

HISTORY OF THE EUNGELLA CHALET



MURRAY VIEWS No. 58. THE CHALET, EUNGELLA RANGE, MACKAY



Chalet visit on film

Sir, — It was interesting to read (*DM* 12/7/90) of the history of the Eungella Chalet, established by Dr Ernest Chenoweth, Dr Charlie Williams and Dr Joe Gallagher in 1933.

Tom and Althea Cook of Greenmount must have been among the first visi-

tors to the new Chalet, as there is a series of snapshots in the historical collection at Greenmount Historic Homestead, taken at Eungella in August 1933, by Althea.

Enclosed is a snapshot of Dr and Mrs Chenoweth and their Isis car in front of

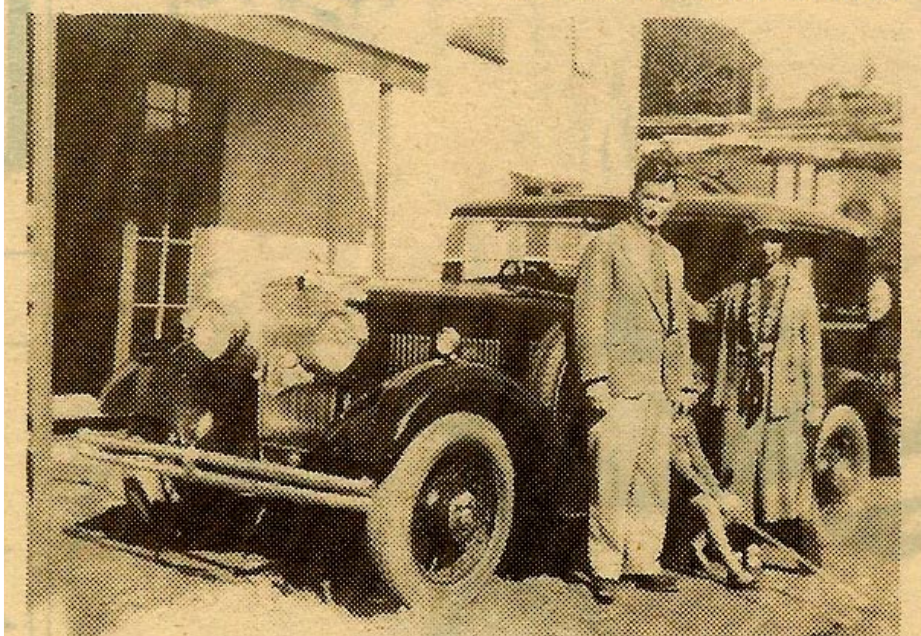
the Chalet entrance, taken by Althea at that time.

However, the Chalet was not the first to cater for visitors. The Greenmount records show that Tom's parents, Mr and Mrs A.A. Cook, in August 1925 took the children for a short visit to Eungella in their Model T Ford.

They stayed two nights at Goode's boarding house, remarking that "the Range Road is a stiff climb".

Before packing up for the return journey, they found a "tree top for using as a drag behind the car to help brake it down the Range".

Leaving Eungella at about 10.30 a.m., they reached home a little after 4 p.m. — MRS B. CLARK, Research officer, Mackay Historical Society and Museum.



DR and Mrs Ernest Chenoweth pictured outside the Chalet in 1933.



IMAGE DESCRIPTIONS:

1. Eungella Chalet ca. 1950 (State Library image TR1867-0001-0031)

2. Kaj Sprogoe and his seven seater Cadillac guest transportation vehicle in 1941

3. Eungella Chalet 1930s postcard

4. Eungella Chalet pictured late 1950s

5. Daily Mercury Newspaper article

6. Eungella Chalet dining room 1950s (Hannah Sprogoe by pole)

7. The Eungella Chalet damaged by Cyclone Ului - March 2010

8. The Chalet tennis court in the 1950s

In 1933 a syndicate of Doctors - Chenoweth, Williams and Gallagher employed Joe Gralow and Archie McDonald to build The Eungella Chalet on land that had been part of John Cunningham's lease.

It was opened by former Prime Minister Mr James Scullin in 1934 and managed by the Owen family. Poor weather - 13 fine days in 1934 - was the cause of several closures and changes of lessees over the next couple of years. In 1937, Mr Kaj and Mrs Johanna Sprogoe (nee Pratt) bought and very successfully ran it

for 36 years until 1973. Since then, there have been several owners.

In 1958 it was licensed as a hotel. In the 1970s and 80s it was popular for smorgasbord lunches, cabarets and dances. The tennis court was replaced by a swimming pool in 1975 and hang gliding also became an attraction.

The Chalet was ripped apart by Cyclone Ului in March 2010, then closed for six months whilst owners Tony Murray and Tess Ford rebuilt and renovated it.

At an elevation of 680m on the Clarke

Range edge, with magnificent views of the Pioneer Valley, the Eungella Chalet has always been a popular guest house, restaurant and honeymoon destination for people looking for good food, clean mountain air and a quiet place to relax while taking in the view or watching the mystical clouds roll past.

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.