**Beecroft Literary and Debating Society**

**Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Saturday 14 June 1902, page 10**

A literary and debating society has been established at Beecroft. The meetings are well

attended.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 21 June 1902, page 10**

Beecroft.

Literary Society. — The weekly meeting of the Beecroft and District Literary and Debating Society was held on Monday evening in Miss Ogden's schoolroom, the business of the evening being a mock aldermanic election. The three candidates were Messrs. C. C. Tucker, C. Colquhoun, and H. Ogden. Mr. Ogden who was supported by Mr. O. Seale and Mr. F. Seale, well set forth his merits for the calling, and was rewarded by being elected to the position by a large majority of the members present. Mr. Tucker and Mr. Colquhoun thanked their supporters for votes, and accepted their defeat They hoped, however, that the next election would bring their merits nearer the front.

Literary Society. - The Beecroft Literary and Debating Society has met with phenomenal success since its inauguration only a short time ago. It has a membership of 47 all told. Mr. Forsyth, headmaster of the Beecroft Public School being the President, and Mr. A. Brown the hon. secretary.

**Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Wednesday 25 June 1902, page 8**

BEECROFT, Tuesday

At a meeting of the Literary and Debating Society held last night, a lecture on anatomy was delivered by Mr Edgar Harrison.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Wednesday 2 July 1902, page 3**

Beecroft.

Lecture. — A lecture on the “Mechanism of the Human frame” delivered by Mr. E. S. Harrison at the last meeting of the Beecroft and District Literary and Debating Society, proved very interesting and instructive. There was a good attendance of both members and visitors, who listened very attentively to what Mr. Harrison had to say. A number of diagrams, models, etc, were also exhibited by the speaker which increased the interest in the subject to a large extent. A vote of thanks was proposed to Mr. Harrison for his valuable contribution, to the syllabus, which was duly and suitably acknowledged.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 5 July 1902, page 3**

Beecroft.

Education. — A debate — “That the present system of education is too elaborate, and that a return to the original idea of the Education Act would be conducive to the welfare of the community”— formed the subject for the last meeting of the Beecroft and District Literary and Debating Society, held in Miss Ogden's schoolroom on Monday. The subject was well taken up by the members present, and after considerable discussion, a division of the House was called for, which showed equal sides; but the chairman's casting vote handed the victory to the Government.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 19 July 1902, page 10**

Beecroft.

The Debaters. - The M.S.S. Journal occupied the attention of the members of the Beecroft and District Literary and Debating Society, at their meeting on Monday evening last. Although it was the first issue of the journal, it was extremely interesting and included some very amusing besides instructive articles. Some of the subjects treated caused considerable discussion, amongst which were papers entitled “Should Australia have a Navy,” “The mental differences of men and women,” and others. The evening proved to be one of the most interesting the Society has had since its commencement, and the M.S.S. Journal (under the editorship of Mr. C. Dobbie) gives promise of being a very popular institution amongst the members.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 26 July 1902, page 10**

Beecroft.

The Literary Society. - The Beecroft Literary and Debating Society spent a “social evening” on Monday evening. There was a good attendance of members, and some very good items were rendered in the way of recitations and musical selections. Some time was also given to ping pong towards the end of the evening. A very enjoyable time was «pent.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 2 August 1902, page 11**

Beecroft.

The Literary Society. — The Beecroft and District Literary and Debating Society held its weekly meeting on Monday. The business of the evening was a debate “That no Local Option Bill should be introduced that does not provide for compensation.” The subject was most vigorously taken up by the members, after hearing the points at issue expounded by the Premier (Mr. Atkinson) and Mr. Ellis, Leader of the Opposition, who both ably set forth their arguments. Some very good speeches on the subject were also contributed by the members. The meeting closed at about 10.30 p.m., the Government having won the victory by nine votes to six.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 16 August 1902, page 10**

Beecroft.

The Debating Society. - There was a good attendance at the usual weekly meeting of the Beecroft Literary and Debating Society, on Monday. The president, Mr. J. R. Forsyth, occupied the chair and the evening was devoted to essays. Mr. S. Barnsby gave a very interesting account of his experiences in South Africa during the late Transvaal war, and Mr. R. Atkinson gave a short treatise on 'slang,' which provoked an animated and interesting discussion.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 23 August 1902, page 11**

Beecroft.

One of us Abroad. — Mr. H. D. Holcombe entertained the Beecroft and District Literary and Debating Society, in Miss Ogden's schoolroom on Monday evening, with an interesting account of his experiences abroad. Mr. Holcombe, who has only just returned from a trip to England, was heartily received. He commenced his “chat” on his adventures with interesting references to the important port of Freemantle, and amused the meeting with life in Colombo. Leaving Colombo, he referred to Aden, Suez, Gibraltar, and other places of interest; but lost no time in getting to London, and describing life there and thereabout. London was disappointing to an Australian at first sight, said Mr. Holcombe; and it was not until one had been there for some little time, and had had some experience in the different parts, that it gave much pleasure to the visitor. Yankee Land was a great eye-opener to him. “One thing that struck me,” he said “was the important part that women played in American commerce.” He met one lady who filled a position of accountant to a large commercial concern; he afterwards spoke to one or two about such an office being filled by a female, but the American took it all as a matter of course. The Americans are hardworking people. “We are going to Americanise the world,” some of them told him; and Mr. Holcombe seems to think the project no improbability. The trusts and large schemes were no myth; and they were not only capable, but had the money and enterprise. Mr. Holcombe spent some time in describing the beautiful and yet humiliating scenes of Niagara. “If anyone is at all sceptical,” he said, “let him visit Niagara Falls. I never felt myself more in the presence of Almighty God than I did then.” He then brought his very interesting “chat” to a close, assuring the Australians that they were “living on a bed of roses”; but he would advise them to be up and doing, Mr. Harrison rose at the close of the address to propose a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Holcombe, adding some apt remarks. Mr. Atkinson seconded the motion, which was heartily carried. The mooting closed at about 10 p.m., a most enjoyable evening having been spent.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 30 August 1902, page 11**

Beecroft.

The Debating Society. - The ordinary weekly meeting of the Beecroft Literary and Debating Society was held on Monday night in Miss Ogden's schoolroom. The president, Mr. Forsyth, occupied the chair and there was a good attendance of members. The question as to whether a cricket club should or should not be inaugurated under the auspices of the Society was discussed at length, and it was finally decided in the negative by a majority vote. The subject for the evening's discussion was a motion by Mr. B. Atkinson, “That the Proas is the greatest engine for evil extant.”

Mr. F. F. Young led the Opposition, and the discussion was interesting and, in a sense, instructive, aa showing the fallacious ideas that exist with regard to the Press and Press work. The motion was defeated by a large majority.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 6 September 1902, page 10**

Beecroft.

Debating Society. — At the usual weekly meeting of the Beecroft Literary and Debating Society, in Miss Ogdon's schoolroom on Monday night, there was a good attendance of members and quite a dozen lady visitors. The chair was taken, as usual, by the president, Mr. Forsyth. It was manuscript journal night, and several interesting journals were read as well as three poems. A discussion took place on each and a profitable and enjoyable evening was the result. Next Monday, the General secretary of the Literary and debating Society Union will deliver a lecture with a view to inducing the Beecroft society to affiliate.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 13 September 1902, page 12**

Beecroft.

Debating Society. — There was a good attendance at the weekly meeting of the Beecroft Literary and Debating Society, held in Miss Ogden's schoolroom on Monday evening. Mr. F. W. Landau, secretary of the Debating Society Union, delivered an interesting address on the benefits and principles of the Union, and urged the Beecroft Society to join it. The members unanimously decided to affiliate with the Union. The remainder of the evening was devoted to “nights with humourists.” Extracts were quoted from the writings of Tom Hood, Douglas Jerrold, Dickens, and one or two others, not including “The Offis Boy.”

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 11 October 1902, page 10**

Beecroft.

Debating Society. - There was a very large gathering, including several ladies, at the usual weekly meeting of the Beecroft Literary and Debating Society held in Miss Ogden's schoolroom on Tuesday evening. A visit was paid by the Gladesville L. and D. Society, which was well represented, a full ‘bus load being present. Gladesville affirmed “That a white Australia is desirable,” and Beecroft opposed the motion. The speakers were: — Gladesville: Messrs. Clune, Stutchbury, and S. T. Dickinson. Beecroft: Messrs. Harrison, Dobbie, and Atkinson. The motion was lost by 20 votes to 15. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the visiting club for their attendance.

**Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Monday 13 October 1902, page 5**

BEECROFT, Saturday.

The last meeting of the Literary and Debating Society was devoted to an inter-club debate between Beecroft and Gladesville on the question of a white Australia. Mr. Clunes (Gladesville) opened in the affirmative; Mr. Arthur Harrison (Beecroft) opposed the motion, which was lost by a substantial majority.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 18 October 1902, page 10**

Beecroft.

The L. and D Society, - The weekly meeting of the Beecroft Literary and Debating Society was hold in Miss Ogden's school-room on Monday. It was manuscript journal night, and some highly interesting papers were read, notably one entitled “Hand to mouth,” another “The Agitator,” and a third “Marriage and divorce.” The reading of the papers proved most entertaining and instructive.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 1 November 1902, page 10**

Beecroft.

The Debating Society. - The first half-yearly meeting of the Literaqry and Debating Society was hold on Monday night in Miss Ogden's schoolroom. There was a good attendance of members. The secretary’s report showed that the Association is in a flourishing- condition, and he also gave a resume of what took place during the period named. There are 50 members, and the average attendance was about 22. The treasurer's statement showed a good credit balance. The. election of officers for the ensuing half-year resulted as follows: President, Mr. J. I. Forsyth; vice-presidents, Messrs. C. C. Tucker, H. O. Holcombe, and Melbourne Green; secretary, Mr. A. A. Brown; treasurer, Mr. r-F. Young; editor of journal, Mr. C. Dobbie: sub-editor, Mr. A. Harrison; committee, Messrs. G. Wheeler, F. Seale, F. Barnby, O. Seale and E. Sherring; auditors, Messrs. T. R. McCall and. H. Ogden. The syllabus was arranged for the ensuing half-year.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 8 November 1902, page 10**

Beecroft.

Mock Banquet. - The moot banquet held by the Beecroft Literary and Debating Society, in Miss Ogden's school-room on Monday night proved a most interesting and enjoyable function. There were about 50 present, including a number of ladies, and the tables were very tastefully laid out with flowers and light refreshments provided by several members. Mr. J. I. Forsyth, president, occupied the chair and Mr. Melbourne Green, the vice-chair. The speeches wero brilliant. The toast list was as follows: - The King, proposed by the chairman; our Society, proposed by Mr. A. Atkinson, and responded to by Mr. A. F. Brown; The Empire, by Mr. F. F. Young, and responded to by Mr. M. Green; Theo Commonwealth, by Mr. A. S. Harrison, responded to by Mr. W. Birkenhead; the Ladies, by Mr. 0. De Meryck, and responded to by Mr. H. Ogden; the Army and Navy by Mr. H. O. Holcombe, and responded to by Messrs. S. N. Barnby and F. Seale, the District, by Mr. E. Sherring, responded to by Mr. C, C. Tucker; the Press by Mr. W. G. Wheeler, responded to by Mr. O. G. Harrison; Parliament, by Mr. F. Barnby and responded to by Mr. H. Seale; Kindred Societies, by Mr. D. McCall, responded to by the chairman. — The health of the chairman was also proposed by Mr. Melbourne Green.

Inter-club Debate. — Much interest is being evinced in the return visit of the Beecroft L. and D. Society to Gladesville, and when the event comes off, some time, next month, there is sure to be a bumper house.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 22 November 1902, page 11**

Beecroft.

An Enjoyable Excursion. - About 100 members of the Beecroft Literary and Debating Society and their friends, indulged in what proved to be a most enjoyable excursion on Saturday last — the first annual outing under the auspices of the Literary and Debating Society. Proceeding by train to Meadowbank, they embarked at the wharf, near the railway bridge, on board the Watson Bay Co's. steamer, Oceania, and went for a trip round the harbour, calling at Watson's Bay and Clarke Island. At the latter place a halt for tea was made. Meadowbank was regained in time to enable the excursionists to catch the 9.30 p.m. train from Sydney. The arrangements in connection with this very agreeable outing were managed by a committee consisting of Messrs. Harrison, Brown and O. Seale.

The Debate. - The subject debated at the usual weekly meeting of the Beecroft Literary and Debating Society on Monday night was, “That the introduction of the totalizator to New South Wales is opposed to the best interests of the people.” It was opened by Mr. G. Wheeler as Premier, and opposed by Mr. D. E. Ellis, as Leader of the Opposition. The result was a win for the Government by a very large majority.

**Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW: 1883 - 1930), Saturday 22 November 1902, page 10**

At a meeting held last Wednesday in Beecroft, Mr. C. Churchill Tucker in the chair, it was resolved that the executive committee of the Beecroft and District Literary and Debating Society, together with those who have been nominated as trustees for the School of Arts site, be elected a committee for the purpose of raising funds for erecting a suitable building. Subscription lists were opened, and Messrs. Chorley and Tucker each promised £5 5s, conditionally on three other residents contributing a like sum. Mr. F. F. Young was appointed secretary and treasurer pro tern.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 29 November 1902, page 10**

Beecroft.

A Good Night. - The attendance at the ordinary weekly meeting of the Beecroft Literary and Debating Society on Monday night, was perhaps the largest since the inauguration of the society. The room was crowded. It was Manuscript Journal night, and about a dozen papers were read, the subjects including, the coming election (the Beecroft one); gambling; Should Selena Sangal be hanged?; the self-confident young man; the incomprehensible and others. A very profitable and enjoyable evening was the result.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 6 December 1902, page 10**

Beecroft.

Mock Election. — The Beecroft Literary and Debating Society held a mock parliamentary election, on Monday night, before a packed audience, there being fully 70 present. There were three candidates, viz., Ellis (Labor), Young (Opposition) and Atkinson (Ministerial). The election speeches were interesting and amusing.

The visitors, including the ladies, exercised the right of the franchise, and the voting resulted as follows: - Ellis 36, Atkinson 18 and Young 12. Ellis was therefore declared “duly elected.”

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 13 December 1902, page 10**

Beecroft.

An Interesting Lecture. - At the weekly meeting of the Beecroft Literary and Debating Society, on Monday night, Mr. C. C. Tucker, who was the fifth Australian to ascend the world- renowned Mont Blanc, delivered a lecture on the ascent of that famous mountain. There was a large attendance, and all present testified, in no unmistakeable manner, their appreciation of the very interesting and instructive address. Mr. Meadmore contributed to the evening's programme by reading several highly amusing accounts of Mark Twain's experiences in Switzerland.

**The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 23 Jul 1904**

Beecroft.

**Debating Society**. – The Beecroft Literary and debating Society met on Monday. Essays were read by Mr. E. S. Harrison, on literary degeneracy; Mr. D. Ellis, on physical culture; and Mr. J. De Meyrk, on the claims of education.