

## **BOOBOROWIE HISTORY WALK**

In 1843 Dr. William James Browne and his brother Dr. John Harris Browne took up the Booborowie run. In 1851 they purchased a crown lease of 153 square miles and in 1853 the brothers purchased 46,978 acres of the lease.

The Browne Bros. established a merino stud and had shorthorn cattle. They went on to purchase properties on the Adelaide Plains, at Mt. Gambier, the Flinders Ranges, Eyre Peninsula and were instrumental in establishing Katherine in the Northern Territory. This led to a large sheep and cattle drive, under the supervision of Alfred Giles, to leave South Australia in 1878.

The northern portion of the station was sold to Henry Dutton and George Melrose in 1897. The remainder of the station was sold in 1910 and 1912 for closer settlement. Baldry Township was first surveyed in 1875 near Leighton but was abandoned at the time. The Booborowie Township was proclaimed on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1877.

The Booborowie Valley is not only prime wool, sheep and cattle country, but is also a rich cereal crop and lucerne growing area.

The township supports many local businesses and trades people in the building industry that service the local area and mid north region.

### **1. Federation Tables**

In September 2000, the Federation Tables and BBQ area was opened as part of the Centenary of Federation Celebrations. The children from Booborowie Primary School and the Booborowie Community painted the tiles for the table tops and this terrific picnic facility was created for the community.

### **2. The Booborowie District Soldiers Memorial Hall**

The hall was built in 1921. Additions and improvements have been made over time. A supper room and two cloak rooms were added to the hall. The hall was used for showing pictures, dances and the library. It is now used for social events and houses the Local History Room.

### **3. St. Edmund's Anglican Church**

The St. Edmund's Anglican Church services were held in the Booborowie Homestead until 1921 and later the Memorial Hall until 1923 when the church was completed. The sanctuary was added in 1928. A feature of this church is the carved blackwood altar. A ball was held annually.

### **4. The Wesleyan Methodist Church**

Built in 1891, the Wesleyan Church was the first building in Booborowie. The church was used as the first school. The hitching rail used to tie up horses is still on the fence line. A Strawberry Fete was held annually for many years.

The manse was built east of the church and was occupied by the minister until 1927 when he moved to Spalding. The home was then leased and eventually sold in 1944.

### **5. The Sale Yards and Wheat Stacks**

Regular livestock sales run by Farmers' Union were held on this site. The yards have been dismantled.

From the site on the corner opposite, in approximately 1936, wheat was carted by horse and wagon, and then transported by truck to Andrews where it was taken to Adelaide by train.

## **6. The Former Post Office**

The Post Office began at the Eating House with mail deliveries from Kooronga. It was later moved into the town along with the telegraph service. The Post Office at this site closed in May 1984. It is now a private residence.

## **7. The Former Hardware Shop**

In 1920, Mr. John Bacon built a shop and residence on this site. It had a drapery section, grocery section and tearooms in the cellar. The business was sold several times with the shop being incorporated with building businesses. The carpenter's workshop was sold separately. The Post Office was incorporated with the hardware shop in 1984 until 1993. It is now a private residence.

## **8. The Former Motor Garage**

The garage was built by George Glover as a house and had a roller skating rink in the western end. Mr. P Flannigan had a saddlery at the eastern end. The building has been a garage and tyre service and is now privately owned.

## **9. The Former RSL Building**

A residence was purchased and used as the Returned Servicemen's League clubrooms until 1955 and was sold in 1978. The residence was then developed further. The gates are significant to the RSL.

## **10. The Booborowie Hotel**

This hotel was built in 1917. Doctors from Burra used a room at the hotel to consult with patients one afternoon per week. Until recently the hotel ownership sign displayed Booborowie as the name of the town which was common in the early days.

## **11. The School**

The first school in the town opened in the Methodist Church in 1892 with Miss Nora Murphy as the teacher. On 18<sup>th</sup> August 1919 a new school was opened on this site, surrounded by a park. The first classroom was a stone building. Another classroom was added in 1935, with a verandah being added to the original stone classroom in 1952. In 1979 the wall between the stone classrooms was removed. The swimming pool was added in 1979. A major upgrade of the school buildings was completed in 2000, resulting in a well equipped and beautiful school.

## **12. The Fire Station**

The original building was erected as a garage and used by the Volunteer Defence Corp during WWII. The Country Fire Service used the shed until 1992 when a new facility was provided.

## **13. The Former Tea Rooms**

This residence originally built by Tom Cousins was opened as tea rooms by subsequent owners and after that it was used as a freight depot. It is now a private residence.

## **14. The General Store**

Charlie Fahey built his residence on this site in 1915. A general store operated out of an enclosed verandah at the front of the premises. The business expanded into additional new stone buildings, with A and L Pearce running a delivery service to the surrounding properties. When John Martins of Adelaide purchased the property in 1950 they held a Christmas Pageant in the town. The building was redesigned to become a supermarket in 1970 and in 1993 the Post Office, ANZ Bank agency and hardware store were incorporated into the shop.

### **15. The Former Butcher and Baker**

Wally Farrelly built a combined butcher and bakery here in the 1920s. It was owned as a private residence between 1951 and 1958 and then R E Dewhirst and Son; Accountants used it as their office. T W Willis and Associates, Accountants became the owners in 1980.

### **16. The Former Bank**

An agency of the Bank of Adelaide operated from this building from 1917. In 1922 it became a branch of the bank. The ANZ Bank took over the agency in 1980 operating until its closure in 1986. The building is now a private residence. An item of historical interest is the boot scraper near the entrance.

### **17. The Blacksmith's Shop**

Percy Carey operated a blacksmith's shop shoeing horses and repairing motor vehicles here from 1922. His business installed the first petrol bowser in Booborowie. This is now the Booborowie Seed store, a pioneering business in producing, cleaning and the sale of lucerne seed.

### **18. The Golf Course**

The Golf course was opened in 1930 with the home of Sid Cordon used as the club house. The gates leading into the parklands on either side of the road are still part of the existing fence line, a short distance from the corner.

### **19. St. Dymphna's Catholic Church**

This church was built in 1903 with the stone being carted to the site by local farmers in their horse-drawn drays. In the 1920s additions were made in the form of a chancel, sanctuary and a front porch. Each year the church celebrated St. Patrick's Day with sporting events, followed by a high tea and a ball in the evening. These annual sporting events continued until 1962. The Parish Priest is now based in Burra.

### **The Former Eating House**

The Eating House was a changing depot for the horses of the Adelaide to Blinman Coach Service. Teamsters, drovers and drays loaded with grain or wool used this route travelling to and from Adelaide and the northern areas. It was also a mail collection point and telegraph office before these services moved into the township.

This building is now demolished.

### **The Booborowie District Council Chambers**

The Booborowie District Council was formed in 1875 and held its meetings in the Eating House until construction of these chambers. The Council Chambers were built in 1888-89 north of the Eating House. The Council operated until 1935, when it amalgamated with the Burra Burra District Council.

### **References**

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