

## CROOKWELL

The Crookwell area was first home to the Ngunawal and Gandangara people, whose traditional life included gatherings and seasonal travel to the mountains. Extensive settlement followed closely after exploration of the area by Hume, Throsby, Meehan and Oxley in 1817-1820.

Surveyor Meehan camped at Grabben Gullen in April, 1820 and noted that the morning was 'very fine, with a light frost' However Crookwell was not officially named until a report from Surveyor Armstrong, after he surveyed its site on August 13, 1860. Squatters had placed overseers in outposts around Crookwell before 1828. The name 'Crookwell' is noted on Assistant Surveyor Robert Dixon's survey of the Great Dividing Range between the eastern and western waters. Dated 1828, Dixon's map notes 'road to Crookwell River or Kyama'. The original town site of 'Brooklands', named after one of the early settlers, Thomas Brook, on the western end of town, was first known as 'Kiama'.

Between 1840 and 1860 the early settlers of Crookwell began to clear the area and establish their squatting runs. Settlers took up land following the *Selection Act of 1861*. *Robert's Inn*, was operating by 1867. The licensee, Horatio Roberts erected these premises at the junction of roads leading to Binda, Grabben Gullen and Goulburn. *Robert's Inn* had an additional room built to serve as a Post Office. Crookwell became the administrative centre of this wheat-growing district in the 1860s and by 1880, had a Progress Association, brickworks and two flourmills.

### **WHEAT SHEAF INN RUINS, CROOKWELL.**

Following the growth of the wheat growing industry in the Crookwell district, Anthony Stephenson commenced building the mill early in 1870. To give recognition to the district's most important product, George Bearchall renamed his inn, about two miles along the Cotta Walla Road from Crookwell, the *Wheat Sheaf Inn*. The Inn had been constructed c.1854 and was one of the earliest commercial buildings in Crookwell. Bearchall died in 1878. The ruins of the building are now being considered for restoration by the owners.



Figure 52: *Wheat Sheaf Inn* ruins, Crookwell.

The Crookwell town area was bounded by Roberts, Colyer and Cowper Streets. By 1867, Crookwell had its first Post Office in Cox Bros. Store. Goulburn Street was surveyed in 1869 and the first 28 Crookwell town allotments were sold to Warn and Stephenson at Yass. In 1870, half-acre blocks were sold in Crookwell for £20 each. In 1866 both the Wesleyan Church and Church of England were established.

### THE MILLHOUSE INN

In 1862 the *Millhouse Inn*, [now *Spud Murphy's Inn*] was constructed.



Figure 53: The *Millhouse Inn* established in 1862 [now *Spud Murphy's Inn*].



Figure 54: Goulburn Street, Crookwell c. 1930.<sup>75</sup>

By 1872 the town plan was in operation and the population was over 1,000. It took four days to reach Goulburn by dray until 1875 when the first passenger coach was introduced, taking only one day each way. Goulburn Street developed with the *Commercial Hotel* (now the *Horse and Hound Hotel*) being built in 1874, the Bank of New South Wales in 1875, the Court House and Police Station in 1878, and the tannery, cordial factory, flour mill, five stores two chemists, saddler, butcher and blacksmiths. In 1874 the Primary School was built.

Pines were planted from the RSL corner to the Railway Station and in 1880 to 1890 the Temperance Hall, now the front section of the Memorial Hall, was built. Crookwell had the telegraph connected in 1881. In 1884 the Crookwell Hotel was built, and in 1885 the Masonic Hall was erected. Commercial buildings between Roberts Street and the Uniting Church were first built in the 1890s, although these were later destroyed by fire.

<sup>75</sup> State Records New South Wales -Image 12932\_a012\_a012X2441000027.

Crookwell's first Agricultural Show took place in 1879 on the site of the present High School. A site was chosen in Roberts' Paddock. The show was held there for three years until the Government allocated a parcel of land on Kialla Road on a property known as 'Churchill's'. A pavilion was built although could not accommodate the Show's needs. Photographs of the Showground and Pavilion were published in the *Sydney Mail*, 27<sup>th</sup> May 1899. A new pavilion was planned over a five year period and built in 1900. It was opened in time for the 1901 Show.

The Crookwell Horticultural Society was formed in 1894 and they held their first show at the Crookwell Skating Rink that same year. They then began to use the P & A Association's Showground and pavilion. When the New Pavilion was completed in 1900, it had a grandstand attached to the side that could seat two hundred people. Above the doorway was inscribed "Crookwell A P & H Society". The "H" was an accidental error. However, it brought about the amalgamation of the two societies and the name was officially incorporated in 1902.

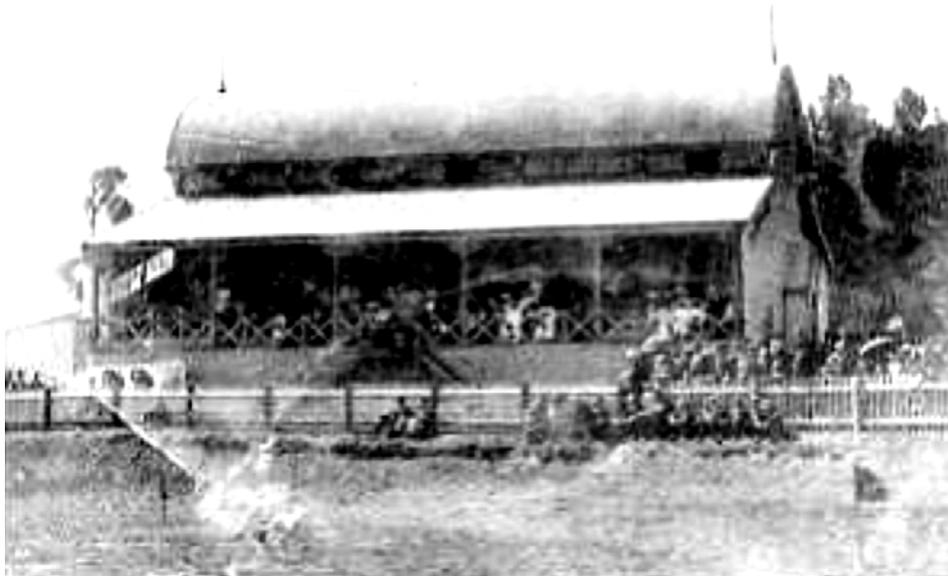


Figure 55: The Crookwell Grandstand, 1913.

It became apparent that the showground and its facilities were inadequate. *Wraylands Orchard* was purchased from Joseph Wray for £2,300.00. Facilities at the Kialla Road ground were reconstructed at the current site. The Crookwell Racing and Trotting Club assisted in the formation of the track. The grounds were completed in time for the 'Jubilee Show' in 1927.<sup>76</sup>

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<sup>76</sup> Bayley, W. 1950. *Upland Pastures, History of Crookwell District*,

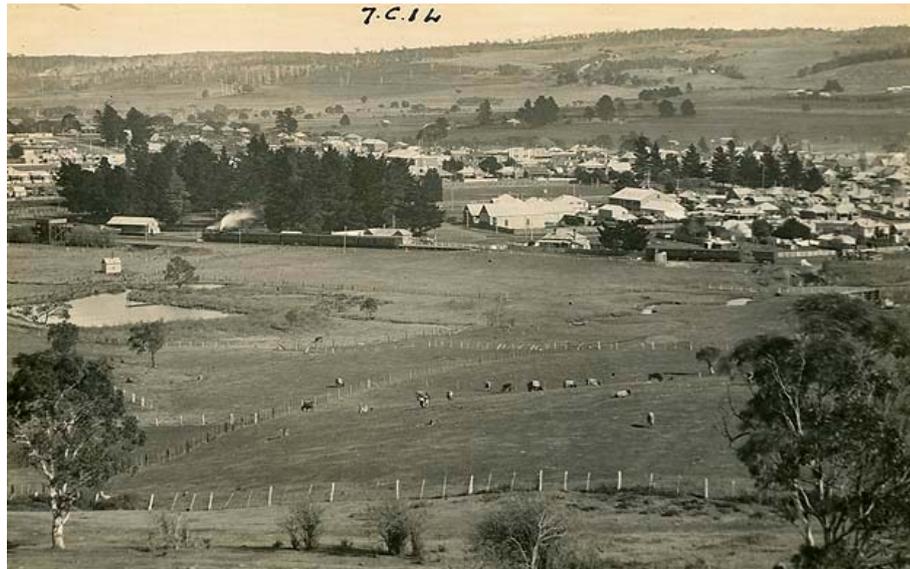


Figure 56: View of Crookwell c. 1930.<sup>77</sup>

The local Crookwell Shire was established in 1906. In 1911 the Anglican Rectory and St. Mary's School Hall were built and the Council Chambers were completed in 1912. The Theatre was opened in 1926. In 1933 Harley Hospital was opened. In 1938 fire destroyed the commercial buildings opposite the Methodist Church<sup>78</sup> and in the same year, the town's water supply was established. In 1939 the R.S.L. Club opened on the site of the former Primitive Methodist Church. The Crookwell Branch of the NSW Fire Brigade was formed and headquarters shared with the Ambulance. The present Hospital was sanctioned in 1949 and the library was opened in the Literary Institute, now the Memorial Hall.

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<sup>77</sup> State Records New South Wales, Image 12932\_a012\_a012X2441000026

<sup>78</sup> Mary Willis, 2009. – pers. comm.;

## CROOKWELL POST OFFICE

There were few additions to the Crookwell Post Office between 1901 and 1930. A collection of photographs held by the National Archives of Australia, clearly depict the architectural history of this building.



Figure 57: Crookwell Post Office, 1901.



Figure 58: Crookwell Post Office, 1930.<sup>79</sup>

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<sup>79</sup> Crookwell Post Office, National Archives of Australia, Image: C4076, HN1380.



Figure 59: Crookwell Post Office, Goulburn Street. 2008.

### **GUNDOWRINGA**

The homestead at *Gundowringa* is significant locally for its association with the Prell family. Traditional rural heritage is displayed in the homestead erected by Charles E. Prell in 1905. Prell was a pioneer of pasture improvement which commenced in 1906 and the property became recognised for its wool production. The complex including the shearers' quarters and a stone cottage, erected in 1916, is now adaptively reused as a farm stay, and is a significant part of the heritage tourism of Upper Lachlan Shire.



Figure 60: *Gundowringa* Homestead.

### **CROOKWELL MEMORIAL HALL**

Crookwell Memorial Hall is representative of the beliefs of the community, its patriotism and allegiances. It illustrates the importance of the events of war on smaller communities in New South Wales and commemorates those who gave their lives in the defence of freedom in World War I and World War II. The official dedication of the War Memorial site was performed by His Excellency, the Governor of New South Wales, Lieut-Gen. John Northcott, C.B., M.V.O. on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 1947. The laying of the foundation stone was held on 'Remembrance Sunday', 15<sup>th</sup> November 1953 by Lt. Col. Charles Anderson, V.C., M.C. A dedication of plaque was unveiled at Crookwell Shire Memorial Centre by Col. A.T. Paul, 10<sup>th</sup> October 1954.<sup>80</sup>



Figure 61: Crookwell Memorial Hall.

### **COMMONWEALTH BANK, CROOKWELL.**



Figure 62: Commonwealth Bank building.

This building contributes to the architectural variety of Goulburn Street.

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<sup>80</sup> Anderson, S., 2003. *Crookwell at War*, Crookwell and District Historical Society, Crookwell.

### **CROOKWELL MASONIC HALL**

The first Masonic Hall was erected in Crookwell in 1885. Francis Brew and his family moved to Crookwell c.1887, where he operated a saddlery business. Brew lived in Crookwell for nearly 35 years and was a major contributor to Freemasonry in the area. He was Treasurer of the inaugural committee of the Crookwell Lodge which was formed in 1903, and was a staunch member of the Church of England community. The existing Masonic building in Dennison Street was completed in 1927.



**Figure 63: Masonic Hall, Denison Street, Crookwell, est. 1927.**

### **CROOKWELL DISTRICT HOSPITAL**

In 1905 the Government was requested to set aside a 10 acre site on Kialla Road for a local hospital. A government grant contributed £500 towards building costs and the remainder was funded by the local community.

The foundation stone was laid in 1906 and the building was opened in 1907. The Hospital was constructed by King and Armstrong at a cost of £1800 pounds. In 1933 the new hospital block was erected followed by the nurses' home in 1943.



**Figure 64: Crookwell District Hospital**

### **COURT HOUSE COMPLEX, CROOKWELL**

The Crookwell Court House shows a high standard of architectural design as evident in its imposing Victorian Free Classical style, which is appropriate to its judicial function. An imposing building, the Courthouse occupies a significant place in the visual amenity of Crookwell's main street and makes an important aesthetic contribution to the Crookwell townscape. It demonstrates the characteristics of late 19<sup>th</sup> century police complexes in New South Wales country towns and is important for its social association with the administration of justice in the district and for its social associations with law and order in the district over a long period. The first Court House building was erected in 1875. This building was replaced by the present Court House building, dating from 1891.



**Figure 65: Crookwell's first court house building, later used as the Police residence.**

The Court House reflects the general characteristics of courthouses built during the later part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Crookwell's courthouse was built in 1891 to the designs of Government Architect, Walter L Vernon. The brick and stucco symmetrical building consists of a double height court room flanked on either side by a single storey office wing. The front entrance is Classical with a pediment supported by columns at either side. On the facades of the flanking wings are verandahs with timber posts which have decorative iron brackets.



**Figure 66: The Court House, Crookwell.**

## **BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

The Bank of New South Wales building, erected in 1875 is of local heritage significance for its long standing association with commerce and financial development in the district. The building is an early commercial work of the prominent early 20<sup>th</sup> century architect, William Hardy Wilson, who was influential in the establishment of the inter-war Georgian Revival style. The building is one of only a small number of commercial/office buildings to come from the large, mainly domestic, Wilson Neave and Wilson Neave and Berry architectural practices. It shows strong elements of the W. Hardy Wilson style espoused in domestic work. The building features shuttered twelve pane windows, mixed with more formal Classical elements including Ionic pilasters and highly articulated architraves which reflect a strong tradition in 19<sup>th</sup> century and Federation period commercial architecture. The building is well designed for its prominent corner site.

The building is a two-storey construction of face brick with white rendered trims. The building presents similar facades to both street frontages, although has a subtle asymmetry in the arrangement of doors, windows and pilasters. Doors are heavily recessed, with panelled surrounds, transom lights and small porticos; one has a porch with an elegant timber gate. Shuttered twelve pane windows have rendered sills and brick lintels; tall Ionic pilasters break a simple string course. The hipped corrugated iron roof has large moulded corbelled chimneys. The name Bank of New South Wales is inscribed on a plain frieze below the wide eaves. There is a small single storey wing to each street frontage. The other important works from this phase of Wilson and Neave's practice, 1911-1916 were a series of country branches for the Bank of New South Wales. These appear more closely related to 18<sup>th</sup> century English architecture and are invariably of two storeys with a formal arrangement of columns across the facade. They form excellent street architecture, related to the Georgian tradition of shallow facades with Classical fenestration.<sup>81</sup>



**Figure 67: The former Bank of New South Wales, Crookwell.**

<sup>81</sup> The National Trust of Australia (New South Wales), 1980. *William Hardy Wilson, A Twentieth Century Colonial*, Sydney, p.21

### **GOULBURN STREET COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS**

Crookwell's townscape is punctuated by commercial buildings with late Victorian facades. The town is the centre of a rich and diversified pastoral and agricultural area with the major industries being wool, fat lambs, beef cattle and seed potatoes. Lavender production, berry farms, vineyards and cool climate plant nurseries have been established in the area. These industries are supported by an array of professional and specialist services such as financial institutions, accountancy firms, legal services, metal fabrications and supplies, a tyre service, mechanical repair services, a concrete plant, a cabinet maker, skilled tradespeople, a sock factory and real estate and stock and station agents.



Figure 68: Goulburn Street, Crookwell, presents a variety of late Victorian style facades.

### **LYNAM'S CAFE**



Figure 69: Lynam's cafe building, Crookwell.

## PEDLEY'S BUILDING



Figure 70: Pedley's Building, Goulburn Street.

## COMMERCIAL BUILDING 1914



Figure 71: Commercial building, established 1914.

**THE *CRITERION HOTEL***



Figure 72: The *Criterion Hotel*, Goulburn Street, Crookwell.

**BRYANT'S BAKERY**



Figure 73: Bryant's Bakery building, established 1890.

## MENDL THOMPSON ASSOCIATES; CATHERINE'S CAFE BAKERY



Figure 74: Group of commercial buildings Goulburn Street including Mendl Thompson Associates [left], Catherine's Cafe Bakery and Deli [right].

## THE GOLDSWORTH THEATRE [CROWN THEATRE]



Figure 75: The former Goldsworth Theatre, also referred to as the 'Crown Theatre' c. 1947, and the adjoining store now the Coin-Op. Laundrette, Crookwell.<sup>82</sup>

<sup>82</sup> Crookwell District War Memorial: Gala night and grand rally for official opening of campaign, Crown Theatre, Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> June, 1947.

***COMMERCIAL HOTEL [FORMERLY THE HORSE AND HOUND HOTEL].***

*Commercial Hotel*, formerly the *Horse and Hound Hotel*, was originally established in 1871. A refurbished façade was added in 1931. The heritage value of this hotel lies in its long standing association with the provision of hospitality to the residents of Crookwell and district. It also contributes significantly to the streetscape architectural quality.



Figure 76: *Commercial Hotel*, formerly the *Horse and Hound Hotel* est. 1871.

**CROOKWELL HOTEL MOTEL**



Figure 77: Crookwell Hotel Motel, originally the *Hotel Crookwell* established in 1884.

### STEPHENSON'S MILL

In the early 1870s threshing machines were introduced to the Crookwell district. They were taken from farm to farm. Wheat was cut by hand with the sickle and fed into machines which delivered clean grain to be bagged. Workers were paid 12s per acre or 7s.6d per day to harvest wheat in 1877.

Milling of the wheat became an important industry and to supplement the Laggan mill, the material for building a mill in Crookwell township was being secured as early as 1869. Anthony Stephenson commenced building the mill early in 1870 and to give recognition to the district's most important product, George Bearchall named his inn, about two miles along the Cotta Walla Road from Crookwell, the *Wheat Sheaf Inn*.

Much ceremony accompanied the opening of Stephenson's mill in March 1871. There were 250 people present and the machinery was operated to show the settlers the action of the steam engine. Stephenson's mill passed to James Warne in 1881 and closed toward the end of the century. The mill was situated behind the Commercial Hotel in Roberts Street. In the late 1940s, the mill building was used as a gymnasium and boxing ring.

Members of the Crookwell Mill Museum Inc. purchased the mill in 1989. Through heritage funding the building was restored and remains an integral part of the extant heritage of Crookwell.<sup>83</sup>



Figure 78: Stephenson's Mill, Crookwell.

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<sup>83</sup> NSW Heritage Office [now Heritage Branch, Department of Planning].

### **CROOKWELL IRON MINE**

In 1941 mining of iron ore was carried out and exported by rail from Crookwell. More than 500,000 tonnes of oxidised massive sulphide in the form of haematite was extracted from the Crookwell deposit during World War II.

On 17 November 2006 Black Range Minerals Ltd was granted two exploration licences covering the historical Crookwell iron mine. This application covers 113km<sup>2</sup> of ground that is highly prospective for base metal mineralisation. This project lies 50 kilometres to the north of, and includes the same sequence of rocks that host the former Woodlawn massive sulphide deposit. Sub-economic grades of copper, lead and zinc are recorded in many samples taken from the Crookwell iron mine. Large base metal sulphide deposits commonly have a weathered and leached haematite cap containing sub-economic base metal grades similar to those previously recognised at the Crookwell Iron Mine. The company has commenced initial reconnaissance exploration over the licence with the view to undertaking appropriate geo-technical studies to identify early drill targets.<sup>84</sup>

The site is an integral part of Crookwell's World War II history and of local heritage significance. Photographs of the site have been kindly provided by Jessica and Jason Impey.



**Figure 79: Crookwell Iron Mine site, January 2009.**

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<sup>84</sup> ASX Release, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006.



**Figure 80: Crookwell Iron Mine site dam, January 2009.**



**Figure 81: An extant section of the bridge over the Crookwell River near Crookwell Iron Mine site (January 2009)**



Figure 82: Powder Magazine, Crookwell Iron Mine site, January 2009.



Figure 83: Tunnel at the Crookwell Iron Mine site, January 2009.

## EDUCATION IN CROOKWELL

Education in the Crookwell district has always been a high priority for local residents. A Full time School opened at Cotta Walla in 1876. A Half- time School opened at Pejar in May 1912 and operated until July 1921 when a full time was opened. This School closed in February 1930. The 'Third Creek Public School' was located about one mile down the Pejar/Crookwell Road from *Cotton Valley* at Middle Creek. Half time School opened at Third Creek, July 1869, till December 1870. The Third Creek School remained closed from December 1870, and reopened as a Full time School in May 1878. The Third Creek School finally closed down in December 1941. The 1869 'Third Creek School', was a lean-two building with a floor area of 23 x 14 feet, slab building. William Leary Snr., wrote a letter to the Department of Education [Public Schools] in December 1899 regarding the Third Creek School and requesting erection of a new school room. In 1900, the original Third Creek School was replaced by a School building at the same site, built by Arthur Allen of Goulburn, and completed on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1900. The new one classroom school of weather boards with an iron roof had a floor area of 30 x 16 feet and an open fire place with a brick chimney. The teacher at the time at Third Creek School, was Frederick Dunn whose appointment was from October 1897 until April 1903.<sup>85</sup>

## CROOKWELL PUBLIC SCHOOL

Crookwell Public School was established as a National School in October of 1865. The present school building was erected in 1874 when the school was declared a Public School. The school has had many additions and modifications. The most significant include the buildings erected in 1897 and 1886 and the school residence erected in 1890. Crookwell Public School is highly significant locally for its heritage values of social and cultural development. The School, and its strong supportive community, are justly proud of its fine traditions and long history.



Figure 84: Crookwell Public School

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<sup>85</sup> Information from Colin Gray, Feilding, New Zealand.



Figure 85: Commonwealth Jubilee Celebrations, Crookwell District Rural School, Pageant, 1951.<sup>86</sup>

### ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

St. Mary's Primary School is a highly significant example of Federation ecclesiastical style architecture and is of heritage significance for its association with Catholic education in Crookwell and for its establishment by the Sisters of Mercy. Frances Murphy entered convent at the age of 24 and took the name, 'Mary Ignatius'. As superior of a group of six Mercy nuns, she left Westport for Goulburn in 1859. From their Goulburn foundations, the Sisters of Mercy established St Mary's School in Crookwell in 1903. St. Mary's is a single stream Parish based school that caters for children from Kindergarten to Year Six.



Figure 86: St Mary's Primary School, Wade Street, Crookwell.

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<sup>86</sup> SRNSW, NRS 15051.



Figure 87: View of the old St Mary's Primary School.

### ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Mary's Catholic Church was consecrated in 1891 and is a focal point for Catholic parishioners in this rural town. The church is also the burial place of Rt. Revd. Monsignor Vaughan. The church features the recently restored stained glass triptych window of the *Resurrection*. The work on the 3 x 4.5 metre window was undertaken by leading Australian stained glass artists, Gerry Cummins and Jill Stehn. A history of the Catholic community of Crookwell has been written by Rev. Fr. Brian Maher.<sup>87</sup>

The architectural drawings by Harry V. Wollaston, c.1950, for additions to St. Mary's Church are held in the State Library of New South Wales.<sup>88</sup>



Figure 88: St. Mary's Catholic Church, Crookwell.

<sup>87</sup> Maher, B., 1991. *The Bells of Saint Mary's*, St Mary's Parish Centenary Committee, Crookwell.

<sup>88</sup> SLNSW, PXD 640/52-83.

### **ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

St Andrew's Church was opened to serve Crookwell's Presbyterian community on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 1882. This stone building with its fine fretwork has been a focal point of Presbyterian worship in the area. It continues to be recognised as a place of social and cultural values.



**Figure 89: St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Colyer Street, Crookwell.**

### **ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND, CROOKWELL**

St. Bartholomew's Church of England is a highly significant example of A-frame ecclesiastical architecture of the late 1960s. The church is representative of the ongoing dedication of the Church of England community in Crookwell. The first St. Bartholomew's was opened in June 1866 and a second church of the same name was dedicated on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1904. The 'A' frame design of the modern St Bartholomew's, with its steeply pitched gable roof and brilliantly reflective windows, is in striking contrast to the previous two St. Bartholomew's churches constructed on and near this site.



**Figure 90: St. Bartholomew's Church of England**  
A highly significant example of A-frame ecclesiastical architecture of the late 1960s.

## **CROOKWELL GENERAL CEMETERY**

The Crookwell General Cemetery is highly significant locally for its association with early settler families in the Crookwell area. Its historical associations make it an important place in the pattern of the cultural history of New South Wales. In its layout, monuments and plants it demonstrates the philosophies and changing attitudes to death and commemoration of life.

The area for Crookwell General Cemetery was set aside in the early 1870s. Fencing of the site was finally carried out in 1881, and the Church of England portion was consecrated on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1895.<sup>89</sup> Crookwell Council became responsible for seven cemeteries in the district in 1967, including Crookwell General Cemetery.

As a medium sized public cemetery serving a prosperous rural community Crookwell General Cemetery has historical significance as the burial place for more than 2,000 former inhabitants of the district, covering a period of more than 120 years. In its ornamental plantings and wealth of funerary monument types and styles the cemetery has considerable aesthetic significance.

The inscriptions and architectural detail on the monuments have social significance as a record of those who lived, worked and died in the district. The cemetery also has technical significance by virtue of its elaborate and unusual monuments and research; educational potential for present and future generations.

Crookwell General Cemetery is situated on a hilltop with a view of the surrounding undulating pastoral land. It is a medium sized general cemetery with a variety of monument styles dating from the 1870s through to the present. The earliest burial noted was Thomas William Roberts who died 28<sup>th</sup> December 1871.

The cemetery is planned on an axial basis with the graves facing east. The main entrance is on the junction of Pine and Memory Avenues and the cemetery is divided into denominations: Catholic and Protestant sections, and with a later addition of a lawn section and niche wall. There is an infant burial area within both the Catholic section and the Methodist section.

Materials and monument styles are as follows: sandstone stelae 1870s-1900; marble stelae 1890s-1910s; one large granite stele 1893; granite slab and desks 1940-1970s. The division between the old and new sections is not clear cut. The south-east section of the cemetery is dominated by granite and concrete surrounds with granite and concrete desks, marble stelae and more elaborate monuments including marble Celtic and Calvary crosses. The cast iron grave surrounds are largely intact and footstones are apparent for monuments in 1880s and 1890s.

An unusual concrete semicircular sarcophagus is featured on several graves dating from the 1880s through to 1901 Frederick Burgess identifies this as the Bale

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<sup>89</sup> Church of England Diocese of Goulburn, 1924. *God's Acre, notes on the care and management of churchyards, cemeteries and burial grounds in the diocese of Goulburn.*

sarcophagus which was used in the Cotswolds, England during the 1720s-1760s.<sup>90</sup> There are two double monuments also featured in the north-west old section dating 1892 and 1899.<sup>91</sup>



Figure 91: Crookwell General Cemetery.

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<sup>90</sup> Burgess, F., 1965. *English Churchyard Memorials*, SPCK, London.

<sup>91</sup> Crookwell and District Historical Society, 1993. *Cemetery Transcriptions - Crookwell district [and] surrounding areas, transcribed and collated by Bruce and Julianne Belford, assisted by Stuart Anderson.*

### **CROOKWELL RIVER BRIDGE**

The location of this bridge over the Crookwell River is at a crossing that has been in use since at least the 1870s and probably as early as the 1830s. The bridge has significant historical associations with the development of the area and has aesthetic significance as a landmark with picturesque qualities. It forms a gateway to the main street of the town of Crookwell. Recognition of the landmark and aesthetic qualities of the bridge by the local community also indicates a degree of social significance. The bridge has a high level of integrity and is representative of its class in near original condition.

Set close to the main street of Crookwell, the bridge is a three span reinforced concrete deck structure and has a roadway and footpath of precast slab panels. The slab is composite with the headstocks of the three column piers, and the headstock cantilevers to an edge beam which supports the outer railing and footway. The abutments consist of vertical stone walls, presumably fronting spill-through type abutment sills. The railings are of concrete and appear original.

The principal types of bridges constructed in this period were: concrete slab; reinforced concrete beam; steel truss on concrete piers; and timber beam bridges.<sup>92</sup> Concrete was favoured in many instances because it was perceived to be a low maintenance material. The bridge over the Crookwell River is of the first type, concrete slab. Reinforced concrete slab bridges are one of the simplest forms of bridge to construct. They have been very popular in NSW where required spans were short enough for the slab to span without requiring excessive thickness or reinforcement. This simplicity of falsework, formwork and reinforcement made the design of enduring economy.



**Figure 92: Crookwell River Bridge**  
[Photo courtesy RTA, NSW]

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<sup>92</sup> DMR 1976, pp.169, 170.

### **CROOKWELL RAILWAY STATION AND YARDS**

Crookwell is a significant surviving pioneer terminus railway station and yard with most elements intact. A branch rail line from Goulburn to Crookwell was completed in 1902.<sup>93</sup> As a result, bullock teams, followed by steam traction engines and later by motor lorries, hauled their produce to the rail head at Crookwell rather than through to Goulburn. The Crookwell Station complex represents an early period of growth by the railways to areas of marginal revenue. This then was reflected in economic constraints causing a cutting back on the cost of railway construction. This site contributes to the townscape of Crookwell by the retention of its setting and significant details such as fittings and fixtures, signs, plantings. The line is now closed and the site redundant.<sup>94</sup>



**Figure 93: Crookwell Railway Station.**



**Figure 94: Crookwell railway disused track and platform.**

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<sup>93</sup> Bayley, 1975, p.65

<sup>94</sup> Refer to the study prepared by McBean and Crisp for detailed assessment of site.

### ***MONTROSE***

This two storey brick residence in Roberts Street, Crookwell, designed by the renowned architect, E. C. Manfred of Goulburn, was erected for Charles Schroeder in 1887. Schroeder was a local businessman whose affluence increased with his supply of goods to miners on the Tuena goldfields. The *Crookwell Gazette*, 26<sup>th</sup> August 1887 gives a description of the building. From 1921 to 1930 *Montrose* was used as an eight-bed 'lying in' /maternity hospital.

The building, now a private residence, is highly significant for its association with the establishment of the Country Women's Association [CWA] in Crookwell.<sup>95</sup>

Crookwell holds a particularly unique honour concerning its branch of the Country Women's Association. It was the first formed in New South Wales after the founding of the Association from an open Conference of Women on 21<sup>st</sup> May 1922 in Sydney. Five days later Mrs Stephen Laver, vice-president of the newly formed association, returned to Crookwell, and at a meeting arranged for her by Mrs Round and Miss Keynes, a Crookwell branch was formed with a membership of thirty. Membership increased to 85 members during the first year. Mrs Laver was its first president, and Mrs Morton McDonald and Mrs Armstrong its vice-presidents.<sup>96</sup> The Crookwell Branch of the CWA operated from *Montrose* from 8<sup>th</sup> March 1946 until 1954.



**Figure 95: *Montrose*, the two-storey E.C. Manfred designed residence, erected for Charles Schroeder in 1887.**

**The building is currently undergoing restoration.**

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<sup>95</sup> Information kindly supplied by Bramley-Stevens family.

<sup>96</sup> *Back to Crookwell" Celebrations 20th March to 26th March, 1927: in commemoration of the Jubilee of the Crookwell A.P. & H. Society.*

### ***NORMANTON***

*Normanton*, a late Victorian [1891], two-storey stone residence, is highly significant locally as an example of a classic rural residence. It has added importance for its association with the builder, John Howard, who built St Mary's Catholic Church and the Hotel Crookwell. John Howard and Harriet Norman married on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1858 in Trinity Church in the Parish of Upper Chelsea, County of Middlesex.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> February 1859, John and Harriet left Plymouth on board the SS. *Palmyra* bound for Sydney. John was listed as an agricultural labourer and they travelled as government assisted immigrants. The journey took 105 days and 280 people disembarked when the ship arrived in Sydney on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 1859. For a short period of time the Howards worked in Botany, before moving to Camden and then onto Foxground near Kiama. In 1867 they moved to *Normanton*.



Figure 96: *Normanton*, an elegant Victorian country residence, erected in 1891.



Figure 97: The side elevation of *Normanton* showing the sandstone additions, c.1920.

### **ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND, PEJAR.**

The land on which St. Stephen's Church, Pejar was erected was donated to the Church of England in 1865 by Mrs Margaret Thomasine Podmore. Together with Rev. D. Hulbert she worked to build the church close to the Crookwell to Goulburn Road overlooking Pejar Creek. The church was opened by the Bishop of Goulburn in 1866 and Mr. Podmore was elected Churchwarden. Those noted as attending vestry meetings included Rev. M. Martyn of Taralga, G. Davis and S. Mortimer, Henry Gray, Rob Gray, Henry Burgess, G. King and Eli Gray, licensee of the *Wayo Inn* located 'about 1 mile from the church'.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1878 the meeting resolved to mark out a burial ground for the church. Requirements were that each grave would have an area of '6ft. x 4ft. and to be a minimum depth of 6ft' [later altered to 5ft.].

Plans for a new stone church building were completed on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1882 by architect, Edmund Cooper Manfred, who was at that time was apprenticed to Edmund Blackett. Blackett was working on St. Saviour's Cathedral in Goulburn. St. Stephen's was completed in 1883. The original plans for the church have been framed and hung on the west wall.

Following floods in the 1950s the church fell into disrepair, much of the interior being used for firewood by itinerants and the iron roof stripped for use on other buildings. Restoration efforts for the exterior were spearheaded by two local families, Turner and Prell and when completed, work was commenced on the interior. The floor, sanctuary and communion rail were replaced and the altar and prayer desk were donated in memory of Florence and Charles Prell.<sup>97</sup>

The grounds of the church had been overgrown by elm suckers. These were removed and a lych gate of white pickets flanked by granite masonry was erected to replace an old stock gate at the entrance to the church ground. In 1958, Bishop Burgmann of the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn reconsecrated the restored church.

The stained glass windows for St. Stephen's were produced by Sydney artist, Stephen Moor, who had migrated to Australia from Hungary at the close of World War II.<sup>98</sup> Moor specialised in the techniques of stained glass restoration and allied methods such as Appliqué and Dalle de Verre. His work is represented in churches throughout Australia including St. Mary's Cathedral, Hobart. The windows are memorials to Charles Earnest Prell and his wife Ivy; Harold and Florence Prell and Robert Broadbent. A collection of tapestry kneelers have been produced in the designs of Winsome Turner, each kneeler reflecting the life and interests of those who had worshipped at the church.<sup>99</sup>

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<sup>97</sup> Prell, C., 1965. *Gundowringa: The Life and Work of Charles Ernest Prell, O.B.E.*. Crookwell, NSW. 1965

<sup>98</sup> Moor's life and work is discussed in Jenny Zimmer's publication, *Stained Glass in Australia*.

<sup>99</sup> *St. Stephen's Church, Pejar 1883-2001* provided by [the late] Jess Prell, Churchwarden.

DALTON  
**DALTON PUBLIC HALL**

Dalton Public Hall was erected in 1923. It is highly valued by the local community as a venue for social and cultural interaction. The preservation of the building's architectural style adds to its heritage significance.



**Figure 98: Dalton Public Hall**

**DALTON GENERAL CEMETERY**

Dalton Cemetery is located about 1 km east of Dalton on the road to Gunning. There are two separately fenced areas on either side of an access track. The northern one is the Methodist section and that on the south is the Anglican section. The cemetery is highly significant locally for its social and cultural heritage associations.

The cemetery holds the graves of many of the early settler families including the names: Dowling, Merriman, Medway, Pye, Bush, Sproule, Brown, Butt, Thorn, Alchin, Starr, Newman, Holgate.

## **DALTON PUBLIC SCHOOL**

Dalton Public School is highly significant to the local community for its heritage and educational values. The present school building was erected in 1878 and the quality of its heritage fabric has been retained. The public spiritedness of the Principal and staff is reflected in this comment:

At Dalton Public School we believe that all students will reach their full potential when high expectations by students, parents and teachers are supported by: quality teaching and learning experiences; a happy and safe school; a strong and positive relationship between the school and its community. There is a strong focus in all our programs on improving skills in literacy and numeracy to build the foundations necessary for students to participate fully in education and training and to enable all to become lifelong learners. We aim to achieve equity in educational outcomes. As a small school with a low student to teacher ratio we are able to provide individual attention and programs that are best suited to the special needs and talents of each student. We value the strong links between our school and the Dalton community. We believe the support we are given by parents and community members in running school programs and special events serves to affirm the positive standing Dalton Public School holds within the community at large.



**Figure 99: Dalton Public School building erected in 1878.**



**Figure 100: Dalton Public School**

### **ROYAL HOTEL, DALTON.**

The *Royal Hotel* in Dalton was established in 1860. The building is an integral part of the heritage qualities of this small village, and highly significant locally for its ongoing services in hospitality to the community. The relatively intact fabric of the building adds to its heritage significance.



Figure 101: The *Royal Hotel*, Dalton.

### ***ESCHOL*, DALTON.**

This property is locally significant for its association with the Starr family. Some details of this have been obtained from the *Yass Courier*.

*Yass Courier*, 17<sup>th</sup> March 1876.

Starr - Wheatley. Caleb Starr, second son of Timothy Starr Esq of Eschol Dalton married Caroline Louisa Anne Wheatley eldest daughter of John Wheatley Esq Dalton and granddaughter to the late Captain Stead of Gundaroo by license at Dalton, on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1876 by Rev. W Hill.

*Yass Courier* , 25<sup>th</sup> February 1896.

Timothy Starr , late of *Eschol*, Dalton in NSW, Freeholder, deceased. Probate notice, executors, William Richard Reynolds and Timothy Starr.

*Y ass Courier*, 12<sup>th</sup> January 1904

Winter - Starr. Mr Ernest Winter, second son of Mr D Winter of Lade Vale married Miss Ethol Starr, second daughter of Mr Caleb Starr at "Eschol", Dalton on 30<sup>th</sup> December 1903.

### **DALTON UNITING CHURCH**

The Uniting Church in Australia was formed on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1977 when many congregations of the Methodist Church of Australasia, Presbyterian Church of Australia, and Congregational Union of Australia came together under the Basis of Union. Dalton Uniting Church is of local heritage significance for its association with ongoing religious services in this rural community.



Figure 102: Dalton Uniting Church, Chapel Street, Dalton.

### **ODD FELLOW'S HALL [FORMER], DALTON.**

During the later part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in New South Wales flourished because of the benefits offered to members. Social interaction and welfare assistance including travel warrants, allowed free accommodation overnight in the premises of distant lodges, which greatly assisted those in rural areas and those seeking work away from their homes. The Odd Fellow's Hall in Dalton is representative of this organisation's service to the community, and is of local heritage significance.



Figure 103: Odd Fellows Hall, Dalton, NSW, now a private residence.

**ST. MATTHEW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, DALTON.**

St Matthew's Anglican Church, Dalton, is highly significant locally for its religious and cultural value to the community. The stone building featuring rendered quoins and Gothic arched windows and bell tower, is notable in the historical landscape of the area.



**Figure 104: St Matthew's Anglican Church, Dalton, NSW.**



**Figure 105: The headstone of Joseph Dowling  
Died 24th July 1894, aged 38 years, at St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Dalton.**

## GRABBen GULLEN

Grabben Gullen is the Aboriginal name for 'small waters'. Surveyor Meehan camped in the area on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1820 and reported 'a light frost'. Gold was discovered in the 1850s and Grabben Gullen developed with a store and hotel. A public school was built in 1891. This brick building replaced an earlier structure erected in 1869. It was a half time school sharing a teacher with Crookwell. A butter factory opened in 1897 and was supported with seven local suppliers.

Grabben Gullen is now a small village with a declining population, a few houses and a hotel, established as an inn during the mining boom. The abundance of feeder streams into the Lachlan River have continued to provide sapphires, garnets, zircons and gold for local fossickers.



Figure 106: Post Office, Grabben Gullen, c. 1950.

## ALBION HOTEL



Figure 107: The *Albion Hotel*, Grabben Gullen.

Plans c.1940, for the renovation of the *Albion Hotel* are held in the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney.<sup>100</sup> The drawings were completed by the Sydney architect Cyril Christian Ruwald (1895-1959) who was one of several architects to design hotels for Tooth & Co., during the 1930s and 1940s.

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<sup>100</sup> Registration No. 90/317-18. Copyright.