



Twelve historic sites in the

Glenburn and Burbong

areas of the Kowen Forest,
Australian Capital Territory

Colin McAlister

November 2007





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Cover photos, clockwise from top left

The earliest marked European graves in the ACT are those of two small girls, Elizabeth and Margaret Colverwell, who drowned in 1837. This small fenced graveyard, surrounded by grazing paddocks, was restored in 2005.

Photo James Thompson, December 2006

The remains of Glenburn homestead; the two huts, one of slab construction and one of pisé.

Photo Colin McAlister, August 2006

This old horse-drawn, sit-on Jones Mower would have been used to cut hay around Glenburn.

Photo Max Lawrence, August 2006

Among the pine trees of Kowen Forest north of the Molonglo River, are the chimney and fireplace ruins of John Coppin's homestead, surrounded by blackberries.

Photo Max Lawrence, June 2006

Preface

A small pastoral area rich in historic sites

The Glenburn and Burbong historic areas of the Kowen Forest are contained in a small locality close to Canberra and Queanbeyan that is rich in relics of early European pastoral activity which commenced in the area in 1831.

There is evidence of tragedy — the gravestones of two young girls who drowned in 1837; of mystery — who built a substantial stone house in 1880 on land he did not own?; of rural entertainment — a bachelors' ball was held in a homestead in 1895; of early education — the site of a public school that operated from 1882 to 1906; and of sheer hard work — a shearing shed complex still used today that had its origins in the 1860s, dilapidated sheep yards and hay sheds, an old plunge sheep dip and a field mower. And much more.

Congratulations and a call for action

In 2005 the ACT Government, through ACT Forests and the Heritage Unit, restored the Colverwell graves in the Glenburn historic area. In February 2006, the Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope, officially opened the renovations at a graveside ceremony to mark the event. Congratulations to all involved in the wonderful restoration work (see before and after photos on page 14).

But there is much more to be done. Most of the remaining relics are in need of repair and conservation. Some, such as the pisé hut at the Glenburn homestead, the ruins of Collier's stone homestead and the ruins of Coppin's homestead are in need of urgent repairs and/or stabilisation.

I urge the ACT Government to actively pursue remedial work in the areas. The highest priorities should be to:

1. repair and stabilise the pisé hut at the Glenburn homestead;
2. stabilise the tops of the stone walls of the ruins of Collier's homestead;
3. stabilise the stone chimney and fireplace of the ruins of John Coppin's homestead;
4. repair the slab hut at the Glenburn homestead; and
5. prepare and implement conservation plans for the ruins of Collier's homestead, the Glenburn homestead and the shearing shed complex.

Interpretive signs should be erected for the Glenburn and Burbong historic areas at all major sites including the site of the Kowen Public School and the charcoal kilns.

The origin of this paper, acknowledgements, and a request for help

This paper had its origins in my desire to have a couple of pages of notes on several historic sites in the Glenburn/Burbong area of the Kowen Forest that I could hand out to participants on walks organized by the National Parks Association of the ACT. The ACT Heritage Library was also interested in a summary document on the sites and arranged to have a map drawn of the areas for me.

My 'couple of pages' grew like Topsy, just like the Glenburn shearing shed complex. It is now a large document that is the result of some two years' research that, among other things, involved visits to the ACT Heritage Library, the ACT Surveys Office, the Australian National Library, the National Archives of Australia, the NSW Department of Lands, State Records NSW, the National Trust of Australia (ACT) and the Canberra and District Historical Society. The staff of these organizations helped me a great deal and I thank them all. I would like to record my special thanks to Antoinette Buchanan of the ACT Heritage Library and Ron Jarman of the ACT Surveys Office.

Other people have also been very helpful. Don Mountain lent me several books from his library. Dianne and James Thorne, Denise Pierce and John Lindsay gave me extensive information on the Edmonds family in the second half of the 1800s and the early 1900s. Marilyn Folger provided valuable information on the early days of the McInnes family. Ken and Suzanne McInnes gave their time to provide information on the Glenburn area, particularly the Glenburn shearing shed complex, and to read and comment on an early draft. Jim Dick gave me documentation on Luke Colverwell's trial at the Old Bailey in 1810 and initially identified a McDonald as the person who, in 1879, conditionally purchased the land on which Collier's homestead stands. Len Haskew walked the area with me several times and provided helpful comments on drafts of the paper. Professor Basil Johnson prepared the map for the access route to the historic sites from the Kings Highway for the ACT Heritage Library.

Max Lawrence, a friend of 50 years, has been extremely generous. He walked the area with me on many occasions over the past 10 years or so and, together with Len Haskew, we visited the ruins of John Coppin's and Argyle homesteads and the site of the Kowen copper mine for the first time in 2006. Max read and commented on several drafts of the paper. He encouraged me to include more information on early European history including on the families involved. Max even accompanied me on one of my visits to State Records NSW in Sydney to obtain information on the Kowen Public School. And, together, we trolled through more than 1 000 photographs to select the ones included in the paper. Thanks Max.

Adrienne Nicholson has also been most generous. She initially married the photos, survey plans and maps with the text. Along the way she had to cope with my many amendments and corrections. Adrienne's contribution is much appreciated.

Many thanks also to my wife, Ginny. She encouraged me to continue with the research when I became frustrated with its slow progress, provided many suggestions, corrected much of my grammar and proof-read several drafts.

I also thank the National Parks Association of the ACT for their support in publishing this paper. Its publications subcommittee worked hard to incorporate substantial new material including some historical photos into the paper. Thanks especially to Sabine Friedrich and Sonja Lenz.

Finally, I ask that anyone who has any additional information about the sites or the people, or who finds errors of fact, to contact me by phone on (02) 6288 4171 or by e-mail on cvmac@actewagl.net.au.

Abbreviations used

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ACP	Additional Conditional Purchase of land in NSW
CP	Conditional Purchase of land in NSW
IP	Improvement Purchase of land in NSW
C&DHS	Canberra and District Historical Society
KHA	Kosciuszko Huts Association
NAA	National Archives of Australia
NCDC	National Capital Development Commission
NSW	New South Wales

Currency valuations used

Australia converted its currency from pounds, shillings and pence (£ s d) to decimal currency (\$ c) in 1966, at the rate of \$2.00 for £1 0s 0d. Historic valuations of land and improvements quoted in this paper are those in the original documents.

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Land Portion numbers shown on this map are referred to throughout the paper.

Introduction

For many years I have been leading walks, for the National Parks Association of the ACT, into the Glenburn and Burbong areas of the Kowen Forest looking at historic sites. There is much to see.

This paper sets out brief information on early European settlement in the Canberra/Queanbeyan region, including Kowen.

The locations of the Glenburn and Burbong areas of the Kowen Forest are described and a map shows how to access twelve historic sites (seven in Glenburn and five in Burbong) from the Kings Highway.

The historic sites are described briefly together with information on the people who occupied/owned the land in the area.

Detailed information is provided on each of the seven historic sites in the Glenburn area and five in the Burbong area.

Finally, two easy half-day walks are described on which the seven sites in the Glenburn area and the five in the Burbong area, respectively, can be visited. Two ways of combining the two walks into an easy day walk are also described.

Survey plan of portion 1, Parish of Amungula

See Pur. Abst 35/326

Lots 15, 16 and 17 Nov. Sale.

Not Sold on the 11th November 1835 no bidder having offered

See Pur. Abst 37/597 The Crown

Lots 61 and 62

14 February 1838

James Atkinson App^t for the 1270.

See Pur. Abst 36/101

Lot 89 13 July 1836

Sold to him

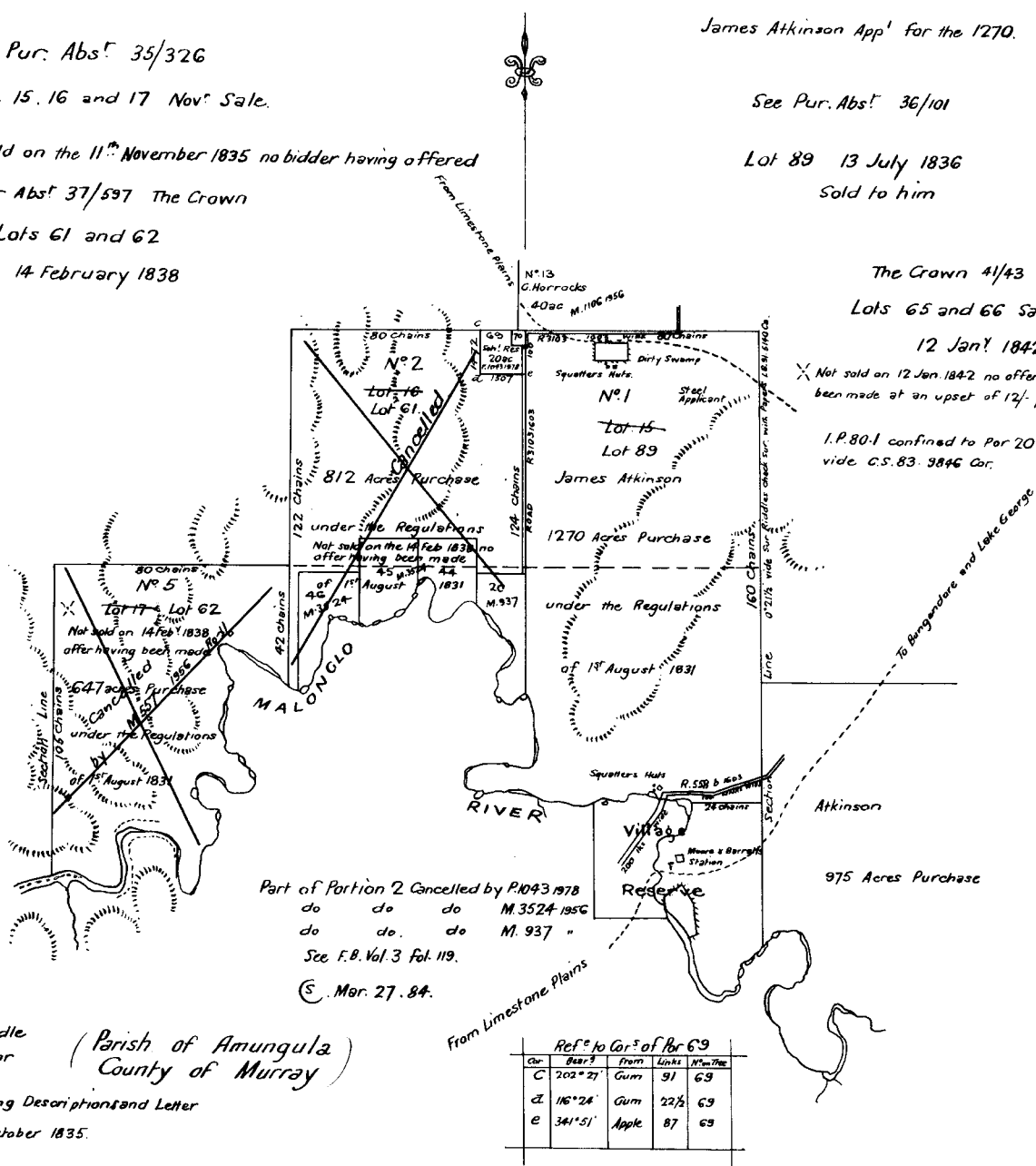
The Crown 4/43

Lots 65 and 66 Sale

12 Jan^y 1842

Not sold on 12 Jan. 1842 no offer having been made at an upset of 12/ p. ac.

I.P. 80-1 confined to Por 20 of 40a. vide G.S. 83. 9846 Cor.



Robert Hoddle
Surveyor

(Parish of Amungula)
County of Murray

Accompanying Description and Letter

Dated 3rd October 1835.

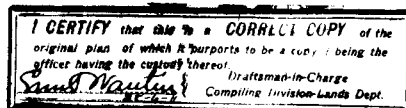
Land (361r24p) for road R.558 b 603 confirmed as a road 26th June 1874.

Land (592r38p) confirmed for road R.3103 b 603 G23 18th Mch 87 R^{ds} 84.73.

W.B. Exd

1

M.59743.



Early European settlement in the Canberra / Queanbeyan region including Kowen

The earliest European visitors and settlers in the Canberra/Queanbeyan region ⁽¹⁾

The earliest European visitors to the Canberra/Queanbeyan area were explorers in the early 1820s — Throsby, Throsby Smith, Wild, Currie, Owens and Cunningham.

The first settlers, or generally their overseers with cattle and sheep, followed quickly and occupied large areas. The stock was under the control of overseers, stockmen and/or shepherds, a practice followed for many years.

The first occupants, probably in mid-1824, were stockmen in control of cattle owned by Joshua Moore at Acton. On 21 October 1824, Moore was issued a 'ticket of occupation' for 2 000 acres [809 hectares] (stretching between Black Mountain, the Molonglo River and the modern Barton Highway) embracing this settlement or occupation.

The second group of occupants was James Ainslie and his shepherds, who arrived in the second half of 1825 with 700 sheep from Bathurst to find and establish a site for Robert Campbell. In May 1825 Campbell was offered a grant of 4 000 acres [1 619 hectares] (later increased to 5 000 acres [2 023 hectares]), in part compensation for the loss of his ship *Sydney* while it was under charter to the government nineteen years previously. Ainslie found the site at Pialligo (Duntroon) and reported this back to Campbell who, in November 1825, instructed the Surveyor General to make out the grant.

Early occupants close to where the town of Queanbeyan developed included, in 1828, shepherds on 2 000 acres [809 hectares] at Jerrabomberra that John Palmer (Robert Campbell's brother-in-law) had received in exchange for a property on the Hawkesbury River. Later, cattle were also run on this and his adjoining property 'at a place called Quinbeane'. In 1834 the herd numbered 1 200.

Proclamation of Queanbeyan

The official proclamation of Queanbeyan was in 1838, when it had a population of about 50, a post office which had opened in 1836, and a resident magistrate who had been appointed in 1837.

The first settlers in the Kowen area, Luke and Mary Colverwell ⁽²⁾

The first occupants in the Kowen area were Luke and Mary Colverwell in 1831 at 'Dirty Swamp' on the western side of Glen Burn Creek. The area became known as Glenburn or Dirty Swamp.

They squatted on the northern end of 1 270 acres [516 hectares] (Portion 1, Parish of Amungula, County of Murray) that were subsequently sold to James Atkinson in July 1836 and the Crown grant was issued in 1837. The relevant survey plan of Portion 1 is on the facing page and it includes the notations 'Dirty Swamp' and 'Squatters Huts' near the northern track marked 'From Limestone Plains'.

The location of Portion 1 in the broader Kowen area can be seen on the segment of the 1909 portion map of the Parish of Amungula, County of Murray. That map on page iv shows the location of all the various Portions mentioned in this paper.

The Colverwells may have been assisted to squat by James Atkinson who also owned property south of Berrima or their previous employer, James Richard Styles who owned property at Gundaroo and Bungonia.

Luke and Mary were both convicts. In 1810 Luke had been sentenced to death at the Old Bailey for horse stealing. The sentence was subsequently commuted to transportation and he arrived at Sydney Cove on the ship *Guildford* in 1812, aged 17.⁽³⁾ Mary Danahy was transported from Ireland and arrived at Sydney Cove on the ship *City of Edinburgh* in 1828, aged 30. They met at Gundaroo where Luke (who had received a conditional pardon in 1821), and probably Mary, worked for Styles. They were married in May 1831 in the Parish of Inverary which is east of Bungonia. Later that year they settled at Dirty Swamp.

Luke and Mary had six children; Elizabeth born 1831 died 1837, Margaret b1832 d1837, Eliza b1835 d1857, Mary b1836 d1920, Jane b1839 d1917 and Luke b1841 d1896, all born at Dirty Swamp. The family lived in a hut close to Glen Burn Creek where Elizabeth and Margaret tragically drowned in 1837.

The Colverwells were the only residents in the area for many years. By the 1841 census of pastoral properties, 'Cowen' still only had a population of six people (Luke and Mary Colverwell and their four surviving children Eliza, Mary, Jane and Luke)

and one wooden building. This wooden building would have been the Colverwells' home when they squatted in the area in 1831. It was located on the western side of Glen Burn Creek, close to where the Colverwell graveyard is today.

Luke Colverwell probably worked for James Atkinson until he bought Portion 1 from Atkinson in August 1840.

In February 1849, Luke Colverwell took up 3 739 acres [1 513 hectares] of land on the southern side of the Molonglo River, much of which later became the Burbong Estate (Cross and Sheedy, 1983, p12). The Colverwells have farmed land in the Burbong area ever since. Indeed, Rhueben Colverwell, Luke's great grandson, lives in Queanbeyan and still farms some land that was part of the Burbong Estate.

Luke and his family would have worked both areas of land until Luke sold Portion 1 to John James Wright in January 1861.

I have not been able to find out when the Colverwell family moved to the Burbong property but it was probably around 1861 when Portion 1 was sold. It is possible, however, that Luke Colverwell senior never moved there. When Martin Byrne (who had purchased Portion 1 from John James Wright in May 1866) applied to have Portion 1 brought under the Torrens' system of land tenure in May 1869, Luke Colverwell was still living there. In his application Martin Byrne indicated that the land was in the occupation of George Campbell except for a small hut and a few acres that was in the occupation of Luke Colverwell 'as a Tenant on Sufferance' (NSW Department of Lands Doc: PA 002340). The title was issued to George Campbell in June 1871. It is possible that Campbell continued the arrangement with Luke Colverwell and he may have lived in the hut until he died in 1876. (In this context, I note that Greville's Directory for 1875–77 lists, under Queanbeyan, 'Colverwell, L., sen., farmer, Dirty swamp'. But perhaps not too much should be read into this because the same Directory lists, under Queanbeyan, 'Colverwell, L., jun., farmer, Dirty swamp' and, under Bungendore, 'Colverwell, Luke'.)

Population growth and decline in Kowen

From the early 1860s the population of Glenburn/Dirty Swamp, Burbong and nearby areas increased for two main reasons.

First, the succession of absentee landlords, starting with John James Wright in 1861, on Portion 1 needed workers to tend the stock and carry out other

farm duties. Some of these workers and their families lived on site. For example, Alexander 'Sandy' McDonald during the 1860s (Cross and Sheedy, 1978, p1) and possibly later, and John McInnes from the early 1860s until he and his large family moved, probably around 1880 (see Annexure to Endnotes), some 3.5km to the west to establish what became the Kowen homestead complex. (Greville's Directory for 1875–77 lists, under Queanbeyan, 'McDonald, Alexander, farmer, Swamp' and 'McInnis, John, farmer, Swamp'.) But there were probably others. For example, Folger (1998, p39 and pers comm, 2006) reported that in 1867 John McInnes and his brother, Duncan, were listed in Baillier's Post Office Directory at Dirty Swamp as farmer and horse breaker, respectively. Cross and Sheedy (1978, p2) mention a Don McDonald. And Lea-Scarlett, Cross and Sheedy (1978, pp1–3) reported that another Alexander McDonald (who had previously owned 'Glenkowan Estate' of 1280 acres [518 hectares] between Bungendore and Queanbeyan from 1855 to 1863) went into bankruptcy in 1869 and, at that time, he was a shepherd at Dirty Swamp; but he may have continued to live at 'Glenkowan' as a tenant until his death in 1876.

Second, the introduction of the 1861 *Land Acts* allowed for free selection, usually in 40 acre [16 hectare] Portions. While still working at Glenburn, John McInnes took advantage of these Acts and, from 1868 to 1879 he bought ten Portions some 3–4km to the west. New families who took advantage of these Acts included the Horrockses in 1872, the McNerneys in 1873 (notations CP 72 7610 and CP 73 13214 on Portions 13 and 14, respectively — see map on page iv), the Harmans in 1883 (notation CP 83.5 on the survey plan of Portion 73) to the north of Portion 1 in Glenburn, and the Archibald McDonalds in 1878 and the Colliers in 1882–83 (notations CP 78.68, CP 78.106, and CP 78.214 on the survey plan of Portions 54, 60, 61 and notations CP 82/172, CP 82.220, CP 82.285, CP 82.293, CP 83.15 and CP 83.80 on the survey plan of Portions 75 to 80 at page 27, respectively) close by, in Burbong.

One consequence of the surge in population was the opening of the Kowen Provisional School with about 20 pupils in 1882.

However, by the 1891 census, all but two of the above families (the Harmans and the McInneses) had gone and none were living at Glenburn/Dirty Swamp. Their departure was probably associated with rural hardship on small holdings with generally low fertility.

Thomas Harman and his family lived just to the north-west of Portion 1 and John McInnes's family had moved 3.5km to the north-west of Portion 1 to the Kowen homestead complex (on Portion 5) from which he managed the many Portions he had purchased from 1868. There were two additional families living in the Burbong area, the Coopers and the Edmondses.

The total population in the Glenburn/Burbong areas in 1891 (the Harmans, Coopers and Edmondses) was 18 — 7 males and 11 females. However, if we extend the area to about 3.5km around the Kowen Public School, which was located just to the west of the north-west corner of Portion 1, the total population in the area was 57 — 28 males and 29 females. The extra families were those of John McInnes and James Carey to the north-west and west, respectively, and two Gallagher families at Browns Flat to the east.⁽⁴⁾

Rural hardship continued into the 1890s which was a decade of droughts, strikes and depressed prices (Bulbeck and Boot, 1990, p65). It was also a decade in which rabbits appeared in large numbers. The 1890s and the 1900s saw those families that remained and new entrants expand their holdings. For example, John Edmonds bought four allotments in the village of Burbong in 1889 and his son, John James Edmonds, bought Portion 1 in 1891 and subsequently took up other holdings in the area. Indeed, by 1915 when the Commonwealth resumed most Portions in Kowen, John James Edmonds owned 2 012 acres [814 hectares] (Portions 1, 20, 57, 58, 85, 86 and 9 that comprised Holding 62, see Map and 'Acquisitions', undated). New entrants like the Vest family to the north of Glenburn and John Coppins and Luke Colverwell junior in Burbong also expanded their holdings. The Gallagher families expanded into the north-east and east of Glenburn. Despite the Edmonds' expansion, in about 1905 they leased most of their land to descendants of John McInnes and moved to Glencoe, 22km south of Glen Innes.

As a consequence of these expansions and consolidations, the era of small settlers was over. Small holdings simply became non-viable because the capacity of the land to carry stock was low and little of the land could sustain intense agriculture such as cropping.

Reflecting these changes, the Kowen Public School closed in 1906 when average attendance was less than seven.

Resumption of land for the Federal Capital Territory

With the creation of the Federal Capital Territory in 1911, most freehold land was set down for expropriation by the Commonwealth.

On 18 March 1915, the *Commonwealth Gazette* notified the resumption by the Commonwealth of Australia of most portions in Kowen. The notification of the acquisition for Portion 1 was produced on 21 October 1915 and entered on the title on 28 March 1918.

The resumed portions were leased out for grazing, generally to the previous owners in the first instance. Thus, for example, Portion 1 on which Glenburn homestead is built and Portion 20 on which Collier's homestead is built, were leased back to John James Edmonds as part of Acquisition Sites, Holding No 62.

Subsequently, under the new ACT land regime, parts of these and some other portions were leased to Robert 'Bob' McInnes in a succession of leases from 1916 to 1929 (NAA: A361 DSG 23/1408, NAA: A192 FCL 1921/1618 and NAA: A192 FCL 1924/370). Later, other members of the McInnes family leased land in the area and, in 2007, the lease covering Glenburn is held by Ken and Suzanne McInnes. It is a three month renewable agistment lease for grazing sheep and cattle and does not cover any of the buildings. They are, however, allowed to use the shearing shed and associated facilities.

The coming of the pines

Development of the Kowen Forest began in 1926 with the first pines planted in 1927, partly in an attempt to control wattle on abandoned grazing land.⁽⁵⁾ In around 1970, pines were planted close to Glenburn, but they have never been planted in the area surrounding the Glenburn homestead and the Glenburn shearing shed complex. Nor have pines been planted in the Burbong area immediately south-west of the Canberra International Clay Target Club or along a narrow corridor beside the Molonglo River east and south of Collier's homestead.

A rural community no more

Today, no one lives in the Glenburn or Burbong areas of Kowen Forest, nor indeed within the Kowen Forest overall, with the exception of the caretaker of the Canberra International Clay Target Club. A once small rural community supporting several families is no more.

Location and map of the Glenburn and Burbong areas

Both areas are close to Canberra and Queanbeyan and easily visited.

The Glenburn historic area⁽⁶⁾ is about 3.5km along Charcoal Kiln Road. This runs to the left off the Kings Highway about 400m past the bridge over the Queanbeyan/Goulburn railway (about 10km from the Queanbeyan police station in Farrer Place). There is a locked gate at the start of Charcoal Kiln Road and permission is required from ACT Forests for vehicular access. The 3.5km walk each way along Charcoal Kiln Road to the Glenburn shearers' quarters and shearing shed is both easy and pleasant.

The Burbong historic area is located to the west of Charcoal Kiln Road and the turn-off to the Kowen copper mine site is about 1.5km from the start of Charcoal Kiln Road. The Burbong area of the Kowen Forest probably takes its name from the village of Burbong that was planned but did not even-tuate, south of the Queanbeyan/Goulburn railway and west of the Molonglo River — see map page iv. The Kings Highway now runs through the area before crossing the Molonglo River.

The map on the facing page shows the access route from the Kings Highway to the historic sites in the Glenburn and Burbong areas.⁽⁷⁾



The pisé and slab huts of Glenburn homestead, with the remains of a dray under the dead pine tree on the left, August 2006.

*Photo
Max Lawrence*

What are the historic sites in the Glenburn and Burbong areas?

Much of the early built environment in the Kowen Forest was bulldozed during the progressive expansion of pine plantings from 1927. For example, the substantial Kowen homestead complex located some 3.5km to the west of Glenburn was totally destroyed in 1979. The destruction of this and other homesteads and huts in the Kowen Forest make it all the more important to protect and conserve what remains of the early built environment in the Glenburn/Burbong area.

The Glenburn area was never planted with pines and it still contains relics of pastoral settlement that date back to the earliest days of European settlement in the area, which commenced in 1831.

There is a small graveyard that dates to 1837 where five members of the first settler family, Luke and Mary Colverwell, are buried.

There is a shearing shed, still in use, that had its origins probably in the early to mid 1860s.

There is a slab hut and a pisé (rammed earth) hut that were built in the late 1890s and early 1900s, respectively. These comprise the Glenburn homestead.

There is the site of the Kowen Public School which operated from 1882 to 1906 and the site of ten charcoal kilns that operated during the Second World War.

There are shearers' quarters that date to the 1950s.

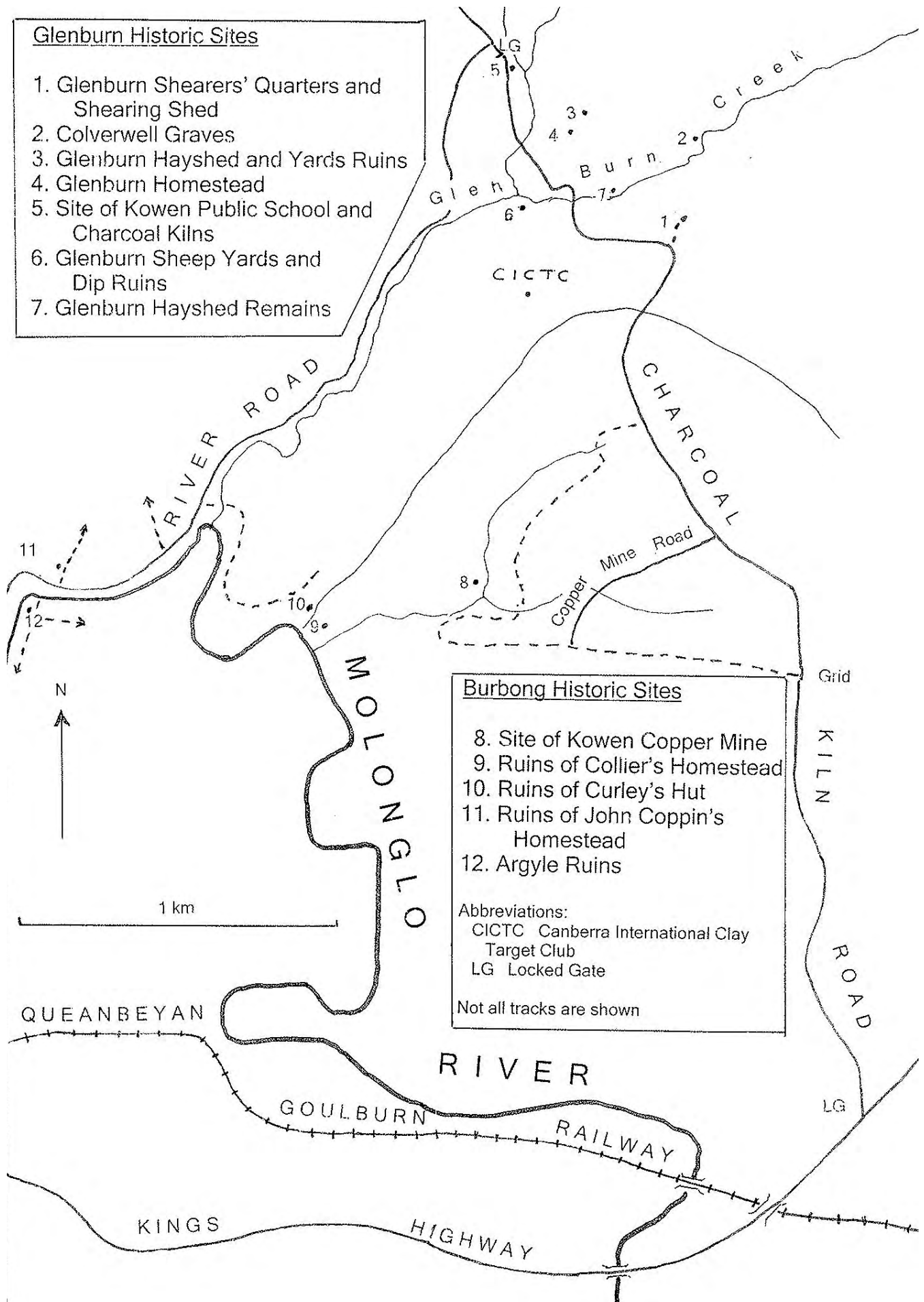
And there is much more evidence that hints at the activities associated with the grazing of sheep and cattle and the growing and storage of hay over many, many years.

Nearby, in Burbong, there is the site of a copper mine, the ruins of a large stone house that was built in 1880 and the stone fireplace and stone fireplace/chimney remains of two other homesteads that probably date to the 1890s.

Together, the Glenburn and Burbong areas are rich in the remains of the built environment associated with the early pioneering of pastoral development in a small area of the Canberra/Queanbeyan region. They are all worthy of protection and conservation.

Detailed information on each of the twelve historic sites is set out later in this paper.

Access route to the Glenburn and Burbong historic sites from the Kings Highway



Who occupied / owned the land in Glenburn and Burbong?⁽⁸⁾

The people who occupied or owned the Glenburn/Dirty Swamp land included squatters, absentee landlords, owner-occupiers, employees and leaseholders.

The original settlers were Luke and Mary Colverwell (also spelt Culverwell) who squatted on the land in 1831.

In 1836, the crown land, Portion 1, incorporating Glenburn/Dirty Swamp was sold to absentee landlord James Atkinson who owned land south of Berima. Atkinson probably employed Luke Colverwell as a shepherd and to undertake other farm duties.

In 1840, Atkinson sold Portion 1 to Luke Colverwell who, with his family, worked the land (and a much larger tract of land on the southern side of the Molonglo River that Luke purchased in 1849).

In 1861, Luke Colverwell sold Portion 1 to another absentee landlord, John James Wright (Queanbeyan's first parliamentarian, its first mayor and the leader of the group that agitated for the railway that reached Queanbeyan in 1886).

Wright and subsequent absentee landlords such as Martin Byrne of Woden Station who operated a flour mill in Queanbeyan, George Campbell of Duntroon and Charles Campbell, Robert Campbell Close and James Scroggie (owners of other land in the area) would have employed people, including itinerant workers such as shearers, to work the land for them. Some of the employees and their families would have lived at Glenburn/Dirty Swamp; for example, as mentioned earlier, Alexander 'Sandy' McDonald during the 1860s and possibly later, and John McInnes from the early 1860s until he and his large family moved, probably around 1880, some

3.5km to the west to establish what became the Kowen homestead complex.

In 1891, Robert Campbell Close and James Scroggie sold Portion 1 to John James Edmonds who subsequently built the slab hut and the pisé hut that comprise Glenburn homestead for his family. Edmonds worked the land until about 1905 when he leased the land to descendants of John McInnes and he and his family moved to Glencoe.

In 1915, Portion 1 was resumed by the Commonwealth to form part of the Federal Capital Territory and, from 1916, descendants of John McInnes have leased some of the land almost continuously. In 2007 the leaseholders are Ken and Suzanne McInnes who live in Queanbeyan.

Two of the families who occupied the sites in the Burbong area of the Kowen Forest were owner-occupiers — John Coppin (after whom Coppin's Crossing, across the lower Molonglo River, was named) and Luke Colverwell junior. The other main occupiers were William Collier and John Edmonds and their families. I have not been able to find out the basis of their occupancies. They neither owned nor leased the land from the crown. Indeed, the crown grant was not made until 1906 when it was granted to John James Edmonds, John Edmonds' son after both of the Edmonds families had moved to Glencoe about 1905.

William Collier and his family occupied the homestead for several years during the 1890s. John Edmonds and his family probably occupied the homestead from 1889 until the Edmonds families moved to Glencoe about 1905.



*The horse-drawn Jones Mower, August 2006.
Photo Max Lawrence*



The small Colverwell graveyard, during restoration, August 2005. Glenburn homestead is visible in the distance with the pine trees of Kowen Forest along the skyline. Photo Colin McAlister

Detailed information on the historic sites at Glenburn and Burbong

The seven historic sites in the Glenburn area

The following notes on the seven sites are in the order I find gives a pleasant loop walk of one and a half to two hours. The number before each site corresponds with the number on the map on page 7.

1. The Glenburn Shearers' Quarters and Shearing Shed

The Shearers' Quarters

The shearers' quarters are composed of three separate buildings; an accommodation block, a smaller laundry/shower block and an even smaller 'meat safe'. There is also the site of a pit toilet nearby.

When were they built and when were they last used?

The shearers' quarters were probably built shortly after Norman and Raymond 'Dick' McInnes took up a 50 year lease over Block 13, Kowen in January 1956 (that particular lease was withdrawn in 1970). Ken and Suzanne McInnes (pers comm Sept 2006) said they were built by Robert and George McInnes and Charlie Thompson, who was a carpenter. A two-room extension was added later.

The shearers' quarters are, therefore, of much more recent origin than the nearby shearing shed. Prior to the quarters being built, shearers were accommodated at Glenburn homestead according to Norm McInnes as reported in Bulbeck and Boot (1990, p29) and repeated in Dowling and Cosgrove (2002, p35).

The quarters seem to have had a very short active life span as part of the overall shearing shed complex. They have not been used by shearers for many years. Ken and Suzanne McInnes (pers comm Sept 2006) said the quarters were last used by shearers some 40 years ago, in the mid 1960s, so that they were only operational for some 10 years or so. Ken and Suzanne said that their family used them from time to time in later years, including for sleep-overs by their children and the children's friends from around 1990.

The condition of the quarters in September 2007 and the need for a conservation plan

The fabric of the shearers' quarters is deteriorating through neglect and vandalism. They contain much old furniture and rubbish.

The ACT Heritage Unit should document fully the buildings, the furniture and fittings, and the surroundings as a first step in the development of a conservation plan to repair and protect the complex.

The accommodation block

The original accommodation block had six rooms and is a lined, galvanised iron structure measuring approximately 14.6m x 6.5m with a hip roof and two brick chimneys. The two-room extension measuring approximately 5.5m x 3.3m, at the north-west end, has a skillion (flat) roof. A water tank and stand are located on the western side of the extension. In total, the accommodation block has eight rooms, all with separate, outside entries. With the exception of one that is wired closed, all doors are open. Most windows have no glass remaining.

The layout of the building is unusual in that the bedrooms are located on three sides of the building rather than side by side. There is also no verandah.

There are six bedrooms: four in the original building and two in the extension. They are all independent in the sense that there is no internal access link between them, nor between them and the other two rooms. Some of these bedrooms still contain bed-frames, beds, mattresses and wardrobes as well as much rubbish. There is a swallow's nest on the wall in the bedroom on the western side of the extension and the floor is covered with sheep faeces.



Glenburn shearers' quarters, June 2004. Photo Max Lawrence

The remaining two rooms, which have external entries on the eastern side of the building, would have been living areas.

Both living rooms have brick fireplaces, one of which is much larger than the other. There is smoke damage to the walls and ceilings. The larger of these rooms also contains a kitchen area on the western wall and the larger fireplace has a Bega cast-iron fuel stove in the left hand side (there is, however, no separate flue). Both rooms have tables/desks, many chairs, and yet more beds, bed frames and rubbish.

On the western side of the original building there is an entry and small hallway leading to the living area. But access to the living area has been closed off by filling the door frame with thick cardboard.

The laundry/shower block

The laundry/shower block is located a few metres to the south-west of the accommodation block.

It is divided into a laundry and a shower facility with separate entries, although the doors to the laundry have disappeared.

The laundry contains the brick surround and chimney for the copper, a set of laundry tubs and a hand basin. The copper has been removed from its brick surround but the No 4 cast-iron door to the fire box remains.

The building has been otherwise vandalised as well; for example, the windows have no glass, some of the walls have been smashed and a large shower head and other plumbing lies on the floor. The water tank has been dislodged from its high stand immediately to the north of the block and lies badly damaged on the ground.

The meat safe

The meat safe is a small, 2.2m square, brick and corrugated iron building a couple of metres to the east of the accommodation block, just outside the largest living room. The roof is unusual in that the end nearest the accommodation block is hipped while the other end is gabled. The upper part of the building above the brick base has chicken wire covering gauze wire inserts between the wooden frames on three sides, the rear being iron. Most of the screen wire above the brick base has rotted or been torn. The four gauze wire-fronted inside cupboards are in disrepair. Near the ceiling there is a steel cross-bar from which carcasses would have been hung on hooks. The building contains several gun boxes and other rubbish.



The meat safe at the Glenburn shearers' quarters, September 2006. Photo Colin McAlister

The site of the pit toilet

There is a small depression on the southern side of the fence about 10 metres west from the locked gate between the shearing quarters and the shearing shed.

This is the site of the pit toilet that was built with the shearers' quarters. The depression contains a small amount of timber, tin, stone and brick rubble. It also contains the frame and knob of a door lock.

The Shearing Shed

The shearing shed is still a working shearing shed.

It was originally of vertical slab construction with round and hewn posts. As the slabs deteriorated they have been replaced mainly with corrugated, galvanised iron. The roof is also of corrugated, galvanised iron — the central section is gabled and the other sections skillioned. The floor is of wood batten.

There are sheep yards to the north and south in varying degrees of decay, a plunge dip to the south and new cattle yards to the south-east.

The condition of the shed and its associated yards and facilities in September 2007 and the need for a conservation plan

The overall fabric of the shed is deteriorating: the slab and corrugated iron cladding is breaking down; the floor is uneven; and the roof is sagging in places. Dowling and Cosgrove (2002, p35) noted that the shed has no foundations and it is only the timber wall frames that are supporting the structure. They also noted that all the piers are timber and the generally damp soil conditions are rotting them.

With the exception of the (new) cattle yards, the yards are in various stages of disrepair. Overall,



*The Glenburn shearing shed, June 2004.
Photo Max Lawrence*

considerable repairs are required to rectify existing problems and to prevent further deterioration.

As with the shearers' quarters, the ACT Heritage Unit should document fully the building, its fittings and the surrounding yards as a first step in the development of a conservation plan to repair and protect the complex. The shearing shed complex is, after all, one of the oldest, if not the oldest, shearing sheds still operating in the ACT.

An issue for decision is who is responsible for maintaining the buildings, the shearing equipment and the yards etc. Ken and Suzanne McInnes (pers comm Sept 2006) said that Raymond 'Dick' McInnes (Ken's father) maintained that the family was never paid for the extensions to the shearing shed, alterations to the yards etc and that the shearing equipment belongs to the family.

In this context, NAA: A361, DSG 23/1408 did not include the response to Robert McInnes' request in 1922 for £40 for the cost of building the 'sweating shed' or, alternatively, permission to remove it or sell the materials. I have not seen any information about payment for the other extensions made to the shed by the McInneses in later years.

Also, Ken and Suzanne McInnes (pers comm Sept 2006) said that they had to replace, and pay for, the roof of the 'wool room' at the western end of the shearing shed in about 1990, after it blew off in a severe storm. They were told conflicting stories by ACT Forests — 'you own it so you have to fix and pay for it' and 'you will have to do it because we have no money for such things'.

When was the shed built?

Shearing sheep would have been a farm activity on Portion 1 from the earliest days of its occupation in the early 1830s. This would probably have taken place outdoors in some rough yards constructed from local timber and bark. It is likely that these yards would have been located close to where Luke Colverwell lived and it is quite possible that the current shearing shed is located on the same site.

The shearing shed gives the impression of having grown like Topsy from the original gabled central section which might initially have been a hay shed. This could explain the shape of the central section — pers comm from Ken McInnes, quoted in Dowling and Cosgrove (2002, p35).

It is difficult to say when the first, central, gabled, section of the shearing complex was built, but it was probably built by John McInnes for John James Wright in the early to mid 1860s. It could have been built a few years later for either Martin Byrne or George Campbell. Endnote 9 discusses the timing in some detail.

In 1913 valuer Moriarty described and valued the shearing shed (which he called the 'Woolshed') in the following terms (NAA: A358 62):

Woolshed

*Iron roof, old slabsides, a little bark at side of gables,
good stout box-posts, wood batten floor
Fair (condition) 1880 (date of erection)
15x40 [4.58m x 12.20m]
Skillions 12x40, 10x18, 6x6 [3.66m x 12.20m, 3.05m x
5.49m, 1.83m x 1.83m]
£50 (value).*

In light of the information in Endnote 9, I think that Moriarty's dating of the 'Woolshed' relates to the skillions.



*The Glenburn shearing shed, 1947.
Photo Arthur Wilson*

I have not been able to find out when the various subsequent alterations and additions were made apart from a 'sweating shed' that was added in 1922 (NAA: A361, DSG 23/1408). Ken McInnes (pers comm Sept 2006) said many changes were made in the 1920s, although the 'wool room' on the western end was added later. There is no evidence of the 'wool room' in the photograph (on page 11) of the shearing shed that was taken in 1947.

Today, the shearing shed is approximately 25.7m x 13.1m and is thus a significantly larger structure than the 'Woolshed' of 1913. While the original gabled section and the largest skillion remain, gone are the two small skillions. But replacing them are an additional six skillions which make the total structure approximately 2½ times larger than the 1913 'Woolshed'. Overall, the shearing shed is close to 300 square metres compared to just over 120 square metres in 1913.

A description of the inside of the shed and the yards

On the facing page is a copy of a plan of the shearing shed and yards that was included in Dowling and Cosgrove (2002, p34).

It is a large shed with four stands with Lister shearing mechanisms driven by a Moffat Virtue diesel motor located in the engine room. This equipment was installed when the extensions were made to the shed in the 1920s. The motor is cantankerous. It went through periods of not working although it is working now. It is only used when a large number of sheep are to be shorn. (An older hot-bulb compression ignition motor is also located in the engine room but it has never been used in this shed. It was put there prior to a restoration that did not happen.) There are also two electric Sunbeam shearing mechanisms, powered by a portable generator which is brought to the shed when needed. These have been used since about 1985 and are used for smaller jobs such as crutching. The information in this paragraph was provided by Ken and Suzanne McInnes (pers comm Sept 2006).

The shed has several pens and wool classing tables, a set of Birmingham scales and three wool presses. Ken and Suzanne McInnes (pers comm Sept 2006) provided the following information on the three presses. The large Koerstz press was installed when the shed extensions were built in the 1920s and is still used today. The smaller Koerstz press was bought from John Wickes (Raymond (Dick) McInnes' brother-in-law) as a spare around 1975 but it has never been used in this shed. The

third press (Sunbeam Ajax) is a single box metal press that was bought from Robert Harman in 1985 and is used solely for piece wool.

In its boom times the shed handled up to 10 000 sheep a year.⁽¹⁰⁾

There are two sets of sheep yards which were built to replace the older yards when the extensions to the shed were built in the 1920s. The earlier sheep yards were made from local timber and were, according to Raymond 'Dick' McInnes, constructed using the 'COD' (carried or dragged) method (pers comm Ken and Suzanne McInnes Sept 2006).

Today the yards to the south of the shed next to the plunge dip are made of a variety of materials including dropped logs, iron mesh, flat iron and corrugated iron. Many of the fences are in disrepair and the overall impression is that they are rarely used. The plunge dip was dug by hand around 1945 by George Gibbons and his wife who lived in the Glen Burn hut — usually called the Glenburn homestead — between 1940 and 1950, with help from Robert and George McInnes (pers comm Ken and Suzanne McInnes Sept 2006).

The sheep yards to the north of the shed are also made of a mixture of materials including sawn rails, corrugated iron and netting-covered star pickets but they give the impression that they are still in regular use. They were re-vamped about ten years ago with the inclusion of some metal materials (pers comm Ken and Suzanne McInnes Sept 2006).

There is a set of portable cattle yards to the south-east. They include a sturdy ramp and are made of steel and were built in 1998. They were designed so that they could be easily disassembled and carried away (pers comm Ken and Suzanne McInnes Sept 2006).

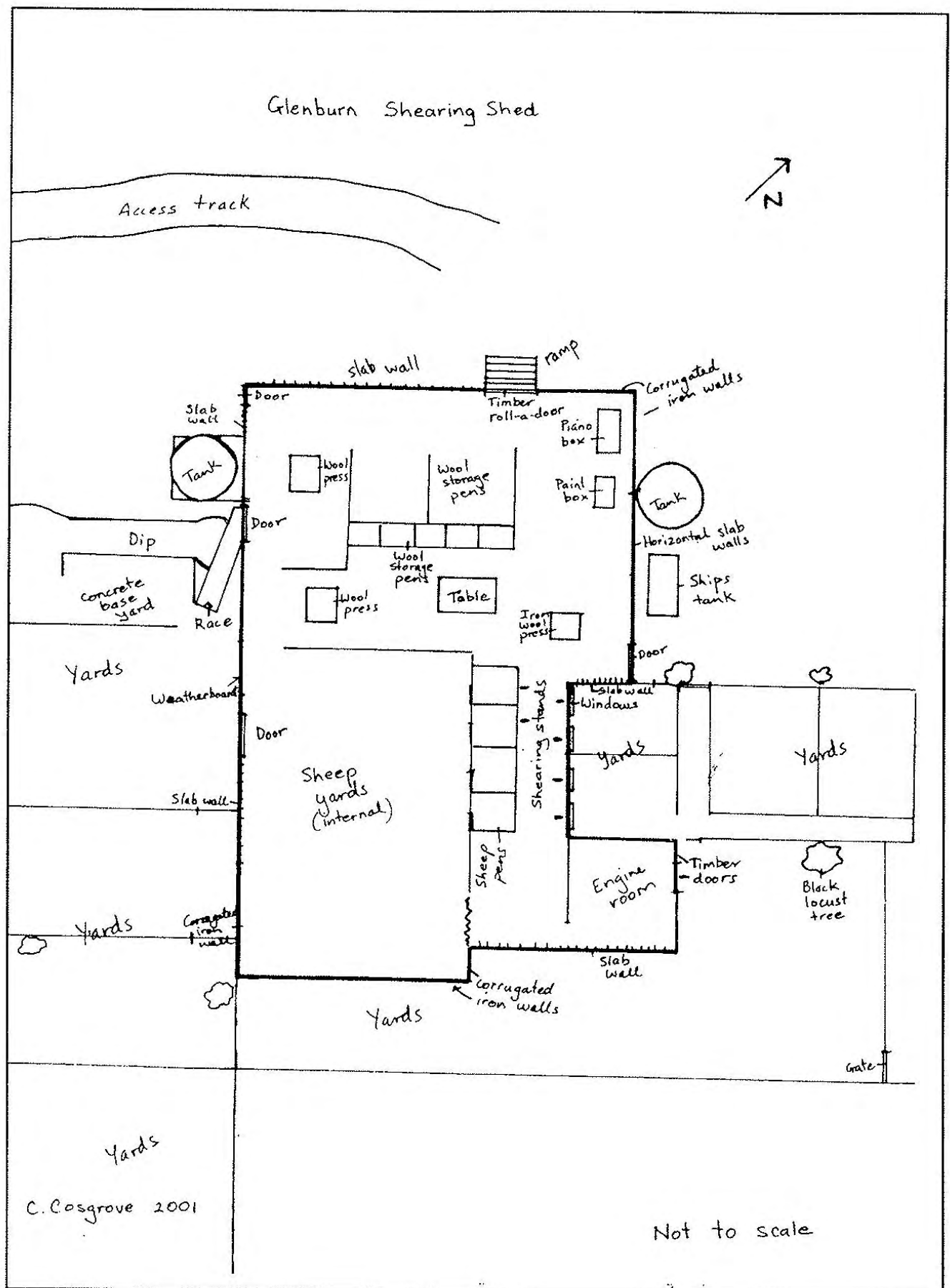
Current use of the shed and facilities

The shearing shed is not used much today and it is locked for both security and safety reasons. It, and its associated yards and facilities, are mainly used by the McInnes family for shearing, crutching, dipping and drenching the small number of sheep they run from time to time. The modern cattle yards are used to manage the small number of cattle that the McInneses have been running over the past few years.

The yard trees

The trees in the yards are *Robinia pseudoacacia* which are deciduous and native to the south-east of the United States of America. I am familiar with

Plan of Glenburn shearing shed and yards



them being called acacias (which they are not) in south-west NSW where they are extensively used to provide summer shade in street and park plantings, as well as around farm yards. The most common name for them is Black Locust which is the name used on the plan of the shed on the previous page. They can become invasive through suckering. In October they are a mass of creamy white, pea-like flowers that hang in clusters between 10cm and 20cm long.

The pit toilet

About 25m north-west of the shearing shed is a corrugated iron clad pit toilet that was initially installed when the extensions to the shearing shed were built in the 1920s. It was not associated with the shearers' quarters which had separate facilities. The nearby portable toilet was put in place for guests at a large fireworks display put on by one of Ken and Suzanne McInnes' sons in 2000, and there it has stayed (pers comm Ken and Suzanne McInnes Sept 2006).



The Colverwell graveyard before restoration, June 2004. Photo Max Lawrence

2. The Colverwell Graves

The following information has been drawn primarily from McAlister (2005, pp2–12).

There are at least four, and probably five, people buried in the small graveyard which is on the western bank of Glen Burn Creek, about 200m north of the shearing shed complex.

All are from the Colverwell family. They are Luke, who died in 1876, and his three daughters, Margaret and Elizabeth who both died in December 1837 (by accidental drowning in or close to Glen Burn Creek), and Eliza who died in 1857. The fifth person is believed to be Mary, Luke's wife, although it is not known when she died.

The circumstances surrounding the drowning of Margaret and Elizabeth in 1837

Little is known about the circumstances surrounding the drownings of Margaret and Elizabeth. But, at the official opening of the restoration works on the graveyard on 28 February 2006, Rhueben Colverwell, the great grandson of Luke and Mary and their last surviving direct descendant, said that one of the girls tried to rescue the other who was in difficulties in the flooded creek. It is difficult to picture what Glen Burn Creek would have looked like in flood back then, because the landscape has changed so much over the past 170 years. Today, in these times of drought, it is even more difficult, but it is noted that the creek has some large, deep holes in it, especially downstream from the graveyard.

The gravestones and the graveyard

There are four engraved sandstone gravestones (two headstones and two footstones) in the graveyard. All belong to Margaret and Elizabeth. They are upright slabs with cut-away shoulders. They are in poor condition. The carved texts are becoming increasingly indecipherable because of lichen growth and stone erosion.

Luke Colverwell erected his daughters' gravestones but I have not been able to find out when.

These are the earliest known marked European graves in the ACT. As the graves date back to 1837 (though not the gravestones) they are ten years older than the oldest marked grave in Queanbeyan belonging to Ann Powell who died on 2 May 1847.

The graveyard is thus a significant heritage site.

The gravestones are among the earliest Australian-made European artefacts in the ACT that remain in their original location — probably for more than 160 years.



The Colverwell gravestones after restoration, December 2006. Photo James Thompson

The graveyard is surrounded by two fences. The inner fence is of post and rail construction. The outer fence is designed to protect the graveyard from stock and rabbits. Its gate is locked.

The gravestones and graveyard restored

The graveyard and the gravestones were restored in 2005 by ACT Forests and the ACT Heritage Unit: the gravestones were re-erected on aluminium frames; much of the lichen was removed by wrapping the stones in black plastic for several months; the post and rail fence was repaired; the outer fence was replaced; and an interpretive sign was erected. The ACT Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope, officially opened the renovations on 28 February 2006. Unfortunately, painting the post and rail fence with a timber preservative, which was to have been done by the end of 2005, had still not been done in September 2007.

Interesting points about the inscriptions

The interpretive sign at the graveyard sets out the inscriptions on the gravestones.

There are some interesting points about the inscriptions on the two headstones:

1. The surname of the girls and that of their father are different — COLVERWELL and COLOWELL, respectively;
2. 'WELL' (on Margaret's stone) and 'WELI' (on Elizabeth's stone) are in smaller print in the girls' surnames and are 'squeezed in', suggesting that they were added to 'COLVER' after the stones were initially carved;
3. Elizabeth is spelt 'ELIZBETH';
4. Different fonts, cases and print sizes are used within each stone. But there are also differences between the two headstones, at similar places, suggesting that each was carved by a different stonemason.

3. The Glenburn Hay/Machinery Shed and Yards Ruins

It is not known when the shed and yards at Glenburn were built and for how long they were used. But in their heyday they were substantial structures as evidenced by the photograph (right) taken in 1947.

All that remained in September 2007 were scattered ruins, located some 50–60m north-east of Glenburn homestead next to a large pine tree, more than half of which is dead. In 1947 the pine tree would have been much smaller and, in the photo, is obscured by the shed. In a photo taken by David Reid of the



*The Glenburn hay/machinery shed ruins, May 2006.
Photo Colin McAlister*

National Library of Australia in August 1971, the shed is more derelict and has no roof. The pine tree is about 2½ times higher than the remaining shed walls.

In 1913 valuer Moriarty did not seem to list the shed although valuer Futter did list, in 1914, a 54'x12' [16.46m x 3.66m] 'shed for machinery, walls slab, roofed with iron' to be in fair condition and valued it at £40.

Bulbeck and Boot (1990, p28) say that the hay-shed would have originally consisted of five paired sets of standing posts that would have been oriented roughly north–south and extended about 15m in length, the yards would have been about 20m long by 9m wide.

All that remains of the shed today are three cut-off posts with large rafters on the ground between two of them nearest the homestead, suggesting that the shed would have been about 3m wide. A few rails are also on the ground.



*The Glenburn hay/machinery shed and yards, 1947.
John James Edmonds is standing in the shed.
Photo Arthur Wilson*

There is also little left of the yards today: a couple of standing posts about 10m from the tree on the side furthest away from the homestead, and two cut-off posts embedded in the tree roots on the homestead side. There is also a fallen morticed post under the tree.

There are several other items at the site including a ship's tank, a rusted wire-wove bed frame, a set of metal laundry tubs, a metal baby's bath, sundry pieces of wire, flat and corrugated iron and broken bricks.

4. The Glenburn Homestead

The homestead is located about 400m north-west of the Glenburn shearing shed. It now consists of the remnants of two small residential buildings built side by side (but not quite parallel) and separated by a narrow, open area. One of the buildings is of vertical slabs (probably scribbly gum, larval tracks can be seen). The other is of pisé.

There are two large pine trees to the west of the homestead; one is dead and both have broken branches. There is a large dead pine tree to the east which has had some of its overhanging branches removed. Both dead trees should be removed to protect the two huts. The broken branches should be removed from the other pine tree.

Previous restoration work

The NCDC carried out considerable restoration work in 1978. For example, some of the slabs were replaced in the slab hut and both buildings were re-roofed with corrugated iron. The roof of the slab hut is attached and integrated into the structure but the protective roof over the pisé hut is self-supporting and separate.

The two structures are surrounded by two fences with gates in their northern side. The outer fence is made of chain wire and is designed to protect the site from stock and rabbits. However, when I last visited the site, in September 2007, the gate in the outer fence was latched but not locked and there were signs that cattle had recently entered both buildings. There were also several rabbit burrows leading under the floor of the slab hut.

The condition of the two huts in September 2007 and the need for urgent remedial work

Both structures are deteriorating and are in need of repair.

The pisé hut is in need of urgent, substantial repair. There is widespread, deep weathering of the

bottoms of the pisé walls, especially of the southern and western walls. On the southern wall, the weathering has penetrated through the wall in one place and a hole about 100mm in diameter has formed. In addition, most walls are cracked, the northern wall very badly with some cracks running from top to bottom and up to 100mm across. The weathering of, and cracks in, the walls are more extensive and substantial than described by Dowling and Cosgrove (2002, p22) — only five years ago. They are now such that they are likely to cause partial or total collapse in the near future unless stabilised.

The slab hut is also in need of repair. One of the vertical slabs is missing and some others have become detached from the grooved bottom rail.

I find it unfortunate that the ACT Government has yet to act on any of the 24 recommendations that Dowling and Cosgrove made about the homestead in 2002. As each day goes by, the risk of losing these historic huts forever increases, particularly the pisé hut. Urgent remedial work on the pisé hut is the top priority for conservation work in the whole of the Glenburn/Burbong area.

When was the homestead built?

Some sources date both huts to as early as the 1860s. But I believe that the slab hut was built around the middle of 1897 and the pisé hut sometime before February 1901. Endnote 11 discusses the timing of construction in some detail.

John James Edmonds (Edmunds) (b1871 d1953) purchased Portion 1 on which Glenburn homestead stands in June 1891 (transfer stamp on Certificate of Title, Register Book Vol. 980 Folio 102). His address was given as Glenburn and his occupation as grazier. At the time, he would have been living with his parents John and Jemina Edmonds at Glenburn in what we now call Collier's homestead. (In the 1891 census, Portion 1 was in the Cohen area of the Queanbeyan sub-district of Majura. There was no household registered in this area.) In November of the same year, he purchased four allotments in the village of Burbong from his father who had purchased them in 1889 (information on the Certificates of Title, Register Book Vol. 971 Folios 132 – 135).

In August 1897 John James Edmonds married Agnes May Worthington (b1879 d1962). Their marriage certificate indicates that John James Edmonds was living at Glenburn [Collier's homestead or, possibly, the slab hut of Glenburn homestead] at the time (pers comm with their great grandson James Thorne, September 2007).

*Right: The pisé and slab huts of Glenburn homestead, showing the pine trees, two of which are dead, December 2006.
Photo James Thompson*



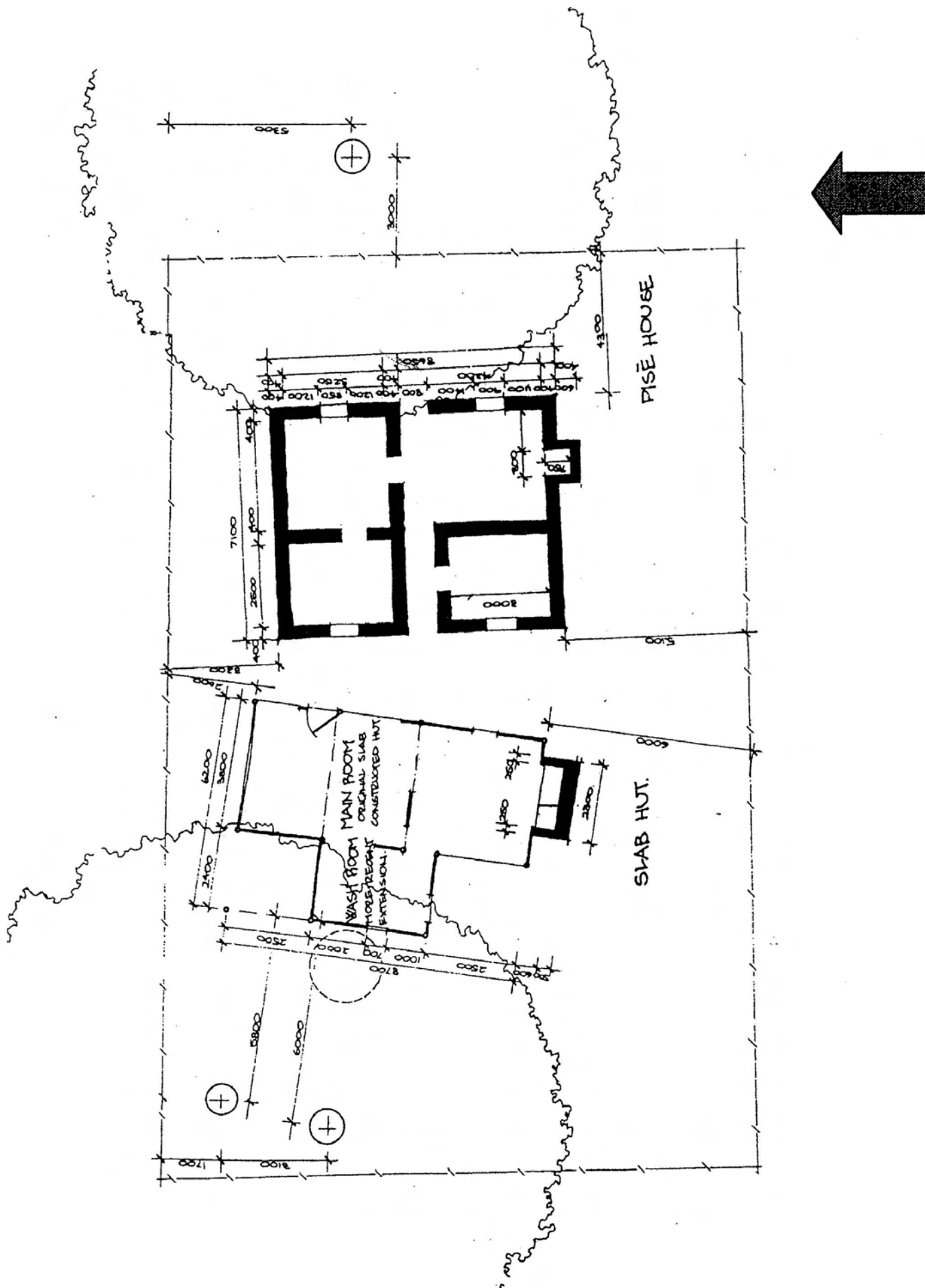
*Left: The slab and pisé huts of Glenburn homestead, August 2006.
Photo Colin McAlister*

*Right: Glenburn homestead -- the gap between the pisé and slab huts looking towards the Glenburn hayshed and yard ruins, August 2006.
Photo Max Lawrence*



*Left: The Glenburn hay/machinery shed and yard ruins with Glenburn homestead in the background, August 2006.
Photo Colin McAlister*

Plan of the Glenburn homestead



In personal communications in September 2007, Dianne Thorne and Denise Pierce (their granddaughter and great grand-daughter, respectively) told me that John James (known as J J) and Agnes May (known as May) commenced their married life in a new slab hut that became known as Glenburn homestead. This means that the slab hut would have been built in 1897, probably around the middle of the year. The pisé hut, which was probably built by Gilbert McInnes, was built later as their family grew. It was in existence in February 1901 because John McInnes (Gilbert's father) referred to it in a letter he wrote to the Minister for Works at the time about a new school building for the Kowen Public School (State Records NSW 5/165104).

Who lived in the homestead?

Several sources say that the Edmonds lived at Glenburn (Lea-Scarlett, Cross and Sheedy, 1978, p4, Cross and Sheedy, 1978, p2, C&DHS Newsletter, May 1979, p2 and Collet, undated, p5) but they give no details as to which Edmonds and little or no details as to when.

As mentioned above, John James Edmonds and his new wife Agnes May were the first inhabitants of Glenburn homestead. They had eleven children (pers comms in September/October 2007 from Dianne Thorne and John Lindsay (the great great grandson of Eliza Edmonds, John Edmonds' sister)). Of these, five were registered at Queanbeyan and six were registered at Glen Innes. The children registered at Queanbeyan were Stanley Augustine (b1898 d1983), Margaret Jemina (b1899 d1972), Mabel (b1900 d1990), Bertram John (b1902 d1996) and Edna May (b1904 d2002). The children registered at Glen Innes were James Patrick (b1906 d1985), Ada Mary (b1908 d1984), Percy Andrew (b1910 d1911), Claire Josephine (b1916 d1916), Francis Earle (b1918 d1980) and John Dudley (b1921 d1981).

John James Edmonds and his family lived at Glenburn homestead from 1897 until around 1905 when they and his parents (John and Jemina) moved to Glencoe 2km south of Glen Innes, initially living at Etonville and then Argyle properties (pers comm from Denise Pierce, September 2007).

It is not known why they moved to Glencoe. But in personal communications in September and October 2007, Denise Pierce and James Thorne said that favourable farming reports from John Unwin (John James Edmonds' uncle who lived at Wicklow at Glencoe) encouraged them to move.

Other families who lived at Glenburn homestead

include those of William James Edmonds, Rowley and Gibbons. Endnote 12 gives some details on these families as well as information on the McDonald and McInnes families that some sources say lived there. However, as explained in the endnote, I am confident that they did not.

A description of the homestead's two huts

The following information was drawn primarily from valuer Moriarty's report of 1913 (NAA: A358 62) and from Dowling and Cosgrove (2002, pp14-32). On the facing page is an enlargement of the plan of the homestead from Dowling and Cosgrove (2002, p14).



The slab hut component of Glenburn homestead, 1947. It was the first home of John James Edmonds (right) and Agnes May Edmonds (left) in 1897. Their eldest daughter Margaret Jemina Wilson is in the middle. Photo Arthur Wilson

The slab hut

In 1913 valuer Moriarty called this building the 'kitchen' and described and valued it as follows:

slab walls, brick chimney, wood floor, iron roof
 28'x12' [8.54m x 3.66m]
W.board skillion, low roof unlined & unfloored
 20'x7' [6.10m x 2.14m]
slab [ditto, ie "skillion" to "unfloored"]
 8'x7' [2.44m x 2.14m]
 £30 (value).

An examination of the building in September 2007 revealed that the original slab hut measured about 8.8m by 4m, was of two rooms with a brick fireplace and chimney on the southern end. Several old wares were sitting on the mantle above the fireplace, including an old lock and a metal whisk. The slabs were approximately 2m long and they were tapered at each end and fitted into grooved top and bottom supporting plates to form the walls. All were hand cut by axe and adze. One of the slabs on the western wall was missing and some on the eastern

wall had become detached from the bottom supporting plate.

The skillion of weatherboard and vertical slabs on the western side is shorter (about 3.7m rather than 8.54m) and wider (2.25m rather than 2.14m) than described by Moriarty, suggesting that this area of the hut was rebuilt after 1913. There is also an unsupported beam about 2.5m long attached to the north-western corner of the skillion suggesting that, at some stage, another skillion was attached to the main hut and the present skillion.

There is also a round corrugated iron tank, without a top, sitting on a tank stand made from three large round logs resting on the ground to the west of the skillion.

The entire hut now has a wooden floor but when the homestead was described by Moriarty in 1913, the main building was floored but the skillion was unfloored.

There are no ceilings now (and none were mentioned by Moriarty in 1913) but there were at some stage because there are fragments of hessian in the rafters in the room with the fireplace and of tar paper in the other. Similarly, there are indications that the walls were covered. In the room with the fireplace there are traces of canvas, paper (one fragment of newspaper was reported by O'Hara (1978) to show the date July 7 1899), and tar paper. In the other room there are traces of a floral-pattern wall paper.

The corrugated iron roof is pitched using local, hand cut sapling rafters. The current iron roof is not original, but the original was probably also of iron — it was in 1913 when Moriarty valued the homestead.

The pisé hut

In 1913 valuer Moriarty called this building 'house — 4 rooms' and described and valued it as follows:

*pisé walls, rough casted, 2 rooms pine ceiled, 2 rooms hessian, ceiled, wood-floor. brick chimney, iron roof 5' [1.53m] verandah, 20' [6.10m] long, iron roof, wood floor 28' x 21' [8.54m x 6.41m] x 13' [3.97m] mean height.
Bad crack on E wall (condition)
£150 (value).*

An examination of the building in September 2007 revealed that the pisé hut proper measured about 8.4m by 7m, had walls about 30cm thick, had four rooms and had a brick fireplace and chimney, also on the southern side. A passageway led from the western door (facing the slab hut) to the living

room. On the left hand side of the hall there was a coat rack with one remaining entire hook. There was a similar rack in the north-west room.

The bottoms of the western and southern walls have suffered extensive and deep weathering. The western end of the southern wall has a hole right through. Most walls are cracked, the northern wall very badly with some cracks running from top to bottom and up to 100mm across. The walls are pisé rendered and the floors are now dirt, but when the homestead was valued in 1913 they were wooden.

At that time the hut also had ceilings, two rooms with pine and the other two with hessian. It also had a 1.5m by 6.1m verandah of which there are no remains. Moriarty did not indicate its location.

The original roof was iron — it was in 1913.

In the room in the south-west corner there were a large number of fragments of a cast iron stove. I have not found out the stove's origin.

The two huts linked

The two huts were probably linked by a covered walkway but nothing remains today.

A focal point for social events?

Cross and Sheedy (1978, p2) say that the slab hut component of the homestead was used for social occasions because 'As a kitchen and eating place at the time, it could be easily converted into a dance hall.'

Cross and Sheedy (1978, p2) also report Cath McInness (b1895), a daughter of Gilbert McInnes, recalling that dances were held at Glenburn when she was a mere child. In addition, the C&DHS *Newsletter* (December 1979, p5) reported 'Folklore has it that it was often used for local family dances.'

Cross and Sheedy (1978, p2) also refer to an advertisement placed by (an unspecified) Edmonds in *The Queanbeyan Observer* of 28 January 1895 for a bachelors' ball to be held at Glenburn. I could not find any such advertisement during the month of January.

The ball was actually held on 25 January and reports of it appeared in *The Queanbeyan Observer* of 29 January and *The Queanbeyan Age* of 30 January (see page 32 under Collier's homestead).

But the ball could not have been held at Glenburn homestead because it had not yet been built. The slab hut component of the homestead was not built until some two years later, probably about the middle of 1897.

At the time of the ball John James Edmonds was a bachelor and was almost certainly living with his parents John and Jemina Edmonds at what we now call Collier's homestead.

Around that time Collier's homestead and the nearby area were referred to as Glenburn in some cases. For example, when John Edmonds bought four allotments in the village of Burbong in 1889 his address was given as Glenburn, John Edmonds headed a household of four at Glenbourne in the 1891 census and when John James Edmonds bought Portion 1 in 1891 his address was also given as Glenburn.

Other nearby buildings

In 1913 the valuer Moriarty described a very old shed, measuring about 60'x20' [18.30m x 6.10m], with slab sides and a bark roof to the east of the house (NAA: A358 62). Dowling and Cosgrove (2002, p12) quote from a 1915 disposal report which mentions slab stables and workshop with a bark roof. Cross and Sheedy (1978, p2) say that the large pine tree to the east of the homestead marks the spot where the stables and hayshed stood.

It is presumed that despite differences in descriptions, these reports all refer to the same building(s) to the east of the pisé hut. There is no physical evidence of it/them today. However, the wood and metal remains of a dray are underneath the tree.



The site of Kowen Public School and the charcoal kilns showing the remains of one of the dead pines from the school and brick fragments from one of the charcoal kilns, August 2006. Photo Colin McAlister

5. The Site of the Kowen Public School and the Charcoal Kilns

The Kowen Public School⁽¹³⁾

The school site is about 300m north-west of the Glenburn homestead.

The following information about the school was drawn mainly from Gillespie (1999, p55) and State Records NSW 5/16510.4.

The Kowen Provisional School and the Kowen Public School

On 3 May 1881 Frederick Campbell, JP of Duntroon, lodged an application for the establishment of a school at Kowen ('Glenburn' was crossed out on the application and replaced with 'Kowen'). Those who undertook to send 18 children were Stephen Walter McNerny (three boys aged 8, 6 and 4 years), Martin Campbell (a girl ward aged 11 years), William Collier (six girls, including a set of twins, aged 13, 11, 9, 6, 6, and 5 years), John Gallagher (two girls aged 12 and 6, and two boys aged 10 and 9 years) and John McInnes (three girls aged 12, 10 and 7, and one boy aged 8).⁽¹⁴⁾ Gillespie (1999, p55) said that John Gallagher only undertook to send one child but the actual application listed four.

The application was successful.

Some residents asked that the teacher be female and aged 21 or over because a number of grown children aged 14 to 16 who were not included in the application would be attending in the first 12 months. Isobella Ann O'Neill was appointed as the first teacher and the Kowen Provisional School opened in July 1882. She initially boarded with the Harmans and their baby in a two-room hut less than 0.5km north of the school. She slept in the same room as Mrs Harman and the baby.

The school was raised to Public status in December 1882 and in June 1883 two acres [0.8 hectares] of land, Portion 70 in the Parish of Amungula, were permanently dedicated as a Public School site, and Portion 69 (within which Portion 70 was located) was temporarily reserved for school purposes.

The building and furniture

The local residents provided the building and furniture for the school.

Blunn (1973) said the building was made of pisé and C&DHS (1984, p1) called it the 'Slab School'.

By inference from information on school maintenance, the school was of vertical slab construction,

not pisé, had a fireplace, glass windows, and was lined and floored. The roof was possibly of bark or of iron.

In 1891 minor repairs were carried out. In 1898, at a cost of £14 10s, two pit toilets with skillion corrugated iron roofs were erected and a 400 gallon (about 1 800 litres) ship's tank was provided, placed on a stand and connected to the roof. In addition, repairs were carried out to the door, windows, fireplace and floor.

In February 1901 John McInnes wrote to the Minister for Works requesting the erection of a new building. After being rejected he wrote again in May 1901. In Endnote 15 the transcribed text of the two letters is reproduced. They tell in simple, straightforward terms that the school was not fit to accommodate children because they had to put their overcoats on to keep dry in wet and windy weather. It was not even fit to stable the school inspector's horse.

It was to no avail. The outcome of John McInnes's plea was that small repairs costing 17s 6d were carried out in June 1901, and in July 1904 more substantial, but still small, repairs costing £2 were carried out.

I have seen only one reference to the school's furniture. In Blunn (1973) it is said that a long form (bench) from the school was located in the shearers' quarters. I have not seen the form and Ken McInnes (pers comm Sept 2006) said that he has no knowledge of a bench from the school but, as a child, he remembers up to 15 men, including family members, sitting on benches near the accommodation block after a day's work in the shearing shed.

The teachers and children

The school certainly had its ups and downs.

After Isobella O'Neil resigned at the end of August 1885, the school had a succession of teachers, the attendance of children was irregular and their work suffered as a result.

The school was under threat of closure in 1890 because of low attendances and it actually closed for a short period when no teacher was available.

In May 1890, in an effort to revive the school, the District Inspector got from one of the parents a list of names of 16 children whose regular attendance would be guaranteed. John Gallagher guaranteed to send two girls aged 13 and 10 and a boy aged 10, Luke Colverwell junior a girl aged 11 and two boys aged 9 and 6, Thomas Harman 3 girls aged 8, 5 and

3, William Cooper a girl aged 3 and a boy aged 7, and John McInnes two girls aged 12 and 6 and three boys aged 10, 8 and 8 (one of the girls aged 12 and one of the boys aged 8 were Horrocks children who were living with his family).⁽¹⁶⁾

The school was reopened after the service of a suitable teacher was obtained, on the understanding that if a minimum average attendance of 12 pupils was not maintained, the school would be closed.

I have seen only one reference about students who actually attended the school. Gallagher (1987, p57) says that Sydney Edward Gallagher (b1879) attended the school with the McInnes, Colverwell and Cooper children. Sydney Edward Gallagher was one of the children on the list mentioned two paragraphs earlier.

In C&DHS (1989) Harold Tuson, who lived at Kowen homestead for three and a half years from 1926, is reported as saying that when the Goulburn to Queanbeyan railway was being built (the railway reached Queanbeyan in 1886), the school had 70 pupils. In the light of the information set out above, I doubt the accuracy of Mr Tuson's statement.

The closure of the school and no surviving physical evidence

In October 1906, the teacher reported that the average attendance for the September quarter was 6.5 on an enrolment of 10. The school was closed that month although a subsidised school operated in the building in 1908, 1912 and 1913.

There is no remaining physical evidence of the school. The dead pine tree on the southern side of Charcoal Kiln Road and the remains of another near the sheep loading ramp and yards to the north are all that remain of those that formerly ringed the school. In NSW pine trees were often planted near schools to provide both wind protection and summer shade.

The charcoal kilns

Cross and Sheedy (1978, p3), C&DHS *Newsletter* (December 1979, p5), and Folger (1998, p40) say that ten charcoal kilns were built on the school site during World War 2. However, C&DHS *Sites to be Plotted* (1983, p29) says that there were nine, based on information provided by Norman McInnes. They burned local red and yellow box wood to produce charcoal. The charcoal was burned to produce gas as a substitute for petrol in Commonwealth vehicles — mainly trucks.

Bulbeck and Boot (1990, p26) located the surface remains of nine kilns and said '... their paired

arrangement in a row five deep made it clear where the tenth had been ...' Most are now difficult to identify. Each kiln had a circular concrete base of about 4.5 metres in diameter with a slightly raised rim. Brick side walls were constructed on these rims. Almost all have been removed but some whole bricks and some glazed and unglazed fragments remain scattered over the eastern end of the site.

Sheep loading ramp and yards

About 35 metres to the north of the school and kilns' site is a sheep-loading ramp and a small set of yards. These were built by Ken McInnes in 1980 and were made from various materials that were available on hand, including corrugated iron, star pickets and netting (pers comm Ken and Suzanne McInnes Sept 2006). The yards are mainly used for drenching so that the sheep do not have to be taken back to the shearing shed.



*The Glenburn sheep yards and dip, May 2006.
Photo Colin McAlister*

6. The Glenburn Sheep Yards and Dip

The sheep yards and dip are located on the southern bank of Glen Burn Creek about 250m south of Glenburn homestead and 450m west of the shearing quarters. This is just above the place where a northern tributary, that flows to the west of the homestead, enters the creek. The location would have provided good sources of water for the dip.

The yards and dip were built at the same time as the extensions to the shearing shed in the 1920s and generally ceased being used after the dip at the shearing shed was built about 1945 (pers comm Ken and Suzanne McInnes Sept 2006).

Bulbeck and Boot (1990, p28) said 'It [the facilities] could be readily repaired by replacing or re-attaching any fallen rails and then easily main-

tained'. The facilities have deteriorated badly in the fifteen or so years since Bulbeck and Boot's report. In September 2007 the post and rail fences in the yards no longer have any rails in place except on one side of the dip. And the dip no longer holds water.

The dip was well designed and built. It curves from the south to the east at the lower, western, end and the straight section leads to a higher drainage yard to the east. The curved section would have helped the movement of sheep because they could not see, initially, what lay ahead. The ramp down which the sheep would have been driven and the curved part of the dip are both made from concrete, the latter with a brick capping. The straight V-shaped part of the dip is made of cement-rendered brick. The drainage yard is made from flat stones and concrete and has a raised lip to facilitate the drainage of excess water and chemicals back into the dip. After exiting the dip, sheep would have entered the drainage yard through a swing gate that was used to divide the flock into two groups.



Detail of the corner section of the Glenburn sheep dip, June 2006. Photo Max Lawrence

7. The Glenburn Hayshed Remains

The remains of this hayshed are located almost 120 metres north-west of the shearing shed and yards and on the opposite, western, side of Glen Burn Creek. There are some deep holes in the creek bed and some of the gullies on the eastern side have rubbish deposited in them, including round corrugated-iron water tanks and a ship's tank.

It is not known when the hayshed was built and for how long it was used. Bulbeck and Boot (1990, p29) say that its then superior condition suggested that it would be younger than the hayshed near the Glenburn homestead.

In 1913 when the hayshed and nearby yards were valued, Moriarty said it was in good condition. He described the shed in the following terms:

Stout posts, open sides, iron roof, skillion, chaff cutting & engine room, iron one side and slab partition.

He also indicated that the shed measured 22'x30' [6.71m x 9.15m] and valued it at £20.

Moriarty described some nearby post and rail yards as in 'good to fair to bad' condition.



The remaining posts and rafters of the Glenburn hayshed, May 2006. Photo Colin McAlister

All that remained of the shed in September 2007 were five standing posts and, lying on the ground, three posts together with a couple of cross beams or rafters. All of the standing posts were leaning — one at an angle of about 60 degrees.

Only two short lengths of fence were in place in September 2007. They were on the other side of a barbed wire fence to the north-west of the remains of the shed. A couple of rails remained in place.

Field mower

Near the end of the remains of the post and rail fence mentioned above, there is an old Jones Mower which was used to cut hay. I have not been able to find out when it was used. Ken McInnes said he does not remember seeing it being used (pers comm Sept 2006).

It is a sit-on field mower that was horse drawn and ground driven. The turning wheels would have driven the reciprocating teeth in the boom cutting comb which could be raised and lowered to adjust the cut height. It could also be raised to the vertical when being moved and when not in use.

Each time I look at the mower, a chill runs right through me. All the moving parts are exposed and a fall by the rider would have probably caused major injury.



The field mower with the Glenburn homestead in the background, May 2006. Photo Colin McAlister

Excavations

Immediately to the south-west of the hayshed remains the side of the creek is terraced indicating that, over the years, the creek has moved to the east. A part of one terrace seems to have been quarried or mined leaving an excavation which is about 15m long by 12m wide and about 1m deep. I have been unable to find out anything about the excavation. Perhaps the material from it was the source of the earth for the pisé hut at Glenburn homestead.

The five historic sites in the Burbong area

The following notes on the five sites are in the order I find gives a pleasant loop walk of about two and a half hours. The number before each site corresponds with the number on the map at page 7.

8. The Site of the Kowen Copper Mine

A couple of round depressions (slumped shafts?) about 2m across and small grey stone tailings that cover an area about 15m by 10m and run down to



The site of the Kowen copper mine, June 2006. Photo Max Lawrence

the creek, are all that remain of the Kowen copper mine. Very little is known about the mine. The only information that I have been able to find (Bulbeck and Boot, 2002, p38) is that it operated in the late 1880s.⁽¹⁷⁾

9. *The Ruins of Collier's Homestead*

Collier's homestead takes its name from William Collier who lived in the homestead with his family during the 1880s.



The ruins of Collier's homestead, June 2006.

Photo Colin McAlister

He never owned the land on which it was built (Portion 20, Parish of Amungula — see survey plan of 30 July 1873 on page 26) and I have not been able to find out the basis on which he occupied the homestead. I note, however, that he did conditionally purchase eight portions (Portions 44, 45 and 75 to 80) to the west, north-west and north of Portion 20 in 1882 and 1883 (see notations on survey plan of Portions 75 to 80 of 6 and 7 August 1884 on page 27) and he probably farmed these from his base on Portion 20.

Despite attempts to purchase Portion 20 by Archibald McDonald in 1879, George Campbell in 1880 and the trustees of the late George Campbell in 1884, Portion 20 was not sold until 1906. The sale, for £177 8s 6d, was to John James Edmonds and the crown grant was issued in 1909 (see various notations on the survey plan of 30 July 1873 of Portion 20 on page 26 and land grant 1909/198, Register Book Vol. 2006 Fol. 121).

The sale price was just over half George Campbell's declared value of the stone house alone built on the portion in 1880 (see below).

Who built the homestead and when?

For several years I have wondered about who would have built a substantial stone house on land they did not own. After examining several land files at NSW State Records (7/4742, 7/4175 and 10/593) in February 2007, I believe that George Campbell probably built it in the first half of 1880 as part of a tussle with Archibald McDonald to acquire the land. But both failed.

Archibald McDonald's application for the conditional purchase of Portion 20 on 18 December 1879 was voided on 13 August 1881 because the land '... was sufficiently improved at date of CP to bar selection' (NSW State Records 7/4742) although no improvements were specified on the application.

By contrast, George Campbell's application of 31 July 1880 for the improved purchase of 250 acres [101 hectares] of land (incorporating Portion 20) which formed part of his presumptive lease (No 1.9.49) of 812 acres [almost 330 hectares], detailed improvements to the value of £315 — a very substantial amount of money in 1880. The improvements were a stone house of six rooms, valued at £310 and a garden and clearing around the house, valued at £5 (NSW State Records 10/593).

I think it is quite reasonable to assume that George Campbell built the house in the first half of 1880. He was a wealthy man and the construction of such a substantial house would have strengthened his claim to the land.⁽¹⁸⁾ Nevertheless, his application for the improved purchase of the land was disallowed in 1883. I have not found out why. In 1884 the trustees of the late George Campbell lodged a similar application for the improved purchase of Portion 20. It was also refused.

What did the homestead look like?

We are fortunate to have two descriptions of the homestead from the 1910s; they included a house and a separate kitchen. The first description is in the valuation by Moriarty in January 1913 (NAA — A358 62) and the second is in the valuation by Futter in December 1914 (NAA — A196 62). A third valuation was carried out by King in 1914 (Dowling and Cosgrove, 2002, p11) but I have not seen his detailed descriptions.

Moriarty described and valued the house as follows:

Stone walls, rough plastered within, iron roof, 2 brick chimneys and bakers oven, scrim ceilings, wood floor, 5' [1.53m] verandah on two sides (77' [23.49m] long) Very dilapidated (condition) probably 50 years old 36x36 [10.98m x 10.98m] £200 (value).

District Queanbeyan

PLAN
of Portion N^o 20
Parish of Amungula
County of Murray

Applied for as a Mineral Lease by J.B.Thompson Junr, J.J. Wright
J.Kivela & J.B.Thompson Senr

{ I.P. 80-1 Queambayan dated 31st July 1880. For fixing price 4th May '82
do do disallowed vide C.S. 83-3469 Cor.

M.L. for working Minerals other than Gold or Coal.

C.P. 79-299 of 18th Decr. Void 13th Augst 81 vide C.S. 81-27766

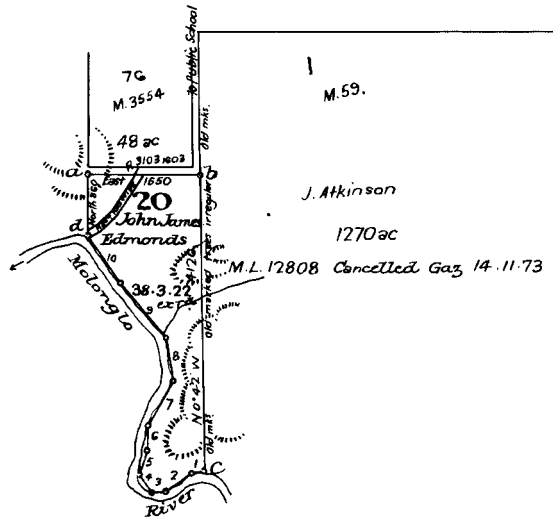
Cancels part of Por. 2. vide Plan M.59743

*1.P. 84-7 of 20th Aug by Trustees of the late G. Campbell. papers 84-4141 Misc. Refused vide application with Misc. 84-4141
Within the Gundaroo Goldfield Extⁿ. Proclaimed 13th August 1884.*

Por. 20. Sp¹ Lse Appl⁷ 04.1 June 21st Jno. Jas. Edmonds. Withdrawn Ms. Ls. 04.13403.

Sale at Queanbeyan 20th June 1906.

Sold to John James Edmonds D.P. Sale Completed A/P 09.10868



I CERTIFY that this is a **CORRECT COPY** of the original map of which it purports to be a copy I being the officer having the custody thereof.

Emmet M. Winters Draftsman-in-Charge
3511 Compiling Division-Lands Dept.

Reference to Corners

Corner	Bearing	From	Links	% of Tree
a	194° 00'	Apple	07	20
b	99° 15'	Apple	143	20
c		Stake		
d	324° 00'	Apple	075	20

Reference to Travelers

Line	Bearing	Distance
1	259° 45'	175
2	236° 00'	432
3	260° 30'	180
4	321° 45'	300
5	17° 00'	364
6	3° 15'	340
7	28° 15'	700
8	351° 45'	600
9	320° 15'	1000
10	326° 15'	800

Scale 20 Chains to an Inch.

Marked in accordance with regulations

Instrument used in Survey 4 1/2" Transit

Date of Survey 30th July

Value of Improvements \pm Nil

20

W. 8. 5. 4. 11

Cat. N° M.9371856

Transmitted to the Surveyor General with my letter of the 31st July 1873

Sig^d Thomas. H. Smith Licensed Surveyor

Printed at the Department of Lands, Sydney, N.S.W. 1911

SEP. 73-2A

Survey plan of portions 75 to 80, Parish of Amungula

C.S. 84.8/52



District Queanbeyan

PLAN

of Portion Nos 75 to 80
Parish of Amungula
County of Murray

Applied for under the 13th & 21st clauses of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of '61

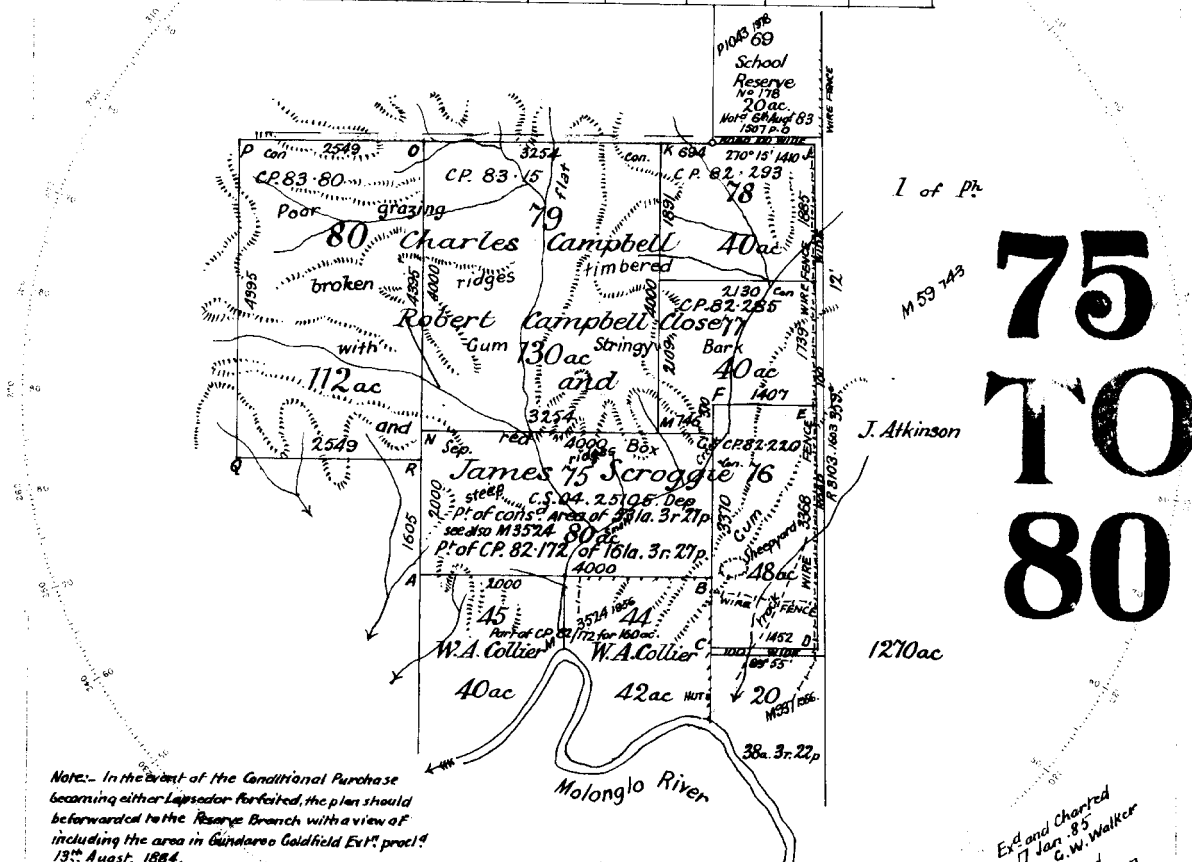
by William Alexander Collier.

Por. 75 Part of CP 82-172 dated 15 June
" 76 ACP 82-220 dated 17th July
" 77 " 82-285 " 18th Sep^r
" 78 " 82-293 " 5th Oct^r
" 79 " 83-15 " 1st Feb^r
" 80 " 83-80 " 5th April

Sale comp'd

Meridian Observations

Date	Station	Latitude	Star	Bearing	Altitude	Azimuth	Variation	Mean
6 th August 1884	Corner "H"	35° 06'S	β Argus	135° 04'	32° 17'	24° 46'	9° 42'	
			γ Argus	208° 40'	22° 25'	36° 25'	9° 45'	
			ε Argus	202° 41'	22° 36'	32° 27'	9° 46'	9° 44' 20"



Note: In the event of the Conditional Purchase becoming either Lapsed or Forfeited, the plan should be forwarded to the Reserve Branch with a view of including the area in Gundaroo Goldfield Extⁿ prot^d 13th August, 1884.

Azimuth taken from line A.B.
Starting Point J.

Value of improvements on 76, £24, on 77, £85
on 78, £9, on 75, 78, 80 nil.

I CERTIFY that this is a CORRECT COPY of the original plan of which it purports to be a copy, I being the officer having the custody thereof.
J. M. Vautour
Draftsman-in-Charge
Compiling Division-Lands Dept.

Examined and Certified
17 Jan. '85
G. W. Walker
Approved
Alex Johnson
19th Jan. '85

Reference to Corners

Corner	Bearing	From	Links	3 rd on Tree
A	45° 45'	Gum	31 1/2	45° 75'
B	281° 30'	Apple	66 1/2	44° 75'
C	188° 30'	Dead Apple	22	76
D	76° 30'	Apple	34 1/2	76
E	292° 30'	Gum	02 1/2	76
F	281° 30'	Shy bark	36	76
G	188° 30'	Apple	32 1/2	76
H	292° 30'	Gum	48	76
I	188° 30'	Gum	74	78
J	118° 30'	Gum	40 1/2	78
K	353° 30'	Shy bark	58 1/2	78
L	225° 30'	Gum	53 1/2	78
M	8° 30'	Red box	19	73
N	108° 30'	Apple	26 1/2	80
O	120° 30'	Dead bark	24 1/2	80
P	35° 45'	Shy Bark	76 3/4	80

all old corners found

Reference to Traverse

Line	Bearing	Distance
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		

Scale 20 Chains to an Inch.

Date of Survey 6th and 7th August 1884.

I hereby certify that I in person made and on the 7th Aug. 1884, completed the survey represented on this plan on which are written the bearings and lengths of the lines measured by me and I declare that the survey has been executed in accordance with the regulations published for the guidance of Licensed Surveyors and the practice of the Surveyor General's Department.

Acc^d 84.149.
J. M. Vautour
19th Jan. '85
A.I.

Cal No M.3554.1956

Printed at the Department of Lands Sydney N.S.W. 1911

H. M. Nash.

30th Aug. 84 N. 84.135
Licensed Surveyor

And the separate kitchen as follows:

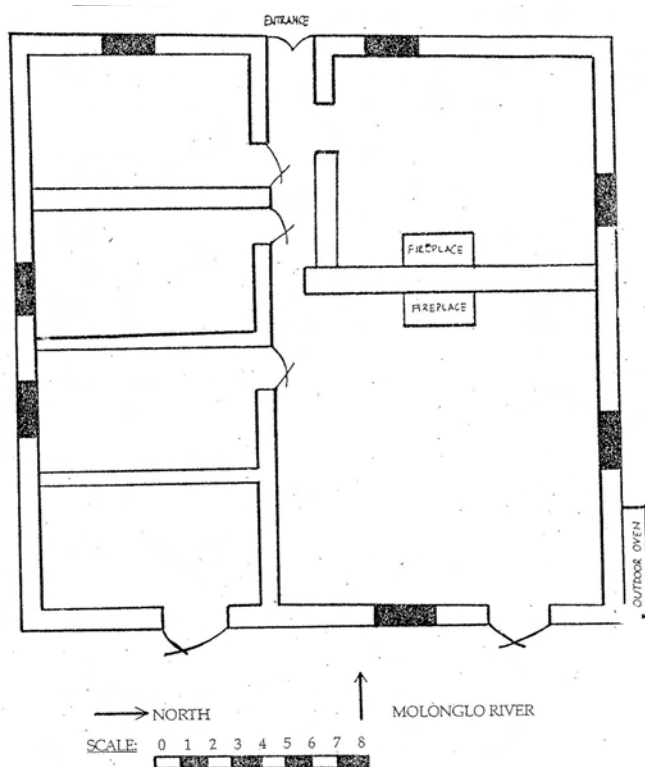
*Iron walls, Iron roof, iron chimney stone fireplace,
wood floor
Bad (condition)
20x12 [6.10m x 3.66m]
£15 (value).*

Futter's descriptions are shorter and he called the house a 'Storehouse', presumably reflecting its then use. He described both buildings as 'neglected'.

Both valuers also described other improvements including a neglected orchard. Moriarty mentions a very old shed with slab sides and a bark (and iron) roof in bad condition and Futter mentions two falling down sheds of iron and slabs. Perhaps the one mentioned by Moriarty and one of the sheds mentioned by Futter was the 'gunyah' of 'House and gunyah' noted on the survey plan of 1 February 1881 of Portions 44, 45 and 46 (see page 27).⁽¹⁹⁾

Plan of William Collier's homestead

[Author's note: The Molonglo River is actually to the south, not to the west as marked on this plan.]



Moriarty's estimate of the age of the house, 'probably 50 years old', would place its construction in the mid 1860s. In the light of the information set out earlier, this would be about 15 years too early. His estimate would have been influenced by its dilapidated condition and its then current apparent use (Futter described it as a 'Storehouse' almost two years later).

Futter also described and valued, on Portion 20, a separate cottage, neglected and falling down with

slab walls and an iron roof, measuring 30'x24' [9.15m x 7.32m]. Neither Moriarty nor King made any mention of this structure in their valuations, so I believe it was probably not on Portion 20 but on the adjoining Portion 44 and was what is generally referred to as Curley's hut (see page 32).

A description of the ruins

In May 2007 there were no visible remains of the separate kitchen or of the shed(s).

The roof and floor of the house were gone, as were the two verandahs. Several of the walls had partially collapsed and/or been vandalized so that the tops had loose rocks.

Much of the information in the rest of this section has been drawn from NCDC (1988, pp60-62), Bulbeck and Boot (1990, pp33-35), Collett (undated) in whole and the undated National Trust (ACT) draft submission on *William Collier's Stone Cottage (Kowen)*. The floor plan of the main building of the homestead, shown at left, was taken from Collett (undated).

An examination of the house ruins revealed that it was approximately 10.5m by 11.5m with six rooms and an entry hall, and clearly showed that the original structure was constructed with a high level of skill and workmanship which was unusual in an isolated rural community. The ceilings would have been high — around 2.7m. There has been little, if any, conservation work carried out on the homestead, probably for more than 100 years.

The main entrance to the homestead, over which there was probably one of the verandahs, faces west looking to where there are now three large pine trees, one of which has fallen. The homestead had a wide entrance passage and six rooms. To the left of the entry corridor were a living room and a kitchen/dining room, both with internal fireplaces. To the right were three small bedrooms. Next to these in the south-east corner was another room about the same size but which did not have any internal access. It opened to the south '... and was presumably the visitor's room. Evidence of visitor's rooms opening only to the exterior are increasingly rare.' (National Trust (ACT), undated, p9). There were remnants of stone flagging just outside the rear (east) door of the kitchen/dining room. A small stone structure on the eastern end of the north-east wall was an outside bread oven.

The homestead was built of random stone blocks (presumably derived from local river outcrops), some of them squared. They were mortared into

Survey plan of portions 44, 45 and 46, Parish of Amungula

C.S. 81. 19475



District Queanbeyan

PLAN

of 3 Portions Nos 44, 45, 46.

Parish of Amungula County of Murray

Applied for under the 21st clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of '61
by Archibald M^cDonald

Por 44 ACP 80. 102 of 22nd April void vide 81 27766 C.S.
Por 45 ACP 80. 112 of 29th April void do do
Por 46 ACP 80. 117 of 6th May void do do

IP 80. 1 of 31st July disallowed vide CS 83 9469 Cor.

CP 82 172 Queanbeyan 15th June by W.A. Collier for 160a
embraces portions Nos 44 and 45 Papers 84438 Cor. Sale Comp^d

Portion 46 within the Gundaroo Goldfield. Proclaimed 13th August 1884

Cancels part Portion 2 Vide Plan M 59743

Por 46 Part of CP 90 153 Sept^r 25 See 26 John Coppin 320 ac.

NOTE:- In the event of the Conditional Purchase for Portions
44 & 45 becoming either LAPSED or FORFEITED the Plan
should be forwarded to the RESERVE BRANCH with a
view of including the area in Gundaroo Goldfield
Extⁿ Proclaimed 13th August '84.

44
45
46

J. Atkinson

M 59743



I CERTIFY that this is a CORRECT COPY of the
original plan of which it purports to be a copy. I being the
officer having the custody thereof.
Draftsman-in-Charge
Compiling Boundary Maps Dept.

Ac. from Por 20.

* Charles Campbell,
Robert Campbell, Cose,
and James Scroggie
P^t of cons^d area of 531a 3r 27p.
See also M 3554 1956.

Approved
Alex. Johnson
30th Sep. 84.

Reference to Corners

Corner	Bearing	From	Links	S th on Tree
a	324° 00'	Apple	75	20. 44
b	251° 30'	do	66 1/2	43
c	253° 15'	Gum	83	44 45
d	Stake only (no tree near)			
e	Stake only (no tree near)			
f	145° 45'	Gum	31	45
g	264° 15'	do	61	46
h	54° 30'	do	25	46
i	5° 15'	Apple	18 1/2	46

Reference to Traverse

Line	Bearing	Distance
1	277° 30'	4.50
2	224° 00'	6.50
3	240° 00'	4.80
4	268° 00'	2.60
5	304° 30'	2.80
6	324° 30'	2.10
7	28° 30'	6.40
8	350° 00'	5.60
9	312° 30'	2.60
10	302° 45'	1.07
11	265° 00'	13.50
12	241° 00'	7.70
13	269° 50'	8.00
14	269° 00'	1.80
15	264° 00'	5.30
16	315° 00'	3.10
17	255° 00'	3.30
18	191° 00'	16.70
19	200° 00'	2.60
20	265° 30'	4.70
21	260° 10'	1.52

Scale 20 Chains to an Inch.

Marked in accordance with regulations

Instrument used in Survey Theodolite, Clinch

Date of Survey 1st February 1881

Value of Improvements £ Nil

Situated in the Police District of Queanbeyan

Standard tape used in Survey

Vol 81.1
1 sep 84
Ak passed CP 319/84.

Transmitted to the Surveyor General with my letter of the 5th April 84 B/A
Charles W. Atter Licensed Surveyor

M 3524 1956.

CB 658-17

Ex^d
M 3524 1956

place, sometimes with brick and brick fragments, to form 40cm thick walls which were very well constructed by skilled masons using many through stones. The internal walls were mud rendered. The bricks on the curved iron bars, above the wooden window lintels, in the cement-rendered sills and in the chimneys, were hand made and were probably made in Queanbeyan. Window and door heads and jambs were milled hardwood with the frames having been mortised and pinned with wooden dowels at both head and base. The bases had been built into the walls for strength.

Large pines and an overgrown orchard

There is a group of three large pines immediately to the west of the homestead in which ‘cubby houses’ have been built. One of the trees has fallen smashing one of the ‘cubby houses’ although parts of it remain among the branches. Remains of another ‘cubby house’ are in the tree closest to the river.

An overgrown orchard is located to the east of the homestead. It includes quinces and plums. In late April to mid May the quince trees are usually loaded with ripe fruits that are free of codling moth, although some are damaged by birds, including yellow tailed black cockatoos which I have seen attacking the fruit. However, when I visited the area in late April 2007 there was no sign of fruit at all. I have never seen fruit on the plum trees. Nearby there are also several clumps of blackberries. The very large tree on the south-east of the orchard is a pear — it is smothered in white blossoms in late September to mid October. I have never seen any fruit on it in autumn.

Excavated area

There is a large excavated area about 25m to the south-east of the homestead above the creek. I have not been able to find out anything about it although notations on a survey plan of Portion 20 of 30 July 1873 indicate that a mining lease was issued in 1873 for minerals other than gold or coal, and that it was cancelled on 14 November in the same year.

A significant area of settlement

The homestead, its associated buildings and its surrounding facilities were clearly a significant area of settlement. The remains of a stone-enhanced ford across the creek that comes down from the copper mine site can still be seen, about 350m from the homestead. But there are no longer any visible remains of the sheep yards to the north of the homestead.

The homestead is the only substantial stone structure in the area. Two other buildings — Argyle homestead and John Coppin’s homestead — were partially constructed from stone but stone was mainly used in their fireplaces, chimneys and outside ovens. The quality of their construction was also much lower than that of Collier’s homestead.

While large, Collier’s orchard was not as large or as varied as that of John McInnes at the Kowen homestead complex which had four apple trees, one cherry, four plums, six pears, one quince and a hedge of about 24 blue plums (NAA – A358, 226).

The need to complete and implement a conservation plan

The National Trust of Australia (ACT) received an ACT Heritage grant in 2005-06 to prepare a Conservation Management Plan for the Collier Stone Cottage (Kowen).

The National Trust commissioned Eric Martin and Associates to undertake the study. A draft report has been with Environment ACT for several months.

It is most important that the draft plan be finalized and implemented as soon as possible to stabilise and preserve this important ruin that was the home of the Collier family in the 1880s and of the Edmonds family from the late 1880s to probably about 1905. It also has links to George Campbell of Duntroon who almost certainly built the homestead in 1880 on land he did not own.

William Collier and his family

Procter (2001, p53) records that William Collier was the only child of Thomas and Ann (nee McDonald) and that he was born in Queanbeyan, but no date is given. His father’s occupation was hatter. In 1866 William married Bridget Curley at Queanbeyan. (Bridget was the daughter of Patrick and Mary Curley. Patrick commenced working for the Campbells of Duntroon around 1857.)

Before moving to the homestead in Burbong, William Collier probably lived at Jerrabomberra because in Greville’s Post Office Directory of 1875–78 he is listed under Queanbeyan as ‘farmer, Jerrabomberra’.

The NSW *Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages*, historical index search, records that William and Bridget Collier had 11 children, all born at Queanbeyan. They were Ann b1866, Elizabeth Alice b1870, Margaret b1872, Ellen b1874, Bridget b1874, Ada b1875, Helena b1878, Mary Ann b1881, William A b1882, Louisa M b1885, and

John J b1888. The spelling of some of these names is different to that given by William Collier in the context of the application to establish the Kowen School — see below.

For what period did Collier and his family occupy the homestead?

I have not been able to find out precisely when the Colliers moved into or out of the homestead.

They were living there in May 1881 because when Frederick Campbell JP lodged the application for the establishment of the Kowen School on 3 May 1881 (State Records NSW 5/16510.4) William Collier undertook to send six girls to the school. They were Catherine Mary aged 13 years, Elizabeth Alice aged 11, Margaretta aged 9, twins Bridget and Eleanor aged 6 and Ada aged 5.

Cross and Sheedy (1978, p1) say that William was living at the homestead when his mother died in 1888.

The family had probably moved out of the homestead by October 1889 because at that time I believe that John Edmonds was living there (see p 32). William Collier had certainly moved out of the homestead by May 1890 because he did not guarantee any children to attend Kowen School when an attempt was made to revive it (State Records NSW 5/16510.4). He and his family moved to Queanbeyan sometime before 1891 because, in the 1891 census, William Alexander Collier is recorded as head of a household of 14, 4 males and 10 females, at the McQuoid Hotel. The family subsequently moved to Goulburn, sometime before 1894. Curley (1999, p7) records that Mary Curley died in Goulburn in 1894 and that she had spent her final years living there with her daughter, Mrs Collier.

Thus, William Collier and his family probably lived in the homestead for less than 10 years.

The Edmonds family at Collier's homestead

John Edmonds (b1841 d1927) conditionally purchased three blocks totalling a little more than 390 acres [almost 159 hectares] in the Gidleigh area about 7km south-east of Bungendore between 1867 and 1875 (notations CP 67 767, ACP 67 1400 and CP 75 65 on the map of the Parish of Butmaroo, 3rd edition, May 1904).

In 1870 he married Jemina Catherine Unwin (pers comm John Lindsay September 2007) but I have not found out where they lived or for how long they farmed the three properties in the Gidleigh area. The freehold titles to the three properties were not

granted until the 1900s. And that was to William Forster Rutledge for the first two properties in 1907 (Certificate of Title Vol. 1758, Fol. 163) and to Jane Ruth Rutledge, Edward Lloyd Rutledge and James Cunningham for the third property in 1914 (Certificate of Title Vol. 2447 Fol. 95).

In the 1891 census John Edmonds headed a household of four at Glenbourne in what, I believe, to have been Collier's homestead (see Endnote 4). The other members of the household would have been his wife Jemina Catherine Edmonds (b1847 d1932), their only child John James Edmonds (b1871 d1953) and another person, possibly a relative or an employee. In the same year, John James Edmonds bought four allotments in Burbong village from his father (see below) and also purchased Portion 1. In all these property transactions, John James Edmonds gave his address as Glenburn.

It is likely, however, that John Edmonds and his family lived at Collier's homestead a year or so earlier because in August 1889 John Edmonds purchased four allotments in Burbong village (Land Grant, Vol. 971 Fols. 132 to 135) and gave his address as Glenburn.

Thus it seems that John Edmonds and his family lived in Collier's homestead from the late 1880s. In personal communications with Dianne Thorne, James Thorne, Denise Pierce and John Lindsay in September/October 2007, I found out little about John Edmonds' family's stay at Collier's homestead. They were sure that John and Jemina Edmonds accompanied John James Edmonds and his family to Glencoe about 1905 but they did not know whether they continued to live separately after John James Edmonds' marriage in 1897 or whether they lived with John James Edmonds and his family at Glenburn homestead. John James Edmonds and Agnes May Edmonds commenced their married life in the slab hut component of Glenburn homestead in 1897 and the pisé hut was built before February 1901 so it is possible that both families could have lived at Glenburn homestead from around 1901 onwards, although it would have been crowded with four adults and, by 1904, five children.

The only indications that I have of John Edmonds's family living at Collier's homestead after the early 1890s relates to the bachelors' ball that was held in January 1895 (see below) and to John James' address as Glenburn on his marriage certificate in 1897.

William James Edmonds (b1870 d1960), a cousin of John James Edmonds, married Ann Jane McIn-

nes in 1897 and it is possible that they may have lived at either Collier's homestead or Glenburn homestead (Dowling and Cosgrove, 2002, p10) but it is more likely that it was at Glenburn homestead after 1905 (see Endnote 12).

Did any other families live in the homestead?

Endnote 20 briefly discusses the possibility that an Edwards family and a Watson family lived at Collier's homestead and whether it was used as a coach house.

The Bachelors' ball at Glenburn, 25 January 1895

As explained on page 20, I believe that the ball was held at Collier's homestead which, at the time, was a substantial stone cottage of six rooms with a separate kitchen and an outside oven. In addition, the cottage had 5' [1.53m] verandahs on two sides (77' [23.49m] long) which would have been suited to dancing. We are fortunate to have two reports of the ball. The first is the delightful report from *The Queanbeyan Observer* of 29 January 1895 under the heading *Bachelors' Ball at Glenburn*:

A BACHELOR'S [sic] ball took place at the residence of Mr. J. Edmunds [Edmonds], Glenburn, on Friday night last and proved a great success. Visitors were present from Queanbeyan and Bungendore. Dancing commenced at 9 o'clock, and about fifteen couples danced to the excellent music supplied by Mr. E. Winters (violin). Mr. A. Coppin discharged his duties as M.C. in an able manner. The costumes worn were very appropriate for the occasion, and reflected great credit on the wearers, and it would indeed be a difficult task to say who looked the nicest. The catering which was in the hands of Mrs. J. Edmunds was perfection, and the way the viands disappeared was sufficiently gratifying to that lady. Dancing was briskly kept up till 4 o'clock when the guests began to take their departure all seemingly satisfied with their night's amusement.

The following report from *The Queanbeyan Age* of 30 January 1895 is not quite as colourful. It also appeared under the heading *Bachelors' Ball at Glenburn*.

A very enjoyable ball took place at Mr. J. Edmond's [sic] residence, Glenburn, on Friday night, January 25th, which proved a great success. Dancing was commenced at 9 o'clock, and about 15 couples took the floor. The music was supplied by Mr. E.J. Winters on the violin, and was all that could be desired. Mr. A. Coppin acted in the capacity of M.C. to the entire satisfaction of those present. There were lady and gentlemen visitors from Queanbeyan and Bungendore present. All the ladies were nicely attired, one or two handsome dresses being worn. The catering was performed by Mrs. Edmonds, and a splendid supper was the result. Dancing was kept up very briskly till daylight, when all returned to their homes, apparently well satisfied with their nights' [sic] enjoyment.

10. The Ruins of Curley's Hut

Curley's hut probably takes its name from Bridget Curley, William Collier's wife.

Although the hut is now only a jumble of rock, Bulbeck and Boot (1990, p35) said that the hut would have been about 10m square. The stones are virtually covered by blackberry bushes and there are several briars close by.



The ruins of Curley's hut, almost smothered by blackberries, June 2006. Photo Max Lawrence

To the south of the jumble of rocks, there appear to be some squared stone steps and some flat stones that could have been part of a paved area. There is also a sawn-off post, with some burn marks on its northern side, a couple of metres to the west of the steps.

A few metres further south there is a small orchard.

What did the hut look like?

The only possible description of Curley's hut that I have come across was one by valuer Futter in 1913 (NAA: A196 62).

When Futter valued Holding 62 in 1913 he included a cottage on Portion 20. The other two valuers (Moriarty and King) did not. This suggests to me that the cottage included by Futter was actually Curley's hut which is located hard up against the eastern boundary of Portion 44 adjoining Portion 20 — there was possibly no clear demarcation between the two portions at the time. Futter's description follows:

Cottage

Slab walls, iron roof

Neglected and falling down

30x24' [9.15m x 7.32m]

£30 (value).

When was the hut built?

The hut was built sometime between 1881 and 1884, that is, after Collier's homestead. We know this because on a survey map of 1 February 1881 of Portions 44, 45 and 46 (see survey plan on page 29) no improvements are shown on Portion 44 on which the hut is built. But a hut is shown on the eastern boundary of Portion 44 on a survey map of 6 and 7 August 1884 of Portions 75 to 80 when Portion 44 was owned by William Collier (notation on Portions 44 and 45, Part of CP 82/172 for 160 ac) — see page 27. Given that Curley's hut was built after Collier's homestead (which was built in the first half of 1880) and was very close to it on adjacent land owned by Collier, it is likely that Collier built it as an outlying structure to the homestead he occupied (but did not own) on Portion 20 during the 1880s.

Who lived in the hut?

It is not known who, if anyone, lived in the hut. Endnote 21 sets out some possibilities.

11. The Ruins of John Coppin's Homestead

The ruins of John Coppin's homestead, essentially a stone fireplace and chimney, are located just off a small forest track about 80m north of River Road and about 120m north of the Molonglo River.

There is some confusion about this homestead. Bulbeck and Boot (1990, pp36–7), report that it has been referred to as Keeffe's or Cooper's. But it is located on Portion 46 (40 acres [16 hectares]) in the Parish of Amungula, County of Murray which, together with adjoining Portions 130 (280 acres [113 hectares]) and 131 (960 acres [385 hectares]) formed John Coppin's larger holding of 1 280 acres [517 hectares] in the immediate area. C&DHS *Sites to be Plotted* (1985, p29) says that Coppin's selection on Glen Burn Creek and the Molonglo River (Portion 46) was known as 'Cohen'.

Coppin purchased the three portions in September 1890 — notations on the three portions on a map of the Parish of Amungula, Department of Lands, Sydney, 3rd Edition, 1909 — so it would be reasonable to assume that John Coppin built the homestead some time after that. It probably was after 1891 because no household was recorded in the area in the 1891 census.

What did the homestead look like?

I have not seen any contemporary descriptions of the homestead. Bulbeck and Boot (1990, p37) say that the homestead was of 'imposing size'. They say



The chimney and fireplace ruins of John Coppin's homestead, surrounded by blackberries, June 2006.

Photo Max Lawrence

it would have comprised several buildings, a main building measuring 18m x 9m, a kitchen measuring 9m x 4m, a smaller structure, possibly a dwelling, measuring about 9m x 7m and two small structures one of which was possibly a privy and the other a well.

Bulbeck and Boot described two standing fireplace ruins, one with a 3 metre chimney, but did not give any information about layout or fabric of the building. C&DHS *Newsletter* (December 1979, p5) says 'It had probably been a stringy bark hut'.

The site in May 2007

The dominant features of the site in May 2007 were a large pear tree, the standing ruins of one fireplace and chimney and blackberries and still more blackberries. Near the base of the fireplace there were the remains of a galvanised portable laundry tub/baby's bath. From here the ruins of Argyle could be seen to the south across the river.

After scouting around the blackberries another pile of rocks was found to the north, which would have been another fireplace.

The standing fireplace and chimney are made of local stones laid in a double course with mud mortar. The chimney is leaning to the south, the mud mortar is eroding and, as a consequence, the chimney is in danger of collapse. Stabilisation work is required.

There is an unmarked child's grave at the site. It is that of a one month old foundling who died of exposure and was buried on 2 March 1885. The baby was either buried by the police or by locals after being given permission to do so by the local policeman. In 1977 forestry workers unearthed the grave

while clearing the area for pines (Cross and Sheedy, 1978, p4 and Bulbeck and Boot, 1990, p37). The location of the grave is not known.

John Coppin and his family

The following information was drawn mainly from Procter (2001, p58).

John Coppin was born in England about 1840 and arrived in Sydney in September 1857 on the *Washington Irving*. He married Catherine Sheedy in Balmain in 1859 and they had seven children between 1859 and 1873: John b1859, Margaret b1861, Ellen b1863, George b1866, Thomas b1868, Laura b1871 and Albert Henry b1873, all born in Canberra. His occupation is described as farmer and shepherd. He lived at Ginninderra in 1867 and Yarralumla in 1884–85.

Bulbeck and Boot (1990, p37) mention a report in *The Queanbeyan Observer* of 28 May 1901 about the death of John Coppin's wife Kathryn who died in 1901 aged 73 at 'Cohen' and infer from this that John Coppin lived at the homestead until his death in 1903.

Coppin's Crossing on the lower Molonglo is named after John Coppin (Schumack, 1967, p63).

12. The Ruins of Argyle Homestead

The ruins of Argyle homestead, essentially a stone fireplace, are on the southern side of the Molonglo River almost directly opposite the ruins of John Coppin's homestead.

When was the homestead built?

Luke Colverwell junior expanded the family's holding from the Burbong Estate from the late 1870s. This expansion included the purchase of Portions 52, 53, 56, 57, 58 and 62, Parish of Carwoola, County of Murray between November 1877 and July 1878. Portion 52 (on which Argyle was subsequently built) was purchased in November 1877 (notation CP 77.245. of 8 November on survey plan A47 18-24 August 1879).

I do not know when Luke Colverwell junior built Argyle. It would have been after 1891 because no household was recorded in the area in the 1891 census. Procter (2001, p53) says he lived at 'Argyle' from 1889 but he was still living at Burbong homestead in 1890, see Endnote 11.

What did the homestead look like?

I have not seen any contemporary description of the homestead and its associated facilities.

Bulbeck and Boot (1990, p36) said the main building was originally about 11.5m x 6m with the



The fireplace ruins of Argyle homestead, June 2006.

Photo Max Lawrence

remaining fireplace at the eastern end and possibly another at the western end. There was a privy or other outlying structure about 14m to the west. They mapped six circular depressions which they interpreted as postholes for the house's vertical posts. This suggests that the walls were of timber slabs. I have not seen any information on the roof or the layout of the main building.

The site in May 2007

The main features of the site in May 2007 were the remains of the kitchen stone fireplace and lots of tea tree. Immediately to the north of the fireplace wall was a large stone block and rubble. This was probably the outdoor bread oven.

The stone blocks in the fireplace, presumably local, were reasonably well masoned and form rows of varying thickness, usually double course, with some through stones. They were cemented together by a coarse lime mix.

Apart from a few rocks to the west of the fireplace, little else remains of the homestead.

Luke Colverwell junior and his family

The following information was drawn mainly from Procter (2001, p53).

Luke Colverwell junior was born in 1841 at Dirty Swamp, the only son of Luke and Mary Colverwell, the first European settlers in the Kowen area.

Procter said Luke lived at 'Dirty Swamp' 1841–1849, 'Burbong' 1849–1889 and at 'Argyle' from 1889 until his death in 1896.

However, it is unlikely that he lived at Burbong as early as 1849 when he would have been 8 years old. While his father Luke Colverwell purchased land at Burbong in that year, it is unlikely that Luke Colverwell senior moved there for many years, if at all (see page 4). It is more likely that Luke Colver-

well junior moved to Burbong around 1861 when his father sold Portion 1. At that time Luke Colverwell junior would have been about 20 years of age.

It is also unlikely that Luke Colverwell junior lived at 'Argyle' from 1889. In the 1891 census no household was recorded in the area subsequently occupied by 'Argyle'. Indeed, in the 1891 census Luke Colverwell's household of 6 males and 2 females was in the locality of Molonglo River in Subdistrict C (Bungendore and neighbourhood) of the Queanbeyan District.

Luke Colverwell junior's occupation was farmer. Among other things, he bred horses for the Indian army.

He married Maria Sophie Smith at Queanbeyan in 1874 and they had eight children; Albert Henry b1875 (d1877), Ada Louisa b1878, Arthur Sydney b1881, Allan Luke b1884, Alfred Hanlon b1886, Walter Richard J b1888, Reuben Murray b1890 and

Ruth Ann b1895.

The children would have attended the Kowen School. Evidence of this is that in May 1890, when he was living at Burbong homestead and the school was experiencing low attendances, Luke Colverwell junior indicated on a list that Ada (11), Arthur (9) and Allan (6) would attend the school 'regularly and punctually' (State Records NSW 5/16510.4).

Rhueben Colverwell, who lives in Queanbeyan, still farms part of 'Burbong' which formed part of the Burbong Estate from which Luke Colverwell junior expanded his property holdings in the 1870s. Rhueben is the grandson of Luke Colverwell junior; his father was Reuben Murray Colverwell, the youngest son of Luke Colverwell junior. Reuben Murray Colverwell died in 1969 and the spelling of his name on his headstone in the Riverside Cemetery, Queanbeyan, is 'Rhuben'.

Some easy walks around the historic sites at Glenburn and Burbong

These notes describe two easy half-day walks — one for the historic sites in Glenburn, the other for the historic sites in Burbong — and also two ways to combine the walks into an easy full-day walk.

The walks involve crossing Glen Burn Creek and its tributaries and, in the case of the Burbong walk, the Molonglo River. **DO NOT CROSS ANY UNLESS IT IS SAFE TO DO SO, PARTICULARLY AFTER RAIN.**

Also, keep an eye out for snakes, particularly in spring and summer. I have seen brown snakes around the shearers' quarters/shearing shed complex and black snakes near streams and swampy areas. **IF YOU SEE ANY, LEAVE THEM ALONE AND KEEP WELL CLEAR.**

Contact the leaseholders beforehand.

Parts of the walks are on leased land. As a courtesy, let the leaseholders, Ken and Suzanne McInnes, know before you organise your walk. They can be contacted by phone on 6297 1876 or 0409 528 298 or by e-mail at McInnesK@bigpond.com.au.

Respect the leaseholders' property. Do not disturb grazing sheep or cattle. Leave all gates as you find them (either open or closed) and climb any locked gates at the hinged end to avoid damage to the gate.

Map

The map on page 7 shows the location of the Glenburn and Burbong historic sites and how to access them from the Kings Highway.

A. The Glenburn walk

My preferred access to the Glenburn historic area is to enter Charcoal Kiln Road from the locked gate on the Kings Highway about 400m east of the bridge over the Queanbeyan-Goulburn railway line. After about 3.3km, the Canberra International Clay Target Club is on the left and the Glenburn shearers' quarters and the shearing shed are on the right.

Allow between one and a half and two hours **return** for this part of the walk.

The next part of the walk is about 2.5km and takes in seven historic sites. All can be visited quite comfortably in one and a half to two hours. A pleasant loop walk would involve visiting each site in the order listed on the map on page 7. Take care in crossing the gullies in Glen Burn Creek and its tributaries.

This total walk would, therefore, be just over 9km and take between three and four hours.

B. The Burbong walk

My preferred access to the Burbong walk is also to enter Charcoal Kiln Road from the locked gate on the Kings Highway. Cross a cattle grid after about 1.5km, turn left along a forestry track for a little over 1km to where the track loops back to the east. Walk to the east for about 200m, then go north and cross the small creek. The site of the Kowen copper mine is on the northern bank of the creek below a small clump of gum trees.

Allow about one and a half hours **return** for this

part of the walk.

The next part of the walk is about 4km **return** and takes in a further four sites. They can all be visited quite easily in two to two and a half hours.

From the site of the Kowen copper mine climb through the fence to the west near the clump of gum trees, being careful to avoid the barbed wire, and walk about 300m slightly south of west until you come to a gate in the fence. Climb the gate and walk south for about 100m to the ruins of Collier's homestead.

Collier's homestead is located between two small creeks, about 100m north-east of the Molonglo River. This is just east of where the former road linking the Queanbeyan-Bungendore Road (now the Kings Highway) to the Kowen school, once ran.

Some 50m across the small creek to the west of Collier's homestead and on the other side of a new barbed wire fence, there are some remains of a small hut known as Curley's hut.

From the ruins of Curley's hut, walk uphill through many briars to the north-west for about 50m until you reach a forestry track. Turn left and follow, for about 500m, the track around a ridge and down to cross Glen Burn Creek (take care, particularly after rain) and then up the hill to join River Road. At the intersection with River Road turn left and, after about 500m, turn up the second forest track that leads off to the right — opposite a picnic table and steel barbeque. About 80m up this track, just past a large pear tree, Coppin's homestead ruins are on the left, about 25m from the track.

From the ruins of Coppin's homestead, go back to River Road, turn right and walk for about 50m to where a trail bike track crosses the road. Turn left

and cross the ford over the Molonglo River, first over a stone and concrete culvert and then through some slippery rocks and matted willow roots which now form the main channel of the river. **DO NOT CROSS UNLESS IT IS SAFE TO DO SO.** Climb the track for about 75m and the ruins of Argyle homestead — a stone fireplace — are on the right. If you look back across the river, the standing fireplace and chimney of John Coppin's homestead can be seen among the blackberries.

Return to the Kings Highway the same way except for bypassing the copper mine site.

The total **return** walk would be less than 7km and take between three and four hours.

C. *The combined walk*

The combined walk can be done in either a clockwise or anti-clockwise direction.

If the former, begin the Burbong walk and, on the way back from the ruins of Argyle homestead, continue north along River Road until Charcoal Kiln Road is reached and then turn right, climb the locked gate and join the Glenburn walk at the site of the Kowen Public School and the charcoal kilns.

If going anti-clockwise, begin the Glenburn walk and, at the site of the Kowen Public School and the charcoal kilns, climb the locked gate on Charcoal Kiln Road and then turn left and go south on River Road to join the Burbong walk.

In both cases, some backtracking is necessary when visiting the Glenburn historic sites if all sites are to be visited.

The combined walk would be around 14 km and can easily be completed in some six to eight hours depending, in part, on how long is taken for lunch.

Endnotes

1. The information in this section was drawn from Lea-Scarlett (1968, pp9–11) and Fitzhardinge (December 1967, pp10–12).
2. The information in this section was drawn from Andrews (1998, pp76, 79 and 90 and map 19 on p89); and McAlister (March 2005, p4).
3. There is some disagreement about Luke's age. In State Records, New South Wales, Index to Convicts who arrived in NSW 1788–1842, his date of birth is given as 1795 and his age is given as 17 in 1812. In the *Proceedings of the Old Bailey* on 31 October 1810 (Ref : t18101031–45), when he was sentenced to death for animal (horse) theft, his age is given as 18.
4. The 1891 census (Census Collector's Book, entries for

Queanbeyan Sub-districts H (Kohen) and I (Majura)) reported only three households with 18 people (7 males and 11 females) in close proximity to the Glenburn/Burbong historic areas. These households were reported as follows:

Queanbeyan Sub-district H (Kohen)

Glenbourn — John Edmonds, 3 males, 1 female; and
Glenbourn — William Cooper, 2 males, 5 females.

Queanbeyan Sub-district I (Majura)

Cohen — Thomas Harman, 2 males, 5 females.

If we extend the Glenburn/Burbong area for about 3.5km around the Kowen Public School, another five households with 39 people (21 males and 18 females) were reported in the 1891 census as follows:

Queanbeyan Sub-district H (Kohen)

Browns Flat — Jno (?) Gallagher, 4 males, 5 females; and
Browns Flat — Wm (?) Gallagher, 3 males, 4 females.

Queanbeyan Sub-district I (Majura)

Cohen — John McInnes, 4 males;
Cohen — James Ceary [?Carey], 1 male; and
Cohen — John McInnes, 9 males, 9 females.

The larger area, therefore, had eight households with 57 people (28 males and 29 females).

The following is brief information on what I believe to be the location of the Edmonds and McInnes households listed in the 1891 census.

I believe that the Glenbourn household headed by John Edmonds was located in what we now call Collier's homestead. My reasons for saying this are that it is recorded next to John Cooper's household, John Cooper lived between Glen Burn Creek and Collier's homestead, Collier's homestead was built in the first half of 1880 and the census collector did not record an uninhabited residence in the area.

I believe that the larger Cohen household headed by John McInnes with 9 males and 9 females would have been located in the Kowen homestead complex on Portion 5.

I believe that the smaller Cohen household headed by John McInnes with 4 males would have been located on Portion 11 (see Endnote 11), south-east of the Kowen homestead complex.

Cross (1985, p49) mentions that the 1891 census recorded 83 people and 23 dwellings in 'Cohen'. This is repeated in Dowling and Cosgrove (2002, p7) and the same numbers are given in Collett (undated, p5) sourced to the *Goulburn Herald*, 1882. This information is incorrect.

'Cohen' was only a locality with four households and 30 people, in the sub-district of 'Majura' in the 1891 census.

There was a 'Kohen' sub-district with 87 people and 24 households, not 83 and 23, respectively. The extra 4 people and 1 household were included on the next page of the Collector's Book after being crossed out on the earlier page.

But 'Kohen' was a much larger area than Glenburn/Burbong. For example, it extended almost to Bungendore, north to near Lake George, west to near Sutton and south to Queanbeyan. (It did not include the 'Cohen' locality which was in the 'Majura' sub-district.)

5. Collett (undated, p1) and Jacobs (April 1963, Appendix 1).
6. The Glenburn historic area encompasses the area around the Glenburn homestead including the Kowen Public School and the charcoal kilns' site, the Glenburn sheep dip and yards, the Colverwell graves, the Glenburn shearers' quarters/shearing shed complex and other close-by areas but not the area occupied by the Canberra International Clay Target Club. This area is also referred to as Dirty Swamp. Sampson's directory of 1857 listed Luke Colverwell at 'Glenburnie' which was probably a corruption of Glenburn (Cross and Sheedy, 1978, p2).

However, the term Glenburn has been used to mean other things. It has been used to mean a small, different area and, in some other cases, it has been used to mean larger areas which would have included the Glenburn his-

toric area described above.

An example of the smaller, different area is where the term 'Glenbourn' was used in the 1891 census to describe the area along the Molonglo River including the households of William Cooper (located between Glen Burn Creek and Collier's homestead) and John Edmonds (Collier's homestead — see Endnote 4).

An example of the larger area occurs when, in 1913, valuer Moriarty described the whole of Holding 62 as 'Glenburn'. Holding 62 included not only Portion 1 (which included Glenburn/Dirty Swamp) and Portion 20 (on which Collier's homestead is located) but also several other portions (57, 58, 85, 86 and 9) to the west and north of Glenburn homestead.

Another example of the larger area occurs when, in 1901, John McInnes (who was living at the Kowen homestead complex at the time) wrote to the Minister for Works and gave his address as just 'Glenbourn' on one occasion and 'Glenbourn Queanbeyan' on another (State Records NSW 5/16510.4).

The confusion does not end with Glenburn as a term to describe an area.

'Glenburn' was also used to describe Glenburn homestead and, in some cases, Collier's homestead (for example, when John Edmonds purchased land in 1891 associated with the proposed village of Burbong and the location of the bachelors' ball in January 1895).

7. There are several other historic sites in the Glenburn and Burbong areas of Kowen Forest. These include the sites of Horrocks' hut and McNeerney's hut just to the north of the Glenburn historic area and of Archibald McDonald's hut and homestead in Burbong. Information on these and other sites are contained in *Kowen District Cultural Resource Survey and Conservation Plan* by David Bulbeck and Philip Boot, June 1990.
8. The following chronology of property transactions for Portion 1 has been drawn mainly from a notation on a survey map of Portion 1 of 3 October 1835 and from the NSW Department of Land's documents PA 0002340, Register Book Vol CXX1 Folio 42 and CT 00980 - 102 (Register Book Vol 980 Folio 102):
 - 13 July 1836 — Purchased by James Atkinson;
 - 9 January 1837 — Grant from Crown to James Atkinson;
 - 7 August 1840 — Conveyance from James Atkinson to Luke Colverwell;
 - 10 January 1861 — Conveyance from Luke Colverwell to John James Wright;
 - 31 May 1866 — Conveyance from John James Wright to Martin Byrne;
 - 21 May 1869 — Application by Martin Byrne to bring the land under the Provisions of the Real Property Act (Torrens' title) and Certificate of Title to be issued to George Campbell;
 - 1 June 1871 — Certificate of Title issued to George Campbell;
 - 12 December 1887 — Transferred to Charles Campbell, Robert Campbell Close and James Scroggie;
 - 18 December 1888 — Transferred to Robert Campbell Close and James Scroggie after proof of death of

Charles Campbell;

2 September 1890 — *New Certificate of Title issued to Robert Campbell Close and James Scroggie. (A new certificate of title was required because, after a new survey, the land area was increased from 1 270 acres to 1 332 acres);*

18 June 1891 — *Transferred to John James Edmonds. After Edmonds moved to Glencoe in NSW about 1905 he leased the land to the McInnes Brothers of Queanbeyan (Dowling and Cosgrove, 2002, p11);*

21 October 1915 — *Acquired by the Commonwealth of Australia (the notice of resumption appeared in the Commonwealth Gazette no 21 of 18 March 1915 and the acquisition was entered on the title on 28 March 1918).*

After Portion 1 was resumed by the Commonwealth it was initially leased back to John James Edmonds. Shortly after, part was leased to Robert (Bob) McInnes, initially for five years from 16 March 1916. The lease was extended in stages to 1929 (NAA: A361 DSG23/1408, NAA: A192 FCL 1921/1618 and NAA: A192 FCL 1924/370). Subsequent generations have also held leases, including Ken and Suzanne McInnes in 2007.

9. When writing in 1978, Cross and Sheedy (p3) said 'It is said that the original part of the Woolshed is over 100 years old and was built by John McInnes. This could be so as, having been overseer to J. J. Wright in the 1860s, John McInnes could have built it for Wright, who was an absentee landholder'.

Cross and Sheedy (1978, p2) report that John McInnes was overseer for Wright in 1867. On this basis, it is likely that the original part of the shed was built in the late 1860s or the 1870s. Similar timing is supported by C&DHS *Newsletters* (May and December 1979, p2 and p4 respectively), C&DHS letter to Minister (1983, p2), C&DHS *Heritage Mapping Project* (1984, p1) and Folger (1998, p39).

However, John James Wright owned Portion 1 from January 1861 to May 1866 (see Endnote 8); if John McInnes did build it for Wright, he probably did so in the early to mid 1860s. Some sources date it even earlier, and some later.

Cross, in *Bygone Queanbeyan* (1985, p51), says '... it probably dates back to the 1840s when John McInnes and Luke Colverwell would have been farming there.' While Luke Colverwell senior would have been working in the general area during the 1840s, I cannot see how John McInnes could have done so, because he was not born until 1840. Indeed, the earliest reference I have seen to him working in the Glenburn/Dirty Swamp area is in Cross and Sheedy (1978, p2) where it is said that when he married in 1861, he was '...probably working for Wright at that time ...'. I therefore do not accept Cross's 1840s timing for the initial construction of the shearing shed.

In 1913 valuer Moriarty described and valued the 'Woolshed' and put the date of erection at 1880 (NAA: A358 62). But at that time the shed was made up of a central area and three skillions so that the central area would probably have been built earlier than 1880.

Bulbeck and Boot (1990, p29) say that Cross and

Sheedy's view that the original part of the shed is more than 100 years old and was built by John McInnes, '...need not disagree with our revised dating of Glenburn Homestead.' This is a round-about way of saying that it probably dates to the 1880s. Dowling and Cosgrove (2002, p33) accept Bulbeck and Boot's view but express it as 'the late 1880s'.

I do not see any link between the dating of Glenburn homestead and the shearing shed and see no reason to accept their later dating.

Perhaps the safest thing to say about the timing of the construction of the original part of the shearing shed is that it was probably built by John McInnes for John James Wright in the early to mid 1860s. But it could have been built a few years later for either Martin Byrne or George Campbell who owned Portion 1, respectively, from May 1866 to June 1871 and from June 1871 to December 1887 (see Endnote 8).

10. C&DHS *Newsletters* (May 1979, p2) and (December 1979, p4).
11. There is a wide range of estimates on the timing of the construction of the two huts that form Glenburn homestead.

Cross and Sheedy (1978, p1) date them both to the 1860s. This timing is supported in full or in part by C&DHS *Newsletters* (May 1979, p2 and December 1979, p5), Letter of 9 December from C&DHS to Minister (1983, p1), NCDC (1998, p41) and Folger (1998, p39).

I do not accept Cross and Sheedy's timing. At best, the evidence provided by Cross and Sheedy can only support the position that some members of the McDonald family lived somewhere in the Glenburn/Dirty Swamp area in the 1860s. Another criticism of their evidence is that while Sandy McDonald's daughter did marry James Moore of the 'Lagoon', Burra, they did not marry 'at the cottage' ie Glenburn homestead. They were married at the Burra Church of England in 1878 (Proctor, 2001, p199 and p224).

In contrast, Bulbeck and Boot (1990, p27 & p50) suggest that the pisé hut was built at the end of the 1890s or early 1900s and the slab hut slightly earlier. Dowling and Cosgrove (2002, p8) opt for the 'c1890s' timing for the pisé hut.

I do not find either of these positions acceptable.

The evidence put forward by Bulbeck and Boot is difficult to follow. They make much of the existence of a similar arrangement of a pisé house flanking an earlier slab house at Kowen homestead; whether there were any owners of Portion 1 between Atkinson and George Campbell; and when John McInnes bought land at Kowen. I do not see the relevance of any of these matters to the timing of the construction of the two huts that form Glenburn homestead. But, for the record, there was an early pisé house in front of separate slab bedrooms at the Kowen homestead complex in the 1890s (see Annexure to Endnotes), Luke Colverwell, John James Wright and Martin Byrne owned Portion 1 between Atkinson and George Campbell (see Endnote 8), and John McInnes first purchased land (Portion 5) in Kowen in 1868 (see Annexure to Endnotes).

Nevertheless, I believe that the timing put forward by Bulbeck and Boot is pretty close to the mark.

I believe that the slab hut was built in the middle of 1897 for John James Edmonds and the pisé hut was also built for him before February 1901. I accept Norman McInnes' personal comment that the pisé hut was built by Gilbert McInnes (Bulbeck and Boot, 1990, p27).

The information on which I base my belief follows.

First, Glenburn homestead was not in existence in 1891. In the census of that year there were only four households and no uninhabited dwellings in the locality of Cohen in the Queanbeyan sub-district of Majura.

John McInnes headed two of these households that were separated by that of James Ceary [?Carey] that was probably located on Portion 67. I believe the larger household of 9 males and 9 females was located in the Kowen homestead complex on Portion 5 and the smaller household of 4 males was located in a hut on Portion 11. The only references I have seen to the hut on Portion 11 are in valuer Moriarty's report on Holding 226 (incorporating Portions 5 and 11) owned by John McInnes and to the site of the 'Old House in Kowen' in Bulbeck and Boot (1990, pp53–54). Moriarty's valuation was associated with the Commonwealth's compulsory acquisition of the land and was made on instructions that were issued to Moriarty on 12 November 1913. His valuation included, on Portion 11, a description of a four-room pisé house in good condition with a skillion and a verandah attached, which he valued at £84 17s 6d (NAA: A358 226). Moriarty did not indicate when the hut was built but his report dated two pisé houses on Portion 5 — the first to 1890 and the second to 1895/1900, so I think it quite possible that this hut was in existence at the time of the 1891 census. (However, while Bulbeck and Boot were uncertain about many aspects of this hut, of which there were no remains, they thought that there was no reason to date its construction to the late 19th century, primarily because of the fabric of the brick fragments at the site and the recovery of porcelain fragments.)

The other two households were headed by Thomas Harman (whose residence was on Portion 40 to the north of Kowen School) and James Ceary [?Carey] (whose home was probably on Portion 67 to the north-west of the Kowen School).

Second, the homestead is located on Portion 1 and John James Edmonds purchased Portion 1 in June 1891 (see Endnote 8).

Third, John James Edmonds married Agnes May Worthington in August 1897 and they commenced their married life living in a new slab hut on land owned by John James Edmonds (pers comms from Dianne Thorne, Denise Pierce and John Lindsay in September 2007).

Fourth, the pisé house component of Glenburn homestead was in existence in 1901 because in a postscript to a letter John McInnes wrote in February 1901 to the Minister for Works he said '... Mr J J Edmonds lives close to the school & his house is built with Peisey Walls ...' (State Records NSW 5/16510.4).

Edmonds, Rowley and Gibbons families that lived at Glenburn homestead.

The William James Edmonds family

William James Edmonds (b1870 d1960, a cousin of John James Edmonds) married Ann Jane McInnes in 1897 and they had three children Reginald Earl (b1897 d1982), unnamed (b1904 d1904) and Gordon William (b1909 d1910) (pers comm John Lindsay September 2007). It is possible that they lived at either Glenburn homestead or Collier's homestead (Dowling and Cosgrove, 2002, p10). I have not found out any additional information but it is more likely that it would have been Glenburn homestead after 1905 because members of the McInnes family leased the land on which the homestead is built from around that time.

The Rowley family

Arthur Rowley married Australia Janet (Top) McInnes, the youngest daughter of John and Sarah McInnes, in 1909 (Dowling and Cosgrove, 2002, p10). The C&DHS *Newsletter* (December 1979, p5) says that the Rowleys were one of the local families that lived at Glenburn. Based on a personal communication from Marilyn Folger, Dowling and Cosgrove (2002, p10) say that they lived at Glenburn, possibly from the time of their marriage. In a disposal report on the land, including the homestead, in 1915, referred to in Dowling and Cosgrove (2002, p12), mention is made of a 'married cple. (?) & 3 children' living at Glenburn. Dowling and Cosgrove say that this may have been the Rowleys, although they had four children by that time (Dowling and Cosgrove, 2002, p10). However, Mrs Elvis Holmes b1924 (pers comms November 2006 and April 2007) said that one of her twin brothers, born in 1909, died.

Mrs Holmes confirmed that her father Arthur Richard Rowley (known as Archie) and her mother Australia Janet McInnes (nicknamed Topsy) lived at Glenburn homestead from 1909 as newlyweds. Her father and one of his brothers used to ride their bikes to Queensland to get work as shearers. The family moved to Barcaldine in Queensland around 1911 to live for a short time before moving back to Queanbeyan. She thought it possible that the family initially moved back into Glenburn homestead before they built at 64 Morrisett Street where they lived until the big flood in 1925. The family then moved to West Avenue.

The Gibbons family

Ken and Suzanne McInnes (pers comm Sept 2006) said that George Gibbons and his wife lived in Glen Burn hut (Glenburn homestead) between 1940 and 1950 when George worked for the McInnes Bros rent-free as part of his conditions of employment.

Several sources say that the McDonald and McInnes families also lived at Glenburn homestead. I do not believe that either family did so. Brief comments on each family follow.

The McDonald family

Cross and Sheedy (1978, p1) and others (C&DHS *Newsletters*, May 1979, p2 and December 1979, p5 and C&DHS Letter to Minister, 1983, p1) say that the original occupant of Glenburn homestead was Alexander 'Sandy'

McDonald whose family was at Glenburn in the 1860s. But this could not be so because the slab component of the homestead was not built until the late 1890s (see Endnote 11). He and his family would have lived in some other wooden structure that is no longer with us.

The McInnes family

John McInnes married Sarah Horrocks in 1861 and they had fifteen children, all born at Kowen, the first being Gilbert in 1863.

Because no other area of 'Kowen' was settled at the time, it is reasonable to assume that they first lived in the Glenburn/Dirty Swamp area from the early 1860s until the family moved around 1880 to establish 'Kowen' homestead — about 3.5km north-west of Glenburn/Dirty Swamp.

However, it is not known where John McInnes and his family lived in the Glenburn/Dirty Swamp area. Lea-Scarlett, Cross and Sheedy (1978, p4) simply say that 'Glenburn' was occupied by the McInnes family. Cross and Sheedy (1978, p2) were less certain when they said that their '... first home was, no doubt, one of the three wooden dwellings which existed at that time between Glenburn and the eastern extremities of Glen Burn Creek (Dirty Swamp).' Lea-Scarlett, Cross and Sheedy (1978, p4) mention two derelict homes near Glen Burn Creek, which were both named 'Glenburn' when occupied by the McInnes and Edmonds families. Today, the only wooden dwelling in the area is the slab hut component of Glenburn homestead which dates to the early 1890s (see Endnote 11). This is several years after the family moved to the Kowen homestead complex around 1880.

NCDC (1988, p41) says that the two Glenburn homestead buildings are the remains of Gilbert McInnes' homestead but does not say when he lived there. C&DHS *Mapping Project*, First draft (1983, p2) mentions a Gilbert and a McInnes living there but no details are given. At the time of the 1891 census, Gilbert McInnes, who married Jane Emily Bates (nee Land) in 1885, headed a household of 2 males and 4 females in McQuoid St, Queanbeyan. In 1902 Gilbert and his family moved onto a 40 acre [16 hectare] selection with a stone cottage along the Sutton Road (Dowling and Cosgrove, 2002, p7). I have not seen any evidence to support Gilbert and his family living in Glenburn homestead between living at Queanbeyan and living along the Sutton Road.

13. There were two schools in or close to Glenburn. They were the Fell Timber (Kohen) School and the Kowen School.

The following information on the Fell Timber (Kohen) School was drawn from Gillespie (1999, p54). The school operated during the second half of the 1870s. It was located [on land owned by John Gallagher] next to the Queanbeyan–Bungendore road [about 4km slightly south-east of the Glenburn homestead and about 12km from Bungendore]. The school was known as the Fell Timber School between February and July 1875 and thereafter the Kohen Provisional School until it closed in 1878.

14. Stephen Walter McNeerney owned land (Portion 14) slightly east of north of the school site. I have not been able to track down anything about Martin Campbell, par-

ticularly whether he was related to the Campbells of Dunroon. William Collier and his family lived about 1.5km slightly west of south of the school site close to the Molonglo River (on Portion 20). John Gallagher was of 'Browns Flat' some 3.5km to the east of the school. He was associated with the previous Fell Timber School (Endnote 13). John McInnes lived and worked in the Glenburn area before moving to where he built the Kowen homestead complex around 1880, some 3.5km to the north-west of the school site.

15. In February 1901 John McInnes wrote to the Minister for Works in the following terms:

I have wrote you this letter on behalf of the Parents that have children attending the Cohen school & asK you if you could do enny thing for us in the way of getting a new school Built the Presant one as been built over 20 years & it was only built then of Bush Material it was repaired about two year but the old material that his in it as far beyon repair & it his not fit for the children to goin & in the winter it will be inposible for children to attend atall there are 22 children on the Roll at Presant we trust you will do you best for us.& advise us how to acK in the matter.

P.S. there could be a school Built for about £30 with Piesey Walls it would be Warm in the Winter & cool in the summer Mr J.J. Edmonds lives close to the school & his house his built with Peisey Walls they are much cheaper than enny other walls you could have built hope you will do some thing for us as soon as Poseble as the Presant school his falling down

After being rejected, John McInnes wrote again to the Minister for Works in May 1901 saying:

I received a letter about the Cohen school & we are verry sorry to learn by it that we are not going to get enny thing dun for us we think it his a shame to think that a Place like Cohen where there his 23 children on the Roal should have to Put up with a building like the Presant one last week there came some heavey rain & the children had to Pup there over coats on in the school to Keep dry & it will be inposible for Children to go there through the winter & it his verry hard for Parints of the Children to be compelded to send there children to a school like that in the winter I beleave Mr Cooper the inspector has had a look at the school & I beleave his excuse was that there was not enough children to Keep the school going. I will Pup it to you in this way for you to see for you silf 18 or 20 years ago there was enough children to rais that school from a Privisial school to a Publick school & it his still a Publick school I beleave. & there his still young children that will take the Place of those that Mr Cooper says will soon be leaving the school there his John Edmonds living not 300 yards from the school with 3 James Curley 2 & my self 2 that will soon have to go to school that his 7 more children with in one & Half miles so I think Mr

Cooper his treating us verry bad I would only like him to come in soon Wet Windy day & if he did he would then have to admit that it would not be fit for the children to sit all day in fact I do beleave that if Mr Cooper put up at a Place & his Horse was Put in a stable that let the Wet & wind in like the Cohn school he would surly groul about it.

16. Luke Colverwell jnr lived at Burbong homestead, about 4km south of the school on the southern side of the Queanbeyan to Bungendore road (now the Kings Highway). (Proctor, 2001, p53, said that Luke Colverwell junior lived at 'Argyle' from 1889. But no household was recorded there in the 1891 census.) Thomas Harman lived about 1km north of the school. Cooper was a farmer who also panned for gold in the Molonglo River and lived between Collier's homestead and Glen Burn Creek. The 1891 census recorded the household of William Cooper as one of those at Glenbourn. Information on John Gallagher and John McInnes is given in Endnote 14.
17. There is no mention of the mine in Carne (1908) or in McGowan (1996).
18. While it is possible that Archibald McDonald built the stone house on Portion 20, I consider that to be unlikely. His own homestead, built on the other side of the Molonglo River (on Portion 61) in the Parish of Carwoola, was of inferior quality, and according to Bulbeck and Boot (1990, p33) was built '... clearly some time after 1879...'. For information on Archibald McDonald and his homestead see Bulbeck and Boot (1990, pp32–33).
19. Even though caution needs to be exercised in using information on portions other than the Portion(s) that is/are the subject of the survey, I believe that we can safely accept that the information about the 'House & gunyah' on Portion 20 is correct. The location is very close to the boundary between Portion 20 and Portion 44 and the surveyor would probably have included it as a notable landmark.
20. Two sources mention the Edwards family living at Collier's homestead (C&DHS Letter to Minister, 1983, p2 and C&DHS Mapping Project First Draft, 1983, p2). But neither source provides details as to when and for how long.

O'Hara (1978) said that the rubble remains of a six room house with a passageway and two fireplaces was located on Block 29 and formerly part of Murryong, owned by Peter Watson.

An examination of an ACT Tenure map of 1959 contained in Bulbeck and Boot (1990), Figure 55, suggests that Collier's homestead was located on Block 30, not Block 29. At the time, Block 29 was leased by P Watson and Block 30 by R Colverwell (the brother of Rhueben Colverwell, grandson of Luke Colverwell junior and great-grandson of Luke Colverwell senior).

A Fitzgerald (ACT Historic Sites and Buildings Committee, Minutes, January 1978) said that he had been told that a rubble building still standing but without a roof '... may have been a coach house on the run between Queanbeyan and Bungendore'. This is unlikely, not only because of the small distance between Queanbeyan and Bungendore (some 20km), but also because the only road that passed close to Collier's homestead was the 2.5km road

linking the Kowen Public School to the Queanbeyan to Bungendore road.

21. Collet (undated, p5) says that the hut '... was said to have been occupied by Curley, but it may have been an outlying structure [to Collier's homestead], as it resembled Collier's homestead. The association being with Collier's wife, Bridget Curley'.

Another possibility is outlined in the National Trust (ACT)'s undated draft nomination on Collier's Stone Cottage p11. It says that Bridget Curley's '... family held property and lived in a small cottage directly to the north east on the opposite bank of a small creek leading into the Molonglo River'. The same draft nomination at p14 says '... William Collier met and married Bridget Curley who lived within 100 metres of the stone cottage [William Collier's Homestead]'. I have not seen any evidence that any member of the Curley family owned Portion 44. And Bridget Curley married William Collier in 1866 — some 15 years before the hut was built.

Yet another possibility could relate to Sylvia Curley's statement in her book *Curley* (1998, p8) that one of her brothers, James, and his young family, lived and worked at one of Campbell's outstations at Kowen. Procter (2001, p67) says that while James Curley lived at Duntroon 1875–1909, he also lived at Kowen, but no timing is given. James married Jane Hannaford in 1891 and they had five children, William J b1891, John b1893, Francis E b1895, Albert T b1897 and Charles C b1899 (Procter, 2001, p67).

Although I do not know when, it seems that C Campbell, R C Close and J Scroggie repurchased Portions 44 (and 45 and 75 to 80). Their names appear on the portions of a map of the Parish of Amungula by the Department of Lands, Sydney, 3rd Edition, 1909.

It is possible, therefore, that James and his young family could have lived in Curley's hut at some stage.

John McInnes (State Records NSW 5/16510.4), in a letter of May 1901 to the Minister for Works, indicated there would soon be an additional 7 children ready to attend the Kowen School — including 2 from James Curley. This suggests that James Curley was living near the school at the time, but it could have been earlier. James Curley was still living in the Burbong area in June 1902 as he was one of four signatories from Burbong to a letter inquiring about the possible closure of Kowen School (State Records NSW 5/16510.4).

Further evidence that James Curley was living in the area is given by Sylvia Curley in her book (*Curley*, 1998, p8) where she recalls visiting James, who had pneumonia, with her mother about 1902 when Sylvia was about four years of age. She says that she clearly remembers '... a large table in the nice big living room covered by one of those lovely old red plush table cloths with an edging of little wool balls. These interested me greatly as I walked around the table touching each one'.

Unfortunately, Sylvia Curley did not give any information on the location of James' home, but her description sounds a bit grand for Curley's hut. Perhaps James Curley and his family lived in Collier's homestead at the time.

Annexure to Endnotes

John McInnes at Kowen and the Construction of the Kowen Homestead Complex

John McInnes was born 15 October 1840 in Newtown, Sydney, and died 31 December 1901 at Kowen. He married Sarah Jane Horrocks on 25 March 1861 in Queanbeyan (Folger, 1988, p14).

Cross and Sheedy (1978, p2) say that when John McInnes married, he was ‘... probably working for Wright at that time’. Wright owned Portion 1 from January 1861 to May 1866.

Because no other part of Kowen was settled at the time, it is reasonable to assume that they lived in the Glenburn/Dirty Swamp area. But it is not known where. Cross and Sheedy (1978, p2) said their ‘... first home was, no doubt, one of the three wooden dwellings which existed at that time between Glenburn and the eastern extremities of Glen Burn Creek (Dirty Swamp)’. They did not live at Glenburn homestead because that was not built until the early 1890s, some ten years after the family had moved to live at what became the Kowen homestead complex, on Portion 5 some 3.5km to the west (see below).

John and Sarah McInnes had fifteen children, all born at Kowen, the first being Gilbert in 1863 and the last being Australia Janet (Top) in 1885 (Folger, 1988, p14).

They were a remarkable couple. Not only did they have fifteen children of their own, they also adopted/raised four nieces/nephews — two Horrocks children of Sarah’s brother and two Webb children of John’s sister Ann (Folger, 1998, p11). Kate Horrocks aged 12 and Thomas Horrocks aged 8 were listed by John McInnes to attend Kowen School in 1890 (State Records NSW 5/16510.4). In addition, it is possible that John and Sarah raised two of the six surviving children of Michael and Mary Gallagher of ‘Browns Flat’ after Mary and another of her children drowned in 1869 (Gallagher, 1987, pp26–27). A total of 21 children!

There are different views about when John McInnes first purchased land in Kowen; when John McInnes and his family moved from Glenburn/Dirty Swamp to live on his land at Kowen; the type of dwellings that John McInnes and his family built that comprised the Kowen homestead complex; and when they were built.

When did John McInnes purchase land in Kowen?

Bulbeck and Boot (1990, p50) suggest that John McInnes first purchased land in Kowen prior to 1872 but they did not say when.

John McInnes purchased Portion 5, Parish of Amungula, County of Murray in 1868. This is known from the notation C.P. 68–1004 on the survey plan of 30 January [1869] on page 43.

There is an undescribed and unvalued structure on the survey plan where the Kowen homestead complex was subsequently built. The structure is unlikely to have been a hut. If it had been, the surveyor would almost certainly have said so. The survey map does not include anything under ‘Value of Improvements’.

John McInnes progressively purchased other portions in the area. For example, he purchased Portion 9 in 1869 (notation CP. 69.3639 on the survey plan of 16 May 1870), Portion 10 in 1871 (notation CP. 71.4115 on the survey plan of 16 March

1872), Portion 11 in 1872 (notation C.P. 72.8231 on the survey plan of 7th April 1873), Portion 19 in 1875 (notation C.P. 75/103 of 6th May ’75 on the survey plan of 10th & 11th July 1878), Portion 18 in 1877 (notation C.P. 77/12 of 8th Febr. ’77 on the survey plan of 10th & 11th July 1878), Portion 22 in 1875 (notation C.P. 75.96 . 29th April 1875 on the survey plan of 15th July 1878), Portion 21 in 1878 (notation C.P. 78.232 . 18th July 1878. on the survey plan of 15th July 1878), Portion 30 in 1879 (notation A.C.P. 79.20 dated 23rd Jany. on the survey plan of 27th May ’85), and Portion 31 in 1879 (notation A.C.P. 79.187 dated 31st July. on the survey plan of 22nd November 1879).

When did John McInnes and his family move to live at Kowen, what types of dwellings did they build and when were they built?

There are many different views on when the McInnes family moved to Kowen, what types of dwellings they built and when they were built.

Lea-Scarlett (1968, p117) says ‘John McInnes’s homestead on his selection at Kowen saw many changes as his own family grew to fourteen children and five orphaned nieces and nephews were adopted. His first house was a mud hut, later replaced by wattle and daub, roofed in bark. Floors were made from pipeclay, hardened into cement by the addition of antbed, and covered with possum-rugs. As the family increased, a new house was built and the old one converted to the ‘boys’ room’, but some children still had to sleep in a hayshed. John McInnes’s son, Gilbert, built the final Kowen homestead of pisé about 1910’.

Lea-Scarlett, Cross and Sheedy (1978, p4) say ‘John McInnes built the original Kowen Homestead of mud prior to 1870’.

Cross and Sheedy (1978, p2) say ‘Whilst we agree that he may not have built his Kowen homestead until 1885, he certainly lived elsewhere on Kowen where he raised some of his 15 children’.

C&DHS *Newsletter* (December 1979, p5) says ‘It [the demolished Kowen homestead] was the third house built by the McInneses on the site — a mud hut first in 1887, then a four-room slab and finally pisé’.

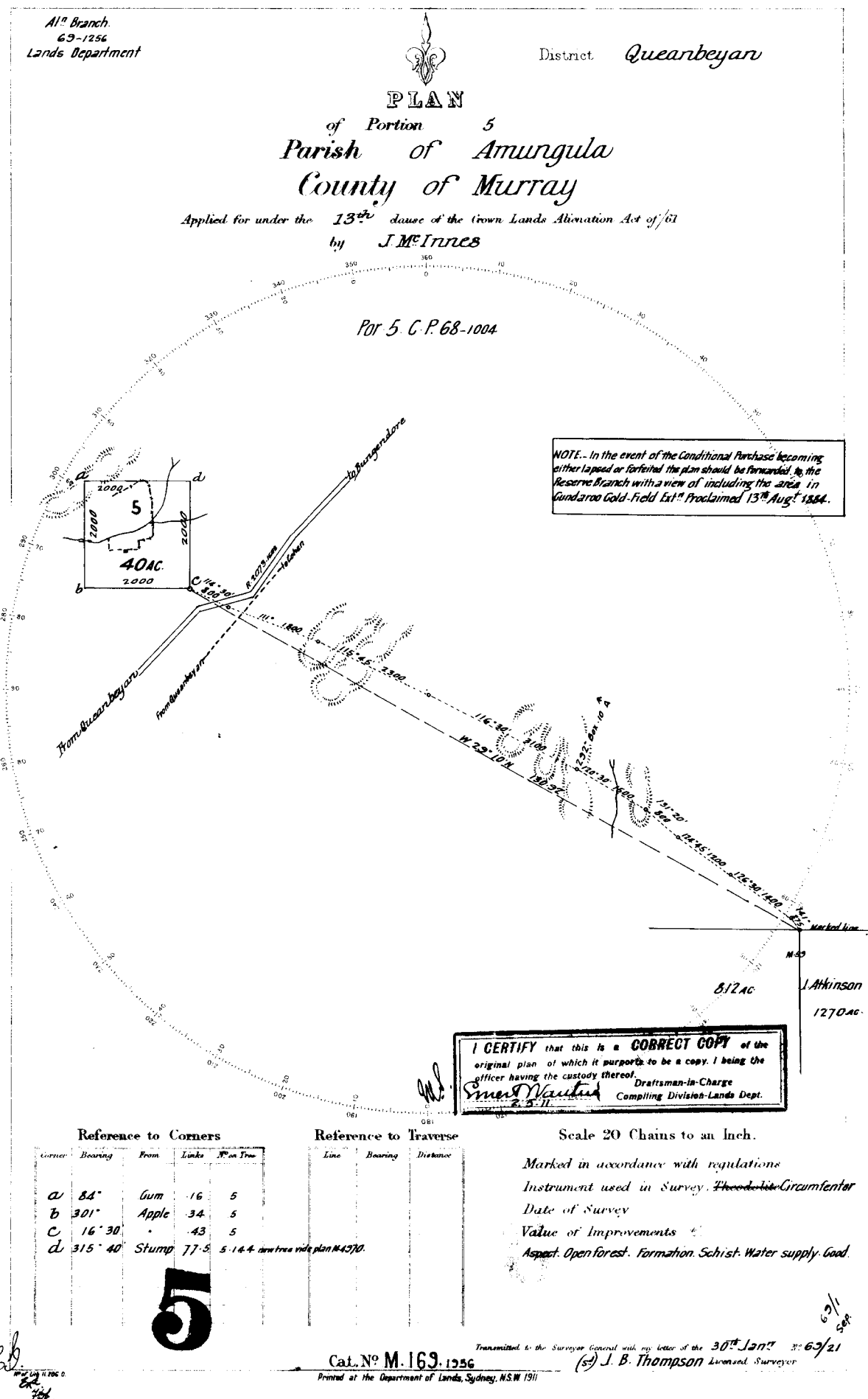
Cross (1985, p51) says ‘... there is little doubt that they [the McInneses] were on Kowen long before they built the original homestead ‘Kowen’ on Kowen in 1880s’.

C&DHS (1989) records ‘Mr Tuson started at Kowen on 15.10.1926 clearing land and planting pines. There were four buildings: Kowen House, two others with bark roofs and can’t remember details of the other’. (C&DHS, 1984, p5 spells the name of the McInnes’ house as ‘Cohen House’.)

Scougal (1996) p18 says ‘The Historical Society’s records suggest that his “Kowen” homestead was built around 1885. However, descendants have a photograph of the pisé dwelling being constructed which is dated 1910’.

Folger (1998, p40) says ‘*Kowen*, the McInnes family home, was built about a mile to the west of the woolshed, in the 1880s. The old building was replaced in 1910 by a pise house which Gil McInnes and his team built. (There is a photo in the earlier McInnes family history of it under construction.)’ [The reference to the earlier family history is to Folger (1989, p13).]

Survey plan of portion 5, Parish of Amungula



Thus it seems that John McInnes progressively built dwellings of differing materials at Kowen. But there is no consensus on when he moved into the first dwelling he built — perhaps the safest thing to say from the above information would be sometime between about 1870 and about 1885.

Most of the above information on the type of building materials used and the timing of taking up residence were written by people well after the events took place — in many cases 100 years or so later.

There are, however, a couple of contemporary sources that suggest that John McInnes was still living at Dirty Swamp in the late 1870s/early 1880s. Greville's Directory for 1875–77 lists, under Queanbeyan, 'McInnis, John, farmer, Swamp', and Cross and Sheedy (1978, p2) report that Ballier's *Post Office Directory* of 1881 listed John McInnes as a Farmer at 'The Swamp'.

Care needs to be exercised in drawing conclusions from post office directories about where people were actually living at the time. Sometimes people simply did not get around to changing their entry, particularly if they were well known and had lived in one place for many years.

Two new sources of information

During August 2006 I came across two new sources of information. Both were written much closer to the time the events took place. The sources were the application of 3 May 1881 to establish the school at Kowen (State Records NSW 5/16510.4) and valuer Moriarty's schedule of improvements on A&C McInnes' 'Coen' Holding 226 associated with the Commonwealth's compulsory acquisition of the portions in Holding 226 on 18 March 1915 (NAA: A358 226). Holding 226 encompassed, from north to south, Portions 49, 9, 18, 31, 5, 30, 10, 19, 11 and 67. Moriarty was instructed to prepare the valuation on 12 November 1913 but the copy of his valuation I have seen is not dated.

Application of 3 May 1881 to establish the school at Kowen

The application to establish a school included a listing of people and the children that they undertook would attend the school. Among the people was John McInnes who nominated 4 children and the schedule showed that he lived 2 miles (3.5km) from the proposed school. This means that John McInnes and his family were living at the Kowen homestead complex in May 1881. We can therefore refine the time that John McInnes and his family moved to Kowen to no later than May 1881.

Moriarty's description and valuation of improvements at the Kowen homestead complex

Among other things, Moriarty described and valued the buildings that comprised the Kowen homestead complex at the time including a shed, stables, buggy shed, fowl house, brick oven, scullery, dairy, workshop & store, bedrooms with skillion, room (called the 'honey-room' in a memorandum of 31 January 1916 from the Director-General of Works to The Chief Surveyor in NAA: A358 226), house and another house.

Moriarty's description and valuation of the Bedrooms and Skillion, House and the other House follow:

Bedrooms

Slab 3 sides, stone end, brick chimney, iron roof, wood floor & hessian lined & ceiled.

Behind house

Bad (Condition): very old (date of erection).

27'x14'x7' [8.24m x 4.27m x 2.14m] to wall plates.

Skillion

Slab sides, bark roof, unfloored, 7' [2.14m] high side, 4' [1.22m] lower side.

Behind house

24'x7'x51/2' [7.32m x 2.14m x 1.68m] min height

Value (of bedrooms and skillion) £27

House.

Pise walls 3 sides, slab front and partition, brick chimney, wood floor, iron roof.

24'x22'x10' [7.32m x 6.71m x 3.05m]

Verandah iron roof, wood floor

6'x24' [1.83m x 32m]

Good (condition). 1890 (date of erection)

Value (of house and verandah) £100

House.

Pise walls finished inside & out with plaster, iron roof, steel ceilings, except small pantry pine ceiled, wood floor. 3 French lights: other windows properly fitted: painted throughout: verandah all round well raised: tank connected through wall by 1 inch gal. pipe.

Cood (condition). 1895/00 (date of erection)

32'x40'x 11' [9.76m x 12.2m x 3.36m]

8'x176' 1000 gal.tanks. [176' may refer to length of gal. pipe]

Value £482 (of house £389 and tanks and pipe £93)

(The memorandum of 31 January 1916 mentioned above gave different amounts for the values of the above structures. They were, in order, £23, £89 and £519.)

While the description of the second pisé house does not list the number of rooms (four) or the fact that it had two internal fireplaces (Scougal, 1996, p19), other aspects of the description, such as the verandah all round, confirm that it was what was commonly referred to as the Kowen homestead. Unfortunately, the Kowen homestead and all the associated buildings have been totally destroyed — they were bulldozed in 1979.

Because Moriarty's valuation could almost be described as 'contemporary', I think that significant weight has to be attached to it. It confirms that there were several stages in the evolution of the Kowen homestead complex. Very significantly, Moriarty puts the date of construction of the final pisé house, 1895/00, some 10 years or so earlier than around 1910 mentioned in several sources listed earlier. Because Moriarty's valuation would have been carried out on site, and he would undoubtedly have had the opportunity to discuss it with the family who were still living there, I am confident that we can rely on his dating.

Conclusions

1. John McInnes first purchased land (Portion 5) in Kowen in 1868 and he then progressively purchased more land;
2. John McInnes and his family moved to live in what became the Kowen homestead complex on Portion 5 around 1880, but no later than May 1881; and
3. John McInnes and his family built several dwellings over the years on Portion 5 to form the Kowen homestead complex including: one of slab and stone with a slab skillion; one of pisé and slab built around 1890; and finally, one of pisé built around 1895/1900.

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We often come across old ruins when we are out walking: slabs of timber, old fences, bits of iron. We know they are the remnants of people's lives and we sometimes speculate about the stories behind the weathered remains lying in the grass.

In this monograph Colin McAlister has documented the rich history of twelve of the sites at Glenburn and Burbong and fleshed out the stories so that we can image the schoolroom with the wind whistling through it or the merry dancing at the bachelors' ball.

NPA ACT is pleased to be associated with publication of this work because the area is coming under increasing pressure for development and significant changes are being planned. If we don't care for these sites we risk losing not only a noteworthy bit of our own history but also an awareness of how people lived and what was important to them, things like a sound education for their children as well as having a really good party from time to time. Colin McAlister's work reminds us that the preservation of our history is in our own hands.

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