

# Wingecarribee Shire

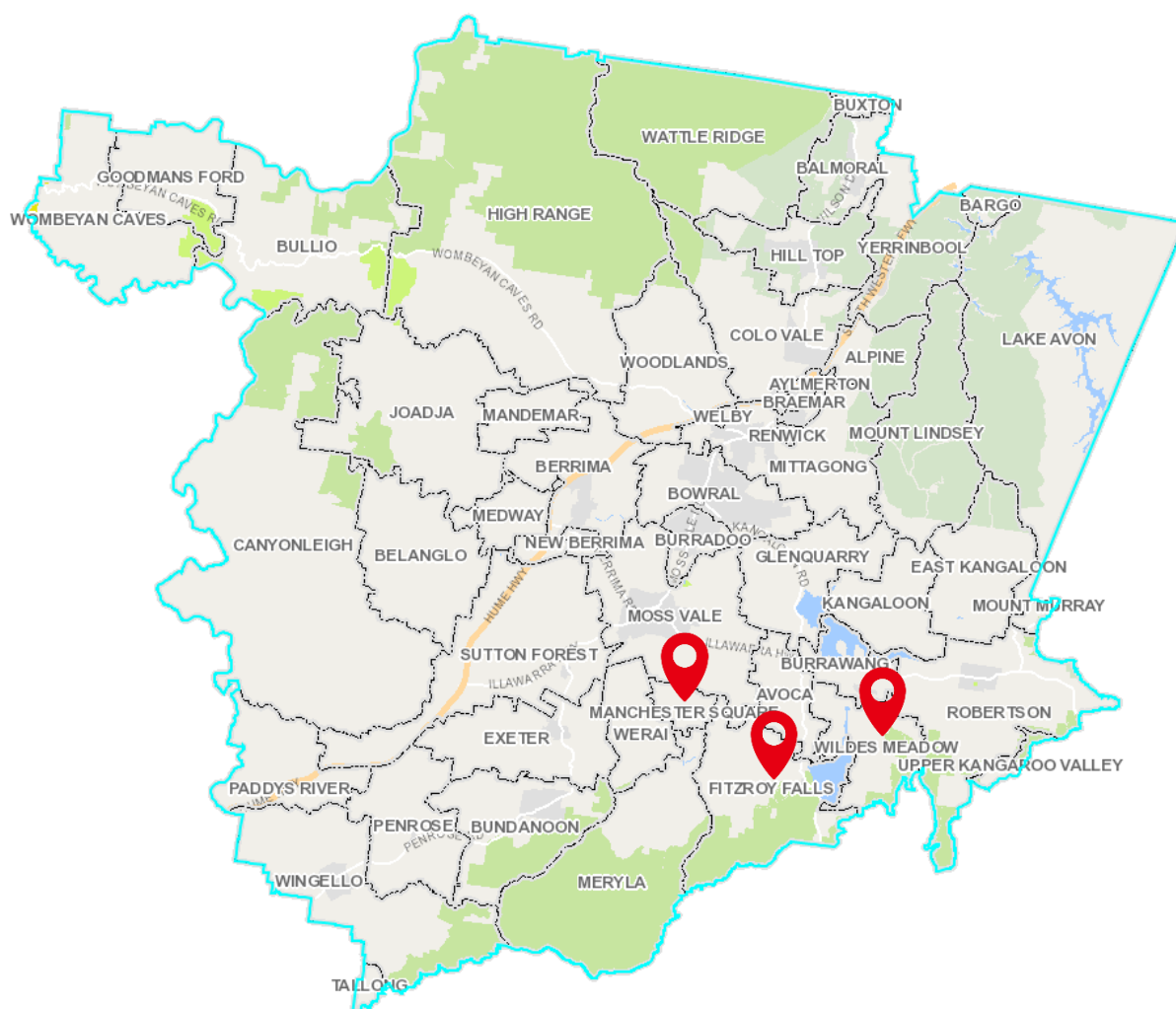
## Heritage Study 2021-23

A Community Based Heritage Study

Volume 3.9

### Preliminary Evidence Sheets for **Fitzroy Falls,** **Manchester Square & Wildes Meadow**

August 2023



*We're with you*

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## Part A: Recommended Heritage Places



## **‘Ulster Park’—two storey Victorian house built 1881**

### **1059 Nowra Road, Fitzroy Falls**

#### **Recommendation**

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Include as a new heritage item in Schedule 5 (Part 1 Heritage items) of the Wingecarribee Local Environmental Plan 2010.

#### **Description**

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Ulster Park is a two and half storey masonry building on a large land holding. Post 2002 major extensions were made to the left and right of the early two and half storey main gabled mansard roof section and the building now appears as in the image below. The two storey verandah has cast iron posts and ballustrade. Lower floor has one set of french doors each side of the entrance doorway. Upper floor has two sets of double hung windows either side of the central doorway. Roof has two gabled double hung windows



***Above:*** photo showing the early central mansard roof section hugely extended left and right and to the rear after 2002.



***Above:*** undated image from BDHS. Showing the original two and half storey main mansard roof early section. Two storey verandah has cast iron post and balustrade. Lower floor has one set of french doors each side. Upper floor has two sets of double hung windows either side of central doorway. Roof has two gabled double hung windows





**Above:** Image above Google Earth. 14 January 2022. This image shows the early central mansard roof section hugely extended left and right and to the rear after 2002.

### Internet Review

One image found as below with this text from:

[https://sellickconsultants.com.au/project\\_cat/structural/](https://sellickconsultants.com.au/project_cat/structural/)

*The existing heritage homestead was the main residence for the district built in 1881 and most fertile land in NSW. The heritage value of the property requiring the retainment and refurbishment as part of the major additions to the homestead.*

*The works required extensive consultation with geotechnical engineers due to the highly reactive nature of the soils, where consideration of stabilizing the existing structure was required with articulation to allow for potential movement between new and old, which included below ground cellar structures.*

*The resulting building creating a sound functional structure, complementing the heritage nature of the existing dwelling ensuring the future performance of the heritage homestead.*

## History

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**Extract below reprinted by the BDHS in its March 2021 newsletter.**

Ulster Park on the Moss Vale to Nowra Road at Fitzroy Falls.

*The book "Echoes Through the Mist – a history of the Avoca District" was compiled in 1988 for the Avoca Bicentenary Committee. It was revised in 2013 by Ron Mumford and reprinted by our Society. Included is a chapter by Doug Cull on Ulster Park, built at Yarrunga in 1881. Edited extracts follow here:*

*"All who have travelled the Moss Vale to Fitzroy Falls Road have seen Ulster Park, the old home on the hill about nine miles from Moss Vale. Every man, it has been written, builds his own monument and this imposing stone edifice on the roadside is that of Peter Hart. It was in the fifties of last century that Hart first set eyes upon the section of rising ground which reared above the level of the surrounding scrub. A young man, a carpenter and joiner, he came from the old country to seek his fortune, and fate found him plying his trade at Sutton Forest.*

*His path was a peculiarly rosy one in those days, for the gold rush had enticed many from their work and those who remained reaped a harvest. Peter was one of these and success found him engaging in business in Sydney, demolishing and re-building houses and terraces, but before long he submitted to a yearning to again return to the locality upon which his heart was bent. First, he negotiated the purchase of the land upon which Ulster Park now stands.*

*Yarrunga was then a cluster of houses at the 9-mile post, one of them being the post office. Here, Mrs Payne lived, and was ready with hot coffee for the mail driver when he drove his horses round the curve to the door at 11 o'clock at night on his way to Nowra.*

*The coach on the return journey would arrive at 3am and the coffee would again be ready.*

*Near the post office stood Webb's saw-mill. Further back was Jimmy Jones's farm; across the road where stood the dilapidated "Rebecca Cottage" lived Mrs Ritchie, and later, Roger Spain, a bricklayer, who helped to build the big house. All these places were acquired eventually by Peter Hart, and the post office was moved along to past the 10-mile post.*

*Peter had the property fenced, cleared and cultivated by local labour, bought a piece of land with stone on it and had the stone quarried and cut for the building of his house. He erected a brick-kiln where the big dam stands near the road.*

*Then the house was built, solid and strong; 16 rooms in the three-storeyed main building, the only fault being the omission of a bathroom, which had to be added and clings like a limpet to the outside back wall. The rear part, a kitchen with a big open fireplace where log fires crackled and the kettle hung on a crane and with a baker's oven built into the wall; other bedrooms, a concrete-floored billiard room, the ballroom with its fireplace, and a cellar which Peter did not neglect to stock – were all well-built, and will stand for many a day.*

*Peter Hart leased the property about 1896 to the de Mestres, who had it for several years, and after them the Wrights had it for a sheep-run. Later Wyatt rented it, and then Peter Hart returned."*

*Tours of Ulster Park were held from the 1970s to raise funds for the BDHS, the then owner Doug Cull being our Society's President for most of that decade.*

### **Information on Peter Hart 1840-1917 from this site**

<https://www.sydneyaldermen.com.au/alderman/peter-hart/>

#### **Family background**

*Peter Francis Hart was born in Belfast, Ireland in 1840, the fourth son of John and Margaret Hart (née Morgan). From the age of 11 he started working for his father's carpentry and coffin-making business.*

*At age 19 he arrived in Sydney on the Palmyra on 7 April 1859, listed as a Roman Catholic and carpenter by trade. In a letter to his niece Annie Nolan dated 27 September 1915, he wrote that before leaving Ireland he saw his grandmother in Dublin who asked, 'was I not a very little fellow to be going to Australia?', to which he replied, 'I mean to make a fortune there to keep my mother in her old age'.*

*He married dressmaker Elizabeth Murray on 15 February 1865 at Berrima, NSW and they had two children, Peter Francis (Frank) and Margaret (Maggie). In 1885 Hart assumed guardianship over his orphaned nieces Margaret, Catherine and Mary Anne Hart.*

*His daughter Maggie died of chronic pneumonia, aged 23, in 1895 along with his niece Margaret Fitzgerald (née Hart) nine months later. His wife, Elizabeth, died the following year on 6 July 1896 and in 1898 he married Ellen (Nellie) Gertrude in Brighton, Victoria. Together they had one daughter, Elizabeth Gertrude (Gertie) Hart.*

*Hart died of heart congestion on 28 December 1917 at 'Ulster Park', Yarrunga (now Fitzroy Falls). His funeral was held at St Joseph's Church at Newtown three days later and he was buried in the Hart family vault at Waverley Cemetery with his first wife Elizabeth, daughter Maggie and niece Margaret.*

#### **Occupation & interests**

*Shortly after his arrival in Sydney in 1859, Peter Hart went to the gold diggings at Kiandra, NSW. After no success there, he went to Goulburn and Berrima and worked as a carpenter.*

*Hart then moved to Sutton Forest and worked as a builder, completing his first house and sending a portion of his earnings to his widowed mother in Belfast. He also built the first public school in Berrima in 1869, and a public school at Moss Vale. In 1870 Hart also constructed Ulster Terrace which comprised 17 terraces built at 48-80 Station Street, Newtown.*

*His properties eventually included Hart's Buildings off Gloucester Street near Circular Quay and real estate in Surry Hills, Essex Street and Denison Street, Newtown. In 1882 he was recorded as owner of 1 to 45 and 8 to 40 Hart Street in Millers Point. He also owned the Butchery Building at 178-180 Cumberland St, Sydney, which he resided in 1892-1900. The Butchery Building and Hart's Building on Essex St are considered of State Heritage significance as they 'illustrate the range and diversity of small scale development' in The Rocks area from the 1840s to World War 1.*

*The Darling Harbour Wharves Resumption Act 1900 included Hart's Millers Point and Essex St properties as well as the family home in Cumberland St. In a letter to his son Frank dated 8 February 1904, Hart said he 'put a bit of energy to build the block in Essex so as to have something in old age, done with big overdraft and high interest. Cost 2700 pounds in new buildings'. Hart was never fully compensated for the cost of his properties.*

*Hart lived in his three-storey stone house 'Ulster Park' at Yarrunga, which he built in 1881, and also at one of the Ulster Terraces at 70 Station St, Newtown. He worked as a builder until his death in 1917.*

#### **Community activity**



*Peter Hart may have been on the Committee for the Adelaide Jubilee Exhibition in June 1887.*

#### *Local government service*

*Peter Hart was Alderman of Newtown Council for the newly created Camden Ward in September 1886 until his retirement in June 1887. In 1872 he stood unsuccessfully for Sydney City Council as the representative for Gipps Ward. An advocate of municipal reform, he was elected Alderman for Gipps Ward for Sydney City Council on 23 May 1883, replacing Alderman James Merriman, and continued unopposed in the subsequent five elections for that seat until 30 November 1899.*

*Between 1891 and 1895 he was a member of the Disposal of Refuse Committee, the Specifications and Tenders Committee, and the Height of Buildings Committee. He also sat on the Finance Committee, the Electric Lighting Committee, and the Garbage Disposal Committee in 1899.*

#### References

City of Sydney Archives: Aldermen's Files including family history; Photos: CRS 54/374; 54/421; 54/444

Berrima District Historical Society & Avoca Bi-centenary Committee (NSW) 1992, *Echoes through the mist : a history of the Avoca District*, written to celebrate Australia's Bi-centenary, 1988, [Rev. ed.], Berrima District Historical Society, [Moss Vale, NSW]

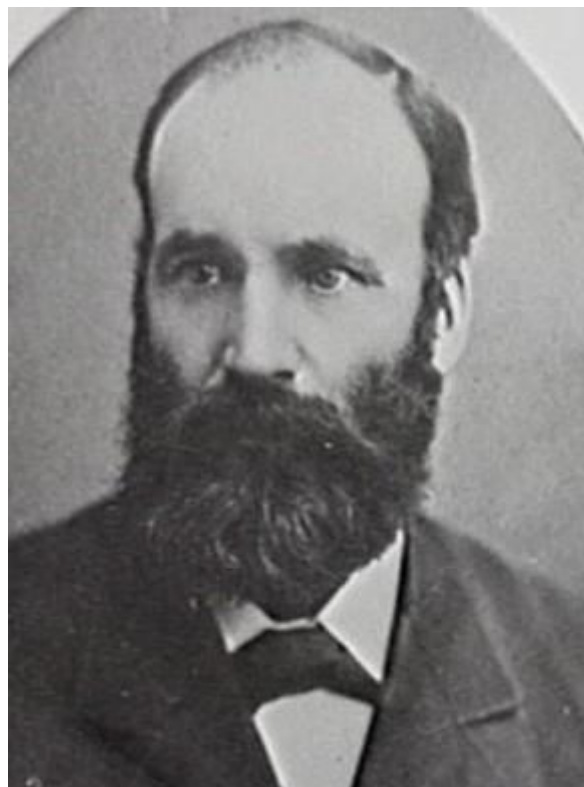
Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW: Dal Scott Oliver Papers. ML MSS 5775

Sydney Mail 30 November 1889

[‘Peter Francis Hart’](#), Newtown Project

[‘Shops and Residences’](#), State Heritage and Conservation Register, Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority

[Hart Street, Millers Point](#), 1890-1910 via State Library of Victoria



**Above:** Image from <https://www.sydneyaldermen.com.au/alderman/peter-hart/>



## Heritage Significance Assessment

The proposed item has been assessed against the seven NSW Heritage Assessment Criteria. To be considered for local heritage listing, an item must meet one or more criteria on a local level. To understand more about the NSW Heritage Assessment Criteria, refer to the Heritage NSW publication *Assessing Heritage Significance* available online at <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/assessing-heritage-significance>.

NSW heritage assessment criteria	Assessment of site (no content = site has not been assessed against that criterion)
<b>(a) HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE</b>	<i>Of significance to the history of the local area because it illustrates the 1880s development of this area of the Fitzroy Falls area.</i>
<b>(b) ASSOCIATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE</b>	<i>Of significance because of its association with the significant owner and builder of Ulster Park, Peter Hart 1840-1917. Peter Francis Hart was born in Belfast, Ireland in 1840. At age 19 he arrived in Sydney on the Palmyra on 7 April 1859, listed as a Roman Catholic and carpenter by trade. Shortly after his arrival he went to the gold diggings at Kiandra, NSW. After no success there, he went to Goulburn and Berrima and worked as a carpenter. Hart then moved to Sutton Forest and worked as a builder, completing his first house. He also built the first public school in Berrima in 1869, and a public school at Moss Vale. In 1870 Hart also constructed Ulster Terrace which comprised 17 terraces built at 48-80 Station Street, Newtown. His properties eventually included Hart's Buildings off Gloucester Street near Circular Quay and real estate in Surry Hills, Essex Street and Denison Street, Newtown. In 1882 he was recorded as owner of 1 to 45 and 8 to 40 Hart Street in Millers Point. He also owned the Butchery Building at 178-180 Cumberland St, Sydney, which he resided in 1892-1900. The Butchery Building and Hart's Building on Essex St are considered of State Heritage significance as they 'illustrate the range and diversity of small scale development' in The Rocks area from the 1840s to World War 1. Peter Hart was Alderman of Newtown Council for the newly created Camden Ward in September 1886 until his retirement in June 1887. An advocate of municipal reform, he was elected Alderman for Gipps Ward for Sydney City Council on 23 May 1883 and continued unopposed in the subsequent five elections for that seat until 30 November 1899. Hart lived in his three-storey stone house 'Ulster Park' at Yarrunga, which he built in 1881, and also at one of the Ulster Terraces at 70 Station St, Newtown. He worked as a builder until his death. He Hart died on 28 December 1917 at 'Ulster Park', Yarrunga (now Fitzroy Falls). His funeral was held at St Joseph's Church at Newtown and he was buried in the Hart family vault at Waverley Cemetery with his first wife Elizabeth, daughter Maggie and niece Margaret.</i>
<b>(c) AESTHETIC OR TECHNICAL SIGNIFICANCE</b>	<i>Of significance in demonstrating aesthetic achievement in the local area because of the beauty of its setting and architectural form.</i>
<b>(d) SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE</b>	
<b>(e) RESEARCH POTENTIAL</b>	
<b>(f) RARITY</b>	<i>Of significance because the item possesses a rare aspect of the local area's heritage in this case a substantial original 1881 two and a half storey stone mansion in a rural setting which still exists and can be seen as the central section within a now much larger house.</i>
<b>(g) REPRESENTATIVENESS</b>	

**Integrity/Intactness****Statement of Heritage Significance**

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Ulster Park at 1059 Nowra Road Fitzroy Falls is significant because it illustrates the 1880s development of this area of the Fitzroy Falls area and for its association with the significant owner and builder of Ulster Park, Peter Hart (1840-1917) builder, real estate developer and local government politician. It is also of significance in demonstrating aesthetic achievement in the local area because of the beauty of its setting and architectural form and for being a rare item of the local area's heritage in this case a substantial original 1881 two and a half storey stone mansion in a rural setting which still exists and can be seen as the central section within a now much larger house.

## Former Emmanuel Church, now a residence 1131 Nowra Road Fitzroy Falls

### Recommendation

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Include as a new heritage item in Schedule 5 (Part 1 Heritage items) of the Wingecarribee Local Environmental Plan 2010.

### Description

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February 2021: Located in rural setting adjoining the major holding of Ulster Park. It is set on approximately 2000 m<sup>2</sup>. A simple gabled structure in weatherboard with a steep pitched iron roof. Site is entered through new elegant wrought iron double gates with stone returns.



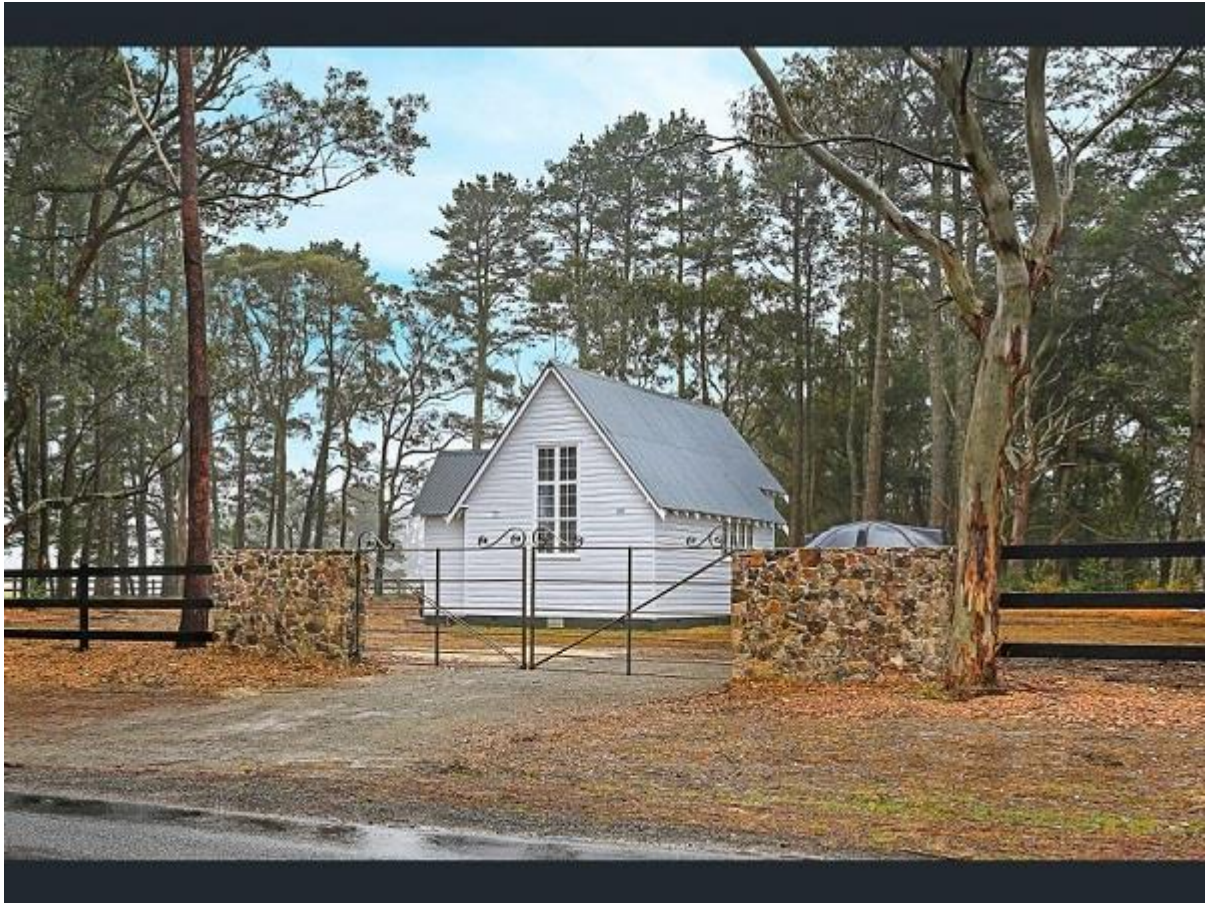
*Above: Image Feb 2021*

### Internet Review

4 images and listing notes from this site from 2018 including 2 images below

<https://www.realestate.com.au/sold/property-house-nsw-fitzroy+falls-129256514>





With fabulous potential for resurrection and re-purposing, the former Emmanuel Anglican Church at Fitzroy Falls presents a unique and rare opportunity. Surrounded by stunning green paddocks (and occasional livestock) your borrowed view is superb and exactly what you imagine the Southern Highlands to deliver. Inspection is a must, so act quickly as you will not get a second chance at such a divine little property.

Other features include:

Freshly painted weatherboard and corrugated iron roof

Timber floorboards

Impressive stone gateposts and metal gates

New timber post and rail fencing



Cleared and mulched grounds  
 Underground power supply  
 Provision for rainwater catchment  
 Wastewater management plan completed  
 Patterned glass windows  
 Small vestibule, nave, altar and sacristy



**Above:** Early images at this site including one below of the then lined interior.  
<https://www.churchesaustralia.org/list-of-churches/locations/new-south-wales/f-k-towns/directory/2368-emmanuel-anglican-church-former>

## History

There is a record of the church and one black and white image from 1987 in the book *Echoes Through the Mist, A History of the Avoca District* 1988. Pages 155-156.

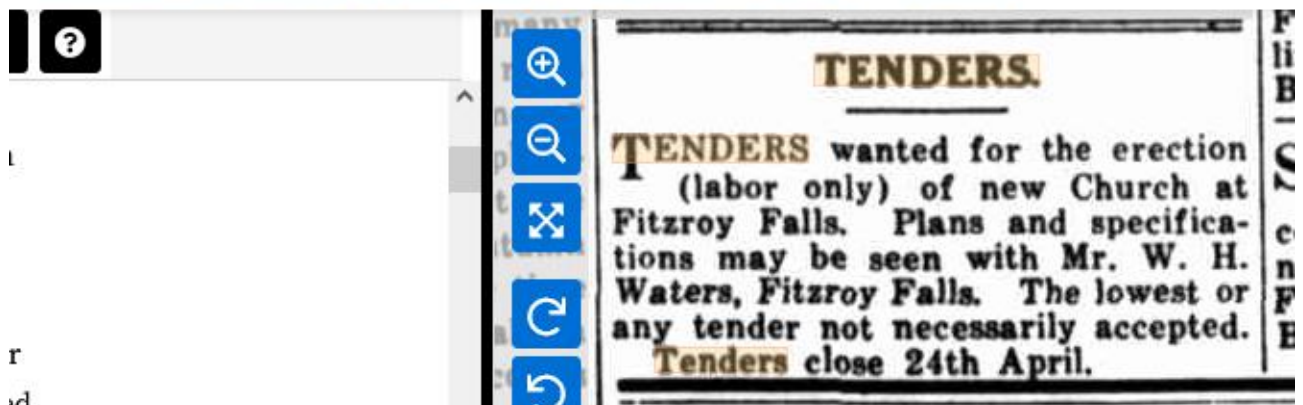
*In 1885 Rev Mullens from Sutton Forest Anglican Parish mentioned to Peter Hart of Ulster Park that there was need for church in the Yarunga area. Although of different faith, Peter Hart donated the land for a church, on the proviso that the land was not used as a cemetery. So the Church of Emmanuel was built.*

*Little details is known about the first building which served the community .....The church was associated with Sutton Forest parish but with increasing settlement, Moss Vale became a new parish, and Emmanuel Church became associated with the new parish.*

*It became necessary to replace the building in the 1930's and in 1937 the present building was consecrated...*

**9 April 1937 Tenders called for New Church at Fitzroy Falls. Contact is Mr. W. H. Waters at Fitzroy Falls.**

[The Southern Mail \(Bowral, NSW : 1889 - 1954\) / Fri 9 Apr 1937 / Page 4 / Advertising](#)



## 2 December 1938 Tenders called for painting the Church at Fitzroy Falls

The Southern Mail (Bowral, NSW : 1889 - 1954) / Fri 2 Dec 1938 / Page 3 / Advertising



## Heritage Significance Assessment

The proposed item has been assessed against the seven NSW Heritage Assessment Criteria. To be considered for local heritage listing, an item must meet one or more criteria on a local level. To understand more about the NSW Heritage Assessment Criteria, refer to the Heritage NSW publication *Assessing Heritage Significance* available online at <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/assessing-heritage-significance>.

NSW heritage assessment criteria	Assessment of site (no content = site has not been assessed against that criterion)
(a) HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE	<i>Of significance to the history of the local area because it illustrates the development of the of Fitzroy Falls area in the 1930s when the current church was built on this site.</i>
(b) ASSOCIATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE	<i>Of significance because of its association in the local area as the gift of the land for the church by Peter Hart who lived in the adjoining Ulster Park a two and half storey storey stone house which he built in 1881.</i>
(c) AESTHETIC OR TECHNICAL SIGNIFICANCE	<i>Of significance in demonstrating aesthetic achievement in the local area because the beauty of its setting and architectural form.</i>
(d) SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE	<i>Of significance because of its association of this site and church buildings with the Anglican Church community of Fitzroy Falls and district until its closure c. 2017.</i>
(e) RESEARCH POTENTIAL	
(f) RARITY	
(g) REPRESENTATIVENESS	<i>Of significance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of the local area's heritage in this case a simple Gothic form church from the 1930s.</i>

## Integrity/Intactness

Substantially intact although some alterations have been made

## Statement of Heritage Significance

The Former Emmanuel Church at 1131 Nowra Road Fitzroy Falls is significant because it illustrates the development of the Fitzroy Falls area in the 1930s when the current church was built on this earlier site and for of its association with the Anglican Church community of Fitzroy Falls and district until its closure c. 2017 and for its association with Peter Hart who lived in the adjoining Ulster Park who gave the land for the church to be built. It is also of significance for the beauty of its setting and

architectural form and for demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of the local area's heritage in this case a simple Gothic form church from the 1930s.

## Remains of convict retaining walls and guttering Meryla Road, Manchester Square

### Recommendation

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Include as a new heritage item in Schedule 5 (Part 1 Heritage items) of the Wingecarribee Local Environmental Plan 2010.

### Description

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Remains of convict era retaining walls along the western side of Meryla Road adjacent to nos. 221 (eastern portion) and 228.

Remains of a convict era retaining wall on the eastern side of Meryla Road adjacent to the northern part of no. 301.

Remains of sandstone drains adjacent to Meryla Road on the western side adjacent to site of the former Manchester Square school at no. 296.

These features—along with other historical features in the Manchester Square area—are shown on the map over page.



**Above:** Area of sandstone kerbing, now only partially visible and covered with debris (S. Farnese, 2023).





### Manchester Square - historical features (mapped 2023)

Any information (numerical or otherwise), representation, statement, opinion or advice expressed or implied in this publication is made in good faith but on the basis that the council of the shire of Wingecarribee, its agents and its employees are not liable (whether by reason of negligence, lack of care or otherwise) to any person for any damage or loss whatsoever which has occurred or may occur in relation to that person taking or not taking (as the case may be) action in respect of any information, representation, statement, or advice referred to above.

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**Above:** Manchester Square historical features, mapped areas 2023 (Source: WSC, aerial image by Nearmap, 12 June 2023).





**Above:** Example of extant retaining wall on the western side of Meryla Road (S. Farnese, 2023).



**Above:** Retaining wall on western side of Meryla Road, c.2010.

Images and notes at this site <https://visitkangaroovalley.com.au/old-meryla-road>





**Above:** Example of extant retaining wall further south along Meryla Road. Location and current condition of this wall to be determined. (Source: <https://visitkangaroovalley.com.au/old-meryla-road/>.)

## History

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### Old Meryla Road

*Follow an historic aboriginal route and old road, see beautiful views stretching across the valley, enjoy lush vegetation and a waterfront lunch spot. Allow a full day for this walk.*

*The Old Meryla Road is a fascinating glimpse back to a time of early exploration and hand built roads. After the steep descent from Meryla Pass most of the trail is a well shaded, gradual slope. The trail descends through lush rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest and passes an historic coal seam and the old farm area of Gales flat. After 2.5km the Old Meryla Road branches off to the right from the main track and continues for 5.5km until it disappears into the stored water of Lake Yarrunga which was flooded in 1975.*

*The Old Meryla Road is historically significant on two counts: It was the route of the first entry into Kangaroo Valley in 1818 by a white man, Charles Throsby. He was led into the Valley by an Aboriginal man known as 'Timelong'. Nearly 80 years later, in 1896, a road was constructed on this route. There are amazing stone retaining walls, especially where the creeks cross under the trail. On the high side of the trail you can see evidence of drill holes used for fracturing the solid rock. Lake Yarrunga is a good spot for lunch before retracing your steps back to the car park. The last 3km of the return walk is a steep climb back to the car park.*

*This walk is best done in spring, autumn or winter. If walking in summer avoid the hottest part of the day. The turnaround point is at Lake Yarrunga where there is fresh water for cooling off. Boil or sterilise water before drinking. If walking in spring or summer keep an eye out for snakes basking in the heat. All snakes should be treated with caution and left alone. Let someone know where you are going and when you are due back. Dogs are not allowed in the park. There is mobile phone reception at the car park but not on the walk. Walk-in camping permitted at Gales Flat.*

**The history of Meryla locality. Text below by Philip Morton, October 2021 from a 4-part series in Southern Highland News provided by BDHS.**

*From the 1860s, the parish of Meryla encompassed the area that includes today's Manchester Square and Werai localities. It also extended south to Sandy Creek and down into Meryla Valley at the western end of Kangaroo Valley, reached by a steep track at Meryla Pass. In March 1818, Aboriginal guides led explorer Dr Charles Throsby and his party down the Pass which he described, but did not name, in his journal.*

*From the 1820s the Pass served as a stock route for settlers including James Atkinson of Sutton Forest. The first known use of the name Meryla was as a mountain and a creek, appearing on Robert Hoddle's 1831 map of Kangaroo Valley. By the 1860s settlement had begun in the more accessible parts of the parish. As well as being adopted for the Pass, the name Meryla was given to a siding (later Werai) on the Southern Railway, and by the 1890s there were farms in Meryla Valley, accessed by Meryla Road. While some of the Meryla locality remains as private land today, much of its area is now NSW State Forest or lies within Morton National Park.*

*Details about Meryla Valley's early settlers and their fate, and also about motor vehicle enthusiasts using the Pass in the 1930s, will come later. The history of Meryla became of great interest, in the 1970s, to Janet Cosh and Rachel Roxburgh, two local women. They undertook research, interviewed 'old-timers', and visited the Pass which they ventured down on foot.*

*Janet Cosh (1901-1989) had a direct connection, being a great grand-daughter of James Atkinson who, as noted above, used the Pass in the 1820s. Granted land at Sutton Forest, in 1828 he built a residence, Oldbury, but died at the age of 34. An intelligent and successful farmer, he wrote An Account of the State of Agriculture and Grazing in NSW, a much-acclaimed book published in London in 1826. His youngest daughter Louisa became a well-known novelist, painter and naturalist. Her daughter Annie married Dr John Cosh, and Janet was their daughter.*

*Janet Cosh was a proficient botanist. She collected and documented innumerable flora specimens unique to the Southern Highlands and beyond. Her collection is now housed at the University of Wollongong's 'Janet Cosh Herbarium'.*

*Rachel Roxburgh (1915-1991), was an artist, conservationist and architectural heritage campaigner, born at Point Piper, Sydney. In the 1950s she joined the National Trust of Australia (NSW), working to identify the colonial architectural heritage of NSW. She moved to Moss Vale in 1968, converting the old barn at Throsby Park into a residence. She was the first locally elected female councillor, serving on Wingecarribee Shire Council from 1977 to 1980.*

*Of prime interest to the ladies was Dr Charles Throsby's part in the 12-man expedition of 1818, led by James Meehan, to find a way to the coast from the Southern Highlands. Hampered by heavy rain, the expedition split into two groups at the Shoalhaven Gorge. Throsby headed back northeast and found a way to the coast, but historians disagreed about his route down to Jervis Bay. It was this that Janet Cosh established beyond doubt: "The first record of travelling down Meryla Pass is found in the notebooks of Dr Charles Throsby. In March 1818, guided by natives, he crossed the Bundanoon Creek south of Manchester Square and went along an easy line to Sandy Creek and then came upon the gorges of the Lower Yarrunga valley into which the party descended by way of the Pass. The horses had to be unloaded and the packs carried down. It took 4½ hours to reach Yarrunga Creek. The next day the party climbed over rough country but then dropped to meadow land on the banks of the Kangaroo River."*

*Rachel Roxburgh's description of Throsby's route, based on Janet's research, was published in the Royal Australian Historical Society Journal of March 1981. The two ladies thus verified the early historical significance of Meryla Pass.*

*As noted, from the late 1820s some early settlers at Sutton Forest and Appin were moving cattle down Meryla Pass to graze on the fertile flats in Kangaroo Valley. In 1831 Robert Hoddle made an official survey of Kangaroo Valley and his map showed the names of the valley's various mountain ranges, including Mt Meryla, and the Kangaroo River with its branches including Yarrunga Creek (with Fitzroy Falls at the head) and Meryla Creek.*



*The 1831 map is the earliest known documented use of the name 'Meryla'. As no other place in the world bore the name at the time and, as most of the other features in Kangaroo Valley are named from Aboriginal words, perhaps also is Meryla, but its derivation is unknown. It is listed on the NSW Geographical Names Board's place names index, but with no details about its origin or history, and the name has not been found in any Aboriginal name compilations.*

*Mentions of 'Meryla Falls' began appearing in the press in the 1890s. One of these, illustrated with a photo showing a twin drop, described the Falls as being "situated at the entrance to an immense ravine . . . where rises a large, table shaped mountain, called Mt Meryla, forming the southern extremity of a huge line of cliff, through which the water descends to join that of the Kangaroo River".*

*As they do not appear on maps of today, what happened to Meryla Falls? Research reveals that all mentions had ceased by 1910. It appears that Meryla Falls was an earlier name for Twin Falls, a still existing twin-drop waterfall near Fitzroy Falls, but which only flows after heavy rain, being fed by a branch of the same Yarrunga Creek that feeds Fitzroy Falls. A lookout on the eastern side of Twin Falls had previously been known as Meryla lookout.*

*It remains a mystery why the Meryla name for the Falls was changed, and why, similarly, maps no longer show a Meryla Creek. Numerous earlier references to it include in the Farmer and Settler 6 May 1919: "Mountain pass (Meryla Pass) from Moss Vale reaches Kangaroo Valley at the point where the Meryla Creek flows into the river, about 3 miles above the Bundanoon junction." It seems this account and others were using the locality name for the creek and gorge, that is 'Meryla', but actually were describing Yarrunga Creek (said to flow through Meryla Valley) and Yarrunga Valley.*

*While the various earlier uses of the Meryla name may be confusing today, its most consistent and long-lasting usages still apply to a pass, a road, a valley and a locality, all named Meryla, and all associated with the area at the western end of Kangaroo Valley.*

*In the 1890s settlers established farming and grazing in Meryla Valley, initially accessed from Moss Vale via the track from Sutton Forest to Meryla Pass that opened in the 1830s. Valley dwellers gained improved vehicular access when a new road was built in the 1890s, opening as Meryla Rd in 1896. From a turn-off at the main Yarrawa Rd out of Moss Vale, it proceeded to a bridge across Bundanoon Creek and continued to the Pass, which was upgraded for vehicles, and down into Meryla Valley and to the Kangaroo River.*

*The valley is described in 'Down in Old Meryla' an article in the Moss Vale Post in 1947: "Those who stand on the top of Meryla Mountain and look down upon the dense forest and undergrowth with occasional sparsely spaced orchards gone to ruin, or an aging cherry tree, denoting the home of some of the first settlers in this district, find it difficult to realise that, in the memory of those still with us, the verdant valley was worked by upwards of 20 farmers, and where once there was a public school. The coming of the rabbit and the spread of the blackberry changed the outlook of the residents of Meryla." In the 1890s farms were established down in the Meryla Valley. An upgraded Meryla Pass track and the Meryla Road, which linked with the Yarrawa (Nowra) Road near Moss Vale, provided vehicular access.*

*Quoted above is the first paragraph of 'Down in Old Meryla', an article in the Moss Vale Post of October 1947. Contributed by Charles Wright of Moss Vale and formerly of Avoca, it continues here:*

*"When I was 12 years old my father bought 120 acres in the Meryla Valley and this was used as a dry stock run. At that time there was a population of about 70, including farmers, sleeper cutters, spoke and nave cutters (for the wheelwright business), and bee farmers came later. The people successfully applied for a school and I remember when there were well over 20 pupils on the roll.*

*The farmers made butter and had pigs and made Moss Vale the market for most of their produce. There is rich soil throughout most of the valley. They were a wonderful class of people in those days, and most were self-supporting, growing most of their food on the farm. This included fruit and vegetables. One old hand, Jim Ditton, even grew tobacco leaf, cured it in rum and saltpetre and dried it. He then twisted it into one-inch thick strands and stored it until it matured. It was then ready for the pipe, and the old chap was popular among the sleeper cutters.*

*I remember George Waite used to cart sleepers up the mountain pass. While coming around the horse-shoe bend, a wallaby jumped out and frightened the two horses in the lead. They shied and pulled the three horses over a stone wall and fell about 15 feet to the gully below. Two horses were killed outright and another crippled.*

*As for wildlife of the valley, wallabies were there in their thousands, lots of native dogs, tiger cats, fireflies, pigeons, diamond and carpet snakes up to 10 feet long, red-bellied black snakes and a few tiger snakes.*

*I myself ended up with 300 acres in the valley and ran up to 70 bullocks, but when the rabbits and blackberries made their appearance, and the pioneer families grew up and left, the place commenced to deteriorate and today is a back number from an agricultural point of view.*

*I have many times explored the country from Meryla to the Shoalhaven River, and anyone fond of scenery cannot do better than to take a trip to Meryla Valley and go around the cliff to the right before going down the mountain road. With a pair of field glasses, one can see all the upper regions of the Shoalhaven River with its rugged country, and from one point the sea is visible, and in the distance the Braidwood mountain."*

*More information about Meryla Valley is found in notes left by historian Rachel Roxburgh. In 1982 she interviewed Herman Chapman, then in his 70s, who lived at Moss Vale, had run an automobile business, and had spent much time at Meryla. He recounted that Yates had a farm on Gale's Flat, situated down the Pass; the Wells had a school near the Pass (on Garbutt family land), and that up to 1908 there were 30 farms, including both below the Pass and in the forest, but a fire went through that year, burning out most of the farmers who were already in debt, and the bank foreclosed. Several farms were burnt out by bushfires again in 1965.*

*Herman also noted that, by the early 1900s, the mails and through traffic were using Barrengarry Rd, a more direct way in and out of Kangaroo Valley, and when the settlers eventually left Meryla Valley, driven out by rabbits and blackberries, their local road up the Pass fell into disuse.*

*Other sources reveal that Meryla Pass road was repaired in the 1920s and soon attracted adventurous motorists, to be described in the next article.*

*Up to 30 farms were established in Meryla Valley by the 1890s, but the settlers there were eventually driven out by rabbits and blackberries. One 'old-timer' was Stephen Garbutt. Local historian Janet Cosh interviewed him a few years prior to his death in 1970. The following anecdotes of his are from her notes:*

*"Cedar trees growing below the cliffs brought in the cedar cutters. They hoisted the logs up the cliffs and then took them by bullock team to Sutton Forest by way of Weraï. In the same manner an early settler of Bendeela is said to have carried up farm produce. Convicts did the work of side-cutting and forming a track at the Pass in the 1820s. Meryla Valley farmers originally ascended this difficult and narrow bridle track to head across to Sutton Forest by way of Weraï, until a vehicular road was built through the Pass in the 1890s, this perhaps being when the still existing solid rock retaining walls were positioned."*

*Once the settlers had left valley by the 1920s, the road up Meryla Pass deteriorated but, after some repairs were made, Meryla Road attracted adventurous motorists. The Southern Mail of 3 October 1930 described a journey by motor vehicle down the Pass in an article headed 'Valley of a Myriad Scenic Marvels'.*

*It began: "The Southern Highlands are rich in scenic beauty. Some are widely known, including Fitzroy Falls, Belmore Falls, the Burragorang Lookout, the beauties of Sutton Forest, the Gullies of Bundanoon. But off the main routes are even more magnificent views. Amongst these is the awe-inspiring vista of Meryla Valley, which lies on the old road to Kangaroo Valley."*

*The article continued that, under the direction of Guide Briggs, of the NRMA, a party of members of the Association, which included some city visitors, visited this spot by undertaking a round trip from Bowral. In a procession of motor cars, they headed along Meryla Road to the Pass, down which they*

*drove, and then eastward to Kangaroo Valley village, returning from there to Bowral via the Nowra-Moss Vale Rd.*

*The view from the top of the Pass was magnificent: "the first glimpse of the Meryla valley is indescribably beautiful, unrivalled in the Southern Highlands. We continued on to a comfortable camping ground commanding one of the most enchanting landscapes in Australia. A small plateau nearby had once been farmed by Searle's and from this verdant vantage ground the eye swept over towering cliffs, gum-clad mountains, abysmal gullies, rippling streams. Bathed in the golden sunlight of a glorious spring day, the scene was ravishing."*

*The party continued: "Down, down, down through heavily timbered country liberally studded with tree fern, lillipilli, vines laden with glistening white stars, and the manifold beauties of the coastal bush, across streams of crystal purity to the charming village of Kangaroo Valley."*

*The article also noted that some parts of the road had been cleared and numerous road signs erected so any motorist could follow the route. "The trip could be made in good weather with a minimum of discomfort, especially in the lighter cars, being more suitable for the several 'V' bends on the Pass where it is necessary to reverse. It is too much to expect in these times [of depression] that the whole road should be put into first-class order, but a few pounds might well be spent on the few really bad spots."*

*Meryla Road extends from the Nowra Road turn-off to the head of the Pass, where today it terminates at gates locked to motorists. There are two walking tracks nearby: the Meryla Fire Trail that winds along ridge lines towards Fitzroy Falls, and the Griffins Fire Trail that descends Meryla Pass to Gales Flat in Kangaroo Valley and on to Lake Yarrunga.*

The views are still magnificent.

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### **Statement of Heritage Significance**

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Significant as evidence of early occupation of the area of Manchester Square that once supported a school, a slaughterhouse and a butter factory. The walls and guttering are early evidence of infrastructure works in the 19th century and the importance of Meryla Road as a route to the coast.

## **‘Old Fernbrook Farm’/‘Milburn Creek’ 475 Myra Vale Road, Wildes Meadow**

### **Recommendation**

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Include as a new heritage item in Schedule 5 (Part 1 Heritage items) of the Wingecarribee Local Environmental Plan 2010.

### **Description**

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May 2021: A cluster of old and new sympathetically designed buildings on this large estate located between the road and Fitzroy Fall Reservoir. The buildings are built near Myra Vale Road in the south east of the property and are mostly of gable roofed weatherboard construction.









## Internet Review

4 minute video of the garden at this site <https://vimeo.com/210127720>

Many images of garden and house and captions at this site inc. image below  
<https://www.jennyroseinnes.com/you-will-love-this-garden/>



**Above:** Many above images and the note below at this site.  
<https://www.milburncreek.com.au/history>

In 2011 John and Trish Muir transferred their entire breeding operation to their home in the beautiful Southern Highlands of NSW. The stud embraces two properties – Old Fernbrook and Rosemount Farm at Wildes Meadow. It has taken ten years of meticulous planning and development to create, what they call the ideal stud farm that is magnificent, trees, soil, grass, climate and most importantly people.

## History

Nil.

## Heritage Significance Assessment

The proposed item has been assessed against the seven NSW Heritage Assessment Criteria. To be considered for local heritage listing, an item must meet one or more criteria on a local level. To understand more about the NSW Heritage Assessment Criteria, refer to the Heritage NSW publication *Assessing Heritage Significance* available online at <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/assessing-heritage-significance>.

NSW heritage assessment criteria	Assessment of site <i>(no content = site has not been assessed against that criterion)</i>
<b>(a) HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE</b>	<i>Of significance to the history of the local area because it illustrates the development of this area of Wildes Meadow in the late 19th Century.</i>
<b>(b) ASSOCIATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE</b>	
<b>(c) AESTHETIC OR TECHNICAL SIGNIFICANCE</b>	<i>Of significance in demonstrating aesthetic achievement in the local area because the beauty of its setting and architectural form including several very sympathetically designed new buildings.</i>

NSW heritage assessment criteria	Assessment of site
(d) SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE	
(e) RESEARCH POTENTIAL	
(f) RARITY	
(g) REPRESENTATIVENESS	<i>Of significance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of the local area's heritage in this case an early weatherboard residence from the late 19th Century.</i>

### Integrity/Intactness

Substantially intact although some alterations have been made and several very sympathetically designed new buildings have been added to the site.

### Statement of Heritage Significance

Old Fernbrook Farm/Milburn Creek at 475 Myra Vale Road, Wildes Meadow. is significant because it illustrates the development of this area of Wildes Meadow in the late 19th Century. It is also of significance in demonstrating aesthetic achievement in the local area because of the beauty of its setting and architectural form complemented by several very sympathetically designed newer buildings and in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of the local area's heritage in this case an early weatherboard residence from the late 19th Century.

## **‘Rosemount Farm’—weatherboard cottage**

### **540 Myra Vale Road, Wildes Meadow**

#### **Recommendation**

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Include as a new heritage item in Schedule 5 (Part 1 Heritage items) of the Wingecarribee Local Environmental Plan 2010.

#### **Description**

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A well looked after single storey gable roofed weatherboard cottage which has many rooms with original timber lined walls and ceilings. Timber barge boards to the gable and the valance to the eastern verandah have been replaced in good replica design. Beautiful garden and driveway and long distance views of the surrounding countryside.



***Above:** Eastern view of the house. 2011 by photographer Rob Reichenfeld.*





**Above:** Eastern view of the house showing gable valance and metal window hoods. 2011 by photographer Rob Reichenfeld.



**Above:** Front northern elevation. 2011 by photographer Rob Reichenfeld.



**Above:** Looking out from the verandah on the eastern side. 2011 by photographer Rob Reichenfeld.



**Above:** Driveway to No 540. 2011 by photographer Rob Reichenfeld.



**Above:** Typical interior lining board finished room. 2011 by photographer Rob Reichenfeld.

### Internet Review

Rosemount Farm is numbered 540 Myra Vale Road and it has an early cottage. In 2018 a DA approved to add to a small cottage on the site. Plans by Trevor Goff. Since 2011 No 540 has been owned by John and Trish Muir who own Old Fernbrook Farm opposite at 475 Myra Vale Road. Both properties now run as a thoroughbred horse estate referred to as being Milburn Creek.

Many images and current history of the Muir ownership since 2011 below at this site

<https://www.milburncreek.com.au/history>

In 2011 John and Trish Muir transferred their entire breeding operation to their home in the beautiful Southern Highlands of NSW. The stud embraces two properties – Old Fernbrook and Rosemount Farm at Wildes Meadow. It has taken ten years of meticulous planning and development to create, what they call the ideal stud farm that is magnificent, trees, soil, grass, climate and most importantly people.

### Heritage Significance Assessment

The proposed item has been assessed against the seven NSW Heritage Assessment Criteria. To be considered for local heritage listing, an item must meet one or more criteria on a local level. To understand more about the NSW Heritage Assessment Criteria, refer to the Heritage NSW publication *Assessing Heritage Significance* available online at <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/assessing-heritage-significance>.

NSW heritage assessment criteria	Assessment of site
	<i>(no content = site has not been assessed against that criterion)</i>
<b>(a) HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE</b>	<i>Of significance to the history of the local area because it illustrates the development of this area of Wildes Meadow in the late 19th Century.</i>
<b>(b) ASSOCIATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE</b>	
<b>(c) AESTHETIC OR TECHNICAL SIGNIFICANCE</b>	<i>Of significance in demonstrating aesthetic achievement in the local area because of the beauty of its setting and architectural form.</i>
<b>(d) SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE</b>	
<b>(e) RESEARCH POTENTIAL</b>	
<b>(f) RARITY</b>	

NSW heritage assessment criteria	Assessment of site
<b>(g) REPRESENTATIVENESS</b>	<i>Of significance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of the local area's heritage in this case a single storey symmetrically fronted weatherboard residence from the late 19th Century.</i>

### **Integrity/Intactness**

Substantially intact although some alterations and additions have been made over time.

### **Statement of Heritage Significance**

Rosemount Farm Cottage at 540 Myra Vale Road, Wildes Meadow is significant because it illustrates the development of this area of Wildes Meadow in the late 19th Century. It is also of significance in demonstrating aesthetic achievement in the local area because of the beauty of its setting and architectural form and in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of the local area's heritage in this case a single storey symmetrically fronted weatherboard residence from the late 19th Century.



## Former Methodist Church, now a residence

### 564 Myra Vale Road, Wildes Meadow

#### Recommendation

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Include as a new heritage item in Schedule 5 (Part 1 Heritage items) of the Wingecarribee Local Environmental Plan 2010.

#### Heritage Survey 2009 Recommendation

List as a heritage item with the following statement of significance:

*The church has historic significance for its role in the development of the community. The church is important for its aesthetic and landmark qualities.*

*As a place of public worship, the Church has social values for the community.*

*It reflects the religious beliefs and customs of groups within the community and is likely to have an important commemorative function within the community.*

#### Description

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October 2020: An 1874 church set on a 2013 m2 site in a rural setting that has retained its context but now converted to a residence. The site has a timber picket fence and a right side driveway accessing a rear garage and parking area. The front garden is grass. The façade presents a simple symmetrical elevation is constructed of rustic faced dimensioned stone. The roof is gabled with a steep pitch and has closed eaves. The roof is clad in colourbond corrugated sheet metal and features parapet to front gable. The front door is located in a stone entry portico and is Gothic in shape with diagonal timber panelling. Fenestration includes diamond pattern leadlight windows with round arch heads. There is a round window above the the porch in the front gable end.

The building appears to be in excellent condition. Alterations include sympathetic rear additions that have enabled the building to be sympathetically adapted for residential use. The related cemetery across the road is early and already on the LEP.







**Above** Image from BDHS: Myra Vale Wesleyan Methodist Church, Wildes Meadow NSW wesleyan Methodist Church, Myra Vale NSW, c. 1980s. The Wesleyan Methodist Church at Myra Vale was opened in December, 1874. It is no longer in use and is privately owned. The cemetery associated with the church is on the opposite side of the road.

### Internet Review

50 photos from this 2013,2011,2010 site [inc 2 images below](https://www.realestate.com.au/property/564-myra-vale-rd-wildes-meadow-nsw-2577)

<https://www.realestate.com.au/property/564-myra-vale-rd-wildes-meadow-nsw-2577>





**Above:** Two images above from 2013 at <https://www.realestate.com.au/property/564-myra-vale-rd-wildes-meadow-nsw-2577>

## History

### Heritage Survey 2009 History

The Church's historical notes indicate that the building was constructed from local stone and had its opening service in December 1874.

This historical evidence appears consistent with the physical evidence of the inclusion of the dedication stone wording in the gable of the entry foyer, "Erected 1874". Historical evidence indicates that the building remained as a Church until some time prior to the purchase in 1993 by the current owner. It is unclear as to exactly when the last service was held prior to the 1993 purchase. Research of newspaper articles indicates that there was a dwindling of the congregation and its supporters and associated women's fellowship groups over some years leading up to the decision by the Methodist Church to offer the property for sale. The small cemetery contains headstones going back to the same year of the Church of 1874 identifying families who were resident in the Wilde's Meadow area during the early days of its occupation and growth. (Existing WSC Inventory)

### Heritage Significance Assessment

The proposed item has been assessed against the seven NSW Heritage Assessment Criteria. To be considered for local heritage listing, an item must meet one or more criteria on a local level. To understand more about the NSW Heritage Assessment Criteria, refer to the Heritage NSW publication *Assessing Heritage Significance* available online at <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/assessing-heritage-significance>.

NSW heritage assessment criteria	Assessment of site
	<i>(no content = site has not been assessed against that criterion)</i>
<b>(a) HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE</b>	<i>Of significance to the history of the local area because it illustrates the development of this area of Wildes meadow in the late 19th Century.</i>
<b>(b) ASSOCIATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE</b>	

NSW heritage assessment criteria	Assessment of site
<b>(c) AESTHETIC OR TECHNICAL SIGNIFICANCE</b>	<i>Of significance in demonstrating aesthetic achievement in the local area because the beauty of its setting and architectural form and its landmark qualities.</i>
<b>(d) SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE</b>	<i>Of significance because of its association with the Wildes Meadow and district Methodist church community.</i>
<b>(e) RESEARCH POTENTIAL</b>	
<b>(f) RARITY</b>	
<b>(g) REPRESENTATIVENESS</b>	<i>Of significance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of the local area's heritage in this case a small stone Gothic style rural church.</i>

### Integrity/Intactness

Substantially intact although sympathetic alterations have been made to convert it to a residence.

### Statement of Heritage Significance

The former Methodist Church at 564 Myra Vale Road, Wildes Meadow is significant because it illustrates the development of this area of Wildes Meadow in the late 19th Century and for its association with the Wildes Meadow and district Methodist church community. It is also of significance in demonstrating aesthetic achievement in the local area because the beauty of its setting and architectural form and its landmark qualities and in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of the local area's heritage in this case a small stone Gothic style rural church.



## Blacksmith's cottage

### 375 Wildes Meadow Road, Wildes Meadow

#### Recommendation

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Include as a new heritage item in Schedule 5 (Part 1 Heritage items) of the Wingecarribee Local Environmental Plan 2010.

#### Description

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A symmetrically fronted single storey weatherboard cottage with hipped corrugated metal roof. Single chimney visible to the right. Enclosed verandah. Well designed picket fence to the wide block.

Former blacksmith site and now the site of a new blacksmith business known as "1910 Ironworks"



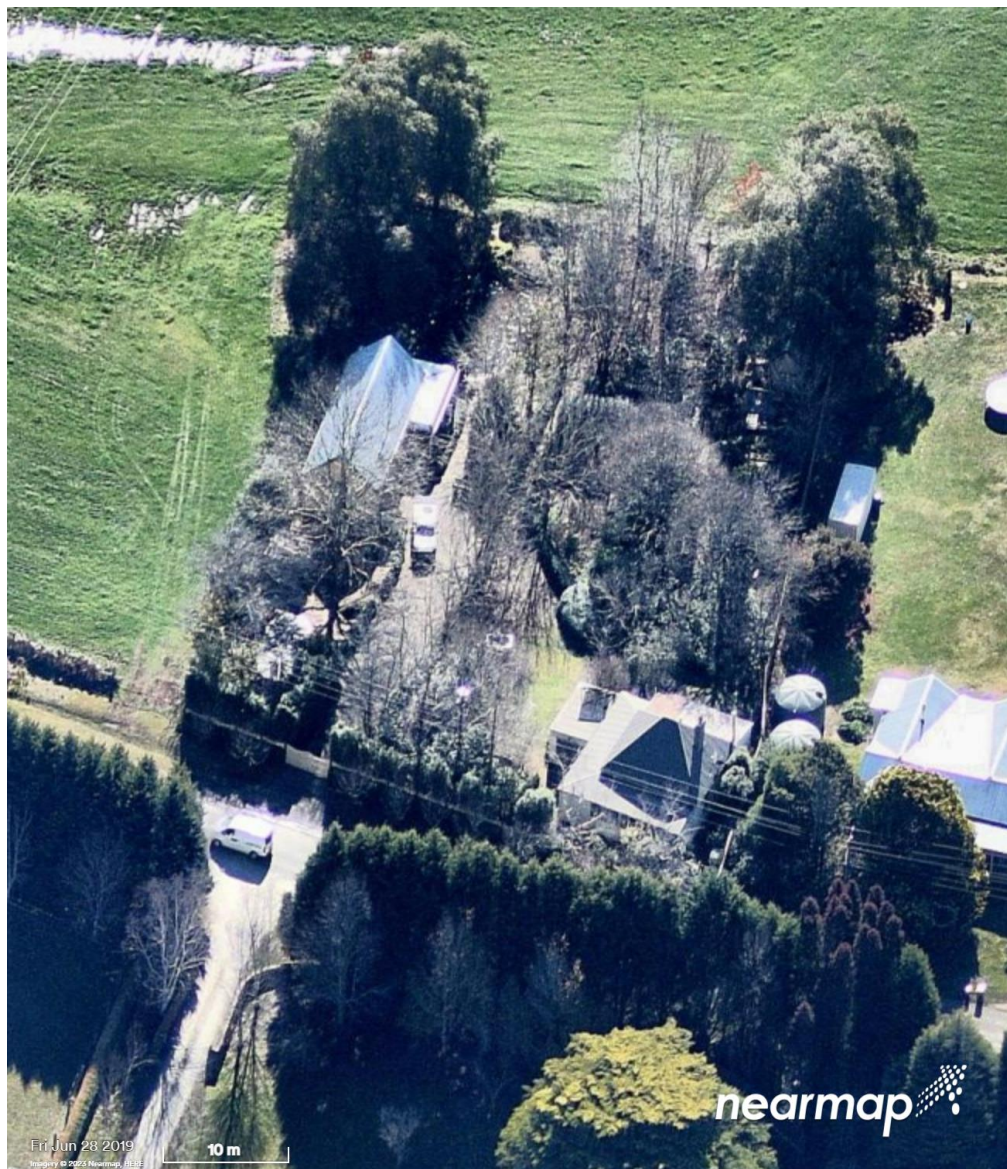
*Above: Image from the Heritage Survey 2009*

#### Internet Review

Google Earth image from 2016 below:

July 2021 Internet check. The 1910 Ironworks business site at:

<https://1910bc.com/2018/01/09/blacksmith-shop-from-the-1880s-found-on-the-new-1910-ironworks-site/>



**Above:** Wildes Meadow or Myra Vale's main street as it was in 1908, the road is a lot narrower today. To the right of the shot is the show ground and cattle pens, hence the wagons and timber jinker. On the left hand side of the shot is current 375 Wildes Meadow Road next to the now demolished Myra Vale Hotel. Information and image courtesy of this site <https://1910bc.com/2018/01/09/blacksmith-shop-from-the-1880s-found-on-the-new-1910-ironworks-site/>

## Heritage Significance Assessment

The proposed item has been assessed against the seven NSW Heritage Assessment Criteria. To be considered for local heritage listing, an item must meet one or more criteria on a local level. To understand more about the NSW Heritage Assessment Criteria, refer to the Heritage NSW publication *Assessing Heritage Significance* available online at <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/assessing-heritage-significance>.

NSW heritage assessment criteria	Assessment of site (no content = site has not been assessed against that criterion)
(a) HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE	<i>Of significance to the history of the local area as one of the last remaining original buildings dating from the 19th Century from what was once a viable small village.</i>
(b) ASSOCIATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE	
(c) AESTHETIC OR TECHNICAL SIGNIFICANCE	<i>Of significance in demonstrating aesthetic value in the local area because the beauty of its setting and architectural form.</i>
(d) SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE	<i>Of social significance to the community as an early blacksmith's shop whose early use has been recently re-established.</i>
(e) RESEARCH POTENTIAL	
(f) RARITY	
(g) REPRESENTATIVENESS	

### Integrity/Intactness

Substantially intact exterior form.

### Statement of Heritage Significance

The Blacksmith's cottage at 375 Wildes Meadow Road is significant to the history of the local area as one of the last remaining original buildings dating from the 19th Century from what was once a viable small village and for demonstrating aesthetic value in the local area because of the beauty of its setting and architectural form.



## **‘Daisy Hill’—weatherboard house (possible former shop)**

### **381 Wildes Meadow Road, Wildes Meadow**

#### **Recommendation**

---

Include as a new heritage item in Schedule 5 (Part 1 Heritage items) of the Wingecarribee Local Environmental Plan 2010.

Property is contained within the proposed Wildes Meadow Village Heritage Conservation Area.

#### **Description**

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Early house below but infilled verandah. An asymmetrical weather board cottage with gable and hip corrugated metal roof. 16 photos of No. 381 at this 2020 site including two images below. 1675 m2 site.

<https://www.realestate.com.au/property/381-wildes-meadow-rd-wildes-meadow-nsw-2577>





## History

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### Heritage Survey 2009 History

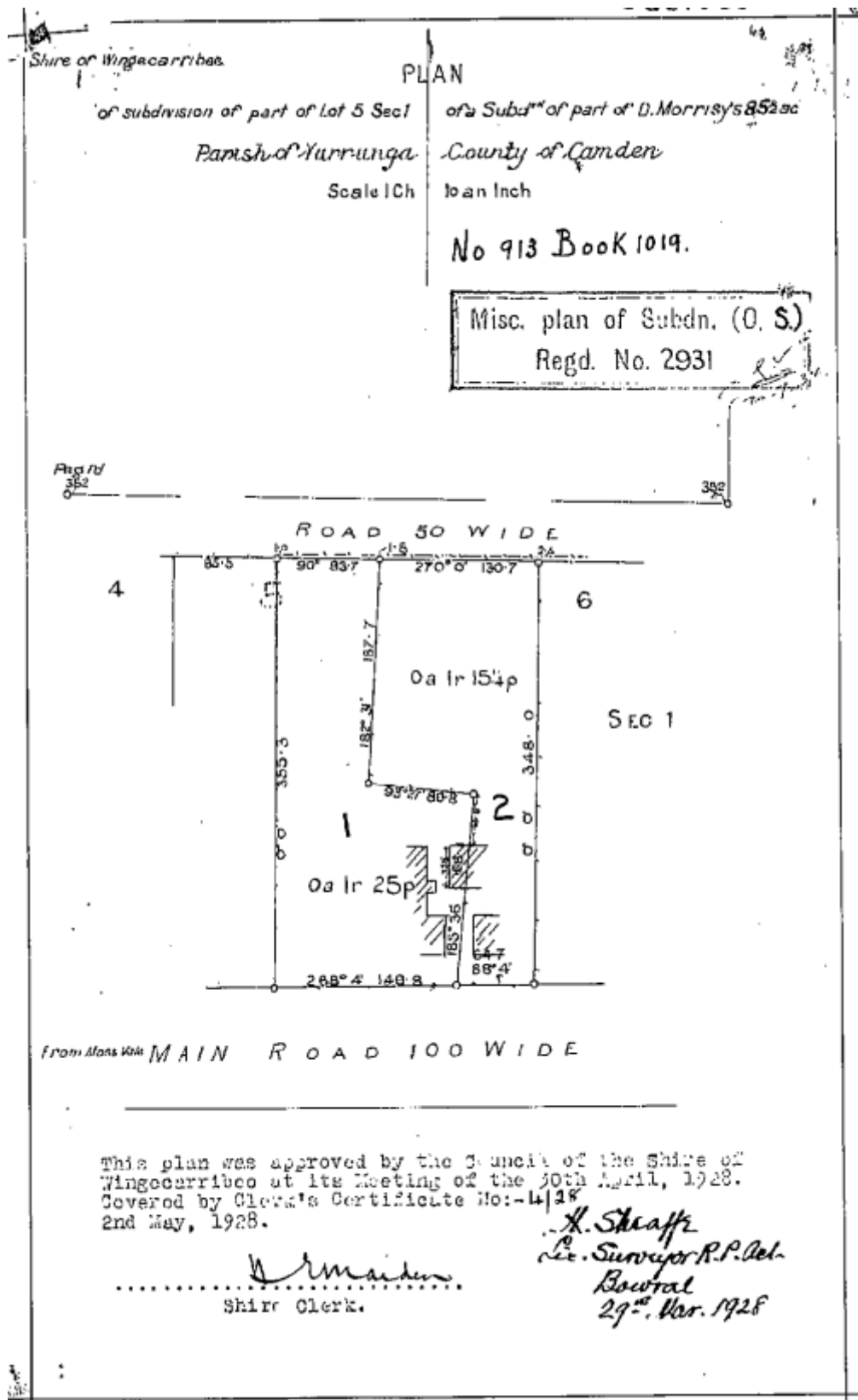
Nil.

### Other historical information

May be the house of Mrs McDonald (from hand drawn Myra Vale map). Mrs McDonald died in her Wildes Meadow home in 1905. She and her husband (both from Scotland) apparently opened the first store in Wildes Meadow which she disposed of after her husband's death c.1878 ( see <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article125566799>). She continued to live in Wildes Meadow but it's unclear whether this house was the one which comprised the store.

Property owned by John Thomas Hayter of Robertson and transferred to Emma Hayter 1914. See Conveyance in Book 1019 No. 913. Conveyance appears to apply to this property and No. 383.

See also plan in DP 152931:





## Heritage Significance Assessment

The proposed item has been assessed against the seven NSW Heritage Assessment Criteria. To be considered for local heritage listing, an item must meet one or more criteria on a local level. To understand more about the NSW Heritage Assessment Criteria, refer to the Heritage NSW publication *Assessing Heritage Significance* available online at <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/assessing-heritage-significance>.

NSW heritage assessment criteria	Assessment of site (no content = site has not been assessed against that criterion)
(a) HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE	<i>Of significance to the history of the local area as one of the last remaining original buildings dating from the 19th Century from what was once a viable small village.</i>
(b) ASSOCIATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE	<i>Of significance in the association with the Hayter family, a local pioneering family.</i>
(c) AESTHETIC OR TECHNICAL SIGNIFICANCE	<i>Of significance in demonstrating aesthetic value in the local area because the beauty of its setting and architectural form.</i>
(d) SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE	<i>Of social significance to the community as a possible former shop.</i>
(e) RESEARCH POTENTIAL	
(f) RARITY	
(g) REPRESENTATIVENESS	

### Integrity/Intactness

Some alterations have been made including the infilling of the verandah.

### Statement of Heritage Significance

'Daisy Hill' at 381 Wildes Meadow Road, Wildes Meadow is of significance to the history of the local area as one of the last remaining original buildings dating from the 19th Century from what was once a viable small village, and its association with the Hayter family, a local pioneering family. The house demonstrates aesthetic value because the beauty of its setting and architectural form and is possibly a former shop which could have social significance.

## **‘Kirklands’—weatherboard cottage (former post office) 383 Wildes Meadow Road, Wildes Meadow**

### **Recommendation**

---

Include as a new heritage item in Schedule 5 (Part 1 Heritage items) of the Wingecarribee Local Environmental Plan 2010.

Property is contained within the proposed Wildes Meadow Village Heritage Conservation Area.

Description. Early house below. Symmetrical single storey weatherboard cottage with Hipped roof of corrugated metal. Timber post supported straight verandah with broken back roof. c. 1400 m2 site.



### **Internet Review**

8 photos and notes on 383 at site below including an early undated historic photo of it as a post office. In the early historic photos windows are shown as six over six pane double hung and in the 2013 photo French doors but the doorway is offset to the right in both the images and roof profile similar so likely to be the same house as implied by the real estate listing.

<https://www.realestate.com.au/sold/property-house-nsw-wildes+meadow-112294715>



Above: <https://www.realestate.com.au/sold/property-house-nsw-wildes+meadow-112294715>

### *Idyllic cottage retreat*

383 Wildes Meadow Road, Wildes Meadow

*A genuine cottage rich with character details hidden in the village of Wildes Meadow Kirklands' a single level home formally the first post office of the district is a great choice for lifestyle living, or a get-away B&B.*

- \*Separate formal lounge room with fire place*
- \*Casual family living and dining overlooks the rear garden*
- \*Leafy alfresco area with northerly aspect over gardens*
- \*Large eat in timber kitchen, electric/gas cooking*
- \*Oversized master bedroom with built-robe*
- \*Family sized main bathroom & internal internal laundry*
- \*High ornate ceilings, french doors, timber windows and leafy outlooks*
- \*Long side drive leads to a double garage and additional storage*
- \*Offering all of the view & none of the work*
- \*Hear "a pin drop" quiet and privacy situated on 1400sqm block ( approx )*

## **History**

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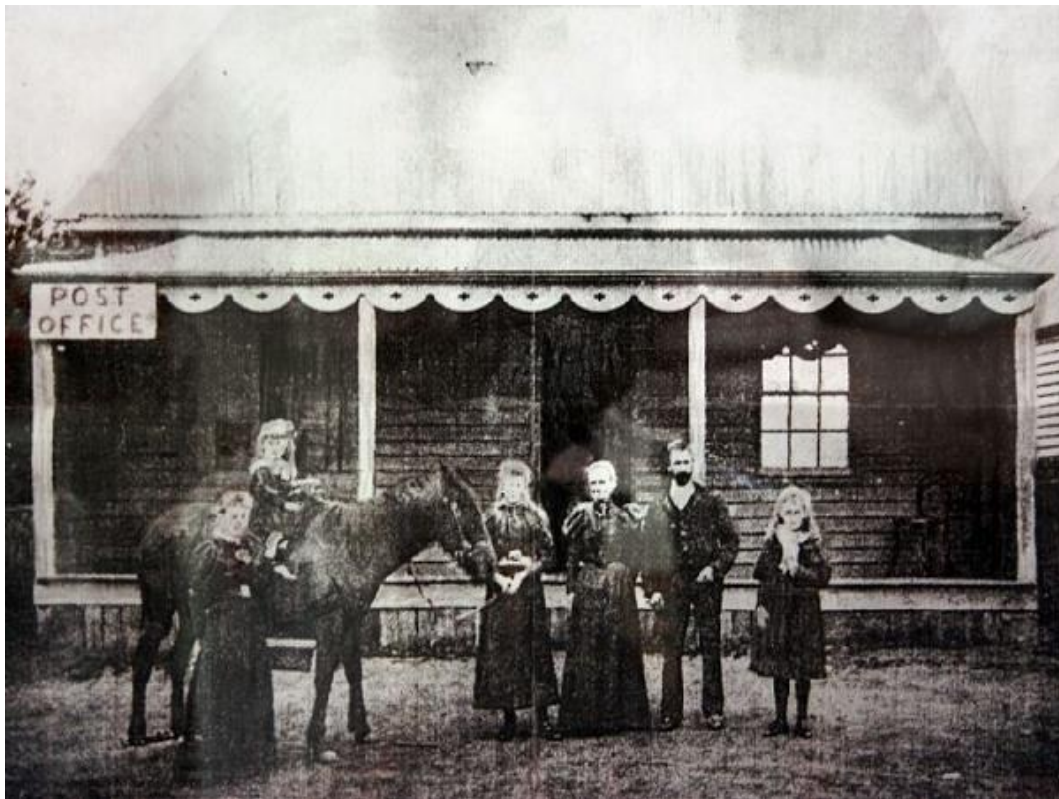
### **Heritage Survey 2009 History**

Nil.

### **Other historical information**

An early photograph of the cottage indicate that it was an early post office in the village.





**Above:** An early photograph of the cottage indicate that it was an early post office in the village.

## Heritage Significance Assessment

The proposed item has been assessed against the seven NSW Heritage Assessment Criteria. To be considered for local heritage listing, an item must meet one or more criteria on a local level. To understand more about the NSW Heritage Assessment Criteria, refer to the Heritage NSW publication *Assessing Heritage Significance* available online at <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/assessing-heritage-significance>.

NSW heritage assessment criteria	Assessment of site <i>(no content = site has not been assessed against that criterion)</i>
<b>(a) HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE</b>	<i>Of significance to the history of the local area as one of the last remaining original buildings dating from the 19th Century from what was once a viable small village.</i>
<b>(b) ASSOCIATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE</b>	<i>Of significance in the association with the Hayter family, a local pioneering family.</i>
<b>(c) AESTHETIC OR TECHNICAL SIGNIFICANCE</b>	<i>Of significance in demonstrating aesthetic value in the local area because the beauty of its setting and architectural form.</i>
<b>(d) SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE</b>	<i>Of social significance to the community as a possible former shop.</i>
<b>(e) RESEARCH POTENTIAL</b>	
<b>(f) RARITY</b>	
<b>(g) REPRESENTATIVENESS</b>	

**Integrity/Intactness**

Some alterations have been made including the replacement of the front windows with French doors and the removal of the timber scalloping along the front verandah. Internal alterations are also evident in real estate photos but the character and setting has been largely retained.

**Statement of Heritage Significance**

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‘Daisy Hill’ at 381 Wildes Meadow Road, Wildes Meadow is of significance to the history of the local area as one of the last remaining original buildings dating from the 19th Century from what was once a viable small village, and its association with the Hayter family, a local pioneering family. The house demonstrates aesthetic value because the beauty of its setting and architectural form and is possibly a former shop which could have social significance.

## **‘Ferriby’—Victorian cottage**

### **391 Wildes Meadow Road, Wildes Meadow**

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#### **Recommendation**

Include as a new heritage item in Schedule 5 (Part 1 Heritage items) of the Wingecarribee Local Environmental Plan 2010.

Property is contained within the proposed Wildes Meadow Village Heritage Conservation Area.

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#### **Description**

Single storey weatherboard house with a gabled roof in corrugated metal. Visible to the left is a single tall corbelled chimney. The gabled section on the left has a bay window facing the street and a bay window facing west. On the right it has a post supported straight verandah. There is a later extension to the right rear. The house is located on a wide block with a good garden and picket fence. Gravel driveway to left.



#### **Internet Review**

<https://www.realestate.com.au/property/391-wildes-meadow-rd-wildes-meadow-nsw-2577>







## History

### Heritage Survey 2009 History

Nil.

## Heritage Significance Assessment

The proposed item has been assessed against the seven NSW Heritage Assessment Criteria. To be considered for local heritage listing, an item must meet one or more criteria on a local level. To understand more about the NSW Heritage Assessment Criteria, refer to the Heritage NSW publication *Assessing Heritage Significance* available online at <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/assessing-heritage-significance>.

NSW heritage assessment criteria	Assessment of site (no content = site has not been assessed against that criterion)
(a) HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE	<i>Of significance to the history of the local area as one of the last remaining original buildings dating from the 19th Century from what was once a viable small village.</i>
(b) ASSOCIATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE	
(c) AESTHETIC OR TECHNICAL SIGNIFICANCE	<i>Of significance in demonstrating aesthetic value in the local area because the beauty of its setting and architectural form.</i>
(d) SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE	
(e) RESEARCH POTENTIAL	
(f) RARITY	
(g) REPRESENTATIVENESS	

### Integrity/Intactness

Largely intact although has a large rear extension.

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## Statement of Heritage Significance

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'Daisy Hill' at 381 Wildes Meadow Road, Wildes Meadow is of significance to the history of the local area as one of the last remaining original buildings dating from the 19th Century from what was once a viable small village, and its association with the Hayter family, a local pioneering family. The house demonstrates aesthetic value because the beauty of its setting and architectural form and is possibly a former shop which could have social significance.



## **Part B: Not Recommended Heritage Places**



# House

## 372 Wildes Meadow Road, Wildes Meadow

### Recommendation

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Record only. Do not list as a heritage item unless further information is found.

Property is contained within the proposed Wildes Meadow Village Heritage Conservation Area.

### Description

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A suite of buildings on a very large 45,562 m<sup>2</sup> site. Appears to be part new and part old. The 1963 air photo shows a building in this area. No internet information. This site is also likely to be related to the site of the early show ground shown in the black and white image at this site

<https://1910bc.com/2018/01/09/blacksmith-shop-from-the-1880s-found-on-the-new-1910-ironworks-site/>

### Internet Review

No info or images but site area 45,562 m<sup>2</sup>



## 1950s cottage with new extensions

### 377 Wildes Meadow Road, Wildes Meadow

#### Recommendation

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Record only. Do not list as a heritage item unless further information is found.

Property is contained within the proposed Wildes Meadow Village Heritage Conservation Area.

#### Description

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A c.1950s cottage that has been renovated/alterd on a 2869m<sup>2</sup> site. The 1963 aerial photo shows the house in its previous form in existence but the house was extensively renovated and added to in 2017 but it appears that the front section and original roof form was retained.

<https://www.realestate.com.au/property/377-wildes-meadow-rd-wildes-meadow-nsw-2577>





## House

### [379] Wildes Meadow Road, Wildes Meadow

#### Recommendation

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Record only. Do not list as a heritage item unless further information is found.

Property is contained within the proposed Wildes Meadow Village Heritage Conservation Area.

#### Description

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Unnumbered property between 377 and 381.

Property contains a shed that contains a dwelling set back from the street on a narrow 1248m<sup>2</sup> site.



## **‘Summerfield’—new weatherboard house 387 Wildes Meadow Road**

### **Recommendation**

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Record only. Do not list as a heritage item unless further information is found.

Property is contained within the proposed Wildes Meadow Village Heritage Conservation Area.

### **Description**

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A new house with a high lap and cap fence along the Wildes Meadow Road boundary.

There are 34 photos and 1 plan of the house from 2011 available online at <https://www.realestate.com.au/property/387-wildes-meadow-rd-wildes-meadow-nsw-2577>, including photo below.



**Above:** 387 Wildes Meadow Road in 2011 (Source: <https://www.realestate.com.au/property/387-wildes-meadow-rd-wildes-meadow-nsw-2577>).

## Brick house

### 390 Wildes Meadow Road, Wildes Meadow

#### Recommendation

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Record only. Do not list as a heritage item unless further information is found.

Property is contained within the proposed Wildes Meadow Village Heritage Conservation Area.

#### Description

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A one and a half story gabled brick building with quoin corner stones. This is a newer house as not in 1963 aerial photo. No internet information available. Sits on 12,085 m2 site.



**Above:** The house at 390 Wildes Meadow Road as seen from the street (D. McManus, 2021)



## Timber house

### 401 Wildes Meadow Road, Wildes Meadow

#### Recommendation

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Record only. Do not list as a heritage item unless further information is found.

Property is contained within the proposed Wildes Meadow Village Heritage Conservation Area.

#### Description

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A small cottage set well back from the road on a large 9506m<sup>2</sup> site.

There are 25 real estate photos from 2012 and 2015 from

<https://www.realestate.com.au/property/401-wildes-meadow-rd-wildes-meadow-nsw-2577>, including photo below.



**Above:** 401 Wildes Meadow Road above from 2015 (Source: <https://www.realestate.com.au/property/401-wildes-meadow-rd-wildes-meadow-nsw-2577>).