

IMPORTANT CATTLE SALE

KYLA PARK, TUROSS HEAD

With transcripts from the Moruya Examiner by Helen Townend



The last cattle sale at Kyla Park 1908

Photo courtesy of Cliff Evans

Moruya Examiner, 21st March 1908

This is the last opportunity we will have of reminding dairymen and dealers of the important clearance sale of Mr. J.Hawdon's dairy herd, young stock, bulls and dairy plant which will be conducted by the Bega auctioneer, Mr. W.Rixon, on the premises Kyla Park on Thursday next, the 26th instant.

The fact may not be known to some of our south coast new arrivals that the Hawdon families have been about the pioneer breeders of dairy cattle in this part of the State. In the very early days of this district the late John Hawdon practically owned the Bodalla Estate, and with his sons, who were of an exploring and daring nature, took mobs of cattle and horses through to the other States when the country intervening was an unexplored bush.

Later on Mr. Hawdon, with his son Ernest, who was the father of the present Mr. John Hawdon, settled down on Kyla farm in the dairying industry which has been continued ever since. The vendor's father, the late Mr.

Ernest Hawdon was one of the keenest cattle judges in this district, and when he took control of the Kyla Estate he made dairy cattle his special study, with the result that his dairy herd was subsequently known as the best on the south coast. Some short time before his death, when the Ayrshire cow was so much prized for the dairy, Mr. Hawdon purchased at a big price some of the best Ayrshire bulls available which he crossed with his herd of Shorthorn or dairy cows notably the imported "Miss Wilson", winner of many show prizes.

Of the present Mr. Hawdon we know less than we did of his father and grandfather, and consequently are not well versed in his modus operandi, but if he has given the breeding of dairy stock half the attention his immediate ancestors did - which we have no reason to doubt - his stock on Thursday next should realise record prices.

Moruya Examiner, 28th March 1908

The clearance sale of Mr. John Hawdon's dairy herd and young stock held by Mr. W.Rixon on Thursday, was as predicted by us,

the most successful held in this district for many years past. All classes sold at high prices, milkers reaching the record price of £9. We have not had time to get the average, but taking the high prices realised all through, it must be a good one. With the exception of a few lines of backward heifers and a very few cows, the lot was cleared out. A pen of Berkshire pigs, which some had valued at from 25s to 27s 6d per head, realised the phenomenal figure of £2 per head - Mr. E.Bown being the purchaser. Mr. "Willie" Brown, in the absence of Mr. Rixon, conducted the sale and we compliment that young "Knight of the hammer" on the tact and ability displayed by him.

Moruya Examiner, 25th April 1908

It is, apparently, Mr. John Hawdon's intention to devote most of his Kyla property to wool growing, as he has just purchased 500 sheep (from Goulburn and Braidwood) to take the place of his milking herd some few weeks back. Whether sheep will be more remunerative than cattle to Mr. Hawdon is yet to be proven. There is one certainty however, that

sheep will do much to bring the land to its original condition of freedom from the Merramurang and Bergalia objectionable and teeth-wearing grass.

After the Cattle Sale

John Emmott Hawdon was President of The Eurobodalla Shire for the period August 1911 to February 1915 and laid the foundation stone for the Shire Chambers in Campbell Street, Moruya in 1913.

During World War 11, a number of wool clips were supplied through Dalgety & Co from Kyla Park to the UK Government.

In 1973, after a continuation of occupation of the Kyla Park dairy farm for 140 plus years, the Kyla Park estate was sold by Ernest Athol (known as Athol) Hawdon to a developer.

The entire 288 ha farm, which was owned to the high water mark of both Coila and Tuross Lakes was subdivided into –

- (1) Strata Title Residential Precincts (four “Clusters” subdivided into 69 lots) 50 ha.

- (2) Recreation facilities (Kyla Park Youth & Sports Club) 11ha.
- (3) Grazing Lots 192 ha.
- (4) Foreshore Reserve 36 ha.

Today, the total of the above four parts still constitute the original dairy farm as can be seen by a comparison with the 1886 Parish Map.

The developers, Camenae dedicated the “Grazing/Foreshore Reserves” as:

“The whole of the Grazing/Foreshore Reserve Lot should be maintained as an area of unique characteristics for the visual benefit of members of the general public.”

“It is intended that the Foreshore Reserve area should be freely available for use by members of the general public and Cluster owners.”

“It is intended that the Grazing area(s) be made available pursuant to an appropriate agreement for the grazing of livestock on such terms as are commercially negotiated.

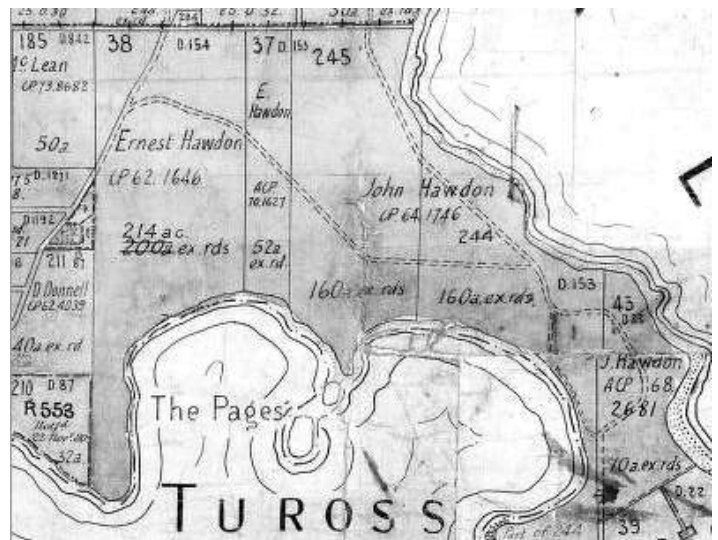
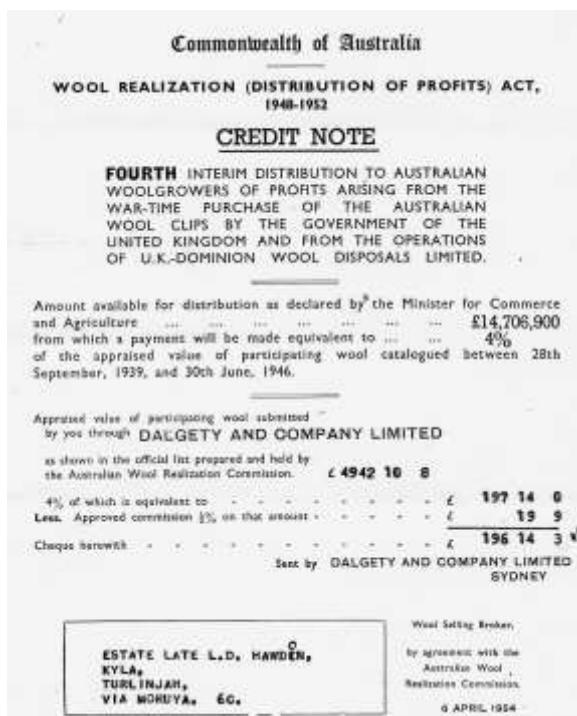
Cultural Significance

In 2003, the five grazing lots were categorised as “An Area of Cultural Significance” owing to the historical use of the land for grazing by the Hawdon family; the first lands in the whole of Eurobodalla Shire to be so categorized.

The two large lots continue to be used as grazing lands as they had been for the past 160+ years, while the three smaller lots are used for horse agistment/general community use.

An amendment to the Eurobodalla Shire Council’s Rural Local Environment Plan was gazetted in November 2004 and a 25 year commercial grazing lease agreement with a local farmer was signed in April 2007 and is valid to 2028.

The category of “Cultural Significance” is defined as “aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present and future generations”.



Hawdon Landholdings at Tuross from the 1886 Parish of Congo Map