**Beecroft Recreation Reserve**

**New South Wales Government Gazette, Wed 4 Oct 1893 [Issue No. 687]**

Department of Lands,

Sydney, 4th October 1893

… … pleased to approve the appointment of the undermentioned gentlemen as Trustees respectively of the areas of land hereafter particularised, viz; -

Recreation Ground at Beecroft, area 22 acres 20 perches, dedicated 27th June, 1893: -

Messrs. William Gratus Coward, Charles Churchill Tucker, Lesley George Herring, William Eugene Hort Nicholle.

**The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 23 Feb 1901**

Beecroft.

RECREATION RESERVE. – At a meeting of the committee of the Progress Association held on the 13th inst., it was resolved to petition the Minister for Lands to resume twelve acres at Cheltenham, to serve as a cricket ground for Beecroft and Cheltenham, the park at Beecroft being unsuitable for the purpose. It is understood that the owner of the land objects to the resumption.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 29 December 1906, page 8**

Parramatta Land Court.

FRIDAY, December 21.

(Before Mr. J. Vernon, J.P. (Chairman), and Messrs. S. Phillips and R. W. Laidley.)

AN APPLICATION FOR ALIENATION.

A BEECROFT RESERVE.

THE LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS UP IN ARMS.

The longest case heard before the Board was that which was listed as follows, in which the applicant was A. Wooster: Inquiry as to whether Portions 823 and 824, Parish Field of Mars, County Cumberland, should be alienated.

Mr. H. A. Langley appeared for the objectors, who included Councillor C. Churchill Tucker (president of the Beecroft Park Trust) and Councillor Nixon (president of the Beecroft Progress Association).

Mr. F. W. Todhunter appeared for the applicant. The objection was heard first. Councillor W. M. Nixon deposed that he was president of the Progress Association of Beecroft. The association, by a motion carried, unanimously decided to object to the proposed alienation of Portions 823 and 824, Parish of Field oi Mars, County of Cumberland. Correspondence took place between the association and the Government Department about the matter. A letter (produced) expressed accurately what the objections were. The place was a very pretty spot. There had been 30 or 40 houses built around this spot within the last twelve months or so. The place was a quarter of a mile from Cheltenham station.

To Mr. Todhunter: Witness lived at Beecroft — a mile and a half from the reserve. Was at the spot last week. Had been living there for two years. Had never been at the spot before last week. There was a reserve for recreation purposes close to the spot, the area of which was about 24 acres. Had been on that recreation reserve. The country was just rough country. There was water there. There was some dead timber lying about. The general public would suffer through being deprived of the use of the land. Knew that persons relied upon the creek mainly for water. Knew one man in particular who was so situated. Having in view the development of the district, it was not in the interests of the people he thought, that the land should be alienated. There was a village green near the station of four acres. Councillor Chas. Churchill Tucker deposed that he was a merchant and a justice of the peace. He was a trustee and the secretary of the village green and recreation reserve. Know the matter that was under consideration. It was against the public interest that the land should be sold. It would interfere with the water course (which would be probably, or was, in the control of the shire council). Some years ago, witness took steps to have a road run along the creek. That was done. The road was from Murray-road to Kent-road, connecting with Castle Howard road. The road could be easily constructed for £20 even. Did not mean that a decent road could be provided for £20; that would cost about £100. Picnic parties used a part of the portions of land which the applicant sought to obtain. The council or the trustees should have control of the crook. Looking ahead, the land in question should, he thought, be in the control of the council, more especially in relation to any sewerage scheme. There was timber growing on the land which would be required for shire purposes. There was on the land a water-hole. Owned land close to the spot, and resided close to the spot. Had known the district for 20 years. There was a permanent water hole in the park, which, however, was very difficult of access. It would not be nearly as convenient of access as the water-hole on the land applied for. It would be against the interests of the residents of the Beecroft, Cheltenham, and Epping districts for the portions to be alienated.

Senior Sergeant John Thompson, of the police force, deposed that he was stationed in Sydney. He knew the land. He wished to object to the proposed alienation of the land. The plan showed the land as a reserve. Would not have bought the land had he not believed that he would have access to the creek. He bought according to the conditions shown on that plan.

Mr. A. E. Wachsmann, another member of the Progress Committee of Beecroft, gave corroborative evidence.

The solicitor for the objectors had to leave at 1 p.m.

The applicant, Alfred F. Wooster, deposed that he wished to be enabled to purchase a strip of land on the side of the creek opposite to the land formerly purchased by him. He wanted to obtain the land now applied for in order to fence his land, which he could not do advantageously at present. Again, soil from his land was washed into the creek, and he was not able to go into the creek now and recover that soil. Ho would cultivate his land (20 acres) if he obtained the land he was applying for. There was ample land reserved for the purposes of public recreation — the park (24 acres), the village green, and a quarry reserve, and another reserve near the railway, were among the local areas reserved for the public use.

H. Marsden, staff surveyor, Lands Department, deposed that he had inspected the land at different times. At ono time he found the creek a chain of water-holes, containing dirty water; at another time the creek was one of running water. The greatest part of the land was steep and rocky, as also was the road adjoining it. There had been no improvements effected in the vicinity. It would not be practicable to make a trafficable road there at less than £1000. The land was not very suitable for recreation purposes. If he saw any prospect of the road being constructed, he would not recommend the sale of the land.

Mr. Todhunter argued that the objections raised wero sentimental objections. The applicant wanted to improve his property, and to enable him to do that it was necessary that he should obtain, if possible, the strip of land now applied for. There were larger interests involved than those merely of the Beecroft residents — he meant the interests of the people as a whole. If the Beecroft Progress Association wanted to preserve the place as a beauty-spot, let them enter the lists with Mr. Wooster at the sale, and buy the portions.

The Board reserved their decision.

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

Beecroft.

WANTED, A PARK.

A public meeting convened at the instance of the Progress Association, by circular, was held in the School of Arts Hall, Beecroft, on Tuesday night, to consider the advisability of securing land as a cricket and sports ground for the district.

Mr. W. Nixon (president of the progress association) occupied the chair, and there was a large and representative gathering. The chairman said the object of the evening was a very laudable one, viz., to secure for Beecroft and surrounding district a cricket and general sports ground, which could be utilised not only for cricket and football, but for all kinds of outdoor amusements, as a rendezvous for the different gatherings of the district, public school sports, etc. The progress association had at various times brought before the people the advisability of securing such a reserve, but the difficulty had always been the securing of a suitable site. Now they were in a position to point to a site that was not only suitable, but procurable; and providing sufficient support could be obtained, the long-conceived project could at last be brought to a successful issue. This was about the first and only piece of ground the progress association has found as being in all respects suitable. Mr. Tucker said Beecroft had a park of 23 acres given them by the Government, but not a bit of it was suitable for cricket. It might be suitable for picnics and as a breathing spot, but the only form of sport that could be indulged in on it was chasing butterflies, or something of that sort. Recently the Government had given £1000 for a cricket ground for the Ryde district, and seeing that Beecroft and the centres adjoining provided more revenue than Ryde to the Railway Department, the Government might, if that were made as an argument, be induced to give them some assistance in purchasing this ground. They might give £ for £. He was thoroughly in sympathy with the movement, and would give it his hearty support. He moved, “That this meeting considers it advisable to obtain a cricket and sports ground for the district.” The motion was seconded by Mr. A. Slingsby, and was carried unanimously. Mr. J. I. Forsyth moved, “That the piece of ground, the property of Mr. Frederick Wilson, and known as Wilson's grant, comprising about, seven acres be purchased for a sum not exceeding £250, providing sufficient support be obtained.” This site was known to most of them, and their cricketers had been over it and found it most suitable. A great part of it had been cleared, and he thought the sum mentioned a reasonable amount. Up to the present they had tried to got almost every piece of ground worth calling level, but had failed. When it became known this was in the market, they had taken steps to stop the sale until it could be ascertained whether arrangements could be made for its purchase, for the purpose named. He thought they ought to purchase it. It was not far from the Railway station. A mistake had been made in the securing of the public park for Beecroft and they ought to rectify that mistake as soon as they could. If there was no other way, let them sell the Government Park and get this, which was worth a good many hundred pounds more than the present park — so far, at nil events, us snorts were concerned. The motion was seconded by Mr. Edward Seale, who considered the land referred to would make a very suitable cricket ground. The chairman explained that Mr. F. G. Wilson had placed this land under offer at £250 from the 21st January, for one month. Mr. Tucker said the land was

about half a mile from Cheltenham, and a little over half a mile, from the Beecroft station, so that it was fairly central to both. It was partly cleared, too, and would not cost much to level and otherwise prepare it for cricket, etc. This motion, on being put, was also carried unanimously. Mr. Alcock moved, “That this meeting pledges itself to support the proposal, and that a committee, of 12 residents he appointed to give it effect.” This was seconded by Mr. Wachsmann. and carried. A committee was then appointed, viz., Mr. W. Nixon, president; Mr. O. C. Tucker, vice-president and treasurer; Mr. A. Wachsmann, secretary (all ex officio members of the committee, Messrs Henry Little, H. Sargent, Wilde, Andrews, Chorley, Alcock, Slingsby, O. Seale. S. Barnby, jun., Shorter, Quodling, and McCoy. Mr. Shorter next moved, “That subscription lists be issued, and that the holders canvass the district, and if in the opinion of the committee sufficient support is promised, they be empowered to raise the balance of the money up to £350 for the purchase and improvement of the land, either on mortgage or on debentures, as they may think fit. This was seconded by Mr. Johnston, and carried. Mr. Shorter promised to do all the legal work in connection with the matter free of cost. Mr. Alcock moved that the president, vice-president, the secretary, and Mr, W. Chorley be appointed trustees. Upon this an amendment was moved by Mr. Shorter and seconded by Mr, Fearnley, that the trustees be the president and vice-president. The amendment was carried.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 16 March 1907, page 10**

Beecroft.

THE NEW PARK. - The sum of £120 has been collected with the newly acquired recreation and sports grounds. Tenders are being called for grading and levelling the ground. A concrete wicket will also be laid down.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 9 March 1907, page 10**

Beecroft

THE NEW PARK. - The committee appointed in connection with the acquisition of the Beecroft recreation grounds have collected £110 and application is about to be made to the Government for a subsidy of £ for £.