**Beecroft Musical and Dramatic Association**

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 14 September 1907, page 10**

Beecroft;

A NEW ASS0CIATION. — The Beecroft Musical and Dramatic Association has been duly formed, and a meeting is to be hold shortly to frame rules, and regulations, and to elect officers, etc; The combination is a talented one, and will no doubt provide the residents with many an enjoyable evening.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 19 October 1907, page 10**

Beecroft.

BAND CONCERT. - The famous Newtown Brass Band will give an open-air concert in the village green to-night (Saturday), commencing at 7.45 p.m. An excellent programme will be submitted, and the grounds well lit. The full Band of over 30 members will perform, under the baton of Mr. Thomas Mellor. A concert of this description is rather an innovation in the district, and by a Band of such high-class attainments should be well worth hearing. The performance will be under the auspices of the Beecroft Musical and Dramatic Society, and serves to show the go-aheadness of this newly-formed body.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 26 October 1907, page 10**

Beecroft.

BAND CONCERT. - The Newtown Brass Band, under the baton of Mr. Thomas Mellor, gave an open-air concert in the village green on Saturday evening, under the auspices of the Beecroft Musical and Dramatic Society. An excellent programme, was submitted, comprising the following items: — March, “The Pitman” (Greenwood); grand selection, “Souvenir de Wagner' (Wagner); descriptive fantasia, “Smithy in the Wood” (Michalis); grand selection, “Tannhauser” (Wagner); descriptive march, “The Turkish Patrol” (Michalis); humorous march, “The Jolly Coppersmith” (Peters); all of which were rendered with precision and taste. On two occasions encores were responded to. The green was festooned with numbers of Chinese lanterns, strung between the trees, and, together with the acetylene gas lights, provided for the bandsmen, had a very pleasing effect. The weather was all that could be desired, and between six and seven hundred spectators were present to enjoy the performance. During the evening a collection was taken up by lady members of the Musical and Dramatic Society, and £10 odd was gathered in, which amount augmented the contest funds of the band to assist in defraying their expenses in proceeding to Ballarat Eisteddfod, at which they have our best wishes. At the termination of the programme the National Anthem was played, after which the performers wero provided with light refreshments. The Musical and Dramatic Society are to be congratulated upon the excellence of the arrangements.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 22 February 1908, page 11**

Beecroft.

H.M.S. PINAFORE. – The Beecroft Musical and Dramatic Society will make their initial effort on Friday and Saturday nights, the 28th and 29th inst., by placing before the public that charming opera of Gilbert and Sullivan’s, “H.M.S. Pinafore.” The cast is excellent, including such artists as Miss Emily Marks as Josephine, Mr. J. S. Edwards as Ralph, and Mr. C. A. Rolfe as Captain Corcoran, and is supported by a clever chorus. Judging by the amount of work the society have put into this opera, and by the amount of talent possessed locally, it should be worth going a long way to see. The society is fortunate in possessing, as conductor, such an artist as Mr. C. McKern.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 20 June 1908, page 10**

Beecroft.

PIRATES. – The Beecroft Musical and Dramatic Society will stage that well known and popular comic opera, “The Pirates of Penzance,” on Friday and Saturday, the 3rd and 4th of July, in the local School of Arts. This is one of the best of the Gilbert and Sullivan repertoire, and if produced, as we expect it will be, in the society's usual style, should prove well worth seeing.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 11 July 1908, page 10**

Beecroft.

THE PIRATES. - The Beecroft Musical and Dramatic Society produced “The Pirates of Penzance” at the School of Arts on Friday and Saturday evenings. The attendance, on both occasions was very large, but at the second performance the hall was packed to its utmost capacity, and many were unable to obtain admission, and had to retire disappointed. The cast proved to be a very strong one, and is most of the leading parts, and all the minor ones, were portrayed by purely Iocal amateur members, the performance reflected great credit on the society and its members. Miss P. Seed, as Mabel, rendered the music well. This young lady, with Messrs. Rolfe and Edwards, composed the imported contingent. Mr. P. A. Pawley, as the Major General, both sang and acted his part excellently. Mr. Arthur Brown, as Samuel, was capable, and is the possessor of a fine voice. Mr. Quodling and Misses D. Tucker and E. Perdriau, as the Major's daughters, Kate, Edith and Isabel, were charming at every turn. The other daughters, the Pirates and the Police, both as to singing and acting, went far towards furthering the complete success of the performance, and especial credit is due to those members who cheerfully took up the minor parts, as the principals owe much of their success to the good support they received. Mr. Herbert Hinton, tie energetic hon. sec. of the society, as Sergeant of Police, made a most decided hit, and portrayed the character in a style worthy of the best “pro.” The best of everything is usually kept to the last, and therefore the character of “Ruth” takes that position. This role was assumed by Miss G. Slingsby, and was certainly the success of “The Pirates” at Beecroft. With the most thankless part in the piece to portray, Miss Slingsby carried conviction at every turn. Her every appearance was marked by a perfect conception of the character and an equally perfect execution, both as to singing and acting. This young lady has a fine stage presence, wonderful histrionic talent; and a very fair voice. Miss Slingsby's success lies in the fact that she utterly sinks her personality, and on this occasion was “Ruth” all the time. The principals all sang well. Miss Seed was particularly successful in “Poor Wandering One” and “Oh, dry the glistening tear” as, solos, and, with Mr. Edwards, in the duets, “How beautiful the sky” and “Stay, Frederick, Stay.” Miss Slingsby, with the trying ordeal of rendering the, first solo of the evening, was very successful in “When Frederic was a little lad”; later, in the trios, with Messrs. Edwards: and Rolfe, “When you had left our Pirates bold” and “Away, away, my heart's on fire,” brought forth decided demands for repetitions. Messrs. Edwards and Rolfe were successful in their solo efforts. Mr. Pawley, for his patter, song, was recalled twice. The choruses of girls wore carefully and sweetly given — ''Climbing over rocky mountain,” “Gentle sisters say” — in which Mrs. Quodling and Miss Tucker appeared to advantage, received rounds and rounds of genuine applause. The Pirate band, in all choruses, were perfect in their parts, and produced harmony, whilst their noting was most meritorious. “The Police choruses, “Tarantara” and “The Policeman's Lot,” with the solo parts taken by Mr. Herbert Hinton, simply brought down the house, and the “Local Band of Bobbies” was equal to any stage contingent procurable. So much for the performance, and performers who produced it, but there is much to be said of those behind the scenes, who, though not actually before the public gaze, were responsible in a great measure for the huge success achieved. Mrs. F. England, as stage manageress, was responsible for very much, and her talent and energy mado the entrances, exits, groupings, and general effects go with a swing all the time. Mr. Leslie Casey, with deft hand and great taste, produced the scenery. Mr. C. McKern, as conductor of the fine orchestra, was a strong prop at the performances, but it was his untiring efforts and capable assistance throughout the rehearsals that made “The Pirates” go so well. Miss E. Shirriff and Mr. Herbert

Hinton, as hon. secretaries, worked with a will from first to last. Miss Joan Brown, as hon. accompanist, bore the brunt of the battle right through the piece on her own shoulders, and then, at the performances, was content to pose before the public as just an integral part of the orchestra. The Beecroft Musical and Dramatic Society, by its showing in the production of “The Pirates,” has proved itself to be one of the best societies of its kind in the State.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 26 September 1908, page 10**

Beecroft.

THE MUSICAL SOCIETY. - The concerts, in aid of the School of Arts funds, by the Beecroft Musical and Dramatic Society on Friday and Saturday evenings should be a success from all points of view. The object is deserving, and appeals to all residents of the district. The society, as entertainers, is popular and capable, and on this occasion the imported artists are in the first rank, and will do the solo work. Part songs will be rendered by the society; and solos by Miss Geraldine Rivers, Messrs. W. H Lynch, Sid. Gordon, and R. B. Orchard. “Box. and Cox” will be staged by the society.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 3 October 1908, page 10**

Beecroft.

CONCERT. - The concerts given on Friday and Saturday evenings, at Beecroft, by the local Musical and Dramatic Society, wore splendid. The society on these occasions was playing for the School of Arts funds, as the institution extends privileges to it right throughout the year. The society is to be congratulated upon the programme provided. The Beecroft Society rendered part songs on both evenings, and also staged the operetta, “Cox and Box.” The part songs were well rendered under the baton of Conductor C. McKern. The solo artists were imported, with the exception of Mr. E. Lamont. Miss Geraldine Rivers, in two songs each evening, received encores. Mr. W. H. Lynch, at his first appearance, brought the house to his feet, and his every item was more and more appreciated. Mr. S. W. Gordon was a pronounced success in “Nirvana” and '”The Wind-mill,” gaining encores. Mr. E. L. Lamont rendered “A Bandit's Life” so well as to be recalled, and in “The Cretan” gained a vociferous encore. His second song was so well rendered that a third was demanded, and graciously responded to. In the part song, “Good-night, Farewell,” Miss Geraldine Rivers and Mr. E. L. Lamont took the solo lines. Miss Gertrude Slingsby added another triumph to those already won by her, by acting as honorary accompanist throughout. Not only did Miss Slingsby preside at the piano for her society, but enhanced the brilliant efforts of Miss Geraldine Rivers, and Messrs. Lynch and Gordon, by the manner in which she interpreted their accompaniment.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 31 October 1908, page 10**

Beecroft.

MUSICAL SOCIETY. - The first annual meeting of the Beecroft Musical and Dramatic Society was held on Friday. Mr. Arthur Slingsby (president) occupied the chair, and, in opening the meeting, congratulated the society upon the year’s work. He pointed out that in initiating

any society there were always many difficulties to overcome, and it was pleasing to know that, in spite of all things, there was a credit balance of £13 5s 7d. From this sum the society had donated £5 to the School of Arts building fund. The president desired to heartily congratulate the performing members upon the excellence of the productions during the year, and the keen interest taken all through in the work necessary to achieve the success attained. Mr. Slingsby wished to tender the resignation of his committee, and, in doing so, trusted that the incoming executive, with past experiences as a guide, would have even a more successful year. The annual report stated that the society now has a members' roll of 55 subscribers. The society has sustained a severe loss by the death of Mr. M. T. Fergusson, an ardent supporter. The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: Patron, Dr. Lidwill; president, Mr. W. Chorley; vice-presidents, Messrs. E. H. Alcock and W. M. Nixon; committee, Mrs. McCall, Misses R. Rofe and Slingsby, Messrs. H. Chorley, J. Forsyth and Meadmore; hon. treasurer, Mr. A. White; hon. secretaries, Miss E. Shirriff and Mr. J. S. Shiels; hon. auditors, Messrs. C A. Dobbie and T. S. Kenyon; hon. accompanist, Miss Joan Brown; hon. conductor, Mr. C. McKern. A hearty vote of thanks to the retiring executive, carried by acclamation and with musical honours, brought a pleasant and successful mooting to a close.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 13 November 1909, page 8**

Beecroft.

MUSICAL SOCIETY. - The annual meeting of the Beecroft Musical and Dramatic Society was held on Tuesday, Mr. Chorley presiding. The secretary's report showed that great interest had been taken in the work of the society by the members, and the society's entertainments had received good support. The following officers wero elected: Patron, Councillor C. Churchill Tucker; president, Councillor W. Nixon; vice-presidents, Messrs, A. Slingsby and W. Chorley; conductor, Mr. C. McKern; accompanist, Mrs. O. Seale; Hon. secretary, Mr. J. Shiels; treasurer, Mr. A. White; committee, Miss Slingsby, Mrs. McCall, Miss Tucker, and Messrs. Skellett, Meadmore, and Forsyth. Votes of thanks were accorded to Miss Slingsby and Miss Lamont for acting as accompanists during the year, and to the retiring officers.