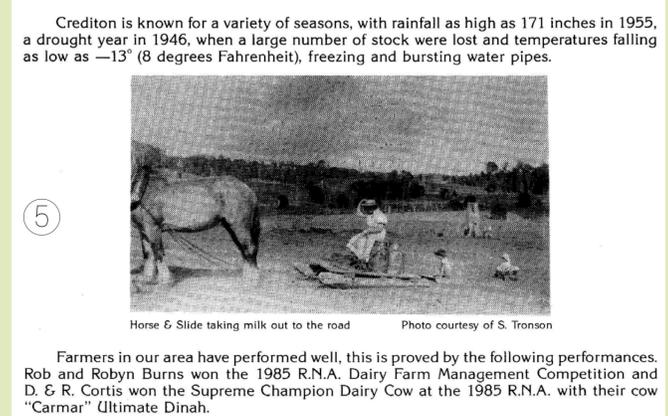


THE HISTORY OF DAIRYING FROM 1912-1942



1. Article in Daily Mercury, September 27, 1985 showing Gordon Childs, Neal Hickey, Fred Herbert, Harry Ward, Harry Harvey who had come to help Charlie Linklater burn felled timber on his Cathay Creek block in 1935
2. Partly cleared scrub on Tom Dunbar's property Upper River Road, Crediton late 1930s
3. Dairy herd on Tom Dunbar's property Upper River Road, Crediton ca 1940s
4. Tom Dunbar's 1st self built dwelling, a big bark hut Upper River Road, Crediton ca. 1938
5. Horse and slide taking milk cans to road for pick up ca 1940s - excerpt 'Memories of Crediton' book

Back in 1907, J. T. Bell, Minister for Lands in the Queensland Government, crossed the Eungella Range and was impressed by the immense scrub, the numerous watercourses and the rich soil. He saw the potential for further pioneering. In Brisbane, he initiated a vote of £20,000 for the construction of a road from Finch Hatton to the top of the range. Surveyor Bernard Dupuy was commissioned to survey blocks suitable for dairying.

By 1912 blocks of land surveyed by Kemmis and Dupuy were selected in the Dalrymple Heights area by Cummings, Rothwell and Polson.

In 1935 land ballots were drawn for 39

blocks of land at Crediton. The range road was improved, with roads constructed to blocks by PEI (Public Estate Improvement).

The land was cleared of vegetation using brush hooks, axes, springboards and crosscut saws to make the blocks ready for burning off and seeding with grasses - suitable to carry cows and stock. It was a lease condition that 75 acres had to be cleared and grassed within 3 years. Some of the original settlers found the task too enormous and surrendered.

Dalrymple and Eungella dairy farmers would transport their cream by packhorse to Netherdale, to be railed onwards to Rockhampton. By the early 1930s, their produce went to the Port

Curtis Co-op Dairy Assoc. butter factory in Mackay. Cream for butter manufacture was their main produce, with the by-product skim milk being fed to the pigs.

In 1941 the first milking machines were in use. Harry Ward had commenced a "cream run" to Crediton, Len Burgess who owned and ran the 'Eungella Guest House' had been collecting cream from Dalrymple for some time. Others to follow were Reg Wood and Cliff Old who later went to block 18 in Crediton to commence dairying.

Step Back in Time *gathering Eungella's past*

Images were contributed to the "Step Back in Time - Gathering Eungella's past" project by past and present residents.
Visit www.history.eungella.com.au for more information.