



**Ferny Hills Progress Association Inc**

*History of Ferny Hills and surrounding suburbs*

## **History Of Ferny Hills And Surrounding Suburbs**

A quick glance at the history of the suburbs that surround our area shows some interesting similarities in their development emerging. Farming to produce fruit and vegetables, and timber cutting and dairying were the main sources of income for the early settlers in all of the surrounding areas.

### **Mitchelton**

Early land sales in the district took place in 1857/1860 with settlers called Bourne, Robinson, Mitchell, Skyring and Dawson purchasing land in the Mitchelton/Grovely district at approximately £1 per acre.

It was after Mr Mitchell that Mitchelton gained its name. Dairying and small crop growing were main occupations and timber for shingles, fencing and building posts were gained from the ironbark forests covering the area. 1869 saw completion of St Matthews Church of England, which is considered to be the oldest church building in Queensland still in use.

The present Station Road also holds historical significance in that the Cobb and Co depot was situated in a paddock here, from where coaches travelled via South Pine and Old Northern Roads to Gympie goldfields.

20th century development in this area saw siting of first army camp, and the opening of the Infants School in 1916. 2 years later the railway had reached Mitchelton, and in the 1920's water and electricity as well as a Police Station appeared.

Mitchelton Primary School began 1952, and High School 4 years later. Among the more recent developments are the opening of the Brook Hotel and Brookside in 1969 and 1971 respectively.

### **Grovely**

Although the spelling has now dropped the extra 'e', Grovely gained its name from 'Groveley Lodge' built in 1865 by John & Mary Nicholson and named after a village in Wiltshire, England. Its origins as a farming and dairying area expanded to include Government slaughter yards and a military camp in WW II. The slaughter yards were replaced after the war by housing commission homes. To cater for the increased population the Grovely State School was opened in 1956.

### **Ferny Grove**

One historical landmark in Ferny Grove is the site where Cassimaty's store now stands. Years ago this was a resting place where teamsters would rest and change their horses that dragged loads of timber from Upper Kedron.

Grapes, oranges and vegetables were grown in the area and dairying flourished for early settlers of 1870's. Among these were the Stokes, Pickerings, Marshalls and McGinns.

In 1900 a new industry began with the building of Tile Works by Mr R. Shannon. This was to be bought out 28 years later by Wunderlich Ltd. The excavation of clay for the tiles was done manually for many years and provided employment for many locals.

R.McGinn donated Land on the present Upper Kedron hall site for the original provisional school opened in 1875. In 1940 the school was shifted to its present site a short distance from Ferny Grove Station that was constructed around 1918. A more recent building "the Tavern" now dominates the area.



## **Keperra**

Kerrabee is a word derived from corroboree and Kuburra is said to mean 'Ceremony', so it looks as if Keperra was named for the aboriginal bora-ring known to exist prior 1900.

Until 1968, the area was named partly Keperra and partly Grovely West (i.e. west of Dawson Parade).

Previously part of the WW II army camp was situated in Keperra, as was the Rocla Pipe Factory that adjoined the Keperra Railway Station.

Amenities increased vastly for the residents in 1969 with the conversion of Keperra Picture Theatre into a Drive-In Shopping Centre.

## **Everton Park**

As with Grovely, Mr J.McDowall named Everton Park after an area in England -Everton a suburb of Liverpool.

From its beginnings in 1858 Everton Park was a farming and fruit growing area. One of the first settlers was Chief Justice Lutwyche.

At the turn of the century Everton Park underwent a change to include tanneries, fellmongeries and slaughter houses.

Timber was transported through here on bullock wagons from Bunyaville.

From 1899-1917 Mr Tucker acted as postmaster at Everton Park Post Office which was situated on the same site as the present new Post Office.

By 1934 there were sufficient residents to require a school. Twenty years later the population of Everton Park was still only 1500.

## **Some Unrelated Bits Which Should, And Have Not Yet Been Included**

There are holes all over Bennett's property where mining was undertaken. Only gold traces found - no rich source. There are mine shafts in the Bunya Hills as well. Mrs Alice Carney mentioned 'Miss McLean's Goldmine at Samford where 'they took a lot of gold out of there'.

Silver Lead (purple dirt good stuff) Mine on top half of Portion 8 below lee of the hill – Brisbane City Council road-maker struck the mine when subdividers were first on that land – it was filled in and there is now a house over it.

About the time Mt Isa mines started, Mr Tucker and a man Billington were 'down the mine' where the walls glistened with silver. Mrs Jessie Barker, landowner had shares in it too.

During 2nd World War, hundreds of tons of soil filling was taken from the face side of hill of Plucks Road. 'The Yanks took it' to assist in forming Eagle Farm aerodrome. The soil was compacted on top of gasworks coke.

There used to be big catfish in Cabbage Tree Creek & the South Pine River, abundant green frogs, pet possums and luscious grapes growing on vines on Bunya Road near Plucks Road.