

JINDALEE CREEK

Jindalee Creek has been very significant to the history of the district. It brings water to areas more distant from the river. In pioneering years when row boats were the main means of transport, it provided access to land holdings and also a passage for early farmers taking their goods to the town markets by river. About 10 years before the end of the 19th century, a rum distillery operated for several years a short distance up the creek in a locality that no longer exists as a result of re-design of roads - the north-western corner of Goggs and Oldfield Roads.

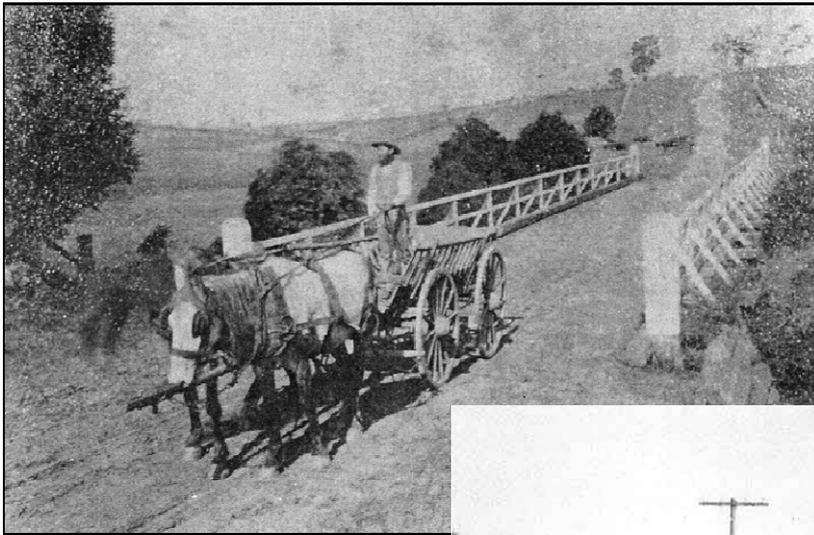
The creek's significance in spreading flood waters is now well known. There are many anecdotes from residents of both the suburban and pre-suburban eras about the impact of and crossings of the flooded creek. The image below shows the creek in flood during the farming era when farmers on the west side had to take their dairy products to the town markets by first crossing the creek by boat. During the 1974 flood, residents rowed across the flooded creek to obtain milk for infants from the Sinnamon dairy farm.



In our research on the pre-suburban history of the district, we came across three earlier names for the creek. It was known by some as Kelly creek in the 19th century after early pioneer farmers in an area that included the Sinnamon Road shopping centre: the Kelly land was bordered by the creek and extended from Sinnamon Road to the river. But in pre-suburban 20th century, it was variously known as Belz Creek (after a very significant pioneer family whose original landholding was also bordered by the Creek) and as Mosquito Creek. The usages of the names Belz Creek and Mosquito Creek actually occurred during the same time period by different sections of the community.

The creek received an official name as Jindalee Creek only in November 2013. We have not seen any of the three earlier names of which we are aware, on early maps - unlike, for example, Mt Ommaney Creek, another creek in the area, that does appear on early maps. The Centenary Suburbs Historical Society was happy to support the name 'Jindalee' for this creek.

The name 'Jindalee' is taken from the suburb Jindalee. The establishment of Jindalee suburb is a key milestone in the history of the district. Being the first suburb in the area, it marks the transition from a farming community to a suburban one. The word 'Jindalee' itself is an Aboriginal word meaning 'bare hills'. Of course, this does not reflect the original vegetation of the area but rather, the state of the land when first seen by developers after 100 years of agriculture and dairy farming. The crossing at the creek was the access point to the original part of Jindalee suburb that was established on those 'bare hills'. The first image below shows the creek, with the wooden bridge then known as White Bridge, approximately in the late 19th century, with pioneer farmer August Maurer traversing it. The second image depicts the creek just before suburban development commenced. And the third shows the pipes that



were inserted under the road about that time - the first replacement of the old wooden bridge.



While there were earlier names for the creek, 'Jindalee' is the name that has existed for the longest period in common usage.

