**Beecroft Fire Station and Fires**

**The Daily Telegraph, Wed 12 Oct 1898**

FIRES AT BEECROFT.

Bush fires have been raging in the Beecroft district for some days past, and although fears were at first entertained that some serious damage would be done, nothing of any consequence has so far been reported. The heat evidently caused the fire, which had cleared the district of scrub and undergrowth for miles. This is not altogether to be regretted, as it may prevent the possibility of more disastrous fires in the middle of summer, which would doubtless have done much more damage. Bush fires have been raging lately in various other parts of the district.

**The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 19 Nov 1898**

Beecroft.

**Bush Fires**. – Several bush fires have broken out in the district owing to the oppressiveness of the atmosphere. For a day or two there was a “beauty” in front of Cheltenham, extending from Carlingford to “the creek.” It presented a picturesque and interesting spectacle at night time.

**The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 26 Nov 1898**

Beecroft.

**Bush Fires**. – Several bush fires have broken out in the district owing to the oppressiveness of the atmosphere. For a day or two there was a “beauty” in front of Cheltenham, extending from Carlingford to “the creek.” It presented a picturesque and interesting spectacle at night time.

**Evening News, Tue 31 Dec 1901**

DROUGHT AND BUSH FIRES.

Beecroft, – Monday. – Of late the heat has been intense, and the atmosphere oppressive, and murky with bush smoke. Unless rain falls soon, the latter fruit crops will be ruined.

**The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 31 Dec 1904**

Beecroft.

**Enveloped in Smoke**. – Beecroft was enveloped in smoke on Wednesday as the result of numerous bush fires in the vicinity. One of these was very near – on the eastern side of the line. It had started at Epping on Christmas Eve and had been raging ever since, checked here and there by bands of volunteers as it threatened habitations. It destroyed about a quarter of a mile of fencing on the railway line, between Epping and Cheltenham. The damage, however, has been temporarily repaired.

**The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 26 Feb 1910**

BREVITIES.

A fire at Beecroft on Friday morning destroyed a valuable cottage belonging to Mrs. Coward.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 20 May 1911, page 8**

Beecroft.

Fire Protection. – As a result of foreseeing agitation on the part of the Beecroft Progress Association, a committee, consisting of Councillor Nixon and; Messrs. Ogden and Hartwell, has been appointed to inquire into the cost of a hose, reel, and hydrant for the purpose of enabling Beecroft residents to successfully combat an outbreak of fire, should such unfortunately occur in the district. It is proposed to raise the necessary amount for the purchase of the hose, by public subscription.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 22 July 1911, page 3**

Beecroft Progress Association.

Fire Fighters.

The committee appointed to inquire into a suitable apparatus for extinguishing fires reported that they recommended the purchase of an “Ajax” chemical machine, at a cost of £45. The machine would hold 150 gallons of fire extinguishing chemical solution, which would be amply sufficient to put out an ordinary cottage fire. The machine (would be mounted on a suitable carriage, and would be provided with acid-resisting hose. A stream of the solution could be projected to a distance of 80 feet, horizontally. Councillor Nixon said that the machine was similar to the “Simplex” chemical fire-extinguisher, such as was used in warehouses. Once charged, the machine would be in instant readiness for use at

any time, and if not used would last ready for years. The acid did not mingle with the other chemical until the shaft was put on the ground. It could be housed in a small shed in any central place, and on the alarm being given, anyone could smash the small padlock with which the door of the shed would be fastened, and take the machine out. It would be advisable to form a fire brigade; and the whole charge would not exceed £75 to £80. In reply to Mr. Moore, Councillor Nixon said that the machine could be re-charged in ten minutes. The sulphuric acid was contained in a lead bottle, with a loosely fitting lead stopper, and this was released and the contents spilled on to the other ingredients by dropping the shaft on the ground. A fresh charge would cost about 5s. Mr. Ogden said that if 50 gallons of this admiral solution did not extinguish a fire, the fire would be one that could not be extinguished by several lines of hoses. As regarded the offer of the Superintendent of Fire Brigade to give instruction to a civilian fire brigade, it was staled that the drill would only be a simple one. Councillor Nixon said that before any subscriptions were taken, they might feel the pulse of the residents as to the amounts they would promise to give. Mr. Wachsmann suggested that a practical demonstration of the possibilities of the machine would interest the residents more, and make them more favorably inclined to contribute. Mr. Artwell suggested that as every confidence was expressed in the efficacy of the machine, a fire might be started in the railway station. The suggestion was ruled out of order. The weight of a 50-gallon machine was referred to as being too much to pull up the hilly roads of the district; and it was rarely necessary to use so much solution. It was therefore proposed by Mr. Wallace that two machines of half the capacity might be procured. As regards housing provision for the machine, a small portable shed ('as big as this room,' suggested Councillor Nixon) could be put alongside the post office. “Yes,” agreed Mr. Wallace; “and to put the brigade into good form for running the machine about, they could tug that around.” (Laughter.) The subcommittee was then deputed to interview Mr. Webb, of the Fire Brigades, to acquire further information.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 27 September 1913, page 14**

Beecroft Progress Association

Mr. Forsyth asked if it were a fact that the proposed Beecroft fire station was to be erected next to the post office? The president said he was not aware if such were the case, but the land had been allotted for a police station. Ho hadn't heard that a fire station was to be established, but, on being assured that such a building was to be established under the Board of Fire Commissioners, he said that it would mean more rates, which, of course, wouldn't matter a bit. (Laughter.)

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 10 October 1914, page 8**

BEECROFT.

At the meeting of the Hornsby Shire Council on Thursday a letter was read from the secretary of the Beecroft School of Arts, asking the council's assistance in obtaining that piece of land lying between the School of Arts property, and the new approach to the bridge.

We have satisfied ourselves that the addition of this land to our grant, would not, in the

slightest degree, prejudice the interests of any owners in the vicinity, but would, on the contrary, prove a benefit, to the community. It was requested that, in the event of its seeing its way to support the movement, the council would write stating it had no objection to the land being granted to the trustees of the School of Arts!

A portion of the area referred to was Government land, and the council could not close it up and put a fire station on it. Moreover, it was not the province of the council to find a site for a fire station. That was for the Fire Commissioners. Personally, he could not see any objection to the School of Arts acquiring the land if the Government were willing to give it them. It would be no earthly use to the council.

The President said he thought now that the council ought to keep this land as a small recreation ground for the people of Beecroft. If not as a recreation ground it would provide a site for a fire station.

**Evening News (Sydney, NSW: 1869 - 1931), Thursday 24 December 1914, page 4**

FIRE STATION FOR BEECROFT.

At the meeting of the Hornsby Shire Council, a letter was read from the Fire Commissioner’s Board intimating that it had approved tenders being invited for the erection of a fire station at Beecroft upon the site which had been resumed by the Government for the purpose. The building would be on similar lines to that now in course of construction at Hornsby.

**The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 14 Aug 1915**

THE FIRE STATION.

Beecroft residents are disappointed that the fire station now in course of erection at the junction of Beecroft-road and Railway Crescent is to be a mere weatherboard shed with a tin roof. The feel that the importance of the site demands a building more in keeping with the class of building already existing in that locality. It must not be forgotten that the Boards of Fire Commissioners has only a very limited amount at its disposal for new stations and equipment, and it is surely better to spend most money on the fire extinguishing apparatus, the storing and sheltering of which is he principal function of the building. It is far better to have an efficient fire-motor and accessories than to have a fine building and less efficient apparatus.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 28 August 1915, page 8**

MORE “CLASSY.”

A deputation comprising President Schwebel (Hornsby Shire Council) and officers of the Beecroft Progress Association waited on the Fire Brigades Board and urged them to erect a more “classy” style of fire station at Beecroft instead of the proposed weatherboard shed with an iron roof. The Board stated that a brick building was out of the question at present owing to the lack of funds, but they agreed to substitute red tiles for the iron roof.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 6 November 1915, page 8**

LET THE FIRE BURN.

A letter was read at the last meeting of the Hornsby Council from the Board of Fire Commissioners, asking if the Council would be good enough to carry out the kerbing and guttering required at the Beecroft fire station upon the usual terms and conditions. It was reported, the letter added, that the matter was extremely urgent, as in wet weather it would be almost a matter of impossibility to get an appliance to or out of the fire station. Cr. Ramsay promptly moved that the Fire Commissioners be informed that the council had no funds, and that they suggest that the commissioners do the work at their own expense. If the council did this work, he added, they would have no end of ratepayers kicking up a row, because kerbing and guttering of a more urgent character had been refused in other parts of the shire. Cr. Roberts said it would cost only about £2 to do the necessary kerbing and guttering, but the president pointed out that there were two frontages, and that it would cost between £20 and £30. — Cr. Ramsay's motion was carried. Cr. Ramsay seems to forget that it is quite a matter of indifference to the Board if the whole of Beecroft was wiped out because the council will not make trafficable roads. It is the council's business to make road; the Board’s to put out fires.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 27 November 1915, page 8**

BEECROFT.

FIRE STATION.

The Beecroft fire station is now completed, together with the look-out tower. The fire-extinguishing apparatus, however, has not yet arrived.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Wednesday 1 December 1915, page 1**

Hornsby Council

Correspondence: — From the Fire Brigades Board, asking the council to kerb and gutter the footpath in front of the Beecroft fire station as soon as funds permit— Councillor. Hellmrich said that there were two sets of pipe culverts at the corner, and it would be necessary to remove these to a better position so as to take advantage of the rounding of the corner. The work would not be a costly affair, but he thought the Fire Brigades Board should contribute to the cost. - It was decided to consider the question of kerbing and guttering when funds are available.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 11 December 1915, page 8**

FIRE STATION OPENED.

The Beecroft fire station opened on Tuesday afternoon in the presence of Mr. Taylor (vice-president, Fire Brigades Board), Mr. Sparks (secretary), Mr. Lister (district officer), President Schwebel (Hornsby Shire Council), Councillor Chapman, and Mr. W. W. King (shire clerk). The apparatus at present in the fire station comprises hose and a reel with the necessary stand-pipes. A motor fire-engine is being built in this State, and it is expected that it will be ready for delivery in four or five weeks. Three men are to be stationed at Beecroft.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 15 January 1916, page 8**

THE FIRE STATION.

Arrangements have been made for one fireman to be constantly on duty at the new Beecroft fire station, and for two volunteers to be immediately available should a fire occur. The officer-in-charge (Fireman E. Bridgwater) took over the station on Friday, with First-class Fireman J, Gillen. The volunteer members are Messrs. H. Biden, W. Bottle, B. Andrews and M. Levy. A fire-bell is to be procured and hung shortly, and a motor-pumping engine is being built for the station. When that arrives, the previous reel will be sent to some other station. The station is connected directly by phone to Hornsby fire station, and through that station to the district station at Crow's Nest and to headquarters. A special telephone line is being erected to connect the station direct with Eastwood station. The station is also connected to the Epping telephone exchange, its number being Epping 139.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 26 May 1917, page 1**

BREVITIES.

The Board of- Fire Commissioners have erected a fire alarm at the corner of Pembroke and Oxford streets, Epping, which is connected with the Beecroft fire station.

**The Sydney Morning Herald, Wed 11 Sep 1918**

TENDERS.

Beecroft. – Fencing the fire station site, at Beecroft. Particulars at the Fire Station, Beecroft; or clerk of works, head station, Castlereagh-street, city.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 5 October 1918, page 8**

BEECROFT.

The high land at the back of the Beecroft fire-station has now been levelled off, and the fire station fence is to be extended back. This will give more room for the station, and will do away with several causes for complaint which now exist in connection with sanitary matters.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 11 January 1919, page 8**

THE FIRE BRIGADE.

Fireman W. Arnold, who has been stationed at the Beecroft fire station for over 18 months, was transferred to Parramatta fire station on Friday to take charge of the motor pumping-engine. Fireman A. Merchant has taken his place at Beecroft. During the past year the

local brigade attended 33 fires, mostly bush fires, and saved four houses which had caught fire. Another house — at Epping — which was burning for 20 minutes before the brigade received the alarm, was burned down, though a store-shed at the back was saved by the brigade. The brigade received one false alarm.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 29 March 1919, page 8**

BEECROFT.

COUNCILLORS SATISFIED.

A Board of Fire Commissioners wrote, in reply to the Shire Council's request for completion of fencing of the site of Beecroft fire station, that the work would be carried out, but the Commissioners did not wish to remove outhouses to n less conspicuous position, but would encircle them with lattice work. The Councillors agreed that this would meet the case.

**The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 18 Nov 1922**

BEECROFT.

BUSH FIRES.

Small outbreaks of bush fire have occurred in the vicinity of Beecroft and Cheltenham, this week. Added to the hot weather conditions, the fires have made things somewhat unpleasant for those living near the track of the flames. The maximum shade temperature at Beecroft for Tuesday last was 99 degrees. Pennant Hills, Cheltenham and Thornleigh also experienced intense heat.

**The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 2 Dec 1922**

CHELTENHAM.

BUSH FIRES.

There was another outbreak of bush fire near Cheltenham on Saturday afternoon last. A considerable area of scrub country was devastated by the flames.

**The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Fri 29 Jan 1926**

FIRE TAKES TOLL

OTHER OUTBREAKS.

Beecroft Road, Beecroft; Boronia Avenue, Beecroft.

[EXTRACT]

**The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Fri 7 May 1926**

FIRE MOTOR

Beecroft’s Acquisition

The magnificent electrical fire fighting motor, which is now installed at Beecroft, is a vast improvement on the old machine.

The new motor embraces all the latest gear and appliances; and is capable of reaching a speed of 35 miles an hour.

**The Daily Telegraph, Thu 31 Jan 1929**

Red Ruin Again Sweeps Many Country Areas

130 Sydney Alarms

During the day over 130 calls were received at Sydney Fire Headquarters. Among the more seriously affected areas were: Kensington, fencing alight; Lakemba, quantity of bush; Hunter’s Hill, bush fires; **Beecroft, bush fires**; Mosman, fencing and bush; Dee Why, bush; Arncliffe, fencing and bush; Bankstown, bush; Longueville, 100 acres of grass and fencing alight.

[EXTRACT]

**The Sun, Fri 14 Nov 1930**

BUSH FIRES

BEECROFT, PYMBLE, ST. IVES BLAZE

Fully 30 houses were in danger of being destroyed by fires which swept through the bush between Beecroft and Pymble late yesterday afternoon and last night.

Firemen at Beecroft, Ryde, Hornsby and Gordon said to-day that during the past 24 hours they had had hardly a spare moment to themselves, calls coming from frantic householders at frequent intervals.

A large area of bush in Walton-avenue, Beecroft, caught fire yesterday, and it took the combined efforts of Hunter’s Hill, Beecroft, and Ryde brigades to extinguish it. At the back of Copeland-avenue, Beecroft, the flames, fanned by a 50-mile-an-hour wind, roared through the bush, and this morning it appeared as if it had burned itself out.

However, by 10 a.m. it was blazing merrily again, and went dangerously close to a cottage, but Beecroft firemen were soon on the scene and extinguished the flames.

**The Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 3 Oct 1936**

Fifty Fires in Suburbs.

In Day-road, Cheltenham, the bush blazed so fiercely during the afternoon that Station-officer Houghton, who was in charge of the firemen and other helpers, had to call for additional help from the Drummoyne Fire Station. The flames crossed the road and two houses were threatened for some time.

**The Labor Daily, Wed 12 Jan 1938**

Bushfires in Many Suburbs

Brigades attended outbreaks in the following suburbs: Brighton-le-Sands, Narrabeen, Neutral Bay, Randwick, Rozelle, Alexandria, Campsie, Dee Why, Lindfield, Mascot, **Beecroft** and Botany.

**The Daily Telegraph, Fri 16 Dec 1938**

NEW OUTBREAK OF BUSH FIRES

Bush fires broke out again yesterday in many suburbs.

Drummoyne, Narrabeen, Homebush, Leichhardt, Manly, Gladesville, **Beecroft**, Chatswood, Botany, Northwood, Bankstown, Blakehurst, Picnic Point, and Canterbury brigades answered calls.

**The Daily Telegraph, Sun 7 Jan 1940**

HANDY FOR FIREMEN

Beecroft Fire Brigade attended a fire at Beecroft Fire Station on Friday night.

The fire bell was sounded and voluntary firemen rushed to answer the call.

“Where is the fire?” asked Fireman Ingram, when he arrived at the station.

“Right here,” said one of the officers.

Sub-station Officer Watson climbed up and ripped a hole in the station roof.

A hose was passed through the hole and played on the fire, which was in the station bathroom.

The blaze was extinguished after it had partially destroyed the bathroom.

The pilot light of a bat heater had been left burning.

It heated a protecting sheet of iron, which in turn set alight the weatherboard framework of the station.

**The Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 27 Dec 1941**

70 BUSHFIRES IN SUBURBS

Fire brigades were called to 70 bush and grass fires throughout the suburbs yesterday.

The most serious outbreak was at **Beecroft**, where scrub burned for more than three hours.