

9.3 Harvey

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HARVEY LANDS

In 1952 the Education Department purchased the Commonwealth Rural Training Centre at Harvey for use as an Agricultural School. The Centre had first been set up as an internment camp shortly after the commencement of the war and in that period of service it eventually became a temporary but happy "home" to the Italian prisoners of war. They left their mark on the site in the form of all kinds of stonework and figures in cement. The wishing well, Romulus and Remus the shrine on the golf course are well remembered. Then there was the cellar under the cactus gardens and the fish pond which still remains.

There followed a period when the camp was devoted to Officer Training and when hostilities ceased it became a farm training camp under the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme to rehabilitate farmers after war service.

At Denmark the school relied heavily on the Denmark Research Station to provide the opportunity for students to be involved in routine farm work. At Harvey the school had little land and the hope was that perhaps Wokalup Research Station might serve similarly.

At Christmas 1952, Mr J H Barton, took up duties as Headmaster of Harvey Agricultural Junior High School to open in 1953. All facilities were as left by the Rural Training Centre, probably as left by the Officers Training Centre.

Most of 1953 was spent trying to ascertain the boundaries of the new school. It was obvious enough on the south side where the river meandered marking the boundary between properties but there was serious doubt on the north side where there was the golf course. To the west was the P.W.D. Irrigation Depot occupying about four acres sprawled about the actual entrance road.

Eventually in August 1954, there was a gazette announcement clarification:

"Korijekup Estate (Harvey) No 24002, Rural Training Centre, Lot 277, (about 62 acres)."

During 1953 and 1954 the Headmasters brought to the notice of the Education Department that adjacent farms were on the market. It actually reached the stage where the adjacent Armstrong property on the main road, Lots 97 and 98, was approved for purchase but when the file reached the Under Treasurer he simply marked it that the required amount of £5606 be placed in the next loan estimates. Thus the deal fell through and the farm went elsewhere.

Attempts were then made to secure the Fryer property, Lots 233 and part Lot 266 at £7000, but without success.

About this time the Principal, Mr S R White, informed the Department that Mr Laurie Clifton's 25 acre property was on the market at £6100.

In July 1955, Mr Alec Ball, Solicitor (A E Ball and Co) for Harvey Golf Club, asked for clarification of the club's position in regard to a couple of their fairways extending into the school's gazetted boundaries by over a hundred yards and occupying about three acres. At the school the Advisory Committee adopted the attitude that if they got the Clifton Farm they could afford to be generous with the Golf Club. If, however, no farm was purchased, then the school would need every bit of its country.

In September 1955, Mr Barton inspected both the Fryer and Clifton farms as likely extensions to the Agricultural Wing and his report recommended the Clifton property. The Department of Agriculture were called in to report and stated

"The property is a good one and, in particular, the irrigated section would be highly productive."

Purchase at a figure of £6100 was recommended. On this occasion, however, it was the Treasurer, Mr Hawke (also Premier) who wrote

"In view of the difficult financial position, with which the Government is faced, I am not able to see my way clear to approve of the negotiations for the purchase of Mr Clifton's property at Harvey."

A suggestion to lease was refused by Mr Clifton who stated that the farm would go on the market at the beginning of 1958. A further appeal was therefore made to the Premier in August, 1957. There followed written debate on the price by Government Departments who have the expertise to evaluate the property. Even the Premier worked out that £240 acre seemed a lot. The Chief Valuer had last word setting the price at £5280.

On 23rd January, 1958, the sale was negotiated at £5500 cash. The property was officially taken over by the Principal, J West, on 1st April. His report includes the following reference to what was known as the Hunting Lodge, said to have been used by Governor Stirling:

"It is really dilapidated and of no value as it has been used for farm purposes. It is of no use to us but I do think the Historical Society should be permitted an opportunity to renounce any interest in the building before it collapses."

Harvey Road Board thought a plaque should record the spot. To finally decide the matter the Director communicated with the Historical Society. They replied that the property did indeed belong to Governor Stirling who purchased it in 1837 prior to his return to England in 1838. It was sold in 1839. The Historical Society wrote as follows:

"The history of the "Homestead" at Harvey is not at all easy to determine. To complicate matters it is the subject of popular misconceptions which are not readily eradicated. These are, first that Gov. Sir James Stirling lived at "The Homestead", and the second, that the Harvey River on which it stands was explored by a military officer named Harvey.

The Harvey River: The mouth of this river, its lower reaches and its estuary opening into Peel Inlet were discovered in November 1829 by the expedition led by Lt. Preston and Dr. Collie. They did not name it, but it appears named "Harvey" on the Arrowsmith map published in London in 1833. Up to that date there is no reference to an officer named Harvey in naval or military records, or in the records of surveys and explorations, and the name Harvey has not occurred in the lists of passengers who had arrived in the Colony. Many years after the river was named the "Harvey", the Stirling Estate on its middle reaches was purchased in 1885 by Dr F Harvey an Englishman who spent a short time in South Australia before settling here.

The Homestead: Popular belief has it that this was built by Stirling on his Harvey estate.

The fertile land of the Harvey Estate was not seen by any settlers until Stirling travelled across it and camped on the banks of the river on 27 April 1837. The river at this point was named the "Coraigecup", later corrupted to "Korejicup". It was correctly assumed by Surveyor General Roe that this was the upper part of the Harvey River. In September 1837 Stirling left the Colony.

There is no indication that Stirling planted a tenant on this estate, though we know that he placed John Scott on his Eelup farm at Bunbury. Before 1840 was out, Stirling, in London, had sold the Harvey Estate and its attached lands to the Western Australian (Australind) Company. By 1852, the 12800 acres of Wellington Location 50A - the Harvey Estate proper - was transferred back to Stirling who from that date leased it to a succession of tenants - T G Chapman, J Giblett and J Thompson Logue. The last named moved out in 1886 after the Estate was purchased by Dr Harvey and partners.

The conclusion here is that neither Stirling nor any tenant of his had time to initiate a settlement at Harvey in the short period before Stirling left the Colony.

With regard to the building known as the "Homestead" - which is now quite derelict - it is commonly known to have been built by J Thompson Logue who leased the Estate about 1870. Unfortunately no more definite historical evidence has yet come to light to check this assumption. The only safe conclusion is that it was not built by Stirling. Unfortunately all Stirling's contacts with his several estates, whether direct with tenants, or through agents, have completely disappeared; furthermore there is no documentary evidence to suggest that they ever existed. (No one is able to suggest how the tenants paid their rent or even whether they ever paid any).

The conclusions above, suggest that the Education Department need not concern itself about preserving any Stirling memorial at "The Homestead". This suggestion may be supported by indicating that Stirling's connection with his Harvey Estate is perpetuated by the Harvey Road Board memorial erected nearby to commemorate Stirling's first trip through the area in April 1937. That was the direct cause of his selecting the land.

As this memorial is in a public park, the students of the Harvey Junior High School might well adopt it, now that the Department owns the central portion of the original estate.

Another possibility suggests itself. The first two settlements on the foothills near Harvey were made in 1852 - on the Harvey Estate on the site of "The Homestead" (by T G Chapman) and at North Harvey by Joseph Logue and his brothers. A small memorial might commemorate that fact. At that time the only other settlements were on the Coast Road - Maurice Brett Smith at "Giginup", William Crampton at "Myalup" and Ephraim Clarke at "Hampden" .

But what about Harvey Golf Club?

By now, late 1960, the Advisory Committee had realised its purpose, found its feet and was enthusiastic about further development. Proposals were submitted to the Department for still more land. Lots 225 and 59 were suggested as suitable purchases while portion of Lots 60 and 61 leased by the Golf Club from Harvey Road Board was regarded as a reasonable exchange for the tracts required for the Fairways.

Lot 59, 150 acres (Hookers) was to figure in correspondence for some time. But now attention turned to another piece of land, Lot 196 of 115 acres, Crown land better known as "Billygoat Hill". This was even looked upon as the place to put the new dormitories and all future agricultural buildings. For a while Lot 225, 22 acres, (Mr Gerschow) looked as though it was going on the market but the erection of a valuable home on it arrested speculation.

In the middle of 1964, Mr Hooker offered 14 acres 33 perches of land between the river and the main irrigation channel for £2000. This was purchased but to bring it to use required the construction of a new bridge.

On 24th November, 1965, the main school property was re-surveyed and the amended area of Reserve 24002 gazetted at 82.2.21 acres.

The next property to figure was that of Mr Colin Knight, a real next door neighbour in so many ways, Lots 98-101 totalling 40 acres and also hill country Lot 58 of 152 acres. £ 75,570 was the price of the lot but the Department eventually purchased Lots 58, 98 and 99 for £50,000 on July 7th, 1967.

In November, 1968, the Shire of Harvey commenced the negotiations to move the Golf Club from its somewhat excessively hilly site north of the school to forest land west of Harvey. The scheme was that the Forestry Department would then plant the old golf course to pines. For better boundary alignment a reversal of the previous arrangement between school and golf club was requested and so Lot 250 was exchanged for Lot 251. This was followed in 1969 by a request from the Main Roads for a strip of Reserve 24002 to enable the widening of South West Highway. This was granted.

By 1969 staffing at the farm was reinforced by the appointment of an Assistant Farm Supervisor for whom a house had to be built. But the Advisory Council did not want the homestead farm land further depleted by another house. They referred the Department to adjacent housing land, formerly Colin Knight's farm bought and subdivided by an enterprising Dr Bradshaw. Public Works took from 1970 until 1974 to decide to purchase and build on one of these blocks because of the nature of the soil.

PARCITASRI BYRIS BLOCK 1979
BONCHER SWAMP FIRST SUDAX HARVEST 1984

FOREST BLOCK 23/12/1985 RESERVE 2517
GERSITOWS - HISTORICAL EAST LATE 93/ EARLY 94
RWO KATUP 2AM) TSFI) IS AG DEAN TO KOUKARO.
APR AUGUST 1999 - COMM FENCING START SEE OVER