

## The name “Sonny Boy Creek” & ‘Sonny Boy’ Frank Gallagher

In the last Regulla (Regulla Vol26No02 Timber Getting 6 Burgess' saw mill).you may have noticed some discrepancies in dates, descriptions and spellings. It is tricky when gathering such historical information from various sources to make decisions on which information to use. Any corrections, comments or additional info are, as always, welcomed.

In the last article ‘Sonny Boy’ was also spelt Sunny Boy. As you will notice by the sign at the Bridge on the way out to Dalrymple Rd the spelling is ‘Sonny Boy’ named after ‘Sonny Boy’ Gallagher who had a camp site where the Uniting Church later stood (built in 1947 demolished in April 2011).

Actually Sonny Boy Creek is also known as Whitcombe’s creek on most maps.

( the start of this section of the article was already cut off)

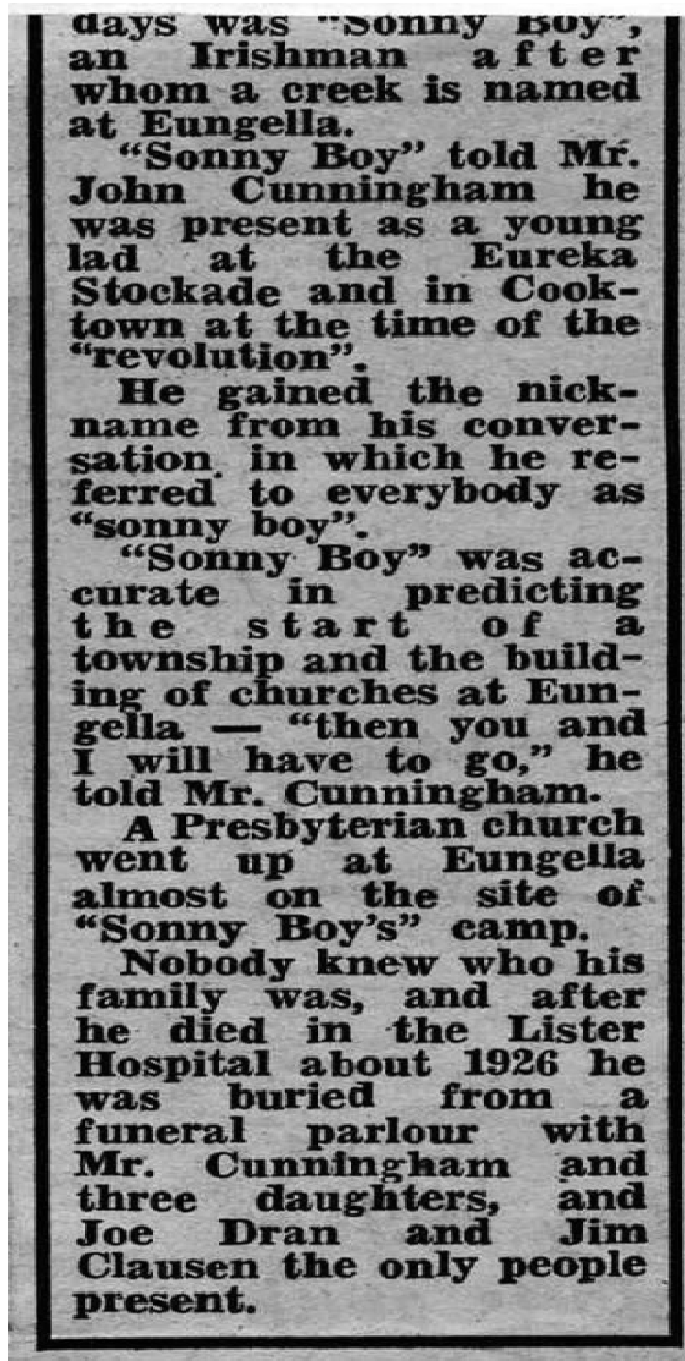


‘Sonny Boy’ Frank Gallagher at his Eungella Camp 1926 .

Photo from: Flora Cunningham

Bill Aspinall (now age 88 living in Collinsville) still remembers, as a young 5-6 year old, trudging through the waters of Sonny Boy Creek, watching out for “moon lighters” (Gympie Gympie) the heart shaped stinging tree, as he went exploring with his brothers around Sonny Boy’s gold mine down stream from his camp. He mostly did prospecting along the creek rather than mining, at that time. Bill tells of sitting by Sonny Boy’s galley fire (a 3 side construction in the open made from scrounged iron or wood slabs) listening to many a story told by the old timer, who had a vivid imagination and was prone to exaggeration, with tall tales from down south in Victoria. Bill can still see Sonny Boy sitting barefoot by the fire with big toe nails curled around like goat horns from pushing against boots. “He couldn’t cut them with my dad’s pocket knife.” says Bill This would have been in about 1931. (Bill born in 1925). “I remember mum going to visit him in hospital” Bill told Glenda (March 2013).

Article contributed by: Glenda Parish



Excerpt from 'In The Days of Gold' a John Cunningham article in The Mackay Daily Mercury 21 Feb 1974

Article from: Naomi O'brien (nee Davis)

The presence of “Sonny Boy” Gallagher at The Eureka Stockade in Ballarat has been disputed by some historians in Mackay.

(Following this digression the Burgess saw mill story shall be continued in a future Regulla article)