

# *44 Coronation St*

## *Bellingen*



*Over a century of stories*

*Cheryl Lynch*

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# INTRODUCTION

When we moved into 44 Coronation Street, Bellingham we knew that it was one of the oldest houses in Bellingham but we were unsure of when it was built.

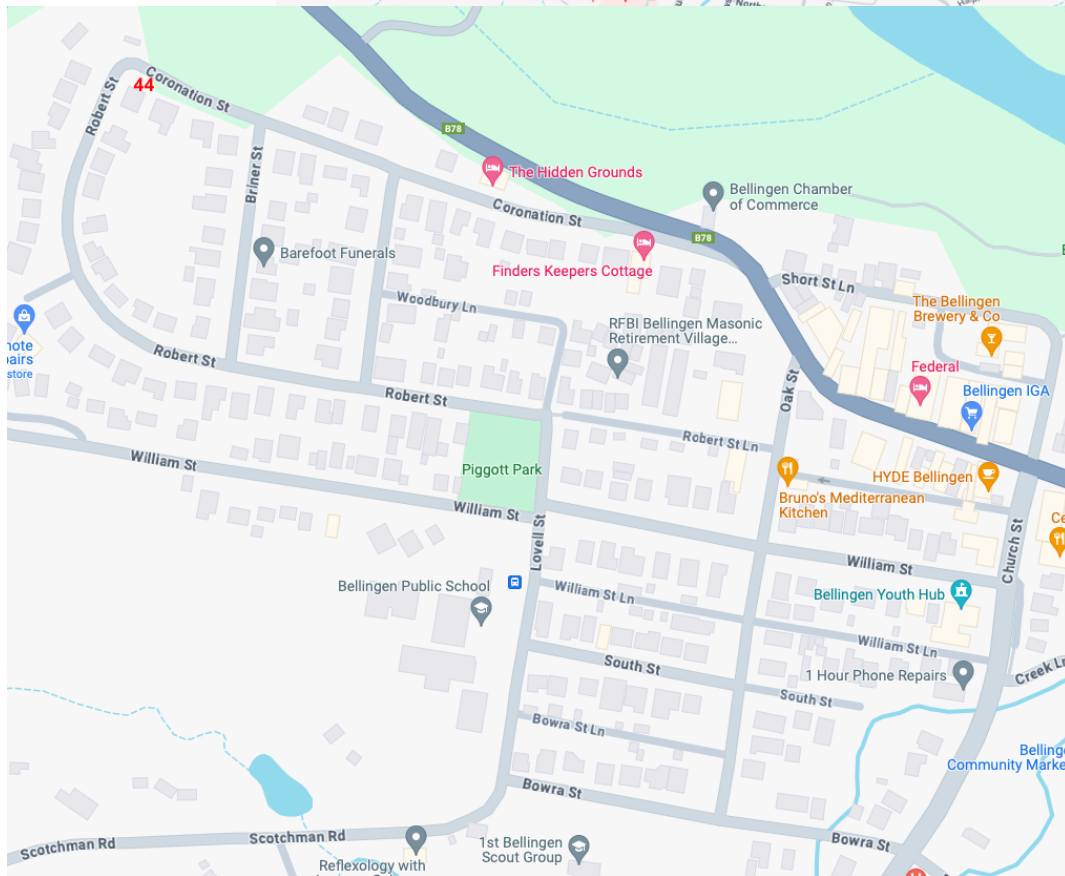
The Shire Council officers were unable to access records which showed the date when the house was built. The Bellingham Museum volunteers investigated what information they had and supplied us with a photograph of the house taken in 1993 and an opinion that it was built in 1903.

Cheryl Lynch took on the job of researching the records and collected her findings in this document. She found what she could online and interviewed long-time residents including descendants of many of those whose names she found in old records.

It is likely that there is no official record of when the house was built, perhaps because it was built as a farmhouse outside the village boundaries. However, the records indicate a likely time as being in 1903.

We thank those who have generously given time and information and Cheryl especially. We appreciate having all this information collected for us and to have arrived at a best possible answer to our original question.

Ken Joyce. May 2024

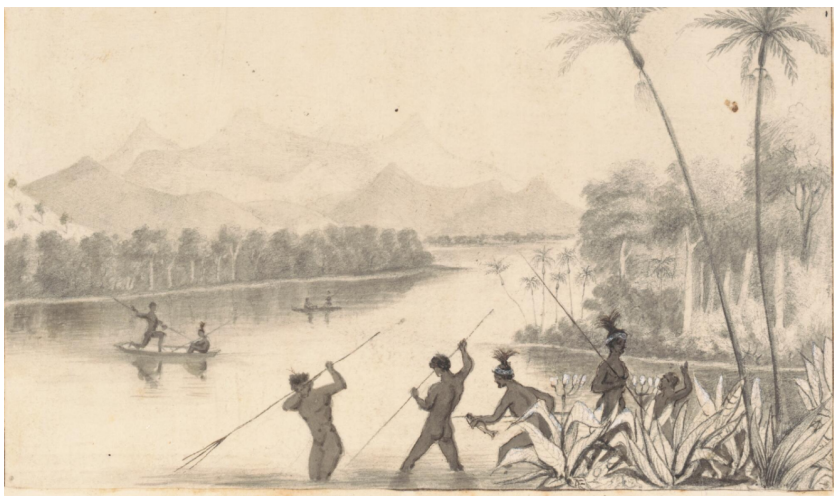




# Chapter 1

## Early history of Bellingen

Before the arrival of Europeans, the Bellinger valley had a community of Gumbaynggir Aborigines living along the banks of the river. These Aborigines called the river the 'billengen'. In the early days of European exploration and settlement, the local Aborigines fought for the protection of their land. It was estimated that there were 300 Aborigines living in the Valley in the 1840s.



Aboriginal people spearing fish in the Bellengen [i.e. Bellinger] River, Clement Hodgkinson. (1843)  
from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-135586826>

The first European into the Bellinger Valley was the stockman William Myles who arrived in 1840 looking for new cedar valleys north of Kempsey and the Macleay River. The following year Myles, accompanied by Surveyor Clement Hodgkinson explored the valley and by 1842 there were cedar cutters at the mouth of the Bellinger River and stock grazing in the valley. This was hardly surprising because Hodgkinson reported back 'The brush contained the finest cedar and rosewood I have ever seen.'

The growth of cedar cutting throughout the 1840s was dramatic with 20 pit sawyers operating along the river by 1843. So rich was the area in red cedar (*Toona ciliata*) that it was estimated that over 2 million feet of cedar were being extracted each year. Of the few remaining cedar trees, one has survived at what is now 44 Coronation Street. Arborists believe that the original cedar tree from which it has regrown, was cut around 1847-1849.

Selectors followed the cedar cutters up the valley. Pioneer settlers rapidly extended up river to Weekes (now Fernmount) where the first business centre sprung up. When it became difficult for Fernmount to expand, a new settlement started at Boat Harbour. In 1870 Boat Harbour was proclaimed a village and the name changed to Bellingen.

Bellingen gained pre-eminence over the other towns as it had a Police Station and a Court House and by the 1870s the Bellinger Public School was built along with the establishment of a Post Office. By 1876 a road through the valley and up to Dorrigo was being surveyed and by 1880 there were accessible roads throughout the valley and the road to Dorrigo was being cut up the mountain.

Many older style buildings remain from this era. One of the original homes that still remains is McNally House at 23 Hyde Street, Bellingen. It was built in 1882 and predates 44 Coronation Street.

By the late 1880s Bellingen had a local School of Arts and a Church of England building. The town continued to grow throughout the twentieth century. The Bank of NSW arrived in 1903. By 1905 the Upper Bellingen Co-op Dairying Company was established and the shire was formally proclaimed in 1906. In 1909 the charming Hammond and Wheatley Commercial Emporium was built by George Moore and was the first concrete building in Australia.

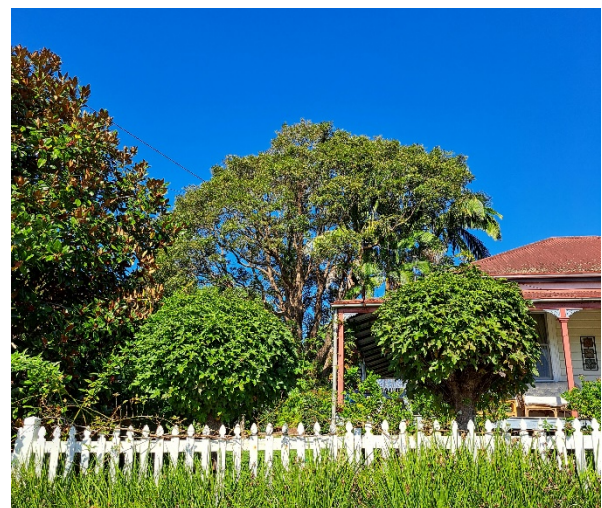
Today the township of Bellingen, derives its charm and character from these heritage buildings dotted along its main street and from its Victorian homes such as the ones found in Coronation Street.

Adapted from the following article:

### **Bellingen**

Traveller SMH **Attractive inland town on the Bellinger River.**  
January 1, 2009

Cedar tree in Coronation Street -  
2024



## Chapter 2

### History of the land

On 18 Oct 1861 the Crown Land Alienation Act was passed. It was commonly referred to as the 'Free Selectors Act' or 'John Robertson Land Act'. Any free person had the right to approach any Land Agent and tender an application at the Land Office for that district (such as the Land Office at West Kempsey). The price of £1 per acre was set with a minimum area of 40 and a maximum of 320 acres being a condition of selection and there were basically three key elements:

- a) Pay a deposit of 25%
- b) Reside on the property for at least one year
- c) Carry out improvements to the value of a minimum of £1 per acre.

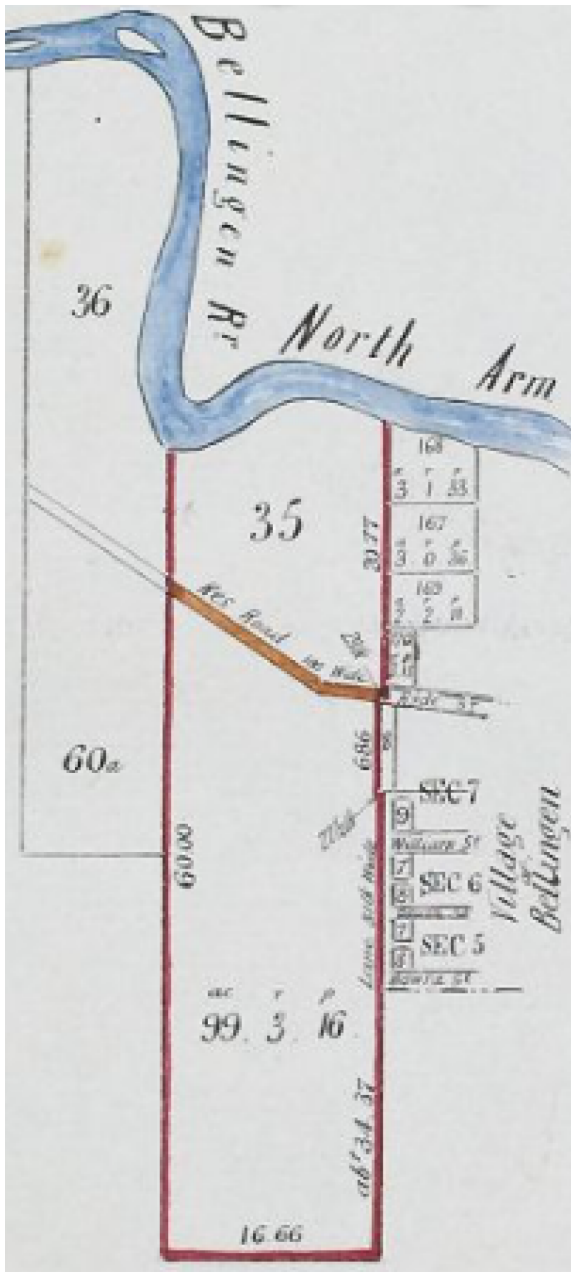
Each selector had to make a declaration three years after their application indicating what improvements had been carried out. Clearing was valued at £2 per acre, fencing at 3/6 per rod (16.5 feet), and houses varied according to size but were generally around £25 to £40. Selectors were able to acquire an adjoining area provided the combined area did not exceed 320 acres. In 1863, thirty three selectors took up conditional purchases in the Bellinger Valley.<sup>1</sup>

44 Coronation Street is part of land which was originally selected as Portion 36 in the then gazetted township of Boat Harbour [Bellingen]. Portion 36 was 58 acres in size and was selected by Andrew Ross on 24 Dec 1863. Andrew was a blacksmith from Scotland who migrated to Australia in 1857 on the ship *Alfred* with his sister Helen before settling in the Bellinger Valley. William Anderson was another pioneer from Scotland who selected land in 1863. He selected the adjoining Portion 35 which was 100 acres in size. It is unclear why he selected this land as William was living in East Kempsey, though it is likely he selected it for his daughter, Janet Anderson. She lived on Portion 35 and was William's daughter from his first marriage. Janet married her neighbour Andrew Ross in 1867. Andrew and Janet Ross had two children: Ann Ross and Andrew James Ross.

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<sup>1</sup> O'Hearn, I. (2013) *European settlers on the Bellinger 1840-1900*.





Accessing fresh water would have been an important consideration when portions 35 and 36 were selected. Water was essential for the first wave of selectors to survive. Their life was very difficult and they suffered great deprivations. There was no communication with other settled areas and few sailing vessels visited the river. The residents had no roads or punts to cross the Bellinger river, no medical practitioner, police or educational opportunities prior to 1870.

William Anderson's property (portion 35) was transferred into his daughter's name in January 1867. In 1876 Janet's husband, Andrew Ross, died suddenly aged 36. His death occurred just a month before his son's birth. Andrew had been helping a neighbour husk corn before taking ill. His death was pronounced to be from an attack of English Cholera. In 1876 Janet married William Ide so her name then appears on parish maps in portion 35 as Janet

Ide. The story of portions 35 and 36 are interlinked as Janet gained control of both.

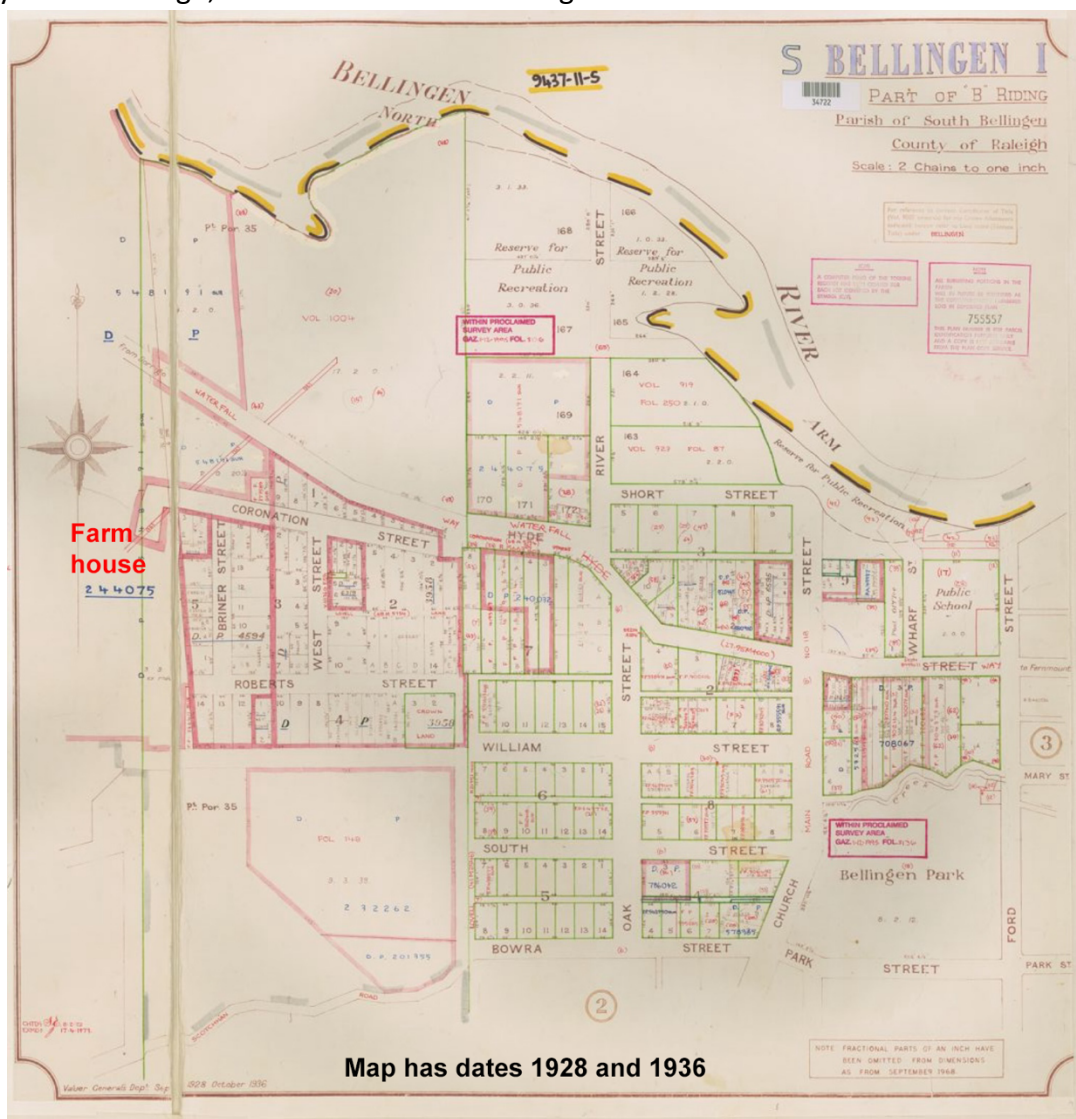


Andrew James Ross



Portion 36 was purchased in 1909 for £58 15s by Janet's son, Andrew James Ross, and Janet's son-in-law, Richard Mewton, who had married Janet's daughter, Annie Ross, in 1890. Andrew Ross Jnr and Richard Mewton became tenants-in-common.

Date of map - 21 Jan 1909. (NSW Lands Registry) <https://hlrv.nswlrs.com.au/>  
County Name: Raleigh, Parish Name: South Bellinghen.





No. 1909/3062

State of New South Wales.

[LAND GRANT.] B


 REGISTER BOOK,  
 VOL. 1992 Fol. 129

CANCELLED

 C.P. 63-3505  
 Bellingen

# GRANT OF LAND PURCHASED BY CONDITIONAL SALE WITHOUT COMPETITION.

(UNDER THE CROWN LANDS ALIENATION ACT OF 1861.)



EDWARD VII, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth:—  
 TO ALL to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:—

WHEREAS Andrew James Ross and Richard Newton both of Bellingen in Our State of New South Wales claim to be entitled in respect of a purchase by Conditional Sale without competition under the 13th Section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861 to the Parcel of Land hereinafter described and the declaration as by law required has been made and the Minister for the time being charged with the administration of the public lands is satisfied that all things required by law to be done to entitle the said Andrew James Ross and Richard Newton to a grant of the fee simple of the said Lands subject to the Reservations hereinafter contained have been done and performed And Whereas the sum of Fifty eight pounds fifteen Shillings sterling being the purchase money payable for the said Land has been duly paid into the Office of the Treasurer of Our said State Now Know Ye That for and in consideration of the said sum for and on Our behalf well and truly paid into the Treasury of Our said State before these Presents are issued and of all and singular the premises We for Us Our Heirs and Successors Do HEREBY GRANT unto the said Andrew James Ross and Richard Newton their Heirs and Assigns subject to the several and respective Reservations hereinafter mentioned ALL THAT piece or parcel of land in Our said State containing by Admeasurement Fifty eight acres three rods be the same more or less situated in the County of Raleigh and Parish of North Bellingen

Portion 36



Scale 70 Chains to an Inch

Commencing on the right bank of the North Arm of the Bellingen River at the North Eastern corner of portion thirty seven of forty nine acres and bounded thence on the West by the Eastern boundary of that portion bearing South fifty nine chains fifty links on the South by a line bearing East ten chains twenty five links on the East by part of the Western boundary of portion thirty five of ninety nine acres three rods sixteen perches bearing North thirty chains to the right bank of the aforesaid Arm of the Bellingen River and on the East and North by that bank upwards to the point of commencement Exclusively of a road one chain wide joining through the land in a South Easterly direction the area of which has been deducted from the total area—

As per plan in the margin hereof with all the Rights and Appurtenances whatsoever thereto belonging To Hold unto the said Andrew James Ross and Richard Newton as tenants in common their Heirs and Assigns for ever Subject nevertheless to the several and respective Reservations hereinafter contained that is to say Provided Nevertheless And We DO HEREBY RESERVE unto Us Our Heirs and Successors all Minerals which the said Land contains with full power and authority for Us Our Heirs and Successors and such person or persons as may from time to time be authorised by Us Our Heirs and Successors or by the Governor for the time being of Our said State to enter upon the said Land and to search for mine dig and remove the said Minerals with full right of ingress egress and regress for the purposes aforesaid Provided Also AND WE DO HEREBY FURTHER EXCEPT AND RESERVE unto Us Our Heirs and Successors all such parts and so much of the said Land as may hereafter be required for a Public Way or Public Ways Canals or Railroads in over and through the same to be set out by Our Governor for the time being of Our said State or some person by him authorised in that respect AND ALSO all Sand Clay Stone Gravel and Indigenous Timber and all other Materials the natural produce of the said Land which may be required at any time or times hereafter by the Government of Our said State for the construction and repair of any Public Ways Bridges or Canals or for Naval Purposes or Railroads or any Fences Embankments Dams Sowers or Drains necessary for the same together with the right of taking and removing all such materials AND ALSO the right of full and free ingress egress and regress into out of and upon the said Land for the several purposes aforesaid or any of them In Testimony Whereof We have caused this Our Grant to be Sealed with the Seal of Our said State

WITNESS Our Right Trusty and Well-beloved FREDERIC JOHN NAPIER, BARON CHILMSFORD, Knight Commander of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Our Governor of Our State of New South Wales and its Dependencies, in the Commonwealth of Australia, at Sydney, in Our said State, this tenth day of August in the ninth year of Our Reign, and in the year of Our Lord One thousand nine hundred and nine



A year later, on 30 Aug, 1910 portion 36 was split in half. One part [30 acres] was held by Andrew Ross Jnr, whilst the other part [28 acres] was transferred to Richard Mewton.

71186

# CERTIFICATE OF TITLE.


(C.)

New South Wales.

[App<sup>n</sup> No. \_\_\_\_\_]

[Reference to Grant \_\_\_\_\_]

[Vol. 1992 Folio 129 \_\_\_\_\_]



REGISTER BOOK,  
Vol. **2083** Folio **33**

CANCELLED ☒

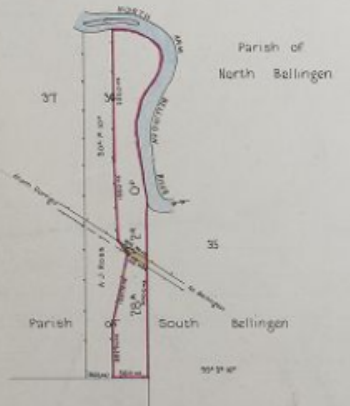
*Richard Mewton* of Bellingen former transferee under instrument of transfer from Andrew James Ross and Richard Mewton 1574611 is now the proprietor of an Estate in Fee Simple, subject nevertheless to the reservations and conditions, if any, contained in the Grant hereinafter referred to, and also subject to such encumbrances, liens, and interests as are notified hereon, in that piece of land situated in the Shire of Bellingen, Parish of South Bellingen, and County of Rabago, containing Twenty eight acres two rods, or thereabouts as shown on the Plan hereon, and therein edged red, being part of Portion 36 delineated on the public map of the said parish deposited in the Department of Lands originally granted to Andrew James Ross and Richard Mewton by Green Grant dated the tenth day of August one thousand nine hundred and nine registered in the Land Title Office Sydney Volume 1992 Folio 129.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed my Seal, this Thirtieth day of August one thousand nine hundred and ten.

Signed the 30<sup>th</sup> day of August 1910.

in the presence of M. King

*G. Pearce*  
Deputy Registrar General.



NOTIFICATION REFERRED TO.

Amongst the reservations and conditions contained in the grant above referred to are the following namely:

Reservations of minerals of

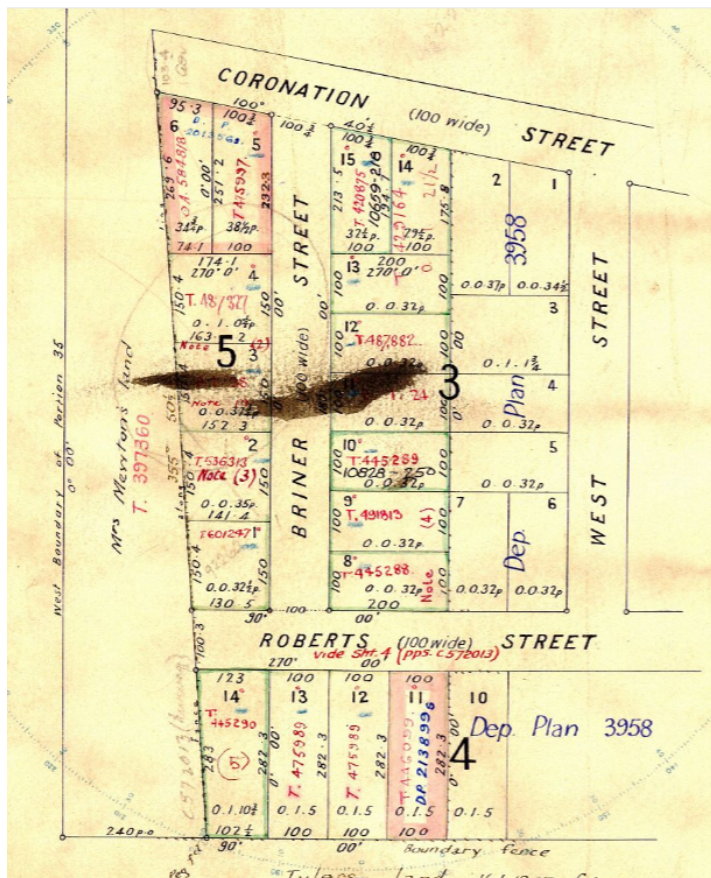
Reservations of the road shown with colored lines on plan being the area of which is deducted from the total area

*G. Pearce*  
Deputy Registrar General.

**Nº D 347970** TRANSFER dated 9th, November 1944 from the said RICHARD MEWTON to OLGA MAY HALL and WINIFRED JANET HEAR as Tenants in Common in the land within described, Produced 1st, February 1945 and entered 5th, March 1945 at 12 o'clock noon.

As to the transfer in this transfer the certificate is cancelled and a new one is issued Vol. 2497 Folio 627

*W. W. Williams*  
Registrar General.



In 1944, Richard Mewton transferred his land to his two daughters, Olga Hall and Winfred Hear making them tenants-in-common. This transfer took place before Richard's death in 1947. Presumably after Richard's death, his wife Annie, continued to live in the family home.



View from Mewton's Hill, 1905. Bellingham Museum 01035 [1336]



Janet Ide died in 1923. The following is an extract from her obituary.

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## OBITUARY.

Death of Mrs. Ide Senior.

A Pioneer Passes.

This grand old lady was amongst the first to brave the perils of the North Coast scrub, and many times she rode from the Bellinger to the Macleay,\* taking two infants with her, to bring back a bag of flour for rations. In those days, lonely travellers were always liable to be attacked by the blacks; but the late Mrs. Ide had no fear of the tribesmen, having always treated them with the kindness so characteristic of her nature. Nevertheless, she had some nerve-racking experiences, and, on one occasion, looked up at her window, to see an aboriginal outside in full war-paint. He melted into the shadows, having no quarrel with one he knew would do him and his no harm. And that was in the years when settlers were being massacred.

The late Mrs. Ide was twice married, her immediate descendants being Mr. Arthur Ross (Ulmarra) and Mrs. R. Mewton (Bellingen).

Coffs Harbour Advocate (NSW), Wednesday 17 October 1923, page 2

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article185501364>



\*Janet would have travelled to Kempsey, not only for supplies, but to visit her father, William Anderson.

Mrs Janet Ide (1844-1923)  
Born Janet Anderson, Janet Ross then Janet Ide.

Coffs Collection <https://coffs.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/60192>



## Chapter 3

### The builder:

Matthew 'Rusty' McFadyen (1856-1932)



Matthew McFadyen was born at Shoalhaven in 1856 and moved to Gleniffer with his parents (John and Margaret) around 1870. He was nicknamed 'Rusty' because of his red hair and beard. He grew up with a farming background but also took up carpentry and used these skills to build houses and other structures. Matthew never married and moved to Bonville in his later years.

In 1874, when Matthew McFadyen was 18 years old, he built and ran the first store in Gleniffer which survived until the turn of the century.<sup>2</sup> As well, he built Gleniffer's first school. Matthew was also instrumental in getting a government grant of 100 pounds to build a road from the North Arm to Coffs Harbour, a distance of eight miles. The 100 pounds was used for rations for the volunteers who turned a track into a road suitable for vehicles.

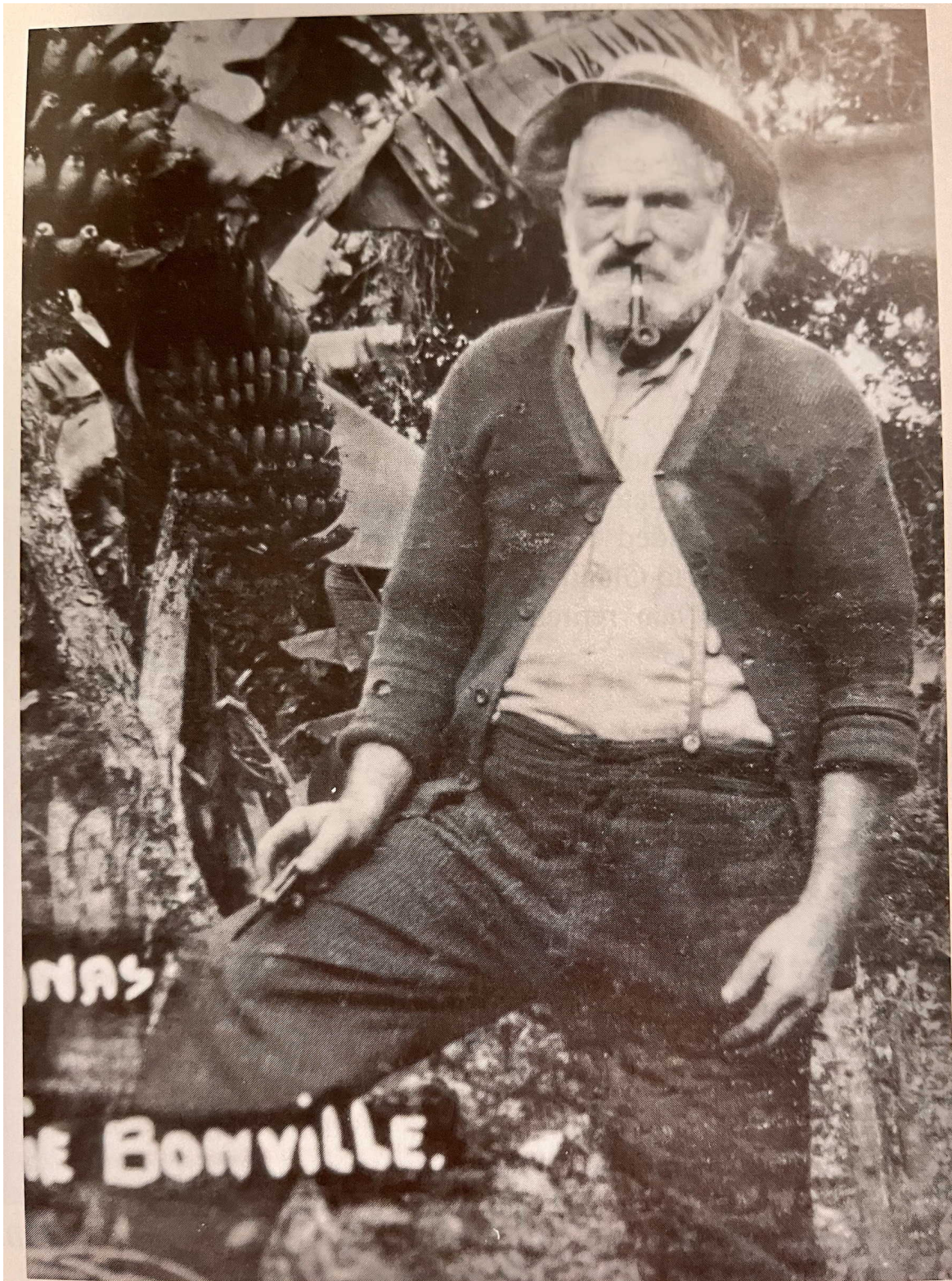
Matthew knew Richard Mewton through their shared involvement in farming and various community organisations. He built a house for Richard in Bellingen probably in 1903. That house is now 44 Coronation Street. Back then, Bellingen town only extended as far as West Street and Richard Mewton's house was west of the town boundary.

Matthew ended up moving to Raleigh (to look after the Lyons Estate) and then to Bonville. It was there that he built some of the early homes and businesses in Coffs Harbour such as a boarding house at the Jetty and the first Fitzroy Hotel. In 1900 Matthew became a Trustee of Bonville Reserve and in 1908 he was appointed by the Lands Department as the first caretaker of Bonville Reserve an area of 286 acres<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Bellinger Valley Historical Society. (2012). *Pioneering in the Bellinger Valley*. p 67.

<sup>3</sup> Latham, Jennifer. (2001). *The Father of Gleniffer*. Chapter 4.



Matthew McFadyen at his banana farm 'Bonnie Bonville' 1930

Matthew started growing bananas in the Coffs Harbour area and imported corms of the Cavendish species from Fiji. He established several plantations. He also registered several oyster culture leases on Bonville Creek.



Matthew McFadyen died in 1932.

Daily Examiner (Grafton, NSW), Friday 5 February 1932, page 4

**OBITUARY**

**MR. MATTHEW McFADYEN.**

BELLINGEN, Tuesday.

With the death of Mr. Matthew McFadyen, at Bonville, another of the fast diminishing band of early Bellinger River pioneers has gone to his reward. Interment took place in the Presbyterian portion of the Bellingen cemetery yesterday, an impressive service being conducted by the Rev. John Macaulay, M.A.

The late Mr. McFadyen, who was a single man, was born on the Shoalhaven River, South Coast, 75 years and 10 months ago, and came as a young man with his parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. John McFadyen, to the Bellinger River, when the district was in its earliest stages of development. For some years he carried on farming pursuits, later taking up carpentry. Some years ago, however, he retired from these activities, and took up residence at Bonville, where he remained until his death.

A vigorous worker in his early days, a man of high ideals, he commanded the respect of a large circle of friends. He is survived by two brothers, Messrs. R. B. McFadyen, of Bellingen, and Mr. David McFadyen, of Seaview, Bonville; and the surviving sisters are Mesdames R. W. Dowle (Penrith), W. Lean (Gleniffer), N. Keough (Gleniffer), More (Macleay River), and J. Adams (Sawtell). One brother and one sister predeceased him.

National Library of Australia

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article192331893>

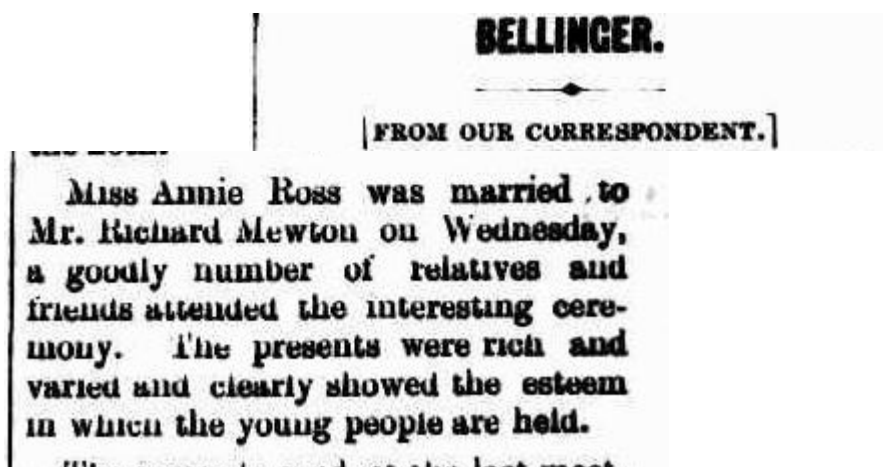
## Chapter 4

### The first owner:

#### Richard Mewton (1865-1947)

Richard Mewton was born in 1865, son of farmer Cornelius Mewton and Mary (Johns) Mewton at Perranzabuloe, Cornwall, England.

Richard's family remained in Cornwall when he came out to Australia. Richard appears in the 1890-91 electoral roll as a farmer from the Upper Bellinger. On 22 October 1890 Richard married Annie Ross in Bellinger. Annie, was born on Christmas day in 1867, making her 22 when she and Richard married. After their marriage Richard and Annie Mewton farmed out at Gleniffer and when they moved into town they lived in the house built by Matthew McFadyen.



Macleay Argus (Kempsey, NSW), Wednesday 29 October 1890, page 3  
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article234090239>

Richard and Annie Mewton had three children:

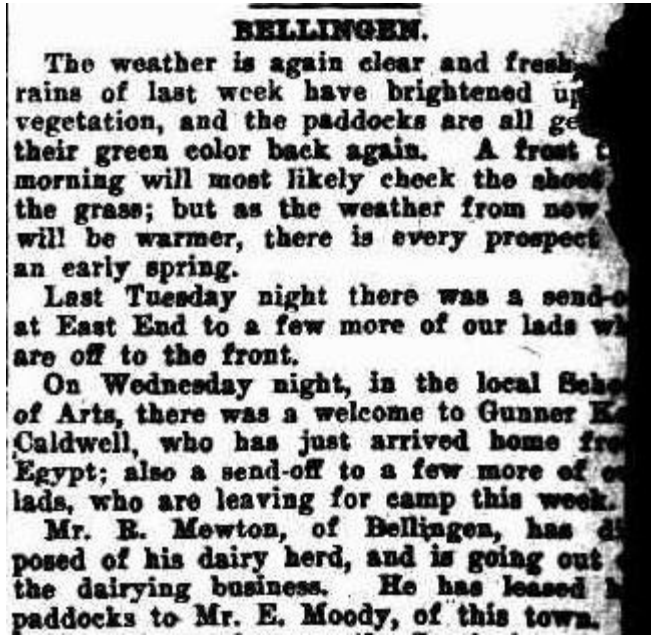
William Arthur Anderson Mewton	(1891- 18 Jul 1926, Bellinger)
Olga (Ollie) May HALL	(1893- 1 Nov 1978, Bellinger)
Winifred (Winnie) Janet HEAR	(1895 - 12 Nov 1984, Fairlight)

Richard Mewton became involved in many activities in this area. In 1891 he purchased 140 acres in the Never Never Parish.

[850]		<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Local Land Board Office, Grafton, 29th July, 1896.</b></p> <p>IT is hereby notified, in pursuance of the provisions of section 36 of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, that after the expiration of thirty days from the date of the publication of this notice, the Local Land Board will hold an inquiry whether all conditions applicable to the undermentioned Conditional Purchases, except that of payment of the balance of instalments, have been duly complied with, and if satisfied with such compliance, will issue Certificates to that effect. Any caveat against the issue of any such Certificate must be lodged at this office, together with a sum of ten pounds, within thirty days from the date of the publication of this notice.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>A. J. PARK, Chairman.</b></p>						
Office No.	C.P. No.	Name.	District.	Date.	Area.	Section.	Parish.	Portion.
L.B. 96-1384 3984	91- 1 17	Alfred A. Nelson Edward Archer	Bellingen do	8 Jan., 1891 23 April, 91	a. r. p. 98 0 0 40 0 0	26 26	Wonga Wonga North Belling-	13 150
3989 3101	29 95- 1	Richard Mewton James Tyler	do do	14 May, 91 31 Jan., 1895	140 0 0 250 0 0	26 42	Never Never Allian's Water	53 & 60 21

New South Wales Government Gazette (Sydney, NSW), Wednesday 29 July 1896 (No.592 (SUPPLEMENT)), page 5210  
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article222504356>

Over the years, Richard entered his farm animals into the Bellingen Agricultural Show and was rewarded for his efforts with his heifers and foals winning prizes. However, by 1916 Richard decided to retire from dairying, disposed of his cattle and leased his property to Mr E. Moody.



Daily Examiner (Grafton, NSW), Monday 21 August 1916, page 2  
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article194818301>



Richard Mewton contributed greatly to the Bellingen community through his membership of numerous committees. He was an officer of the Progress Committee in 1898, attended monthly meetings of the School of Arts and in 1905 was a shareholder of the Upper Bellinger Butter Company. He was also a member of the local Agricultural Association and Repatriation Committee.

Another activity worth noting, was Richard Mewton's role as trustee of several parcels of land which had been set aside as reserves for public recreation and for the preservation of native flora. One reserve was set aside for the purpose of establishing a Literary Institute in Bellingen. Records of these are found in the Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales in 1908, 1914 and 1923. The reserves were in Bellingen and North Beach. For example:

[223] Department of Lands,  
Sydney, 15th July, 1908.

**I**T is hereby notified, for public information, that, in accordance with the provisions of the Public Trusts Act, 1897, His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of the appointment of the undermentioned gentlemen as Trustees respectively of the portions of land hereinafter particularised, namely:—

Reserve No. 30,812 at Bellingen, county of Raleigh, parish of South Bellingen, area 7 acres 3 roods 22 perches, notified 11th April, 1900, for public recreation and preservation of native flora:—

Richard Mewton, Esquire  
(in lieu of Thomas Charles Eather, Esquire, removed).  
[Ms. 1908-9,394]

Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales (Sydney, NSW),  
Wednesday 15 July 1908 (No.83), page 3815  
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article226914951>

In 1915, Richard Mewton was appointed as an honorary judge and Justice of the Peace. He was also a juror in a controversial trial in which the President of the Nambucca Shire sued the 'Nambucca and Bellinger News' for libel.

The Mewtons enjoyed camping each year with virtually the whole of Bellingen at the North Beach Reserve. 40 to 50 families (i.e. Roses, Glydes, McFadyens and others) would have great fun altogether fishing and playing games.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Locke, J.T. (1924). *Settlers' stories of the Bellinger told to John T. Locke "Ecol"*. Bellinger Valley Historical Society.

The Mewtons were also involved in the Methodist Church and were mentioned by Rev A. Parton in an article on the Bellinger River Methodist Circuit. "Of the people in those days I have the happiest memories. Many of their names are forgotten, but not the extreme kindness and unstinted hospitality. At Bellingen there were the Griffiths, Piggott, Mewton, Donnelly, Rose and Fred Bailey." Coffs Harbour Advocate (NSW), Fri 3 Mar 1939, p 4.

No doubt, Richard and Annie would have had that kindness and support returned when their only son, William Arthur Anderson Mewton, was tragically killed in a car accident near Raleigh on 18 July 1926. An inquest was held into his death, at which witnesses described how William had had a few drinks at the Imperial Hotel Fernmount, but in their opinion, was capable of driving. Other witnesses described how they saw the Chevrolet on its side at the bottom of a hill on a sharp bend and William lying on the middle of the road.

Don Dorrigio Gazette and Guy Fawkes Advocate (NSW), Fri 30 Jul 1926, p 2.  
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article172017562>

Richard Mewton died in Bellingen in 1947, aged 83. His daughters were both executrixes of his will. Annie Mewton died in 1952.

## Three Old Residents Of Bellinger Dead

**BELLINGEN, Tuesday.**—Three prominent old residents of the Bellinger district have died in the Bellinger River District Hospital.

Another fine old resident of the Bellinger River has been lost with the death, after a brief illness, of Mr. Richard Mewton, at the age of 83 years. A resident of Bellingen and the Bellinger for the most of his life, the late Mr. Mewton was held in the highest respect. Mrs. Mewton survives, as well as two daughters, Mrs. J. Hall, of Bellingen and Mrs. W. Hear.

Daily Examiner (Grafton, NSW), Wednesday 23 April 1947, page 2

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article195287888>



## Chapter 5

### The Goldstein estate

Annie Mewton's death occurred in her daughter (Olga Hall) and son-in-law's house at 36 Coronation Street. The land to the west of 36 Coronation Street became known as Mrs Hall's farm. The farm included the old farmhouse (44 Coronation Street) that was originally the home of Richard and Annie Mewton. It housed various farmers who share farmed with Mrs Hall. They ran the property as a dairy farm. The share farmers included Norm Miller, Norm Habgood, Tom Lavender and finally Horace Carter. There was an orchard and a cow yard near Mrs Hall's house. A night paddock was further up the hill where the cows were kept overnight. The cows were fed turnips and rye grass and the milk was collected by Dick de Mestre the milkman. Mrs Hall loved to sit on her veranda at 36 Coronation Street looking out at the view. Today a sign named 'Halls Lookout' frames the very view she admired.<sup>5</sup>



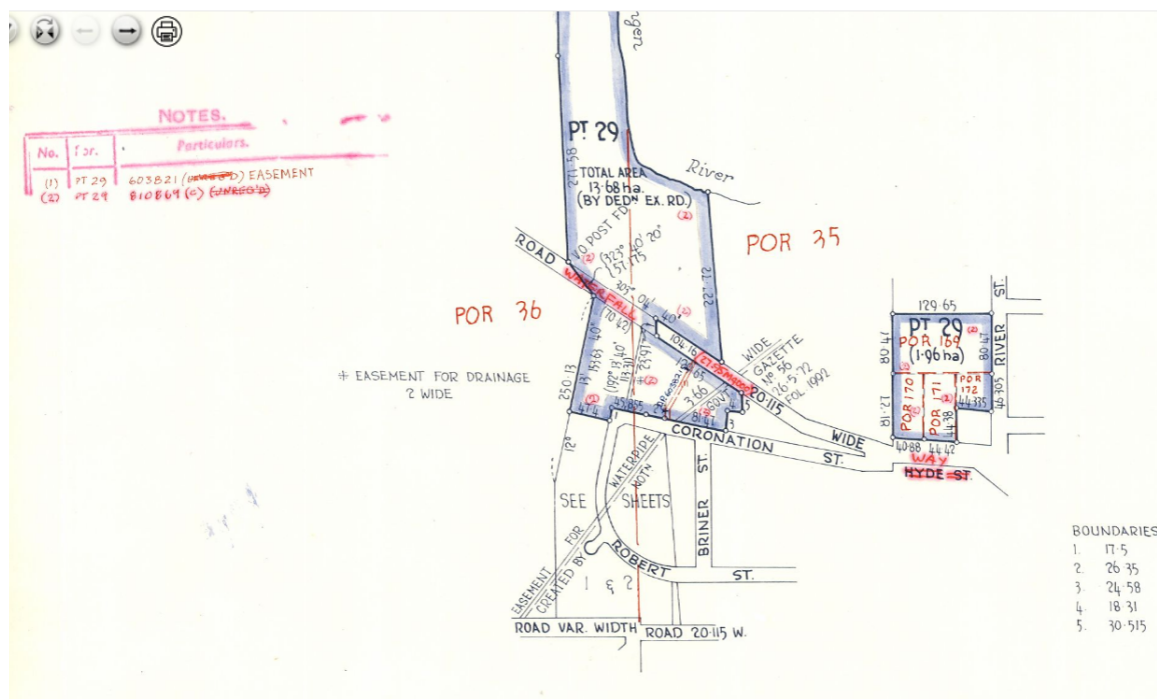
Mark Goldstein Snr and Mark Goldstein Jnr were farmers who worked successfully on their property, 'Goldbrae' in Gleniffer. They wanted to invest in more land so they approached Mrs Hall about selling her farm. The Goldsteins purchased the farm containing the old farmhouse (44 Coronation Street) in 1969. After the last share farmer, the farmhouse was rented by a group of single men who had a reputation for partying. Locals used to refer to the house as 'The Ranch'.

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<sup>5</sup> Interview with Chubb McNeill



The Goldsteins didn't live in the farmhouse but used the land they acquired for growing corn and beef cattle prior to it being subdivided. The subdivision was not straight forward, as water pipes ran through the estate. These pipes pumped water for the town from the bores on the river flat to the reservoir at the top of William Street. An easement for the water pipe had to be created so the subdivision could occur.<sup>6</sup>



DP247564 Registered on 4-7-1974 retrieved from <https://hllrv.nswlrs.com.au/>

A detailed description of the piece of land in West Bellingen that was resumed for the easement is recorded in the Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales (Sydney, NSW), Friday 12 May 1972 (No.48) on page 1647. A public reserve was also created as part of the subdivision. The land to the west of 44 Coronation Street was sold to Terry Hedges as a rural block when the subdivision went through.

At the time of the subdivision, there were only a few houses in Coronation Street. They belonged to Walter Raymond, Patricia Oakman (Shire President), Luke Lavender, Dr McLachlan and two brothers of the Lovell family. Most of the houses on the eastern end of Coronation Street between numbers 5 and 34 are now part of the Coronation Streetscape group which has been identified as an item of local heritage in the Bellingen Local Environmental Plan 2010.

<sup>6</sup> Interview with Iris Goldstein





'Coronation Hall' where folks danced and celebrated their nuptials is no longer there, having been demolished in 1968. Coronation Hall was built in 1889 in Coronation Street. Bellinghen Museum Photo 02270



View from Bellinghen reservoir — 1979  
Top of William Street and houses on the eastern edge of the Goldstein estate.  
Bellinghen museum photo 01194 [1337]





**House photographed in 1986**

Robyn and Bill Hawkshaw



44 Coronation St., Bellingin. Built by Matt McFadyen in 1903. Photographed in 1993.

Bellingin Museum

## Chapter 6

### The Danny Deckchair Movie

'Danny Deckchair' is a 2003 Australian comedy film written and directed by Jeff Balsmeyer. The majority of the film was shot in Bellingen and centred on 44 Coronation Street. Many Bellingen locals had parts in the film including Serge Cockburn who previously starred in 'Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles' in 2001.

The film stars Miranda Otto as Glenda and Rhys Ifans as Danny. In the film, Danny and his deckchair accidentally become a national sensation.



During a barbecue in his backyard, Danny ties a bunch of helium-filled balloons to his deckchair, while his friends hold him down. When his friends inadvertently let go, Danny is set on an airborne adventure across Australia. He floats over idyllically beautiful rural landscapes including the town of Clarence (Bellingen). When the fireworks from this small town's macadamia festival burst most of his balloons, Danny lands in a tree in Glenda's front yard (i.e. 44 Coronation Street). Over time the two forge a strong connection but also experience many misadventures along the way. When Danny parachutes himself into Glenda's life for a second time, it appears happily to be for good.





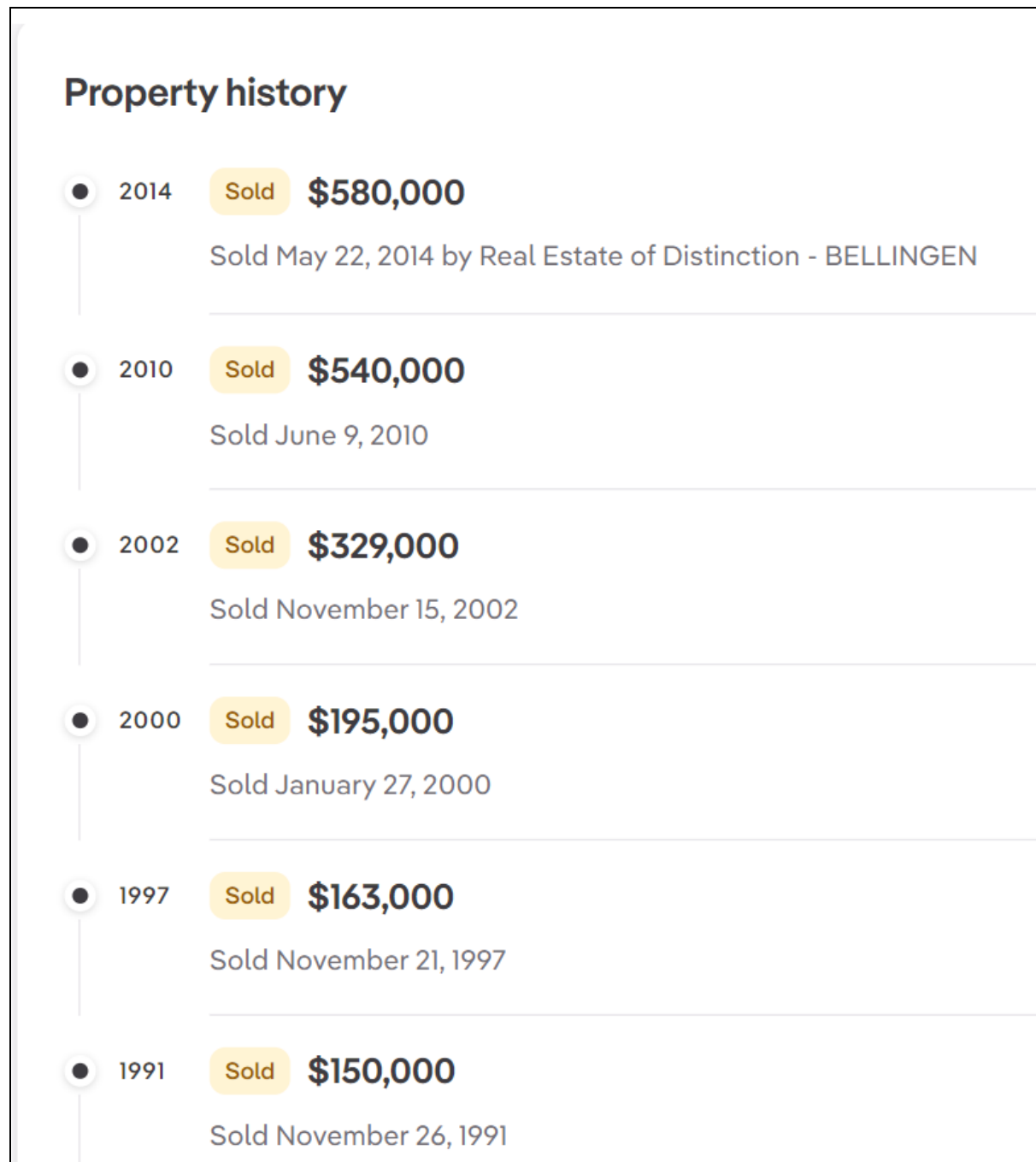
Pictures from <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0337960/>



## Chapter 7

### Recent sales history of 44 Coronation Street, Bellingen

The Danny Deckchair house



<https://www.realestate.com.au/property/44-coronation-st-bellingen-nsw-2454/>

Listing for 44 Coronation Street, Bellingen in 2014

## 1889 Weatherboard Cottage with Bellingen's Best Views

44 CORONATION STREET, BELLINGEN

4+ Bedroom Residence & Pool Surrounded by "English" Gardens

Kilkenny House is a charming and well-presented 4 bedroom weatherboard cottage, built in 1889. It sits on arguably the best block of land in Bellingen ..... the expansive views over pasture lands to the mountains in the distance are simply sensational! The verandah is where you'll relax with a fizzy drink in the evening and watch the sun slowly disappear from the horizon.

This north facing cottage with its corrugated iron roof has wide hardwood verandahs on three sides and sits in the centre of a garden of roses, camellias, shrubs, bulbs and lawns and pathways leading to surprise after surprise. It even has the white picket fence and is the house we all came to love in the movie, Danny Deck Chair.

So, now you know Miranda Otto slept here! The house is fully insulated and air conditioned, so it is a cool environment in summer and stays warm during Bellingen's short winters ..... particularly with the open fire in the living and dining room.

Apart from the breathtaking views, other features of this special tranquil place are the ceiling fans in every room, under cover car parking, the original garden shed and a fenced swimming pool surrounded by stone "tiles". The fact that it is only a few minutes' walk to the centre of Bellingen and an easy drive to some of the best beaches on the north coast of New South Wales is another plus!

This is another property we are proud to represent ..... a place where you belong! So come and live the perfect lifestyle with us in the beautiful village of Bellingen.

Inspections are by appointment only. Please phone Peter Stone to arrange a time.

The property has history -  
It's Danny Deck Chair's home!  
Best block of land in Bellingen  
Wondrous mountain views  
Verandahs on three sides  
North facing property  
English-style gardens  
Fully insulated & air conditioned  
10ft high ceilings throughout

Separate laundry with shower and toilet  
Open fire in living area  
Ceiling fans throughout  
Under cover car parking  
Original garden shed  
Fenced swimming pool  
Entertaining courtyard  
A few minutes' walk to town  
A short drive to beaches

## Property overview

44 Coronation Street, Bellingen, NSW 2454 has a land size of 1,040 m<sup>2</sup>. It is a house with 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and 1 parking space.

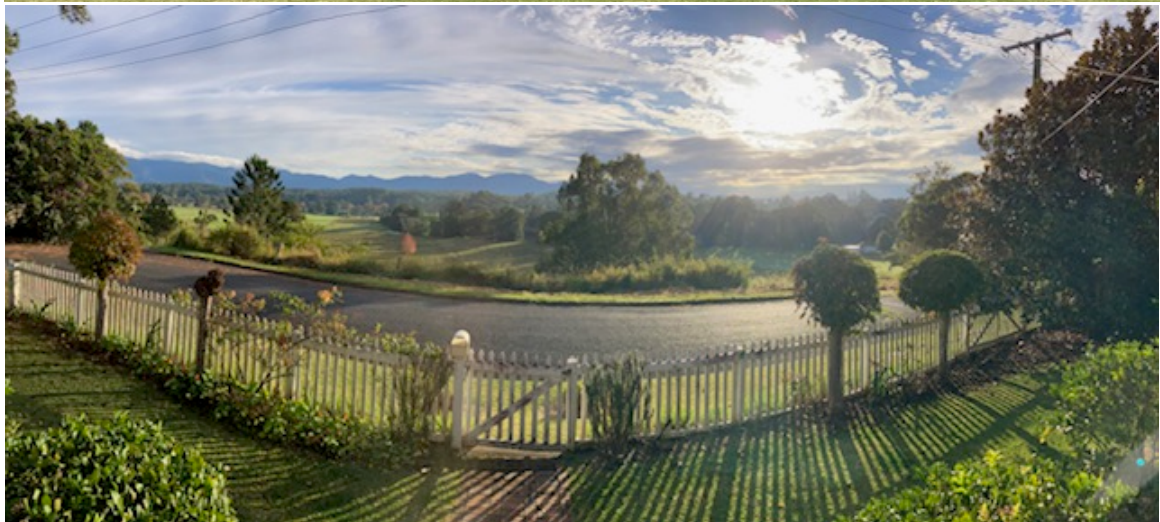
<https://www.realestate.com.au/sold/property-house-nsw-bellingen-116137387>



Photos from 2014 listing by Real Estate of Distinction



## Photos taken in 2024













## Chapter 8

### Ken and Elizabeth Joyce

*'But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.'* Joshua 24:15.

In 2014 the house was purchased by Ken and Elizabeth Joyce who moved from the South Coast of N.S.W. to be nearer to some of their adult children.

The Joyces knew this house was the one for them despite it not fully fitting their criteria. They knew God intended them to purchase it – with the timing and the price being right. The house has been a blessing to them and many others. Grandchildren have popped in after school or visited during their holidays. It has been the venue for morning teas to raise money for the Cancer Council. There have been Bible studies, countless dinners, and the hosting of Camp Creative participants. Most of all, it is has been the centre of many a family gathering, of which Ken's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday is a highlight. On that day alone, 99 people came through the door. Without a doubt, the Joyce family love to get together for meals, to laugh and to share memories.



Joyce family in 2019 on the occasion of Ken's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday

### **Some Memorable dates**

1840	William Miles explores Bellinger Valley
1841	Miles accompanies surveyor Hodgkinson to Bellinger Valley
1844-1846	Extensive cutting of cedar trees
1861	Robertson's Crown Lands Act
1863	33 settlers including William Anderson and Andrew Ross select land in Bellinger Valley.
1867	Janet Anderson marries Andrew Ross
1867	Birth of Annie Ross
1869	First Court House built at Boat Harbour (Bellingen)
1870	Death of Andrew James Ross Snr
1870	Birth of Andrew James Ross Jnr
1870	Village of Bellingen proclaimed
1876	Janet Ross marries William Ide
1890	Annie Ross marries Richard Mewton
1891	Janet Ide granted Portion 35
1903	House built on Portion 36 (current address of 44 Coronation St.)
1906	Bellingen Shire proclaimed
1909	Andrew James Ross Jnr & Richard Mewton acquire Portion 36
1910	Portion 36 split in half
1923	Death of Janet Ide.
1947	Death of Richard Mewton. The farmlands pass to Olga Hall.
1969	Mark Goldstein Snr & Mark Goldstein Jnr purchase land from Richard Mewton's daughters
1974	Goldstein subdivision created
2003	Danny Deckchair film made in Bellingen
2014	Ken & Elizabeth Joyce purchase 44 Coronation Street

Bless this house – Song by Doris Day

Bless this house, Oh Lord we pray  
Make it safe by night and day  
Bless these walls so firm and stout  
Keeping want and trouble out  
Bless the roof and chimneys tall  
Let thy peace lie over all  
Bless this door that it may prove  
Ever open to joy and love  
Bless these windows shining bright  
Letting in God's heavenly light  
Bless the hearth, a blazing there  
With smoke ascending like a prayer  
Bless the folk who dwell within  
Keep them pure and free from sin  
Bless us all that we may be  
Fit, oh Lord to dwell with thee  
Bless us all that one day we may dwell oh, Lord, with Thee.