

EARLY SETTLEMENT OF NORTH FORSTER. 1875-1900.

In the year 1875 John Wright, accompanied by his foreman Alex Mills, sawyer Andy DeLore and builder Harry Colvin arrived and laid the foundation for the settlement known as NORTH SHORE and later NORTH FORSTER. This was the beginning of shops, supplies and services.



1878-1881: The first school began with Miss Susan Smith being employed as the teacher to conduct classes, on land owned by John Wright. 1881: The Reorganised Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints opened the first church. The building in Peel Street, originally the old school house was converted and John Wright conducted the services.

1885: Wrights opened the first general store. The opening was of vital importance for provision of goods and services for the community which at the time was mainly made up of mill and shipyard workers and their families.



1888: The Roman Catholic Church was established and the building was erected at the corner of Kent and Peel Street.



1889: The people of North Forster gained their own Post Office and Mrs Susan O'Beirne was appointed Post Mistress. A tri-weekly service brought mail by the contractor J.J Gallagher from Krambach. In 1890 a service to Taree began. With the increase in mail activity, considerable confusion was caused by the names "Forster and North Forster" and on June 1, 1891 North Forster was changed to the aboriginal name Tuncurry meaning "plenty fish."

1890: H Underwood contracted Henry Miles Jr. to erect the first hotel "The Bellevue." A double storeyed building with bar, kitchen and dining facilities downstairs and sleeping quarters for 20 persons upstairs. A hitching rail was erected at the front door.

1893: Tuncurry was officially proclaimed a village.



1893: H Underwood sold the Bellevue to John Stephens, who remained the proprietor at the hotel for some 20 years and erected the Bellevue Hall next door for the use of community entertainment.

1895: Ice was first manufactured by Mr Ben Coombes in a factory situated near the present position of the Tuncurry Baths.

The first guest house in Tuncurry was conducted by Mrs J Hardy in Manning Street during the last decade of the 1900's.