

COWABBIE STREET

(Researched by the Coolamon & District History Group)

Until about 1880, people living at Downside and Houlaghan's Creek, and on the road from there to where Coolamon now is, always gave their address as "on the Cowabbie road".

In those old days Cowabbie was a place of great importance. John Nash had his public house at Cowabbie six years before rum was sold (legally) in Coolamon.

Cowabbie was on the track for cattle travelling from Queensland to Melbourne. The old country maps show many dams had been made along the Stock Routes which lead to the bridge over the Murrumbidgee at Wagga.

First Leases

On 18th April, 1854, it was notified in the Government Gazette that a tender had been accepted from William Taylor for a lease of 30,720 acres for "Cowabbee" run. The rent was £11/2/- per annum. Taylor was no stranger to the Riverina District. For some years he had been superintendent at Narrandera and Bundigery stations for Charles Tompson who squatted on the Murrumbidgee in 1832. About 1842 Taylor owned Bundigerry run, and in 1852 he became the owner of Eunonyhareenyha run which had an area of 103,000 acres.

When Taylor acquired Cowabbee run he used it as a back station to his run on the river at Wagga, and for nearly half a century both stations were used conjointly by succeeding owners.

William Taylor was a competent and enterprising grazier, and held in high esteem in the district. Taylor's Hill near Ardlethan is (it can be assumed) called after him. In 1878 Cowabbee run contained an area of 68,400 acres, most of which was then still Crown Lands.

Cowabee Station

In 1933 the under mentioned held the following areas on what is known as Cowabee Station:

Beatrice Young 5.600 acres; James Lyle Young 4.700; Robert E. Young 518; Robert S. Young 583 acres.

In 1950 Lynn and Charles Thomas Vickery, C.A. Morgan and A.W. Pether purchased the entire property. Within a few months they sold out, the new owners being: Eric G. Parmenter, J. Graham. M.J. Shine, S.G. Jones. In 1952, M.J. Shine's holding was purchased by G.O. Jones.

In 1953 Matina Pty. Ltd., purchased the whole of the 1933 holding, with the exception of the areas held by Messrs. Parmenter and Jones Bros. The company's area at that time being approximately 10,500 acres.



Bullock Team in Cowabbie Street