

Last year in the Regulla we began to look at saw mills in the Eungella region.

1880 Saw Pit Creek mill (see Regulla Vol25 No14 6 Sept 2012)

The first record of timber being sawn in the Mackay region was a saw pit established in 1880, south of the present Eungella township, for building at "The Diggings", an early gold mining town. .

Excerpt from: A project researched by Leigh Cunningham (Strack) when she was at High School

1912 - 1914 Dobson's saw mill (see Regulla Vol25 No16 25 Oct 2012)

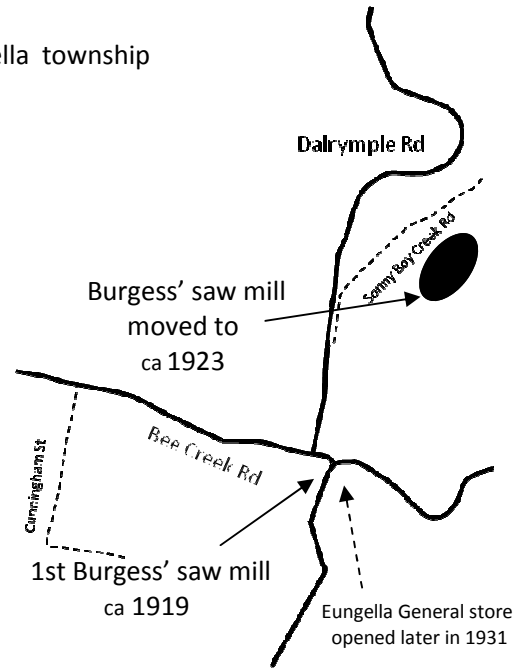
The first saw mill with first steam engine located in what later became Eungella township

Burgess' Saw Mill

1920/21 Burgess saw mill The Burgess family came to Eungella from a farm at Finch Hatton in 1918. Herbert Burgess initially built a sawmill in ca1919 on the corner of what became Bee Creek Rd. This site later became Davis' & Hall's butcher shop and later still the cream/milk/ carrier depot which was a focal point of Eungella for many years. Now days we identify it as the block where that big old shed collapsed in cyclone Ului in March 2010. The shed was built by Harold Pederson in 1964 for the depot and milk trucks.

Herbert's brother Len & wife Mrs. Burgess had the Eungella Guest House and Len the cream run from 1919/20 - Oct. 1942 (see Regulla Vol24 No10 21 July 2011 Burgess Guest House)

Herbert Burgess had 4 sons and a daughter who also had children most of whom became involved in the timber industry. Eventually he was referred to as Pop Burgess or old "Herbie" (not to be confused with 2 of his sons who were also named Herbert. i.e. Bert & young Herbie)



They decided to start a small mill to cut out their own house and took up a 6 hp International Engine to drive the bench, which they built themselves. Since Dobson's Mill was gone there was also plenty of work just cutting for locals e.g. Parkers, Bells, Howies etc.

This initial Burgess saw mill was moved across the road to what we now know as Sonny Boy Creek Rd in 1923/4.

Two of the sons Cecil and George were growing up fast and cleared eleven acres of scrub on Block 97. As soon as it was burnt, the new mill was built there on Sunny Boy Creek where it stayed for years.

In the early days logs were carted in to this mill by bullock teams (see Regulla Vol25 No12 2 Aug 2012 Timber Getting 2 Aspinall teams)

The Burgess family had a 20 hp Titan Tractor with a wagon, with which they were able to pull a couple of logs at a time from Bee Creek. When they had a few loads up they would line the tractor up with the bench and drive with that. Later they bought a 35 hp steam engine, 2 benches and a vertical breaking down frame. (to be continued in the next Regulla)

Info from: Billy & Ken Burgess (Pop Burgess' grandsons) conversations with Glenda Parish 2010 -13 also from: Norm Foster's book " The Roof Garden Of Mackay" c.1985 page 67



Grandad Burgess (Pop)
Part of original saw mill. Ruskin Hornsby 6-10 hp motor [Billy]

Photo from: Betty Burgess wife of Melvin Burgess

Article contributed by: Glenda Parish

No Chalet built in 1933

so say

Eungella in 1931/2

Photo from: Billy & Ellen Burgess

