

BYGONE BROOKLYN

By Tom Richmond

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Early Brooklyn people were good church attenders. At one stage, the village had three churches: Catholic, Anglican and Methodist.

In fact, the Church of England still stands, as a house, on the top side of Brooklyn Road as it approaches the bridge over the railway. The Church of England sold it.

The land on which the building stands was part of the original holding of James Ross. Mr Ross donated the block of land for the church in 1888. The raising of money to build the church proceeded slowly, especially when depression struck in the early 1890s.

It was through the generosity of Mrs Dangar, wife of the owner of the island, that the church was able to be completed in 1895.

the first churchwardens were Messrs James Ross and Peter Smith. In 1896, fine church seats were made at the cost of 13/8d each, possibly from local cedar.

Early clergymen at the church were Rev. M.Galley and Rev A.R.McLean. The ministers generally travelled to Brooklyn as part of their parishes, but from 1901 to 1905, Brooklyn had its own Anglican Minister.



St Mary's Church of England. Centre of Anglican worship for nearly a century.

He was Rev John Moran, who retired from more active duty and lived in a houseboat off Long Island, almost opposite Brooklyn Park. Rev Moran conducted services at Brooklyn and presided over burials at Bar Island.

From 1905-1910 Brooklyn Church was worked from Balmain under the Rev Canon Dixon, his curates, Revs I.Ketchlie and D.Creighton coming for Communion and layreaders taking the other services. On December 22nd, 1905, another confirmation was held when 15 candidates were confirmed.

On Easter Day, 1910, Rev George Jennings became resident clergyman, but owing to failing health he was only able to stay a few months. In 1911, Brooklyn became attached to the Parish of Hornsby, under the Rev

A.I.Wade. He had many helpers, included amongst whom were Rev W.V.Garnett, F.W.Harvey, R.H.Boothe and N.Haviland, Mr W.Cowle and Rev Stephen James.

As the population of the district expanded, Berowra Parish separated from Hornsby, taking under its control churches at Asquith, Mt Colah, Mt Kuringai, Berowra, Cowan and Brooklyn.

Because transport was available, it was decided to centralise the northern part of the Parish at Berowra and the small churches were sold.



St Mary's, sold as a house, tastefully restored, with added attic.