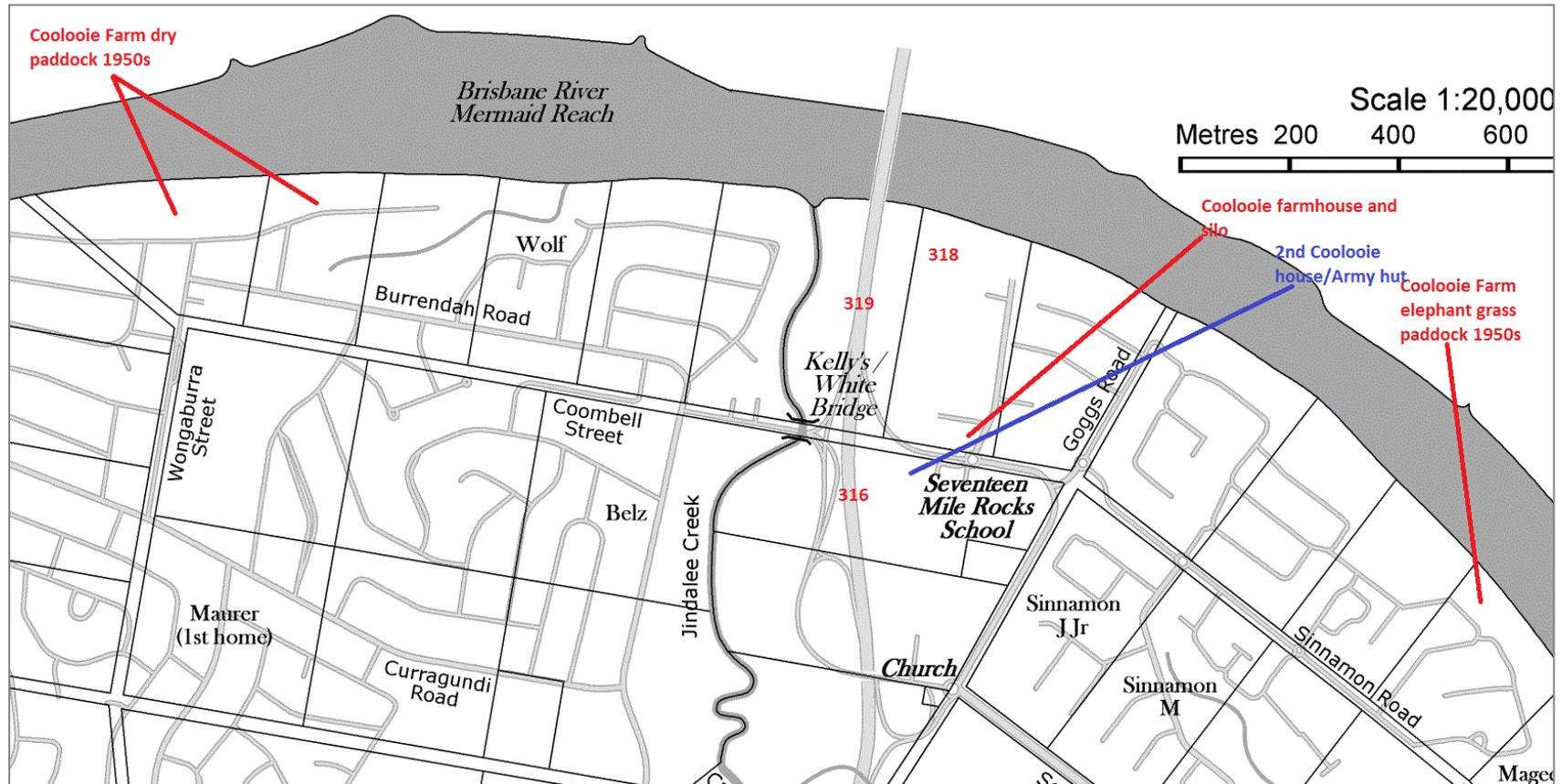


The Story of *Coolooie Farm*: the Direct Factory Outlet/Centenary Quays/Jindalee Village Central/Jindalee Hotel locality

The locality now occupied by the DFO, Centenary Quays, Jindalee Hotel and Jindalee Village Central was the site of a dairy farm, *Coolooie Farm*, at the time farming activity ceased and the land was taken over by Centenary Estates for redevelopment. At that time, *Coolooie Farm*, then owned by Douglas Gordon, consisted of a central part consisting of three of the Crown land portions surveyed in 1864 (portions 316, 218 and 319). There were also two non-adjacent riverside paddocks each in a different direction from the central farm. To the west, an approximately 30-acre paddock was used as a dry paddock for the dairy farm. To the east, an 11-acre paddock was used to grow cattle fodder. The total property comprised approximately 102 acres. The map below indicates the key parts of the farm in red and blue. Straight black lines form the boundaries of land portions. The original roads are in darker outline overlaid on current (2013) roads that are in pale grey.



Today, in 2013, portion 316, that extended between Goggs Rd and Jindalee Creek, is occupied by a car park and a variety of retail and service industry businesses including the Jindalee Hotel, First Choice liquor outlet, a Coles supermarket, chemist and baker, a sports medicine clinic, and a variety of other stores. It also contains part of the Centenary Highway and a small part of the Jindalee Golf Course. Portion 318, between Sinnamon Rd. and the river, contains a gated townhouse development (Centenary Quays) near the river, part of a riverside park, and an office base for Aged Care Queensland that is approximately where *Coolooie* farmhouse was located. The Direct Factory Outlet probably straddles portions 318 and 319. Centenary Bridge, opened in 1964, providing a valuable link with the northern suburbs and quicker access to the city, is on portion 319, as is part of the Centenary Highway, Belz Pioneer Park at the riverside, and disused tennis courts. That

portion of *Coolooie Farm* that was the dry paddock for a dairy farm in the 1950s formed part of the original development of suburban Jindalee, approximately from the Jindalee Kindergarten in Burrendah Rd. to the river and along the river to the former scout hut. The 1950s elephant grass paddock forms part of the riverside Windermere Estate, itself part of Sinnamon Park.

Coolooie Farmhouse



The farmhouse was situated on the site now occupied by Aged Care Qld. It was sold by the developers and is understood to have been moved to a country site possibly in the Brisbane Valley.

Pre-suburban History. The farm was part of a small farming community, Seventeen Mile Rocks, whose nearest public transport and shopping facilities were in Oxley, three miles distant from the farm on a dirt road. Children in the district were able to attend the one-teacher primary school but had to go to Brisbane suburbs for high school education. During the 1950s, mail was delivered daily by car from Oxley. In the latter part of the period, a grocery delivery from Oxley was available to those who wished to take advantage of it.

Components of *Coolooie Farm*. *Coolooie Farm* grew considerably in size over the years. The core part of the farm in the 1940s and 1950s, Crown land portions 316 (24 acres and 2 roods), 318 (20 acres) and 319 (17 acres), had a single owner only from 1940. The first purchaser in 1864-5 of two of these three blocks each resold his holding within 18 months, a pattern typical of much of the early land sales in the district where speculators appear to have outnumbered farmers. William Cahill, however, a farmer who had purchased the Crown land block 319 in 1864, that lay in the “L” created by the intersection of the creek and the river, added to his holding with the acquisition of 316 in 1866. Similarly, Robert Henry, whose family later acquired another block in the district and established market gardens in the Rocks Riverside Park area, purchased 318 from the first owner, Robert Cribb, in 1866, and held it for 17 years.

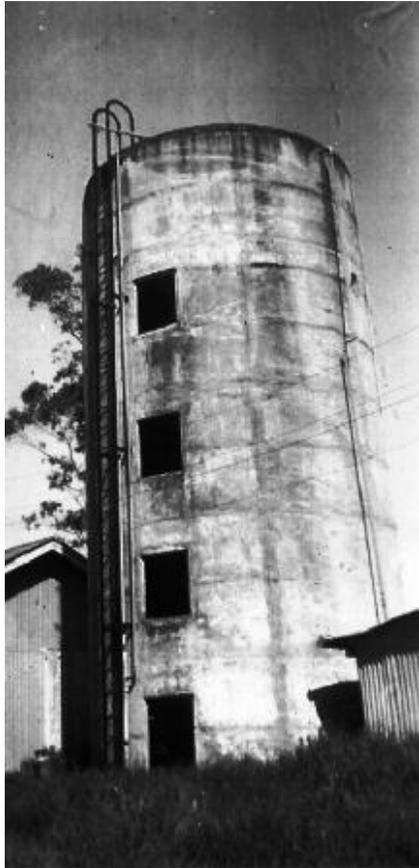
William Cahill sold 316 and 319 to separate owners in 1876. The new owner of portion 319 was George Morrison, already a local pioneer who had purchased portion 315 in the Crown land sale of 1864. By 1889, Peter Belz, who owned the site of *Round Hill Farm* on the other side of Jindalee Creek, had acquired both 318 and 319. While they moved out of Belz hands in 1916, these two blocks continued to be owned by the same person (albeit changing owners) until 1940. In that year, Philip McIlwraith Forest, a retired grazier, acquired both these and portion 316, thereby increasing the total holding by almost 40%. The last owner Douglas Gordon’s acquisition of additional, non-adjacent land to these three portions - the additions totalling approximately 41 acres - enlarged Forrest’s property by approximately 65%.

James McDowell, who already had land along 17 Mile Rocks Rd, acquired portion 316 in the latter part of 1876 from Mr Cahill. The land was immediately subject to a small subdivision, 2 acres being transferred to the Department of Public Instruction for establishment of the permanent Seventeen Mile Rocks State School in Goggs Rd as an earlier building near the corner of Goggs and Seventeen Mile Rocks Roads had become unusable. This school continued to serve the district until Jindalee was established and a new, larger primary school opened in Burrendah Rd. in 1966.

Land Usage. In the last half of the 19th century, production of food crops for sale at town markets was the major activity on all three of the core farm land portions. Goods were taken to market by row boat in the early years. During the Belz ownership period of portions 318 and 319, horse-breaking and horse trading became a

significant activity. Dairy farming was introduced throughout the district toward the end of the 19th century and gradually took over from agriculture. Coolooie Farm land usage reflected this change.

During the 1930s portions 318 and 319 were the home of a prize-winning Ayrshire cattle stud owned by Oscar and Mabel Jones. The property and the stud was then known as 'Seven Oaks'. This name appears to have been taken from the Joneses' previous property at the corner of Seven Oaks and Sundridge Sts, Taringa. Portion 316 on the opposite side of Sinnamon Road, then owned by the Courtman family, had a Jersey cattle stud during the 1930s. A Friesian cattle stud was developed by Douglas Gordon in the early 1950s. This stud, whose name 'Coolooie Farm' was taken from the name of the farm at that time, was in occupation at the time the farm was sold to developers.



During World War 2, during Phillip McIlwraith Forrest's period of ownership, portion 316 was the site of a Searchlight Battery (see 'Historical Overview/Pre-Suburban History/1942-44 Searchlight Battery' on this website).

The Silo. Many residents of Centenary suburbs will recall the silo that stood on Sinnamon Road near the Amazon Place intersection. Painted black in later years, earlier it was red with white print displaying a Coca Cola advertisement. However, in the pre-suburban farming era, the silo was a plain concrete colour and stood near the front of Coolooie Farm portion 318 (see image to the left).

It is not certain when the silo was built. However Hyndes family members who moved into *Coolooie* in 1946 after Dr Hyndes acquired the property recall that the silo was already there when they arrived. Their family photographs demonstrate its presence during their period of occupancy 1946-8. And Gordon family members confirm that the silo was already installed when Douglas Gordon took over the property in late 1948.

A water tank in the top of the silo stored bore water pumped from underground. The water, though not of drinking quality, was a significant source of household and farm water.

The Army Hut - second house on *Coolooie Farm*, late 1940s and 1950s. The first residents of Jindalee also recall a building located on Sinnamon Road in the vicinity of Jindalee Village Central and the Jindalee Homemaker Centre. Dr Hyndes, who purchased the three *Coolooie* portions 316, 318 and 319 in 1946, installed his sister Judy Connell and her husband as farm managers and the Connell family lived in the *Coolooie* farmhouse. Dr Hyndes' now mature children say that as their father believed that children do better in the country, he moved his family to a second house on the property on the opposite side of Sinnamon Road on portion 316. He obtained a former Army hut for this purpose and had it installed on the site (it replaced an original high-set house which presumably must have been in a state of disrepair - or destroyed when the Army closed down the Searchlight Battery that had used it in wartime). Dr Hyndes' niece Judy Newsom née Connell and also his children advise that Mrs Hyndes and the children lived in the former Army hut with their mother and that their father, who had a practice in Moorooka, joined them on weekends.

The former Army hut is depicted in the 1950s photograph opposite (Peter Gordon on 'Toddy' in the foreground).

From the late 1940s when Dr Douglas Gordon purchased the property from Dr Hyndes, this second house on *Coolooie* was occupied by the farm manager, the first being Vic Dempster. During Vic and Thelma Dempsters' time there, the very large central room was used as a venue for community dances that were later held in the school. During the 1950s, successive *Coolooie* farm managers occupied the house with their families. When dairy farming on *Coolooie* ceased, the house was leased by two successive police families. For a short period after this, when owned by the developers of Jindalee in the early stages of development, it was used for Church services.

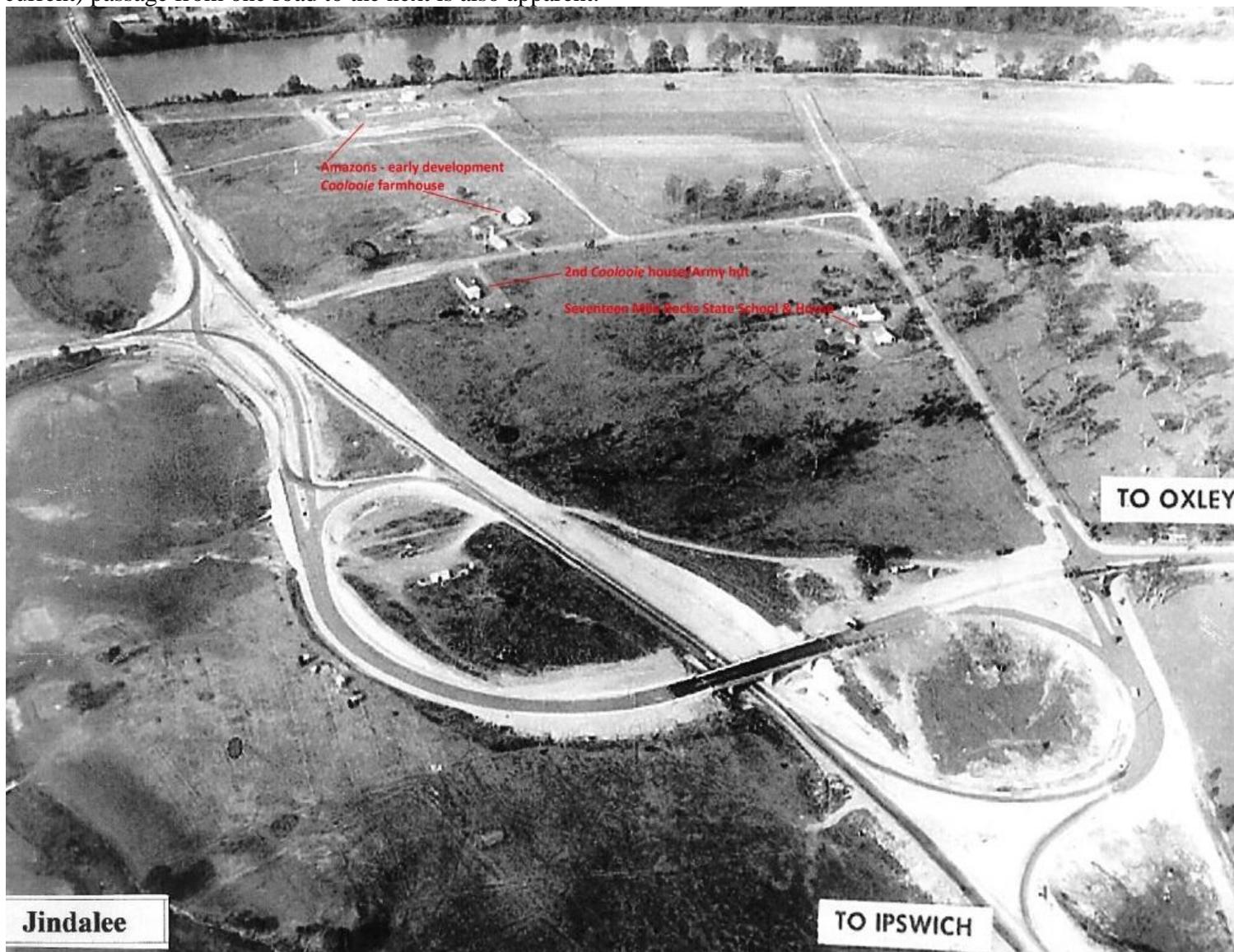
Origin of name '*Coolooie*'. *Coolooie* is said to be an Aboriginal word meaning plenty of water or place of water. As indicated above, the property was known as 'Seven Oaks' in the 1930s when Oscar Jones owned it but was already called *Coolooie Farm* when Douglas Gordon acquired it at the end of 1948. Most people attribute the naming of the property as *Coolooie* to the wartime owner Phillip McIlwraith Forrest who acquired the property from Oscar Jones. Electoral roll records indicate that Mr Forrest was living at a Gold Coast

property called *Coolooie* in 1949 and during the 1950s. This indicates a strong association with the name. As the owner prior to Mr Forrest had called the property *Seven Oaks*, there is good reason to assume that Mr Forrest was responsible for re-naming it *Coolooie*.

Transition to suburban era. Though the developers acquired the farm very early in development of Centenary Suburbs, the last owners, the Gordon family, retained a 2-acre area around the house and continued to live there for some years. Those portions of the farm east of Jindalee Creek were not developed fully for many years but suburbia spread quickly in the 1950s dry paddock. Amazons recreational facility was the only installation on the core part of the farm east of Jindalee Creek for a long time. The first Jindalee Hotel, situated nearer to the current site of Coles than to that of the current hotel, marked the beginning of development on portion 316. As indicated above, the developers retained the second house on the farm for some time and are said to have made it available as a community hall in the very early development period. The 1950s elephant grass paddock was the last area to be developed.



The aerial photograph, taken about 1967, shows the new roadworks along with remnants of the farming era. The two roads joining Goggs and Sinnamon Roads depict the change in their intersection: the original intersection, a right angle or 90 degree turn, is evident but the curved route from Goggs to Sinnamon Road that marks the route of the new (and current) passage from one road to the next is also apparent.



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