



FUN IN THE SUN FOR THE SEAMSTRESSES, KNITTERS, SPINNERS, READERS, TALKERS ET AL.

Gundillion Hall

Lyn Cram in conversation with Di Izzard and Gwen Jagger

When your nearest neighbour is 50 kms away it is essential that there is somewhere for neighbours to meet and foster friendships.

In October 1911 a parcel of land was gazetted for public use in the Riding of Gundillion and a dance was held in the little building on the site to celebrate the fact that they now had a 'Gundillion Hall'.

Over the following years there were many social events and dances held there which helped to raise the necessary funds to carry out much needed additions and renovations. The kitchen was originally a makeshift affair with a sink that came from the mines at Captains Flat.

In those days there was no insulation and gaps in the walls let in all sorts of critters. It was freezing cold in winter and extremely hot in summer. So a barbecue area was constructed and Les Cunningham became 'chief cook'. There were two main events which were held each year — a dance to raise money for insurance and the annual kid's Christmas party, which has

become one of the year's iconic and much-anticipated events on the Braidwood and districts calendar.

Di Izzard has fond memories of attending a dance at the Gundillion Hall when she was sixteen. "There was a seven-piece band and, with nearly 300 people attending, it was the social event of the year."

DI IZZARD, KITTY TISCHLER, GWEN AND BERT JAGGER SERVE THE CHRISTMAS FARE.



When Gwen and Bert Jagger moved to a property at Gundillion, over thirty years ago, they received an invitation in their first week. 'You must come to the hall and help with the Christmas party.' Fortunately they decided to go and this was the start of some wonderful friendships. As Gwen says:

"the community spirit has stayed with the hall. No-one is judged — what you see is what you get".

Major renovations came after the residents received a much-needed grant. The ready-made kitchen was donated by a resident who made kitchens, but it entailed months of work with all hands-on-deck for working bees. A carpenter from Bungendore dropped in to the hall and asked, "Can I help?" He then donated a week's work. With only two windows and no insulation, they got to work lining the walls, installing more windows, insulation, gas heating and a sound system.

Gwen Jagger's husband Bert and her brother Irvin Smith worked tirelessly on these projects, along with volunteer help from the community. A storage room off the kitchen was converted into a scullery with an extended commercial dishwasher and big sink. They can now hose down the dishes prior to them being washed. A new fridge was donated and new chairs and tables were purchased.

Over the years, the committees have applied for and received more funding from whichever Government Department would donate. As Di says, "it's a matter of putting up your hand and asking".



Recently the barbecue area has been renovated, with a new barbecue oven installed and glass windows placed around three sides, so now people can sit comfortably on a windy day and enjoy the camaraderie. The new doorway into the hall has made the 'flow of traffic' much easier for everyone.

Additions and renovations have been achieved through the hard work and fund-raising efforts of the community. If someone is sick or has experienced a loss and grief, the community rallies behind these families by supplying home cooked meals, loads of firewood and friendship.

The hall is used for many different reasons. There are fortnightly craft mornings, Tai Chi and yoga groups, and

PICNIC AT WYANBENE CAVES IN THE LATE 1920S.



18 MARCH 1914 — BRAIDWOOD DISPATCH

KRAWARREE

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT)

A very enjoyable day was spent last Friday at the Recreation Ground Gundillion when a picnic was held amongst the local residents and a few visitors from outlying centres. A large crowd gathered, and various games were indulged in by both young and old until about 6 o'clock when afternoon tea was partaken of. Then some of the elder folk and the children left for home. The rest remained to a dance in the new Gundillion Hall, which proved a very fitting wind up for the day's sport. About twenty couples were present, and dancing to the capable music supplied by Messrs Griffin and Jones commenced at 8 o'clock, and was kept going till midnight, when supper which was provided by Mrs. Norman was partaken of. The eatables were of a high class character, and that lady deserves great credit for the manner and trouble to which she went in providing the same. After tea more dancing was indulged in till the small hours of the morning.

The floor was in excellent order which speaks volumes of praise for the builder Mr H. Thompson. The duties of M.C. were carried out by Mr. James Berry.

A word of praise is due to our secretary Mr. D. M. O'Connell who had the matter solely in hand, and proved the right man in the right place.

Judging by the smiling faces of all present needless to say all thoroughly enjoyed themselves, it being one of the best dances which has been held in Krawarree for some time.

The hall which has been recently erected at Gundillion is the long felt want of Krawarree and it is to be hoped that socials of this kind will be more frequent in the future.