

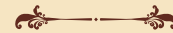
THE STORY OF BUNDANOON YHA



Beaumont YHA, Kangaroo Valley, NSW, 1964

Today Bundanoon YHA continues the tradition of Southern Highlands hospitality that began after intrepid volunteer horse riders and cyclists in the 1940s 'staked out' places for visitors to stay.

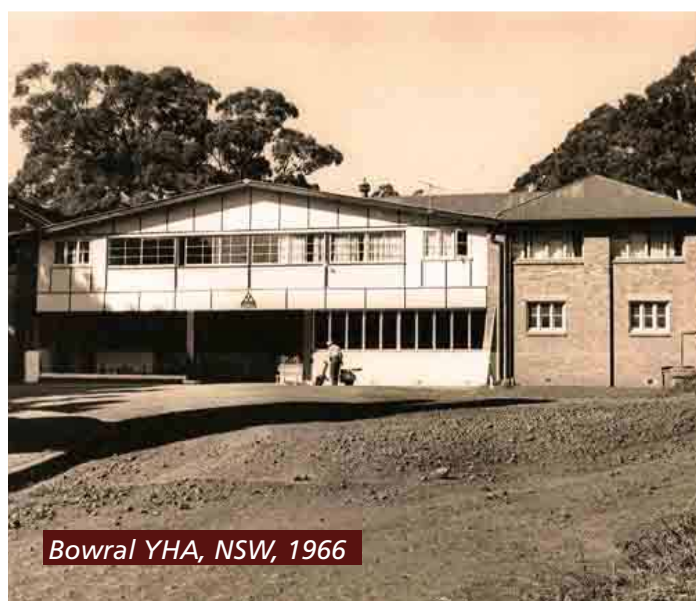
1940 In the mid 1940s YHA volunteers Paddy Pallin and Fred King cycled around the Southern Highlands of NSW to organise overnight farmhouse-style accommodation. Later, around 1947, another YHA volunteer, Betty Grant, rode a horse through the region, sending chaff ahead for the horses because of drought conditions, as she too tried to organise farmhouse stays just a day's walk apart. The idea didn't take off, partly because there were too few cars, and petrol was rationed.



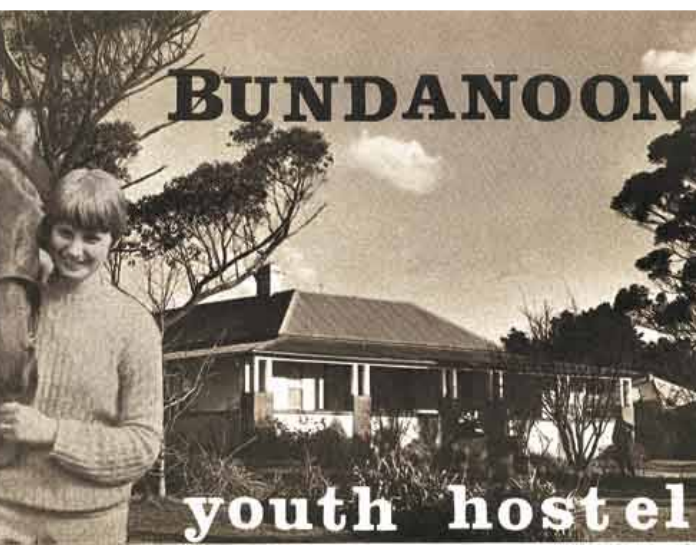
1960 An old timber church opened in 1964 as a 12-bed hostel at Beaumont in Kangaroo Valley, which burned down in a bush fire in 1972. Meanwhile, in 1966 a rambling two storey building at Bowral, formerly an orphanage, located in the "Pavilion" at Hopewood House, opened as the first large NSW hostel. There were 80 beds and YHA paid a nominal \$2 a year rent. As was common in those days the manager, known as a warden, lived on site, maintaining the property in return for free accommodation. However, the tenancy was revoked and the building had to be vacated by June 30, 1971



1970 There was a scramble to find a replacement property in the Southern Highlands, and the YHA Chairman used a personal cheque to secure Lynbrook Guest House at Bundanoon. YHA moved in on July 3, 1971. The manager from Bowral and other volunteers added a private manager's residence. The speed of the move from Bowral to Bundanoon did not leave time for Lynbrook to have an official opening at the time.



Bowral YHA, NSW, 1966



HISTORY OF LYNBROOK Guest House



Postcard, 1909*



"The Sunday evening meal was served as High Tea. Comprising soup, sandwiches, scones, jam and cream, and sponge cake. Hot cocoa, yum oh! (It was probably the cook's night off.)"

- Jean Bromfield's schoolgirl memories of Lynbrook when she waitressed there during her holidays in the 1940s.

1900

Lynbrook opened in 1905 as one of many places for city-weary folk to stay during the heyday of holidaying in the Highlands south of Sydney. Walter Grice had previously owned the 15 hectares of land on which his son, Joseph Grice, along with Annie Grice, built their Edwardian-style guest house. The Grices provided full board at the cost of two guineas a week, harvesting fresh produce for meals from the property's own garden and orchards. Guests could stand around the piano to sing-along, go bushwalking, ride around in carriages, or play tennis or golf at the on-site course.

1910

Joseph Grice's niece, Nellie Grice, took over management of the guest house in 1913. At the end of World War I she married Charles Ross and they left Lynbrook to run another guest house in town. This placed Lynbrook in the hands of Walter Grice's grandson, Harold Baker, and Ruby Baker.

1940

After part of the land was sold off a Sydney-born woman bought the property in 1948. She married Stanley (also known as Harley) Todd and the two of them ran Lynbrook until Stanley died in 1952. His widow, Lily Todd, continued to run Lynbrook on her own until 1961 when she sold the guest house to Alice Low.

1960

By now there was only about a hectare of land left when Alice Low sold the property to Les and Dot Cleaver in 1962. The Cleavers continued to run Lynbrook until YHA bought the property in 1971.

*Photo courtesy of Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc. Thanks also for information provided by Bundanoon History Group.



This YHA is part of the world's largest budget accommodation network, Hostelling International, which provides more than 4,000 YHA/HI hostels in over 80 countries. YHA is a not-for-profit membership organisation providing travellers with quality accommodation and services.