⁶³

On the 31st December 1946, Hill transferred the property to Ronald Frederick Kearsley, a butcher of Aria Park.⁵⁶⁴

On the 28th November 1955, Kearsley conveyed the property to Mabel Anna May Mitchell, the wife of William Douglas Mitchell, a butcher of Aria Park.⁵⁶⁵

Mabel still held the property in 1968 when it was subdivided to create two lots – Lot 3 [A] and lot 3[B]. [DP.23551/1-2].⁵⁶⁶

END

Title Deed Trail: DP.235510/1-2 > 10894-190, 191 > 4401-65 > 4333-99 & 100 > 4267-222 and 4200-227

⁵⁶⁰ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 4267, folio 222.

⁵⁶¹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 4333, folios 99 & 100.

⁵⁶² NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 4401, folio 65.

⁵⁶³ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 4401, folio 65.

⁵⁶⁴ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 4401, folio 65.

⁵⁶⁵ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 4401, folio 65.

⁵⁶⁶ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 4401, folio 65.



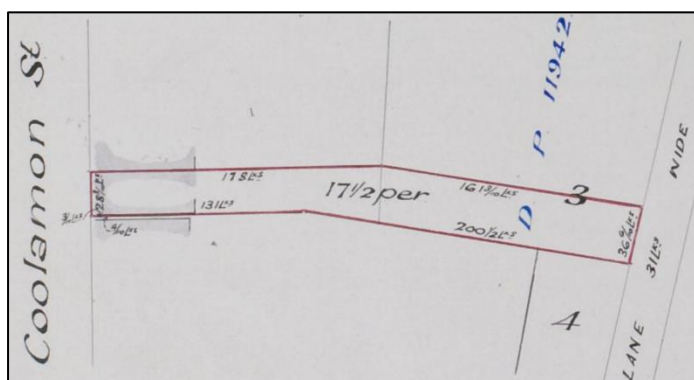
Left & Below:
Contemporary
photos of the
former butcher
shop premises.
Courtesy Google
Maps.

For the period
1938 to 1940,
the northern
section was a
butcher's shop,
while the
southern section
was a chemist's
shop.⁵⁶⁷



⁵⁶⁷ Temora Shire Rate Valuation Books. A Riding. 1938-1940. [Held by the Temora Rural Museum]

Lot 3 [C]



On the 10th February 1928 Judd conveyed a part of lot 3 to Mageed Khan. The holding had an area of seventeen and a half perches with a frontage of 28³/₄ links [5.8M] to Coolamon Street.⁵⁶⁸

Left: The piece of lot 3 sold to Mageed Khan in February 1928. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services

The land purchased by Khan was the southern most portion of lot 3.

Archibald Logan Chalmers and Charles Henry Collins conducted an agency business [auctioneers and stock and station agents] at Aria Park from 1923 through till December 1934, when their partnership was dissolved, by mutual consent.⁵⁶⁹ Chalmers retired from the business, known as Chalmers & Collins, and it was subsequently carried on by Collins. It is assumed the business was conducted in Khan's building.

On the 15th April 1950, Mageed Khan, a hawker of Temora, transferred the property to Walter James Wilson, a retired house painter of Guildford. On the 11th June 1952 the property was transmitted to Florence Annie Wilson, a widow of Guildford.⁵⁷⁰



On the 20th August 1969 the new legal owner of the property was Ronald Alan Chalmers, an agent of Aria Park.⁵⁷¹

On the 5th October 1978, Alan Ronald Chalmers, a labourer of Aria Park, assumed ownership of the property. The property was still owned by Alan in October 1986.

END

Title Deed Trail: DP.1.321393 > 4267-222 and 4200-227 > 3993-76 and 3690-171 > 2440-197 > 2148-4, 5 > 2030-93 > 1932-59.

Left: A contemporary photo of the property owned by Mageed Khan. Courtesy Google Maps.

For the period 1938 to 1940, this building was the office of McDonald.⁵⁷²

⁵⁶⁸ NSW Land Registry Services. Titl1969 when it was subdivided to create two new de Deed. Volume 4200, folio 227.

⁵⁶⁹ NSW Government Gazette. 1935, p957.

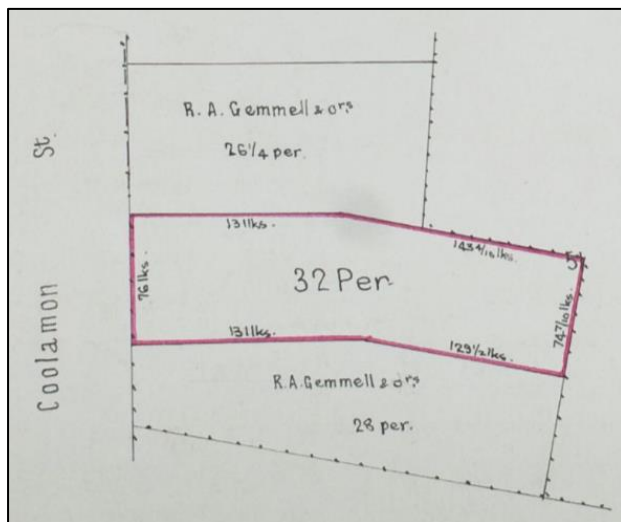
⁵⁷⁰ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 4200, folio 227.

⁵⁷¹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 4200, folio 227.

⁵⁷² Temora Shire Rate Valuation Books. A Riding. 1938-1940. [Held by the Temora Rural Museum]

Lot 4 – John Greig Davey

In January 1910 John Greig Davey purchased lot 4 in O'Brien's subdivision.⁵⁷³ The property had an area of thirty two perches with a frontage of 76 links [15.3M] to Coolamon Street.



Left: The lot purchased by John Greig Davey in 1910. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

On the 28th March 1912, Davey transferred the property to Arthur Thomas White, an ironmonger of Aria Park.⁵⁷⁴

Transactions to follow were,⁵⁷⁵

1912, 21st October – Conveyance from Arthur Thomas White to Frederick William Davey, a farmer of Aria Park.

By August 1913 Arthur Thomas White, trading as VJ White & Co., ironmongers of Aria Park, was insolvent,⁵⁷⁶ which may have been the reason he sold the property. Arthur married Christina May Fong, at Temora, in 1908,⁵⁷⁷ and their first child, Elva May White, was born in that same year.⁵⁷⁸ Four more children were born between 1910 and 1917, inclusive, at Aria Park, but the 6th child was born at Auburn in 1919, and it is assumed the family left Aria Park sometime between 1917 and 1919.

Christine May Fong was born at the Broken dam, on the 20th August 1888,⁵⁷⁹ and was the youngest daughter of James Fong and Margaret Fong [nee Smith].

1925, 4th March – Conveyance from Frederick William Davey to George Hedley Anderson, a stationer of Aria Park.

1929, 12th June – Conveyance from George Hedley Anderson to Charles William Brown and Emma Janet Brown [nee Tait].⁵⁸⁰ When the couple married, in Victoria in December 1920, the groom was officially William Charles Brown,⁵⁸¹ but in November 1928, he legally changed his name to Charles William Brown.⁵⁸² Notice of the change recorded his occupation as the proprietor of a refreshment room at Aria Park.

On the 21st November 1949, the Browns transferred the property to Murray Thorne Humphreys, an agent of Aria Park.⁵⁸³

⁵⁷³ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 1932, folio 59.

⁵⁷⁴ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2028, folio 114.

⁵⁷⁵ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2028, folio 114.

⁵⁷⁶ Daily Telegraph. 6th August 1913, p3.

⁵⁷⁷ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 2860/1908.

⁵⁷⁸ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 30117/1908.

⁵⁷⁹ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 29455/1888.

⁵⁸⁰ VIC BDM's. Marriage registration # 13454/1920.

⁵⁸¹ VIC BDM's. Marriage registration # 13454/1920.

⁵⁸² Aria Park News. 29th November 1928, p2.

⁵⁸³ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 4318, folios 49 & 50.

On the 3rd February 1960, Robert Roy McKenzie, an agent of Aria Park, became the legal owner of the property.⁵⁸⁴

On the 22nd August 1979, the property was conveyed to Ronald John Peacock, a wool buyer [$\frac{1}{2}$ share], Emily Maude Peacock, a married woman [$\frac{1}{4}$ share], Douglas Allen Peacock, a wool buyer [$\frac{1}{4}$ share], and Narelle Evelyn Peacock, a married woman [$\frac{1}{4}$ share].⁵⁸⁵

Subsequent transactions were,⁵⁸⁶

1989, 12th December – Conveyance to Arnella Sharon Judd.

1990, 19th November – Conveyance to Nigel Ashley Judd.

ENDTitle Deed Trail: DP.4.934025 > 7976-63 > 4318-49, 50 > 3509-19 and 2028-114 > 1932-59.



Above: The building that served as Charles William Brown's refreshment room business from 1929.

In the period 1938 to 1940 the premises were occupied by Webster Bros.⁵⁸⁷

⁵⁸⁴ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 4318, folios 49 & 50.

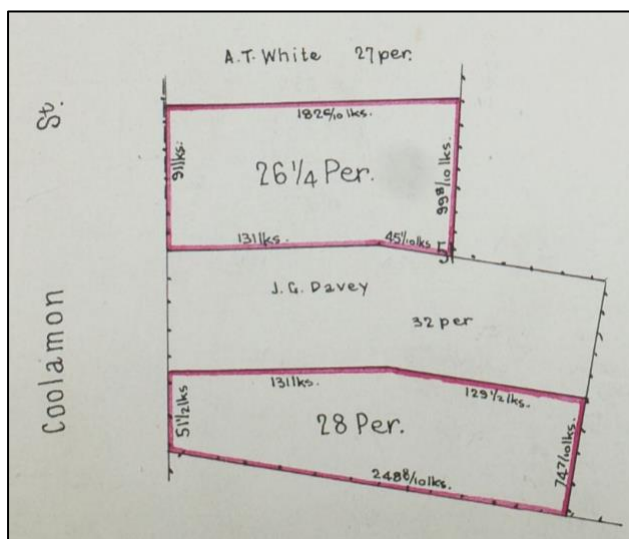
⁵⁸⁵ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 7976, folio 63.

⁵⁸⁶ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 7976, folio 63.

⁵⁸⁷ Temora Shire Rate Valuation Books. A Riding. 1938-1940. [Held by the Temora Rural Museum]

Lot 5 – Robert Alexander Gremmell, James Gremmell, and William Gremmell

In January 1910, Robert Alexander Gremmell, James Gremmell, and William Gremmell purchased lots 3 & 5 of O'Brien's subdivision.⁵⁸⁸



Left: The lot purchased by the Gemmells in 1910. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

On the 1st April 1911, the three men conveyed a part of their holding to Robert Alexander Gemmell.⁵⁸⁹ This was lot 5.

In March 1914, Frederick William Davey leased a part of the property to George Hedley Anderson, a storekeeper of Aria Park. The lease was renewed in September 1919 and then, in March 1925, Anderson purchased the freehold.⁵⁹⁰

The shop on lot 4 was located on the northern boundary of that lot. There was then a vacant area of land some twenty six feet wide, that constituted the southern part of lot 4. Lot 5 featured a house, which in the period 1938 to 1940, was occupied by Charles and Emma Brown.⁵⁹¹

On the 13th November 1944, Anderson transferred the property to Edith May Humphrys, the wife of Maurice William Olive Humphreys, a stock & station agent of Aria Park.⁵⁹²

On the 23rd October 1969, Maurice Jessie Humphrys, a builder of Wagga Wagga, and Gladys Mary Buerckner, a married woman of Aria park, became the legal owners of the property.⁵⁹³

On the 26th February 1970, Alan Ronald Chalmers, a shearer of Aria Park, and his wife, Joyce Margaret Chalmers, assumed ownership of the property.⁵⁹⁴

On the 31st March 2004, Joyce Margaret Chalmers became the sole proprietor of the property.

END

Title Deed Trail: DP.5.934404 > 2147-245 > 2030-93 > 1932-59.

⁵⁸⁸ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2030, folio 93.

⁵⁸⁹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2030, folio 93.

⁵⁹⁰ NSW Land Registry Services, Title Deed. Volume 2028, folio 114.

⁵⁹¹ Temora Shire Rate Valuation Books. A Riding. 1938-1940. [Held by the Temora Rural Museum]

⁵⁹² NSW Land Registry Services, Title Deed. Volume 2028, folio 114.

⁵⁹³ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2147, folio 245.

⁵⁹⁴ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2147, folio 245.



Above: Streetscape – businesses to the south of the Ariaiah Park hotel. Courtesy Ariaiah Park Community Project.

In the period 1938 to 1940 the land to the south of lot 5 was owned by William George Fitzroy Huthwaite, a storekeeper of Ariaiah Park. The northern part of this holding featured a store [fifty two feet frontage to Coolamon Street], while the southern part was vacant land [thirty eight feet frontage].⁵⁹⁵

William George Fitzroy Huthwaite passed away on the 12th September 1942. An obituary provided the following details,⁵⁹⁶

“He was born here [Wagga Wagga] 61 years ago, and after being absent for the earlier part of his life he returned to enter into business as a grocer and producer in premises in Baylis-street on portion of the site now occupied by the extensive departmental stores which he has built up during 36 years. It was in 1906 that the late Mr. Huthwaite opened up in business here, and after trading successfully for 15 years he disposed of his interests and soon afterwards entered into business in Albury. Three years later he recommenced business in the old premises in Wagga which continued to grow, and the premises to be enlarged. In 1939 Mr. Huthwaite formed the company of W. G. Huthwaite & Co. Ltd., and retained the position of principal until his death.”

It was common in those days for the larger retailers in Wagga Wagga, and other larger towns, to establish branch stores in newer developing towns.

⁵⁹⁵ Temora Shire Rate Valuation Books. A Riding. 1938-1940. [Held by the Temora Rural Museum]

⁵⁹⁶ Daily Advertiser. 14th September 1942, p2.



Above and Below: Early photos of businesses to the south of the Aria Park hotel. Courtesy Aria Park Community Project.





Above: The P.O. Stores of PJ Herrick & Co., on the eastern side of Coolamon Street, opposite the Soldier's Memorial [later the Huthwaites' store]. Courtesy Aria Park Community Project Committee.

Mr Peter Joseph Herrick took over the Post Office Stores, from Beard, Noble & Co., on the 17th March 1924.⁵⁹⁷ The latter firm had carried on the business for the previous four years.⁵⁹⁸ Herrick had previously carried on business at Marrar for fourteen years.

Peter Joseph Herrick

Peter Joseph Herrick was born on the 3rd January 1872, at Rochester, Victoria, the son of Francis Herrick and Margaret Herrick [nee Buckley]. On the 2nd October 1901, he married Rose Power, at Wagga Wagga.⁵⁹⁹

Peter's father, Francis [Frank] Herrick, had been employed by Patrick Moran, as manager of the *Ballymoran* property, up until the time of his [Frank's] death.⁶⁰⁰ Peter Joseph Herrick joined the firm of PJ Moran as a junior and later served as the firm's accountant. He then formed a partnership with Mr AM Kelly, prior to taking over the business at Aria Park.⁶⁰¹

Following Peter's death on the 12th October 1928, his son, Augustus [Gus], carried on the business at Aria Park.⁶⁰²

⁵⁹⁷ Aria Park News. 6th March 1924, p4.

⁵⁹⁸ Aria Park News. 20th March 1924, p4.

⁵⁹⁹ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 10266.

⁶⁰⁰ Wagga Wagga Express. 10th December 1901.

⁶⁰¹ Daily Advertiser. 8th October 1928, p2.

⁶⁰² Aria Park News. 11th October 1928, p2.



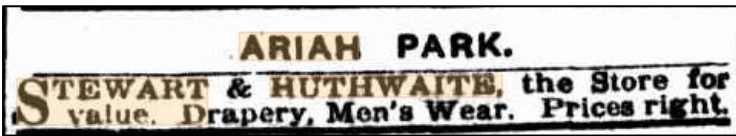
Above: Businesses on the eastern side of Coolamon Street, opposite Pitt Street. Courtesy Aria Park Community Project Committee.



Above: Herrick & Co's to the left, [previously Stewart & Huthwaite] with the old coach factory on the right. Courtesy Aria Park Community Project Committee.



Above: Stewart and Huthwaite's store. Courtesy Ariah Park Community Project Committee.



Left: An advertisement for Stewart and Huthwaite's store in December 1919.⁶⁰³

Huthwaite's GROCERIES ARE CHEAPER!!

SWEDES, 28lb for 1 3	BATH SOAP, 6 cakes 1 0
FISH PASTE, 5 tins 1 0	CARBOLIC SOAP, 8 cakes 1 0
BAKING POWDER, 1/2 lb tin 9	SAND SOAP, 5 cakes 1 0
COCOA, per lb 6	COFFEE and CHICORY, lb tins 1 9
PRUNES, Dessert, lb 9	ROLLED OATS 1 1 1/2
2 Packets Wholewheat BISCUITS and 1 WHEAT FLAKES for 1 0	FLOUR, 25lb bag 3 7
CUSTARD POWDER, 4oz packets 4 1/2	KEROSENE, gall 1 7 1/2
CURRY POWDER, 4oz tins 6	COCOANUT, lb 7 1/2
1 STEAM PUDDING, 1 CUSTARD POWDER for 1 0	TEA, Gilt Edge Special, lb 2 2
	Self Raising FLOUR, 2lb pkt 6
	HONEY, 2lb tin 1 0
	SWEET CORN, tin 7 1/2
	CHOCOLATE MIXTURE, lb 1 3
	BISCUITS, Plain, Ass., lb 8
	DRESSED POULTRY, Full Supply

HUTHWAITE'S
WHERE THE REAL BARGAINS ARE
WAGGA AND ARIAH PARK

Left & Below: An advertisement for Huthwaite's stores in July 1935.⁶⁰⁴

Huthwaite's WEEK END SPECIALS

When we label anything it is a Real Special. Don't Miss It

⁶⁰³ Australian Worker. 25th December 1919, p20.

⁶⁰⁴ Daily Advertiser. 20th July 1935, p1.



Above: An early residence on the eastern side of Coolamon Street, as it stood in 2021.

Buildings on the western side of Coolamon Street – to the south of Pitt Street.



The building above is located to the south of the building below.



Above: Former site of Deutscher's building, in 2021.



Above: An early photo of Deutscher's machinery depot. Courtesy Aria Park Community Project Committee.

Mr & Mrs Deutscher left Aria Park in January 1918, to reside in Sydney.⁶⁰⁵

Ludwig Augustus Deutscher

Ludwig Augustus Deutscher was born at Penthurst [Sydney] on the 24th October 1872, the son of Augustus Ludwig Deutscher and Emily Deutscher [nee East].

Ludwig's father, Augustus, married Emily East in Victoria in 1862.⁶⁰⁶ The couple had a very large family, the majority of whom, including Ludwig Augustus, were born in Victoria.

Ludwig Augustus Deutscher was born in 1872.⁶⁰⁷ On the 29th May 1896, Ludwig married Jane McCawley, at Beaconsfield [Wyalong], in the Union Church.⁶⁰⁸ Jane was the eldest surviving daughter of Thomas McCawley of Forest House. The latter was well known in the Wagga Wagga & Temora districts, having resided in both. Ludwig was, at that time, a resident of Wyalong. The couple planned to live on the Wyalong Gold Field.⁶⁰⁹ Ludwig and Jane also had a large family. The couple later named their home at Epping, *Forest House*.

Augustus Ludwig Deutscher was famous for his connection with the Temora Gold Field. In a stroke of good fortune, Deutscher senior selected a 640 acre portion of land close to where the town of Temora now lies, prior to the discovery of gold. Water was a scarce commodity and farming was difficult and the venture may have proven to be futile but for the discovery of gold. The richest lead

⁶⁰⁵ Cootamundra Herald. 11th January 1918, p4.

⁶⁰⁶ VIC BDM's. Marriage registration # 3791/1862.

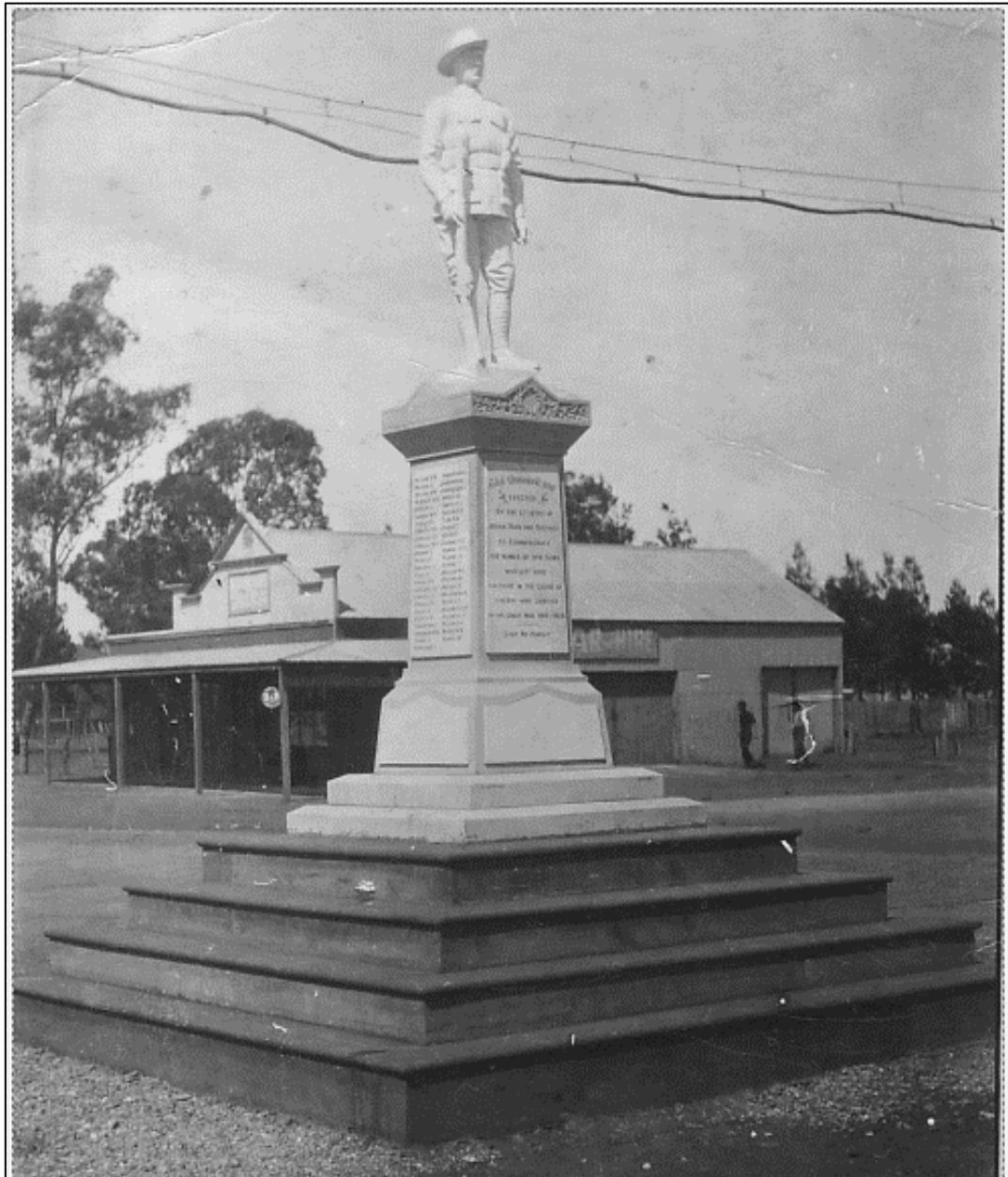
⁶⁰⁷ VIC BDM's. Birth registration # 25346.

⁶⁰⁸ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 3979/1896.

⁶⁰⁹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 20th June 1896, p5.

ran right through his property and Augustus was able to charge miners and businesses for the right to be on his selection. He also had an interest in a number of claims. Augustus was able to secure considerable financial gain. He was a generous man and contributed to the development of the town, both financially and by his own participation in public affairs. He was primarily responsible for building the first Methodist Church at Temora. His finances allowed him to take up farming, at which he was successful. Augustus passed away in November 1913, just short of his 75th birthday.⁶¹⁰

Ludwig Augustus Deutscher passed away at Balmain, in July 1956.⁶¹¹ His wife, Jane, passed away around the same time, at Balmain.⁶¹²



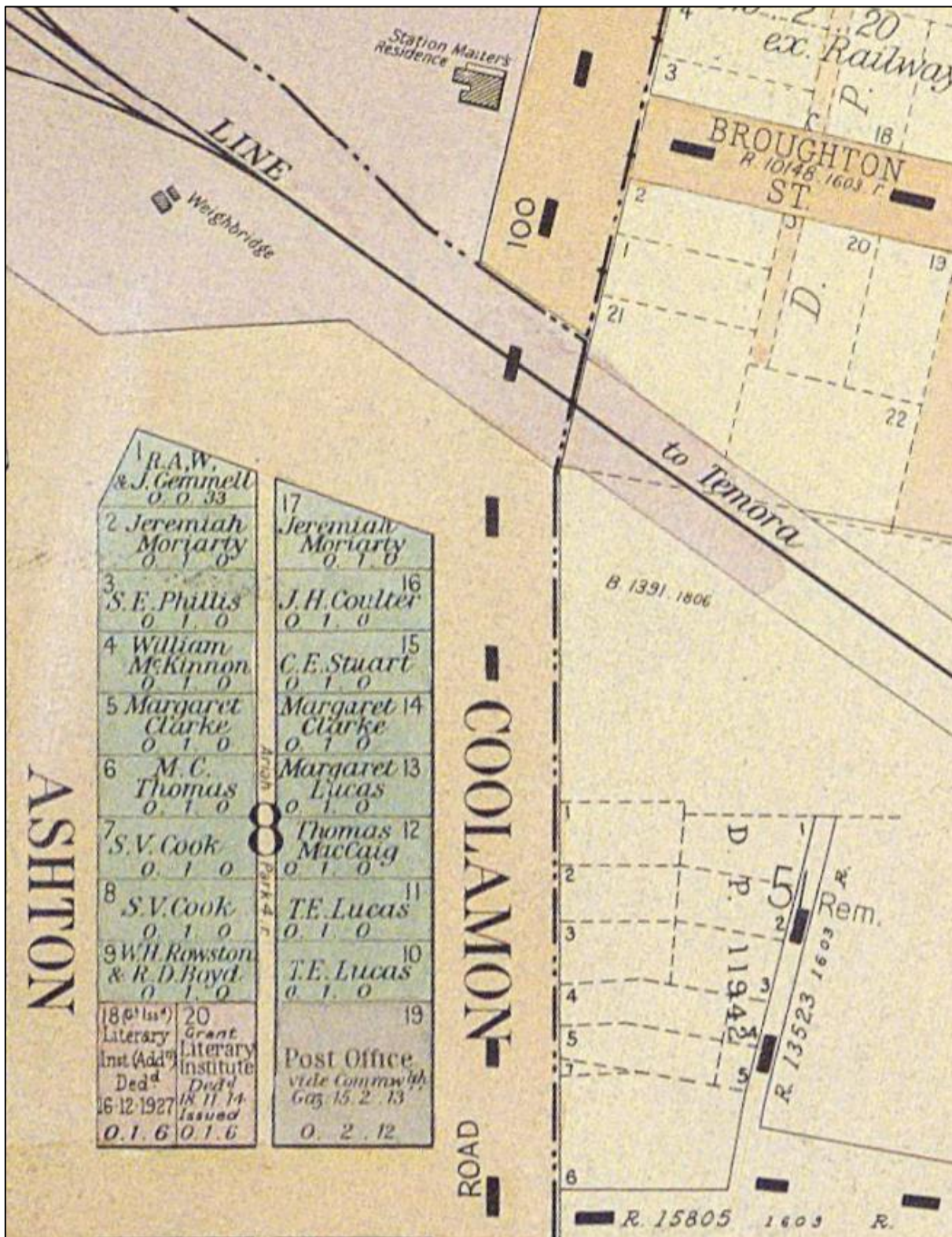
Above: Soldier's Memorial [unveiled 15th October 1919] with Deutscher's store in background. Courtesy Aria Park Community Project Committee.

⁶¹⁰ The Methodist [Sydney]. 29th November 1913, p9.

⁶¹¹ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 18315/1956.

⁶¹² NSW BDM's. Death registration # 18312/1956.

Buildings on the western side of Coolamon Street – to the North of Pitt Street.



Above: Extract from an Ariah Park town plan showing the allotments within section 8, and more specifically allotments 10 to 17, and 19 [with frontages to Coolamon Street, between Pitt Street and Ariah Street]. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

The current post office sits at one end, while Moriarty’s old store once stood at the other end.



Above: A contemporary aerial view with the original allotment boundaries superimposed.

Ariah Park Rate Records [Temora Shire Council – A Riding]

The Ariah Park rate records, which are held by the Temora Rural Museum, provided the following details:

Allotment 10

- 1914-1916: Owned by Thomas Lucas
- 1923-1925: Part A - Owned by JH Bargwanna
- 1923-1925: Part B - Owned by Mageed Khan
- 1932-1934: Part A - Owned by CK Hill
- 1932-1934: Part A - Owned by Ernest Otto Pomlun
- 1938-1940: Part A - Owned by CK Hill
- 1938-1940: Part B - Owned by Ernest Otto Pomlun

In the period 1938-1940, part A of allotment 10 was occupied by Clement Keith Hill, a commission agent. Part B was occupied by Ernest Otto Pomlun, a garage proprietor.

Allotment 11

- 1914-1916: Owned by Thomas McAig
- 1923-1925: Owned by Post Office [?]
- 1932-1934: Owned by Kate Speirs
- 1938-1940: Owned by Kate Speirs

In the period 1938-1940, allotment 11 was occupied by four different tenants [in order south to north].

1. A bootmaker's shop [Lupton]
2. A chemist shop
3. A butcher shop
4. The CWA Rest Rooms

Allotment 12

- 1914-1916: Owned by Thomas McAig
- 1923-1925: Owned by Commercial Banking Company
- 1932-1934: Owned by Commercial Banking Company
- 1938-1940: Part A - Owned by CWA
- 1938-1940: Part B - Owned by Commercial Banking Company

In the period 1938-1940, part A of allotment 12 was occupied by the CWA, while part B was held by the Commercial Banking Company.

Allotment 13

- 1914-1916: Owned by Commercial Banking Company
- 1923-1925: Owned by Commercial Banking Company
- 1932-1934: Owned by Commercial Banking Company
- 1938-1940: Owned by Commercial Banking Company

In the period 1938-1940, allotment 13 was occupied by the Commercial Banking Company.

Allotment 14

- 1914-1916: Owned by Robert Speirs
- 1923-1925: Owned by Robert Speirs
- 1932-1934: Owned by Robert Speirs
- 1938-1940: Owned by Robert Speirs

In the period 1938-1940, allotment 14 was occupied by four three different tenants [in order south to north].

1. A bakery
2. A garage
3. McMahon's
4. McMahon's

Allotment 15

- 1914-1916: Owned by Thomas J O'Brien
- 1923-1925: Owned by Robert Speirs
- 1932-1934: Owned by Robert Speirs
- 1938-1940: Owned by Robert Speirs

In the period 1938-1940, allotment 15 was occupied by McMahon's.

Allotment 16

- 1914-1916: Owned by Bank of NSW
- 1923-1925: Owned by Bank of NSW
- 1932-1934: Owned by Bank of NSW
- 1938-1940: Owned by Bank of NSW

In the period 1938-1940, allotment 16 was occupied by the Bank of NSW

Allotment 17

- 1914-1916: Owned by Moriarty
- 1923-1925: Owned by Bank of NSW
- 1932-1934: Owned by Bank of NSW
- 1938-1940: Owned by Bank of NSW

In the period 1938-1940, allotment 15 was held by the **Bank** of NSW

Buildings on the western side of Coolamon Street – between Pitt and Aria Streets.



Above: The Aria Park post office in 2021. The post office is located on allotment 19 of section 8.



Above: Aria Park post office, August 1949. Courtesy National Archives [C4076: no.3037946]

The first postal services at Aria Park consisted of a receiving office, and it appears this was originally located within Harrison's Aria Park hotel, from around 1903.⁶¹³ Subsequent receiving office keepers included EM MacPherson [until June 1906]; Mrs Samuel Cook [1906]; Jeremiah Moriarty [1906-

⁶¹³ Australian National Archives. Post Office Records. Aria Park [SP32/1. Box 17]

1910]. When the authority moved from Cook to Moriarty the location of the physical office also changed. One of the advantages of the transfer to Moriarty was that the two locations were close and would only require the relocation of two telegraph posts.

In May 1907, the government advised that the receiving office was to be upgraded and that Miss Elva White was to be appointed the postmistress and telephone attendant. Elva was the sister of the then local teacher, Mr AT White. The appointment was subject to Miss White finding suitable premises. Moriarty protested at this appointment and when Miss White advised she could not accept the position as she was unable to secure suitable premises, it appears her decision was influenced by interference from Moriarty and others.

On the 1st October 1907 the status was upgraded to that of post office.⁶¹⁴ A report on the conduct of the service, in this same year, was critical of Moriarty's conduct, noting that, "*the telephone business was conducted in a most careless and public manner.*"⁶¹⁵ The reporting officer found the conduct of the postal services to be unsatisfactory and indicated that the business should be taken away from Moriarty and a new agreement negotiated with another party. Unfortunately, the writer was unable to recommend anyone at the time.

The post and telegraph business were conducted in a small room, partitioned off from Moriarty's store, which failed to provide a suitable level of privacy. Moriarty left the conduct of the businesses to his wife and his three sons. During Mrs Moriarty's absences, her sister, Miss Harrington would fill in.

In 1910 the status of the service was upgraded to that of "*semi-official post office*" and applications were sought from persons wanting to manage the facility. There were a dozen applications, but only two were of suitable qualification. One of these, Mrs Edith Emily Gentle, a widow of Mt McDonald, was the successful applicant.⁶¹⁶ She assumed her duties from the 7th June 1910.

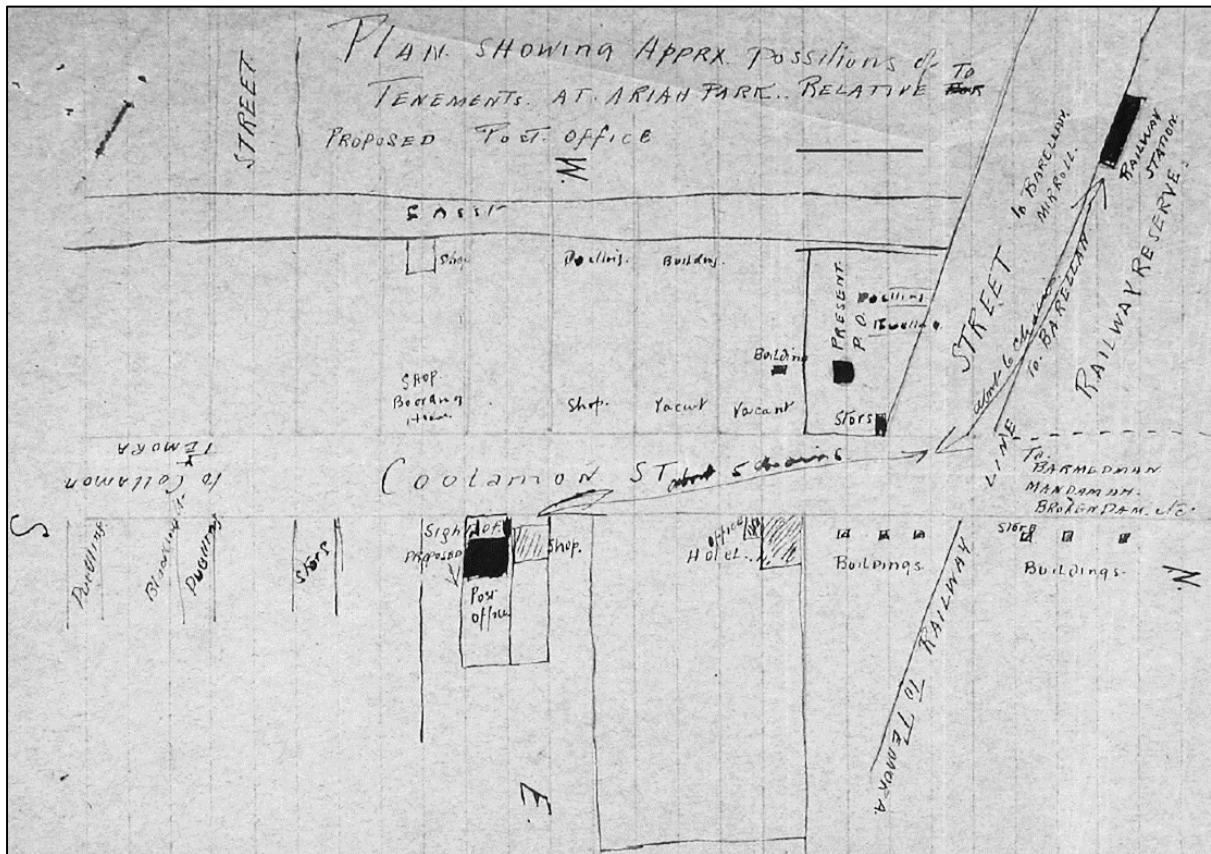


Above: Ariah Park post office, c.1924. Courtesy National Archives [C4076: no.3041072]

⁶¹⁴ Albury Banner. 2nd August 1907, p31.

⁶¹⁵ Australian National Archives. Post Office Records. Ariah Park [SP32/1. Box 17, part 1]

⁶¹⁶ Australian National Archives. Post Office Records. Ariah Park [SP32/1. Box 17, part 2]



Above: 1910 sketch of Ariah Park village, which shows the location of the then post office.⁶¹⁷

Mr OB Channon had acted as temporary postmaster from 17th March 1910 until Mrs Gentle took possession. This was necessary as Jeremiah Moriarty had indicated he could no longer provide the service. Channon had opened a branch of the Government Savings Bank at Ariah Park in that same month, but the post office business was still being conducted in Moriarty's premises. By the end of July 1910 the post office had been relocated from Moriarty's building to alternative premises.⁶¹⁸ The new premises consisted of two rooms, a kitchen and office space of about two hundred and fifty square feet.

Construction of a new post office at Ariah Park was approved by the relevant Minister in January 1914.⁶¹⁹ Construction was underway in October 1914,⁶²⁰ and it is assumed the new post office opened in 1915.

⁶¹⁷ Australian National Archives. Post Office Records. Ariah Park [SP32/1. Box 17, part 2]

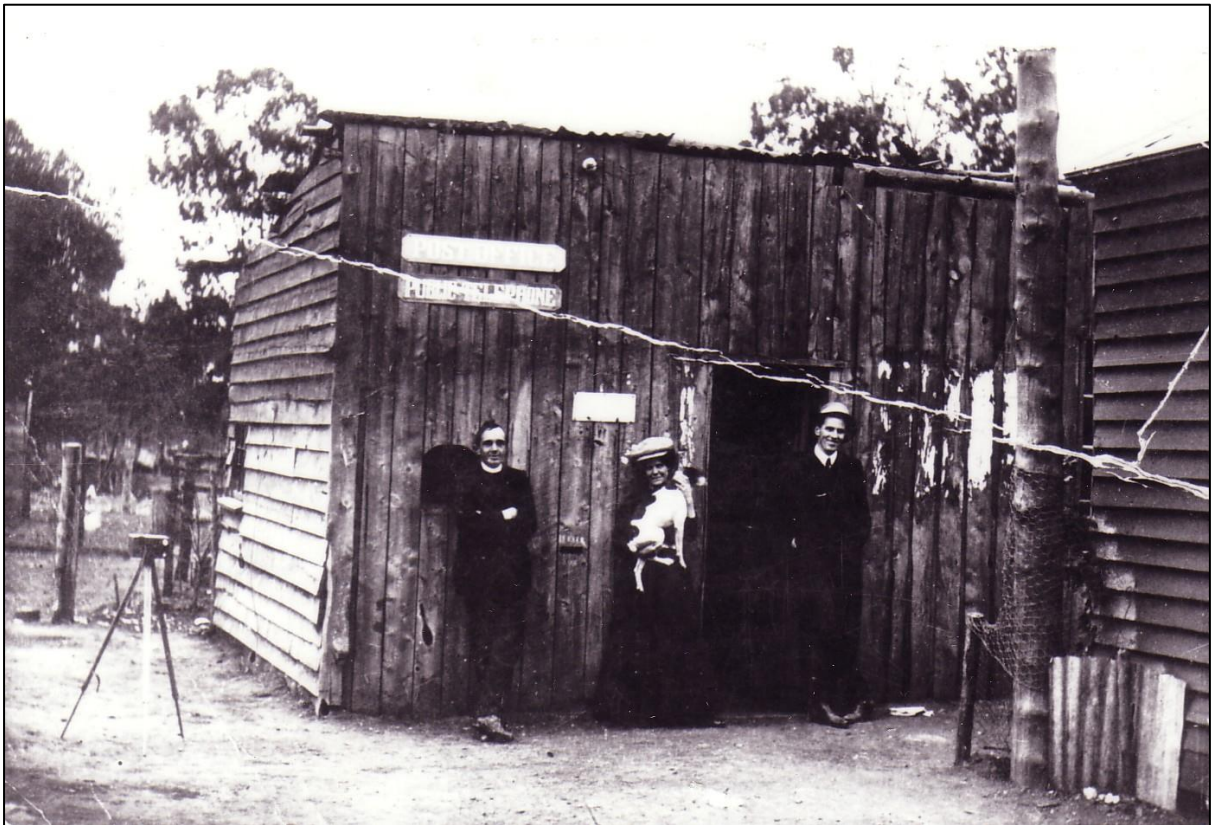
⁶¹⁸ Australian National Archives. Post Office Records. Ariah Park [SP32/1. Box 17, part 3]

⁶¹⁹ Daily Telegraph. 28th January 1914, p12.

⁶²⁰ Tocumwal Guardian. 30th October 1914, p2.



Above: Ariah Park post office, c.1919. Courtesy National Archives [C4076: no.3031767]



Above: Ariah Park post office, c.1914. Courtesy National Archives [C4076: no.3031766]



Above: A strip of shops on the western side of Coolamon Street [between the post office and the former Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney building], in 2021, with Speirs Building on the right. Courtesy Google maps.



Above: Northern half of allotment 10, once Pomplun's garage, as it is in 2021.



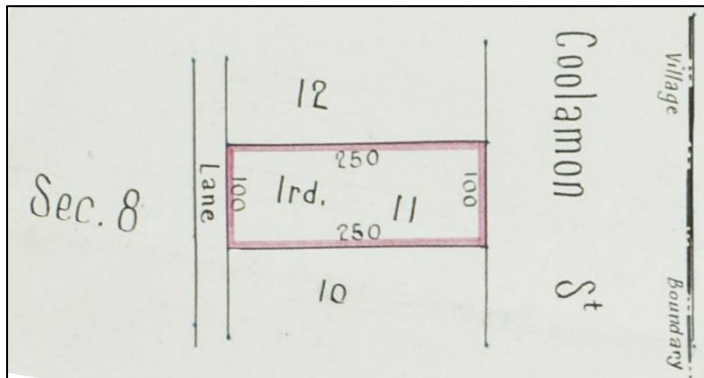
Above: Pomplun's old building on the left, then what was once Lupton's bootmaker's shop on allotment 11, as it is in 2021.



Above: Speirs Building, on allotment 11, in 2021.

Freehold - Allotment 11, section 8

Allotment 11 section 8, in the village of Aria Park, parish of Mandamah, was originally purchased from the Crown by Thomas Edward Lucas, a farmer of Aria Park, on the 15th June 1908. Lucas paid thirty two pounds and ten shillings for the land, which had an area of one rood.⁶²¹ The property had a frontage of 100 links [20.1M] to Coolamon Street.



Left: The land purchased by Lucas in June 1908. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

In April 1921, Thomas Edward Lucas transferred the property to James Henry Bargwanna, an auctioneer of Aria Park.⁶²²

On the 19th June 1925, Bargwanna conveyed the property to Kate Speirs, the wife of Robert Speirs, a jeweller of Temora.⁶²³

Transactions to follow were,⁶²⁴

1974, 6th November – Colin Robert Lyons, a builder of Rylstone, and his wife, Enid May Lyons, were now the legal owners of the property.

1987, 27th November – Raymond Maxwell Bergman and Janice Rebecca Bergman were now the legal owners of the property.

END

Title Deed Trail: DP.867227/11-12 > DP.11/12.8.758030 > 1887-50

⁶²¹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 1887, folio 50.

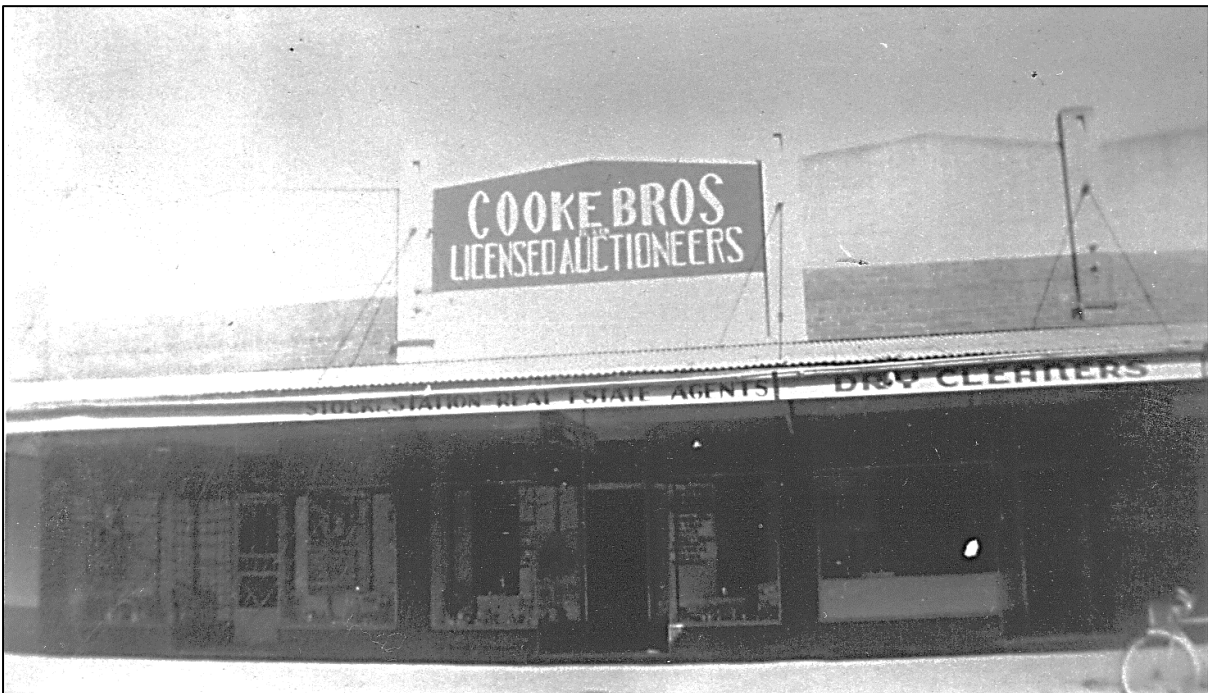
⁶²² NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 1887, folio 50.

⁶²³ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 1887, folio 50.

⁶²⁴ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 1887, folio 50.



Above: An earlier photo of Pomplun's Garage and the Speirs Building, on allotments 10 & 11. Courtesy Arian Park Community Project Committee.



Above: Cooke Bros building [aka Speirs building] on allotment 11, to the north of Pomplun's garage. Courtesy Arian Park Community Project Committee.

In the period 1938-1940, these buildings were occupied by three businesses: a chemist shop; a butcher shop; and the CWA Rest Rooms.



Above: CK Hill, auctioneers, to the south of Pomplun's garage, on allotment 10. Courtesy Ariah Park Community Project Committee.



Above: CK Hill, to the left with EO Pomplun's garage centre. Courtesy Ariah Park Community Project Committee.

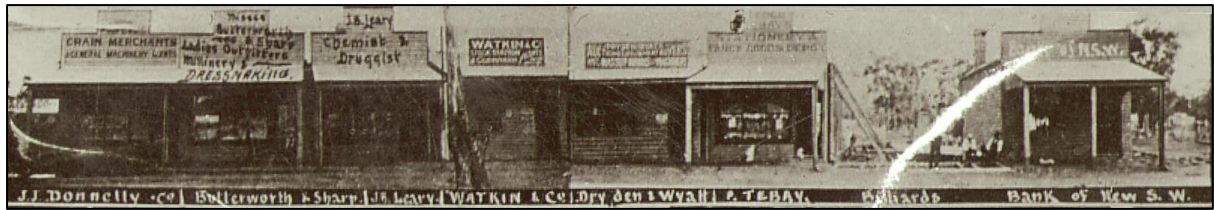
EO Pomplun carried on his garage business at Ariah Park from 1924 into the 1930's.



Above: The strip of shops between the former Commercial Banking Company of Sydney building and the former Bank of NSW building. Courtesy Arianh Park Community Project Committee.



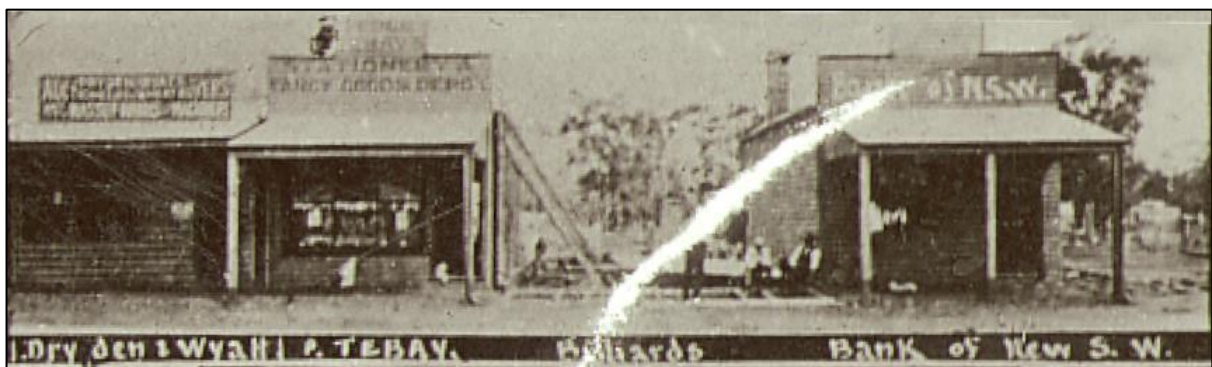
Above: An earlier photo of the Bank of NSW [extreme right – on allotment 16] with three businesses to the south [on allotments 14 & 15] – the Government Savings Bank of NSW [allotment 15], H McMahon & Son [allotment 15], and JH Bargwanna & Co. [allotment 14]. Courtesy Arianh Park Community Project Committee.



Above: A strip of businesses on the western side of Coolamon Street, pre-1914. Courtesy Ariah Park Community Project.



Above: The four business houses to the left: JJ Donnelly & Co.; Butterworth & Sharp; JS Leary; Watkin & Co.



Above: The four business houses to the right: Dryden & Wyatt; P Tebay; Billiards Room [under construction]; Bank of NSW.

PH Tebay conducted a stationery business at Ariah Park from March 1910, and probably up until the time of the 1914 fire.

The billiard room had been completed by November 1914, at which time it was burnt to the ground.



Above: A strip of five businesses with Watkins & Co. at centre [pre-1914]. Courtesy Aria Park Community Project Committee.

TEMORA

Messrs **J. J. Donnelly** and Co., effected a couple of big property sales during the last few days. On account of Messrs **J.** and **H. Schliuk**, of **Ariah Park** 640 acres of C.P. and C.L. land, to Mr **W. Dooey**, of **Victoria**, at £2 15s per acre. This property is situated four miles from **Ariah Park**, and adjoining the **Barellan** railway line. Also, on account of Mr **J. Puckeridge**, 407 acres of C.P. and H.S. land, to Mr, **Joseph Millard**, of **South Australia**, at £3 3s per acre. This property is situated about 6 miles from **Temora**, on the **Young road**.

Left: 1907 item for **J J Donnelly & Co.**⁶²⁵

WATKIN AND CO.,
AUCTIONEERS.

Will sell at the Sale Yards
ON FRIDAY, 15th OCTOBER, 1909,
And every alternate **FRIDAY,**
SHEEP, CATTLE, AND HORSES.

Owlers desirous of offering stock at this sale, we shall be pleased to have particulars of same.

Right: In 1909, **Watkin and Co.**, were auctioneers at **Cootamundra**.⁶²⁶

Mr **Leary** opened his business – chemist, bicycles, and stationery – around June 1909.⁶²⁷ The above photos must date between 1909 and 1914.

Similarly, the firm of **Dryden & Wyatt** was formed around September 1909.⁶²⁸

⁶²⁵ Murrumburrah Signal. 30th April 1907, p1.

⁶²⁶ Cootamundra Herald. 5th October 1909, p3.

⁶²⁷ Albury Banner. 18th June 1909, p31.

⁶²⁸ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 14th September 1909, p2.



Above: Former Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney building, on allotment 13, as it is in 2021.



Above: Earlier photo of the Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney building. Courtesy Aria Park Community Project Committee.

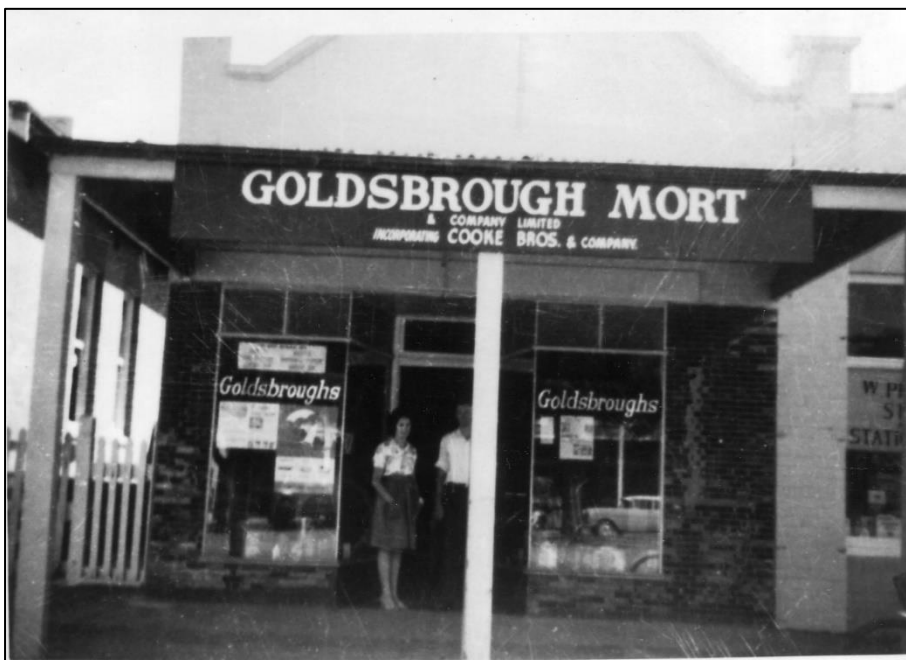
The Commercial Banking Company of Sydney opened a branch office at Aria Park in March 1910. The branch was a temporary arrangement, being located within the premises of Mr Judd's store.⁶²⁹ New bank premises, with a residence, were erected during the ensuing year and by April 1911, Mr LW Craig, formerly of Gundagai, was settled at Aria Park in his new position as manager of the bank.⁶³⁰

⁶²⁹ Albury Banner. 25th March 1910, p18.

⁶³⁰ Gundagai Times. 4th April 1911, p2.



Above:
Contemporary photo
in 2021.



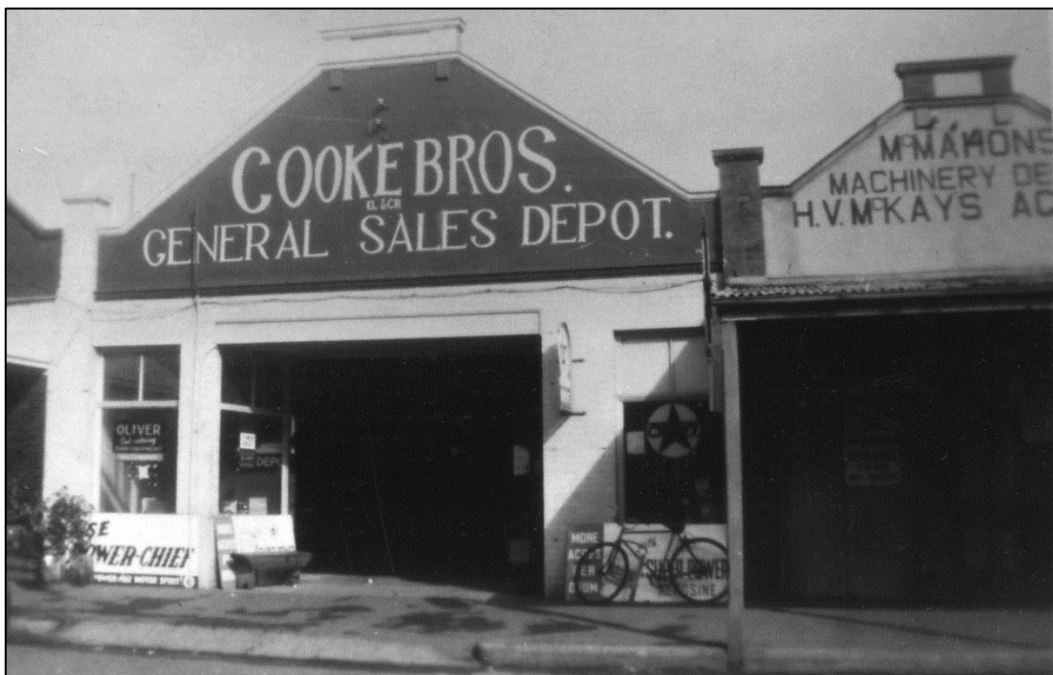
Left: Earlier photo –
Goldsbrough Mort
offices. Courtesy
Ariah Park
Community Project
Committee.

This building is
located on what was
Robert Speir's
allotment 14.



Above: Contemporary photo in 2021, occupied by the Aria Park Men’s Shed. Located on allotment 14 of section 8.

Below: Earlier photo – Cooke Bros. Courtesy Aria Park Community Project Committee.





Above: JH Bargwanna building occupied by the Men's Shed in 2021. Located on allotment 14 of section 8. Occupied by H McMahon & Son in the period 1938 to 1940.

Mr James Henry Bargwanna left Aria Park at the end of 1924, after a period of some twelve years residence, to enter into a new business at Cowra. Before moving to Aria Park he had conducted a business at Orange. The new owner of the Aria Park business was Mr W Dew.⁶³¹

James Henry Bargwanna passed away at Orange in 1959.⁶³² His wife, Lilliam Mary Bargwanna [nee Watterson], predeceased him in October 1930.⁶³³

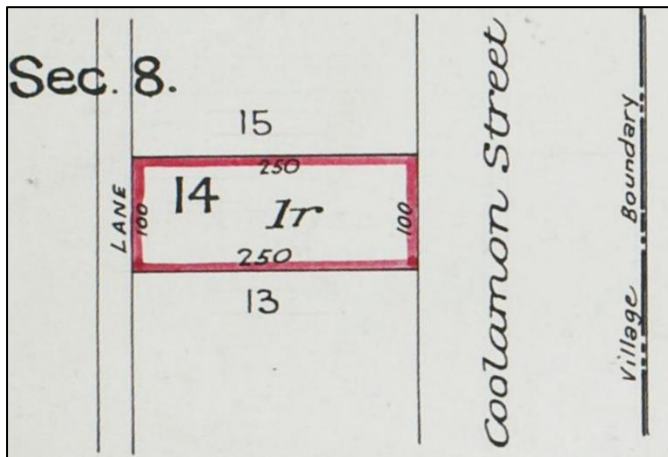
⁶³¹ Aria Park News. 20th November 1924, p4.

⁶³² NSW BDM's. Death registration # 22034/1959.

⁶³³ Leader [Orange]. 29th October 1930, p2.

Freehold - Allotment 14, section 8

Allotment 14, section 8, in the village of Aria Park, was originally purchased from the Crown by Margaret Clarke, a widow of Broken Dam, on the 10th August 1909. Margaret paid thirty seven pounds for the land, which had an area of one rood and a frontage of 100 links [20.1M] to Coolamon Street.⁶³⁴



Left: The land purchased by Margaret Clarke in August 1909. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

Margaret promptly resold the property to Robert Speirs, a jeweller of West Wyalong, on the 13th September 1909.⁶³⁵

Transactions to follow were,

1964, 10th September – Kate Speirs, a widow of Aria Park, Robert Howard Speirs, George Joseph Speirs, both farmers and graziers of Temora, and Dorothy Katherine Peterson, a married woman of Strathfield, were now the legal owners of the property.

1968, 30th January – Converted to a computer folio. Now DP.235348/1-2 [Title Deeds, Volume 10724, folios 149 & 150].

END

Title Deed Trail: DP.2.235345 > 10724-149 & 150.



Above: A strip of three shops in 2021, all on allotment 14 of section 8. The bakery was formerly Websters agency for bulk wheat [general commission agents]

⁶³⁴ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 1992, folio 42.

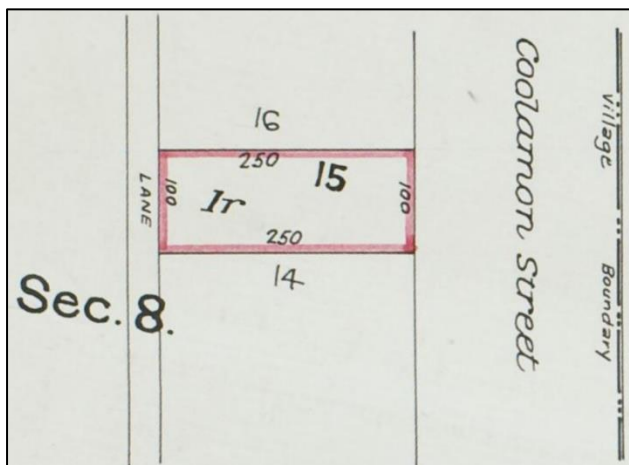
⁶³⁵ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 1992, folio 42.



Above: Ariah Park Supermarket in 2021. Located on allotment 15 of section 8. Previously McMahon's grocery store [leased to McMahon from July 1925 till September 1961]. Built for Robert Speirs in 1917. Moriarty had retired and closed shop which left an opening for a new shop. McMahon came from Carrathool, where he had previously conducted a business for some years.⁶³⁶

Freehold - Allotment 15, section 8

Allotment 15, section 8, in the village of Ariah Park, was originally purchased from the Crown by Charles Edward Stuart, a farmer of Ariah Park, on the 22nd June 1909. Stuart paid thirty nine pounds for the land, which had an area of one rood and a frontage of 100 links [20.1M] to Coolamon Street.⁶³⁷



Left: The land purchased by Charles Edward Stuart in June 1909. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

On the 17th July 1909, Stuart sold his land to Thomas Joseph O'Brien, a publican of Ariah Park.⁶³⁸

On the 10th May 1917, Thomas Joseph O'Brien conveyed the property to Robert Speirs, a jeweller of Temora.⁶³⁹

⁶³⁶ Riverine Grazier. 7th December 1917, p2.

⁶³⁷ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 1979, folio 77.

⁶³⁸ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 1979, folio 77.

⁶³⁹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 1979, folio 77.

On the 10th September 1964, Kate Speirs, a widow of Ariah Park, Robert Howard Speirs, George Joseph Speirs, both farmers and graziers of Temora, and Dorothy Katherine Peterson, a married woman of Strathfield, became the legal owners of the property.

1968, 30th January – Converted to a computer folio. Now DP.235348/1-2 [Title Deeds, Volume 10724, folios 149 & 150].

END

Title Deed Trail: DP.1.235345 > 10724-149 & 150

Henry McMahon

Henry McMahon died in October 1942, at his home in Roseville [Sydney] aged eighty five. He was survived by his wife, Mary, four sons and three daughters. Henry had married Mary McLeod at Peechilba, Victoria in 1888.⁶⁴⁰

CARRATHOOL.
CLOSING NOTICE.
H. McMahon & Son.

IN thanking their many friends and customers for the kindness and support they have received for many years at CARRATHOOL, beg to announce that—

They are definitely Closing their Store this month, and that Christmas Eve, 24th December, is the last day upon which they will be open for business at Carrathool.

After that date the stock will be removed to ARIAH PARK.

Up to and including XMAS. EVE there will be no better place to shop than—

H. McMahon & Sons
Corn Exchange,
Carrathool.

Clearing Out Sale !
AT
CARRATHOOL
Saturday, 15th Dec.
J. E. McMahon,

UNDER instructions from MR. H. McMAHON, will offer, by public Unreserved Auction Sale, on the above date, the whole of his Household

Furniture and Effects,
at his residence, CARRATHOOL, also
Buffalo Forge and Drill.

The whole of the Furniture and Effects have been well cared for, and the lines to be looked for in a well kept private residence.

J. E. McMAHON,
Auctioneer.

Above: Henry McMahon gives notice of his departure from Carrathool in December 1917.

⁶⁴⁰ Narandera Argus. 27th October 1942, p1. / VIC BDM's. Marriage registration # 3559/1888.

The Speirs Family

The first ancestor of the Speirs family to arrive in Australia was Joseph Speirs.

Joseph Speirs was born in the parish of Paisley Abbey, Renfrewshire, Scotland, on the 18th July 1825, the son of Robert Speirs and Elizabeth Speirs [nee Burns].

In 1851, Joseph Speirs [aged 25] was living at 16 Lady Lane Street with Isabella Speirs [aged 33] and two children from Isabella's previous marriage – Mary Angus aged ten, and James Angus aged 8.⁶⁴¹ A third child, Anne Angus, born in 1843, was not listed and it is assumed she was living elsewhere at the time.

Joseph's occupation was "*weaver hand loom, cotton.*"

On the 4th October 1852, Joseph Speirs married Isabella Campbell, at Abbey, Renfrewshire,⁶⁴² and took on the responsibility of her children. Isabella's previous marriage was to James Angus, who, it is believed, died in 1851.

On the 12th October 1852 Joseph Speirs left his home and migrated to Australia, with his new family. Joseph arrived in the colony, as an assisted immigrant, on the 6th January 1853, on board the "*Beejapore.*" Joseph, who had paid five pounds to secure the families travel, could both read and write. Isabella, who was accompanied by her two daughters, could read but not write. All four were Presbyterians. Isabella's son, James, did not travel out with the family and it is assumed he remained in Scotland, or that he had perhaps died. Joseph's parents were both deceased, as was Isabella's mother. Her father was still alive and living at Paisley in Renfrewshire.⁶⁴³

By March 1859, Joseph had selected an allotment of land at Tumut. Specifically, allotment 3 of section 46, which had an area of 2 roods.⁶⁴⁴ It appears that Joseph lived in an around the Tumut district for the next couple of decades.

Joseph Speirs passed away on the 11th February 1883, at Adelong. An obituary provided the following information,⁶⁴⁵

"Mr. Joseph Speirs, upon whom an operation was performed, for hydatids on the liver by Drs. Ogg and Lyttleton, succumbed on Sunday last. Mr. Speirs was a very old resident of Adelong and was connected with some of the leading men in the town. He was always looked upon as a thorough businessman, of strict integrity, and though not a man to put himself forward, he possessed good common sense, and by his application to business, placed himself in a fair position. Mr. A. [Andrew] Smith is married to a daughter of the late Mr. Speirs."

Joseph was survived by his wife and three children,

1. Joseph Speirs, b.1854
2. Isabella Speirs [b.1856]
3. Annie Speirs [b.1860]

⁶⁴¹ Scotland Census. 1851 [Ancestry]

⁶⁴² Scotland. Select Marriages: 1561-1910. [FHL film # 1041091] [Ancestry]

⁶⁴³ NSW Assisted Immigrant Passenger Lists: 1828-1896 [Ancestry]

⁶⁴⁴ Goulburn Herald. 2nd March 1859, p4.

⁶⁴⁵ Gundagai Times. 13th February 1883, p2.

Isabella Speirs [nee Campbell] passed away on the 17th June 1891, at her son's business place, the Royal hotel at Adelong. She was seventy two years old and was survived by two daughters and one son.⁶⁴⁶

Joseph Speirs, junior, was a very successful businessman. Born at Yass in May 1854,⁶⁴⁷ he married Catherine Hamilton at Adelong in September 1875.⁶⁴⁸ The couple had a large family of eight children.

Joseph died on the 16th February 1919,⁶⁴⁹ and an extensive obituary provided a good summary of his life,⁶⁵⁰

“The death of Mr. Speirs removes from the district and the State one who has had a lengthy and varied career, particularly in connection with the old coaching days. Born at Yass in 1855, he moved to Adelong with his father at an early age, when the Adelong gold-field broke out, then gaining a thorough knowledge of mining (both reefing and alluvial and the milling of ores). Working at the mines all day, he devoted his evenings to attending night-school, thereby gaining an education which stood him in good stead in later years.

Marrying at 22, he bought a farm on the Gilmore, where he farmed for a number of years, on one occasion gaining the Royal Agricultural Society's Medal for best wheat grown in the colony, being gained from a 40-bushel crop.

The railway approaching Cootamundra about this time, he sold his farm and started in the carrying business, establishing what was afterwards known as the 'Ready Reckoner' service of passenger and carrying line of coaches and vans plying between Cootamundra, Gundagai and Adelong. He was at Cootamundra on the night of the never-to-be-forgotten railway washaway, and ran passengers out to the scene and brought back the mails from the smash into town.

After the railway reached Gundagai he bought out the line of Cobb and Co's mail coaches between Gundagai, Tumut and Adelong, and later between

Tumbarumba and Germanton (now known as Holbrook). He also started a special line of coaches between Adelong and Tumbarumba. About this time, he bought out the Royal Hotel at Adelong, making that his business headquarters, and under the capable management of Mr. W. Martin (who is still at Adelong), continued running the several lines of coaches and vans for many years. Mr. Speirs himself was one of the best and most intrepid drivers of his time, as this can be testified by many of the travellers on the south who have driven with him on some of his record trips the heavily timbered forests between Adelong and Tumbarumba. Many of his drivers are still in the coaching business, the following being a few of his old hands - Joe Lake, Jack Payne, Armfield, Rube James, Billy Eurell, Andy Patterson, and others. It was during this period that one of his coaches, driven by Andy Patterson, was washed down in the flood at Sandy Creek, the driver narrowly escaping with his life, and one of the horses managing to get free, he rode him into Adelong, bare-back. The coach, with the mails was lost for some months, but was afterwards found in a hole in the Gilmore, silted up with sand.

The old mining fever never left him, and he was always interested in mining ventures, holding large interests in several sluicing companies at Cherry Hill, Bago, Burra Burra, and Tumbarumba, besides interests in several reefing

⁶⁴⁶ Gundagai Times. 23rd June 1891, p2.

⁶⁴⁷ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 3580/1854 V18543580 40.

⁶⁴⁸ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 2739/1875

⁶⁴⁹ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 4424.

⁶⁵⁰ Wyalong Advocate. 21st February 1919, p2.

enterprises. Owing to successions of hard financial knocks in some of the mining ventures he sold out of the hotel and coaching business and the Wyalong gold-rush starting at this time, he was quickly on the field. Though meeting with little success, he realised the possibilities of the field. He brought his family over here, and shortly after took over the management of the Mallee Bull mine and others. Cyanide operations coming into vogue, he left mine management and erected a cyanide plant on the old Eurongilly field, and when this was cut out he joined his eldest son Joseph (who was an assayer), now jeweller, of Cootamundra, in cyanide operations at Wyalong. During this time, he had his second son, Robert, apprenticed to Fred Bowman as a jeweller. Robert bought out his employer, from which has sprung the string of jewellery establishments carried on by Speirs Brothers at Wyalong, Temora, Cootamundra, Junee, Tumut, and Coolamon. After cyanide operations had practically cut out here, deceased took charge of his son's jewellery establishment at West Wyalong, where he remained to within a short time of his death.

Deceased leaves a widow, five sons and one daughter to mourn their sad loss. The sons are Joseph, Robert, Walter, George and Andy, and the daughter is Mrs. H. Leadbitter.

Deceased was a member of the Golden Age branch M. U. Oddfellows (Adelong) for many years. Members of the Wyalong branch marched in procession to the funeral. He was also a members of Lodge St Clair (Masonic) Adelong, for many years."

Joseph's wife, Catherine Speirs [nee Hamilton] passed away on the 11th September 1938, at West Wyalong. An obituary provided details of her life,⁶⁵¹

"The death of Mrs. Catherine Speirs (relict of the late Mr. Joseph Speirs) removes another grand old pioneer of the Adelong and West Wyalong districts. Mrs. Speirs, who had reached the advanced age of 81 years, had enjoyed remarkably good health all her life, her first experience in hospital being her last short illness of a few weeks, when she was under medical attention in private hospitals at Temora and West Wyalong.

The late Mrs. Speirs was born in Fife, Scotland, but came to Australia with her parents when only two years of age. Most of her young life was spent at Adelong, where Mr. and Mrs. Speirs were married. The late Mr. Speirs and his son, Joseph, came to West Wyalong in 1894 - shortly after the outbreak of the goldfields - Mrs. Speirs and the other members of the family coming here in 1895. The Speirs family were prominently identified with the early life of West Wyalong. Every member of the family attended the first Presbyterian service held here in a hall situated close to where the Post Office Hotel now stands. The members of the family have always been staunch supporters of the Church wherever they have been located, and when the beautiful Pioneer Presbyterian Church was recently erected at West Wyalong, they donated the handsome pulpit in memory of their father. The name of Speirs is well known throughout Riverina as optometrists, jewellers and watchmakers.

The late Mrs. Speirs was a devoted adherent of the Church, and regularly attended services right up to the time of her recent illness. She was of a quiet, unassuming, but kindly and charitable disposition, unselfishly devoting her life to the interests of her husband, her family and her friends. Her husband predeceased her at West Wyalong in 1919, since when she has resided from

⁶⁵¹ West Wyalong Advocate. 16th September 1938, p2.

time to time with members of her family, and also with her niece, Mrs. R. T. Pearce, of Bellarwi.

Deceased is survived by five sons and one daughter. The sons are Joseph of Wagga; Robert, of Temora; Walter, of Temora; George, of Griffith, and Andrew, of Grenfell. The daughter is Mrs. J. H. Leadbitter, of West Wyalong.

Mrs. Bell, of Ashfield, is a sister of the deceased, and brothers are Mr. Thomas Hamilton, of Sawtell (North Coast); Mr. James Hamilton, of Barmedman; Mr. Robert Hamilton, of Illabo; and there are many grandchildren and some great-grand-children."

Robert Speirs, the second child of Joseph and Catherine, was a jeweller, and it was Robert and his wife Kate Speirs [nee Howard] who owned various shops along the western strip of Coolamon Street, between Pitt and Ariah Streets, and more specifically those shops located on allotments 11, 14, and 15, of section 8.

Robert was born at Adelong on the 3rd July 1878.⁶⁵² On the 16th July 1914, Robert married Kate Howard, in the Methodist Church at Cootamundra. Kate was the only daughter of Mr & Mrs George Howard of *Kal Kal*, Reefton.⁶⁵³



Left: Robert Speirs (b. 1878) and Kate Speirs (nee Howard) Courtesy "bobbwest1" [ancestry].

Robert and Kate had three children, all born at Temora,

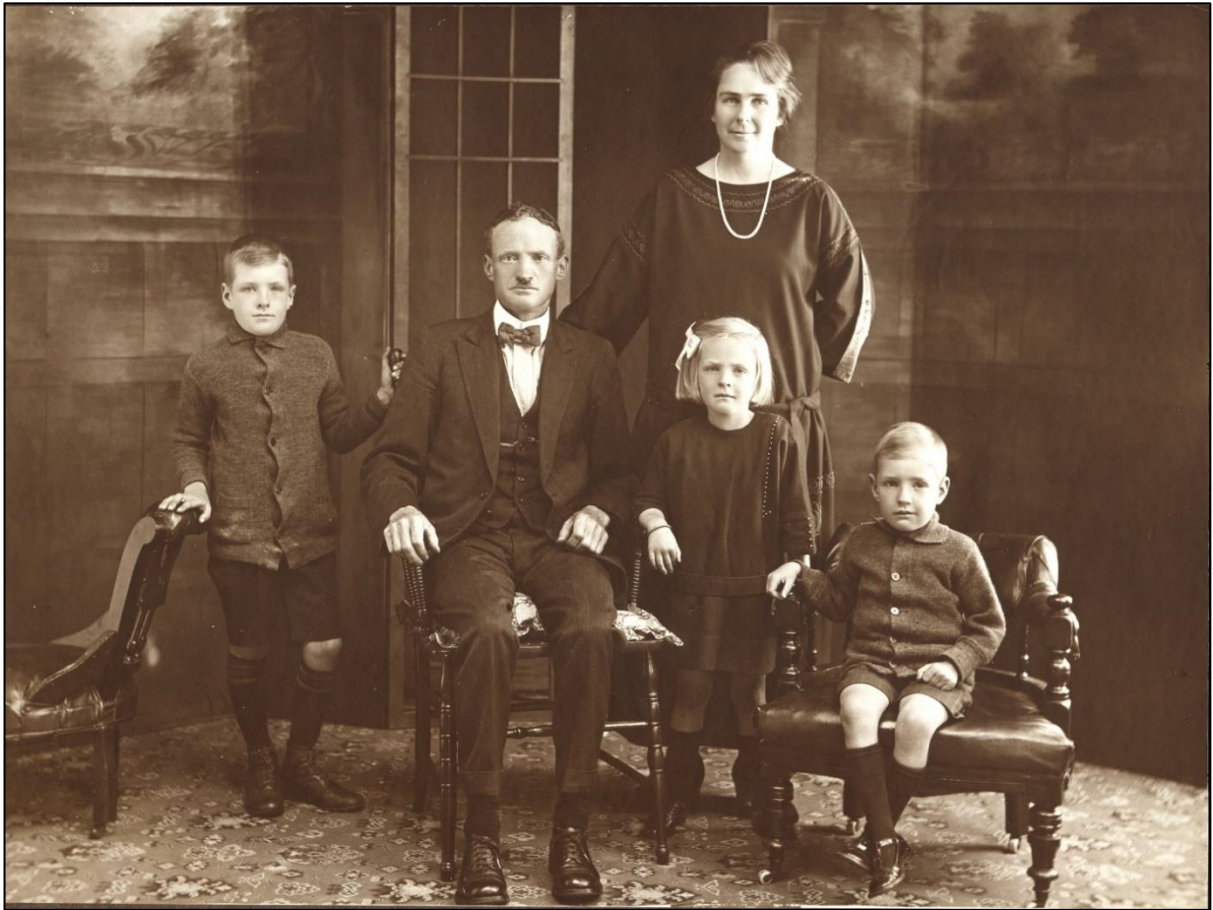
1. Robert Howard Speirs [b.1916]
2. Dorothy Katherine Speirs [b.1919]
3. George Joseph Speirs [b.1920]

Dorothy married Bruce Henry Peterson, at Temora, in July 1942.⁶⁵⁴

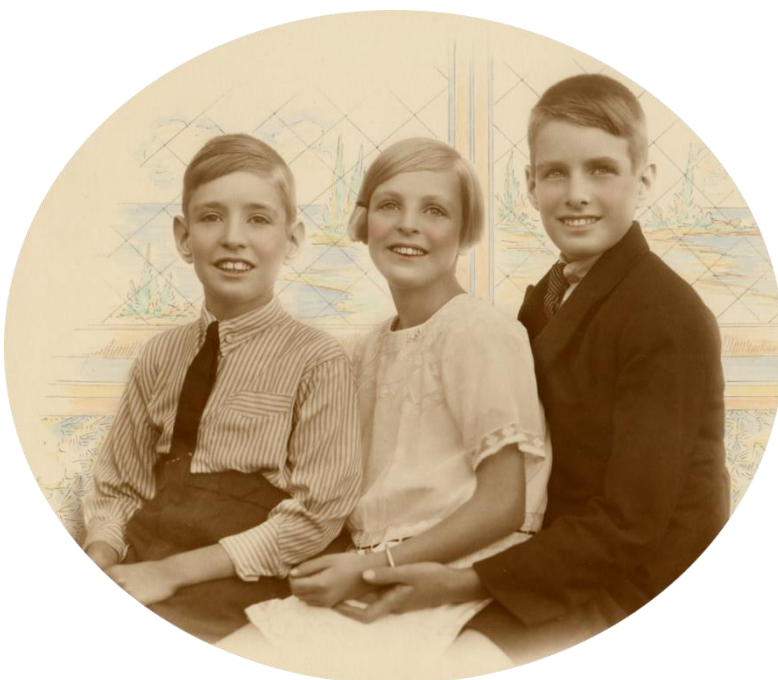
⁶⁵² NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 13990.

⁶⁵³ Albury Banner. 24th July 1914, p6.

⁶⁵⁴ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 25687.



Above: Robert Speirs (b. 1878) and Kate Speirs (nee Howard) and family: Robert Howard Speirs, Dorothy Katherine Speirs (later Peterson), George Joseph Speirs; circa mid-1920s. Courtesy "bobbwest1" [ancestry].



Left: George, Dorothy and Howard, the three children of Robert and Kate. Courtesy "bobbwest1" [ancestry]



Left: The first Bank of NSW building. Courtesy Ariaiah Park Community Project.

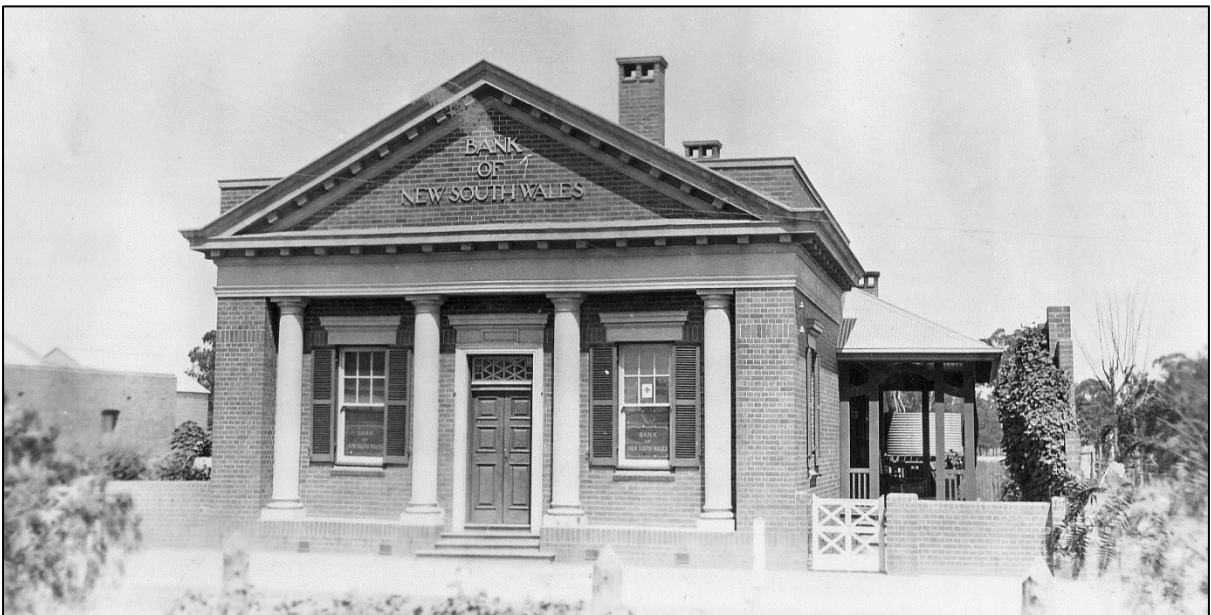


Above: A gathering at the front of the first Bank of NSW building. Courtesy Ariaiah Park Community Project Committee.

The above building was located on allotment 15, of section 8, in the village of Ariaiah Park.



Above and Below: Early photos of the Bank of NSW building. Located on allotment 16 of section 8. Courtesy Aria Park Community Project Committee.



Tenders were sought in February 1915, for “reinstatement” of bank premises at Aria Park,⁶⁵⁵ and it is assumed the works were carried out in that year.

⁶⁵⁵ Sydney Morning Herald. 16th February 1915, p7.



Above: Early photo of the Bank of NSW building [opened in August 1914,⁶⁵⁶ and gutted by fire in November 1914]. Courtesy Aria Park Community Project Committee.

The Bank of NSW established an agency at Aria Park in October 1909. Initially it opened on Fridays and Saturdays only.⁶⁵⁷

The agency was converted to a "full branch" in March 1910, with Mr EJ Menlove, of Temora, appointed as manager.⁶⁵⁸



Above: Westpac Bank [former Bank of NSW building].

⁶⁵⁶ Sydney Morning Herald. 26th November 1914, p8.

⁶⁵⁷ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 28th October 1909, p4.

⁶⁵⁸ Narandera Argus. 18th March 19190, p6.



Above: Streetscape post 1914 fire. Building far right is the Bank of NSW offices. Courtesy Aria Park Community Project Committee.

In November 1914, four shops between the Bank of NSW building [brick] and the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney [brick] were destroyed by fire. They were all weatherboard buildings belonging to TJ O'Brien, of Canowindra. The four business premises were those of: R Gregory [billiard saloon]; Bert Kennedy [hairdresser]; H Lynch [saddler's shop]; and the School of Arts [temporary].⁶⁵⁹

Another strip of shops, to the south of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney were also destroyed. These were three weatherboard buildings, owned by Mr R Speirs, a jeweller of Temora. The businesses were those of Hill & Rolfe [tailors]; George Konson [or Conson] [refreshment rooms]; and J Bargwanna [commission agent]. A brick building immediately to the south of the Commercial Banking Co. building was partly gutted. This was a brick building occupied by Webster Bros [commission agents] and owned by R Speirs.⁶⁶⁰



Above: Streetscape - western side of Coolamon Street, pre 1914 [Moriarty's store extreme right – corner of Coolamon and Aria Streets]. Courtesy Aria Park Community Project Committee.

⁶⁵⁹ Albury Banner. 27th November 1914, p24.

⁶⁶⁰ Albury Banner. 27th November 1914, p24.



Above and Below: Ariah Park Hall. Courtesy Ariah Park Community Project Committee.



Above: The Memorial Hall in 2010. Courtesy Google Maps.



Above: Dryden & Wyatt, auctioneers and agents. Courtesy Aria Park Community Project Committee.

The above premises were located to the south of the Aria Park hotel, on the eastern side of Coolamon Street. This building was destroyed by fire.

Henry Christian Dryden

In September 1909, Henry [Harry] Dryden and Ivo Wyatt, both of Wagga Wagga, established a wheat buying business at Aria Park. Both gentlemen were well-known in Wagga Wagga musical and football circles. Dryden had worked for a number of Wagga Wagga firms, as a wheat buyer. Wyatt had been a draughtsman with the Lands Office.⁶⁶¹

In 1922 Henry [aka Harry] Dryden moved to Ungarie and established an auctioneer & commission agency business in that town.

Henry Christian Dryden passed away at the North Shore hospital in Sydney in July 1936, aged fifty three.⁶⁶² He had been a prominent citizen of Ungarie for numerous years. An obituary provided the following details,⁶⁶³

“The death occurred in hospital at St. Leonard's last Saturday of Mr. Henry Christian Dryden, at the age of 53 years. The late Mr. Dryden was well-known in

⁶⁶¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 14th September 1909, p2.

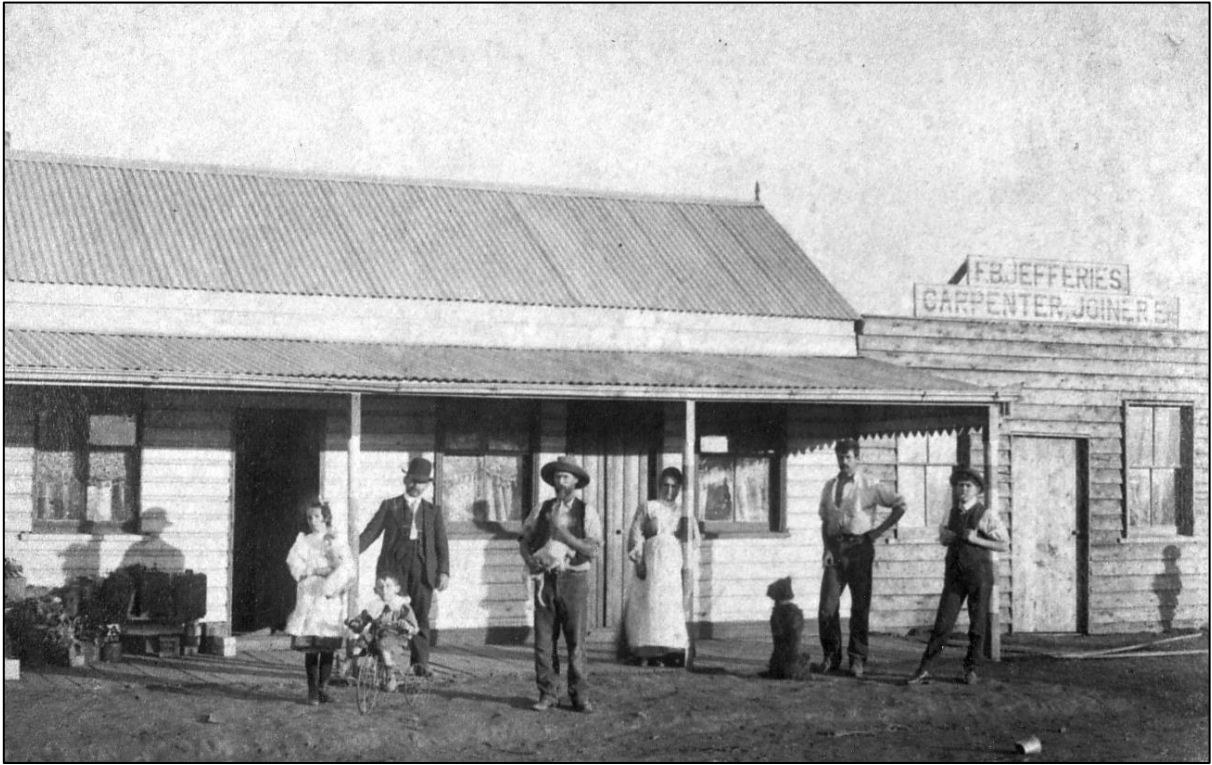
⁶⁶² West Wyalong Advocate. 24th July 1936, p1.

⁶⁶³ Daily Advertiser. 24th July 1936, p4.

the south and southwestern districts. Born at Tumbarumba he spent his youth in Wagga, where he will be remembered as a brilliant footballer with his brother Jack from 1900 to 1906. His father was at one time the licensee of the old Rose Inn, which was located opposite St. John's Rectory, and was later delicensed. This popular inn was at one time kept by the late Mr. William Thorogood, a well-known trainer of winners of the Wagga Gold Cup. The inn was also kept by the late Mr. Patrick Farrell, and by the late Mr. Mark Mongan senr. The deceased, Mr. 'Harry' Dryden, by which name he was most popularly known in Wagga, went to school here, and later engaged in commission agency business. Mr. Dryden was in business at Aria Park for a number of years, and then at Ungarie up until the time of his retirement this year, due to ill-health. He leaves a widow and two daughters, Joan and Barbara; and one son, Henry. He is also survived by his father and mother, who live at Waverley; two brothers, Jack of Concord West, and Roy of Epping; and three sisters, Mrs. C. S. Ferguson (June); Mrs. S. Ralston (Waverley), and Mrs. A. Moore (Eastwood). Mrs. A. Juppenlatz and Mrs. E. Donnelly, of Wagga, are aunts. The remains were cremated at the Northern Suburbs cemetery on Monday."



Above: Dryden & Wyatt, auctioneers and agents. Courtesy Aria Park Community Project Committee.



Above: JB Jefferies, carpenter and joiner. Courtesy Ariaiah Park Community Project Committee.

This building was located on the northern side of the railway line, on the eastern side of the road.