

A Thematic History of Bogan Shire

- Draft Report -

For Bogan Shire Council

Dr Terry Kass, B A (Hons), M A (Hons), PhD
Historian & Heritage Consultant
32 Jellicoe Street
Lidcombe
NSW 2141
(02) 9749 4128

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Abbreviations

C T	Certificate of Title
DP	Deposited Plan
<i>JRAHS</i>	<i>Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society</i>
LPMA	Land and Property Management
ML	Mitchell Library
NAA	National Archives of Australia
<i>NSWGG</i>	<i>New South Wales Government Gazette</i>
<i>NSWPP</i>	<i>New South Wales Parliamentary Papers</i>
SRNSW	State Records of New South Wales
<i>V & P L A N S W</i>	<i>Votes & Proceedings, Legislative Assembly, NSW</i>

Introduction

This thematic history has been prepared as the first stage for the Bogan Shire Heritage Study Review. It is NOT meant to be comprehensive history of all aspects of the history of Bogan Shire due to limitations of time and budget. It has been framed in the light of the methodology recommended by the NSW Heritage Office. It identifies the main ‘themes’ or historical processes and developmental forces, which have shaped the landscapes and streetscapes of the area. These themes need to be identified in order to understand the context that created the physical evidence that survives of these past activities and lifestyles throughout the district. Ultimately, this document is a *land-use planning tool*, to assist the informed identification of heritage items and an appreciation of their historical context.

The NSW Heritage Office Guidelines stress that Thematic Histories should rely largely upon published secondary sources, supplemented by research in maps and plans. Due to the lack of published secondary sources on a number of aspects of the history of Bogan Shire, some primary source research has been necessary to fill these gaps. Primary sources investigated include post office files held by the National Archives of Australia, land title records, the records of the NSW Dept of Lands now held by State Records of NSW, as well as school files and other relevant sources held by State Records of NSW. Some published primary sources such as the *Government Gazette*, *NSW Parliamentary Papers* and newspapers have also been used.

How to Use this History

This history is arranged in the following manner.

The major sections are **Contextual Essays** such as ‘Settlement’ or ‘Providing Accommodation’. These provide a contextual history of change, development and continuity in Bogan Shire. All the Contextual Essays are labelled to assist the reader.

The Contextual Essays are divided into sub-sections arranged by **Theme**. These ‘themes’ explain the principal forces of change that have shaped the development of the Bogan Shire and its peoples and created its current form. Such forces leave evidence of past practices, ways of life, technologies, economies, leisure activities and so on.

Thus the arrangement of this history is:

Contextual Essay

Theme

1.0 Thematic History

1.1 Contextual Essay & Theme – The Natural Landscape

Bogan Shire is located on the Darling Plain which is an extensive plain only occasionally relieved by a low ridge or an isolated hill. Sluggish rivers flowing north-westerly drain the area. The fall in height is so slight that in times of heavy rain the whole area becomes one huge lake.¹ One report noted that ‘across the flat plains country ... catchment boundaries are practically indeterminate’.²

The Bogan River, which rises west of the source of the Little River drains the shire that bears its name. A median rainfall about 20 inches of rain per annum is received by the Bogan, which flows northwest to join the Darling River near Bourke.³ The average rainfall at Nyngan is 400 mm, though this varies considerably from year to year.⁴

Sedimentary and igneous rocks underlie the area around Nyngan. These have been eroded to form gravels, sand, silt and clay deposits along the river flats.⁵ Soils in that locality consist of brown light textured soils extending back on both sides of the Bogan River.⁶

West of the Bogan River, alluvial plains with grey clay are evident with cowals off the river catching seasonal high water flows and runoff. The cowals are usually lined with River Red Gum or Black Box. The rest of the area west of the Bogan consists of low rounded hills and ridges over metamorphosed Ordovician sediments that are vegetated with Red Box and Poplar Box.⁷

Summers are characterised by very hot weather over most of the Bogan Valley sometimes with extended periods with temperatures over 100° F (c. 38° C) for seven or more days.⁸ Temperatures range from maximum of 34.3° C in January to 3.7° C in July.⁹

¹ Premiers Department, *Macquarie Region*, p 6-7

² NSW - Water Resources and Irrigation Commission, *The Water Resources of the Macquarie Valley including the Bogan River*, p 2

³ NSW - Water Resources and Irrigation Commission, *The Water Resources of the Macquarie Valley including the Bogan River*, p 4-5

⁴ Bogan Shire Council, *Annual Report, 2000-1*, Environment Report, p 3

⁵ NSW – Dept of Water Resources, *Water Resources of the Castlereagh, Macquarie and Bogan valleys*, Dept, Parramatta 1991, p 4

⁶ Premiers Department, *Macquarie Region*, p 11

⁷ D Shelly, *Flora and Fauna of Coolabah District*, DLWC and Coolabah Landcare Group, Dubbo, 2000, p 3-4

⁸ NSW - Water Resources and Irrigation Commission, *The Water Resources of the Macquarie Valley including the Bogan River*, p 8

⁹ Bogan Shire Council, *Annual Report, 2008-9*, np

Rainfall suffers from a rain shadow effect causing most of the rain to fall on higher areas to the east. Rain is fairly evenly distributed over the year with a slight tendency for higher falls in January and February. ¹

Sandstone strata from the artesian basin come close to the surface near Nyngan, providing some artesian supplies. Yet, since the water is not replenished in that part of the basin, its quality declines as you travel further down the river. East of the river near Nyngan, artesian water can be used for stock but west of the Bogan, the water is too saline for sheep. ²

Vegetation is mainly dry eucalypt woodland with swamp oak, and river red gum woodland near the river, with an under storey of roly-poly grass, fairy grass, windmill grass, sneeze weeds, lignum, native millet, neverfail and curly Mitchell grass. West of the river the vegetation is bumble box and red box woodland with areas of Wilga and Budda. ³

¹ NSW – Dept of Water Resources, *Water Resources of the Castlereagh, Macquarie and Bogan valleys*, Dept, Parramatta 1991, p 5

² NSW - Water Resources and Irrigation Commission, *The Water Resources of the Macquarie Valley including the Bogan River*, p 19-20

³ Bogan Shire Council, *Annual Report, 2000-1*, Environment Report, p 2

1.2 Contextual Essay - Occupation by Aboriginal Peoples/Murriss

1.2.1 Theme – Living in harmony with the land

Various meanings have been ascribed to the town name of Nyngan. According to some sources, it means mussel or crayfish.¹ According to W H Brotherton, son of an early settler, Nyngan means ‘meat’. He also noted that ‘Most of the stations and some of the towns in the Nyngan district are aboriginal names, and I think if some of our fair sex knew the meaning of some of them they would collapse every time they heard them or they would have to put extra powder on their face to hide their blushing.’²

Girilambone has been recorded as meaning ‘falling star’ or meteorite.³

Tindale identified the Wongaibon Aboriginal language group as occupying the Bogan area as far as Cobar and Girilambone.⁴ The term now seems to be Wangaaypuwan.⁵

The 2008 Bogan Shire report stated that the shire was at western boundary of the Wiradjuri and that the Aboriginal residents were from the Wiradjuri and Kamilaroi groups.⁶

1.2.2 Theme – Coping with invasion

Resistance to the loss of their traditional land was evident almost as soon as white European settlers started moving their livestock onto their lands. Whilst the deaths of the white men killed in such encounters tended to be noted, the loss of Aboriginal people has been less carefully recorded.

By 1840, William Lee senior and junior had taken up a run on the Bogan River running for 15 miles along the river from Mount Hopeless [on West Bogan No 11?]. Their licence had been issued on 19 August 1839 for the ‘Bogan and west of Wellington’.⁷ When their men were building a stockyard the local Aborigines attacked them. Three of their men were killed and buried in the stockyard. The Governor, George Gipps, would not accept any responsibility for their safety since they had gone too far beyond the range of police protection.⁸

¹ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

² Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

³ J E Carne, *Copper-Mining Industry*, 1908, p 218

⁴ N B Tindale, *Aboriginal tribes of Australia; their terrain, environmental controls, distribution, limits and proper names*, Australian National University Press, Canberra 1974, p 201 and map

⁵ H Goodall, *Invasion to Embassy: Land in Aboriginal Politics in New South Wales, 1770-1972*, Allen & Unwin, St Leonards, 1996, p xiv

⁶ Bogan Shire Council, *Community Plan*, 2008-9

⁷ Treasury, *Certificates of Depasturing Licences*, SRNSW 4/92, No 275

⁸ Lds&PW58/3642, Lands and Public Works Department, Correspondence, SRNSW 5/3593

On 23 November 1840, a licence had been issued to Messrs Bolton for Mudall and 'Marrow Bones'.¹ Later, a licence had been issued to J O Balfour on 2 February 1842 for 'Morigathery' and 'Marrow Bones'.² William Abercrombie, a partner in Balfour and Co had four runs in the Wellington District by 1843. Two of the runs held by Balfour and Co, 'Muddall' and 'Marrow Bones' [Marebone?] were on the Bogan River. In 1843, his stockman Alexander Menzies was shifting sheep from Muddall when he was attacked. Two of his men were killed and the rest abandoned the stations. Before Balfour and Co took over the stations; five men had been killed on them. Francis Allman, Commissioner for Crown Lands reported in March 1843 that he had found the 'Muddall' tribe to be the fiercest of all.³ There is also a report that a group of white men were attacked at night in 1846 and killed except one at a place later called the 'Murdering Stumps' on Lee's Tabratong station.⁴

Inter-tribal battles between Aborigines from the Bogan and Macquarie in the 1850s and 1860s were fierce with serious effects on white settlers. White settlers such as Monaghan and Lynch would ride out and scare off the Macquarie Aborigines with some firepower in order to prevent this.⁵

The local Aborigines were claimed to still be very numerous in the early 1870s.⁶ The entry of larger numbers of white settlers into the area would have placed greater pressure on them. The concentration of white settlers was sparse, giving Aborigines opportunities to exist on land not so intensively used. Yet, in such a dry area whoever controlled the water sources commanded the surrounding area. Once squatters and selectors had control of these vital resources, opportunities for Aboriginal persistence were seriously eroded.

In 1971, less than 20 people identified themselves as Aboriginal in either the Bogan Shire of Nyngan Municipality.⁷ The 2001 Census showed 329 people of ATS descent, possibly the result of greater willingness to acknowledge Aboriginal ancestry.⁸ The later Census of 2006 showed 11.7% of the shire population was of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, compared to 2.3% for the rest of Australia.⁹

By 2000, Bogan Shire had been alerted to a number of scarred trees in the shire and was liaising with the local Aboriginal community and the NPWS regarding preservation.¹⁰

The Bogan Aboriginal Corporation was registered on 19 January 1984. By 2008, the Bogan Aboriginal Corporation had made a notable contribution to housing local Aboriginal people.¹¹

¹ Treasury, Certificates of Depasturing Licences, SRNSW 4/94, No 555

² Treasury, Certificates of Depasturing Licences, SRNSW 4/96, No 625

³ Lds&PW58/1726, Lands and Public Works Department, Correspondence, SRNSW 5/3588

⁴ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 213

⁵ *Back to Nyngan*, p 7

⁶ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 28

⁷ Bureau of Census and Statistics, *The Aboriginal Population – Australia*, 1971, (Ref 2.91), p 12

⁸ Bogan Shire Council, *Community Plan*, 2008-9

⁹ Bogan Shire Council, *Annual Report*, 2008-9, np

¹⁰ Bogan Shire Council, *Annual Report*, 2000-1, Environment Report, p 5

¹¹ Bogan Shire Council, *Community Plan*, 2008-9

1.3 Contextual Essay – Settlement

1.3.1 Theme – Exploring the Bogan region

Exploration of the Bogan River area was undertaken both by official surveyors and exploring parties and unofficially by stockmen moving livestock to new pastures for their employers. In 1833, the surveyor Robert Dixon traced part of the line of the Bogan River.¹

More prominent was the formal exploring expeditions led by Surveyor-General, T L Mitchell, in 1835 and 1846, which crossed the area. On 10 May 1835 T L Mitchell came to site of Nyngan, which he called Nyngen. It had ponds with wildfowl. On the same expedition, his botanist, Richard Cunningham, went missing about 17 April 1835. He was killed by local aborigines about 25 April. He was later buried at Burdenda, Tottenham.²

In his 1846 exploration, Mitchell crossed the area again. On 13 January, he found good water at 'Darobal' (now Darouble). He noted that at the site of Nyngan that 'large stockyards and a paddock remained but a house and garden fence had been burnt down'.³ He also found the burned remains of cattle stations at 'Bugabada', 'Mudi' and 'Darabal'.⁴ He found more water at Canbelego on 18 January 1846, which has been identified as being two miles west of Moonagee Airfield.⁵ On 27 January 1846, he camped at 'the ponds of Canonba', which later became the site for the village.⁶

1.3.2 Theme – Taking up pastoral land

The identity of the earliest squatters to take up land along the Bogan is unclear. Since the locations of many stations noted in the depasturing licences are unclear and the names of stations or runs have changed a number of times, it is uncertain if the correct names have been discovered. The Certificates of Depasturing licences held by State Records provide some clue but they would need more research to correctly identify all of the relevant stations. By 1840, William Lee senior and junior had taken up a run on the Bogan River running for 15 miles along the river from Mount Hopeless [on West Bogan No 11?]. Their licence had been issued on 19 August 1839 for the 'Bogan and west of Wellington'.⁷ A licence was issued to J S Corse for

¹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 22

² *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 17

³ W C Foster, *Sir Thomas Livingston Mitchell and his world, 1792-1855: Surveyor General of New South Wales, 1828-1855*, Institution of Surveyors, NSW, Sydney, 1985, p 374-5

⁴ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 18

⁵ W C Foster, *Sir Thomas Livingston Mitchell*, p 375

⁶ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 19

⁷ Treasury, Certificates of Depasturing Licences, SRNSW 4/92, No 275

'Graddell on Bogan Creek' on 21 October 1839.¹ John Corse junior held 'Gradell' 31,000 acres on Bogan River in 1849.² On 23 November 1840, a licence was issued to Messrs Bolton for Mudall and 'Marrow Bones' [Marebone?].³ The burned remains of cattle stations found by T L Mitchell on 16 January 1846 at 'Bugabada', 'Mudi' and 'Darabal' appear to relate to some of these stations.⁴

Colane was reputed to have taken up by Lyne and Tabyan taken up in the late 1830s, but no confirmation of this has been found. The property was later owned by A H McCulloch. His son Frank was killed in an accident on the property in December 1869 and he was buried in what was later known as the 'Monument Paddock'. The house burned down about 1860 and new one was built half a mile from the old one and had a post office adjacent.⁵

Likewise, W Donohue (later of Merri Merri) was reputed to be the original holder of Canonba but no confirmation of this has been located. It later came into hands of John Brown.⁶ John Brown is claimed to have taken a lease of land near Canonba in February 1848. He used the aboriginal name 'Carringbung' which was corrupted to Canonbar or Cannonbar. The private township of Canonba known as Brownstown developed on his land.⁷ On 20 August 1849, the boundaries of Brown's holding at Canonba were set by the Commissioner of Crown Lands so he was in occupation by then.⁸

As was common for opening up new areas with rough conditions, early settlers used cattle as the first stock on their runs since they were more robust. Sheep were too vulnerable for the country until late in the 1860s when John Brown of Canonbar and Richardson Brothers of Murrawombie installed wire fencing.⁹

In 1854, Hugh Monahan [sic] and his wife arrived on the Bogan but were scared off by Aborigines. They returned in 1858 to take up land where Nyngan stands. Their daughter (Catherine) married (Peter) Lynch who took up West Bogan No 7 station. Their son J W was born on 12 June 1865 and acted as a significant informant for the 1928 history in the 'Back to Nyngan' publication.¹⁰ Much of the later history of the area has been based of his recollections, not always accurate and those of W H Brotherton.

John Brown applied to purchase 160 acres around his homestead under his pre-emptive right in 1856. This was complicated by the fact that his land was partly on Reserve 88A. The Surveyor-General A G McLean decided the land was too remote and unimportant for the reserve to be needed. Additionally, Brown's neighbour P O'Donoghue had built his hut on Brown's land since the boundaries were unclear.

¹ Treasury, Certificates of Depasturing Licences, SRNSW 4/92, No 477

² J F Campbell, *'Squatting' on Crown Land in New South Wales*, Royal Australian Historical Society, Sydney, 1968, p 46

³ Treasury, Certificates of Depasturing Licences, SRNSW 4/94, No 555

⁴ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 18

⁵ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 63

⁶ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 20

⁷ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 19

⁸ SG56/13351 in SG58/6869, Surveyor-General, Letters Received, SRNSW 5/5535

⁹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 29

¹⁰ *Back to Nyngan*, p 7

Once these issues were resolved, Brown was able to purchase the land paying £160 for it on 19 July 1858.¹ The land across Duck Creek facing Brown's holding also totalled 160 acres. It was bought by Charles York of Emu Plains who paid it off on 19 March 1858.²

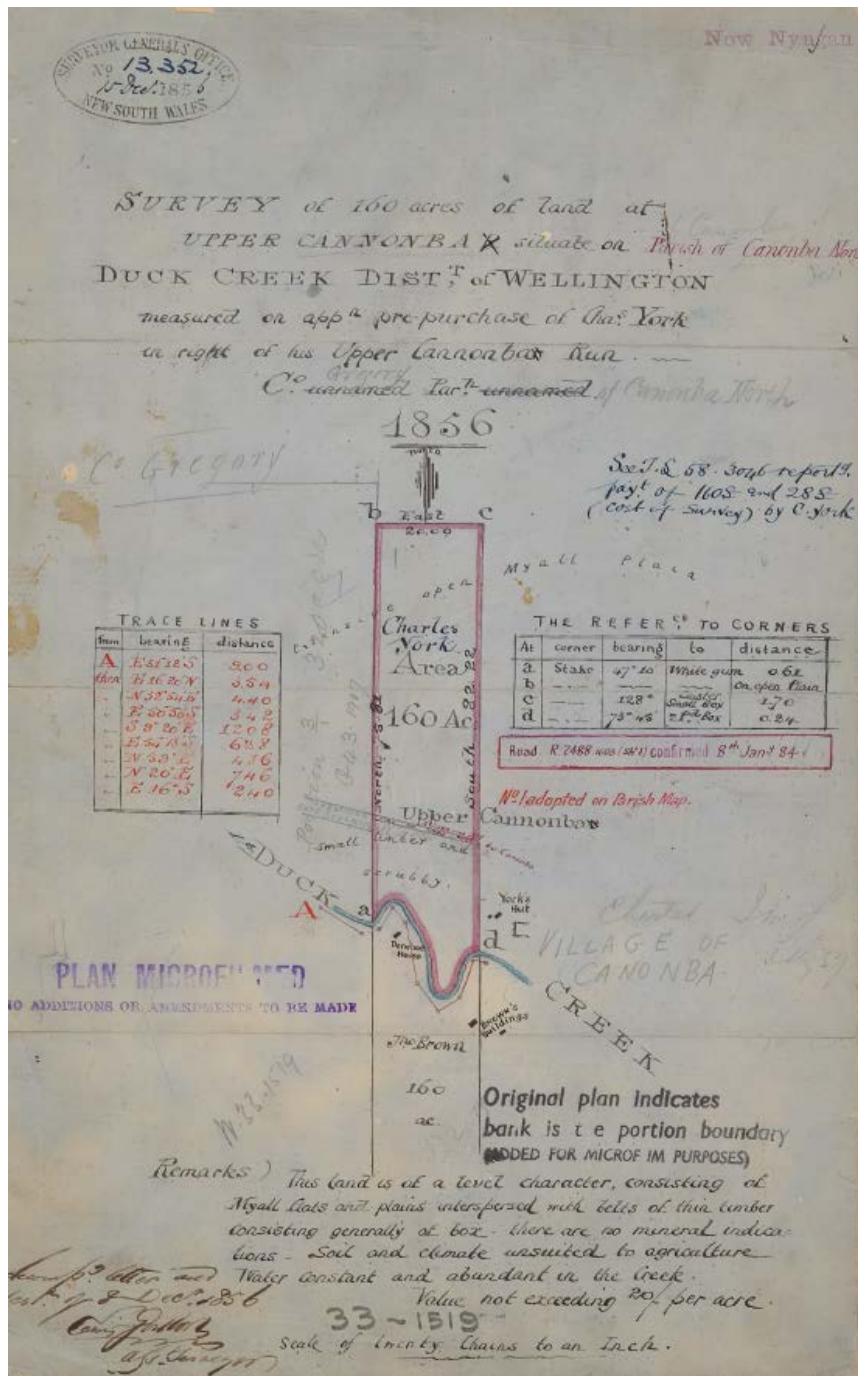


Figure 1 The 1856 survey of Charles York's pre-emptive purchase showed his own buildings plus those of John Brown and others nearby. Source: W.33.1519, Crown Plan

¹ SG58/6869, Surveyor-General, Letters Received, SRNSW 5/5535

² SG 58/3046, Surveyor-General, Letters Received, SRNSW 5/5523

In September 1859, A Kerr held the Nyngan Run, of 16,000 acres, in the Wellington District accepted in 1849. C Brady held the Nyngan West run, of 16,000 acres also accepted in 1849.¹ The map by Reuss and Browne published in the 1860s showed how runs were positioned along the rivers. It also depicted the West Bogan lands.² In the late 1850s, the Crown created the West and East Bogan runs running about 15 miles back from the river. Most were taken up in 1859.³

According to one source, E S Hall owned the Willeroon property near the future site of Coolabah in 1858. It was later a stopping place for Cobb & Co coaches. In 1999, some remnants of the homestead were still extant.⁴

The *Back to Nyngan* publication states that after 1858, Mr Moore took up West Bogan No 1 Station with Dugald McVigar [McVicar?] as manager; Nos 2 and 3 were held by Joseph Aarons of Wellington and managed by William Lynch; Nos 4 & 5 by Lou Richardson who occupied the run; No 6 Mr Neal; No 7 Lynch and Neal; Nos 8, 9 and 10 Mr Hall of Willeroon.⁵ Correct information was provided by the 1865-66 Parliamentary Return of runs.

West Bogan Runs 1865

Run	Lessee	Area	Date Current Lease Commenced	Date Lease will Expire	Number in Listing
West Bogan 1	C E Labelliere	47,000	22 May 1862	21 May 1867	314
West Bogan 2	J Penzer and W Gardiner	47,500	22 May 1862	21 May 1867	315
West Bogan 3	J Aarons, jun	46,000	6 Jan 1864	5 Jan 1869	377
West Bogan 4	J How & A Thomson	45,000	1 Jan 1863	31 Dec 1867	302
West Bogan 5	H E Holland	47,000	1 Jan 1863	31 Dec 1867	303
West Bogan 6	W W Richardson	47,500	6 Jan 1864	5 Jan 1869	378
West Bogan 7	James Readford	44,500	1 Oct 1863	30 Sept 1868	376
West Bogan	E S Hall	50,000	3 Oct 1864	2 Oct 1869	316

¹ 'Crown Lands (Under lease or licence beyond the Settled Districts)', *V & P L A N S W*, 1859-60, volume 3, p 684

² *Reuss and Browne's map of New South Wales and part of Queensland showing the relative positions of pastoral runs, squattages, districts, counties, towns, reserves, etc*, 186-, NLA Map NK 5928

³ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

⁴ Simmonds, *Cobb & Co*, p 73; Note that neither Hall nor 'Willeroon' are listed in the 1859 return of Crown Leases. See 'Crown Lands (Under lease or licence beyond the Settled Districts)', *V & P L A N S W*, 1859-60, volume 3

⁵ *Back to Nyngan*, p 8

Run	Lessee	Area	Date Current Lease Commenced	Date Lease will Expire	Number in Listing
8	[forfeited]				
West Bogan 9	E B Cornish [forfeited]	48,000	3 Oct 1864	2 Oct 1869	317

Source: 'Crown Lands (Held under pastoral occupation)', *V & P L A N S W*, 1865-66, volume 3, p 275-76

The same Return of Crown Leases showed 'Nyingen East' of 12,000 acres was held by A Ker [sic] from 1 January 1852 to 31 December 1865 and 'Nyingen West' of 12,000 acres held by Charles Brady for the same term.¹

In 1870, the West Bogan runs were listed as being held by – No 1 Charles Labelliere, 47,000 acres; No 2 Penser [sic] and Gardiner, 47,500 acres; No 4 Morehead and Young 45,000 acres; No 5 Henry Edward Holland, 47,000 acres; No 6 William W Richardson, 47,000 acres; No 7 James Readford, 44,500 acres.² At one stage, No 1 Block adjacent to Nyngan bridge was leased by D McGregor.³

During the early 1870s when Joseph Aarons leased the West Bogan No 2, it was managed by William Brotherton. His son, William Henry Brotherton, was born in 1873. He died on 12 November 1928. In 1938, the *Nyngan Observer* published data he had provided about the early history of the area.⁴

Murrawombie station was located on Duck Creek, 23 miles from Canonbar held by T L Richardson, In October 1874, it was described in a press article. The station had a steam sawmill. A new shearing shed to house 40 shearers was being erected in T-shape form.⁵

Buddabuddah was claimed to have originally been in the hands of John Suttor of Bathurst, who appears to have abandoned it after problems with Aborigines. T Turner then held it followed by Fanning, Griffiths and Co, and then John Corse until John Balfe took it in 1859. In November 1874, a press article described it.⁶ After passing out of the hands of J Balfe, it was later owned by William Perry (c. 1910) John Kidston, Les Korsch and the Hamblin family.⁷ In November 1874, the Bayswater Hotel was located across the Bogan River from Buddabuddah and was licensed to John Smith Skinner. By 1983, the site was vacant.⁸

For the stations west of the Bogan River, with little in the way of permanent water, water storage was a crucial aspect of managing their runs. W H Brotherton claimed

¹ 'Crown Lands (Held under pastoral occupation)', *V & P L A N S W*, 1865-66, volume 3, p 272, 275

² *Bailliere's New South Wales Gazetteer and Road Guide*, Sydney, 1870, p 59

³ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 28

⁴ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np; BDM Index, Registered Dubbo, No 1873/10037

⁵ *ATCJ*, 10 October 1874, p 580

⁶ *ATCJ*, 7 November 1874, p 740

⁷ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 58

⁸ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 59

that his father William Brotherton built the first tank on the West Bogan on No 2 run.¹ From the 1870s onwards, construction of wells and tanks commenced along the western stock routes.² By the early 1880s, the NSW Public Works Department had built a number of tanks along the stock route leading to Cobar. From 1 April 1881, the Booroomugga, Muriel and Hermitage Tanks on the road from Cobar to Nyngan were leased to Wright, Heaton & Co.³ On 21 November 1882, C W King surveyed Hermitage Government Tank (Portion 1, parish Nirranda County Canbelego) situated on the Hermitage Plains South Run, which showed the tank, a small tank, stables and a dwelling house.⁴

By 1880, large runs dominated the district though smaller one nestled amongst the larger ones. By 1880, John Brown's property included Duck Creek, Mudall, Box Cowal, East Nyngan, Wera, Darouble, Glencoe, and Miowera.⁵ John Brown offered his large holding for sale in 1880 with about one million acres largely of leasehold. It was bought by William Alison for £160,000.⁶ Alison later lived at 'Box Cowal' not 'Belmont' as Brown's house had been known.⁷ John Brown died at Emu Plains aged 84 in 1888.⁸ On 15 July 1878, William Harvey Armstrong and Charles Trench Armstrong bought Callubri from W H Clements for £23,503/14/9.⁹

Dramatic change was about to occur. First the town of Nyngan was set up on the Nyngan East run. More fundamentally, two new Land Acts were passed in 1884 controlling all Crown Land alienation and occupation. NSW was divided into three Divisions, the Eastern, Central and Western Divisions. Bogan Shire is largely in the Central Division though small parts intrude into the Western Division.¹⁰ The Act allowed for pastoral leases, annual and special leases, scrub leases and conditional leaseholds.¹¹ Free selection was still possible under this Act but the maximum area was enlarged by permitting the applicant to take up three-quarters of their selection as a Conditional Lease, with the proviso that it could later be converted into a Conditional Purchase.¹²

¹ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

² NSW – Dept of Water Resources, *Water Resources of the Castlereagh, Macquarie and Bogan valleys*, Dept, Parramatta 1991, p 11

³ NSWGG, 25 March 1881, p 1611; See also D MacDonald, *Map of New South Wales showing stock routes, tanks, wells and trucking stations*, Melbourne, NLA Map Room 3193

⁴ W.117.1834, Crown Plan

⁵ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 26

⁶ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 26

⁷ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 20

⁸ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 19

⁹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 60-1

¹⁰ A G Lang, *Crown Land*, p 6

¹¹ A G Lang, *Crown Land*, p 11

¹² *Cyclopaedia of New South Wales*, McCarron Stewart & Co, Sydney, 1907, p 148

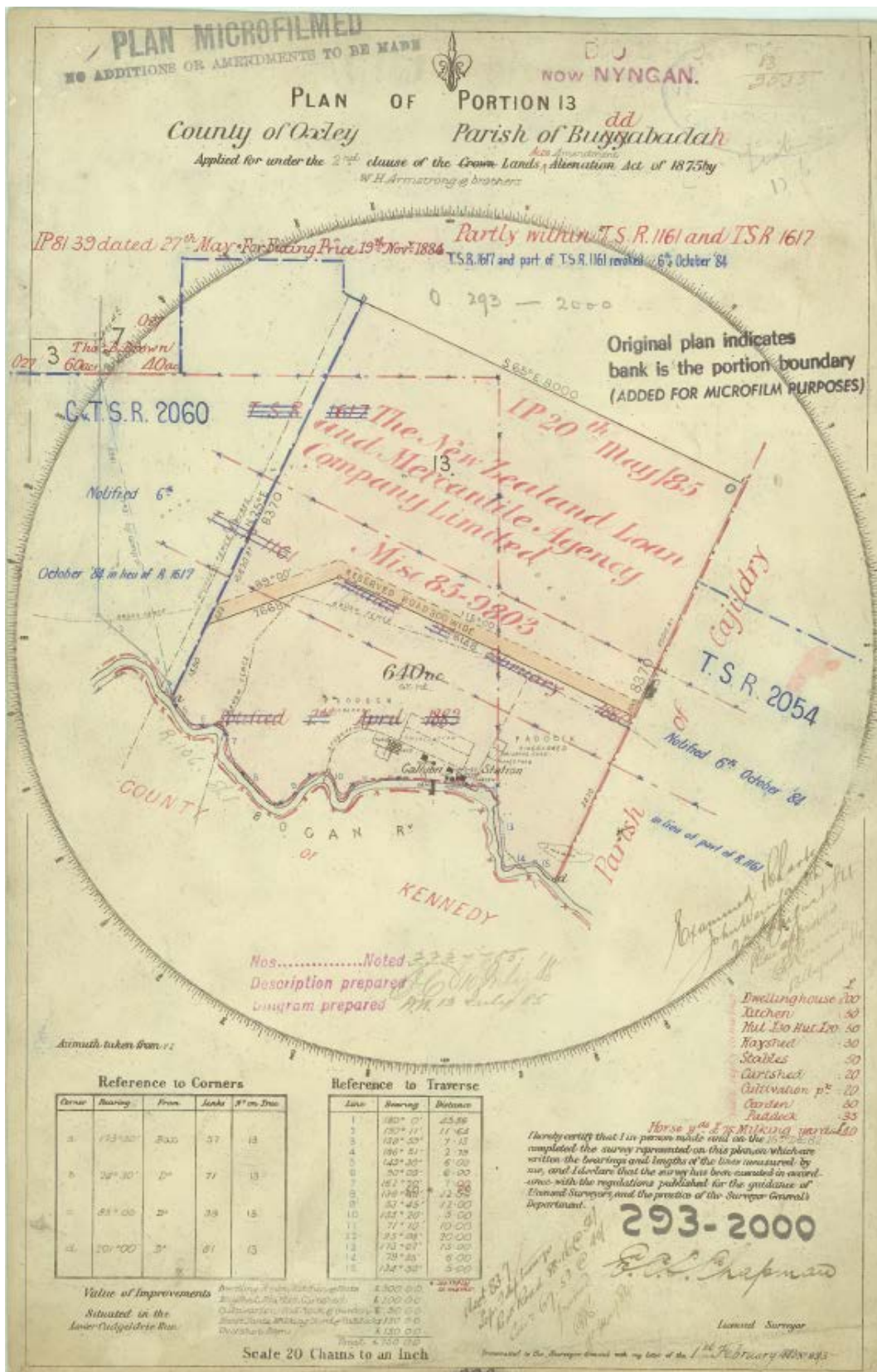


Figure 2 When W H Armstrong applied to purchase the homestead area of Callubri under his pre-emptive right, the survey plan showed the buildings around his homestead, in February 1883. Source: O.293.2000, Crown Plan

The Act required pastoral landholders to divide their land into two sections, the Leasehold area and the Resumed area. The Leasehold area was leased to the runholder for fixed periods. The Resumed portion could be held by them under an annual lease only. It was liable to be resumed for settlement by the Department of Lands. A re-assessment of the nature of pastoral holdings was the central principle enshrined in the new Act. All pastoral land in NSW had to be re-evaluated by the Department. Scrub Leases were created by the 1884 Act. These provided for the leasing of areas less than 10,240 acres (4,144 ha) as scrub lands.¹

The 1884 Crown Lands Act meant Pastoral Holdings, all of which were given a record number, replaced Runs. The largest in Bogan Shire was Canonbar also known as Pastoral Holding 437 Central with 30 runs held by William Alison senior and William Alison junior.² Nyngan East run, which largely surrounded Nyngan and provided much of the site for the town became Pastoral Holding 145 Central. On 10 September 1885, the Pastoral Holding map showed the area still left in the runholder's hands.³

When the Lands Dept Inspector assessed Nyngan East, Pastoral Holding 145 Central in December 1886, he described its trees as box, pine, belah, myall, buddah, rosewood and willow. The grasses were blue, Mitchell and umbrella grass whilst the herbage or bushes were crowfoot, saltbush and cottonbush. The land was very scrubby and 'very much cut up by traffic'. There was one tank, '1200 yards; 9 ft; supply 200 sheep for 6 months, catchments good, soil retentive'.⁴ The 'Head Station' was situated on what became lots 7 and 8 Section 20 of the Town of Nyngan. Nearby was a Chinese Garden plus other huts as well as 'Old Graves'.⁵

Despite losing half of their runs to a short-term lease, which could be revoked at short notice, squatters still thrived. In the early 1890s, William George Matchett bought Mullengudgery run. His father William Matchett had bought Budgery of 64,000 acres and Geweroo of 64,000 acres and V Block near Hermidale, which he gave to his son after he married.⁶ Canonbar Pastoral Holding was advertised for sale with a 20-mile frontage to the Bogan River in January 1891.⁷ Joseph Rankin bought it for £192,721/15/0.⁸

¹ Lands, *Annual Report*, 1885, p 15

² W Hanson, *The Pastoral Possessions of New South Wales*, Gibbs Shallard & Co, Sydney, 1889, p 219-20

³ PH 145 Central, LPMA Historical Maps website

⁴ Lands, Occupation Branch, Occupation Licence, No 145, Nyngan East, SRNSW 3/5019

⁵ Town Map, Nyngan, 1894

⁶ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 61

⁷ *SMH*, 30 Jan 1891, p 3

⁸ *SMH*, 31 Jan 1891, p 11

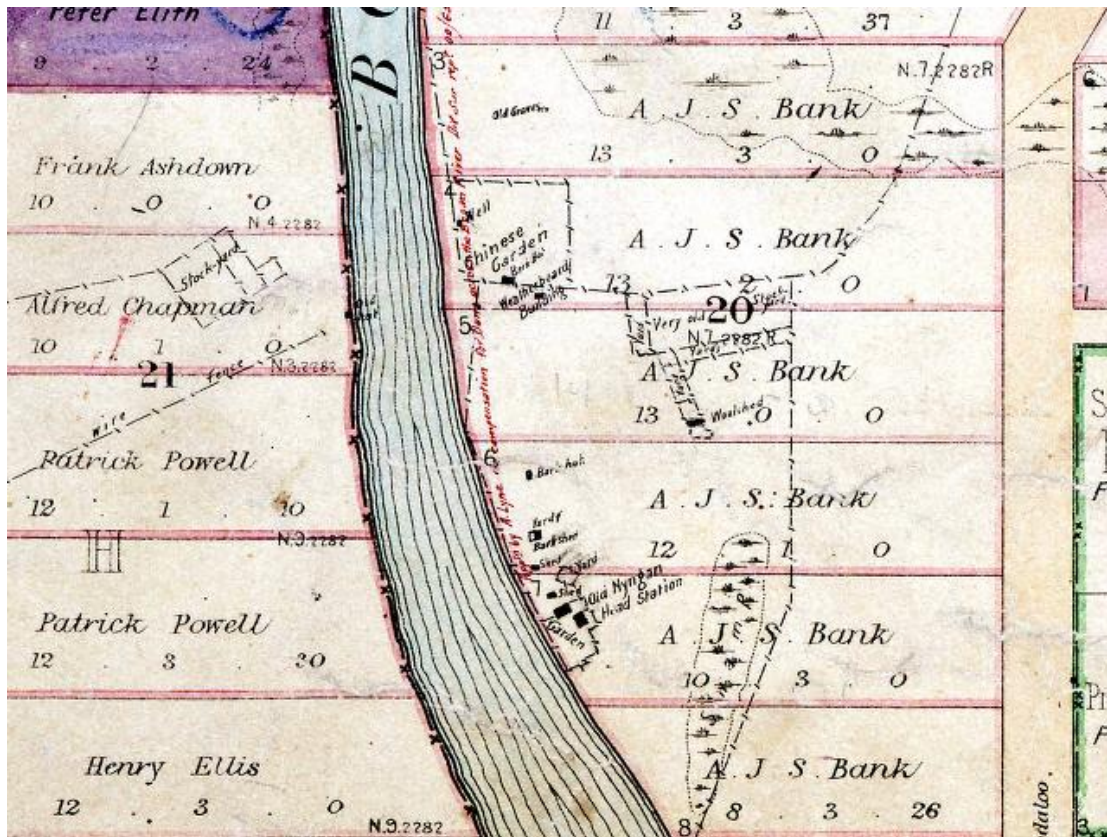


Figure 3 The head station and other buildings of the Nyngan run were shown on the 1894 edition of the Nyngan Town Map. Source: Town Map, Nyngan, 1894

By 1895, the spread of ‘woody’ weeds, mainly pine and box seedling scrub west of the Bogan River had considerably reduced the area available to lessees of runs. As a group, they approached the Minister for Lands, J H Carruthers, seeking some arrangement to reduce their rents or assist them to clear the scrub. Bragg Brothers, the lessees of West Bogan Nos 2 and 3 runs, noted how their carrying capacity had been reduced from 27,000 sheep on 1891, to 21,000 in 1892 and in 1893 to 12,000, figures that the District Surveyor confirmed.¹ A map supplied with the resulting report detailed the affected areas. The cross-hatched areas were those alienated from the Crown. The diagonal hatching covered the areas leased to stockholders.

¹ ‘Crown Lands (Proposals with respect to the conversion of certain pastoral leases ... Land Board District of Dubbo ...)', *V & P L A N S W*, 1895, volume 3, pp 123-4

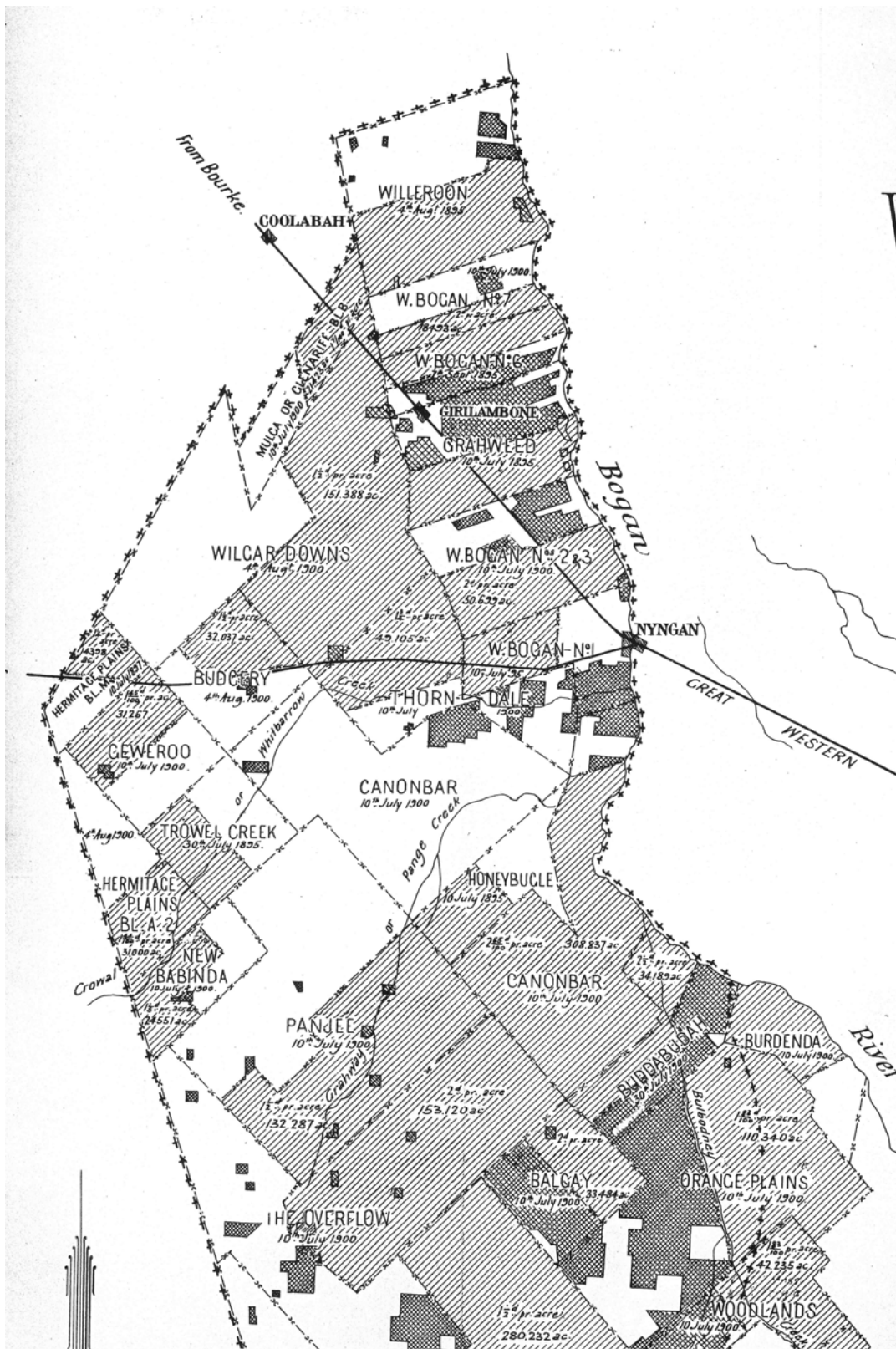


Figure 4 The West Bogan leases in 1895 showing the areas affected by woody weed. Source: 'Crown Lands (Proposals with respect to the conversion of certain pastoral leases ... Land Board District of Dubbo...)', *V & P L A N S W*, 1895, volume 3

Subsequently, the Lands Department used unemployed labour to clear scrub on West Bogan. The operation was overseen from premises in Panjee Street.¹ At the same time, a new condition was attached to Scrub Leases by the 1895 Lands Act. Scrub Leases had been available for land wholly or partly covered by scrub and could be leased by auction, tender or application for terms up to 21 years. The term was extended to 28 years by the 1895 Act. The holder had to destroy the scrub or noxious weeds and keep it free. In the final year of the lease the lessee could apply to convert it to a homestead grant of 640 acres.²

The Improvement Lease was created by the 1895 Lands Act and allowed the leasing of scrub land not suitable for settlement, up to 28 years. Land classified as scrub or inferior could be taken up under this tenure. They were offered by auction or tender and were available up to a maximum of 20,480 acres. The term was 28 years. Conditions included improving the land under conditions drawn up for each case and the holder had tenant rights to any improvements. There was no compulsory residence requirement.³

The Settlement Lease was created by the 1895 Lands Act and was available for land set aside for this. It could be taken up for agriculture or grazing with a maximum of 1,280 acres for agricultural use and 10,240 for agriculture plus grazing. The term was 28 years later extended to 40 years. The holder had to reside on it for the whole term and enclose the holding within 5 years, and comply with conditions about noxious animals, scrub etc. The holder could apply to convert it to a homestead selection in the final year with an area of 1,280 acres.⁴

By August 1896, six Improvement Leases covering 100,000 acres had been taken up and the pastoral lessees had also signed Scrub Leases over 562,000 acres. Settlement Leases were issued over nearly 100,000 acres. Under the control of the Department of Labour the unemployed would clear the scrub and ringbark from near the rail line from Nyngan to Coolabah and from Nyngan to Cobar.⁵ In September 1898, the *Warren Herald* reported that Colane Station had been bought by Fisher Brothers from the Bank of NSW for £40,000 for 40,000 acres.⁶

Like stockowners across the state, Bogan pastoralists were severely affected by the droughts of the 1890s and 1900s. In 1902, a major drought at Nyngan still affected the district.⁷ The seasons soon turned. By 1906, pastoralists were benefiting from the prosperous conditions and there were 'large increases in the number of sheep' in the Dubbo Land Board District, which included Nyngan.⁸ In 1907 pastoralists were enjoying a good year with large increases in stock and high wool prices.⁹

The Canonbar Pastoral Holding was acquired by Goldsborough, Mort & Co in 1911. It set up Canonbar Merino Stud with its headquarters at Miowera where a new

¹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 143

² *Occupation of Lands Guide*, p 13-4

³ *Occupation of Lands Guide*, p 13

⁴ *Occupation of Lands Guide*, p 12-3

⁵ *SMH*, 13 Aug 1896, p 3

⁶ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 63

⁷ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 73

⁸ *Lands, Annual Report*, 1906, p 4

⁹ *Lands, Annual Report*, 1907, p 22

homestead was built. An accompanying village emerged. Managers over the years were J K Doyle, A R McLeod, Les Ramage, R Merriemfield and John Fowler until 1982 when the station was subdivided and sold.¹

After the Great War of 1914-18, a number of the larger holdings were broken up for closer settlement. In 1927, the Matchett family sold Mullengudgery and Murrawombie to Moxham brothers. The crown later resumed Murrawombie for closer settlement.² In 1928, Honeybugle Station owned by Goldsbrough Mort & Co and by John Brown was divided into 16 blocks for ballot. Richard Hoare from Victoria was one of the successful applicants. His property was known as Karabarn³

By 1928, the former Improvement Leases from the 1890s were expiring in Bogan Shire. They were replaced by smaller holdings mainly Homestead Selections.⁴

A sale plan of 'Benah' near Nyngan for an auction on 31 January 1929 showed how a property was divided into paddocks with buildings and other infrastructure.⁵

SUBDIVISION OF BENAH 22921A

Netted into convenient areas - rabbit harbour & burrows destroyed.
Watered by double frontage to Duck Creek numerous tanks & wells
LOT 1 Has comfortable Homestead - splendid Woolshed & Huts.
LOT 5 Has Brick Homestead.

T. ROWSTON & SON Cowra
KEARNEY & CO Trangie
Agents in conjunction have been instructed by **J.J. LEAHY**
TO SELL BY TENDER
TENDERS CLOSE
31st JANUARY 1929

Into 5 Convenient grazing areas from 3394 acres to 5758 acres each block is well watered.
FOR SALE BY TENDER IN BLOCKS OR AS A WHOLE
Sited about 17 Miles North of NYNGAN and contains some of the choicest fattening & best wool growing country in the NORTH WEST.
NO RABBITS

TERMS
10% on signing contract.
40% on possession.
Balance by 5 equal annual instalments bearing interest at 6½%.

FOR FURTHER PARTICULARS RE INSPECTION OR TENDER FORMS PLEASE WIRE OR WRITE TO
T. ROWSTON & SON COWRA
KEARNEY & CO TRANGIE
OR ANY OTHER BONAFIDE AGENTS

LOCAL SKETCH
LAND FOR SALE
NYNGAN
WARREN
VARRAMINE

AREAS OF BLOCKS & AMOUNTS DUE TO CROWN
APPENDIX ONLY

LOT NO	FREE HOLD	C P	C. L.	SPECIAL EX-LEASES (LUM LEASES)	TOTAL EX-LEASES	AMT DUE TO CROWN ON C. L. & S. P.
1	1832 3/0	1920	2761 0	200 0 0	4029 0 0	C.P. 225 2 9 C.L. 207 3 9 S.P. 5 0
2	1044 0 0	25 2 0	115 1 0	1932 2 0	4117 2 0	C.P. 6 13 3 C.L. 1398 5 0
3	3855 2 0	059 0 0	843 2 0		5758 0 0	C.P. 120 5 2 C.L. 562 6 8 C.P. 1864 10 0
4	2646 0 0	25 2 0	1046 10	1864 2 0	5592 1 0	C.P. 52 14 7 C.L. 1953 11 8
5	567 3 0	17 2 0	697 0 0	2129 0 0	3394 1 0	
TOTAL						290 0 0

H.E.C. Robinson L^{tho} 227-3 George St Sydney

Figure 5 The auction plan of Benah of January 1929 showed the layout of the property and its buildings. Source: Subdivision Plans, County Gregory, ML Map ZCP:G7/1

¹ Nyngan on Bogan, p 26-7
² Nyngan on Bogan, p 62
³ Nyngan on Bogan, p 218
⁴ Back to Nyngan, p 15
⁵ Subdivision Plans, County Gregory, ML Map ZCP:G7/1

Running livestock, principally sheep, remained the main activity of the district. In 1940-1, Bogan Shire had 674,733 sheep and lambs, 16,793 cattle, 59 dairy cows, 346 pigs, and 2,553 horses but produced a very modest 4,094 bushels of wheat.¹

The role of sheep and shearing to the development of the area was acknowledged in the 1990s with the setting up of a museum at Nyngan displaying shearing equipment. By 2000, development of that museum of shearing equipment to be housed in the old railway goods shed was well advanced.²

1.3.3 Theme – Running livestock

Early settlers on the Bogan used cattle as the first stock on their land. Sheep were too vulnerable for the country until the late 1860s when John Brown of Canonbar and Richardson Brothers of Murrawombie installed wire fencing.³ Along with sheep came a need to house shearers when they visited stations to shear the sheep and shearing sheds and associated yards for that big annual event. From the 1870s, construction of wells and tanks commenced along the western stock routes.⁴

A new shearing shed was being built at Murrawombie station on Duck Creek, 23 miles from Canonbar by T L Richardson to house 40 shearers was being erected in T shape form.⁵

In the twentieth century, a number of sheep studs were set up in the Nyngan area. Francis Telfer Smith set up the Eudora Merino Stud in 1907. His son Max Smith took over in 1950, after the death of his father in 1945.⁶ James McLaughlin established the Merryanbone Merino Stud on Duck Creek with 278 Collaroy Stud ewes and three Bundemar Stud rams in 1925. In 1953, it was transferred to his sons James and John. In 1978, it was transferred to John R McLaughlin. In 1979 the Merryanbone Poll Merino Stud was set up.⁷ In 1927, the Mullengudgery Merino Stud, which had been formed near Bourke in 1923, was shifted to Mullengudgery by the Moxham Brothers. In 1962, the Moxham family company Mullengudgery Pty Ltd took over running the operation.⁸

The first stud to produce Border Leicester sheep primarily for meat was established at Whitewoods by W W McLaughlin in 1928.⁹ In 1946, the Gudgery Border Leicester stud was set up by W E Gibson. When the flock was divided between his sons in 1976, one stud became the Mulla stud.¹⁰ T D and A W Volkofsky formed the Booralee Border Leicester Stud in 1968.¹¹

¹ Premiers Department, *Macquarie Region*, p 26

² Bogan Shire Council, *Annual Report, 2000-1*, Environment Report, p 5

³ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 29

⁴ NSW – Dept of Water Resources, *Water Resources of the Castlereagh, Macquarie and Bogan valleys*, Dept, Parramatta 1991, p 11

⁵ *ATCJ*, 10 October 1874, p 580

⁶ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 31

⁷ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 30

⁸ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 30

⁹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 37

¹⁰ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 37

¹¹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 37

A Poll Hereford cattle stud was established at Glenhurst on Charles Kerz's property in 1960.¹ In 1969, a Poll Hereford cattle stud was formed at Gudgery Stud Park.²

In order to better serve the needs of the stockowners of the district, the Nyngan stock saleyards opened in June 1961.³ More recently, graziers have turned their attention to raising Dorpers, a Dorset cross with a large frame bred for meat.

1.3.4 Theme – Building a railway

Almost all of the urban centres in Bogan shire emerged from the decision of the colonial government in Sydney to construct railways to Bourke and then to Cobar. As a significant shipping port on the Darling River, Bourke was the loading point for a good deal of pastoral and mining produce which was freighted down the river system to South Australia thereby draining away the trade from NSW. Intent on capturing that trade, the colonial government decided to construct a rail line to Bourke, which subsequently meant a railway station and village at Nyngan where the line crossed the Bogan River. Copper mining fuelled the development of the booming town of Cobar and inspired the construction of a rail line to serve it, which branched off the main line to Bourke from Nyngan.

The tender of A & R Amos to build the railway from Dubbo to Nyngan was accepted on 21 December 1880.⁴ The partnership of Mann Carey & Co built the line from Nyngan to Bourke, which opened in 1885. Smith and Finlayson built the line from Nyngan to Cobar.⁵

After the railway reached Nyngan, the official opening ceremony was held there on 9 June 1883.⁶ For a time, Nyngan boomed. As the rail terminus, it attracted considerable trade for storekeepers and for those shifting goods such as teamsters. Thus, it was little wonder that those who had invested in the town were not anxious for the line to be extended to Bourke. When the railway was extended to Byrock on 2 September 1884 and from Byrock to Bourke on 3 September 1885, it caused a loss of interest in Nyngan. Many traders moved on to towns further along the line.⁷

The opening of the branch rail line from Nyngan Junction to Cobar on 1 July 1892 ensured a new boom. As a junction, Nyngan was often very busy when trains or mail arrived.⁸ This started a new boom in Nyngan, which created the core of the future town.⁹ Apart from the commercial role of Nyngan serving the surrounding district, it was a major rail centre so that a substantial number of residents obtained their employment directly or indirectly from the railway. In 1903, residents of Nyngan

¹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 38

² *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 38

³ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 109

⁴ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

⁵ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

⁶ *Sydney Mail*, 16 June 1883, p 1117

⁷ *Back to Nyngan*, p 9

⁸ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 204

⁹ *Back to Nyngan*, p 9

included shunters, fuelmen, firemen on the railway, porters and even a signal-fitter and the locomotive foreman David Howell. Apart from them, there were numerous labourers, many of whom would have worked shifting goods when trains were loaded or unloaded. Fitters lived along the length of the line. Additionally, the elite employees of the railway department, engine drivers also lived at Nyngan such as Adolphus Beverley, John Brand, George Fisher and William Smith.¹

Despite the introduction of the motorcar, rail transport maintained its grip on long distance travel for passengers and goods for many decades, though by the 1950s, the motorcar was gaining a superior position. In December 1957, the introduction of air-conditioned diesel trains from Dubbo to Bourke ensured a more comfortable journey for passengers.² Nyngan was the headquarters for the Far Western railway area in 1958.³ The replacement of passenger trains by motor coaches in later years ensured that the rail line remained only as freight carriers.

1.3.5 Theme – Developing mineral wealth

Though gold has captured the romantic imagination of many, it was copper, which was the first mineral to excite the speculative fancies of investors in NSW. Likewise, copper was the mineral that provided the bulk of mining activity in the Bogan area. The Bogan Gold Field had been proclaimed on 15 October 1880, but it was the development of the copper ores west of the Bogan River that provided most of the mineral wealth of the district. Copper ore had been discovered at Cobar in 1870 and the town was laid out the following year. With men familiar with the traces of copper on the ground and aware of the potential wealth it fostered, it was only a short time before other traces of copper were found. Most proved to be only a colour with no possibility of profitable mining whilst other finds started genuinely successful mining development.

Early in 1880, Hartman, Campbell and others opened up the Girilambone Copper mine on Portions 2 and 3, parish Gidalambone County Canbelego. Hartman claimed to have found some ore there in 1875. In 1879, in association with his brother-in-law Charles Campbell and two others, he took up four 40-acre Mineral Conditional Purchases. However, the run owners W W and T L Richardson, holders of the West Bogan No 5 run, disputed their claim. The Richardsons successfully acquired ownership of the mine by taking up the land under Volunteer Land Orders over the same land. Furnaces were under construction in 1881. From 1881 to 1894, the mine was run on a small scale on tribute. On 18 October 1896, the Girilambone Copper Mining Co Ltd was formed. In 1897, from 17,154 tons of ore, 173 tons of copper was extracted. The main period of production was from 1897 to 1901. The copper was difficult to extract but reverberatory furnaces were used fired with wood obtained locally. Water was difficult to find on the surface but the mine workings provided sufficient water for the refining process. In 1908, J E Carne of the Department of Mines reported that the success of the mine was 'well assured' despite its low grade ore though the lack of sufficient water hampered the mine development. However,

¹ Australia, *Electoral Roll*, 1903, Electoral District of Cobar, Nyngan Division

² Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

³ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

production was intermittent. It ceased in 1910 when 500 tons of ore had been recovered.¹

R A Sorenson found a copper lode in Parish Hermitage, County Canbelego in 1906. There were great expectations that the lode would be highly profitable. Soon 108 lease applications on nearby land had been received by the Department of Mines and companies had been floated to mine them in a frenzy of mining speculation. Yet, only the original lode proved to be profitable since it was an isolated outcrop.² Production was soon under way and the Budgery Copper mine produced ore for many years.³ As late as 1965, the mine produced 10.30 tons of copper.⁴

Nonetheless, for many years, production from the copper mines in Bogan Shire was small and spasmodic. Despite the huge demand for copper during World War Two, the mines around Girilambone and Hermidale did not inspire renewed development.⁵

In 1992, mining of the copper leases between Girilambone and Hermidale was under way again. The Tritton Copper mine owned by Straits Resources Ltd was prepared for production.⁶ The opening of the Tritton Copper Mine in January 2005 commenced with new underground operations from Girilambone using former open cut pits; using heap leaching pads to produce copper cement and enlarging copper processing capacity.⁷ During its first year of operation, it produced 23,088 tonnes of copper concentrate.⁸

The mine reversed the population decline of Bogan Shire, causing demand for accommodation and services. At 30 June 2008, there were 300 employed in mining.⁹ Though development stalled during the financial crisis of late 2008, plans are currently under way to produce as much as 300,000 tonnes of concentrate per annum.¹⁰

1.3.6 Theme – Providing transport

Roads across the district evolved slowly as settlement was originally sparse. By 1870, a coach service operated by Beresford and Jones was crossing the area carrying passengers from Dubbo to Bourke.¹¹ J W Colless conducted a coach service for the area from Hillston to Bourke from June 1875 onwards.¹² The most widely known operator, Cobb & Co was running four coach services through Canonba in 1876.¹³ In

¹ J E Carne, *Copper-Mining Industry*, 1908, p 217-23; Mine Record 517 Girilambone Copper Mine, Coolabah, 1897-1970, Dept of Mineral Resources

² J E Carne, *Copper-Mining Industry*, 1908, p 194-5, 247

³ Mine Record 437 Budgery Copper Mine, Hermidale, 1895-1980, Dept of Mineral Resources

⁴ Dept of Mines, *Annual Report*, 1965, p 26

⁵ Premiers Department, *Macquarie Region*, p 17

⁶ <http://www.straits.com.au/operations/tritton-copper.html>, Accessed 9 November 2010

⁷ Bogan Shire Council, *Annual Report*, 2008-9, np

⁸ <http://www.straits.com.au/operations/tritton-copper.html>, Accessed 9 November 2010

⁹ Bogan Shire Council, *Annual Report*, 2008-9, np

¹⁰ <http://www.straits.com.au/operations/tritton-copper.html>, Accessed 9 November 2010

¹¹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 81

¹² *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 81

¹³ Simmonds, *Cobb & Co*, p 67

1881, the first contract for Cobb & Co directly affecting the study area was for a run taking in Warren, Nyngan and Cobar via Pine Ridge.¹ The last Cobb & Co service carrying mail in the Nyngan area operated in 1888.²

From the 1870s onwards the colonial government constructed wells and tanks along the western stock routes.³ Penetration of the area west of the Bogan River was aided considerably by this measure. From 1 April 1881, Wright Heaton and Co were granted Special Leases over the Booroomugga, Muriel and Hermitage Tanks on the road from Cobar to Nyngan built by the Public Works Department.⁴ The Leases were renewed in following years.⁵

Before the railway was opened to Cobar on 1 July 1892, there were numerous hotels along the road from Cobar to Nyngan serving the teams. They included the Sandy Creek Hotel, 5 miles west of Nyngan; Gregson's Hotel, 12 miles west of Nyngan; Hall's Pigeon Hole Hotel, 30 miles west of Nyngan; and Jack Allen's Hotel, 60 miles west of Nyngan. The railway eliminated all of them.⁶

The 1890s witnessed the first wheeled transport craze focussed on the bicycle. Not only was it a sturdy and reliable mode of transport that did not need feed or water, but it was fast and economical. It soon had a devoted following in all ranks of society. Cyclists clubs were formed and races held. Nyngan had its share of cycle agents selling the sleek new form of transport but for those with more money to spend there was soon an even more exciting form of transport on offer.

Motorcars had advantages for people such as medical practitioners and even pastoralists who needed to travel long distances often late at night, though it would be decades before the state of roads was adequate. Cars quickly went from being playthings of the wealthy to being essential. The first motor garage at Nyngan opened in 1913 was the Far Western built by James Gale for James McIvor, motor engineer.⁷ In September 1928, the Far Western Motor and Engineering Works Ltd, Nyngan, was providing petrol and car service. It also sold Ford cars and trucks. Its competitor, the Railway Garage in Nymagee Street sold Whippet and Willys Knight cars and Reo trucks.⁸ Nyngan Motors commenced business in Nymagee Street under Arthur King about 1940.⁹

Air transport was also available. By 1919, the area north of Nyngan had been set aside as an emergency landing ground.¹⁰ Maintained only to a basic standard, it was not a major aerodrome. In 19 August 1943, a report on Nyngan Airfield noted it was surfaced with red loam. After rain, the surface became soft. Though it was useful for

¹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 81

² *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 82

³ NSW – Dept of Water Resources, *Water Resources of the Castlereagh, Macquarie and Bogan valleys*, Dept, Parramatta 1991, p 11

⁴ *NSWGG*, 25 March 1881, p 1611

⁵ *NSWGG*, 1 Aug 1882, p 3994; 10 Oct 1884, p 6819

⁶ *Back to Nyngan*, p 9

⁷ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 155

⁸ *Back to Nyngan*, p 2, 4

⁹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 156

¹⁰ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 122

medium and light transport aircraft it was only reliable in dry weather.¹ By 1948, an aerial service operated to Nyngan as part of the route from Sydney to Charleville.² A terminal building and apron complex opened at Nyngan aerodrome on 10 September 1960. In 1969, a sealed runway was completed.³

1.3.7 Theme – Creating towns and villages

The network of towns and villages across Bogan Shire largely derived from the establishment of platforms on the railway lines which crossed the area coupled with mining development which inspired other settlements to emerge. The only settlement pre-dating them was the village of Canonba which emerged to service the pastoralists of the district. It was soon overtaken by the better endowed Nyngan which had rail access. Canonba slowly withered and died.

1.3.7.1 Canonba

The village of Canonba/Canonbar/Cannonbar emerged on land bought by John Brown on Duck Creek around his head station for his Canonba run. A store, the Cannonbar hotel and in time a post office emerged on his land. The government sought to develop an official village on the adjacent parcel of Crown land. On 8 September 1853 Reserve 85A near John Brown's hut at Cannonba on Duck Creek was reserved. It would form the site of the future village, both Brown's private one and the official one.⁴

In August 1857, a number of squatters from the Wellington Pastoral District requested that a post office be established at 'Cannonbar Duck Creek'. Their request was soon met. By June 1858, H J W Egan was postmaster at Canonba. Over the following years, the residents of the area, led by John Brown made strenuous efforts to keep the post office open. Brown was even postmaster himself for some years.⁵

'Cannonbar' was gazetted as a place for holding petty sessions on 4 March 1864.⁶ Canonba Police Station was set up in 1864 as part of the Western Police District with two mounted constables.⁷

The Map of the Official Village of Canonba was published in 1866 but the 'village' with buildings was shown on John Brown's land to the west. The Official Village of Canonba was proclaimed on 30 October 1866.⁸

¹ NSW airfield data sheets, 1943-44, NAA CRS A9716, Item 1541

² Premiers Department, *Macquarie Region*, p 20

³ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 123

⁴ NSWGG, 8 Sept 1853, p 1523

⁵ Post Office File, Cannonbar, Part I, 1857-68, NAA CRS SP 32/1, Petition 57/2925; Egan as PM 58/813

⁶ H Golder, *High and Responsible Office: A History of the NSW Magistracy*, Sydney University Press, Sydney, 1991, p 233

⁷ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 111

⁸ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 20

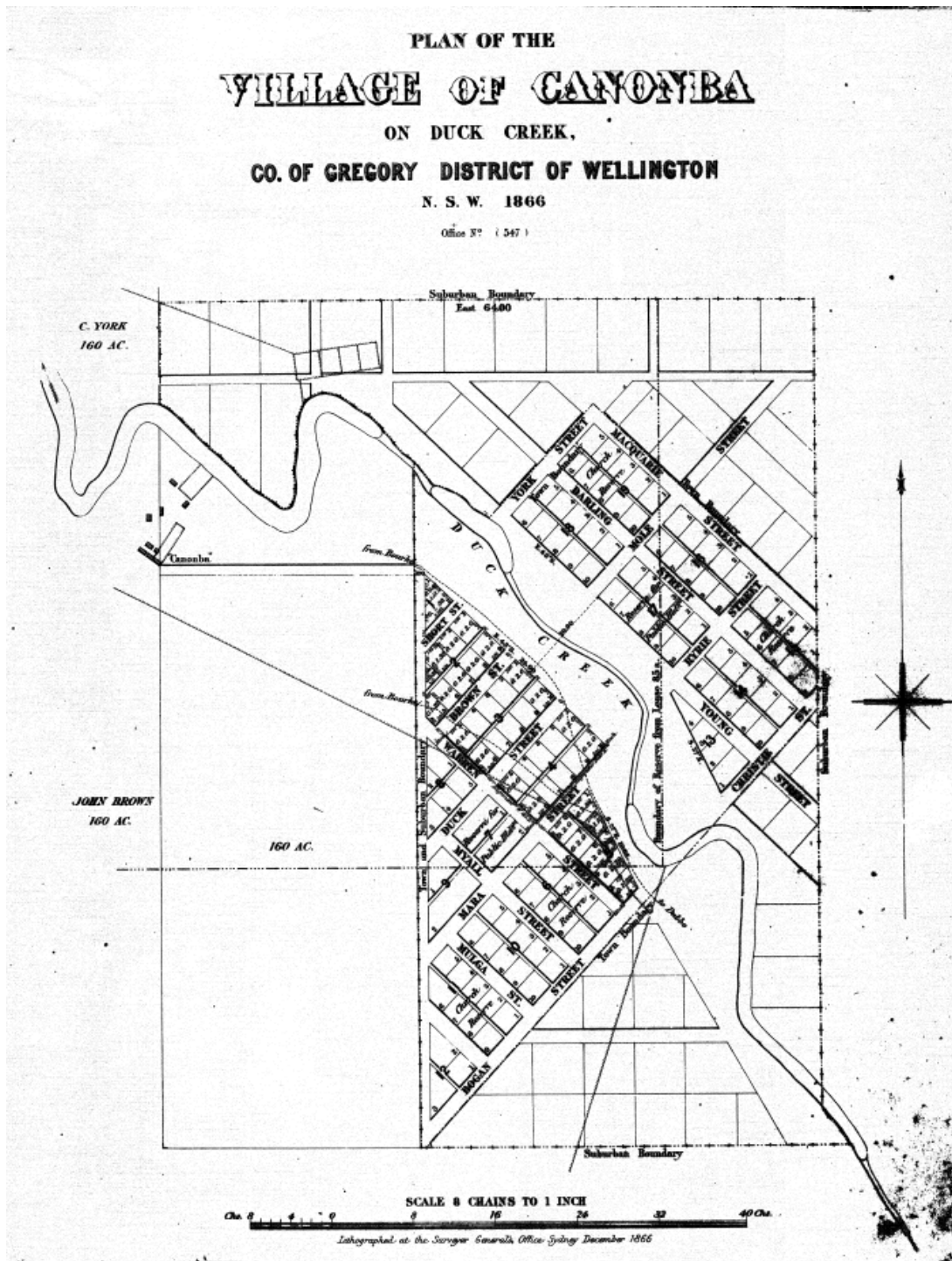


Figure 6 The official Village map of Canonba, 1866. Source: Village Map, Canonba, 1866

After a wandering life as a hawker, George Buist began business as a saddler and harness maker at Canonba in 1869 where he operated for 10 years. He then conducted the Post Office Hotel for three years. He later opened a hotel at Girilambone that he

had built himself. After his mining investments failed he became the licensee of Tattersall's Hotel in Nyngan where he died in 1888.¹

Bailliere's Guide of 1870 noted that Cannonbar was not a township (i.e. an official town). Yet petty sessions courts could be held there and there was a public pound. The buildings of the town were situated on John Brown's 320-acre freehold. They included a post office, store, and the Cannonbar hotel (Brown's). The population was about 20 people.² A map of Brownstown dated 22 July 1870 adjacent to the official town of Canonba, possibly for a private subdivision was published in the *Nyngan on the Bogan* publication.³

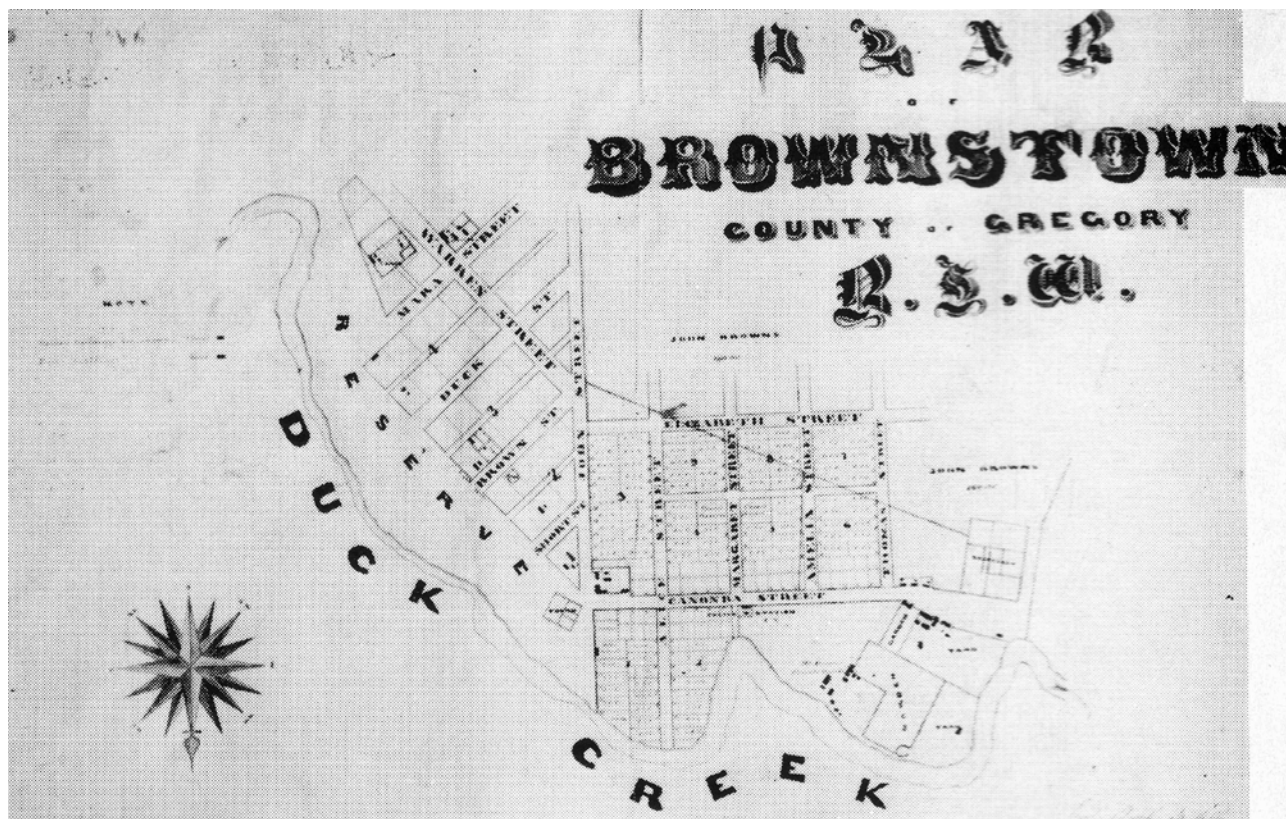


Figure 7 A map of Brownstown dated 22 July 1870 adjacent to the official town of Canonba, possibly for a private subdivision. Source: *Nyngan on the Bogan*, p 18

By the 1870s, at the height of its importance, Canonba had three or four banks, four hotels, stores, skilled tradesmen, a police station, a telegraph and money order office, a school and churches.⁴ Storekeepers included S Sullivan, A Cass and Chinaman Sam Ring.⁵ On 25 June 1871, a traveller noted two hotels, two stores, a boot and shoemaker, a blacksmith and wheelwright, the Courthouse and lock-up and some private houses in Brownstown. At Canonba adjacent, there was one hotel, one store,

¹ *Australian Men of Mark*, C F Maxwell, Sydney, Volume 2, 1889, p 342

² *Bailliere's New South Wales Gazetteer and Road Guide*, Sydney, 1870, p 119

³ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 18

⁴ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 19

⁵ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

one butcher, a baker, a saddle and harness maker and a few bark huts.¹ A police report of 1 May 1872 stated there were 500 people at Canonba either in the village or the district.² In 1873, there were three hotels licensed for Canonba, John Cuff's Cannonbar Hotel, Henry Isaac's Royal Hotel and John Quin's Commercial Hotel.³ On 13 January 1876, two men robbed the manager of the Commercial Bank at Canonba of his keys. They got away with £1,500 from the bank safe. Sub-Inspector Keegan and Senior Constable Laughton captured one of them at Bourke.⁴

A public school had opened at Canonba in January 1871. It opened and closed a number of times as the population fluctuated.⁵ The tender of John Herrick to build a bridge across Duck Creek at 'Canonbar' was accepted in July 1873.⁶ Yet, according to W H Brotherton a long-time local resident, Mr Banks built the bridge.⁷ Tenders to erect a brick police station with two cells on land reserved on Duck Creek at Canonba were offered in January 1877.⁸

In 1881, just as Nyngan was starting to emerge, the population of Canonba was 472.⁹ But, the establishment of Nyngan sucked the life out of Canonba. On 21 December 1883, petty sessions were abolished at 'Cannonbar'.¹⁰ Nyngan had previously been gazetted as a place for petty sessions on 18 May 1883.¹¹ The public school finally closed in September 1890.¹² The 1891 Census gave the population of Canonba as 58 with 12 dwellings.¹³

1.3.7.2 Nyngan

On 8 September 1853, Reserve from Lease No 86 of 900 acres at 'Nyngan' was gazetted 'about half a mile south from Mr Kerr's hut'.¹⁴ It later formed the site for the town. Later, on 22 December 1865, Water Reserve No 150 was set aside at Nyngan.¹⁵

About 1867, Robert Paton built a hotel called the Traveller's Rest near the river on his selection about half a mile north-west of the later site of Nyngan railway station. It was roughly built of slabs. After he died, it passed to his brother-in-law J Bonsworth.

¹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 20

² *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 111

³ *NSWGG*, 9 Sept 1873, p 2462

⁴ *SMH*, 15 Jan 1876, p 9; 31 Jan 1876, p 5

⁵ NSW – Dept of School Education, *Government Schools of New South Wales 1848 to 1993*, Dept of School Education, 1993, Sydney, p 45

⁶ *SMH*, 12 Jul 1873, p 12

⁷ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

⁸ *SMH*, 22 Jan 1877, p 9

⁹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 19

¹⁰ H Golder, *High and Responsible Office: A History of the NSW Magistracy*, Sydney University Press, Sydney, 1991, p 233

¹¹ H Golder, *High and Responsible Office: A History of the NSW Magistracy*, Sydney University Press, Sydney, 1991, p 246

¹² NSW – Dept of School Education, *Government Schools of New South Wales 1848 to 1993*, Dept of School Education, 1993, Sydney, p 45

¹³ 1891 Census, p 541

¹⁴ *NSWGG*, 8 Sept 1853, p 1523; SR Map 24584

¹⁵ *NSWGG*, 23 Dec 1865, p 2938

The building later burned down and its site became the brickyards.¹ The Traveller's Rest Hotel was located on the Moonagee Road opposite its corner with Nymagee Street and was kept by Harry Davis. Its licence was forfeited when the road was altered. James Gale bought the land and started his brickyards on the site. W and E Richards from Enfield were the first brickmakers. James Gale also owned a number of properties in Nyngan.² The hotel was on Portion 1, Parish Bergo, County Gregory. A house and stables was shown on the original Crown survey of 4 September 1875.³ These buildings were later shown as a hotel on the early plans of the village of Nyngan.

Previously, in 1872, Patrick Lynch had taken a Conditional Purchase on 40 acres west of the Bogan River in West Bogan No 1 run (Portion 1, Parish Lynch). This may have been to protect his house on the land. When surveyed on 1 November 1873, there were huts and a garden on the land.⁴

Reserve 1149 for a future village at Nyngan plus a depot for stock and for the railway on part of Nyngan West and East Bogan No 1 runs was gazetted on 9 February 1880.⁵ Before a rail line was completed and any train arrived at Nyngan, there was a rush to build but activity focussed on the area about a mile from the main town on the river. There, Thomas Rowe built Tattersall's Hotel and James Dunn erected the Royal Hotel at the corner of Nyngan and Ford Streets. James Mooney built a hotel on the opposite side of the river. T Monahan built a hotel opposite Mooney's.⁶ Most were of rough construction built from locally available materials.⁷ On 16 September 1880, a post office commenced at Thomas Rowe's Tattersall's Hotel, Nyngan.⁸

The tender of A & R Amos to build the railway from Dubbo to Nyngan was accepted on 21 December 1880.⁹ Mann Carey & Co later built the line from Nyngan to Bourke, which opened in 1885.¹⁰ At first, Nyngan was simply a collection of rough huts or tents.¹¹ But, once the town was surveyed, proclaimed and lots offered for sale it began to acquire the look of a civilised place.

On 18 March 1881, surveyor Archibald McFarlane reported on the site of Nyngan and sent in his plan of the town site. On the west side of the Bogan was the head station of the 'West Bogan No 1 Run' held by Hugh Monaghan in 1861.¹²

¹ *Back to Nyngan*, p 8

² *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 240

³ G.77.1907, Crown Plan

⁴ C.1.2146, Crown Plan

⁵ NSWGG, 9 Feb 1880, p 644

⁶ *Back to Nyngan*, p 8

⁷ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 135

⁸ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 88

⁹ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

¹⁰ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

¹¹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 222

¹² SR Map 4660

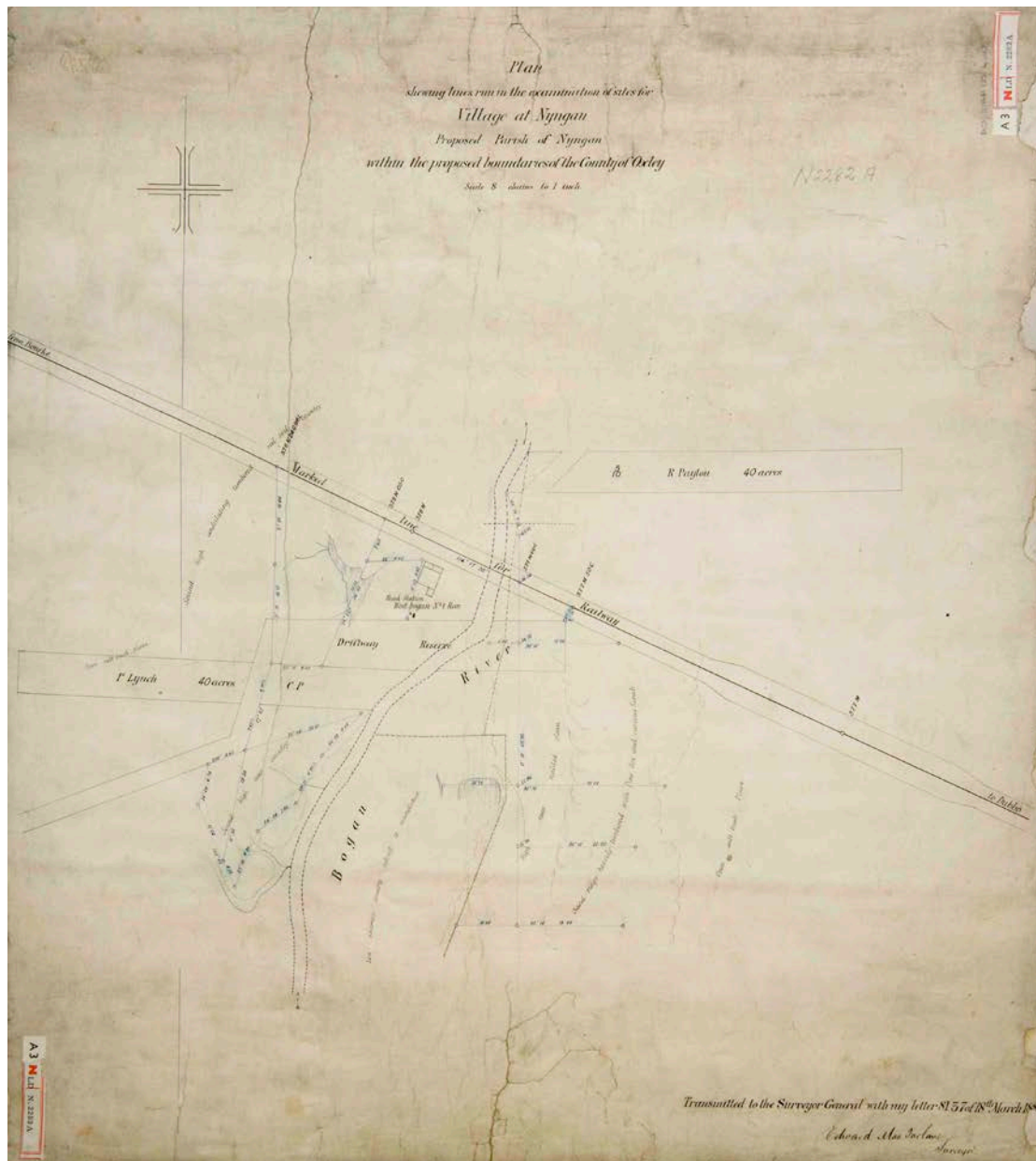


Figure 8 Surveyor Archibald Macfarlane's survey dated March 1881 of the site of Nyngan. Source: SR Map 4660

On 9 April 1881, Peter Lynch, grazier, applied for a schoolteacher for Nyngan. A school was being built on the Reserve. The proposed pupils included the children of Thomas Monaghan, Patrick Lynch, Mary Monaghan, Peter Lynch, William Moffett, John Bergin, and John Richardson.¹ A provisional school commenced in May 1882.

Businessmen anxious to set up in the new booming town sought sites from the Crown that were more secure than those initially available. On 1 September 1881, William Jamieson of Dubbo applied for G A Wray, George Saville junior and senior and David Price for Special Leases of land in Nyngan for business sites. They were all refused since lots were being made available for sale in Nyngan.² Frank Wilmot was

¹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 111-3

² Occ82/3238 & Occ82/3239, Lands, Occupation Branch, Correspondence SRNSW 14/4447

more fortunate. On 1 January 1882, he was granted a Special Lease for a store at Nyngan to be renewed annually.¹

In February 1882, surveyor Arthur Burgess laid out the town of Nyngan with 63 sections and 30 suburban sections, with the necessary reserve. At that time there was a hotel on lot 6 section 6 and a store on lot 1 Section 2. Tentmakers were occupying lot 1 Section 4.² The town of Nyngan was officially gazetted on 18 December 1882.³ On 17 March 1883, an auction of 57 Crown lots in Nyngan was held. The Mercantile Bank of Sydney paid £70 for lot 10. Adam Adams of Girilambone paid the highest price for Lot 1 Section 6 at the corner of Nyngan and Cobar Streets.⁴ About 1883, Adams commenced a store on this site.⁵ Adams paid £285 for this lot soon moving to Nyngan from Girilambone where he was already in business as a storekeeper. In April 1888, he sold the land to James Dunn, hotelkeeper of Nyngan.⁶ Adams also had branch stores at Wilga and Byerock.⁷

Many shanty hotels were built and trading within ten days of the land being bought. They were later replaced by more solid buildings.⁸ Larrie Galvin built the Commercial Hotel at the corner of Dandaloo and Nymagee Streets in 1883. It was later renamed the Nyngan Hotel and was still trading in 1983.⁹ Barrett's Hotel in Nymagee Street was built in 1884.¹⁰

Numerous other tradespeople set up in the new town. Some catered for a wholesale trade serving surrounding pastoral properties whilst others were geared to selling to the people of the town. During the 1880s, William Nicholas Willis, a former hawker had a store at Girilambone copper mine. In association with his partners, T L Richardson and Stephen Sullivan, he expanded to set up another store at Nyngan, mainly selling wholesale to squatting stations.¹¹ Willis later became an MLA. William Nicholas Willis was better known for his involvement as a land agent in notorious land scandals in the Walgett district in 1904-6 involving W P Crick.¹²

W F Odman set up a pharmacy in 1882 that was later operated by Kernebone.¹³ About 1883, Robert White commenced his blacksmithing business originally competing against six others. After his death in 1903, his sons carried on the business. It was the last blacksmith to close in Nyngan in the early 1950s.¹⁴ White also operated as a coachbuilder.¹⁵

¹ NSWGG, 27 June 1882, p 3347

² Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

³ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 23

⁴ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np; Campbell erroneously gave the price as £282.

⁵ *ATCJ*, 31 Jan 1885, p 236

⁶ C T 665 f 79

⁷ *ATCJ*, 31 Jan 1885, p 236

⁸ *Back to Nyngan*, p 8

⁹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 137

¹⁰ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 135

¹¹ *ATCJ*, 31 Jan 1885, p 236; C T 665 f 132

¹² T Kass, *Sails to Satellites: The Surveyors General of NSW (1786-2007)*, NSW Dept of Lands, Bathurst, 2008, p 173-4, 176-7

¹³ *Back to Nyngan*, p 22

¹⁴ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 222

¹⁵ Simmonds, *Cobb & Co*, p 67

In 1883, the Commercial Banking Co of Sydney transferred its branch from Canonba to Nyngan, using premises in Panjee Street. Later, it had its own brick building in Tabratong Street in 1912.¹ In February 1884, the Mercantile Bank of Sydney was advertising that it had branches at Nyngan and Girilambone.² A Savings Bank opened at Nyngan post office on 22 May 1884.³ Another bank was the Australian Joint Stock Bank, which later became the Australian Bank of Commerce.⁴

As a town emerged, services were established. On 21 August 1882, the Nyngan Post Office had opened in H V Jackson's general store.⁵ In 1882, Constable J Quinn staffed the police station.⁶ A police station, courthouse and other buildings were erected on an acre reserve at the corner of Tabratong and Bogan Streets. The brick police station was later demolished for a new building.⁷

Previously, on 9 February 1883, a Special Lease of Lot 6 Section 39, Nyngan was granted to Austin J O'Grady for one year from 1 January for a hotel and store.⁸ The Lease was transferred to the Mercantile Bank and by December 1884, there was a large hotel, stable, underground tank and a store on the land worth £4,200. The Crown later bought it as a site for the courthouse.⁹ By January 1885, the court was sitting in a 'good-sized room' next to a hotel near the railway station.¹⁰ By mid 1888, the court was using several rooms of the hotel instead.¹¹ Nyngan had been gazetted as place for petty sessions on 18 May 1883.¹² On 21 December 1883, petty sessions were abolished at 'Cannonbar'.¹³

The Nyngan Pastoral, Agricultural and Horticultural Association was formed in 1880.¹⁴ The school at Nyngan was elevated to Public School status in March 1883.¹⁵ The telegraph office opened at Nyngan Railway Station on 8 June 1883.¹⁶ The *Nyngan Times* was first published on 6 October 1883, later becoming the *Mercury* and then the *Observer*.¹⁷ An Anglican Church to be called St Paul's was licensed at Nyngan on 1 November 1883.¹⁸ On 13 August 1884, the post office was operating on the reserve in a pre-fabricated redwood building.¹⁹ In 1885, nuns from the Order of St

¹ *Back to Nyngan*, p 27

² *SMH*, 7 Feb 1884, p 4

³ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 88

⁴ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 148

⁵ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 88

⁶ *Back to Nyngan*, p 29

⁷ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 111

⁸ *NSWGG*, 9 Feb 1883, p 721

⁹ At Occ86/879, Lands, Occupation Branch, Correspondence, SRNSW 14/4464

¹⁰ *ATCJ*, 31 Jan 1885, p 236

¹¹ *ATCJ*, 2 June 1888, p 1123

¹² H Golder, *High and Responsible Office: A History of the NSW Magistracy*, Sydney University Press, Sydney, 1991, p 246

¹³ H Golder, *High and Responsible Office: A History of the NSW Magistracy*, Sydney University Press, Sydney, 1991, p 233

¹⁴ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 55

¹⁵ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 113

¹⁶ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 88

¹⁷ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 125

¹⁸ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 128

¹⁹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 89

Joseph arrived in Nyngan to set up convent and school. It originally operated in Warren Street between Terangion and Mudall Streets.¹

After the railway line had reached Nyngan, an official opening ceremony was held on 9 June 1883.² Canonba gradually withered and died as people left the town.³

A second auction of Crown lots was held in Nyngan on 11 June 1883. Albert Caro, storekeeper of Nyngan, bought Lot 2 Section 2 for £420. William Joseph Hogan, solicitor of Cobar, bought Lot 5 Section 6 with a hotel on it for £1,117/10/0. The sale continued on 12 June.⁴

Albert Caro was an early occupier of Nyngan and had set up a store about 1882. In mid 1883, he built a larger store measuring 40 feet by 70 feet. Doors were installed at the rear allowing a draft to blow through the building in summer. His business was in drapery, grocery ironmongery, boots and shoes, furniture, wines spirits and general produce.⁵



Figure 9 Albert Caro's store in 1885. Source: ATCJ, 31 Jan 1885, p 236

The railway line was extended to Byrock on 2 September 1884 and from Byrock to Bourke on 3 September 1885. This caused a loss of interest in Nyngan. Many people including businessmen moved on to towns further along the line.⁶ In January 1885, a visitor described Nyngan as a scattered town with three components. These were Nyngan proper next to the river; the section west of the river known as 'Over the River'; and the buildings on either side of the railway known as 'The Railway'. Buildings were either of weatherboard or galvanised iron construction. There was also a large assembly hall.⁷

¹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 133

² *Sydney Mail*, 16 June 1883, p 1117

³ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 19

⁴ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

⁵ *ATCJ*, 31 Jan 1885, p 236

⁶ *Back to Nyngan*, p 9

⁷ *ATCJ*, 31 Jan 1885, p 236

After the vigorous growth of the town and its businesses, the pace of change quietened down. Businesses were still established and stores changed hands though the sequence of change was more serene. On 20 November 1888, Albert Caro leased his general store near the Bogan River to Arthur T Bleakley. Bleakley and Barringer bought the property on 1 June 1891.¹ Bleakley and Barringer commenced a business that was an institution in Nyngan for decades.

William Sharpe Brown moved his business from Girilambone to begin a general store near the river at Nyngan in 1889. He later moved to Panjee Street. In 1917, the business was sold to Albert Duke, who enlarged the store. Duke died in 1936 but his daughter Muriel Carter carried on until the business was sold to W Mailer in 1964.²

Chinese residents were also living at Nyngan. Hop Sing's Special Lease for 1 acre 3 roods for a vegetable garden at Nyngan commenced for a term of five years commenced from 1 January 1889.³

In November 1889, a purpose-built Post Office built by D McDonald opened in Cobar Street next to the former redwood Post Office. The old building was sold for £45.⁴

A sign of the maturity of Nyngan as a settlement was the establishment of the Municipality of Nyngan proclaimed on 17 February 1891. The new Municipality had a population of 1,355 and 315 dwellings, of which 200 were of wooden slab construction and 23 were of brick.⁵

The opening of the branch rail line from Nyngan Junction to Cobar on 1 July 1892 gave another spurt to town development. As a junction, Nyngan was often very busy when trains or mail arrived.⁶ It started a new boom in Nyngan, which created the core of the future town.⁷ Nevertheless, the town population only rose from 1,355 in 1891 to 1,455 in 1901.

By 1892, John Nelson was conducting the Carrier's Arms Hotel in Nymagee Street.⁸ About 1893, Thomas Gregson built the Metropolitan Hotel by shifting a building from Girilambone. After Gregson, George Callan was licensee. It was later sold to Bleakley and Barringer. Mrs Stevens bought the corner at Pangee and Mudall Streets where a store was later built.⁹ In 1893, F Putenson erected a corner building for James Gale. A butcher, a bank and a shop operated on the site.¹⁰

A minor boom in subdivision after the rail line to Cobar opened occurred. In June 1893, a subdivision of part of Section 33, Nyngan was completed. The plan showed a blacksmith's shop facing Wambiana Street east of Terangion Street.¹¹ A subdivision

¹ Lot 2 Section 2, C T 687 f 229

² *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 150-1

³ *NSWGG*, 8 July 1890, p 5254

⁴ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 89

⁵ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

⁶ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 204

⁷ *Back to Nyngan*, p 9

⁸ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 137

⁹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 143

¹⁰ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 221

¹¹ DP 3006

of part of Sections 8 and 9 between Pangee, Dalton, Cannonbar, and Hoskins Streets in September 1893 included an iron house in the centre of Section 8.¹ Suburban lot 3 Section 13 south-west of Oxley and Terangion Streets was subdivided in 1895 creating the current Collins Street.²

One of the most impressive signs of the boom was the construction of a new general store at the corner of Pangee and Tabratong Streets by A T Bleakley and Frank Page Barringer on the site of the old Metropolitan Hotel in 1894. When Bleakley drowned that year Barringer continued the business on his own. It became major store in Nyngan.³ Arthur Bleakley drowned at Coogee on 5 January 1896 when trying to swim to shore from a boat experiencing difficulties in the water.⁴ His estate at Nyngan included the house he occupied on Lot 10 Section 6 in Monagee and Cobar Streets worth £200, the partners' old store, which was then vacant on Lot 2 Section 2, Nyngan Street worth £225 and their new brick store at the corner of Tabratong and Panjee Streets (Lot 10 Section 32) worth £2,500. Two Conditional Purchases near Cobar were worth £60 and £500. When his debts and the share of his partner F P Barringer were deducted, Bleakley's estate was worth £4,188, making him a wealthy man by the standards of that time.⁵

Like many parts of inland Australia, Bogan Shire has been adversely affected by droughts. A major drought of 1964-66 had a significant impact.⁶ The water supply had to be replenished by the release of water from the Fish River Dam and Chifley Dam.⁷

A number of floods have affected the district. The flatness of the landscape has enhanced the destructive impact. There have been floods at Nyngan in 1890, 1925, 1928, 1950, and January 1975.⁸ However, it was the Nyngan flood of 24 April 1990 that not only caused the evacuation of the whole town but the one that has become a major milestone in the history of the settlement.

1.3.7.3 Girilambone

Once development of the copper lode at Girilambone commenced, a settlement emerged. After an official village was set up at the railway station, the two villages, private and official battled for supremacy.

On 22 October and 1 December 1880, C W King measured Portion 6, Parish of Gidalambone of 100 acres taken up as Mineral Conditional Purchase 80/63 by Tottenham Lee Richardson on part of West Bogan 5 and 6 Runs.⁹ In December 1880, surveyor Charles W King prepared a subdivision plan of a private subdivision of that

¹ DP 3154

² DP 3402

³ *Back to Nyngan*, p 23

⁴ *SMH*, 6 Jan 1896, p 5

⁵ Stamp Duties Office, Deceased Estate File, A T Bleakley, duty paid 6/6/96, SRNSW 20/94

⁶ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 73

⁷ NSW - Water Resources and Irrigation Commission, *The Water Resources of the Macquarie Valley including the Bogan River*, p 38

⁸ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 70

⁹ C.30.2146, Crown Plan

land at Girilambone, close to the mines that had been granted to the mine owner T L Richardson. It became the mine village.¹

On 27 July 1882, Portion 6 parish of Gidalambone of 100 acres was granted to Tottenham Lee Richardson for £200. After it was subdivided as DP 986 some lots were sold. Lots 4 and 7 Section 2 were sold to Adam Adams. Lot 9 Section 1 was sold to George Buist. Lot 4 Section 10 was sold to Julius Caro whilst William Nicholas Willis bought lot 1 Section 1 and lot 8 Section 3.² Once, the government town was created, the private town fell into disuse. Adams' lots were not transferred again until 1991 and there is a similar tale for Buist's lot.³ After mortgaging the residue of that grant to the Australian Joint Stock Bank, Richardson finally lost it in March 1897 when the bank sold it.⁴

Retail services arrived notably the store conducted by the partnership of Stephen Sullivan and W N Willis trading as 'Sullivan and Willis'. By April 1882, Willis had left the joint venture and moved on to Nyngan.⁵ By February 1884, the Mercantile Bank of Sydney was advertising it had branches at Nyngan and Girilambone.⁶

Government provided other services. In April 1881, the residents of the village petitioned the Postmaster-General for postal services at Girilambone. Subsequently, Stephen Sullivan, partner of W N Willis in their store business commenced duty as postmaster on 1 August 1881.⁷ On 31 October 1881, residents also petitioned for a school. The school file recorded that the school commenced at Girilambone on 18 January 1882.⁸ It was later known as the Girilambone Mine Public School after a new school opened in the government town at the railway in July 1897. The mine school closed in October 1904.⁹ Girilambone was gazetted as a place for petty sessions on 21 November 1882 but this role was abolished on 7 September 1886.¹⁰

¹ Charles W King, Plan of the Town of Girilambone Being the subdivision of Portions No 6, 7, and 8, 1880, ML Map M3 816.219/GIRILAMBONE/1880/1

² C T 591 f 105

³ C T 644 f 162; C T 644 f 163

⁴ C T 947 f 69-70

⁵ 81/10613, Post Office File, NAA, CRS SP 32/1, Girilambone, 1876-1883, pt 1

⁶ *SMH*, 7 Feb 1884, p 4

⁷ 81/7630, Post Office File, NAA, CRS SP 32/1, Girilambone, 1876-1883, pt 1

⁸ Education, School File, Girilambone, 1881-1903, SRNSW 5/15993.2

⁹ NSW – Dept of School Education, *Government Schools of New South Wales 1848 to 1993*, Dept of School Education, 1993, Sydney, p 72

¹⁰ H Golder, *High and Responsible Office: A History of the NSW Magistracy*, Sydney University Press, Sydney, 1991, p 238

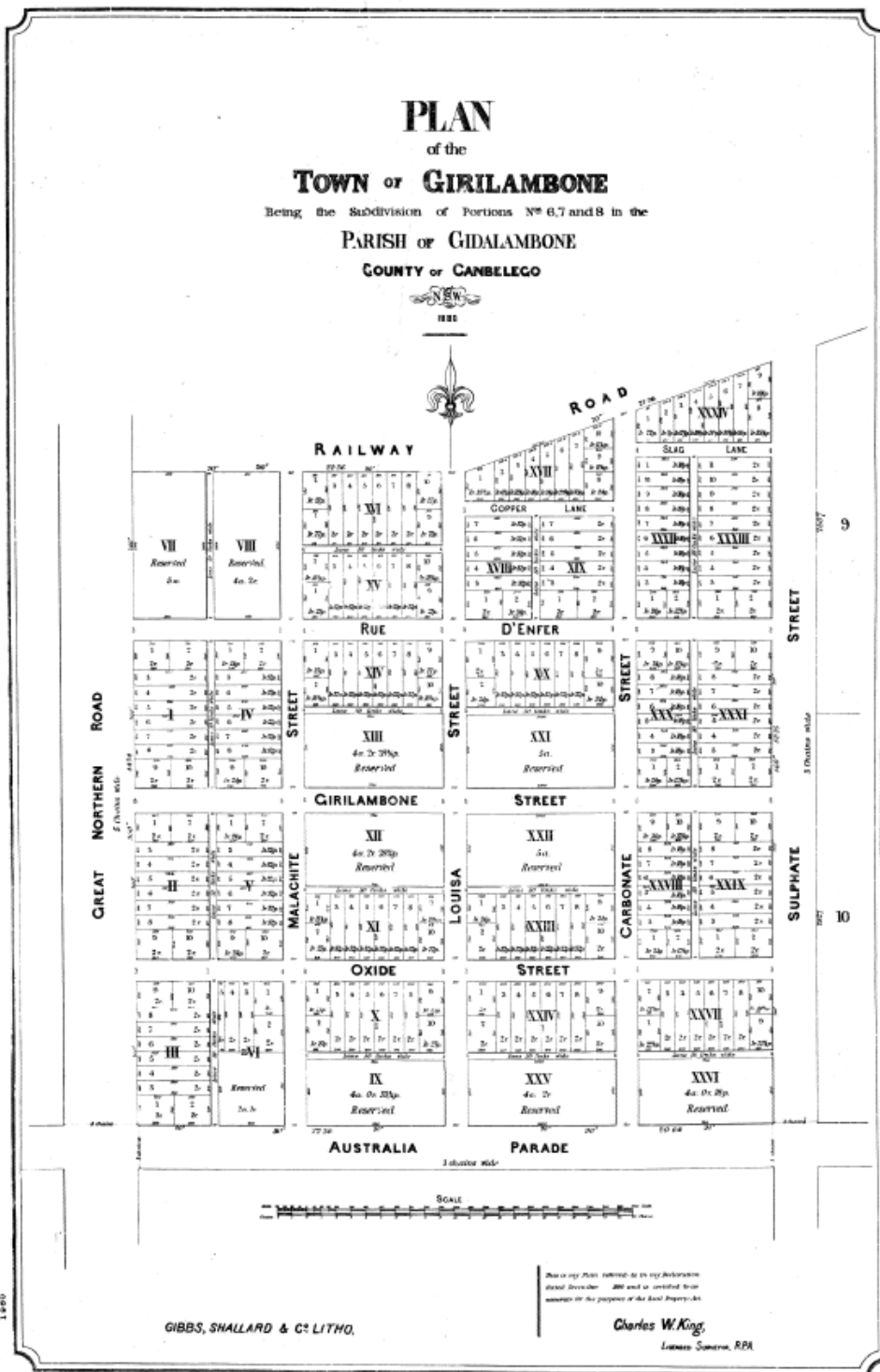


Figure 10 The subdivision sale plan of the private town or 'Mine town' of Girilambone. Source: Charles W King, Plan of the Town of Girilambone Being the subdivision of Portions No 6, 7, and 8, 1880, ML Map M3 816.219/GIRILAMBONE/1880/1

A site for a government village at Girilambone was reserved on 18 February 1884 near the railway station.¹ On 7 June 1884, a crown land sale offered lots in the government Village of Girilambone.² In time, it drew all settlement away from the private town. Storekeepers and others who had bought lots in the private town gradually abandoned them. Some moved to the government town but many such as George Buist and Adam Adams shifted to Nyngan once it came into being. William Sharpe Brown who commenced business at Girilambone in 1886 moved to Nyngan in 1889.³

The 1891 Census showed Girilambone with a population of 162 living in 34 habitations.⁴ A new Public School commenced at Girilambone in the government town at the railway in July 1897. The former school at the private town became known as Girilambone Mine Public School.⁵ Girilambone was again gazetted as a place for holding petty sessions on 10 November 1899.⁶ Since 1896, a mounted policeman had been stationed at Girilambone. In 1899, a Police station and lock-up was erected at Girilambone at a cost of £848.⁷

On 30 August 1925, a former shop from Cobar that had been erected at Girilambone as St Paul's Anglican Church held its first service.⁸

The 1933 Census showed the population of Girilambone as 156 with another 136 people in the surrounding area.⁹ From 30 September 1970, petty sessions trials were no longer site held at Girilambone.¹⁰ The police station closed in 1975.¹¹

1.3.7.4 Hermidale

A Provisional school opened at Hermidale in May 1901 being elevated to a public school in October 1901.¹² R A Sorenson found a copper lode in Parish Hermitage, County Canbelego in 1906. There were great expectations that the lode would be very profitable. Soon 108 lease applications had been received by the Department of Mines. Companies were floated to mine them but only the original lode proved to be profitable since it was an isolated outcrop.¹³

¹ NSWGG, 18 Feb 1884, p 1232

² SMH, 4 June 1884, p 13

³ Nyngan on Bogan, p 231

⁴ 1891 Census, p 540

⁵ NSW – Dept of School Education, *Government Schools of New South Wales 1848 to 1993*, Dept of School Education, 1993, Sydney, p 71

⁶ H Golder, *High and Responsible Office: A History of the NSW Magistracy*, Sydney University Press, Sydney, 1991, p 238

⁷ K H Heckendorf, *Girilambone 100 Years*, Dubbo Secretarial Services, Dubbo, Oct 1980, p 51

⁸ Nyngan on Bogan, p 128

⁹ Premiers Department, *Macquarie Region*, p 33

¹⁰ H Golder, *High and Responsible Office: A History of the NSW Magistracy*, Sydney University Press, Sydney, 1991, p 238

¹¹ K H Heckendorf, *Girilambone 100 Years*, Dubbo Secretarial Services, Dubbo, Oct 1980, p 52

¹² NSW – Dept of School Education, *Government Schools of New South Wales 1848 to 1993*, Dept of School Education, 1993, Sydney, p 80

¹³ J E Carne, *Copper-Mining Industry*, 1908, p 194-5, 247

Production was soon under way. The successful mine, the Budgery Copper mine, produced ore for many years.¹ As late as 1965, the mine produced 10.3 tons of copper.²

The Village of Budgery near Hermidale was proclaimed on 28 November 1906 but its design was cancelled on 9 December 1927.³ In 1908, mining activity at Hermidale was retarded due to low prices for ore.⁴ On 2 December 1923, the first service was held at St Faith's Anglican Church, which was a former shop from Cobar re-erected at Hermidale.⁵



Figure 11 St Faith's Anglican Church, Hermidale.

1.3.7.5 Coolabah

According to a published local history, the original village at Coolabah was named the 'Three Legs of Man' about 2 miles from the current village on a Travelling Stock Route. Dinney and Jack Dalley operated Dalley's Inn there. It had a water tank, with

¹ Mine Record 437 Budgery Copper Mine, Hermidale, 1895-1980, Dept of Mineral Resources

² Dept of Mines, *Annual Report*, 1965, p 26

³ Village Map, Budgery, 1908 edition; Lands, *Annual Report*, 1907, p 23

⁴ Lands, *Annual Report*, 1909, p 32

⁵ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

cottages built around it. Chinese ringbarkers are believed to be buried near the inn. The Dalleys moved to the new village after business declined. One of their purchases was named Ballyhooley after their home village.¹ Denis Dalley took up a Conditional Purchase of 320 acres in Parish Vega adjoining the future site of Coolabah Village on 2 November 1882. When surveyed on 26 September 1884, it had hut, yard and 600-yard tank.² It is uncertain if this is the site of the former village.

Originally, a railway camp called Cargo Road was located on the rail line. On 2 September 1884, the railway station opened at Coolabah and the name Coolabah was given to the village.³

Charles Werner built a hotel called 'Three Legs O'Man Hotel' after a former hotel he had owned on what became the main street of the new village at Coolabah when the railway arrived. It was situated on the block bounded by Bourke, Dalley, Werner and Budther Streets. He also built a huge water tank in the hotel yard with a galvanised iron roof. The hotel was sold to Henry Mortlock in 1895 and Amelia Fox on 1896. The hotel was demolished in the 1920s and the Coolabah Hotel was built on its site retaining the old two-storey brick house. The builder and designer was Albert Rosette. It burned down in 1968.⁴ Charles Werner also set up a shop facing Bourke Street.⁵ A postal receiving office opened at Coolabah with Charles Werner as postmaster in December 1884. It was elevated to a post office from 16 December 1885.⁶ A hotel was built next to the Coolabah courthouse in Girilambone Street about 1890, but it was later destroyed by fire. It was owned by Rosenbert and was licensed to Albert Luke Britton.⁷

It was not until 14 August 1886 that the official site for the village at Coolabah was set aside.⁸ On 5 February 1887, Charles Werner bought various lots at Coolabah at the Crown Land Auction. The lots were granted on 26 May 1887. He transferred them to his mortgagees on 10 October 1892.⁹

Coolabah Provisional School opened in January 1887 becoming a Public School in October 1892.¹⁰ A new school building opened in October 1912 followed by a new school residence in May 1913.¹¹

A police station had been established at Coolabah by 1891 when additions worth £309/12/6 were completed to the building.¹² An Experimental Farm was operating at Coolabah by 1894. It is believed that William Farrer undertook some of his wheat

¹ Simmonds, *Cobb & Co*, p 69

² C.117.2146, Crown Plan

³ P Thompson, *Under the shade of the Coolabah*, p 1

⁴ P Thompson, *Under the shade of the Coolabah*, p 4-7

⁵ P Thompson, *Under the shade of the Coolabah*, p 8

⁶ P Thompson, *Under the shade of the Coolabah*, p 14

⁷ Simmonds, *Cobb & Co*, p 71

⁸ NSWGG, 14 Aug 1886, p 5541

⁹ C T 837 f 79 (also f 8-83)

¹⁰ NSW – Dept of School Education, *Government Schools of New South Wales 1848 to 1993*, Dept of School Education, 1993, Sydney, p 53

¹¹ P Thompson, *Under the shade of the Coolabah*, p 22

¹² NSW - Department of Public Works, *Annual Report*, 1891, p 100

breeding experiments there.¹ Coolabah was gazetted as place for petty sessions on 13 December 1898 but it was abolished on 20 July 1905.²

1.3.7.6 Bobadah

'Tindall' found silver in the Black Range on The Overflow Pastoral Holding 187 Central in 1895. It became the 'The Overflow' Silver Mine operated by The Overflow Silver Mining Co (NL) and later The Overflow Mines (NL). By 1897, a cyanide plant was extracting silver from the ore.³ By October 1896, the Chief Inspector for Mines Mr Slee, had laid down a street west of Mineral Leases 1 and 2 for a town to be called Bobadah. He noted that it had been a meeting place, for Aborigines in the past. He had seen large numbers of flakes from manufacturing stone tools.⁴

Village Reserve No 25103 in the Parish of Cameron was notified on 4 November 1896 and 12 January 1897. Instructions to measure a town were issued about March 1897. In April 1897, surveyor H A D O'Connor journeyed to the mine to lay out the village of Carpina plus a road to the Condobolin to Nymagee road. There were 40 men employed at the mine.⁵ The Town of Carpina was proclaimed on 6 November 1897.⁶ It was more commonly known as Bobadah. On 5 February 1897, the Bobadah Progress Association requested the establishment of a post office. The mining company was expending large sums in setting up the mine, so the postal inspector felt it would become an 'important centre'. On 5 April 1897, M F Hennessy commenced duty as postmaster.⁷ However, his store and post office burned down late in 1897.⁸

A public school opened in August 1897 and operated until it was downgraded to a provisional school in September 1919 before closing in May 1923.⁹ In 1898, construction of a police station commenced and it was complete by June 1900 at a cost of £441/10/0.¹⁰ Soon the company was mainly extracting gold. In 1900, the ore became too difficult to treat. Water jacket furnaces were installed. In 1914, production ceased. In 1935, Bobadah Development (N L) began operating at the mine but only produced ore intermittently.¹¹ A Provisional School re-opened in May 1943, which was elevated to a Public School in November 1957, which operated until it closed in December 1972.¹²

¹ P Thompson, *Under the shade of the Coolibah*, p 42

² H Golder, *High and Responsible Office: A History of the NSW Magistracy*, Sydney University Press, Sydney, 1991, p 235

³ Mine Record 449 Overflow Mine, Bobadah, 1894-1979, Dept of Mineral Resources

⁴ *SMH*, 16 Oct 1896, p 7

⁵ *SMH*, 12 April 1897, p 5

⁶ Parish Map, Parish Cameron, Co Flinders, 1895, Image 14126801, 14126701; Village Map, Carpina, 1897 edition

⁷ Post Office File, Bobadah Part 1, 1897-1901, NAA, CRS 32/1

⁸ *SMH*, 18 Dec 1897, p 9

⁹ NSW – Dept of School Education, *Government Schools of New South Wales 1848 to 1993*, Dept of School Education, 1993, Sydney, p 34

¹⁰ NSW - Department of Public Works, *Annual Report*, 1900, p 65

¹¹ Mine Record 449 Overflow Mine, Bobadah, 1894-1979, Dept of Mineral Resources

¹² NSW – Dept of School Education, *Government Schools of New South Wales 1848 to 1993*, Dept of School Education, 1993, Sydney, p 34

1.3.7.7 Miandetta

Village Reserve No 24021 was notified at Miandetta siding on the railway line in Parish Coreen on 18 April 1896. Village lots were laid out.¹

Mineral applications were made to mine for silver, copper and lead immediately north of the village in 1906 and 1907.² The mine shaft of the Great Miandetta mine was down to 115 feet in June 1906. These mines appear to have been taken up as part of the speculative rush sparked by the Budgery Mine.³ By May 1907, a cross-cut shaft was being driven into the main lode at the Great Miandetta mine.⁴ However, the mine does not appear to have met the expectations of its investors and seems to have been abandoned about 1908.⁵

By 1903, John Thomas Priest and his family were operating the Miandetta sawmills.⁶ On 31 August 1905, William and Henry Priest registered their firm of saw millers at Miandetta.⁷

A Provisional School opened September 1912 and operated until May 1945.⁸ On 11 November 1915, surveyor Oscar Kruth measured Portions 10 to 19 Parish Coreen, County Canbelego, which was in effect the village of Miandetta. He showed existing buildings on his plan.⁹

¹ Parish Map, Parish Coreen, Co Canbelego, 1921

² Plans M.12605; M.12690, Dept of Mineral Resources

³ *SMH*, 25 June 1906 p 9

⁴ *SMH*, 10 May 1907 p 10

⁵ The Mine Record file terminates in 1908, and there are no further press reports after 1907. See Mine Record 433, Miandetta Mine, Hermidale, 1908, Dept of Mineral Resources

⁶ Australia, *Electoral Rolls*, 1903, Electoral District of Cobar, (Nyngan Division)

⁷ Registers of Firms, SRNSW 2/8538, No 14599

⁸ NSW – Dept of School Education, *Government Schools of New South Wales 1848 to 1993*, Dept of School Education, 1993, Sydney, p 101

⁹ C.355.2146, Crown Plan

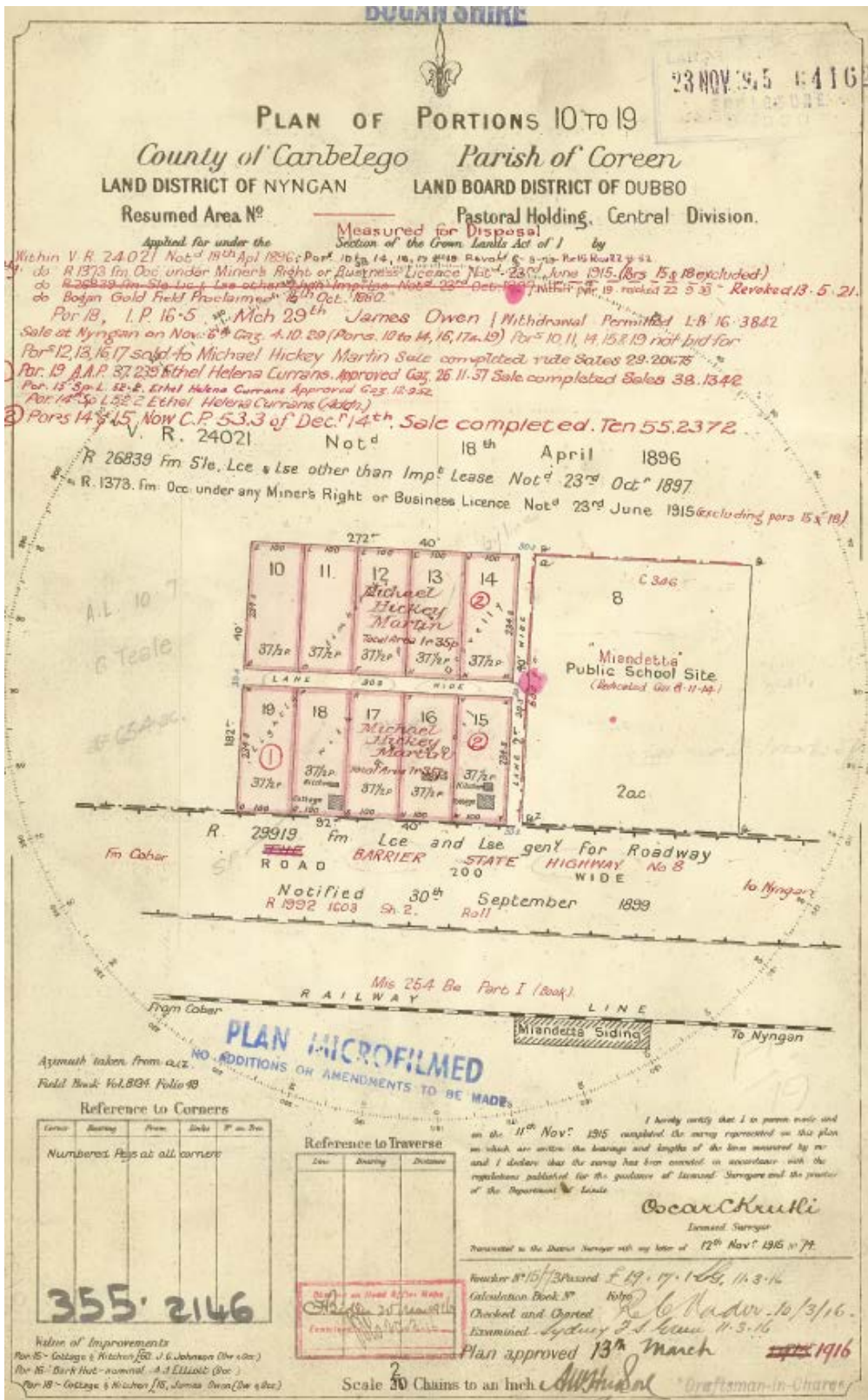


Figure 12 The survey of the Village of Miandetta of November 1915 showed buildings on some lots. Source: C.355.2146, Crown Plan

1.3.8 Theme – Promoting closer settlement

The 1861 *Crown Lands Alienation Act* opened the way for closer settlement but its success in breaking up squatters' leasehold estates varied from place to place. In some areas, it was not until the twentieth century that Closer Settlement was successful in creating a pattern of small farms across the district. Free selection also reduced opportunities for local Aborigines to survive on areas unoccupied by pastoralists or selectors. Many of the selections taken up in what is now Bogan Shire were being used by pastoral leaseholders to secure key parts of their runs, and by small businessmen such as innkeepers as a way of securing the land around their inn. Other selections were taken up along watercourses such as the Bogan River by hopeful agriculturalists. Almost all were soon absorbed by larger landholdings.

Patrick Lynch, a run manager, took a Conditional Purchase on 40 acres west of the Bogan River in West Bogan No 1 run (Portion 1, Parish Lynch) in 1872. When surveyed on 1 November 1873 there were huts and a garden on the land.¹ Robert Paton took up a Conditional Purchase of 40 acres Parish Bergo, north of the future site of Nyngan in 1874. He built the 'Traveller's Rest' Hotel on the land.² The survey plan of 4 September 1874 showed a 'House and stables'.³

The local history by H E O Campbell identified a series of Conditional Purchases near Nyngan in 1881 by Francis and J T Dawson, George Foreman and Augustus Lyne.⁴ Not all of these can be identified, but the one taken by Augustus Lyne of Nyngan became Portion 5 Parish of Nyngan.⁵

Frank Simon took up 40 acres on the Bogan River (Portion 1, Parish Nyngan) on 7 December 1882. When surveyed on 5 October 1883, it had a hut and garden.⁶ The surveyor was William Farrer who completed many of the surveys around Nyngan in the early 1880s. Conditional Purchases taken near Nyngan in 1883 included those by Walter Cooper, William Brotherton, and Peter Hanson.⁷ Peter Waldemer Hansen took up 40 acres on 12 April 1883 now known as Portion 2, Parish of Nyngan.⁸ W Higgins and Eliza Duckett took up Conditional Purchases near Nyngan in 1884.⁹ William Higgins' Conditional Purchases were for Portions 3 and 4, Parish of Nyngan, taken on 3 January 1884 and 8 May 1884.¹⁰

¹ C.1.2146, Crown Plan

² Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

³ G.77.1907, Crown Plan

⁴ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

⁵ CP 81/403 Dubbo, Lands, Sales, Conditional Purchase Register, SRNSW 7/2898

⁶ C.278.2000, Crown Plan

⁷ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

⁸ C.279.2000, Crown Plan

⁹ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

¹⁰ C.297.2000, Crown Plan

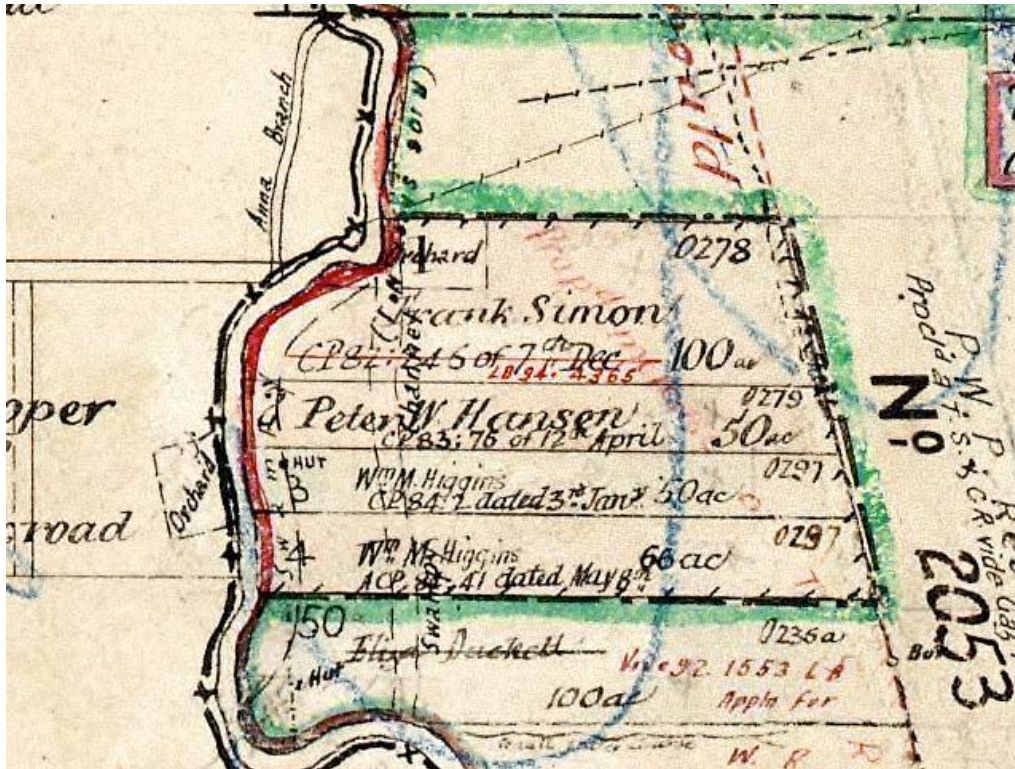


Figure 13 The parish map of 1884 showed the buildings on the group Conditional Purchases on the Bogan River in the parish of Nyngan. Source: Parish Map, Parish Nyngan, County Oxley, 1884

According to W H Brotherton in 1938, the first wheat grown in the area was raised by H F Hall at ‘The Pigeon Holes’ (later known as Hermidale) on about 20 acres. Hall was the publican who held the ‘Pigeon Holes Hotel’ there. (Portion 1, Parish Hermitage, County Canbelego) ¹ Though there was not much wheat grown for a while, the situation gradually changed. Many new settlers in the 1890s came from Victoria, where there was a tradition of growing wheat, which encouraged cultivation of that crop in the district. By 1903-4, 5,185 bags of wheat were being shipped from Nyngan. ²

From 1908, the Lands Department was actively reviewing reserves and vacant land, as well as cancelled Improvement Leases in order to find more land for closer settlement. ³ Yet, it reported that the Nyngan and Warren districts were largely pastoral due to being beyond the ‘wheat belt’. ⁴ In 1909, the Lands Department recommended that about 190,000 acres of the West Bogan leases be withdrawn for ‘residential settlement’. ⁵ In 1910, several areas totalling 115,000 acres were withdrawn from West Bogan Scrub Leases for selection whilst surveys of other areas were in progress. ⁶ An area of 400,000 acres from the West Bogan Scrub and

¹ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

² *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 50

³ Lands, *Annual Report*, 1908, p 25

⁴ Lands, *Annual Report*, 1908, p 26

⁵ Lands, *Annual Report*, 1908, p 26

⁶ Lands, *Annual Report*, 1910, p 33-4

Improvement Leases were referred to the Reserves Revision Board in 1911 for disposal as Settlement Leases.¹

An area of 597,914 acres of Scrub and Improvement Leases west of Bogan River had been topographically surveyed by 1915 for consideration by the Closer Settlement Advisory Board for closer settlement.² A further area of 86,420 acres of Scrub and Improvement Leases west of Bogan River was topographically surveyed in 1916 for consideration for closer settlement.³

Additionally after World War 1, large parts of Canonbar were acquired for soldier settlement blocks leaving the station with 7,000 acres, covering Miowera, Box Cowal and Fairview.⁴ A new wing was added to Nyngan Public School in 1924 due to the larger population brought by closer settlement.⁵

Larger holdings were resumed or came into the hands of new owners. The Matchett family sold Mullengudgery and Murrawombie to Moxham brothers in 1927. Murrawombie was later resumed by crown for closer settlement.⁶ In 1928, Honeybugle Station owned by Goldsbrough Mort & Co and John Brown was divided into 16 blocks for ballot. Richard Hoare from Victoria was one of the successful applicants. His property was known as Karabarn.⁷ By 1928 as well, the former Improvement Leases were expiring in Bogan Shire. They were replaced by smaller holdings of Homestead Selections.⁸

By 1922, Wilfred Gibson was growing wheat on his property Mulla, 22 miles from Nyngan and was producing enough to sell by 1926. Yet wheat did not become a major crop until forty years later.⁹ The early 1960s saw major expansion of wheat growing across the area after varieties suited to dry conditions had been developed.¹⁰ Despite the marginal nature of the area, integrated wool and wheat growing also increased.¹¹

By 1966, it had been ascertained that the soils of the Bogan below Nyngan were not suited for irrigation.¹² Hence, the future of the Shire was in dryland farming. From 1965 onwards, high demand for wheat growing lands ensured the clearing of mallee, bimple box and white cypress pine from the country west of the Bogan River.¹³ In the late 1990s, agriculture diversified in part into small piggeries, cattle feedlot production and emu and ostrich farming.¹⁴ By 2008, olive growing was a new primary industry in shire.¹⁵ 'Benah' is one of the properties now growing olives.

¹ Lands, *Annual Report*, 1911, p 41

² Lands, *Annual Report*, 1915, p 33

³ Lands, *Annual Report*, 1916, p 35

⁴ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 27

⁵ *Back to Nyngan*, p 16

⁶ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 62

⁷ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 218

⁸ *Back to Nyngan*, p 15

⁹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 245

¹⁰ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 50

¹¹ Bogan Shire Council, *Annual Report*, 2000-1, Environment Report, p 1

¹² NSW - Water Resources and Irrigation Commission, *The Water Resources of the Macquarie Valley including the Bogan River*, p 45

¹³ D Shelly, *Flora and Fauna of Coolabah District*, p 12

¹⁴ Bogan Shire Council, *Annual Report*, 2000-1, Environment Report, p 1

¹⁵ Bogan Shire Council, *Community Plan*, 2008-9, p 20

1.3.9 Theme - Altering the landscape

The process of introducing new species and animals onto the lands of the Bogan ensured significant changes to the vegetation, soils and wildlife of the region. In 1879, according to W H Brotherton, the first station to be ring-barked in the Nyngan district was Budgery near Hermidale.¹

Despite some early clearing, the removal of Aboriginal fire regimes allowed scrub to re-invade areas that had been clear when the land was taken up by pastoralists. By 1895, the spread of pine and box seedling scrub west of the Bogan River had considerably reduced the area available to lessees of runs. The lessees approached the Minister for Lands seeking some arrangement to reduce their rents or assist them to clear the scrub.² The result was a programme of using the unemployed to clear the scrub.

Utilisation of former billabongs and effluent channels as water storages has created a number of artificial wetlands along the river. In the Nyngan area, the only wetland that is permanent is the artificial water storage at Nyngan providing town water for Nyngan and Cobar, maintained by releases from the Macquarie River. Other creeks such as Duck and Crooked Creeks have been altered by regular water flows so that the channels have become lined with cumbungi.³

From 1965 onwards, high demand for wheat ensured the clearing of mallee, bumble box and white cypress pine from country west of the Bogan River to grow grain crops.⁴ From 2000 onwards, the growing of cotton crops near the Albert Channel was posing a risk of contamination but drought conditions prevented it becoming a problem.⁵

¹ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

² 'Crown Lands (Proposals with respect to the conversion of certain pastoral leases ... Land Board District of Dubbo ...)', *V & P L A N S W*, 1895, volume 3, pp 123-4

³ NSW – Dept of Water Resources, *Water Resources of the Castlereagh, Macquarie and Bogan valleys*, Dept, Parramatta 1991, p 28-9

⁴ D Shelly, *Flora and Fauna of Coolabah District*, p 12

⁵ Bogan Shire Council, *Annual Report*, 2008-9, np

1.4 Contextual Essay – Working

1.4.1 Theme - Working the land

Work ranges from professional occupations through commercial activities with their own special forms of knowledge and expertise, notably in small business, through to the skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled. Even ostensibly ‘unskilled’ jobs, such as horse breaking, droving or as a general hand on a property had their distinct sets of special knowledge.

For the bulk of the population in the nineteenth and early twentieth century, employment was uncertain, particularly in rural areas. There were few permanent positions available. The Australian economy was dependent on overseas demand for its rural products. A large floating casual workforce was a feature of life in the Australian colonies. Men drifted in search of work, sometimes with their families and often without. As the nineteenth century drew to a close, more common was the drifting pool of casual labourers who worked at shearing, labouring and any job that they could get, both in town and country.

Evidence of their work remains in the form of shearers’ quarters, woolsheds and shearing sheds. Many of them are no longer in use due to the shift from raising sheep for meat rather than wool.

1.4.2 Theme – Working in town

Except for Nyngan most of the urban places or villages of the shire were small centres offering only basic services. Only Nyngan had a wide range of occupations. Despite its service and retail functions, and being the main centre of the district by the twentieth century, its occupational composition was not just a reflection of its role offering things for sale.

As a major junction, railway employment was significant for the town. In 1903, many residents of Nyngan were railway employees such as shunters, fuelmen, firemen, porters and even a signal-fitter and the locomotive foreman David Howell. Apart from them, there were numerous labourers, many of whom would have worked shifting goods when trains were loaded or unloaded. Fettleers lived along the length of the line. Additionally, the elite employees of the railway department, engine drivers also lived at Nyngan such as Adolphus Beverley, John Brand, George Fisher and William Smith.¹ Other employment was focussed on manufacturing (see below) or in retailing and services. For further information see Section 1.6.5 below.

¹ Australia, *Electoral Roll*, 1903, Electoral District of Cobar, Nyngan Division

1.4.3 Theme - Manufacturing – working in workshops, mills or factories

Manufacturing can be divided into those activities which processed rural raw materials, some of them associated with food such as slaughter yards or mills; or workshop style production where the employer or owner worked on the floor with his employees and with no more than 5 to 10 employees; or large 'factory' style enterprises.

The first two types of enterprise were found in Bogan Shire but not large factory style operations. Rural processing industries are often the first to commence in any newly settled district and Bogan Shire was no exception. Martin Kerz operated a sawmill at Girilambone supplying the copper mines at Girilambone and Cobar in the 1870s.¹

Food processing was the most notable activity, mostly for local consumption but there were firms that produced for a wider market. The most significant of these was the Warrigal meatworks. In 1890, the Nyngan Meat Preserving and Boiling Down Co was set up by James and Alexander Davidson and George Cromack of Sydney on land bought from John Robinson of Woodlands. Since it was next to the Warrigal Rail siding, it became known as the 'Warrigal'.² In 1908, the Nyngan Meat Preserving and Boiling Down Co was reconstituted as The Nyngan Refrigerating and Boiling Down Co, which mainly processed rabbits. It also made large quantities of ice for local consumption.³ From 1960 to 1970, the former Warrigal meat works, owned by Arnold Brooksby, processed kangaroo meat for export to Germany and Japan and for local pet food.⁴ There were originally twelve cottages for employees. By 1983, a large brick building plus two or three old cottages were still on site.⁵

The Nyngan Brewery on Bogan Road was operated from 1892 to 1897 by Peter Crane, with James Howieson as brewer. In 1893, it was sold to Donald Sanderson and W M Connell who sold it to J Sloane in 1895.⁶ Harry Ellis and Donald Sanderson had a brewery on the river near the waterworks and Golf Links Paddock.⁷ In 22 December 1892, there were three cordial makers in Nyngan: John McMillan, Nyngan Street (later Sloane's Cordials); John White, Ford Street; and Peter Crane, Nymagee Street.⁸

The Bee-Tree Wool Scour owned by J N Moffat was located on the Bogan River operated by J E Joubert was handling 180 bales per week in 1892.⁹ On 12 January 1894, a court case was heard against J E Joubert, operator of the wool scour, described as being two miles down the Bogan River from Nyngan, for polluting the river. Selectors James Hemphill, J B Eather and James Gale had brought the case.¹⁰ The woollscour appears to have been located on Portion 80 Parish Bergo, County

¹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 38

² *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 47-8

³ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 47

⁴ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 49;

⁵ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 47-8

⁶ K M Deutscher, *The Breweries of Australia: A History*, Lothian, Melbourne, 1999, p 55

⁷ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 143

⁸ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

⁹ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

¹⁰ *SMH*, 13 Jan 1894, p 5

Gregory.¹ A Special Lease of Portion 34, Parish Nyngan for a woolwash granted to James Mitchell commenced on 1 January 1896.² From 1 July 1896, he was also given a Special Lease for a boiling down works covering 50 acres.³ By May 1905, John Ward was operating the Beetree woolscour.⁴

James Gale's brickyard was apparently the only one operating locally. A brick kiln was shown on the 1894 Town map in a position which agrees with descriptions of the location of his kiln. By 1903, George Setter and James Stewart were the brickmakers employed at Gale's brickyards.⁵

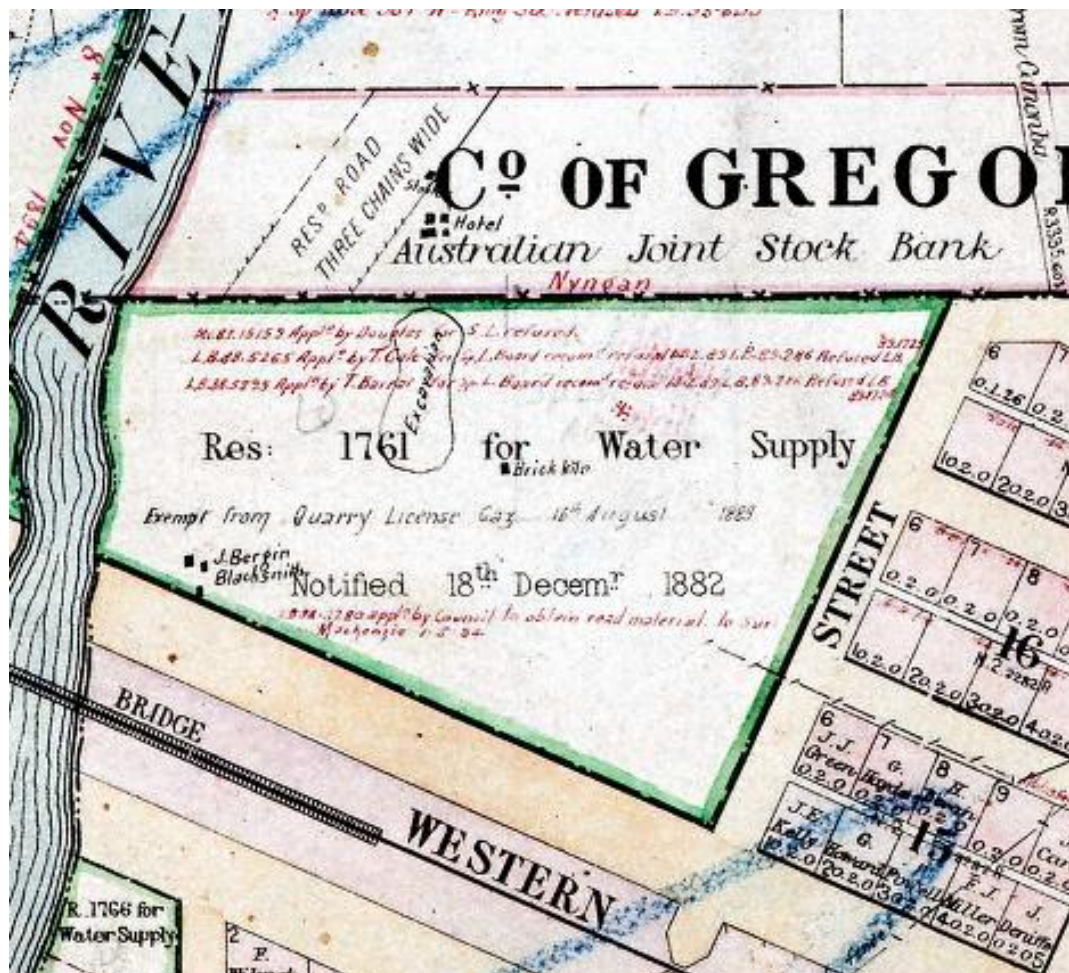


Figure 14 The 1894 edition of the Nyngan Town Map showed the site of the 'Brick kiln', J Bergin's blacksmith's shop and Robert Paton's 'Traveller's Rest' hotel. Source: Town Map, Nyngan, 1894

¹ Parish Map, Parish Bergo, County Gregory, 1884 edition, <http://parishmaps.lands.nsw.gov.au/pmap.html>, Image 13797601

² NSWGG, 4 March 1896, p 1655

³ NSWGG, 5 July 1896, p 4860

⁴ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

⁵ Australia, *Electoral Rolls*, 1903, Electoral District of Cobar, (Nyngan Division)

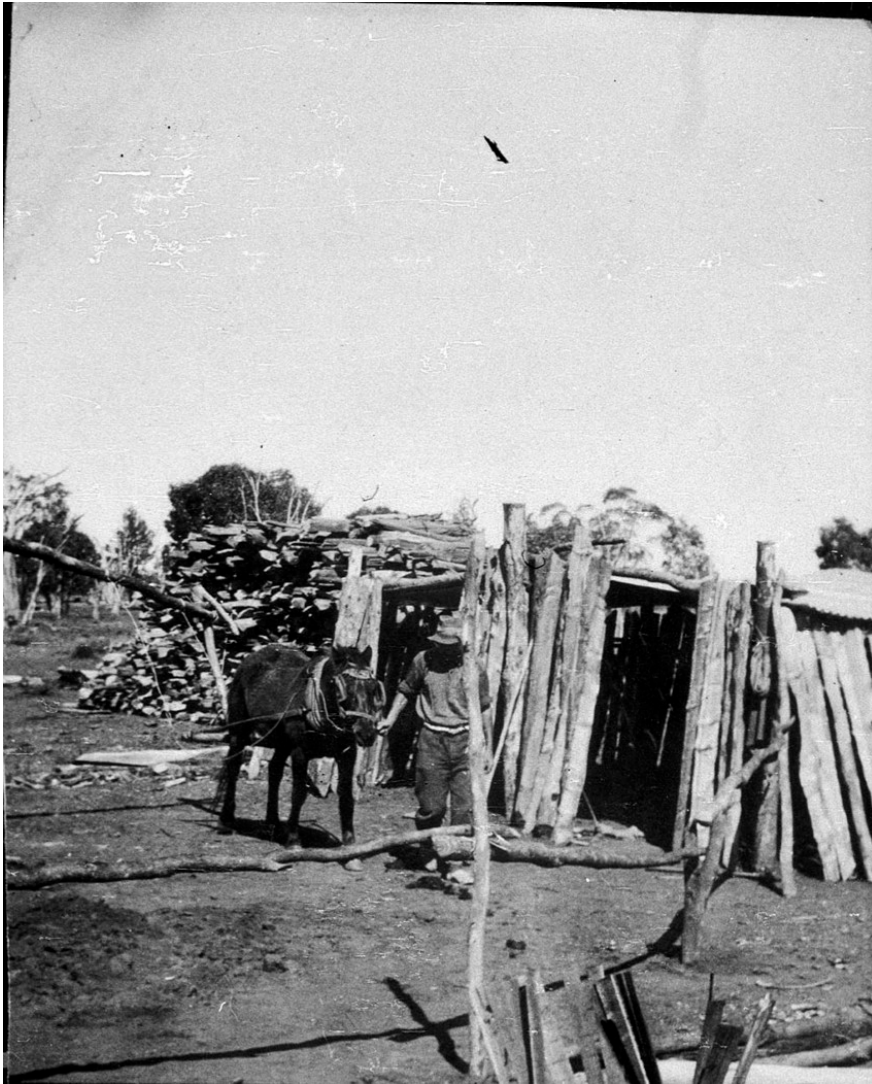


Figure 15 Workers on Gale's brickyard in 1932. Source: ML, BCP 03424

Sawmillers provided for local needs. In 1903, William Bland was proprietor of a sawmill at Wilgar Downs along with number of employees.¹ John Thomas Priest and his family were operating the Miandetta sawmills.² On 31 August 1905, William and Henry Priest registered their firm of saw millers at Miandetta.³ Miandetta State Forest was recorded as holding 1,820 acres of pine in 1948.⁴

Small workshop enterprises included the blacksmiths' and wheelwrights' shops that were essential for maintaining the road transport of that time. J Bergin's blacksmith's shop was shown on the 1894 Town Map. In May 1905, Edward Scully ran the Nyngan coach and buggy works on Dandaloo and Wambiana Streets whilst John Kennedy had another works in Nymagee Street.⁵ In 1999, the Nyngan coachworks

¹ Australia, *Electoral Rolls*, 1903, Electoral District of Cobar, (Girilambone Division)

² Australia, *Electoral Rolls*, 1903, Electoral District of Cobar, (Nyngan Division)

³ Registers of Firms, SRNSW 2/8538, No 14599

⁴ Premiers Department, *Macquarie Region*, p 27

⁵ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

operated by Don Burns was situated at the corner of Moonagee and Nymagee Streets.¹

In 1945, the only manufacturing works in Nyngan were the cordial factory operated by W E Chaney whilst the Warrigal Cold Stores offered cold storage. The *Observer* had printing presses.²

¹ Simmonds, *Cobb & Co*, p 68

² Premiers Department, *Macquarie Region*, p 32

1.5 Contextual Essay - Providing accommodation

1.5.1 Theme – Housing the rural dweller

The need to put a roof over their heads was met by the earliest settlers by erecting temporary huts or shelters. Basic accommodation was usually first built often of rough slab or timber construction. A log hut built on Woodlands in 1887 by John Robinson was reported to still be extant in 1983.¹ Later, when squatters settled on their properties or their managers had become more settled, they often erected more substantial accommodation. Buddabaddah station homestead in November 1874 was built of pine and roofed with shingles and lined with polished timber.²



Figure 16 This photo of the Buddabaddah Hotel in November 1890 shows the slab and shingle construction used in early housing in rural areas. Source: ML, At Work and Play 03524

At Carlton 32 miles north of Nyngan, a house was built with bricks from the old Halfway Hotel on Duck Creek located on the former coach road from Dubbo to Bourke.³ After the police station at Canonba was closed about 1925, it was

¹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 221

² *ATCJ*, 7 November 1874, p 740

³ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 67

demolished by J W Garland of Benah after he bought the land.¹ The bricks were used to build Benah homestead.²

From 1906, the bulk of rural housing was of timber wall construction, with a modest few of brick. From the late 1940s onwards, fibro houses became a much substantial part of the total. A sizeable part of the rural housing in Bogan Shire was built with metal walls most likely galvanised iron.

Dwellings in Bogan Shire 1911-1961

Bogan Shire	1911	1921	1933	1947	1954	1961
Brick or stone						
Stone		1	2	1	1	
Brick		2	2	6	8	9
Concrete, adobe, pise	1		2	5	7	
Metal		32	71	31	31	37
WB slab or inferior	280	264	233	219	214	
Sundried Bricks						
Pise		1	2	1		
Lath, Wattle, Mud	1	1				
Fibro			36	58	118	181
Rooms						
Tents		44	33	29	22	12
Drays						
Ships						
Other		1		1	10	5
Unknown		2	3		1	1
<i>Total dwellings</i>	<i>365</i>	<i>414</i>	<i>362</i>	<i>415</i>	<i>466</i>	<i>476</i>

Source: Census, 1911-1961

1.5.2 Theme – Housing the town or village dweller

A similar pattern occurred in Canonba and Nyngan with rough shelter being replaced as need or opportunity permitted with houses of milled timber or of brick. In June 1888, the only brick buildings in Nyngan were the railway station, workshops and the railway workers' cottages.³ Those railway cottages appear to be those that still survive in a perilous condition on Pangee Street between the station and Moonagee Street.

¹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 111

² Simmonds, *Cobb & Co*, p 72

³ *ATCJ*, 2 June 1888, p 1123



Figure 17 One of the few brick houses in Nyngan during the 1890 flood. Source: ML, At Work and Play 03416

The bulk of housing was of timber wall construction, with a modest few dwellings constructed of brick. From later 1940s onwards, fibro houses became a much larger part of the total, exceeding the number of timber houses by 1961.

Dwellings in Nyngan Municipality 1891-1961

Nyngan	1891	1901	1911	1921	1933	1947	1954	1961
Brick or stone								
Stone						1		
Brick	23	36		40	51	59	67	55
Concrete, adobe, pise							1	1
Metal	12	13		6	13	8	13	13
WB slab or inferior	225		221	219	241	230	184	184
Sundried Bricks				1				
Pise								
Lath, Wattle, Mud					1			
Fibro					6	49	158	252
Rooms								
Tents	73			3	16	13	24	9
Other							2	6
Unknown	7	44		3	3	2		
<i>Total dwellings</i>	<i>385</i>	<i>318</i>	<i>295</i>	<i>273</i>	<i>309</i>	<i>374</i>	<i>494</i>	<i>520</i>

Source: Census 1891-1961

Accommodation was built as family homes for those who lived and worked in the area, either for the railway or for the businesses in town. Many would have rented their accommodation. For the roving rural worker or those who needed temporary accommodation whilst working in town, boarding houses or lodging houses provided shelter.

By 1904, a former boarding house in Nymagee Street was run by Mrs Bell. After Thomas Ryan bought it, it became the Australian Hotel.¹ On 10 September 1936, there was a major fire in the 'Bushmen's Home' a weatherboard building with 15 rooms at the corner of Nymagee and Tabratong Streets that was run as a boarding house by Christopher O'Toole.²

Timber houses were also moved easily once settlement patterns changed. A large cottage in Terangion Street, Nyngan occupied by Jack Walsh in 1938 was a former hotel from Canonbar.³ Other houses appear to have been pre-fabricated cottages, such as 16 Cannonbar Street and 9 Derrybong Street, possibly dating back to the late nineteenth or early twentieth century.

The Wartime Housing Survey of 1943-44 showed that of a total of 360 dwelling units in Nyngan, 25 were sub-standard and should be demolished. Another fifty more were capable of renovation. None of Bogan Shire's houses were rated so poorly.⁴

As in all towns largely built of timber, fire was a major hazard as well as significant determinant of building survival. A major fire in Nymagee Street on 28 March 1948 destroyed a number of houses.⁵

More recent mining development has allowed the shire to grow modestly. From 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008, there were building applications for a total of 'five (4) dwellings' [sic], 31 additions, and two other residential developments including duplexes or units.⁶

¹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 137, 143

² *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 126

³ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

⁴ Premiers Department, *Macquarie Region*, p 38

⁵ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 126

⁶ Bogan Shire Council, *Annual Report*, 2008-9, np

1.6 Contextual Essay - Maintaining services and amenities

1.6.1 Theme - Providing utility services

Water was supplied to the town of Nyngan from a dam on the river with a pumping station, which was in operation by the early 1890s. A water supply tower was built in the park to supply Nyngan in 1894.¹ The Overshot Dam was completed to supply water to Nyngan in July 1928.² A more secure water supply was established when the Albert Priest Channel was complete. On 25 September 1942, a dinner celebrated the opening of the Albert Priest Channel that brought water to Nyngan from the Bogan River.³



Figure 18 The Nyngan Dam site and pumping station shown on the office copy of the 1884 parish map. Source: Parish Map, Parish Nyngan, County Oxley, 1884

In 1903, an attempt to use acetylene gas as street lighting was tried at Nyngan but it was discontinued after it was unsuccessful.⁴ Electricity was switched on at Nyngan on

¹ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

² *Back to Nyngan*, p 13

³ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 103

⁴ *Back to Nyngan*, p 13

28 June 1926.¹ The power station was situated in a plant behind the Town Hall. It was also used to pump greater volumes of water from the river.²

A Volunteer Fire Brigade was formed at Nyngan on 18 February 1935.³ The Fire Station opened on 12 December 1935.⁴

A sewerage system for Nyngan was officially opened on 27 November 1959.⁵

1.6.2 Theme – Communicating

The earliest mail run to Canonba from Dubbo to Canonba via Warren commenced in 1858.⁶ By June 1858, H J W Egan was postmaster at Canonba.⁷ After the house at Colane station burned down about 1860 a new one was built half a mile from the old one. It had a post office adjacent.⁸

On 16 September 1880, a post office commenced at Thomas Rowe's Tattersall's Hotel, Nyngan.⁹ On 21 August 1882, the Nyngan Post Office opened in H V Jackson's general store.¹⁰ In November 1889, a purpose-built Post Office built by D McDonald opened in Cobar Street.¹¹ The telegraph office opened at Nyngan Railway Station on 8 June 1883.¹²

A postal receiving office opened at Coolabah with Charles Werner as postmaster in December 1884. It was elevated to a post office from 16 December 1885.¹³ On 5 February 1897, the Bobadah Progress Association requested the establishment of a post office. On 5 April 1897, M F Hennessy commenced duty as postmaster.¹⁴

The old post office at Colane was reported to be still extant in 1999.¹⁵

The *Nyngan Times* was first published on 6 October 1883, later becoming the *Mercury* and then the *Observer*.¹⁶

¹ *Back to Nyngan*, p 13

² *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 105

³ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 126

⁴ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 126

⁵ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 108

⁶ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 20

⁷ Post Office File, Cannonbar, Part I, 1857-68, NAA CRS SP 32/1, Letter 58/813

⁸ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 63

⁹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 88

¹⁰ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 88

¹¹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 89

¹² *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 88

¹³ P Thompson, *Under the shade of the Coolibah*, p 14

¹⁴ Post Office File, Bobadah Part 1, 1897-1901, NAA, CRS 32/1

¹⁵ Simmonds, *Cobb & Co*, p 73

¹⁶ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 125

1.6.3 Theme – Educating

Cannonbar Public School opened in January 1871 and operated as both a public school and provisional school with some breaks until it finally closed in September 1890.¹

A provisional school commenced at Nyngan in May 1882. It was elevated to Public School status in March 1883.² About 1899, Nyngan Public School opened on a new site in Cobar Street.³ In 1924, due to a larger population brought by closer settlement, a new wing was added to Nyngan Public School.⁴

In 1885, nuns from the Order of St Joseph arrived in Nyngan to set up a convent and school. It originally operated in Warren Street between Terangion and Mudall Streets.⁵ In 1945, St Joseph's Convent School was the sole non-government school at Nyngan.⁶



Figure 19 St Joseph's Roman Catholic School, Terangion Street, Nyngan.

¹ NSW – Dept of School Education, *Government Schools of New South Wales 1848 to 1993*, Dept of School Education, 1993, Sydney, p 45

² *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 113

³ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 113

⁴ *Back to Nyngan*, p 16

⁵ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 133

⁶ Premiers Department, *Macquarie Region*, p 40

A few private schools also operated. In 1904, a Miss Millar conducted a Private ladies' school in Wambiana Street, Nyngan.¹

Schools also appeared in smaller centres. After residents of Girilambone petitioned for a school, the school commenced on 18 January 1882.² It was later known as the Girilambone Mine Public School after a new school opened in the government town at the railway in July 1897. The mine school closed in October 1904.³ Coolabah Provisional School opened in January 1887 becoming a Public School in October 1892.⁴ A new school building opened in October 1912 followed by a new school residence in May 1913.⁵ A Provisional School opened at Hermidale in May 1901 being elevated to a Public School in October 1901.⁶ At Bobahah, a Public School opened in August 1897 and operated until it was downgraded to a Provisional School in September 1919 before closing in May 1923.⁷ A Provisional School opened at Miandetta in September 1912 and operated until May 1945.⁸

Education expanded in the post war period. St Joseph's Infants School in Bogan Street opened in 1967.⁹ Nyngan High School opened in 1974.¹⁰ A new Nyngan Public School on a new site in Cathundral Street was officially opened on 27 October 1978.¹¹

1.6.4 Theme - Observing religious practices

An Anglican Church to be called St Paul's was licensed at Nyngan on 1 November 1883.¹² In 1889, a separate Nyngan Anglican parish was formed.¹³ On 29 May 1897, the Anglican Church of St Paul, Nyngan, built of cypress pine was consecrated.¹⁴ In 1920, the foundation stone of St Mark's Church of England was laid at Bogan and Terangion Streets, Nyngan.¹⁵ It was dedicated on 1 December 1926.¹⁶

A small Roman Catholic Church was commenced at the corner of Bogan and Terangion Streets in 1889 when Rev Walter Curran arrived in Nyngan.¹⁷ A Roman

¹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 145

² Education, School File, Girilambone, 1881-1903, SRNSW 5/15993.2

³ NSW – Dept of School Education, *Government Schools of New South Wales 1848 to 1993*, Dept of School Education, 1993, Sydney, p 72

⁴ NSW – Dept of School Education, *Government Schools of New South Wales 1848 to 1993*, Dept of School Education, 1993, Sydney, p 53

⁵ P Thompson, *Under the shade of the Coolibah*, p 22

⁶ NSW – Dept of School Education, *Government Schools of New South Wales 1848 to 1993*, Dept of School Education, 1993, Sydney, p 80

⁷ NSW – Dept of School Education, *Government Schools of New South Wales 1848 to 1993*, Dept of School Education, 1993, Sydney, p 34

⁸ NSW – Dept of School Education, *Government Schools of New South Wales 1848 to 1993*, Dept of School Education, 1993, Sydney, p 101

⁹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 113

¹⁰ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 114

¹¹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 114

¹² *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 128

¹³ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

¹⁴ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

¹⁵ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 128

¹⁶ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

¹⁷ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 133

Catholic Church was built at the corner of Bogan and Terangion Streets, Nyngan in 1900.¹ A brick Roman Catholic presbytery was built in Bogan Street, Nyngan in 1924.² In 1885, nuns from the Order of St Joseph had arrived in Nyngan to set up a convent and school that originally operated in Warren Street between Terangion and Mudall Streets.³ A new St Joseph's Roman Catholic Convent opened in Nyngan in 1914.⁴

After the Methodists had been holding services in the Oddfellows Hall in Cobar Street, a Methodist Church was built in Cobar Street in 1894.⁵ In 1939, Nyngan became the administrative centre for the Methodist Church's Far West Mission.⁶

Churches were also built in smaller centres. The Anglican Church of St Mary the Virgin ('Marra Church') 61 miles from Nyngan was built in 1913.⁷ On 2 December 1923, the first service was held in St Faith's Anglican Church at Hermidale.⁸ The first service at St Paul's Anglican Church, Girilambone, followed on 30 August 1925.⁹ A community built Church of England known as St Matthew's opened at Monkey Road, West Bogan in 1939.¹⁰

1.6.5 Theme - Supplying retail, financial and professional services

The first commercial services emerged in the village of Canonba/Canonbar where a store, the Cannonbar hotel and a post office emerged on Brown's land. The private town of Girilambone set up next to the mine attracted some storekeepers such as George Buist and W N Willis. Nyngan quickly emerged attracting business people such as Willis and Buist away from Girilambone. When surveyor Arthur Burgess laid out the town of Nyngan in February 1882, there was already a hotel and a store on the town site.¹¹ As the town grew so did its commercial facilities.

By the 1890s, a number of medical practitioners were practising at Nyngan. They included Doctors Germyn, Westrum, Hickey and Gilray.¹² Solicitors in Nyngan in 1890 included James L Byrne and D Burns.¹³ About 1900, A J L Flashman commenced a long standing legal practice in Nyngan.¹⁴

One of the most notable businesses was that of Bleakley and Barringer. On 20 November 1888, Albert Caro leased his general store near the Bogan River to Arthur

¹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 133

² *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 133

³ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 133

⁴ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 131

⁵ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 134

⁶ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 134

⁷ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 130

⁸ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

⁹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 128

¹⁰ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 130-2

¹¹ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

¹² *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 118

¹³ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 247

¹⁴ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 245

T Bleakley. Bleakley and Barringer bought the property on 1 June 1891.¹ In 1894, A T Bleakley and Frank Page Barringer built a new general store at the corner of Pangee and Tabratong Streets on the site of the old Metropolitan Hotel. When Bleakley drowned that year, Barringer continued on his own. It became the major store in Nyngan.² Barringer's department store on the corner of Panjee and Tabratong Streets burned down in March 1960 to be replaced by the Overlander Hotel built by Tooth's.³

Hotels were a significant part of the commercial and social life of the community. The earliest hotels were at Canonba and along the roads that traversed the district. Once Nyngan was established, it attracted many hotels. The following Tables show the hotels licensed in the Bogan district.

Hotels of the Bogan District 1865

Sign	Address	Licensee
Cannonbar Hotel	Cannonbar	John Brown

Source: *NSWGG*, 8 Sept 1865, p 2038

Hotels of the Bogan District 1873

Sign	Address	Licensee
Cannonbar Hotel	Cannonbar	John Cuff
Royal	Cannonbar	Henry Isaac
Elmswood [Bogan??]	Monkey, Bogan River	Robert Lamph
Half-way House	Duck Creek, Bourke Road	Layars Larson
Commercial	Canonbar	John Quin

Source: *NSWGG*, 9 Sept 1873, p 2462

Hotels of the Bogan District 1880

Sign	Address	Licensee
Three-legs-of-man Hotel	Road – Cannonbar to Tindary	John Daley
Post Office Hotel	Cannonbar	George Buist
Traveller's Rest [Bogan??]	Duck Creek Road, Warren to Cannonbar	Henry Ellis
Commercial	Cannonbar	John Quinn
Bayswater Hotel	Buddabadah, Bogan River	John Smith Skinner
Royal Oak Hotel	Willeroon	George Wright
Royal	Cannonbar	Henry Isaacs
Elmswood Hotel	Monkey, Bogan River	Rebecca Lamph
Half-way House	Duck Creek, Bourke Road	Layars Larson

Source: *NSWGG*, 17 Sept 1880, p 4831-2, 4834

¹ Lot 2 Section 2, C T 687 f 229

² *Back to Nyngan*, p 23

³ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 142

Hotels of the Bogan District 1889

Sign	Address	Licensee
Railway Family Hotel	Nyngan	Thomas Barrett
Carrier's Arms	Nyngan	Henry Davis
Star	Cobar Road, near Nyngan	Francis Dawson
Royal	Nyngan	James Dunn
Hall's Hotel	Hermitage Plains	Henry F Hall
Pine Ridge Hotel	Pine Ridge	James Jones
Club House	Nyngan	Ellen Neal
Commercial	Cannonbar	John Quinn
Tattersall's	West Nyngan	Thomas H Rowe

Source: NSWGG, 15 Aug 1889, p 5567

Hotels of the Bogan District 1898

Sign	Address	Licensee
Railway Family Hotel	Nymagee Street, Nyngan	Thomas Barrett
Royal	Nyngan	James Dunn
Pine Ridge Hotel	Marra Creek	Isidore H Jones
Commercial	Canonbar	Martin Lucas
Tattersall's	Nyngan	Robert H Winters

Source: NSWGG, 26 Aug 1898, p 6848

Hotels of the Bogan District January 1920

Sign	Address	Licensee	Owner
Australian	Nyngan	Joseph Henry Ellison	James Smeddy
Barrett's	Nyngan	Walter John Stapleton	Thomas Barrett deceased estate
Carrier's Arms	Nyngan	Augustus Joseph Le Maire	John McKean
Commercial (sign changed to Nyngan)			
Coolabah	Coolabah	James Charles McKeon	Frederick Werner
Court House	Nyngan	James Stephen Martin	Nelson John Proctor
Federal House	Miandetta	George Edward Dorman	William Fairall
Imperial	Nyngan	Herbert Alexander McLennan	James Gate
Nyngan (formerly Commercial)	Nyngan	James Martin	Laurance Galvin
Railway	Girilambone	Alexander McKinnon	James Mostyn
Royal	Hermidale	Arthur Boyd	George Dutton
Royal	Nyngan	George Henry Gordon	James Dunn (deceased)

A process of continuous change ensured that hotels were opened and closed and their licensees changed regularly. By 1904, the newly built Imperial Hotel was in Panjee Street opposite the railway station, replacing an earlier timber hotel run by Mrs Simpson. In the 1960s, it was demolished for the Canonba Hotel-Motel.¹ Mrs Bell was running a former boarding house in Nymagee Street by 1904. After Thomas Ryan bought it, it became the Australian Hotel.² In 1912, Nelson Proctor, the former licensee of the Imperial Hotel built the Court House Hotel on the Panjee and Tabratong Street corner where the courthouse, police station, barracks and CPS office had previously stood. The balance of the land was sold to the Commercial Banking Co of Sydney, which erected premises there.³



Figure 20 The Imperial Hotel in Panjee Street, demolished to build the Canonba Hotel-Motel. Source: ML, At Work and Play 05178

In the early twentieth century, Nymagee Street had many commercial premises.⁴ Philip Somer Antill commenced a stock and station business at Nyngan after owning Marra Station from 1890. The firm operated as a station agent for 55 years.⁵ The firm of Shaw and Antill was registered on 5 February 1904.⁶ Some concept of the range of businesses in Nyngan in 1906 can be seen in the following table.

¹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 137

² *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 137, 143

³ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

⁴ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 156

⁵ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 226

⁶ Registrar-General, Registers of Firms, SRNSW 2/8536, No 12474

Nyngan

Business	Number
Auctioneer &/or Stock & station agent	2
Baker	1
Baker & grocer	1
Billiard saloon	2
Blacksmith & wheelwright	2
Bootmaker	1
Boots & shoes	1
Builder &/or contractor	E Fowke; Gordon Brothers; R Ingram; F Putenson = 4
Butcher	1
Chemist	1
Coachbuilder	1
Cordial manufacturer	2
Cycle Agent	1
Dairyman	2
District Hospital	1
Dressmaker	4
Forwarding agents	1
Fruiterer	2
Grocer	2
Hairdresser	2
Hotel	T Barrett, <i>Barrett's Hotel</i> ; J A Draper, <i>Commercial Hotel</i> ; James Dunn, <i>Royal Hotel</i> ; E Hogan, <i>Imperial Hotel</i> ; T Kelly, <i>Australian Hotel</i> ; J Stibbard, <i>Carriers' Arms Hotel</i> = 6
Medical practitioner	2
Newsagent	1
Newspaper	<i>Nyngan Observer</i> = 1
Painter	1
Produce dealer	1
Saddler	1
Sawmill	W & H Priest; E H Utley = 2
Solicitor	1
Store	4
Store & dressmaker	1
'Surgeon Dentist'	1
Tailor	1
Undertaker	1
Wheelwright	1
Wool merchant	1
Woolscourer	1

Source: Sands, *Directory*, 1906, pp 130C; Data collected late in 1905

As other centres emerged, they also acquired retail services but none seem to have attracted the more specialised services such as doctors or banks that Nyngan acquired. The evolution of businesses in the Bogan area can be seen in the following Tables

Bogan Businesses 1921

Source: Sands, *Directory*, 1921, pp 46A, 92A, 151A, 187A, 245A, 299A-301A

Bobabah

Business	Number
Butcher	1
Hotel (Royal)	1

Coolabah

Business	Number
Auctioneer &/or Stock and Station Agents	1
Carrier	1
Hotel	1
Saddler	1
Store (Frederick Werner)	1
Teamster	1

Girilambone

Business	Number
Agent	1
Blacksmith	1
Fruiterer	1
General Store	2
Grocer	1
Hotel	1
Teamster	1

Hermidale

Business	Number
Assayer	1
Auctioneer &/or Stock and Station Agents	1
Bonnie Dundee Options Ltd (NL)	
Budgery Copper Mining Co (NL)	
Budgery North Block No 2 Copper Mining Co (NL)	
Hairdresser	1
Hotel	1
Mail contractor	2

Business	Number
Motor proprietor	3
Refreshment room	3
Storekeeper, newsagent & stationer (E A Boyd)	

Miandetta

Business	Number
Hotel (W Fairall)	1

Nyngan

Business	Number
Auctioneer &/or Stock and Station Agents	4
Baker & storekeeper	3
Bank	3
Billiard saloon	1
Blacksmith	1
Bonnie Dundee Mining Co (NL)	
Bonnie Dundee Options Ltd	
Boots & shoes	1
Brickmaker (James Gale)	1
Budgerygar Mining Co (NL)	
Budgerygar North Block 2	
Builder (W T Haworth; E J Stapleton)	2
Builder & Plumber (R J Priest)	1
Butcher	4
Carrier	1
Chemist	1
Cinema	1
Coachbuilder (H Jennings)	1
Country Freezing Co Ltd (Warrigal)	
Dentist	1
Dressmaker	1
Forwarding Agent	1
Fruiterer	1
Garage	1
Grocer/storekeeper	4
Hairdresser	1
Hotel	8
Jeweller	1
Medical practitioner	2
Mercer	1
Motor car proprietor	2
Newsagent	1

Business	Number
Nurse	1
Newspaper (Nyngan Observer)	
Nyngan Motor & General Engineering Works	
Plumber	2
Private hospital	1
Produce merchant & carrier	1
Saddler	2
Scrub contractor	1
Shearing contractor	1
Skin buyer	1
Solicitor	2
Tea rooms	1
Wheelwright	1
Wine saloon	2
Wood merchant	1

Bogan Shire Businesses in July 1938

Source: Merchants' and Traders' Association Pty Ltd, *Country Trade Directory*, July 1938, p 42, 94, 138, 178, 247, 289-90

Bobadah

Name	Business
Bobadah Development NL	
Deeves Alex	Store
Harley George A	Butcher

Coolabah

Name	Business
Eckert W Mrs	Fruiterer
Gregson T J	Store
McKeon G	Tank Sinker
Sharpe Thomas	Saddler & harnessmaker
Sullivan M	Coolabah Hotel
Thomas Henry	Carrier

Girilambone

Name	Business
Davison Thomas	Butcher & Fruiterer
Dicker A V (Railway Town)	Produce dealer & General Store & Commission Agent
Hope T B	Baker
Inglis L	Carrier

Name	Business
Spicer Herbert	Mail Contractor
Vigor John	Railway Hotel

Hermidale

Name	Business
Boyd Edward A	General Store, Produce Merchant & Forwarding Agent
Boyd H W	Butcher
Brennan C	Carpenter & Contractor
Chandler Ivan	Motor Mechanic & Garage
Currans Alex	Carrier & Contractor
Fiddies W	Tank Sinker & Contractor
McKeon C A	Carrier & Contractor
Moore Hubert J	Royal Hotel
Read H J	Confectioner & Café
Setter T & A	Mail Contractor
Whyte D C	Baker and Confectioner

Miandetta

Name	Business
Read C E	Contractor & carrier

Nyngan

Business	Number
Agent	1
Auctioneer and/or Stock & Station Agent	5
Baker	1
Billy's Creek Timber Co	
Blacksmith	1
Blacksmith & Undertaker	1
Boots & shoes	1
Boot repairer	1
Builder (W A Gesler; J F Hunt; L F Ludlow; R J Priest)	4
Building repairer	1
Butcher	5
Carrier	6
Chemist	2
Contractor	2
Cordial manufacturer (Claney W E)	
Cycle Agent & Licensed Plumber	1
Cycle Works & radio dealer (P J McMahan)	

Business	Number
Dentist	1
Draper	1
Forwarding & Produce Agents and Shell Depot	
Forwarding Agents & Plume Depot	
Fruiterer	1
Fuel depot	1
Garage	3
Garden (Yee War)	1
General Store, Baker & Texaco Depot	
General Store & Picture Show	1
Grocer & draper	1
Hairdresser	5
Hire car	3
Hotel	5
Mail contractor	1
Medical practitioner	2
Milliner	1
Painter	2
Picture Show (E H Larsen)	
Plumber	1
Refreshment Room	2
Refreshment Room & Confectionary	1
Saddler & Sports Depot	1
Sawmill (William Priest)	
Solicitor	3
Store	1
Tailor	2
Wine	1

A notable businessman Jack Vanges came to Nyngan in the 1920s and became the owner of the California café. He took a leading role in a many local organisations.¹ The Bank of NSW commenced business in Nyngan in 1931 after a merger between its parent company and the Australian Bank of Commerce.² New Bank of NSW premises opened in Panjee Street in 1934.³

In 1999, three of the original hotel buildings were left in Nyngan. The former Commercial Hotel built in 1883 was the Heritage Coffee Pot. Barrett's Hotel was extant. The Courthouse Hotel had become a supermarket, barber and solicitor's office.⁴

¹ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

² *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 148

³ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 148

⁴ Simmonds, *Cobb & Co*, p 68



Figure 21 The former Commercial Hotel, Nymagee Street, Nyngan.

1.6.6 Theme - Caring for health

By the 1890s, a number of medical practitioners were practising at Nyngan and included Doctors Germyn, Westrum, Hickey and Gilray.¹ In 1897, the Nyngan Cottage Hospital was established.²

Private hospitals also operated, many of them catering for women as lying-in hospitals where they gave birth. In 1904, Nurse Temby was conducting a private hospital in Wambiana Street, Nyngan.³ A private hospital operated at Nyngan run by Nurses Thompson and Hume in 1920.⁴

Notable medical practitioners included Dr Daish who came to Nyngan about 1913 where he practised for 40 years from his house and surgery at the corner of Terangion and Cobar Streets.⁵ In March 1919, Dr Arthur Duncan Forbes, who had served with the British and Australian forces as a doctor in World War One began a medical practice at Nyngan, where he practised for 40 years. He became the Government Medical Officer, and Senior Medical Officer at the Hospital and died on 19 January 1959.

¹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 118

² *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 119

³ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 144

⁴ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 242

⁵ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 118

An ambulance service commenced at Nyngan about 1924 with a car loaned from Sydney and driven by CWA volunteers.¹ In 1942, the Nyngan District Ambulance was inaugurated.² A new ambulance station was built at Nyngan on 20 September 1969.³

Nyngan Hospital grew, as district needs increased. In 1943, new private and intermediate sections were added.⁴ By 1948, it had 30 beds.⁵ The NSW Premier, Jack Renshaw opened additions to the Hospital in 1952.⁶ The Hospital was closed in April 2009 and offered for sale in July 2009.⁷ A new Hospital opened nearby.

1.6.7 Theme - Enjoying leisure

Originally situated in an isolated area, early settlers of Bogan Shire made their own entertainment. Once more intensive settlement emerged, there were more options usually commencing with hotel based entertainment, including gambling and sporting events arranged by the publican.

Nyngan was the site where early clubs and other leisure activities commenced. By 1888, a Nyngan Gun Club was extant.⁸ The first town band was formed in 1892.⁹ By 1898, the Nyngan Picnic Race Club was in existence.¹⁰ The Masonic Lodge Oxley No 225 was formed at Nyngan in 1898.¹¹

Sport was a major leisure activity for those wanting something active, whilst more relaxed pursuits such as picnicking also occupied leisure hours. About 1900, the Beablebar Picnic Race Club commenced and was named after the property of George Forbes where the races were held.¹² The Nyngan Lawn Tennis Club was formed in 1901.¹³ By 1903, a cycle club was extant at Nyngan.¹⁴ The Nyngan Rifle Club formed in 1908 used butts two miles north of town.¹⁵ The original golf club was formed in 1913 but lapsed.¹⁶

Clubs built their own premises and cultural facilities were erected to cater for the own. In 1910, the Nyngan Masonic Temple was built.¹⁷ In 1916, the Railway Commissioners took over the existing Nyngan School of Arts and ran it as a Railway

¹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 122

² *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 122

³ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 122

⁴ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 119

⁵ Premiers Department, *Macquarie Region*, p 20

⁶ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 119

⁷ <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/07/15/2626636.htm>. Accessed 20 January 2011

⁸ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

⁹ *Back to Nyngan*, p 27

¹⁰ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 183

¹¹ *Back to Nyngan*, p 30

¹² *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 184

¹³ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

¹⁴ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 194

¹⁵ *Back to Nyngan*, p 32

¹⁶ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 184

¹⁷ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 175

and Tramway Institute.¹ On 9 December 1916, the Austral Kinema at Nyngan Town Hall commenced with screening of films of World War One.² One of the more unusual entertainments of that era was the Warrigal Boska Band, a local band from the meatworks who played drums and mouth organs in the 1910s.³

In the 1920s, after the disruption of the war years and with the increase of population due to closer settlement, new clubs and sports commenced. In the early 1920s, rugby league was played at Nyngan under coach Dr A D Forbes.⁴ The Nyngan Golf Club revived in April 1927 using land at 'Bogan Villa' on the Tottenham Road.⁵ Nyngan Gun Club was formed on 23 June 1928.⁶

Thereafter, the pace slowed. A bowling club commenced at Nyngan in 1943.⁷ In 1947, the Nyngan Golf Club was able to lease land on Tottenham Road from the Dept of Lands for a larger golf course.⁸ The foundation stone of the War Memorial Swimming Pool was laid by the Governor of NSW on 20 April 1948.⁹ It officially opened in November 1952.¹⁰ The Nyngan RSL and Civic Club was formed in 1955.¹¹ A new purpose-built RSL Club opened in Pangee Street on 2 April 1960.¹² A Scout Group formed at Nyngan in 1959 followed by a Girl Guide unit formed on 4 May 1960.¹³ By 2008, tourist attractions at Nyngan included the Helicopter, the Historical Society Museum, Old Canonba Pioneer Memorial, Coolabah Well, Cobb & Co Coach and the Mid State Shearing Shed.¹⁴

¹ *Back to Nyngan*, p 27

² *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 146

³ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 49

⁴ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 187

⁵ *Back to Nyngan*, p 29

⁶ *Back to Nyngan*, p 23

⁷ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 193

⁸ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 185

⁹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 106

¹⁰ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 195

¹¹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 168

¹² *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 168

¹³ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 173

¹⁴ Bogan Shire Council, *Community Plan*, 2008-9, p 20

1.7 Contextual Essay - Developing a community

1.7.1 Theme – Governing

Nyngan Municipal Council was gazetted on 17 February 1891 and was soon looking after the town. The new Municipality had a population of 1,355 and 315 dwellings, of which 200 were of wooden slab construction and 23 were of brick.¹ The purpose-built Nyngan Town Hall and Council Chambers was completed in 1897.² Previously the state government had looked after services usually through the agency of local magistrates who acted as mediators between the local community and the State Government.

The Municipal Council only covered the town of Nyngan. On 3 December 1906, as part of a wholesale gazettal of local government authorities by the NSW state government, Bogan Shire was formed to look after the rural area, which included the villages of Girilambone, Bobadah and Coolabah.³ The foundation stone of new Bogan Shire offices was laid on 7 December 1935.⁴ In 1958, Bogan Shire had recently acquired an additional area from ‘the Coolabah end of the Western Division of 552,220 acres as well as 105,980 acres from the Warren area to make a total area of 3,607,320 acres.’⁵

The State Government remained responsible for a variety of matters. In 1948 State Government officers at Nyngan were the Clerk of Petty Sessions, Crown Land Agent, Forester, Warden’s Clerk of the Mines Dept, and the Stock Inspector.⁶

Nyngan Municipality and Bogan Shire were amalgamated on 1 January 1972.⁷

1.7.2 Theme – Maintaining law and order

Mounted troopers under the Crown Lands Commissioner for the Wellington Pastoral District originally maintained law and order. As settlement proceeded, more permanent forms of law and order were established. ‘Cannonbar’ was gazetted as a place for holding petty sessions on 4 March 1864.⁸ Canonba Police Station was set up in 1864 as part of the Western Police District with two mounted constables.⁹

¹ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

² *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 97

³ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 97

⁴ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

⁵ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

⁶ Premiers Department, *Macquarie Region*, p 36

⁷ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 100

⁸ H Golder, *High and Responsible Office: A History of the NSW Magistracy*, Sydney University Press, Sydney, 1991, p 233

⁹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 111

By 1882, Constable J Quinn was staffing the Nyngan police station.¹ Nyngan had been gazetted as a place for petty sessions on 18 May 1883.² On 21 December 1883, petty sessions were abolished at 'Cannonbar'.³ In 1925, the police station at Canonba closed and it was demolished by J W Garland of Benah after he bought the land.⁴

At Nyngan, a police station, courthouse and other buildings were erected on an acre reserve at the corner of Tabratong and Bogan Streets. The brick police station was later demolished for a new building.⁵ The Crown later bought Lot 6 Section 39 as a site for the courthouse.⁶ By January 1885, the court was sitting in a 'good-sized room' next to a hotel near the railway station.⁷ By mid 1888, the court was using several rooms of the hotel instead.⁸

Construction of a new courthouse for Nyngan commenced in 1901. It was officially opened on 29 August 1902.⁹ The work had been completed at a cost of £3,819/7/7.¹⁰ In 1937, additions were made to the courthouse to house Quarter Sessions and District Court sessions.¹¹



Figure 22 Official opening of Nyngan courthouse, 29 August 1902. Source: ML, BCP 03505

¹ *Back to Nyngan*, p 29

² H Golder, *High and Responsible Office: A History of the NSW Magistracy*, Sydney University Press, Sydney, 1991, p 246

³ H Golder, *High and Responsible Office: A History of the NSW Magistracy*, Sydney University Press, Sydney, 1991, p 233

⁴ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 111

⁵ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 111

⁶ At Occ86/879, Lands, Occupation Branch, Correspondence, SRNSW 14/4464

⁷ *ATCJ*, 31 Jan 1885, p 236

⁸ *ATCJ*, 2 June 1888, p 1123

⁹ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

¹⁰ NSW - Department of Public Works, *Annual Report*, 1902, p 34

¹¹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 112

The villages also acquired police stations and court sessions. Girilambone was gazetted as a place for petty sessions on 21 November 1882 but this role was abolished on 7 September 1886.¹ Girilambone was again gazetted as a place for holding petty sessions on 10 November 1899.² Since 1896, a mounted policeman had been stationed at Girilambone. In 1899, a police station and lock-up was erected at Girilambone at a cost of £848. The police station closed in 1975.³ From 30 September 1970 onwards, Girilambone was no longer a site for petty sessions.⁴

A police station had been established at Coolabah by 1891 when additions worth £309/12/6 were completed to the building.⁵ Coolabah was gazetted as place for petty sessions on 13 December 1898 but it was abolished on 20 July 1905.⁶

At Nyngan, a new police station was erected on the site of the old one in 1976.⁷

1.7.3 Theme - Defending the nation

Like many country areas, Bogan Shire provided a number of enlistments for the services in the Great War of 1914-18 later known as World War One. There was a total of 64 enlistments from Nyngan and 1 from Girilambone though many more gave their place of birth as Nyngan (193). The following table summarises that data.

World War One Enlistments Bogan Shire

Locality	Enlistments	Birthplace
Coolabah		13
Girilambone	1	15
Nyngan	64	193

Source: <http://mappingouranzacs.naa.gov.au>. Accessed 1 November 2010

One of the notable enlistments was Arthur Charles Hall, of Glenelg, Coolabah who showed such courage at Peronne on 1 and 2 September 1918 that he was awarded the Victoria Cross.⁸ The war had other impacts on the town. In March 1919, Dr Arthur Duncan Forbes, who had served with British and Australian forces as a doctor, began his medical practice at Nyngan.

War Memorials provided a community reminder of that traumatic event. On 10 August 1920, the foundation stone of the Nyngan Soldiers' Memorial was laid.⁹

¹ H Golder, *High and Responsible Office: A History of the NSW Magistracy*, Sydney University Press, Sydney, 1991, p 238

² H Golder, *High and Responsible Office: A History of the NSW Magistracy*, Sydney University Press, Sydney, 1991, p 238

³ K H Heckendorf, *Girilambone 100 Years*, Dubbo Secretarial Services, Dubbo, Oct 1980, p 51

⁴ H Golder, *High and Responsible Office: A History of the NSW Magistracy*, Sydney University Press, Sydney, 1991, p 238

⁵ NSW - Department of Public Works, *Annual Report*, 1891, p 100

⁶ H Golder, *High and Responsible Office: A History of the NSW Magistracy*, Sydney University Press, Sydney, 1991, p 235

⁷ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 112

⁸ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 224-5

⁹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 201

Other War Memorials were also set up such as that at Hermidale that lists 14 enlistments in World War One of whom three were killed. A further 25 enlistments in World War Two are also shown including two women who joined the WAAF.

World War Two also attracted significant numbers of enlistments from Bogan Shire as shown in the following Table.

World War Two Enlistments Bogan Shire

Locality	Place of Enlistment (All services)	Address at Enlistment	Birthplace
Coolabah	-	18	23
Girilambone	-	46	11
Hermidale		15	13
Nyngan	99	216	521

Source: <http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/script/place.asp>. Accessed 1 November 2010

Unlike many country areas, there appear to have been no major defence facilities built in Bogan Shire. Nyngan aerodrome is reported to have been used as a satellite training field for the air force.¹ In fact, it was an emergency landing ground. On 19 August 1943, Nyngan Airfield was reported to be surfaced with red loam that became soft after rain. It was useful for medium and light transport aircraft but only in dry weather.²

1.7.4 Theme – Developing community services

Community organisations reflect the freedom of citizens to associate in ways that serve their needs and permit them to cater for wants that formal government or its agencies often do not seek to serve. Thus, they mirror both the strengths and limitations of the community that create them.

The Loyal Pride of Nyngan Lodge No 146 of the MUIOOF appears to have been extant by the 1880s providing an early form of insurance for illness and unemployment.³ The Nyngan Branch 10116 of the GUOOF was formed in 1921.⁴

The Nyngan branch of the Red Cross Society was formed in 1914 soon after war broke out.⁵ The Girilambone Branch was formed on 30 November 1914 and continued through the war reforming on 22 September 1934 and remaining active until at least 1980.⁶

The Nyngan branch of the Country Women's Association was formed on 18 August 1923.⁷ Hence, it was one of the earliest branches as the association was formed on 26 April 1922. The Girilambone Branch of the CWA formed in 1923 is also one of the

¹ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 122

² NSW airfield data sheets, 1943-44, NAA CRS A9716, Item 1541

³ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 174

⁴ *Back to Nyngan*, p 32

⁵ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 170

⁶ K H Heckendorf, *Girilambone 100 Years*, Dubbo Secretarial Services, Dubbo, Oct 1980, p 56

⁷ *Back to Nyngan*, p 32

earliest ones to be formed.¹ The Coolabah branch was established on 7 November 1931.² The Country Women's Association has been a major community organisation in rural areas providing facilities for women, entertainment for them and often operating as the power behind many community activities, providing labour, advice and experience. The CWA opened its Room at Davidson Park, Nyngan in 1940.³ In 1953, the CWA Rest Rooms at Dalley Street, Coolabah, were opened.⁴ At Hermidale, the CWA Hall is one of the largest buildings in the village.

Late in the 1940s, Nyngan Showground received a number of gifts that allowed the building of the large Walker pavilion from the Walker family, the Wool Pavilion in memory of Eric Mayger and the Dog Pavilion in memory of Wilfred Temple.⁵

Another significant community organisation, the Nyngan and District Historical Society was formed on 23 May 1966.⁶

1.7.5 Theme - Excelling artistically or technically

An Experimental Farm had originally operated at Coolabah but it was too remote.⁷ Another one at Nyngan replaced it. Nyngan Experimental Farm was established in 1910 on 6,209 acres. One thousand acres was used for cropping and the rest was used for grazing. It experimented with dry area cropping, sheep diseases, research of fodder plants and grasses and recording meteorological data. After its closure, M Tucker acquired the land. In 1914 Saanen goats that had been on board the German cruiser *Emden*, were sent to Nyngan after their capture. Their descendants have remained since.⁸

The existence of 'The Overflow' Pastoral Holding in Bogan Shire immediately brings to mind the famous poem by A B Paterson, 'Clancy of the Overflow'. Though one is inclined to be skeptical, there have been claims that link that poem with the property. MLA and historian T D Mutch and a former owner of 'The Overflow' property have both asserted this. However, the identity of Clancy has not been established, though there are claims he was a generic 'everyman' shearer.⁹

1.7.6 Theme - Diversifying the community

There has been a longstanding Chinese community at Nyngan from the town's creation. The original Head Station of the Nyngan Pastoral Holding had a Chinese garden near it as early as the 1880s.¹⁰ Hop Sing was granted a Special Lease for a

¹ K H Heckendorf, *Girilambone 100 Years*, Dubbo Secretarial Services, Dubbo, Oct 1980, p 57

² P Thompson, *Under the shade of the Coolibah*, p 32

³ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 172

⁴ P Thompson, *Under the shade of the Coolibah*, p 32

⁵ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 57

⁶ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 162

⁷ *Back to Nyngan*, p 19

⁸ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 54

⁹ Copy of letter N G Rae to Penny Hutchison, 2 April 1967, in Mid-State Shearing Museum, Nyngan

¹⁰ Shown on Town Map, Nyngan, 1894 edition

vegetable garden on the Bogan River at Nyngan for 1 acre 3 roods.¹ When it expired, the lease was renewed for an enlarged area of 3 acres.² The area of his Lease along with an adjacent area taken by Gee War is shown on the office copy of the 1894 Town Map.³

Three Chinese men drowned in the Bogan River in 1893. Witnesses rescued others.⁴ According to another source, the drowning was in 1894 near Yee War's garden.⁵ The 1901 census collectors' books show a number of Chinese living in River and Nyngan Streets west of the Bogan River.⁶ Chinese gravestones in Nyngan Cemetery date from 1915 and 1916.

In the early twentieth century, Afghan and Indian hawkers were very active in the north-western area near Coolabah.⁷ It is also likely that there were a number of what are today called Lebanese hawkers active in the district.

1.7.7 Theme – Coping with life events

Traditionally, people entered and left this world in private homes often attended by relatives and friends. As the nineteenth century wore on, it became common for these events to occur in public places such as hospitals or nursing homes. Births were usually at home with the assistance of female relatives, neighbours or midwives until the trend for having children born in hospitals became overwhelming. Originally, private hospitals catered for the demand but later public hospitals increasingly provided obstetric services. At the end of people's lives, after a suitable ceremony representing their choice of faith and economic circumstances, they were usually interred.

At Canonba, no cemetery was shown on the 1866 map, though there were a number of reserves for churches. A cemetery survives near Duck Creek on part of the original town site.

The 1894 edition of the town map of Nyngan showed 'Old Graves' near the river in Section 20, indicating burials before formal cemeteries were laid out.⁸ Nyngan Cemetery was established on the original town layout and appears to have continued there ever since. A site visit on 26 November 2010 found a number of burials dating from the 1880s. As part of the original town design for Girilambone, a cemetery was gazetted on 5 April 1899.

¹ NSWGG, 8 July 1890, p 5254

² NSWGG, 25 June 1894, p 3406

³ Shown on Town Map, Nyngan, 1894 edition

⁴ *Nyngan on Bogan*, p 211-2

⁵ Campbell, *Nyngan*, np

⁶ 1901 Census, Collector's Books, Nyngan, Book 58, No A, SRNSW 2/8457

⁷ P Thompson, *Under the shade of the Coolibah*, p 48

⁸ Town Map, Nyngan, 1894

2.0 Chronology

1833

Surveyor Dixon traced part of the line of the Bogan River

17 April 1835

Richard Cunningham, botanist on Mitchell's expedition went missing and was killed by local aborigines about 25 April

10 May 1835

T L Mitchell came to site of Nyngan, which he called Nyingen that had ponds with wildfowl

1840

William Lee senior and junior had taken up run on Bogan River running from Mount Hopeless [on West Bogan No 11?] for 15 miles along the river

1846

Group of white men attacked at night and killed except one at place later called the 'Murdering Stumps' on Lee's Tabratong station

January 1846

T L Mitchell found good water at 'Bugabada' now known as Buddabaddah

13 January 1846

T L Mitchell found good water at 'Darobal' (now Darouble)

18 January 1846

T L Mitchell found more water at Canbelego

27 January 1846

T L Mitchell camped at 'the ponds of Canonba', which later became the site for the village

February 1848

John Brown took lease of land near Canonba and used aboriginal name 'Carringbung' which was corrupted to Canonbar or Cannonbar

1848

Mullengudgery run held by Elizabeth Marsden

20 August 1849

Boundaries of Brown's holding at Canonba set by Commissioner of Crown Lands

1853

Alexander Ferguson bought Mullengudgery run from Elizabeth Marsden

7 September 1853

Reserve 86 at 'Nyngan' gazetted

1856

John Brown applied to purchase 160 acres around his homestead under his pre-emptive right

Late 1850s

West and East Bogan runs were created running about 15 miles back from the river

1858

First mail run to Canonba from Dubbo to Canonba via Warren

1858

Willeroon property near future Coolabah owned by E S Hall

September 1859

Nyngan Run, 16,000 acres, in Wellington District held by A Kerr

4 March 1864

'Cannonbar' gazetted as place to hold petty sessions

1864

Canonba Police Station set up as part of Western Police District with two mounted constables

22 December 1865

Water Reserve No 150 set aside at Nyngan

1866

Official Village Map of Canonba published but village is on John Brown's land to the west

30 October 1866

Village of Canonba proclaimed

1867

Robert Paton built hotel called Traveller's Rest on his selection about half a mile north-west of the later site of Nyngan railway station near the river

1869

George Buist began business as saddler and harness maker at Canonba

1870

Bailliere's Guide noted Cannonbar was not a township (i.e. official town) but petty sessions court could be held there and there was a public pound

22 July 1870

Map of Brownstown, which is adjacent to Canonba, apparently for private subdivision

1870

Coach service operated by Beresford and Jones was crossing the Bogan area on trips from Dubbo to Bourke

1870s

Martin Kerz operated sawmill at Girilambone supplying copper mines at Girilambone and Cobar

1870s

Construction of wells and tanks commenced along the western stock routes

January 1871

Public school opened at Cannonbar

1872

Patrick Lynch took CP on 40 acres west of Bogan River in West Bogan No 1 run (Portion 1, Parish Lynch)

1 May 1872

Police report stated there were 500 people at Canonba

July 1873

Tender of John Herrick accepted to build bridge across Duck Creek at Canonbar

1874

Robert Paton took up CP of 40 acres parish Bergo, north of future Nyngan where he had built the 'Traveller's Rest' Hotel

October 1874

Murrawombie station on Duck Creek, 23 miles from Canonbar under T L Richardson had steam sawmill

November 1874

Buddabaddah station squatter's homestead built of pine and roofed with shingles and lined with polished timber

November 1874

Bayswater Hotel across Bogan River from Buddabuddah run by John Smith Skinner

June 1875

Coach service set up by J W Colless for area from Hillston to Bourke

1876

Cobb & Co ran four coach services through Canonba

15 July 1878

William Harvey Armstrong and Charles Trench Armstrong took up Callubri after purchase from W H Clements for £23,503/14/9

1879

According to W H Brotherton, first station to be ring-barked in Nyngan district was Budgery near Hermidale

Early 1880

Hartman, Campbell and others opened up Girilambone Copper mine on Portions 2 and 3, Parish Gidalambone, County Canbelego

22 October and 1 December 1880

Measurement by C W King of Portion 6 Parish of Gidalambone of 100 acres taken up as MCP 80/63 by Tottenham Lee Richardson on part of West Bogan 5 and 6 Runs

27 July 1882

Grant of Portion 6 Parish of Gidalambone of 100 acres to Tottenham Lee Richardson

9 February 1880

Reserve 1149 for future village at Nyngan plus stock depot and for railway on part of Nyngan West and East Bogan No 1 runs

1880

John Brown offered his large holding for sale with about one million acres largely of leasehold, which was bought by William Alison for £160,000

16 September 1880

Post office commenced at Thomas Rowe's Tattersall's Hotel, Nyngan

December 1880

Surveyor Charles W King prepared subdivision plan of private subdivision of three portions near Girilambone, close to mines

21 December 1880

Tender of A & R Amos to build railway from Dubbo to Nyngan accepted

1881

Cobb & Co's first contract for Bogan area was for a service taking in Warren, Nyngan and Cobar via Pine Ridge

18 March 1881

Surveyor Archibald McFarlane reported on site of Nyngan

From 1 April 1881

Wright Heaton and Co were granted Special Leases over Booroomugga, Muriel and Hermitage Tanks on the road from Cobar to Nyngan built by the Public Works Department

9 April 1881

Peter Lynch, grazier applied for schoolteacher at Nyngan

18 January 1882

Public School commenced at Girilambone

1882

Police station at Nyngan staffed by Constable J Quinn

1 January 1882

Frank Wilmot granted Special Lease for a store at Nyngan

February 1882

Surveyor Arthur Burgess laid out town of Nyngan with 63 sections and 30 suburban sections

May 1882

Public school later known as Girilambone Mine Public School commenced at Girilambone

21 August 1882

Nyngan Post Office in H V Jackson's general store

2 November 1882

Denis Dalley took up CP of 320 acres parish Vega near future site of Coolabah Village

18 December 1882

Town of Nyngan gazetted

21 November 1882

Girilambone gazetted as place for petty sessions

1880

Nyngan Pastoral, Agricultural and Horticultural Association set up

1882

Pharmacy set up by W F Odman at Nyngan

c. 1883

Robert White set up blacksmithing business in Nyngan

1883

Commercial Hotel at corner of Dandaloo and Nymagee Streets built by Larrie Galvin

1883

Commercial Banking Co of Sydney transferred branch from Canonbar to Nyngan, using premises in Panjee Street

c. 1883

Adam Adams commenced store at Nyngan at corner of Nyngan and Cobar Street

9 February 1883

Special Lease of lot 6 Section 39, Nyngan granted to Austin J O'Grady for one year from 1 January for hotel and store

March 1883

Nyngan school elevated to Public School status.

17 March 1883

Auction of 57 lots in Nyngan

8 June 1883

Telegraph office opened at Nyngan Railway Station

9 June 1883

After railway reached Nyngan, official opening ceremony was held

11 June 1883

Second auction of lots in Nyngan

18 May 1883

Nyngan gazetted as place for petty sessions

Mid 1883

Willis and Co opened store at Nyngan

6 October 1883

Nyngan Times first published, later becoming the *Mercury* and then the *Observer*

1 November 1883

Anglican Church licensed at Nyngan to be called St Paul's

21 December 1883

Petty sessions abolished at 'Cannonbar'

1884

Barrett's Hotel built in Nymagee Street

1884

Charles Werner built hotel called 'Three Legs O'Man Hotel' in main street of the new village at Coolabah

1884

Crown Lands Act replaced runs by Pastoral Holdings.

7 February 1884

Mercantile Bank of Sydney advertised it had branches at Nyngan and Girilambone

18 February 1884

Site for village at Girilambone reserved

22 May 1884

Savings Bank opened in Nyngan post office

7 June 1884

Crown land sale of lots in Village of Girilambone

13 August 1884

Post office on reserve in pre-fabricated redwood building at Nyngan

2 September 1884

Railway extended to Byrock and from Byrock to Bourke on 3 September 1885

2 September 1884

Railway station at Coolabah opened

December 1884

Postal receiving office opened at Coolabah with Charles Werner as postmaster

1885

Nuns from Order of St Joseph arrived in Nyngan set up a convent and school, which originally operated in Warren Street between Terangion and Mudall Streets

1886

William Sharpe Brown commenced business at Girilambone but moved to Nyngan in 1889

January 1885

Nyngan was a scattered town with three components – Nyngan proper next to the river; the sect west of the river known as ‘Over the River’; and the buildings on either side of the railway known as ‘The Railway’

14 August 1886

Site for village at Coolabah set aside

January 1887

Coolabah Provisional School opened

21 August 1888

John Brown died at Emu Plains aged 84

1888

Last Cobb & Co service carrying mail in Nyngan area

1888

Nyngan Gun Club extant

June 1888

Only brick buildings in Nyngan were railway station, workshops and the railway workers' cottages

1880s

Loyal Pride of Nyngan Lodge No 146 of MUIOOF extant

1889

William Sharpe Brown began general store near river and later moved to Panjee Street, Nyngan

1889

Separate Nyngan Anglican parish formed

1889

Small Roman Catholic Church at corner of Bogan and Terangion Streets when Rev Walter Curran arrived in Nyngan

1 January 1889

Hop Sing's Special Lease for 1 acre 3 roods for vegetable garden at Nyngan commenced for term of five years

November 1889

Purpose built Post Office built by D McDonald opened in Cobar Street, Nyngan

1890

Nyngan Meat Preserving and Boiling Down Co set up by James and Alexander Davidson and George Cromack

1890

Flood at Nyngan

c. 1890

Hotel built next to Coolabah courthouse in Girilambone Street, later destroyed by fire

1890s

Many new settlers came from Victoria, where there was a tradition of growing wheat

1890s

Medical practitioners practising at Nyngan included Drs Germyn, Westrum, Hickey and Gilray

1890s

Solicitors in Nyngan were James L Byrne and D Burns

Early 1890s

William George Matchett bought Mullengudgery run

4 October 1890

Village of Coolabah proclaimed

January 1891

Canonbar Pastoral Holding advertised for sale with 20-mile frontage to Bogan River and bought by Joseph Rankin for £192,721/15/0

17 February 1891

Municipality of Nyngan proclaimed

1892-7

Nyngan Brewery on Bogan Road operated by Peter Crane, with James Howieson as brewer

By 1892

John Nelson was conducting the Carrier's Arms Hotel in Nymagee Street and G F Callan had the Metropolitan Hotel in Panjee Street

22 December 1892

Three cordial makers John McMillan, Nyngan Street (later Sloane's Cordials); John White, Ford Street; Peter Crane, Nymagee Street

1892

Builder, carpenter and funeral directors was D R Briggs & Co

1892

Bee-Tree Wool Scour owned by J N Moffat on Bogan River under J E Joubert handling 180 bales per week

1892

First town band formed at Nyngan

1 July 1892

Opening of branch rail line from Nyngan Junction to Cobar

About 1893

Thomas Gregson built Metropolitan Hotel by shifting a building from Girilambone

1893

Corner building erected in Nyngan by F Putenson for James Gale, and operated as butcher, bank and shop

June 1893

Subdivision plan of part of Section 33, Nyngan shows blacksmith's shop facing Wambiana Street east of Terangion Street

September 1893

Subdivision of part of Sections 8 and 9 between Pangee, Dalton, Cannonbar, and Hoskins Streets

1894

After holding services in Oddfellows Hall in Cobar Street, the Methodist Church was built in Cobar Street

1894

Water supply tower built in park for Nyngan

1894

A T Bleakley and Frank Page Barringer built new general store at corner of Pangee and Tabratong Streets on site of old Metropolitan Hotel

1894

Experimental farm operating at Coolabah

1895

Subdivision of Suburban Lot 3 Section 13 south-west of Oxley and Terangion Streets created the current Collins Street

1895

Water supplied to Nyngan by steam pumps from river

1895

Spread of pine and box seedling scrub west of the Bogan River considerably reduced the area available to lessees of run

1896

Lands Department used unemployed to clear scrub on West Bogan

1896

Mounted policeman stationed at Girilambone

1 January 1896

James Mitchell's Special Lease of Portion 34, Parish Nyngan for woolwash commenced

5 January 1896

Prominent storekeeper Arthur Bleakley drowned at Coogee when trying to swim to shore from a boat experiencing difficulties in the water

18 April 1896

VR 24021 notified at Miandetta siding on railway, in Parish Coreen

1895

Silver found in Black Range on The Overflow PH 187 Central by Tindall

6 November 1897

Town of Carpina proclaimed

1897

Nyngan Town Hall and Council Chambers completed

1897

Nyngan Cottage Hospital established

29 May 1897

Anglican Church of St Paul, Nyngan, built of cypress pine consecrated

July 1897

New Public School commenced at Girilambone in government town at railway

By 1898

Nyngan Picnic Race Club was in existence

1898

Masonic Lodge Oxley No 225 formed at Nyngan

September 1898

Warren Herald reported that Colane Station bought by Fisher Brothers from Bank of NSW for £40,000 for 40,000 acres

13 December 1898

Coolabah gazetted as place for petty sessions

1899

Police station and lock-up erected at Girilambone at cost of £848

10 November 1899

Girilambone gazetted as place for petty sessions

c. 1900

A J L Flashman commenced long standing legal practice in Nyngan

1900

Roman Catholic Church built at corner of Bogan and Terangion Streets, Nyngan

About 1900

Beablebar Picnic Race Club commenced and was named after the property of George Forbes where the races were held

1901

Nyngan Lawn Tennis Club formed in Nyngan

1901

A number of Chinese living in River and Nyngan Streets west of Bogan River

May 1901

Provisional School opened at Hermidale

1902

Major drought at Nyngan

29 August 1902

New Nyngan Courthouse opened

By 1903

Cycle club extant at Nyngan

1903

Acetylene gas lighting used at Nyngan but discontinued after it was unsuccessful

1903

John Thomas Priest with family at Miandetta sawmills

1903

William Bland was proprietor of sawmill at Wilgar Downs along with number of employees

By 1904

Former boarding house in Nymagee Street run by Mrs Bell

By 1904

Newly built Imperial Hotel was in Panjee Street opposite railway station, replacing earlier timber hotel run by Mrs Simpson

5 February 1904

Philip Somer Antill commenced stock and station business at Nyngan after owning Marra Station from 1890

1904

Nurse Temby conducting private hospital in Wambiana Street, Nyngan

1904

Private ladies' school run by Miss Millar in Wambiana Street

1905

Flood at Nyngan with only the railway above flood level

May 1905

Beetree woolscour operated by John Ward

May 1905

Nyngan coach and buggy works on Dandaloo and Wambiana Streets run by Edward Scully whilst John Kennedy had one in Nymagee Street

1906

R A Sorenson found copper lode in Parish Hermitage County Canbelego

28 November 1906

Village of Budgery near Hermidale proclaimed

3 December 1906

Bogan Shire formed and first meeting held

1908

Lands Department reviewing reserves and vacant land, cancelled Improvement Leases in order to find more land for closer settlement

1908

Nyngan Rifle Club formed and used butts 2 mile north of town

1909

Lands Department recommended that about 190,000 acres of the West Bogan leases be withdrawn for 'residential settlement'

1910

Several areas totalling 115,000 acres were withdrawn from West Bogan Scrub Leases for selection and surveys of other areas was in progress

1911

Canonbar Pastoral Holding acquired by Goldsborough, Mort & Co, which set up Canonbar Merino Stud with headquarters at Miowera where new homestead built, and accompanying village emerged

1907

Eudora Merino Stud set up by Francis Telfer Smith

1908

Nyngan Meat Preserving and Boiling Down Co reconstituted as The Nyngan Refrigerating and Boiling Down Co

1910

Nyngan Experimental Farm established on 6,209 acres

1910

Nyngan Masonic Temple built

1911

First stage of brick Catholic School, built in Terangion Street, Nyngan

1912

Nelson Proctor, former licensee of the Imperial Hotel built Court House Hotel on Panjee and Tabratong Street corner where courthouse, police station, barracks and CPS office had stood

October 1912

New school building at Coolabah followed in May 1913 by new school residence

1913

Anglican Church of St Mary the Virgin ('Marra Church') 61 miles from Nyngan built

1913

First motor garage at Nyngan was Far Western built by James Gale for James McIvor, motor engineer

1913

Original golf club formed at Nyngan

1914

Nyngan branch of Red Cross Society formed soon after war broke out

1914

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Convent opened in Nyngan

1915

Area of 597,914 acres from Scrub and Improvement Leases west of Bogan River had been topographically surveyed for consideration by the Closer Settlement Advisory Board for closer settlement

11 November 1915

Surveyor Oscar Kruth marked Portions 10 to 19 Parish Coreen, County Canbelego, for the village of Miandetta

1916

Area of 86,420 acres of Scrub and Improvement Leases west of Bogan River had been topographically surveyed for consideration by the Closer Settlement Advisory Board for closer settlement

1916

Railway Commissioners took over Nyngan School of Arts and ran it as a Railway and Tramway Institute

9 December 1916

Austral Kinema at Nyngan Town Hall showing films of World War One

1917

William Sharpe Brown's general store in Pangee Street acquired by Albert Duke

1 and 2 September 1918

Arthur Charles Hall, of Glenelg, Coolabah showed such courage at Peronne that he was awarded the Victoria Cross

March 1919

Dr Arthur Duncan Forbes, who had served with British and Australian forces as doctor in WW 1 began medical practice at Nyngan

By 1919

An area north of Nyngan was set aside as an emergency landing ground

Post WW 1

Large parts of Canonbar acquired for soldier settlement blocks leaving station with 7,000 acres, head station, Miowera, Box Cowal and Fairview

10 August 1920

Foundation stone of Nyngan Soldiers' Memorial laid

1920

Foundation stone of St Mark's Church of England laid at Bogan and Terangion Streets, Nyngan

1920

Private hospital operated at Nyngan run by Nurses Thompson and Hume

Early 1920s

Rugby league played at Nyngan under coach Dr A D Forbes

1920s

Jack Vanges came to Nyngan and became owner of California café

1921

Nyngan Branch 10116 of GUOOF formed

2 December 1923

First service held at Hermidale in St Faith's Anglican Church

18 August 1923

Nyngan branch of Country Women's Association formed

About 1924

Ambulance service commenced at Nyngan with car loaned from Sydney and driven by CWA volunteers

1924

Brick Roman Catholic presbytery built in Bogan Street, Nyngan

1924

New wing added to Nyngan Public School due to larger population brought by closer settlement

1925

Merrybone Merino Stud on Duck Creek set up by James McLaughlin with 278 Collaroy Stud ewes and three Bundemar Stud rams

1925

Flood at Nyngan

30 August 1925

St Paul's Anglican Church holds first service at Girilambone

1925

Police station at Canonba closed and demolished

28 June 1926

Electricity switched on at Nyngan

1 December 1926
Anglican St Mark's Church, Nyngan dedicated

1927
Mullengudgery and Murrawombie sold by Matchett family to Moxham brothers

April 1927
Nyngan Golf Club revived using land at 'Bogan Villa' on Tottenham Road

1928
Honeybugle Station divided into 16 blocks for ballot

1928
Flood at Nyngan

1928
First Border Leicester sheep stud primarily to produce sheep for meat set up at Whitewoods by W W McLaughlin

1928
Former Improvement Leases were expiring in Bogan Shire to be replaced by smaller holdings of Homestead Selections

23 June 1928
Nyngan Gun Club formed

July 1928
Overshot Dam completed to supply water to Nyngan

September 1928
Far Western Motor and Engineering Works Ltd, Nyngan, provides petrol and car service and sold Ford cars and trucks

1931
Bank of NSW commenced in Nyngan after merger of parent company and Australian Bank of Commerce

7 November 1931
Coolabah branch of CWA established

1934
New Bank of NSW premises opened in Panjee Street

18 February 1935
Nyngan Volunteer Fire Brigade formed

7 December 1935
Foundation stone of new Bogan Shire office laid

12 December 1935

Fire Station opened at Nyngan

10 September 1936

Major fire in the 'Bushmen's Home' a weatherboard building with 15 rooms at corner of Nymagee and Tabratong Streets used as a boarding house

1937

Additions to courthouse to house Quarter Sessions and District Court sessions

1 November 1938

Severe storm damaged property in Nyngan and district

1939

Community built Church of England opened at Monkey Road, West Bogan known as St Matthew's

1939

Nyngan became administrative centre for Methodist Church's Far West Mission

World War Two

Nyngan aerodrome used as satellite field for air force

c. 1940

Nyngan Motors commenced business in Nymagee Street under Arthur King

1940

CWA Room opened at Davidson Park, Nyngan

1942

Nyngan District Ambulance inaugurated

25 September 1942

Dinner to celebrate opening of Albert Priest Channel that brings water to Nyngan from Bogan River

1943

New private and intermediate sections added to Nyngan Hospital

1943

Bowling club commenced at Nyngan

1946

Gudgery Border Leicester stud set up by W E Gibson

1947

Nyngan Golf Club leased land on Tottenham Road from Dept of Lands for larger golf course

1948

Aerial service to Nyngan included as part of the route from Sydney to Charleville

1948

Nyngan Public Hospital had 30 beds

28 March 1948

Major fire in Nymagee Street destroyed number of houses

20 April 1948

Foundation stone of War Memorial Swimming Pool laid by NSW Governor

1950

Major flood at Nyngan

1952

Additions to Nyngan Hospital opened by Premier, J Renshaw

November 1952

Nyngan District War Memorial Olympic Swimming Pool officially opened

1953

CWA Rest Rooms at Coolabah opened

1955

Nyngan RSL and Civic Club formed

December 1957

Introduction of air conditioned diesel trains from Dubbo to Bourke

1958

Bogan Shire had 'recent' additions from 'the Coolabah end of the Western Division of 552,220 acres as well as 105,980 acres from the Warren area' to make a total area of 3,607,320 acres

1959

Scout Group formed at Nyngan

27 November 1959

Nyngan Sewerage system officially opened

1960

Poll Hereford cattle stud set up at Glenhurst on Charles Kerz's property

4 May 1960

Girl Guide unit formed at Nyngan

Early 1960s

Major expansion of wheat growing in area after varieties suited to dry conditions had been developed

1960 to 1970

Former Warrigal meat works owned by Arnold Brooksby processed kangaroo meat for export to Germany and Japan and for local pet food

March 1960

Barringer's department store on corner of Panjee and Tabratong Streets burned down to be replaced by the Overlander Hotel built by Tooth's

2 April 1960

New purpose-built RSL Club opened in Pangee Street

10 September 1960

Terminal building and apron complex opened at Nyngan aerodrome

June 1961

Nyngan stock saleyards opened

1964-66

Major drought at Nyngan

1965 onwards

High demand for wheat ensured the clearing of mallee, bimple box and white cypress pine from country west of the Bogan River

23 May 1966

Nyngan and District Historical Society formed

1967

St Joseph's Infants School, Bogan Street, opened

1968

T D and A W Volkofsky set up the Booralee Border Leicester Stud

1969

Poll Hereford cattle stud set up at Gudgery Stud Park

1969

Sealed runway completed at Nyngan aerodrome

20 September 1969

New ambulance station built at Nyngan

30 September 1970

Girilambone no longer site for petty sessions

1 January 1972

Nyngan Municipality and Bogan Shire amalgamated

January 1974
Nyngan High School opened

January 1975
Major flood at Nyngan

1976
New Nyngan police station erected on site of old one

27 October 1978
Official opening of new Nyngan Public School on new site in Cathundral Street

19 January 1984
Bogan Aboriginal Corporation registered

24 April 1990
Nyngan flooded

2000
Development of museum of shearing equipment housed in old railway goods shed

2001
Census showed 329 people of ATS descent

January 2005
Opening of Tritton Copper Mine by commencing new underground operations

2006
Census showed 11.7% of shire population was Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, compared to 2.3% for rest of Australia

2008
Olive growing was a new primary industry in shire

3.0 Historical Themes for Bogan Shire Compared with National and State Themes

Australian Theme	NSW Theme	Local Theme for Bogan Shire	Notes	Examples
1 Tracing the natural evolution of Australia	Environment - naturally evolved	The Natural Environment	There are two aspects to this theme: (1) Features occurring naturally in the physical environment which have significance independent of human intervention (2) Features occurring naturally in the physical environment which have shaped or influenced human life and cultures.	A geological formation, fossil site, ecological community, island, soil site, river flats, estuary, mountain range, reef, lake, woodland, seagrass bed, wetland, desert, alps, plain, valley, headland, evidence of flooding, earthquake, bushfire and other natural occurrences.
2 Peopling Australia	Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures	Living in harmony with the land Coping with invasion	Activities associated with maintaining, developing, experiencing and remembering Aboriginal cultural identities and practices, past and present; with demonstrating distinctive ways of life; and with interactions demonstrating race relations.	Place name, camp site, midden, fish trap, trade route, massacre site, shipwreck contact site, missions and institutions, whaling station, pastoral workers camp, timber mill settlement, removed children's home, town reserve, protest site, places relating to self-determination, keeping place, resistance & protest sites, places of segregation, places of indentured labour, places of reconciliation
2 Peopling Australia	Convict	Taking up pastoral land	Activities relating to incarceration, transport, reform, accommodation and working during the convict period in NSW (1788-1850) – does not include activities associated with the conviction of persons in NSW that are unrelated to the imperial 'convict system': use the theme of Law & Order for such activities	Prison, convict shipwreck, convict system document, ticket-of-leave and probationary living quarters, guards uniform, landscapes-of-control, lumber yard, quarry, gallows site, convict-built structure, convict ship arrival site, convict barracks, convict hospital, estate based on convict labour, place of secondary punishment.

Australian Theme	NSW Theme	Local Theme for Bogan Shire	Notes	Examples
2 Peopling Australia	Ethnic influences	Diversifying the community	Activities associated with common cultural traditions and peoples of shared descent, and with exchanges between such traditions and peoples.	Blessing-of-the-fleet site, ethnic community hall, Chinese store, place or object that exhibits an identifiable ethnic background, marriage register, olive grove, date palm plantation, citizenship ceremony site, POW camp, register of ship crews, folk festival site, ethnic quarter in a town.
2 Peopling Australia	Migration	Diversifying the community	Activities and processes associated with the resettling of people from one place to another (international, interstate, intrastate) and the impacts of such movements	Migrant hostel, customs hall, border crossing, immigration papers, bus depot, emigrant shipwreck, Aboriginal mission, quarantine station, works based on migrant labour, detention centre.
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Agriculture	Promoting closer settlement	Activities relating to the cultivation and rearing of plant and animal species, usually for commercial purposes, can include aquaculture	Hay barn, wheat harvester, silo, dairy, rural landscape, plantation, vineyard, farmstead, shelterbelt, silage pit, fencing, plough markings, shed, fish farm, orchard, market garden, piggery, common, irrigation ditch, Aboriginal seasonal picking camp.
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Commerce	Supplying retail, financial and professional services	Activities relating to buying, selling and exchanging goods and services	Bank, shop, inn, stock exchange, market place, mall, coin collection, consumer wares, bond store, customs house, trade routes, mint, Aboriginal trading places, Aboriginal ration/blanket distribution points, Aboriginal tourism ventures
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Communication	Communicating	Activities relating to the creation and conveyance of information	Post office, telephone exchange, printery, radio studio, newspaper office, telegraph equipment, network of telegraph poles, mail boat shipwreck, track, airstrip, lighthouse, stamp collection.

Australian Theme	NSW Theme	Local Theme for Bogan Shire	Notes	Examples
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Environment - cultural landscape	- Taking up pastoral land Running livestock Promoting closer settlement Altering the landscape	Activities associated with the interactions between humans, human societies and the shaping of their physical surroundings	A landscape type, bushfire fighting equipment, soil conservation structures, national park, nature reserve, market garden, land clearing tools, evidence of Aboriginal land management, avenue of trees, surf beach, fishing spot, plantation, place important in arguments for nature or cultural heritage conservation.
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Events	All themes	Activities and processes that mark the consequences of natural and cultural occurrences	Monument, photographs, flood marks, memorial, ceremonial costume, honour board, blazed tree, obelisk, camp site, boundary, legislation, place of pilgrimage, places of protest, demonstration, congregation, celebration.
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Exploration	Exploring the Bogan region	Activities associated with making places previously unknown to a cultural group known to them.	Explorers route, marked tree, camp site, explorer's journal, artefacts collected on an expedition, captain's log, surveyor's notebook, mountain pass, water source, Aboriginal trade route, landing site, map.
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Fishing	N/a	Activities associated with gathering, producing, and distributing, and consuming resources from aquatic environments useful to humans.	Fishing boat, whaling station, marine reserve, fisher camp, seafood factory, fish shop, oyster lease, artificial reef, fishing boat wreck, mooring, dock, marina, wharf, fish farm, fish trap
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Forestry	Working the land	Activities associated with identifying and managing land covered in trees for commercial timber purposes.	Forested area, forest reserve, timber plantation, forestry equipment, saw mill, mill settlement, arboretum, charcoal kiln, coppiced trees, forest regrowth, timber tracks, whim.

Australian Theme	NSW Theme	Local Theme for Bogan Shire	Notes	Examples
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Health	Caring for health	Activities associated with preparing and providing medical assistance and/or promoting or maintaining the well being of humans	Hospital, sanatorium, asylum, surgical equipment, ambulance, nurses quarters, medical school, baby clinic, hospital therapy garden, landscaped grounds, herbalist shop, pharmacy, medical consulting rooms.
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Industry	Manufacturing - working in workshops, mills or factories	Activities associated with the manufacture, production and distribution of goods	Factory, workshop, depot, industrial machinery, timber mill, quarry, private railway or wharf, shipbuilding yard, slipway, blacksmithy, cannery, foundry, kiln, smelter, tannery, brewery, factory office, company records.
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Mining	Developing mineral wealth	Activities associated with the identification, extraction, processing and distribution of mineral ores, precious stones and other such inorganic substances.	Mine, quarry, race, mining field or landscape, processing plant, manager's office, mineral specimen, mining equipment, mining license, ore laden shipwreck, collier, mine shaft, sluice gate, mineral deposit, slag heap, assay office, water race.
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Pastoralism	Taking up pastoral land Running livestock	Activities associated with the breeding, raising, processing and distribution of livestock for human use	Pastoral station, shearing shed, slaughter yard, stud book, photos of prize-winning stock, homestead, pastoral landscape, common, fencing, grassland, well, water trough, freezer boat shipwreck, wool store.
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Science	Excelling artistically or technically	Activities associated with systematic observations, experiments and processes for the explanation of observable phenomena	Laboratory, experimental equipment, text book, observatory, botanical garden, arboretum, research station, university research reserve, weather station, soil conservation area, fossil site, archaeological research site.

Australian Theme	NSW Theme	Local Theme for Bogan Shire	Notes	Examples
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Technology	Excelling artistically or technically	Activities and processes associated with the knowledge or use of mechanical arts and applied sciences	Computer, telegraph equipment, electric appliances, domestic concrete museum office equipment, Aboriginal places evidencing changes in tool types.
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Transport	Providing transport Building a railway	Activities associated with the moving of people and goods from one place to another, and systems for the provision of such movements	Railway station, highway, lane, train, ferry, wharf, tickets, carriage, dray, stock route, canal, bridge, footpath, aerodrome, barge, harbour, lighthouse, shipwreck, canal, radar station, toll gate, horse yard, coach stop.
4 Building settlements, towns and cities	Towns, suburbs and villages	Creating towns and villages	Activities associated with creating, planning and managing urban functions, landscapes and lifestyles in towns, suburbs and villages	Town plan, streetscape, village reserve, concentrations of urban functions, civic centre, subdivision pattern, abandoned town site, urban square, fire hydrant, market place, abandoned wharf, relocated civic centre, boundary feature.
4 Building settlements, towns and cities	Land tenure	Taking up pastoral land Running livestock Promoting closer settlement Creating towns and villages	Activities and processes for identifying forms of ownership and occupancy of land and water, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal	Fence, survey mark, subdivision pattern, land title document, boundary hedge, Stone wall, shelterbelt, cliff, river, seawall, rock engravings, shelters & habitation sites, cairn, survey mark, trig station, colonial/state border markers.
4 Building settlements, towns and cities	Utilities	Providing utility services	Activities associated with the provision of services, especially on a communal basis	Water pipeline, sewage tunnel, gas retort, powerhouse, County Council office, garbage dump, windmill, radio tower, bridge, culvert, weir, well, cesspit, reservoir, dam, places demonstrating absence of utilities at Aboriginal fringe camps

Australian Theme	NSW Theme	Local Theme for Bogan Shire	Notes	Examples
4 Building settlements, towns and cities	Accommodation	Housing the rural dweller Housing the town or village dweller	Activities associated with the provision of accommodation, and particular types of accommodation – does not include architectural styles – use the theme of Creative Endeavour for such activities.	Terrace, apartment, semi-detached house, holiday house, hostel, bungalow, mansion, shack, house boat, caravan, cave, humpy, migrant hostel, homestead, cottage, house site (archaeological).
5 Working	Labour	Working the land Working in town Working in workshops, mills of factories Developing mineral wealth	Activities associated with work practices and organised and unorganised labour	Trade union office, Bundy clock, time-and-motion study (document), union banner, union membership card, strike site, staff change rooms, servants quarters, shearing shed, green ban site, brothel, kitchen, nurses station, hotel with an occupational patronage.
6 Educating	Education	Educating	Activities associated with teaching and learning by children and adults, formally and informally.	School, kindergarten, university campus, mechanics institute, playground, hall of residence, text book, teachers college, sail training boat wreck, sports field, seminary, field studies centre, library, physical evidence of academic achievement (e.g. a medal or certificate).
7 Governing	Defence	Defending the nation	Activities associated with defending places from hostile takeover and occupation	Battle ground, fortification, RAAF base, barracks, uniforms, military maps and documents, war memorials, shipwreck lost to mines, scuttled naval vessel, POW camp, bomb practice ground, parade ground, massacre site, air raid shelter, drill hall.

Australian Theme	NSW Theme	Local Theme for Bogan Shire	Notes	Examples
7 Governing	Government and administration	Governing	Activities associated with the governance of local areas, regions, the State and the nation, and the administration of public programs – includes both principled and corrupt activities.	Municipal chamber, County Council offices, departmental office, legislative document, symbols of the Crown, State and municipal flags, ballot box, mayoral regalia, places acquired/disposed of by the state, customs boat, pilot boat, site of key event (eg federation, royal visit), protest site, physical evidence of corrupt practices.
7 Governing	Law and order	Maintaining law and order	Activities associated with maintaining, promoting and implementing criminal and civil law and legal processes	Courthouse, police station, lock-up, protest site, law chambers, handcuffs, legal document, gaol complex, water police boat, police vehicle, jail, prison complex (archaeological), detention centre, judicial symbols
7 Governing	Welfare	Developing community services	Activities and process associated with the provision of social services by the state or philanthropic organisations	Orphanage, retirement home, public housing, special school, trades training institution, employment agency.
8 Developing Australia's cultural life	Domestic life	Housing the rural dweller Housing the town or village dweller	Activities associated with creating, maintaining, living in and working around houses and institutions.	Domestic artefact scatter, kitchen furnishings, bed, clothing, garden tools, shed, arrangement of interior rooms, kitchen garden, pet grave, chicken coop, home office, road camp, barrack, asylum.
8 Developing Australia's cultural life	Creative endeavour	Excelling artistically or technically	Activities associated with the production and performance of literary, artistic, architectural and other imaginative, interpretive or inventive works; and/or associated with the production and expression of cultural phenomena; and/or environments that have inspired such creative activities.	Opera house, theatre costume, film studio, writer's studio, parade tableau, manuscripts, sound recording, cinema, exemplar of an architectural style, work of art, craftwork, and/or public garden, bandstand, concert hall, rock art site, rotunda, library, public hall; and/or a, particular place to which there has been a particular creative, stylistic or design response.

Australian Theme	NSW Theme	Local Theme for Bogan Shire	Notes	Examples
8 Developing Australia's cultural life	Leisure	Enjoying leisure	Activities associated with recreation and relaxation	Resort, ski lodge, chalet, cruise ship, passenger rail carriage, swimming pool, dance hall, hotel, caravan park, tourist brochures, park, beach, clubhouse, lookout, common, bush walking track, Aboriginal Christmas camp site, fishing spot, picnic place, swimming hole.
8 Developing Australia's cultural life	Religion	Observing religious practices	Activities associated with particular systems of faith and worship	Church, monastery, convent, rectory, presbytery, manse, parsonage, hall, chapter house, graveyard, monument, church organ, synagogue, temple, mosque, madrassa, carved tree, burial ground.
8 Developing Australia's cultural life	Social institutions	Developing community services	Activities and organisational arrangements for the provision of social activities	CWA Room, Masonic hall, School of Arts, Mechanic's Institute, museum, art gallery, RSL Club, public hall, historical society collection, public library, community centre, Aboriginal mission hall or school room.
8 Developing Australia's cultural life	Sport	Enjoying leisure	Activities associated with organised recreational and health promotional activities	Oval, race course, swimming pool, bowling club, bowling green, trophies, calendar of fixtures, cricket set, yacht pens, tennis court, rugby field, speedway, sporting equipment, bocce court.
9 Marking the phases of life	Birth and Death	Coping with life events	Activities associated with the initial stages of human life and the bearing of children, and with the final stages of human life and disposal of the dead.	Birth control clinic, maternity hospital, nursery, baby clinic, baptism register, circumcision equipment, and Hospice, nursing home, funeral parlour, grave furnishings, cremation site, cemetery, burial register, disaster site, memorial plantings, shipwreck with loss of life.

Australian Theme	NSW Theme	Local Theme for Bogan Shire	Notes	Examples
9 Marking the phases of life	Persons	All themes	Activities of, and associations with, identifiable individuals, families and communal groups	A monument to an individual, a family home, a dynastic estate, private chapel, a birthplace, a place of residence, a gendered site, statue, commemorative place name, place dedicated to memory of a person (e.g. hospital wing).

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