

DYERS CROSSING CO-OP

In the early 1900's milk production on the farms around the areas had risen rapidly, and in 1904 The Upper Wallamba River Dairy Co-operative was floated. The factory was situated at Dyers Crossing, considered the centre of the Wallamba farming district. The factory commenced in 1905 and averaged one ton of butter per week. By 1919 butter production rose to 4 tons per week with cream being supplied by 220 farmers. The company was one of the first of the Mid North Coast to install a pasteurising plant, and the butter after being transferred by boat to the loading wharfs at Tuncurry or Forster was sent by ship to Sydney. So rapidly had the industry expanded on the Wallamba that a new factory was built at Tuncurry.

BIG FIRE AT DYERS CROSSING.

The Northern Champion Taree Jan 27 1945 Reported. The most disastrous fire in the history of Dyers Crossing occurred early hours of Wednesday morning when the general store conducted by the Upper Wallamba River Co-operative Dairy Society was completely destroyed by fire. Mr A L Steven, the butter packer employed at the factory, whose cottage was next door, blew the whistle to alert the towns people of the fire. The Taree and Wingham Fire Brigades were summoned but they arrived too late to save the building but prevented the fire from spreading to the general office and adjoining cottages. The factory carried a heavy stock of groceries, produce and hardware causing a serious blow for the district, since the store supplied all the needs of the many farmers living around the Upper Wallamba.



Original Butter Factory which burnt down in 1945



Butter
slicing
machine
c1920



The rebuilt Butter Factory on the original site.