

The Origins of Modanville

I believe our readers should be constantly reminded that the area we call Modanville was originally called Dunoon.

Duncan Currie made his first selection there in 1871. The Modanville Store now stands on his first selection made in the Parish of North Lismore. Beddoes Road marks his northern boundary and eventually the boundary for the parish on that side of the road. On the other side of the road the parish boundary is much further north at Numulgi Creek Road. Currie made four different selections of that land on the east of the road between 1879 and 1882 and seems to have bought two more blocks further south.

From 1880 his neighbour on the north side of Numulgi Creek Road was James Edgar James. In 1888 Currie advertised for sale his Junction Hotel (where the Winsome now stands) as well as a farm of 205 acres in Dunoon. The farm in Dunoon did not sell then because in 1888 Currie was advertising two farms in Dunoon. The farm on the east side of the main road now contained 285 acres. The additional 80 acres had been selected by John Thompson.

The 1907 map of the parish of North Lismore shows the land belonging to William Johnston. The 1907 map also shows portion 93 as an ACP mortgaged to the Bank of NSW from 1895. A later map shows McLeod as the owner of title

to that portion. This is the land where Currie had built the house he called "Dunoon". McLeod changed the name to "Craiglea". That house still stands at 1019 Dunoon Road Modanville.

Archibald Currie had arrived in this district before his brother Duncan. Archibald established one of Lismore's earliest stores at Currie Park near the racecourse. In 1864 Archibald selected the land north of the showground between the main road and the river. Actually his land did not reach the main river but a little creek that crosses the road into the racecourse.

The two brothers selected land further north on the same day in 1871. Archibald's selection had a remarkable battle-axe shape at the bend in the road about 500 metres north of Tullera Hall. Following a new Crown Lands Act in 1884 both brothers obtained leases adjacent to those two selections. That is how Duncan obtained portion 93.

When portion 93 was subdivided the main access was via Craiglea Court. On 14 July 1888 a village reserve (numbered 6817) was declared. This involved all of the land in North Lismore parish on the western side of the road between Duncan Currie's leasehold and that of his brother Archibald, except for portions 300 and 301 previously reserved for the Dunoon school built in 1884. In 1903 the village reserve was revoked and the same land was declared a re-

serve for Aborigines.

The current village of Dunoon was never gazetted. It simply developed through a series of subdivisions around the store that Isaac (Alfred) Friedman opened in 1904 on the very spot where Dunoon PO now stands.

The Northern Star reported in detail on a Land Board enquiry held in Lismore in June 1903 to consider opening more land for settlement. The three man board sat for two days. The application to revoke part of Forest Reserve (FR) 249 had been made by the Dunoon Progress Association represented on the first day by W.T. Missingham and on the second day by T.G. Hewitt, newspaper proprietor, who represented the (Lismore) Chamber of Commerce on both days of the enquiry.

James Wheeldon the president of the Dunoon Progress Association had taken the stand on the Friday, and on the Saturday he was reported as conferring with Hewitt. Duncan Currie was the major non government witness arguing strongly for the retention of the water reserve on Rocky Creek. At least one farm had to be resumed before the Rocky Creek Dam could be completed fifty years later, but Currie's foresight was eventually vindicated.

Unsorted? Get Sorted! Admin Services

Providing general office organisation
from personal to professional offices

Confidential
Dunoon & Environs
Please call

Alex

0410 512 231

RURAL FENCING CONTRACTOR

4 WHEEL DRIVE
TRACTOR & TIPPER

HYDRAULIC POST
DRIVER AND POST HOLE
BORER

FREE QUOTES ON
NEW FENCES AND
REPAIRS

FULLY INSURED

CALL ANDREW 6688 6364
MOB: 0431 095 583

Braefield Farm Services

Providing cost effective farm services
for macadamia growers

MOWING CHIPPING SLASHING



PRUNING MULCHING SPREADING SPRAYING
FARM MANAGEMENT

Call Greg

6689 5110 or 0418 779 942

Aboriginal Settlement

Mr. T. Garvin, the Inspector-General of Police, who is Chairman of the Aborigines Protection Board and Mr. R.H. Beardmore, Secretary to the Board accompanied by the Chairman and Secretary of the local Board, Messrs T.G. Hewitt and James Barrie, visited the Aboriginal settlement at Dunoon yesterday, and visited a number of the dwellings and also the school. Thirteen children were present under the care of Miss Harding, and were found tidy and attentive, although many were young. The children sang a song, and their writing work was inspected.

Notice was made of sundry requests and for a few tools and improvements. Over an hour was spent at the Reserve. Several of the men were absent working for settlers.

Northern Star, 14th May 1910

Aboriginal Corroborees

The Aborigines at the Dunoon reserve, we hear, are preparing for a corroboree and are busily engaged rehearsing. They say it is a long time since a corroboree was held in the district, and in anticipation that many of their white friends would be desirous of witnessing it, they propose making it a resemblance, as near as possible, of old time corroborees. They propose making a charge to witness the dance, and some are disposed to fix this on the circus scale for reserved positions.

The date at present intended is the 22nd instant (June 1910) which will be near the full moon.

Northern Star, 13th June 1910. page 2

The Corrobboree

Our friends the Aborigines at Dunoon have requested us to be sure to announce that their corroboree is to be held next Wednesday night. They have gone to a good deal of trouble in preparing for the performance, and they believe that those who take an interest in their welfare will be greatly pleased in witnessing what they have to show. The members of the District Board are invited to be present, and have requested members of the latter to arrange for attendance of police to see that no disorderly person shall interfere.

The homes are about 7 miles from town and on the road to Dunoon.

The rain last week necessitated an adjournment to Wednesday, 29th. (1910)

Northern Star, 26th June 1910, page 2

The Corrobboree

The Corrobboree to take place this evening at the Dunoon Homes by descendants of the original possessors of the country is what is known as the "Yowarra" a smaller function compared with the "Waggooya" in which many tribes took part, and always followed the Kebar rite of (poor newsprint) the youths young men.

The Yowarra used to be well worth witnessing, and it will be interesting to old residents to witness how those of the present day acquit themselves.

The time of starting is stated to be 7.30 p.m., but as clocks at the Dunoon Homes may be a trifle out, we think it will be safer for the audience to be there at 7 o'clock.

Northern Star, 29th June 1910