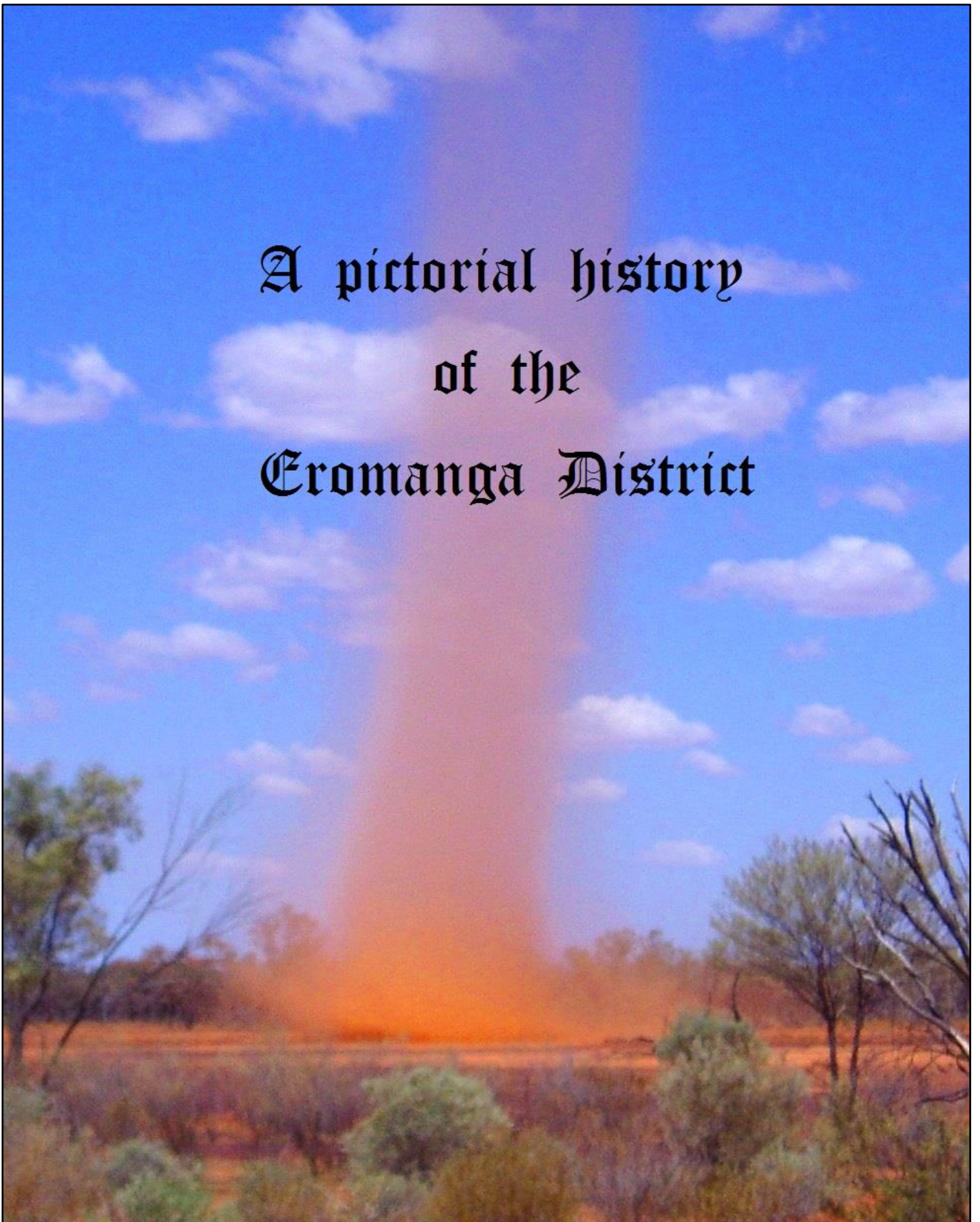


A pictorial history
of the
Eromanga District



A pictorial history of the Eromanga District

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage



Men's Area
Arabic Hill



Carpet snake totem,
'Monler'



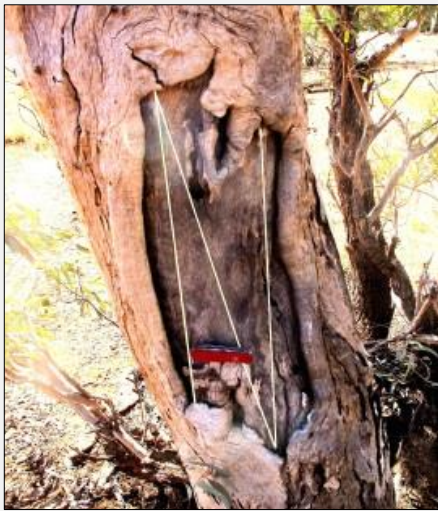
Rock face painting,
'Keeroongooloo'



Native well,
'Monler'

Charles Nutting, Eromanga's first European settler

1872



This coolabah was blazed 'N' to mark the Datum Point of Nutting's Berella North & Berella South Runs

1873

GREGORY DISTRICT.

Name of Run—Berella North.
Licensee—Charles Marshall Nutting.
Estimated area—50 square miles.

Commencing at a tree marked N at a point where the track from Wilson's River to Kyabra Station crosses Korungulla Creek; thence five miles north; thence west ten miles; thence south five miles; thence east ten miles to the point of commencement.

NOTE.—Korungulla Creek is about twenty miles north from northern extremity of Kalboora West Run.

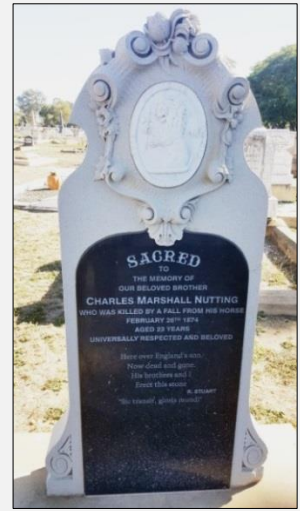
Name of Run—Berella South.
Licensee—Charles Marshall Nutting.
Estimated area—50 square miles.

Commencing at a tree marked N at a point where the track from Kyabra Station to the Wilson River crosses Korungulla Creek; thence five miles south; thence ten miles west; thence five miles north; and thence ten miles east to the point of commencement.

NOTE.—Korungulla Creek is about twenty miles north from northern extremity of Kalboora West Run.

Nutting's Berella North & Berella South leases are granted by the Lands Dept. *Govt Gazette, Vol. 14, page 2122*

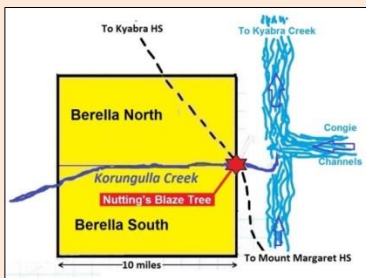
1874



While drafting cattle at Amby, he was charged by a bull, fell off his horse and died.

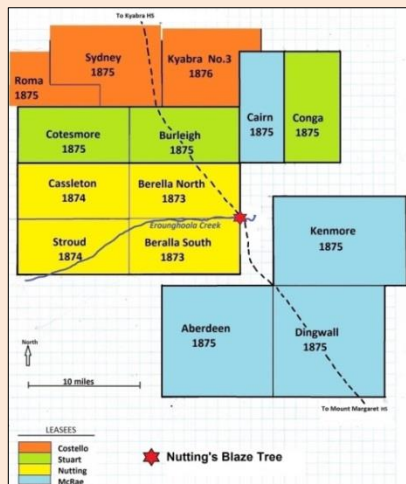
Original Runs - The first five years

1873

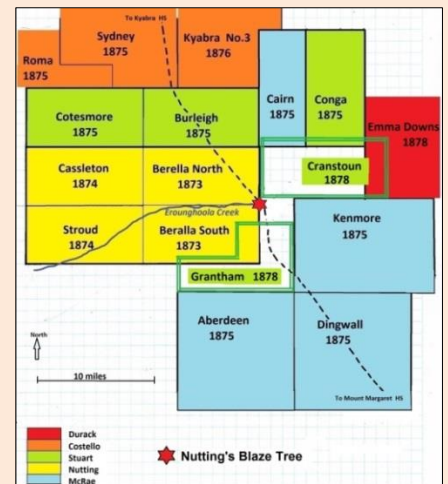


Charles Nutting

1875



1878



The future Township Reserve lies in the unclaimed land to the east of Nutting's Blaze Tree

1877 George Watson, the first Government Surveyor



Surveyor George Watson marked a coolabah next to Nutting's blaze tree on Erounghoola Creek. The broad-arrow with a triangle survey station was to become the datum point in the Proclamation of the Township and the Starting Point for various subsequent surveys.

1879 Proclamation of the Township of Erounghoola

PROCLAMATION.

By His Excellency Sir ARTHUR EDWARD KENNEDY, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Queensland and its Dependencies.

[L.S.]

A. E. KENNEDY, Governor.

IN pursuance of the authority in me vested, and in accordance with the provisions of the fifth section of "The Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1876," I, Sir ARTHUR EDWARD KENNEDY, the Governor aforesaid, with the advice of the Executive Council, do hereby notify and proclaim that the lands hereunder described shall be reserved for Township purposes.

RESERVE FOR TOWNSHIP PURPOSES ON EROUNGHoola CREEK, AT THE CROSSING OF THE MOUNT MARGARET AND KYABRA ROAD, GREGORY SOUTH DISTRICT.

Area, 4 square miles.

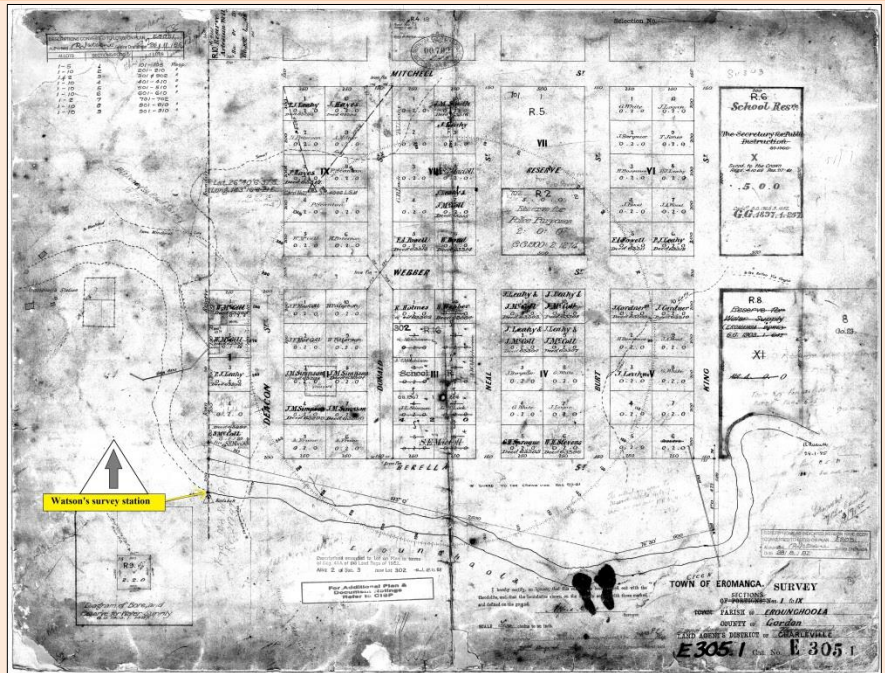
Commencing on the left side of Erounghoola Creek at a point one mile north of a coolabah-tree marked broad-arrow within triangle on right bank of said creek where the Mount Margaret and Kyabra road crosses the same; bounded thence on the west by a south line crossing Erounghoola Creek and passing through said tree two and a-half miles; thence on the south by an east line one mile forty-eight chains; thence on the east by a north line two miles and forty chains; and thence on the north by a west line one mile and forty-eight chains to the point of commencement.

Given under my Hand and Seal, at Government House, Toowoomba, this third day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine, and in the forty-second year of Her Majesty's reign.

By Command,

P. PERKINS.

1884 Surveyor Alfred Henry subdivided and mapped the Township of Eromanga



It was at about this time, and for reasons that remain obscure, that the official name of the Township was changed from EROUNGHoola to EROMANGA.

There is no evidence that the Eromanga is an Aboriginal word meaning 'windy plain'.

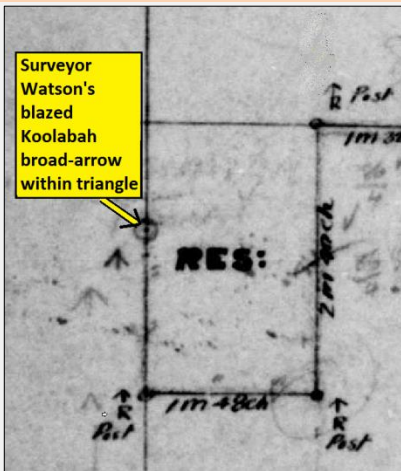
In 1903, the course of Erounghoola Creek was inadvertently diverted. Stormwater, backed up by the dam across Erounghoola Creek, had threatened to flood the Hotel. In order to prevent this happening, landlord Francis Murray dug a trench from the main creek into the 'small gully' to the NE (as shown on this map). That then became the main channel as it is today.

1884 -Royal Hotel



Surveyor Alfred Henry's map shows that by 1884 the Royal Hotel was already established.

1886 - Survey of the Township Reserve



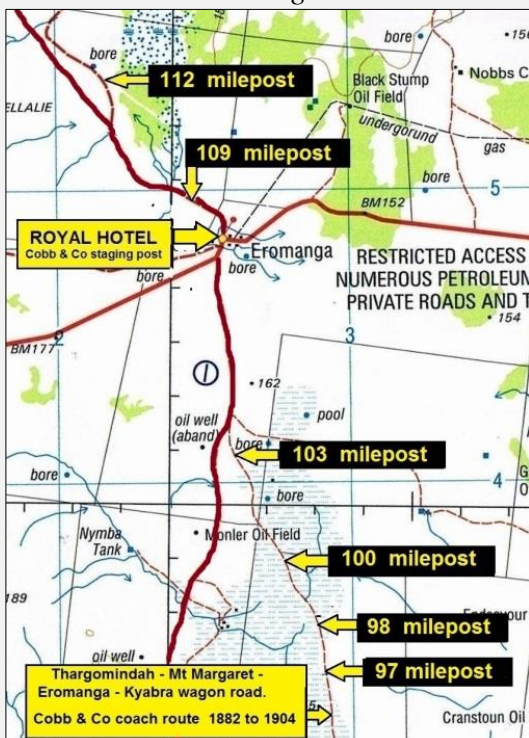
All of Salmond's original 'Broad-arrow over R' corner posts are lost, probably bulldozed during the construction of later barbed wire fences.

However one of Salmond's Reference Trees remains just to the SE of the NE corner of the Reserve. Crude blazes on both sides of the tree (now fallen) were made to help subsequent fencers to locate the corner post which were only 2ft high.

Surveyor Alexander Salmond

1897 Cobb & Co mileposts

Miles to Thargomindah



According to the Curator of the Cobb & Co Museum in Toowoomba, these are the only surviving Cobb & Co mileposts in Australia



1880s – Bullocky blaze tree



HISTORICAL BLAZE TREE

This yapunyah tree was blazed sometime between 1880 & 1890 to mark the narrowest part of the Congie Channels for bullock wagons going across to Mount Margaret Homestead.

The first formal survey of the area was undertaken in 1913 by a Government Surveyor named Frank Goringe. He followed the original wagon track across the channels and this is marked on his map as the 'Ten Chain Road'. It now forms the boundary between Cranstoun to the east and Tallyabra to the west.

The blaze on the fallen tree was identified by Rob Savory in 2014 while gathering firewood. It is not marked on Frank Goringe's 1913 survey map, possibly because it had already fallen over by then.

The blazed tree stump was erected in its original position by Eromanga Contracting.

1913 – Land survey



Eromanga Police Station

1891 Insp. John Stuart



John Stuart,
Eromanga's
first Police
Officer

1913-1914 Const. Joseph Thompson



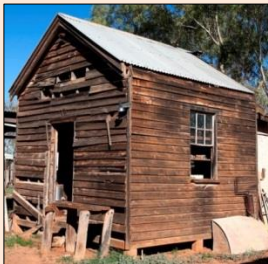
Joe Thompson
resigned from the
Qld Police and
joined the Army
in 1915. He was
killed in action in
France in 1916.
No known grave.

1948- Tracker Willie Wilson



The last of the
legendary Black
Trackers. Willie
was credited
with saving a
runaway girl's
life on 'Mount
Margaret' in the
heat of summer.

1920s First Police Station



1894 Married quarters



The cell



The old main road from Eromanga to Quilpie



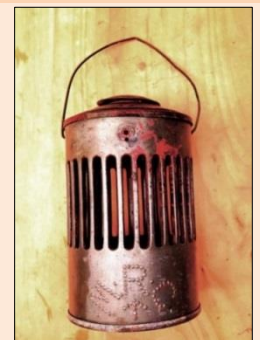
Remains of the original road across The Swamp



49½ miles to
Quilpie,
'Tallyabra'



½ mile post,
'Belombre'



Appleton's patent
warning lamp (MRC).

Old fences



'Mount Margaret'



SW corner of Eromanga Common



The Common / 'Monler' boundary

Old cattle yards / sheep pen



Originally located on Thylungra Run, now on 'Trinidad'



Originally on Bellalie Run, now on 'Mount Margaret' beside the Cooper Development Road



Originally located on Arabic Run and 'Tallyabra', now part of 'Glenvale'

Broken windmills, abandoned water troughs



Hot Springs Bore, 'Keeroongooloo'



'Arabic'



'Glenvale'



Hot Springs Bore, 'Keeroongooloo'



'Trinidad'

Telephone lines



Line No. 11 - From the Eromanga Exchange to 'Arabic'



Linesman's emergency water supply next to Line No. 11

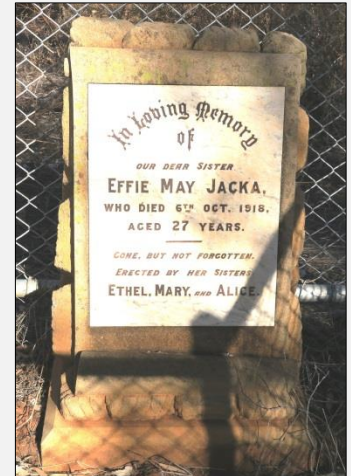
Bush graves



Grave of an unknown person (drover?) beside the Kyabra Road



Grave of opal miner Peter Boylan (1906) on 'Keerongooloo'



Grave of Effy May Jacka (1918) on 'Tallyabra'

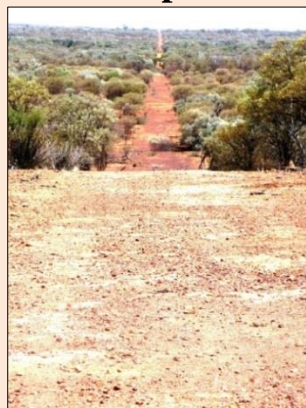
Early days of petroleum exploration



1982 Eromanga-1, our first oil well (dry) 'Belombre'



Erounghoola-1. A dry oilwell converted to an artesian water well for livestock

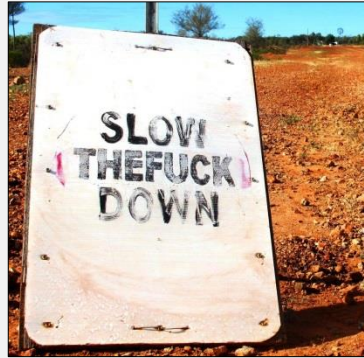


Seismic line, 'Pinkilla'. Access for the landowner and access for opal miners



Erosion gully caused by the clearing of a seismic line in the early 1980s, 'Glenvale'

Unofficial road signs



Acknowledgements – Contributors of photos and information

Adam Murray, Betty Marchant, Bill Kitson, Brad Ziebell, Clarrie Staib, Dorothy Walker, Fiona Ferguson, 'Giggles' Livingston, Helen Savory, Jack Barnes, Janet Foley, Jeff Powell, Jo & Scott Pegler, Joanne McAuley, Jo Ketter, John Walker, Johnathan Richards, Jude Osbourne, Kaye Nardella, Kimberly Smith, Mark Wallace, Michelle Scott, Nick Dunstan, 'Pommy Rob' Dennis, Ralph Walker, Rob Savory, Ted & Gemma Murray, Virginia Gordon, Wendy Groves, Wendy Sheehan.



This document is a work in progress.

More sections will be added as photographs and information come to hand.

A true story that didn't make into OUTBACK Magazine



A couple of years ago I was barrelling down the Cooper Development Road towards Eromanga in Far SW Queensland.

Approaching the Cranstoun Channels, I spotted another ute coming towards me, fast, in the opposite direction. Just then, a mother wood-duck, followed by six tiny ducklings, stepped out and started waddling across the road.

The gap between the two utes was closing rapidly. We both slammed on our brakes. Mother duck and her little brood crossed safely and disappeared into the bush on the other side of the road.

I pulled up alongside the other driver, a tough looking bloke from one of the nearby cattle stations.

“You’re a bit of a greenie, aren’t you mate?” I laughed.

“Nah” he replied, “I just didn’t want to get a smashed windscreen.”

Rob Savory
December 2015