

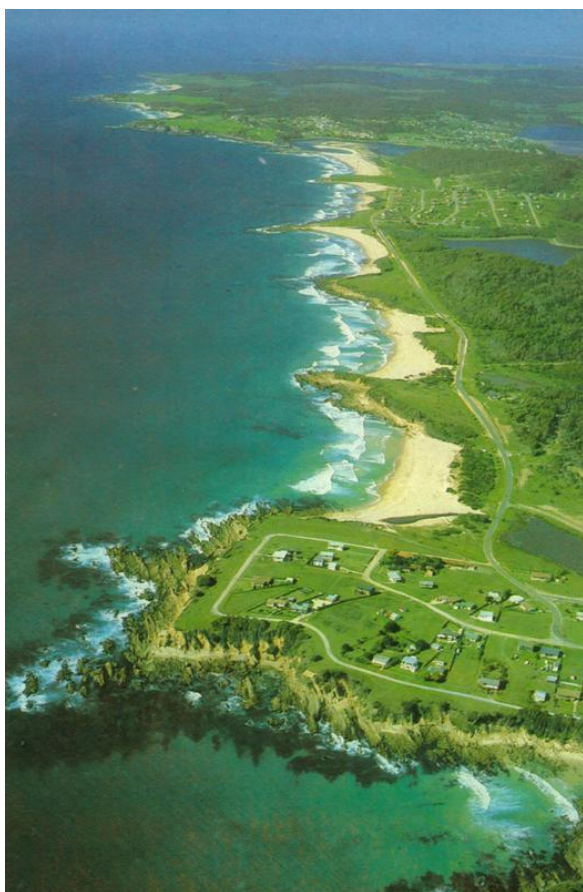
Coastal Reserves

Dalmeny – North Narooma

Historical Review

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Aboriginal history

Much of the route of the Dalmeny to North Narooma cycleway passes near a number of middens and artefact scatters.¹

An old walking and later horse track went along the coast (shown on old maps) going from the north across Amherst Island and a ford when Mummuga Lake was open to the sea, and across the entrance when the lake was closed.

The crossing at Wagonga Inlet was from the sandspit at the entrance to what is now Rotary Park. Crossing would have been by canoe. Pre-European settlement, the Rotary Park area was a popular camping area with a freshwater stream running through it.

An area of 180 acres behind what we now call Yabbara Beach was gazetted as a Native Reserve for Aboriginal camping (in Forest Reserve 307) on 24 December 1861.² It seems to have been revoked in about 1895. It was one of a number of such Aboriginal reserves gazetted along the coast in the latter part of the nineteenth century, but it was one of the earliest.

Dalmeny Estate

The area traversed by the northern part of the cycleway is just a small portion of the original Dalmeny Estate but an understanding of its overall history is relevant to put that area in context.

William Edye Mort (1850-1914) established Dalmeny Estate in 1880 after his father's death although many portions within what was referred to as the Estate were held in the names of many people associated with the much larger Bodalla Estate and later Bodalla Company, such as the manager at the time James Evans.³ William was the second son of Sydney entrepreneur Thomas Sutcliffe Mort who had established Bodalla as his country estate in 1860. William's brothers Edward and Laidley established homes between Bodalla and Dalmeny – Laidley at 'Brou' and Edward at 'Derraquin'.

By the 1890s, William was a partner in Morts Dock and Engineering Company in Sydney and spent little time at 'Dalmeny', instead leasing it to others.⁴ In the 1890s, he used it more as a country retreat, staying during his infrequent visits in a well-fitted out boatshed cum hunting and fishing lodge on the shores of Mummuga Lake in front of the main house, near the present day George Noble Park.

¹ Phonecall with consultant Chris Griffiths 18/7/07; phonecall Norm Patten 18/7/2007

² Goulding Heritage Consulting Pty Ltd, *Eurobodalla Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study*, p. 161; Sue Wesson, *An Historical Atlas of the Aborigines of Eastern Victoria and Far South-eastern New South Wales*, Monash Publications on Geography and Environmental Science 2000, p.130, p. 149.

³ Beryl Whitham, *Dalmeny – The History of Settlement 1880-1987*, Dalmeny-Kianga Progress Association, 1987, p. 27; Maps.

⁴ The diary of Jonathon Edward Hodgkin from a visit to Australia 1896. So far have found no reference as to whether William Mort may have lived at Dalmeny in the 1880s.



Boat House 5 Jan 1884

Lord Amherst and Reverend W Robinson at William Mort's Boat House on the shores of Mummuga Lake at Dalmeny after an excursion shooting swans 5/1/1884 (see swans hanging on verandah posts). Lord Amherst, after whom Amherst Island in Mummuga Lake is named, was at Eton with both Willie and Laidley Mort. (Photographer Edward Mort, courtesy David Mort)

Mort named his property 'Dalmeny' after his old Eton school friend Lord Dalmeny, who became the fifth Earl of Rosebery and later British prime minister 1894-1895.⁵ His family home was Dalmeny House near Edinburgh. William was Lord Dalmeny's 'fag' at Eton, while Lord Dalmeny had fagged for William's older brother Laidley.

In 1896, much of Mort's Dalmeny Estate was still being cleared for grazing, with some still in its natural state.⁶ It was bounded by Mummuga Creek (now called Lawler's Creek) and Mummuga Lake to the north and the ocean to the east including the Crown Reserves, the subject of this review. The lessee in 1896 was Mr Maxwell who lived in a small red-painted weatherboard cottage with a cheese factory in a small shed behind the house.⁷ Charlie Crapp sharefarmed 'Dalmeny' from 1903 to 1923, reportedly producing 45 to 65 kg of cheese a day from about 100 cows; the cheese was shipped to Sydney with cheese produced at Bodalla.⁸

Brothers Ki and Ted Stillman bought the Dalmeny farm at the Bodalla Company auction in 1923.⁹ It was then bought by George and Emma Noble in November 1926 but they found farming a struggle.¹⁰ They lived in the old farmhouse (see photos) and possibly supplied Narooma cheese factory for a short time but for some reason, possibly the distance to the factory, changed to sheep farming.¹¹ The farm

⁵ From Dalmeny House web page.

⁶ Hodgkin, op. cit.

⁷ Hodgkin, op.cit.

⁸ Beryl Whitham, *Dalmeny – The History of Settlement 1880-1987*; Dalmeny-Kianga Progress Association, 1987, pp. 3-4. Norm Hoyer, long time dairy farmer in the Tilba region questions those production figures, wondering if they could be per week rather than per day.

⁹ Laurelle Pacey, *Narooma's Past – steamers, sawmills and salmon*, revised edition December 2005, p.86.

¹⁰ George Edwin Noble had fought in Europe in World War I, having enlisted at 16 years of age and served as a gunner. George studied salesmanship and business management on his return and was a successful salesman with Frank Delandro Motor Dealers at Crows Nest before moving to 'Dalmeny'.

¹¹ Myles Noble thinks that Carters, on the neighbouring farm 'Kianga', may have stopped dairying by the time the Nobles moved to Dalmeny – interview 20/7/2007.

extended over Green Point to the coast with the southern boundary of the property through the small lake at Dalmeny's Lions Park.



Myles Noble thinks this photo of their old home at Dalmeny was taken in about 1935. The two poles have a wire strung between them as their radio aerial. Myles Noble is driving the horse and cart with his father George at his side. The building on the far right is possibly the old fowl yard. Photo courtesy Alan Murphy Collection and Narooma Historical Society.



Myles Noble said the original farmhouse was the left part of the house. That was described in 1896 as "a small red-painted weatherboard cottage with a cheese factory in a small shed behind the house".¹² Myles understands that the right hand gabled section was added at some stage to the original house before his family moved there. His father rebuilt the far left of the house adding the gable to match the other side. The pile of oyster sticks – George said there was one oyster lease in Mummuga Lake but the lake closed for about 13 years in the 1940s, and the oysters died. Photo courtesy Alan Murphy Collection and Narooma Historical Society.

¹² Hodgkin, op. cit.

As cars became more commonplace, an increasing number of adventurous holidaymakers ventured to 'Dalmeny' and would ask the Nobles' permission to picnic or camp by the lake. The Nobles apparently realised the increasing number of holidaymakers needed fresh milk and cream, so they again ran a few cows.

The Cresswicks and Dalmeny subdivision

John and Grace Cresswick of Sydney first visited George Noble's 'Dalmeny' farm on a camping and fishing holiday in 1927, probably staying in an old boathouse by Mummuga Lake on what is now George Noble Park.¹³ Peter Benson said his grandfather was a Sydney-based analytical chemist, fairly adventurous, who would drive to various out of the way places along the coast to fish. During that holiday, Cresswick and his son Ernest went fishing at Yabbara Beach, the southern most beach on Dalmeny farm, and caught a good feed of silver bream.¹⁴



John Cresswick with fish

John Cresswick enjoyed his stay at 'Dalmeny' so much in 1927; he ended up subdividing the property with the owner George Noble. Photo courtesy Narooma Historical Society.

Cresswick was so impressed with that holiday, the area and his catch; he became a partner with George Noble in both subdividing the farm and promoting the area as a tourist destination.¹⁵ The property at

¹³ Letter from Peter Benson of Engadine, grandson of John Cresswick, published in *Moruya Examiner* 19/10/1988; Interview with Peter Benson at his home at Dalmeny, 9 July 2007. From a description of this boatshed by Myles Noble, it seems unlikely to have been the same one as William Mort's.

¹⁴ Letter from Peter Benson, op. cit.

¹⁵ Peter Benson interview

that stage included all the southern foreshore of Mummuga Lake, two surf beaches, three rocky headlands and a natural boat harbour.

Benson believes Cresswick probably provided the finance in the partnership. The subdivision went from where the main access road first borders the edge of Mummuga Lake (roughly Binnalong Street) to Yabbara Beach, and George Noble acted as the on site agent.¹⁶ Access to Dalmeny was then only from the Princes Highway. The first Dalmeny subdivision, east of Noble Parade, was in 1930. The second subdivision, west of Noble Parade in 1933, with a third from Cresswick Parade in 1937.



The new grand entrance to Dalmeny off the Princes Highway (the Princes Highway at that stage came along what is now Ruth Place). Myles Noble says that's him in the signwriter's car on the right, a 1930 Chevrolet 6 roadster. Myles said the car on the left is a 1927 Capitol model Chevrolet 4. The identity of the other people is unknown. Photo courtesy Narooma Historical Society.

Sales went slowly at first but Dalmeny never took off to the extent and as quickly as both Cresswick and Noble had hoped. That was possibly because of the distance from Sydney and Canberra, the condition of the roads, and possibly also because the Depression in the early 1930s had hit hard. The Second World War disrupted any momentum the development may have had so there was little development until after the War.¹⁷

¹⁶ Ibid. Mr Benson says many names were from the Cresswick family, e.g. Ernest Street was after John and Grace Cresswick's son and John's father, Lonsdale was the maiden name of Grace Cresswick, Dulling was John Cresswick's grandfather on his mother's side, Hadrill was Mort's mother's maiden name.

¹⁷ *Moruya Examiner*, 25/5/1977 p.5; Interview with Peter Benson.



Camping along the shore of Mummuga Lake near the entrance in 1935. Photo courtesy Narooma Historical Society.

The Noble-Cresswick partnership also provided holiday camp sites and amenities. The most popular camping areas were along the foreshore of the lake around what is now called George Noble Park and from near the lake's entrance around to where Dalmeny Rotary Park is now located.

They published a tourist pamphlet in 1937 promoting Dalmeny as 'Australia's Tourists Paradise and Big Game fishing Resort'.¹⁸ The potential of the waters around Montague Island for gamefishing had been established in the mid 1930s, but really took off after American author and big game fisherman Zane Grey spent six weeks gamefishing from Bermagui in January-February 1936.¹⁹

At Dalmeny, visitors were also offered house and cabin accommodation plus outside fishing. The pamphlet also mentioned a "splendid children's recreation ground" near the lake's entrance with well constructed swings and seesaws.²⁰

George Noble would supply holidaymakers with everything from fresh milk and cream, butter, eggs and vegetables in season, to general grocery supplies, all from his back verandah.²¹ Bread and meat were delivered daily from Narooma.

Mummuga Point - Green Point

All the old maps label the headland at the southern entrance to Mummuga Lake as 'Mummuga', not Mummuga Point or Headland, just 'Mummuga'. Mummuga is apparently a significant Aboriginal spiritual entity but the knowledge is held by only a few. It is also known as Green Point, but so far have been unable to determine the origins.

¹⁸ Dalmeny Fisheries Pty Ltd's pamphlet 'Dalmeny - Australia's Tourists Paradise and Big Game fishing Resort', published circa 1937.

¹⁹ Laurelle Pacey, *The Lure of Montague*, December 2001, pp. 42-47.

²⁰ Dalmeny Fisheries Pty Ltd's pamphlet.

²¹ Peter Benson interview.

This was originally part of the farm. Much of the headland, as with many other headlands along the NSW coast were acquired by the State Government as Crown land in 1972 through the NSW Planning and Environment Commission.²²

The existing basic camping ground is highly valued by the local community as community land. There have been numerous disputes over the years over this land, particularly over ensuring land was available for picnics and daytrippers as well as campers. Attempts by Council a few years ago to develop the camping grounds with cabins and more formalized landscaping were fiercely opposed by the community who insisted the area be retained as open space but with improved amenities.

Boat Harbour (Cresswick Cove)

Cresswick identified that a safe boat harbour could be created here with few modifications, because it was protected from the south by Dalmeny Point and partly protected from the north-east by Dalmeny reef.²³ He used his expertise with explosives to blast out the rock in the bay to provide safer access.²⁴ His grandson Peter Benson said before these modifications, the bay was similar to Pebbly Beach to the north and Little or Back Beach (now called Josh's Beach) to the south.



The Boat Harbour circa 1930, and almost the same view in 1986. Photo courtesy Alan Murphy Collection and Narooma Historical Society.

Cresswick built three cottages in 1935 “for the convenience of sportsmen” on the grassy headland above Boat Harbour, looking north towards Tuross and Brush Island.²⁵ They were numbers 3, 6 and 12 Ocean Parade, but when the construction of Ocean Parade never went ahead on the seaward side of these blocks the address was changed to Jocelyn Street.²⁶

²² Comment by Narooma surveyor John Healy. More information needed.

²³ Letter from Peter Benson of Engadine, grandson of John Cresswick, published in *Moruya Examiner* 19/10/1988.

²⁴ Peter Benson says his grandfather John Cresswick gained his experience with explosives through his position as Chief Inspector of Mines in the 1930s.

²⁵ Pamphlet ‘Dalmeny - Australia’s Tourists Paradise and Big Game fishing Resort’

²⁶ Peter Benson interview.

Cresswick's own holiday house was Number 3 Ocean Parade, above Boat Harbour which is also known these days as Cresswick Cove, with two motor cabins containing a car shelter, two stretchers, a table, fireplace, wood and water. These cabins - 'Bib' and 'Bub' - were also rented out.²⁷

Cresswick founded Dalmeny Fisheries Pty Ltd in the 1930s which provided outside fishing from Boat Harbour.²⁸ The 1937 pamphlet stated the company operated a sturdy 26ft game fishing cruiser 'Dalmeny' (with heavy duty marine engine, auxiliary sail with a skilled and an experienced attendant and complete with two forward bunks, lavatory, kitchenette, ice chest and two swivel chairs).²⁹ The boats were equipped with top of the range game fishing equipment supplied by Sil Rohu.³⁰

The company also hired out its 17ft open launch 'Jean', complete with driver/ guide, for deep sea fishing for snapper and all classes of reef fish and flathead within a mile of the boat harbour.

Both boats were housed in sheds above Boat Harbour. An attendant would sell fresh fish to holidaymakers and to the Dalmeny Guest House which had been built in 1937 for Harry and Agnes Wallace.³¹



'Dalmeny' and 'Jean'

Cresswick had hoped that these well equipped boats would attract sportsmen to Dalmeny interested in big game fishing, particularly following Zane Grey's visit to Bermagui and the waters around Montague Island. Photo courtesy Narooma Historical Society.

These boats would be launched via timber slipways with motorised and manual cradles and winches. Cresswick also built a smokehouse above Boat Harbour to preserve the fish. During the War,

²⁷ Boat Harbour where the Dalmeny Boat Ramp is was renamed Cresswick Cove in 1988. Peter Benson called them 'Bib' and 'Bub', but the Nobles referred to them as 'Be Tidy'.

²⁸ Letter from Peter Benson published in *Moruya Examiner* 19/10/1988; Peter Benson interview

²⁹ Pamphlet.

³⁰ This was just two years after Zane Grey's gamefishing expedition over six weeks in Bermagui which popularized the sport on the far south coast, Laurelle Pacey, *The Lure of Montague*, pp.18-23.

³¹ Interview with Peter Benson; Joan Chadwick's spoke with Myles Noble and reported to Narooma Historical Society meeting 19 March 2000. Myles says the guest house was built by Griffith builder Jeff Burns. The guest house had eight guestrooms, offered "superior cuisine and facilities" for a weekly tariff of £4/4/-. It was also a social centre for the area, venue for a special 'Lights On' party when electricity was connected to Dalmeny in 1953, and the meeting place for the Dalmeny-Kianga Progress Association until it became a private dwelling.

maintenance of the boats and gear was neglected. After the War, the trawler 'Dalmeny' was sold to Bermagui where it saw further service for many years as the 'Buggera'.³²

Local fishermen constructed a concrete boat ramp at Boat Harbour in 1961 (see photo). Narooma Apex Club built the fish cleaning table in 1974. The Maritime Services Board built a new and larger boat ramp in 1976.³³



Locals pitch in to build a concrete boat ramp at Boat Harbour in 1961. Photo courtesy Wilding family.

Settlement begins to intensify at Dalmeny

When Charlie Davis (Poppa Davis) moved to Dalmeny in 1946 there were only about a dozen houses, some of them weekenders, and only about 12 residents.³⁴ He told the *Southern Star* up to 200 people at a time would camp at Dalmeny over the summer holidays in the 1940s. Over the following years, he built homes and weekenders at Dalmeny for people from Canberra and Sydney, and acted as caretaker of the camping ground for George Noble and John Cresswick for many years.³⁵ Campers liked Dalmeny because it was ideal for families with safe swimming, prawning and good fishing, and there were lobsters galore if you knew where to look. Many campers returned year after year, often for six weeks at a time.

³² Interview with Peter Benson.

³³ Beryl Whitham, *op. cit.*, pp. 19-20

³⁴ Interview with Charles Davis, *Southern Star*, 10/2/1988

³⁵ Charlie Davis lived opposite George Noble Park in the house where George Nobles parents had lived, Myles and Elaine Noble interview.



A normal catch – Ellis Wood, Keith Wilding, Norma Wood, Lesley Wilding, Joan Wilding, Neil Wood show off their catch. Photo courtesy the Wilding family.

The Nobles sold what was left of their property to William ‘Jerry’ Moss of Culcairn in 1953.³⁶ The Moss family lived in the original farmhouse and farmed sheep, running up to 600 Corriedale ewes. Moss also grew beans and peas for both the local and Sydney markets on 40 hectares around where the Dalmeny Bowling Club is now located. Kooris from Wallaga Lake and Bodalla picked the crop. The Moss family sold the farm and moved to Cobargo in 1961.



The subdivision may have been slow to start, but the grass was still good tucker for the sheep. Photo courtesy Narooma Historical Society.

Keith Wilding, who established the general store at Dalmeny in 1960, said “60 to 70 per cent of permanent residents in the Dalmeny- Kianga area were originally campers who fell in love with the area and decided to become permanent at a later date”.³⁷ His family camped at Dalmeny for many years with the same families for many years, all of whom regarded it as a camper’s paradise. In those days, dairy cattle would break into the tents and eat what they could find.

³⁶ Beryl Whitham, op. cit., pp. 8-9.

³⁷ Moruya Examiner 5/4/1989

In 1960 he and his wife Joan decided “to get out of the rat race in Sydney” and build a modern store for Dalmeny. They soon found business was good over summer, but hard the rest of the year.



Dalmeny Store 1960. Photo courtesy the Wilding family.

Cresswick and Noble apparently had no choice but hand the areas used for camping along the waterfront of Mummuga Lake over to council, probably in the late 1950s and early 1960s, because of the increasing cost of keeping land on which they were not allowed to build, and the extra conditions put on them to meet health and safety requirements.³⁸



Dalmeny 1960. Photo courtesy Narooma Historical Society.

In 1949, Dalmeny had only 12 houses; by 1986 there were 800.

³⁸ Peter Benson interview.

Eurobodalla Shire Council banned camping along the foreshore of Mummuga Lake in 1989, much to the disgust of many locals including former Councilor Keith Wilding who claimed Council's decision was sudden and based mainly on one complaint by a new resident about possible health concerns.

Dalmeny Point (also known as Jocelyn Point)

Jocelyn Street and Jocelyn Point were named after Jocelyn Mort, daughter of William Mort.³⁹

The Dalmeny community formed the Dalmeny Book Club library in 1976 which operated from a garage annex at Cicely Wightman's home at 5 Jocelyn Street. It predated Narooma's town library.⁴⁰

The library project was the Dalmeny Civic Association's first major project in its aim to enrich the lifestyle and add to the material comfort of residents.⁴¹

The library started with about 1,000 books donated by members and friends of Dalmeny Civic Association and was operated by volunteers two days a week. Book Club Committee members included Cicely Wightman, Mary Bain, Mrs Royal, and Cicely Wightman.

Association president Sir Samuel Jones, then a Dalmeny resident, officially opened the library in September 1976. It had borrowers from Narooma to Dalmeny. It soon outgrew Mrs Wightman's annex and the Association obtained a Council grant to build an annex onto the Dalmeny-Kianga Bushfire Brigade Hall to use as a library room.⁴² The name was then changed from the Dalmeny Book Club to the Dalmeny District Library.

Little Beach, Back Beach, Josh's Beach

The old families called this beach – 'Little Beach'. The Cresswick family called it 'Back Beach' for two reasons, according to Peter Benson.⁴³ One was it was at the rear of the property; "the other was its sands were nomadic – we never knew whether the sand would have disappeared or come back between our holidays".

Former Eurobodalla Shire Councilor Neville Gough said he and his son's friends surfed there a lot in the 1960s and referred to the beach as Josh's Beach because their teacher - Gostwyck 'Josh' Yates - at Narooma Central School lived in a house on Ocean Parade overlooking the beach.⁴⁴ Neville said locals there referred to it as 'Our Beach' and were not happy when the name 'Josh's Beach' began to appear on local maps after a visit by the Central Mapping Authority and a chat with Neville.

Yabbara Point and Yabbara Beach or Dewsbury's Beach

How come Yabbara? Well it seems highly probable it is after an Aboriginal man, an Elder called Yarboro (also possibly called 'Yarro' or 'Yarraro'). A 40 acre block (Portion 7) between the entrance

³⁹ Beryl Whitham, op. cit., p.4.

⁴⁰ Ibid., p. 27. Narooma's town library started in 1983 in the old supper room at Narooma School of Arts Memorial Hall.

⁴¹ Newspaper article, untitled but presumably *Moruya Examiner*, September 1976.

⁴² Eulogy to Cicely Wightman, *Southern Star*, 24/4/1991. Mrs Wightman was a teacher and had established her own Highfields prep- and pre-school in Sydney, and retired to Dalmeny. The annex was built by Charles Davis and Wes Baker, with shelving constructed by Library President Eric Hoare, and was officially opened in September 1980.

⁴³ Letter from Peter Benson of Engadine, grandson of John Cresswick, published in *Moruya Examiner* 19/10/1988. Peter Benson interview.

⁴⁴ Conversation with Neville Gough, 2/5/2007. His son was Peter and friends Charlie Bettini and Mike Peters.

of Tuross Lake and Potato Point was gazetted as a camping reserve for ‘Yarboro’ in 19 October 1877.⁴⁵ It seems reasonable to assume Yabbara Point and Beach, even though some kilometres to the south of there, are named after him, although its designation by non Aboriginal people to these features seems a relatively recent occurrence. It is not known whether local Aboriginal people called the area by that name.

It is interesting that 180 acres behind Yabbara Beach, a large part of what became Portion 94, from midway across the lake at the northern end of the beach south towards Kianga lake, was gazetted as an Aboriginal camping Reserve (in Forest Reserve 307) on 24 December 1861.⁴⁶ Unlike most other Aboriginal reserves, it was not allocated to an individual and seems to have been the earliest reserve gazetted in the area now covered by the Eurobodalla Shire.

It seems likely that this area was the burial place of the father of ‘Wagonga Frank’, the man responsible for reorganising the local tribe after the drowning of 150 of its members on the return trip by canoe from Barunguba [Montague Island] to collect seabird eggs. A tale reported by Reginald Barlow in the *Moruya Examiner* in 1892 says he “was buried by his [Wagonga] tribe on the sea beach to the south of Mummaga Lake”.⁴⁷ The gazettal seems to have been revoked around 1895.

‘Yabbara Beach’ was known by old hands in the early twentieth century as ‘Dewsbury’s’. Portion 94 immediately behind the beach belonged to John Dewsbury in the early part of the twentieth century and he had a house somewhere on the block.⁴⁸ Dewsbury’s block was bought by Narooma sawmillers Mitchell Bros in the 1920s for its timber.⁴⁹ They sold it in 1971. A tourist folder of views produced by Keith Wilding in the 1960s refers to this beach as ‘Yabbara Beach’. It has also been called Clarke’s Beach after the Clarke family who built Dalmeny Post Office as a private venture in 1956 and who lived above the beach.⁵⁰ The post office closed 29 December 1988.

Yabbara Point was planted with cypress pines by the Dalmeny Progress Association at the same time they were planted along Dalmeny Drive linking the Dalmeny and Kianga communities.⁵¹

Dalmeny Lions Project

Narooma Lions Club established a nature reserve based around this small lagoon in 1980.⁵² They stabilised the water flow, built a small weir to raise the water level, and built a small island in the middle as a refuge for birds from some predators. Shrubs were planted for some years in memory of Lions members who had died.

Dewsbury’s Beach

⁴⁵ Deposited Plan 40-1618, courtesy John Healy & Associates; Megan Goulding and Kate Waters, ‘Eurobodalla Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study – South Coast New South Wales’, Goulding Heritage Consulting Pty Ltd and Eurobodalla Shire Council, and NSW Department of Environment & Conservation, March 2005, p.55. Jabbarah Point is on the northern boundary of Portion 7 and could possibly be derived from ‘Yarboro’. Sue Wesson checked her notes and found that a fisherman called Tommy Yarro of the Nurrawallee tribe was listed in the blanket distributions at Ulladulla in 1837 then aged 25. She feels there is a good chance this could be the same man who later received Portion 7, by which time he would have been 65.

⁴⁶ Goulding Heritage Consulting Pty Ltd, *Eurobodalla Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study*, p. 161; Sue Wesson, *An Historical Atlas of the Aborigines of Eastern Victoria and Far South-eastern New South Wales*, Monash Publications on Geography and Environmental Science 2000, p.130, p. 149.

⁴⁷ Reginald Barlow, ‘Wagonga’, *Moruya Examiner*, 5/2/1892, p.2

⁴⁸ Map, Mina Watt Collection.

⁴⁹ Mina Watt (nee Mitchell)

⁵⁰ Beryl Whitham, p. 27

⁵¹ Lesley Negus, nee Wilding

⁵² Beryl Whitham.

Old hands think what is now called ‘Duesburys’ was called Carters Beach in the early twentieth century. Carter land started from behind this beach and extended south.

Dalmeny-Kianga-North Narooma pathway

The shared pathway linking Dalmeny, Kianga and North Narooma is being built over two years by the local community with the whole project overseen and managed by Eurobodalla Shire Council.



Then Federal Member fro Eden-Monaro Gary Nairn announced in mid 2007 the Pathway had received \$284,900 in Regional Partnerships funding from the Australian Government. Most weekends over the last two years, local blokes from a pool of about 60 volunteers have met somewhere between Dalmeny and Kianga to construct this pathway. Every day they work, a group of ladies supplied them with morning tea, complete with tablecloth.

Mr Nairn acknowledged “the incredible commitment” the local community had already put into this project. When Mr Nairn made the announcement, Council had already contributed \$150,000, State Government \$70,000 as well as the community’s \$50,000 in fundraising and over 4,500 volunteer man-hours.

Kianga

There is some thought the word ‘Kianga’ is an Aboriginal word, possibly meaning ‘home’, but so far no documentation has been found supporting that. Interestingly, a Google search reveals many references to ‘Kianga’ being a Swahili word meaning something along the lines of ‘sunshine after rain’, but it seems unlikely a Swahili name would have been introduced here.

The first record of ‘Kianga’ found so far was in the late nineteenth century. A request was sent to the Postal authorities in December 1882 asking for at least a twice a week mail service between Bodalla and Kainga [sic] Goldfields and Wagonga Heads (there was no settlement at Narooma then, only around Wagonga and Punkalla).⁵³ The letter said at that stage, the recently discovered Kainga [sic]

⁵³ Australia Post Archives – Wagonga Heads Post Office, 18/12/1882, National Archives.

Goldfields reefs had attracted a large population which was daily increasing, with two steam sawmills already in full works and another three to four about to be erected.⁵⁴

In early 1883, the post masters from Bodalla and Wagonga estimated there were 50 to 100 people in the area and recommended Henry Costin be appointed Post Master. He was and 'Wagonga Heads' post office opened at his place about two miles north of Wagonga Heads on the track to Bodalla on 1 June 1883.⁵⁵ There was apparently some confusion with 'Wagonga' Post Office up the Inlet and it was suggested Wagonga Heads Post Office should be renamed 'Perryland' or 'Perryville' because many portions along the coast between Mummuga and Wagonga Inlet had by that stage been taken up by Thomas Perry.⁵⁶ There was no suggestion to name it 'Kianga'. Costin countered by saying the area had been known as Wagonga Heads for 40 years.

Records show the Post Office was closed in 1885/86 because by then it was only serving Mr Costin and two of Thomas Sutcliffe Mort's sons (presumably Edward Mort at 'Derraquin' and Laidley at 'Brou'). Henry Costin's brother-in-law Thomas Carter took up land and called his property 'Kianga', presumably adopting the local Aboriginal name for the area. Thomas was the brother of Henry Costin's wife Catherine and also Emma Hoyle who ran the Bodalla Inn in the 1880s.

Thomas Carter leased the 'Kianga' property to Emma's son Edward Thomas Hoyle from 1890 to 1893 - Edward was also the licensee of the Bodalla Inn.⁵⁷ Thomas' son Cecil T Carter was an early supplier of milk to Narooma Cheese factory which officially opened in 1915.⁵⁸ The dairy was located on the hill behind Kianga and the house is now part of the Eco-tel (formerly Montague Motel). He would take his milk to the factory in a horse-drawn wagonette via the punt.⁵⁹

By the early twentieth century the name 'Kianga' seemed to apply to the locality north of Wagonga Inlet, so that when Mitchell's Mill went to establish a post office at the mill (on Wagonga Inlet) in 1908 they suggested calling it 'Kianga Post Office'. The postal authorities rejected that name because of a possible confusion with 'Kiandra' so instead it was called 'North Narooma PO'.

Kianga and Dalmeny Drive

Cecil T Carter (known locally as CT) was a local estate agent and undertook to subdivide the coastal part of the farm south from Kianga Lake through Sydney based agents MacCormick & Jarman Ltd. Exact date is unknown at this stage although some suggest in the 1930s, others in the early 1950s.⁶⁰ The reasons why that didn't go ahead are also unknown at this stage. The subdivision plan was considerably different to what eventually happened but some blocks were sold at this time, apparently to Asian people. Local talk is that a high pressure salesman went to Hong Kong to sell the blocks, apparently with the promise that if they owned land in Australia they could gain residency.⁶¹ It is also said that many blocks were auctioned off for unpaid rates.

The sales brochure mentions the survey of Kianga Estate had been done "on modern lines", that "Narooma is only five hours car journey from Canberra", "The Prince Highway passes the Estate and the roads Are undoubtedly the finest in the Commonwealth".

⁵⁴ *ibid*

⁵⁵ *ibid.*

⁵⁶ *ibid.*

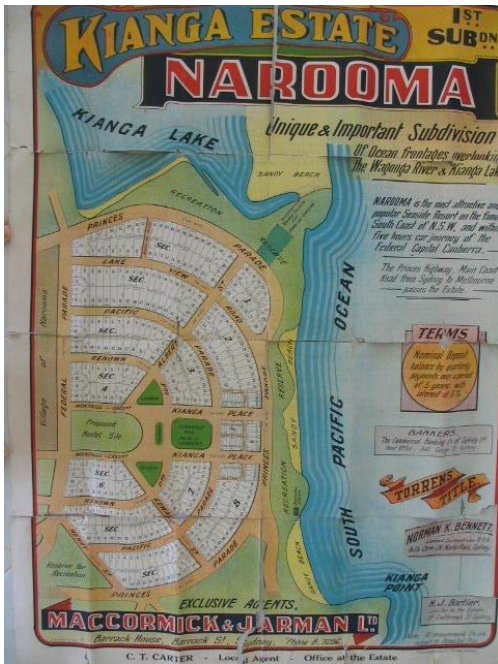
⁵⁷ Robin Martz, a descendant of Emma Hoyle.

⁵⁸ Laurelle Pacey, *Narooma's Past – steamers, sawmills and salmon*,

⁵⁹ Bertie Martin interview, Laurelle Pacey collection.

⁶⁰ Journal of the Moruya & District Historical Society, March 2007, pp. 13-14; local surveyor John Healy thinks it was the 1950s.

⁶¹ John Healy, personal communication.



The sale poster for C T Carter's Kianga subdivision that never went ahead. Courtesy Moruya Historical Society

The Kianga subdivision as we know it was surveyed in February 1959 and registered December 1960 in the name of Kianga Pty Ltd.⁶² They owned virtually all land from Dewsbury's Road south. The company was owned by a group of related doctors with spokesperson Dr Francis John Graham. The road was realigned several times, basically involving moving it back slightly from the dunes.

There were then moves to connect the two settlements of Dalmeny and Kianga along the coast instead of having to go around via the Princes Highway. Eurobodalla Shire Council completed the road in 1968.⁶³

Keith Wilding, past president of Dalmeny Progress Association and a former Eurobodalla Shire Councilor, said there was then a lot of road-kill along the road because the bush came right up to the edge of the road. So the community decided the trees should be cleared back from the road. The Dalmeny Progress Association took the project on board and made a donation to Council towards the work. Keith recalls Em Jonas of Dalmeny started the donations rolling in when he walked into his shop and presented him with a cheque.⁶⁴ Members of the Association helped Council clear beside the road and planted Golden Cypress trees along it and along Yabbra Point.⁶⁵ Those trees are greatly valued by many long time residents and their families.

Kianga Lake to Carters Beach Headland/Kianga Point

Thomas Carter named his property 'Kianga'. He arrived in the colony from England in 1857 having been sent for by his sister and brother-in-law Catherine and Henry Costin. Thomas died at 'Kianga'

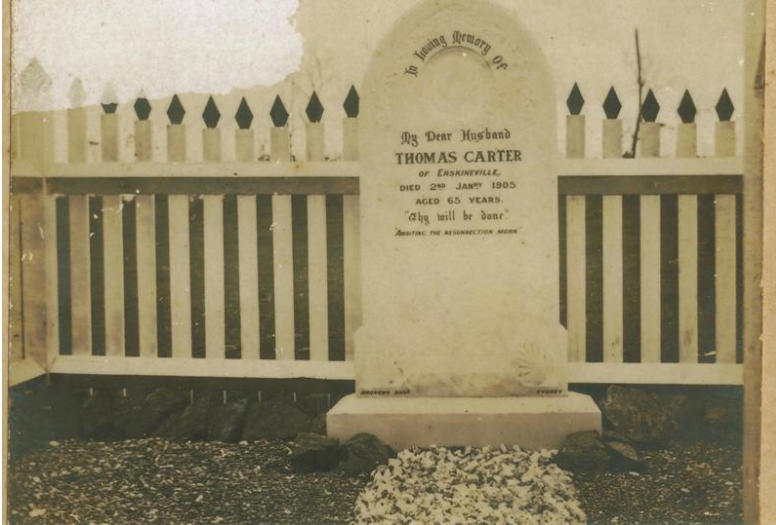
⁶² Plan of Subdivision of parts of Portions 3, 27, 75, 83 DP 31234Sh½ Vol. 1 4053 Fol: 79 Deposited 19 December 1960.

⁶³ Beryl Whitham, *op. cit.*, p. 18.

⁶⁴ Lesley Negus (nee Wilding) personal communication

⁶⁵ Letter from Keith Wilding, quoted in *Moruya Examiner* 5/4/1989. The Dalmeny Progress Association also planted Norfolk Island pines on the camping area at Dalmeny and built the original bridge over Dalmeny (Mummuga) Lake

2/1/1905 and was buried on the property near the beach, thought to have been somewhere between what is now called Carter's Beach and Kianga Beach.⁶⁶ There is a family photograph of the headstone at 'Kianga' encircled by a picket fence, but it does not give any indication of the precise location (*see photograph*).



Thomas Carter's grave at Kianga before his body was exhumed and reburied 26 years later beside his wife in Sydney. Photo courtesy Robin Martz.

Thomas' wife Clarissa apparently returned to Sydney after Thomas' death. She lived at her home 'Kianga' at Turrumurra until she died in 1931, aged 92. She left instructions for Thomas' body to be exhumed and buried alongside her in Sydney at South Head cemetery which he was. The late Bertie Martin said the story was that Thomas' body was sent up to Sydney by boat disguised as some other cargo because seamen considered it bad luck to transport a body.

Kianga Point was once the firing range for the local rifle club in the early twentieth century. C T Carter would have been a member. The targets were located above a trench on the headland with the shooters taking aim from over the gully somewhere near lower Sunset Boulevard at Kianga. Former Eurobodalla Shire Councilor and occasional lightkeeper Neville Gough says lightkeepers on Montague sometimes objected because they were in the line of fire, even though about nine kilometres away.

Bar Beach to Wagonga Inlet

The wetland behind Bar Beach was identified in the original town survey plan of 1885. The original track along here went between the sand dunes and the wetland. Maps show that the slope and the southern part of the wetland were reserved for water supply in 1886. A spring used to be located somewhere between the southern part of the wetland and the Inlet. The Bettini family in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century would row down the Inlet from their property and wash their clothes using water from the spring.

The area between the wetland, the Inlet and the sea was reserved for public recreation from 1886.

In the few years pre 1905, there were four 'shipyards' in the area around what is now Apex Park and

⁶⁶ Thomas Carter's death certificate.

car park and the port was becoming well known for its shipbuilding.⁶⁷ We know the single screw steamer *Cora Lynne* as built here by William Mowet for Fred Cox of Narooma Mill in 1902, and the 105t wooden steamer *Narooma* was built by Bill Pete of Pete's Ferry for Sydney timber merchant Allen Taylor & Company.⁶⁸ Other ships built at Narooma after this time were built at other locations around the inlet.



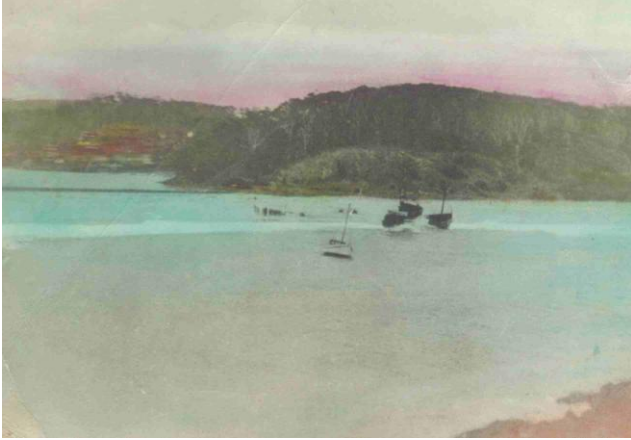
Shipbuilding at north Narooma at what is now Apex Park. This is believed to be the launching of the Cora Lynn (or Corra Lynne) built for Narooma sawmiller Fred Cox in 1902. The ship being built behind is believed to be 'Narooma' for Allen Taylor & Co. (Photo courtesy Bette Brice)

Just behind the shipbuilding area is the quarry which provided rock for the training walls in the inlet. The training walls were constructed to try to improve navigation within the inlet and across the bar for the coastal steamers that traded with the port in the first half of the twentieth century.

The steamers would come into Narooma to deliver supplies for the town and return to Sydney with their valuable cargoes of timber and sometimes cheese. It was not unusual for ships to ground on the sandspit here coming into port, or get stuck crossing the bar, or not be able to get back out to sea because of shoaling within the inlet. The aim of the training walls was to define the channel and direct the tidal energy to flushing out the channel.

⁶⁷ W. Lorck (Ed.), *The Illawarra and South Coast Steam Navigation Company's Illustrated Handbook*, W. Lorck, Sydney, 1905.

⁶⁸ Patricia Hyland, *A Dempsey Family Story - Sydney Cove to Narooma - Mill whistles, Blucher Boots and Bugattis*, Seamist Press, Sydney 1990, p. 54.



A slight mishap entering the port could leave the steamer stuck on the beach. The ship would be winched off once a line was put through Australia Rock.

The Minister for Public Works resumed Lot 55 for a quarry for the training walls in 1910. Construction of the training walls started early in 1919, by which time the Government realised a bigger quarry would be needed. So Lot 54 was also resumed. From 1919 to 1920, two short training walls were built within the Inlet, using rock from this quarry. The eastern wall was extended 1928-1930 and again further in 1932-1933, and further again in 1935-1936.⁶⁹ The area behind the training wall and the reserve was used as a swimming baths by people living around Mitchell's Mill, "we were always worried about sharks back then" says Mina Watt (nee Mitchell).

By late 1936, the Public Works Department surveyor considered the Narooma bar one of the safest crossings on the south coast, claiming it was deepening as a result of recent extensions to the navigation walls.⁷⁰ Navigation problems eventually returned.

A twelve feet opening was put into one training wall near Apex Park in 1939-40 as a holding pen for salmon for Narooma's fish cannery, which was the first commercial fish cannery in Australia. It had concrete walls and floor two feet below water and was fitted with a lifting gate and winch.⁷¹ The pen never worked as hoped because the water was too shallow for the fish to feed there.⁷²

The breakwaters at the entrance were designed by the Public Works Department to improve navigation into the inlet by increasing the depth of water over the bar, allegedly for the benefit of the commercial fishing industry. They were built in 1976-1978 by the Wollongong-based contractors Cleary Bros.

⁶⁹ *ibid.*

⁷⁰ Letter to Editor of NSW *Rod Fishers Society's Gazette*, 14/10/1936, newspaper cutting book of The Anglers Club of Narooma 1936/37, Darryl Stuart Collection.

⁷¹ Manly Hydraulics Laboratory, *op. cit.*

⁷² Laurelle Pacey, *Narooma's Past – steamers, sawmills and salmon*, 2005, pp. 80-81.