Cowaramup Heritage Trail

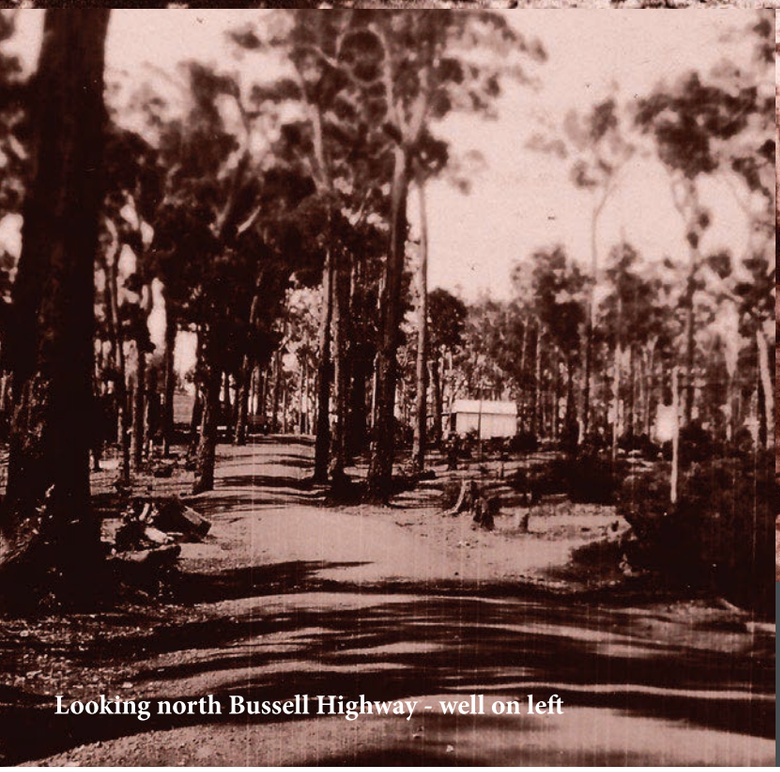
23 Mile Well

From 1894 the well was a watering place for travellers and their stock, between Augusta and Busselton. It was also a vital water supply for Group 12 Settlers, who arrived in the area in 1922 and nearby farmers until about 1950.

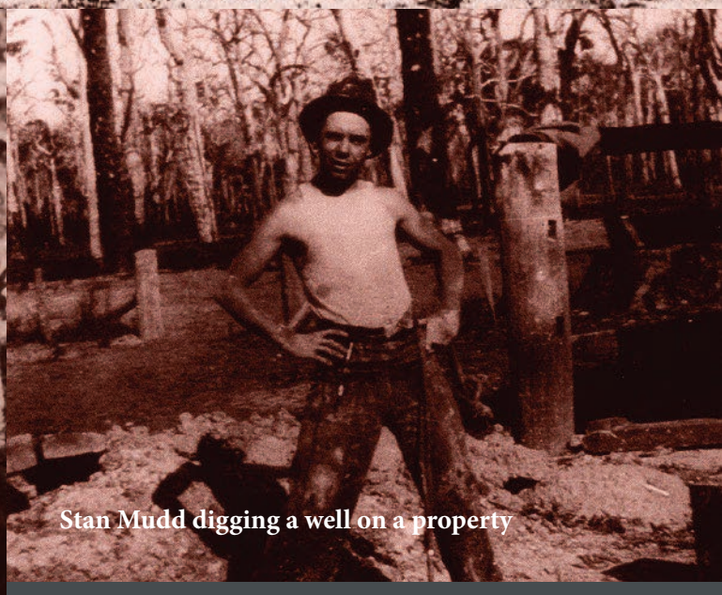
Wells were dug on individual farms, but this well continued to be used with a pump installed by Group 12 in 1934. In 1973 water was connected to the town site and the saleyards, coming from Col Duggan's dam. In the mid 1990's the town was connected to Margaret River's Ten Mile Brook Dam.



Well 23 Mile Cowaramup the rails were added in 1923



Looking north Bussell Highway - well on left



Stan Mudd digging a well on a property

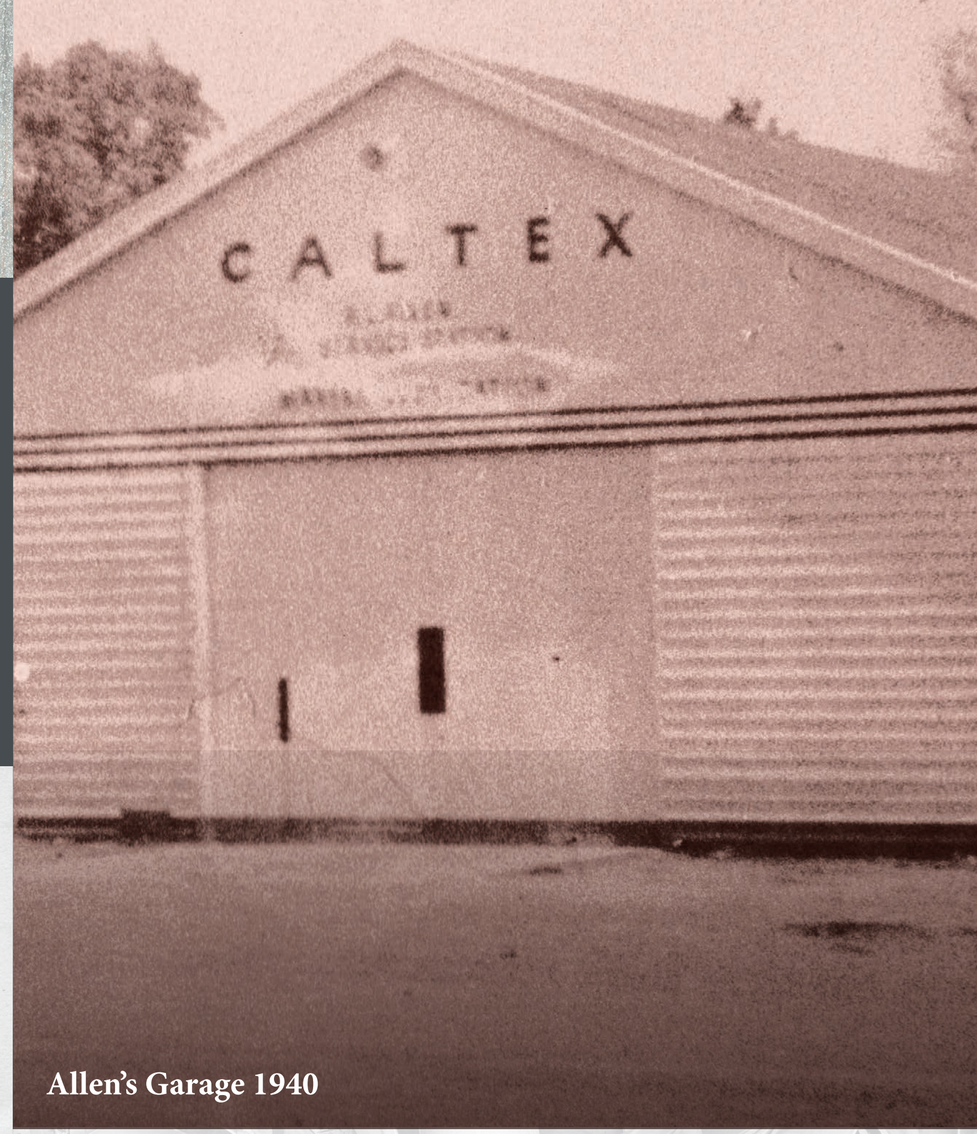
Scan here for more information.

Cowaramup Heritage Trail

Allen's Garage

Around 1941 Albert Allen built a garage and generated the town's electricity supply which was switched off each night at midnight. By 1954 the electricity for the area was provided from the State power grid.

Albert died in 1967 and initially the garage was leased out to others with Albert's son Graham running it until 1984. It was then sold to Peter and Tom Holben. In 2015 it changed hands and was renamed the Golden Jersey. In 2023, part is now the Servo Taphouse.



Allen's Garage 1940





Holben's Garage 1980s

Boarding House

Prior to being a garage, this site was home to a boarding house which was owned and run by Mrs O'Brien. From 1933 – 1941 the boarding house provided beds, meals and a little shop front selling sweets and soft drinks. On closure of the business the building was demolished.

Scan here for more information.

Cowaramup Heritage Trail

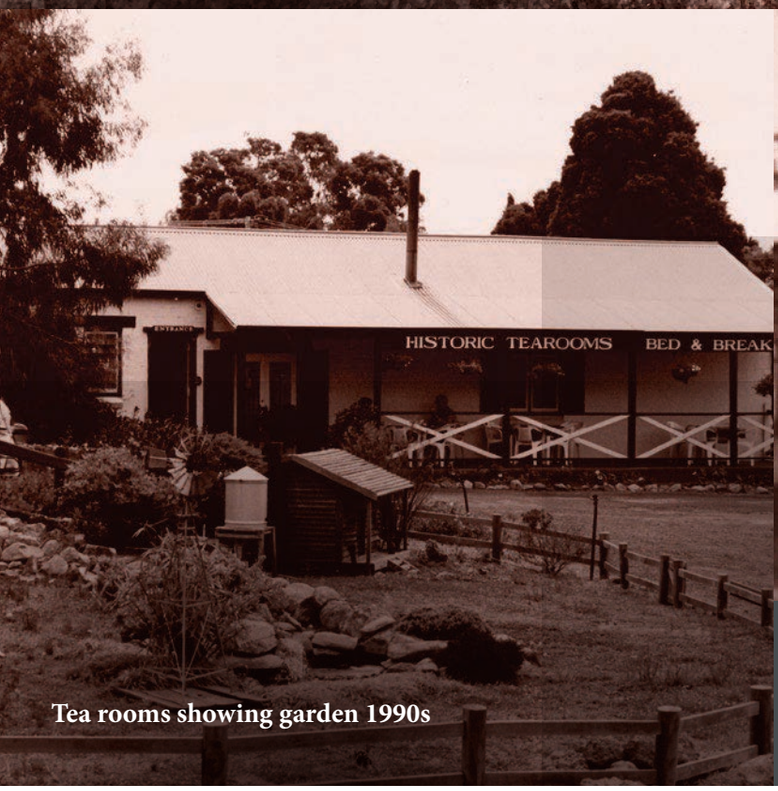
Bakehouse

In 1928 bread was delivered to Cowaramup by Arthur Murphy of Margaret River until 1938 when Ernest and Vera Mansfield built the bakery.

George Dines managed it for them until 1944 when Fred Mansfield returned from the war. It was sold to a Mr. Roy in 1955 and closed in 1962. Since then, it has been used as a private house, tea rooms and a B & B.



Bakery and Tearooms



Tea rooms showing garden 1990s



Bakehouse 1940s

Scan here for more information.

Cowaramup Heritage Trail

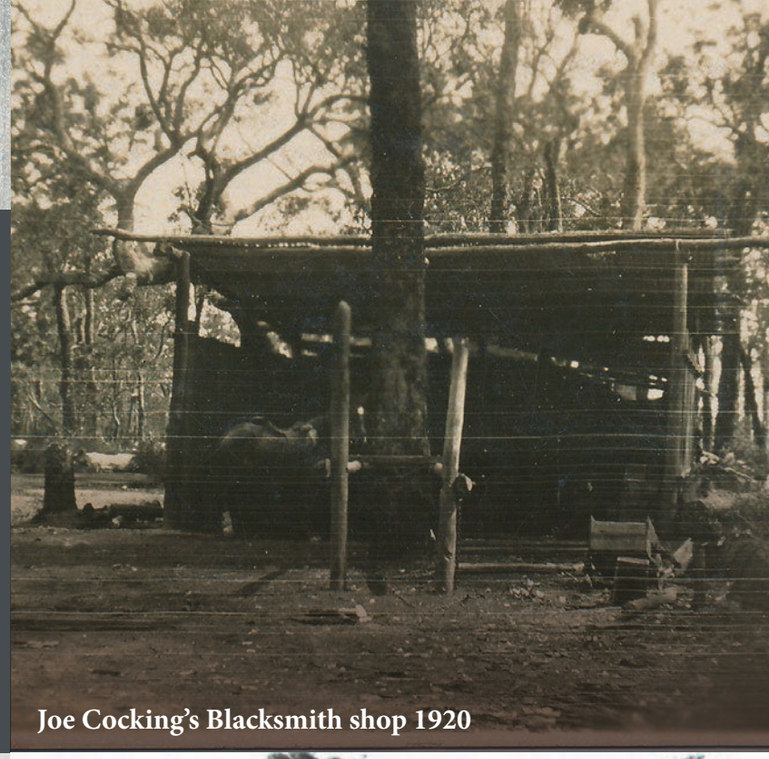
Blacksmith's Shop

(on the corner of Memorial Drive, formally Station Road)

Each group of settlers who arrived usually had a blacksmith amongst them and, in the Group 12 settlers, there was Tom Doyle and then Joe Cocking. Joe built a blacksmith's at the corner of Station Rd (now Memorial) and ran it for many years. He was in great demand, especially when settlers received their own horses and machinery.

Albert May had a garage here, followed in the 1950s by Tom Ryall. Jim Clair lived here and ran a bus service, followed by Sandy Donaldson from the 1990s until the early 2000s. One bus went to Cowaramup Bay and the other to Treeton.

Recently the building and bus garage was demolished and new shops constructed.



Joe Cocking's Blacksmith shop 1920



Garage for school buses



Garage for school buses

Scan here for more information.

Cowaramup Heritage Trail

Butcher's shop

When William Curtis sold the original butcher's shop / general store in 1930, the new owner built a new butcher shop in this location that was leased to George Gardiner.

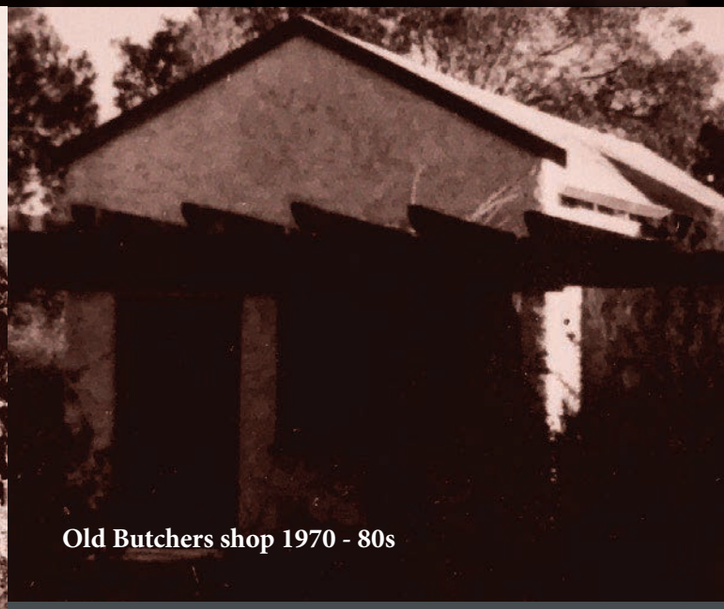
George ran the shop from 1931 – 1937 when it sold to Roy Earl. It remained in the Earl family until 1972, finally closing its doors as a butcher's shop in 1979. In the 1980s Cowaramup Pottery was located here and more recently it has become a café and bakery.



George Gardiner Butcher 1930s



Cowaramup Pottery in old butchers shop 1980s



Old Butchers shop 1970 - 80s

Scan here for more information.

Cowaramup Heritage Trail

Butchers Shop and General Store

From 1923 meat was brought to the Group 12 Settlers by the Margaret River Butchering Co and William Curtis from his farm at Cape Naturaliste. William Curtis responded to the need for a butcher's shop in Cowaramup and built one in 1923. It was then expanded and adapted by owners William and Jane Curtis into a general store.

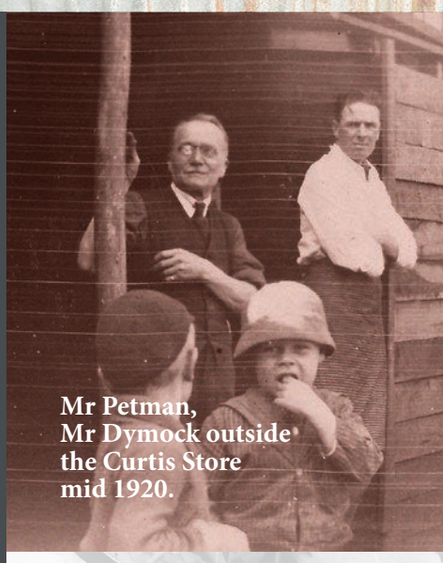
The store sold food supplies, a limited range of clothes, workwear, and boots. Goods came from Perth via truck and then rail. The store has had many owners over the years and in recent years has changed from a general store to coffee and tea outlets.



Post Office Curtis Emporium 1920s



Post office mid 1980s.



Mr Petman,
Mr Dymock outside
the Curtis Store
mid 1920.

Post Office

The Group 12 Foreman Arthur Chapman, by default, became the Post Official for several of the local Group Settlement groups. As population of individual groups expanded, he employed a postal aide.

In 1924, William Curtis applied to have Cowaramup declared an Official Post Office and in 1925 he built the Post Office building which remains to this day. Like many of the owners of the post office/general store building, William did not manage the post office but employed staff.

Mr Blue, owner from 1929-1933, however, did work as the Postmaster. At this time the mail came via train with the main mail day being Thursdays. Mail day meant delivery of cream cheques, newspapers, and perishables. It was a day for all the group settlers to come into Cowaramup to socialise, stock up on supplies and collect their mail.

Scan here for more information.

Cowaramup Heritage Trail

Catholic Church

There have been two churches built on this site. The first was the Church of our Lady of Perpetual Succour which was officially opened in March 1936 by Archbishop Prindiville. It was moved to Margaret River in 1939 to become the St Thomas More Church and later it was re-located to the Nyindamurra, now Margaret River Independent School, site.

In 1955 the Cowaramup community raised funds once more and a new church was erected on the site. It remained in use until 1986, was sold in 1988 and moved to the Baptist Church in Margaret River where it remains.



2nd Catholic Church on this site 1955 - 1988



Church being moved to Margaret River



First communion Cowaramup 1963

Scan here for more information.

Cowaramup Heritage Trail

Church of England

Before the construction of this church, services were held in homes or at the local school. Through the generosity of an English benefactor this church was built. It was licensed for public worship on 18th January 1929. Several churches were built across the Margaret River district because of this benefactor with this, and four other churches, dedicated by Bishop Wilson on 7th April 1929.

These churches came about because of the establishment of the Brotherhood of St Boniface (Brother Bernard) and the arrival of the Order of St Elizabeth of Hungary Sisters in Margaret River enabling an ongoing Anglican presence in the area. In 1981 the Church of England was renamed the Anglican Church of Saint Mary's.



Anglican Church 1970



Anglican Church 2003



Internal view 2021

Scan here for more information.

Cowaramup Heritage Trail

RSL Hall

The original RSL building was the Group 13 school building which, in 1939, the RSL had re-located to a site west (Curtis Street) of the railway siding. The RSL and other groups, including the Catholic Church, used it for church services, social and business events.

The building burnt down in 1957. A new hall was built on this site in Memorial Drive and was used as the RSL Hall until the 1960s. It has been a private residence since then. (Please respect their privacy.)



A new home in the former RSL building



District Club under construction.



Mary Arthur Bowls Trophy 1965-66

District Club

Prior to this club being opened in 1954, locals had to travel to Busselton or Margaret River to purchase alcohol. After an ongoing fund-raising effort by the community, enough funds were raised to purchase land in Memorial Drive (then Station Rd) and construct the building so a liquor licence could be granted.

The original floor plan shows a main bar, a ladies lounge, a small kitchen and space for cards & darts. In 1963, the bowling green was opened for competition. There have been several changes and extensions to the building over the years.

Scan here for more information.

Cowaramup Heritage Trail

Elder's Goldsbrough Mort: Moonhaven

This building has had many uses over its life: a residential property, a boarding house in 1934, and in 1939, Bill Duggan established his farm agency, Elder Smith's, here. He organised pigs for sale and arranged transport to Perth. A short while later, Roy Earl purchased the building and ran his Goldsbrough Mort agency, also arranging for pigs to be sold and transported to Perth.

During the 1990s the site housed Cowaramup Pottery, which had moved from the old butcher's shop (Site 5). In 2002 Moonhaven was established



Moonhaven 2002


Gary Nichol - Cowaramup Pottery

Scan here for more information.

Cowaramup Heritage Trail

Recreation Ground

In 1926 this ground was designated as a Showground and recreation ground. The first Cowaramup Show was held in November 1927 and was opened by the Governor, Sir William Campion, and at the 1930s Show over 700 people attended.

The committee built an exhibition pavilion in 1928 and prizes were awarded for Best of Show: pigs, poultry, cows, cake, flowers, needlework and grasses.

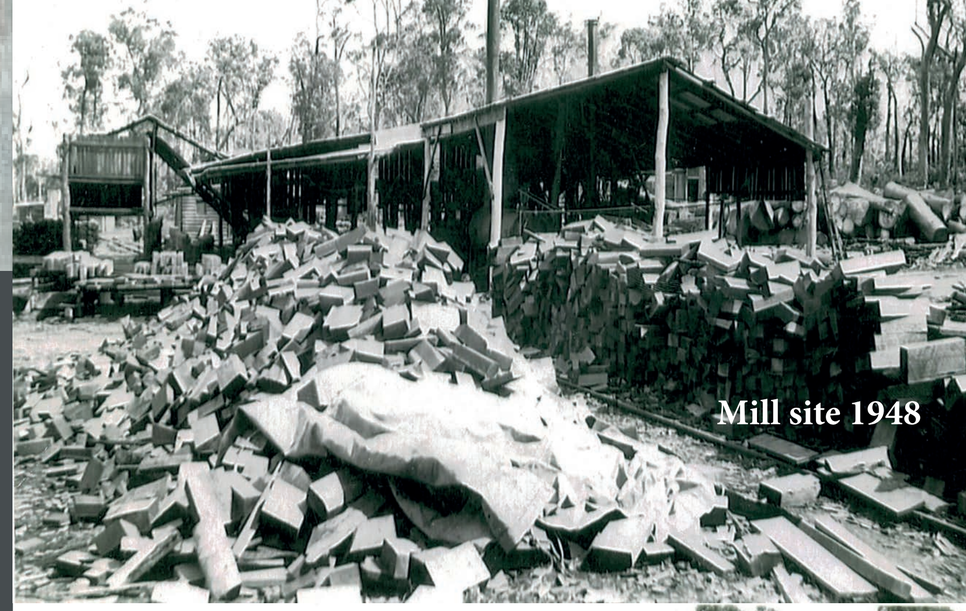
The last show was held in 1932 and the area became the Recreation Ground where cricket, football and hockey have been played for many years. Today it is used for football, cricket, Deja Moo and other events.



Show Day 1930s



Cowaramup Ladies Hockey



Mill site 1948



Mill Site office – 1950

Ryan's Mill

Just north of Cowaramup, the Cowaramup Timber Mill was operated by PD Ryan and Sons. In 1940 Mr. Ryan relocated a mill he owned from Yallingup to Cowaramup to mill timber for sleepers and pre-ordered building timber.

At its peak period it employed 25 men with between 220-250 sleepers being cut per day. One truck was used full time to cart the sleepers to the local railway siding to be shipped to domestic and international clients. More than 50,000 sleepers were produced yearly. It closed in 1972.

Scan here for more information.

Cowaramup Heritage Trail

Cowaramup Hall

In October 1929, the Cowaramup Progress Association and Agricultural Society called for tenders for a new 60ft x 30ft hall (18m x 9m). Mr. Falkingham of Busselton was selected to build the hall for £102/5/6. ($204.55)

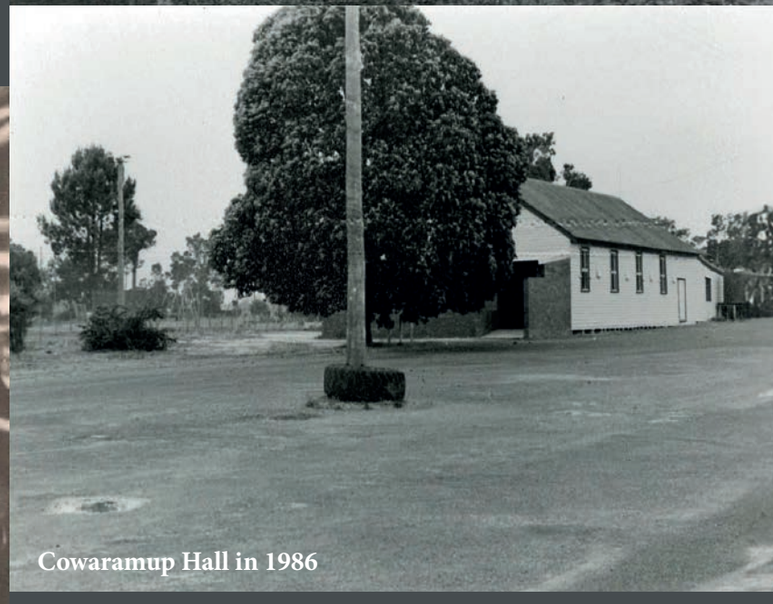
The Combined Friendly Societies ball held on 29 November 1930 was one of the first events. People came by car, horse and some on foot. A stage was put in the hall in 1931 and a supper room was added in 1932. Movies had been shown in the hall since the early 1930s and continued until 1965, operated by Mr. Alan Jones each Thursday night. Over time the hall has been used for dances, meetings, sports change-rooms, church services, dart competitions, badminton, indoor bowls, and weddings. It was recently re-furbished and is still used.



Combined Friendly Societies Ball 1930



Cowaramup Hall in 1930



Cowaramup Hall in 1986

Scan here for more information.

Cowaramup Heritage Trail

Cowaramup School

The first school in Cowaramup was located on the west side of Bussell Highway close to the Bakery and the Catholic Church. It was opened February 5th 1923 but by November 1924 it had moved out of Cowaramup (1.5 kilometres towards Margaret River) when the Group 12 and 13 schools amalgamated.

Twenty-four local families were represented on the initial school roll. School enrolments reflected the positive economic times of the district and by August 1960 the school was closed and students moved to the present site in Waverley Rd. The old building continued to be used by Junior Farmers from 1965 until 1981 and then in 1988 by the Scout Group.

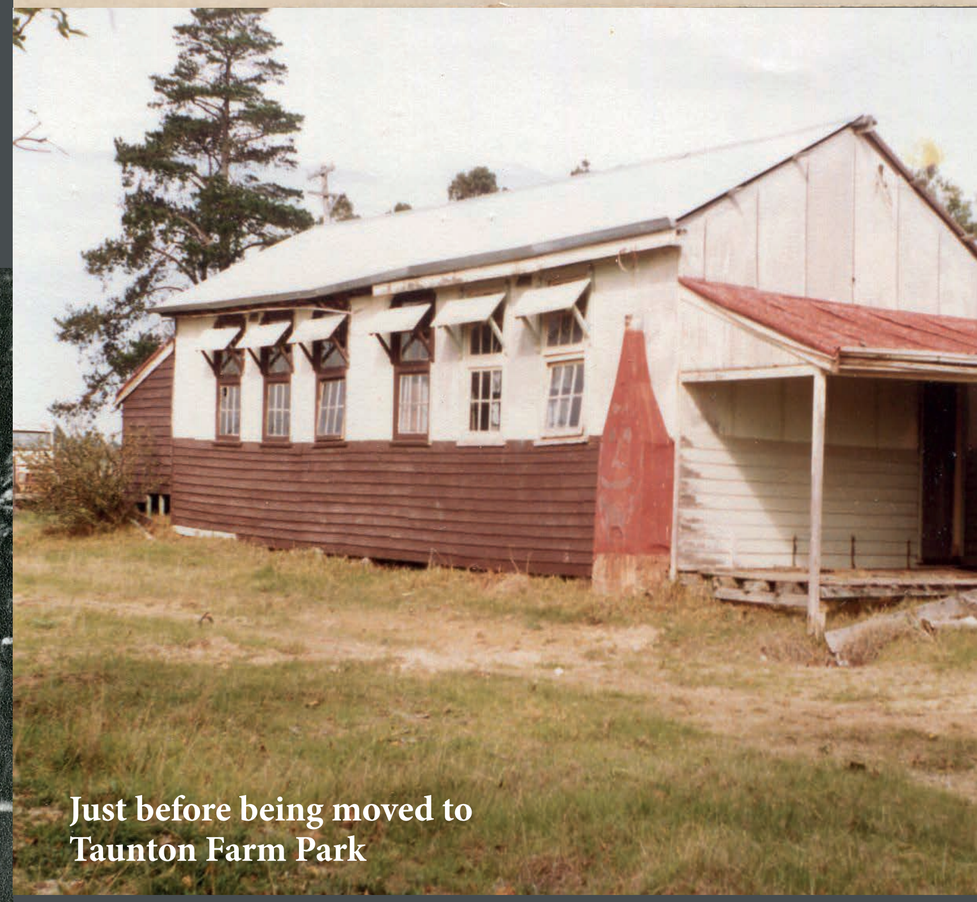
In 2012 it was purchased and moved to Taunton Farm Caravan Park where it has been restored. It can be viewed on site.



Official Opening November 1924



Cowaramup School 1926



Just before being moved to Taunton Farm Park

Scan here for more information.

Cowaramup Heritage Trail

CWA

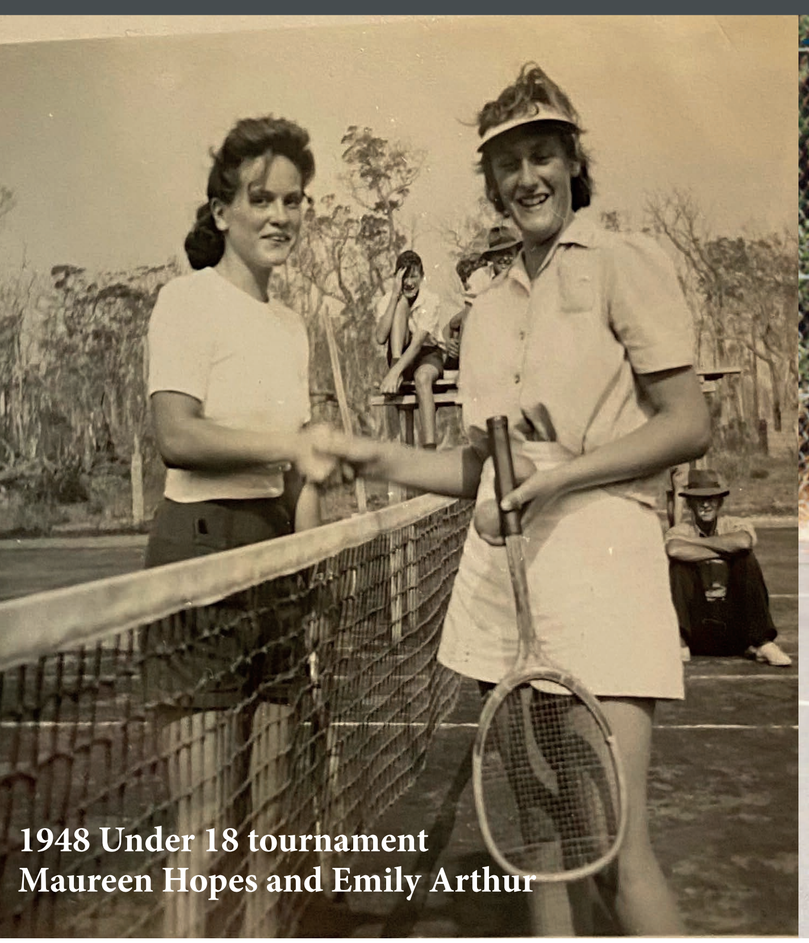
CWA (Country Women's Association) was established to help women in isolated rural communities have a place to socialise and provide support to families. The Cowaramup Branch of the CWA was formed 4th July 1934 with Mrs G Penfold the first President.

In 1937 the 44 members resolved to conduct a tea and food outlet at the saleyards which ran for many years. The members met in the Cowaramup Hall and by 1941 the members had raised enough funds to construct the CWA Rest Room.

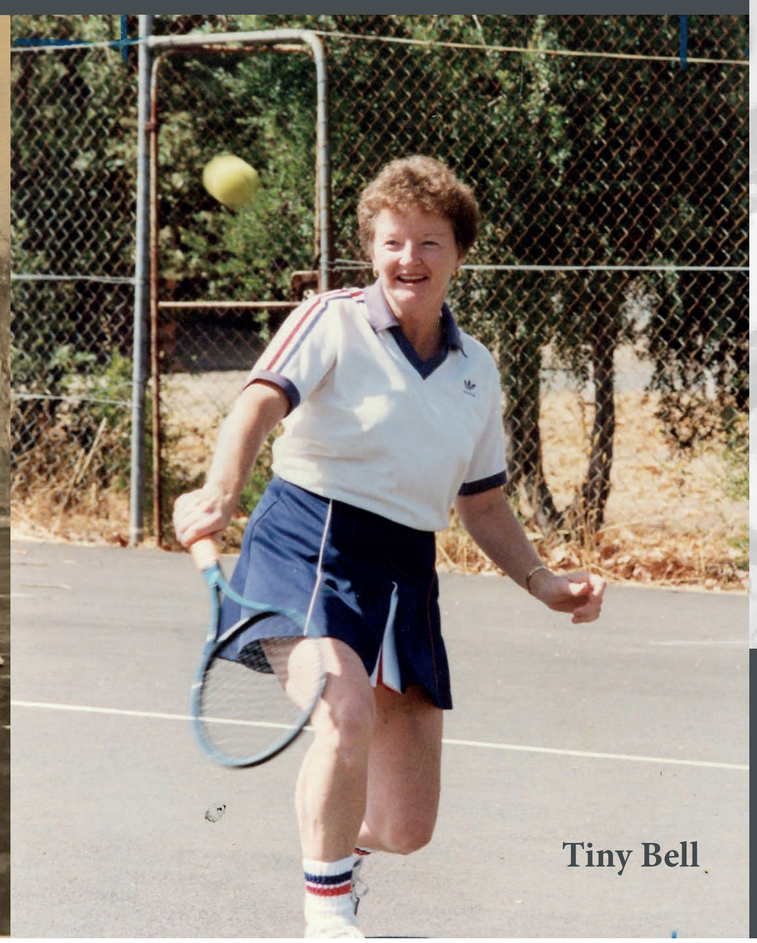
The CWA membership was disbanded in 2002. The building became part of the Cowaramup Tennis Club in 2012.



CWA Rest Room 1991



1948 Under 18 tournament
Maureen Hopes and Emily Arthur



Tiny Bell

Tennis Club

Local tennis players came together in 1929 to build a tennis court near the recreation ground. Using basic tools, they levelled the soil and then covered the ground with the crushed white ant mounds from around the district. Once watered and rolled, the court became very hard-wearing.

The membership has been strong at the tennis club over the years and bitumen courts were installed in the early 1940s. Upgrades to the courts have occurred in recent years and the CWA building was extended to become part of the clubrooms.

Scan here for more information.

Cowaramup Heritage Trail

General Store - Cowaramup Agency

There has been a store on this site since 1925 when Mr. Veasy opened a small general store. Mr. West purchased the business and extended by further building on the boundary with the Congregational Church.

Over the next few years various owners were involved: Killerby's of Busselton then Mr. R Stokeld who owned it from 1947, with his wife running it until 1963.

Around 1972 it was purchased by Tom Duggan and Neville Earl and a Wesfarmers agency was established which sold farm requirements and conducted pig and cattle sales.

Rod Duggan and Neil Earl became the owners in 1983, expanding the buildings and the range of merchandise.



Stokeld Store 1960's: L – R: Tom Duggan, Jo Giralt & Mary Arthur



Congregational church 1930-1940



Opening day of the Congregational church 1928

Congregational Church - Uniting Church

This Church was the first to be erected in Cowaramup and officially opened on February 1928 by the Reverend Bryant. He had been coming from Busselton on his bicycle and holding services in the schoolrooms.

The Reverend Featherstone was involved in the construction of this church and was the Minister until 1929 when Reverend Reginald Salter arrived. He remained with this congregation until 1949. It was re-named the Uniting Church in the 1970s and from the 1990s the Church of Christ held services until 2004.

The church was re-located to the Taunton Farm Caravan Park around 2011 where it has been re-furbished. You are welcome to visit.

Scan here for more information.

Cowaramup Heritage Trail

Peake's Store

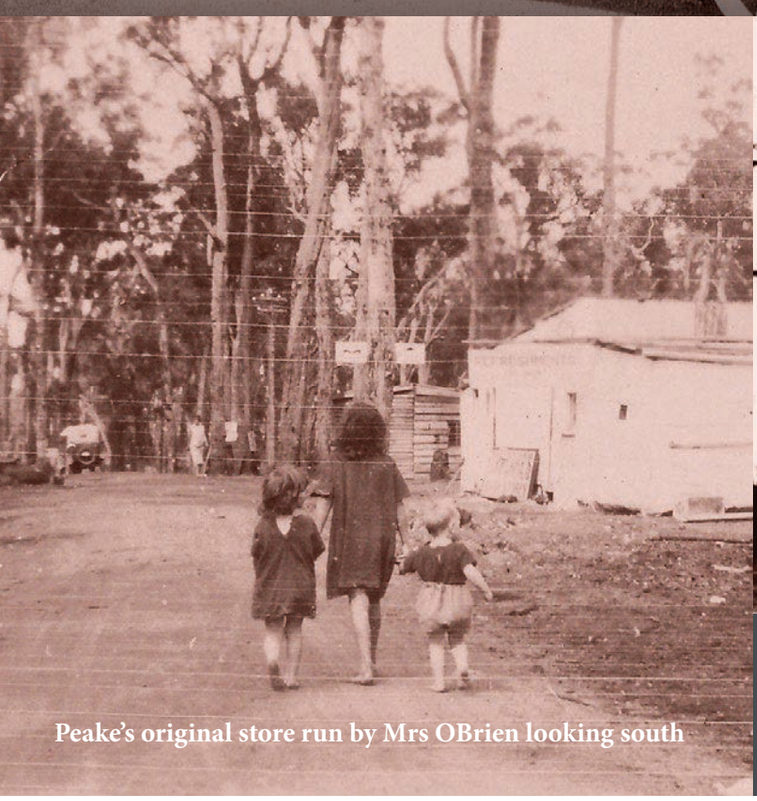
T Peake of Busselton opened a branch store in Cowaramup in 1925 and it stocked groceries, general merchandise, fodder and also sold gelignite and detonators used for farm clearing. It was located just north of the Curtis general store and was managed by his sister Mrs O'Brien and her family.

The building was leased by several businesses after 1934, a tea shop, newsagency and in the 1950's Dr Barrett of Margaret River conducted a surgery in the building.

It has since been demolished.



Peake's first store looking north 1925



Peake's original store run by Mrs OBrien looking south



Peake's store opening day 1929

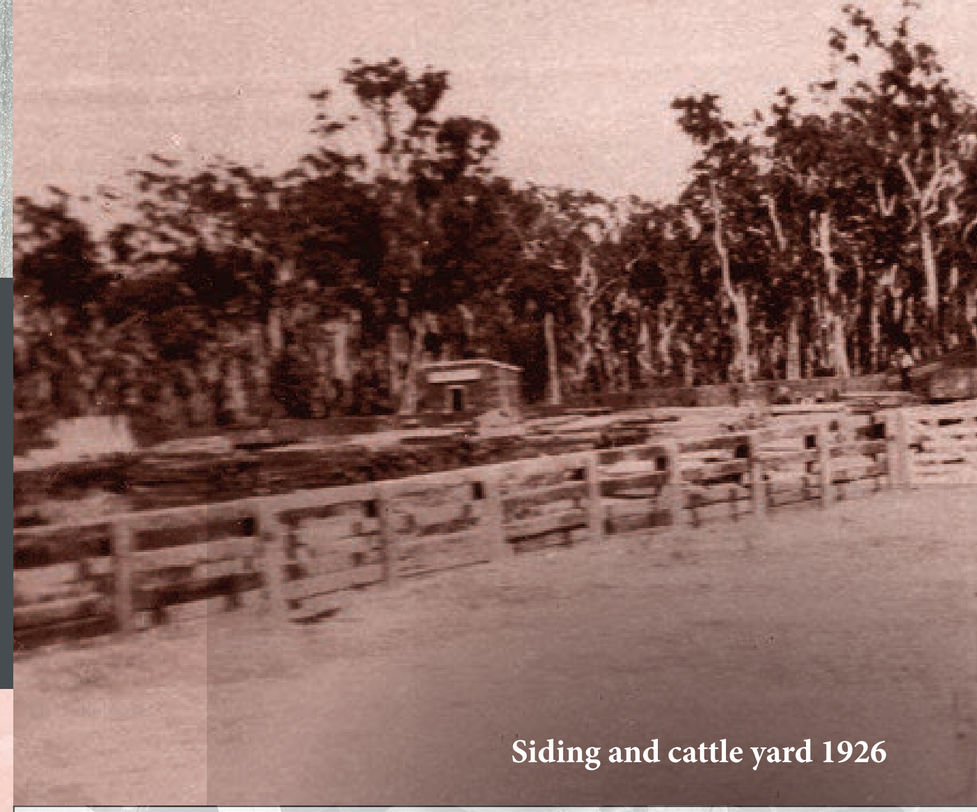
Scan here for more information.

Cowaramup Heritage Trail

Railway Siding

This siding was active in moving timber sleepers out of the area by 1923 even though the official opening was October 24, 1924.

For further information see the panel on the rear of the Railway Siding.



Siding and cattle yard 1926



Calf sales 2005

Saleyards

The first yard around the railway siding was a structure to contain animals. By the late 1930's stock agents were established in Cowaramup and sales of pigs and cattle were occurring on a monthly basis with the animals transported to Perth by rail.

Pig sale day became a social outing for many of the farmers and their families. Initially Mrs Duggan and her daughters, Dot Tearle and Daphne Brown ran a food & tea stall on sale days. Later it was managed by the CWA members. The Saleyards closed in the 1990's and in November 2013 it was re-developed as the Cowaramup Community Men's Shed.

Scan here for more information.