

A short history of the early days of the Mannering Park Progress Association.

In 1946 residents of Mannering Park and East Wyee (later known as Doyalson) formed a joint Progress Association called East Wyee. At the time a mail bag was operated at Mrs Bridges who had opened a small store at the intersection of the Pacific Highway and Scenic Drive. Previously mail and groceries were obtained at Wyee.

One of the early items of progress business was the naming of the East Wyee area. Two of the oldest residents at the time were Doyle and Alison. After some in fighting the majority voted for Doyalson made from the two names. Consequently some members resigned.

At the time Mrs Bridge was going to give up the mail bag and it was to be moved to Owen Cartwright on the Pacific Highway opposite the Mannering Park turn off. When that did not eventuate the books and bag (still with the name East Wyee on them) were brought to 25 Kenilworth Street Mannering Park. Mannering Park Progress Association began at this time with members taking turns to hold meetings in their homes.

The first item of business after this was to obtain a Post Office. It was the efforts and know how of Cecil Spencer and Charlie Hogg in getting it opened in January 1947. The Post Master was J W Wynn and it was operated by Ester Wynn.

In January 1948 the telephone was in operation and in about 1950 it was being operated by Mrs Westerland.

The Council was known as Erina at the time and it was slow going getting Kenilworth Street and Waverley Road cleared of virgin bush. — CLEARED BY W.T. WYNN

Cecil Spencer became the mailman and the milkman. Groceries came from Catherine Hill Bay and the bread was delivered from Swansea.

Another of the first Progress Association's business was to establish a sports ground. Twenty acres was given by Council on Vales Road to Mannering Creek (now the Ash Dam) — Voluntary work cleared some area near Vales Road and built a one room fibro structure in which all Progress meetings were held also dances, functions and charity benefits. At one occasion 50 pounds was raised for the Wyong Ambulance, previously it had to come from Gosford.

When Mannering Park properties were subdivided around 1960 the Progress obtained a piece of reserve in Cheryl Street, this was because the Power Station took their land. The Power Station kindly transported the building onto the Cheryl Street site free of cost.

Voluntary efforts bought one of the army huts at Greta and volunteers with trucks transported it and placed it next to the other room. Many nights of fun were held there.

The present Community Hall was built in the 70's by voluntary labour and fund raising and when completed the Progress Association sold their property and gave the proceeds to the present hall on the condition they obtain a free meeting place.

In 1950 Mannering Park was promised electricity in a three year plan. Although electricity went along the Pacific Highway it didn't eventuate until 1959 when it was decided to construct the Vales Point Power Station. It was the same with sealing the road.

The Council had the franchise to supply water to Mannering Park which prevented the Hunter Water Board from supplying it. Eventually water was obtained via the Power Station after it was built, this water was supplied by the Hunter Water Board.

Plaques of appreciation and recognition for assistance and donations from the Mannering Park Progress Association can be seen in Wyong Hospital.

All these topics and more have been accomplished by the dedication of many community minded residents of the area.

W Wynn.