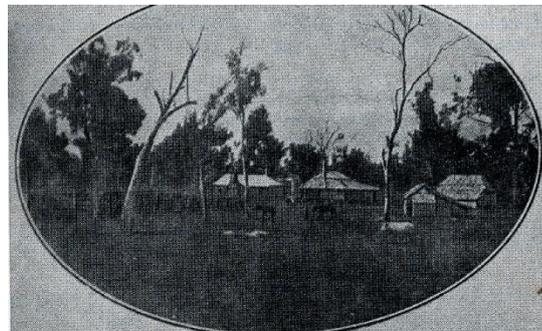


PRESS RELEASE : DRILLHAM SELECTIONS

(125 year celebrations Drillham State School)

The first settlement of the Drillham district began with the selection of three stations - Dulacca, Binbian and Wallan Creek. Dulacca or Doolachah or Emu Creek Run was taken up by Fredrich Isaac after his trip to the west with Leichhardt in 1847. The lease was recorded in 1849, some 56,000 acres. It was later owned by William Miles, after whom Miles is named. Binbian was a smallish run of 12,000 acres taken up by Charles Coxen in 1851. His nephew, Henry Coxen, took over a share in 1852 and lived there with his wife, Mary Ann for five years. In 1857 Binbian was sold to Thos de Lacy Moffat.



In 1859, Harris and Gray were lessees, F. A. Forbes held the lease from 1861 – 1869. John Ferrett eventually became the lessee in 1870 and Binbian became part of Dulacca Run. The Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney took over all Ferrett's interests in 1878. Following resumption in 1886, some 3017 acres were proclaimed a grazing farm in 1889, which Robert Brown Junior took up in 1893. This was forfeited in 1908. Much of Binbian was held under "occupational licences" by various people until 1927 when George Bennett was granted a lease of 18 square miles. This was surrendered in the following year.

Wallan Creek run was selected by John Dangar in 1849, settled and developed by John Ferrett in 1851. John Ferrett came from England on the "Fairlea" in 1838. He found employment with John Dangar on his properties at Gostwyick Plains. Here he learned the lessons of the pastoralists. After leasing Wallan, he built a homestead described in Fox's History Book as follows:

"Wallan Homestead is commodious. It is surrounded by four outbuildings and the walls are of dressed ironbark and bloodwood slabs, 2 to 3 ins. Thick and 12 to 14 ins. Wide, loopholed for defence against attack. The roof is of bloodwood shingles, whilst the outbuildings are of sheeted bark variety and steeply pitched. It is recorded that Rev. Glennie stayed at Wallan en route to Juandah in 1857 and was made welcome by Mrs. Harry Ferrett, his brother's wife. Harry Ferrett was drowned crossing the Condamine River with stores for Wallan in 1860. "John Ferrett was to become the lessee of a number of properties in the area, Binbian and Dulacca amongst them. He became a member of the Legislative Assembly in 1862.

"A clever 'parliamentary portrait' appearing in the Queensland Guardian newspaper in 1862 may be quoted to convey some idea of John Ferrett, 'The Man of Maranoa'. The writer of the series describes him as possessing no everyday physiognomy, as a feature of the House of Assembly; even at St. Stephen's he would be a man of note. One of his greatest merits is his originality. Not content with the title of 'PAARENS PATRIOE' which has been unanimously assigned to him, he is ever seeking new fields for the exercise of his patriotism and genius. The interests of his own constituency claim his first attention and the very mention of Maranoa finds him eager and ready for the fray". The Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney took over his interests about 1878. He died in 1894. His name lives on in a local Ferret Parish.



More information about the Drillham State School's upcoming 125th anniversary celebrations and regular updates can be found on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Drillham125years> or Instagram @drillham125anniversary or the Drillham State School website <https://drillhamss.eq.edu.au/>

Alternatively, you can contact Madonna Moore on 0417 775 494 or the school on 07 4627 6289.