**Beecroft Rifle Club**

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Wednesday 16 February 1910, page 1**

Beecroft Progress Association.

The Annual Meeting.

SPORTS.

During the year suggestions have been made for the formation of a miniature rifle club, and upon the completion of the School of Arts building this should be feasible. The advisability of forming a rifle club for the district was discussed, and steps have been taken to recommend the Minister for Lands to reserve from public sale certain suitable lands adjacent to Pennant Hills for the purpose of a range.

With regard to the proposed conference of district Progress Associations, to take stops to procure a rifle range near Pennant Hills, it was decided to send delegates and to notify the Epping Association that they had written to the Lands Department requesting that the land in question is reserved from sale at the present.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 19 March 1910, page 3**

Joint Committee.

Northern Line Requirements.

THE RIFLE RANGE.

The sub-committee reported having inspected the site of the proposed rifle range at Blackacre, and finding the locality suitable for the purpose. Councillor Jones said that the shire council had written to the Department about the proposed range, and they had replied that the matter was one for Commonwealth consideration. He believed that a suitable piece of ground could be secured there, and the sooner it was secured, the better. - Mr. Sutton thought that the State Government should be approached as to their willingness to dedicate ground to the Commonwealth. - Mr. Thomas said that the State Government were averse to doing anything in the matter, unless they were forced to it. They had been asking for this range for three years, but the Government did nothing but move the matter to someone, else. The report was right enough but the committee had not been given power to go far enough. These blocks of Crown land were being steadily disposed of, and in a few years time there would be none left available for this purpose. The land was not very suitable for settlement but would meet the requirements of the rifle range, and probably part of it would prove of great service if a sewerage scheme were to be established for these suburbs. He considered they should get up a public meeting to ask the Government to withdraw this land from sale for the present. - Councillor Nixon considered there were too many bodies working in connection with this matter, and the outcome might be a conflict of views. He considered that the matter should be left to a conference of the district progress associations, such as had been arranged. He would move that the report be referred to the conference, the date of which was to be arranged — Mr. Chorley suggested that the Federal Government be approached through Mr. Cook. Councillor Jones said that the shire council were taking this step. Ho would second the motion. - Mr. Sutton said that the matter originated with the Joint Committee, and they should be the ones to approach the Federal Government over it, and notify the other bodies as to the result. They, should maintain their dignity, and not allow themselves to be superseded by a shire council or any other body. He moved, as an amendment, that the committee write to Mr. Cook asking him for his opinion. - Mr. C. E. Summerhayes seconded. - Councillor Jones said that the associations had referred the matter to the shire council as the representative body. - Councillor Tucker supported the amendment. The matter was one that affected Marsfield and Ryde and other places to which the range would be a convenience, and was not one in which Hornsby Shire Council was alone interested. The more support they got, the more likely they were to get the range. He thought the State Government should be approached to dedicate the land, and the Federal Government establish the club. - Mr. Kidson thought the committee and the shire council should work together in the matter. The district associations should have transacted the business through this committee, as the matter was raised first by this committee, who appointed a sub-committee. That committee took long enough to do the work, and has not advised him of their intended meeting. The proposal of the committee should have been forwarded by letter from the Joint Committee secretary, and not verbally by any of the members. - The amendment was carried. - Councillor Nixon moved, as a further amendment, that the shire council be written to and asked to do their utmost to further the matter, and to cooperate with the committee. - Seconded by Councillor Jones. - Councillor Tucker thought the neighbouring councils should be asked. - Mr. Summerhayes said that, in matters affecting the welfare of the whole northern district, the Ryde, Flemington, Dundas, and Eastwood Councils should work as one. - Mr. Chorley supported this view, and thought that Councillor Nixon might add this to his motion. - Councillor Nixon said that in asking the shire council to do all they could, it would cover writing to all the other corporate bodies, for that would be one of the first steps taken by the shire council. The land was in the shire, and the proposal originated in the shire, and the shire council should be the one asked to move in the matter. - The amendment moved by Councillor Nixon was carried.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 14 May 1910, page 8**

Beecroft.

RIFLE RANGE. - Under the auspices and supervision of the Cadet Department, a stop-butt and target are being erected at the public school for a miniature rifle range. The work will be completed before the end of May. The rifles, which are anxiously looked for, are not yet to hand, but no doubt they will come along in due course.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 21 May 1910, page 8**

Beecroft.

RIFLE RANGE. — A report from the Commonwealth military authorities has been received on the subject of the rifle range. The proposed site was visited and inspected (as far as possible) by a duly qualified officer, but a difficulty presented itself. The exact site could not be located by the officer, and there was too much scrub to enable him to get a view of the proposed range, had he succeeded in identifying it. The original sub-committee appointed by the Joint Committee, Messrs. Thomas Brigg and another, have undertaken to show on paper the exact site, but the clearing of it is another matter.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 4 June 1910, page 8**

Beecroft.

THE SCHOOL. - An exhibition of work is to be held next month in connection with the Beecroft public school, The miniature rifle range is completed, but has not yet been passed by the Department's officers. The school has been equipped with 20 B.S.A. rifles, of .310 calibre, having an effective range of 600 yards. The newly formed detachment of cadets have been instructed in the use and care of the arms, and arrangements are being made to give them the benefit of a musketry course on the Hornsby rifle range. Two small-bore rifles for the miniature range have also been supplied.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 25 June 1910, page 8**

Beecroft.

RIFLE CLUB. — An effort is being made to form a civilian rifle club in Beecroft, and a public meeting is to be held in the local School of Arts next week, for the purpose of taking the necessary preliminary steps. It is considered that there will be little difficulty about obtaining the required number of members to secure the departmental sanction to the club. Once a club is formed, the hands of the Joint Committee will be greatly

strengthened with regard to their application that part of the Crown Lands at Pennant Hills should be set aside for a rifle range. Messrs. Nixon, Fearnley, Forsyth, Vernon, and several other gentlemen, are the principal movers in the direction of forming a club.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Wednesday 6 July 1910, page 2**

RIFLE CLUB.

A meeting was held at Beecroft on Wednesday for the purpose of taking steps to organise a rifle club for Beecroft, Epping, Pennant Hills and Thornleigh. Councillor Nixon presided and there was a fair attendance. On the motion of Mr. Fearnley it was decided to form a club; and Mr. Forsyth was appointed secretary pro tem. It was decided to invite Captain J. R. Wallace, of Randwick to address a meeting on the subject about the middle of the present month.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 9 July 1910, page 8**

Beecroft.

RIFLE CLUB. - A meeting is to be held at Beecroft on the 19th inst. to form a civilian rifle club for the Epping, Beecroft, Thornleigh districts. The school cadets are being exercised in rifle drill, and under the supervision of the headmaster are practising shooting at the miniature ride range in the school grounds. Though new to the work, the boys are shaping well, one lad scoring 10 out of a possible 20.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 23 July 1910, page 8**

Beecroft.

RIFLE MEETING. - A public meeting was held in the Beecroft School of Arts on Wednesday, Councillor Nixon presiding, in connection with the movement to establish a rifle club. Addresses were delivered by Lieut. Mills, Capt. J. Wallace, Mr. Sherwin (inspector of rifle ranges), and Sergeant J. J. Wallace; Among the other visitors were President Ramsay (Hornsby Shire) and Messrs. Seage aud Filshie, of Thornleigh. On the motion of Councillor Tucker, seconded by Mr. Wild, it was unanimously decided to form a club for Beecroft, Epping, Thornleigh, and Pennant Hills. Mr. Nixon was appointed president pro tern., and Mr. J. I. Forsyth organising, secretary; and a provisional committee, consisting of President Ramsay, Councillor Tucker, and Messrs. Cadden and Wild, was also appointed. A vote of thanks was accorded the speakers. About 34 names were handed in as those of intending members; and it is expected that the membership will increase to at least 50. As soon as possible arrangements will be made to hold a meeting of members to appoint office-bearers.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 6 August 1910, page 8**

Beecroft

RIFLE CLUB. - At the Beecroft Rifle Club meeting on Monday, about 40 gentlemen were present, Councillor Nixon presiding. A club was formed with a membership of about 60, and the following officers were nominated: President, Mr. J. C. Hunt, M.L.A.; captain, Mr. C. W. Thomas; secretary, Mr. R. Cadden; treasurer, Mr. W. D. Schrader. Captain Muhs, of the Commonwealth Defence Force, was present. The consent of the Rifle Clubs Department will have to be obtained to the establishment of the club.

RIFLE RANGE. At the meeting of the Joint Committee on Wednesday, the secretary intimated that he had written to Mr. Hunt, M.L.A., asking what had been done in regard to the requested resumption of the Blackacre Estate. Mr. Hunt had replied that he had interviewed the Minister, who had promised to consider the matter. The matter of inspection had been deputed to Captain Harrison. Councillor Nixon said that about 180 acres of the land would be required for the range, and the State would hardly refuse to grant that much to the Frederick Government. Once the range was granted, the Government would not be likely to cut up the balance of the 700 acres for sale, and would be more inclined to grant it as a reserve. He was of opinion that he should hand the requisition in without further delay. The members present signified their approval to this course being adopted.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 27 August 1910, page 4**

On the Northern Line.

A RIFLE RANGE. Mr. Kidson said that Mr. Hunt, M.L.A., had informed him that the matter of the rifle range and park was to be brought before the Cabinet by Mr. O'Keefe that day. Mr. Hunt asked what was this he had heard about private subdivisions.

A member: Perhaps Mr. Chorley could tell us something about that. (Laughter.)

The secretary: I forgot to mention that Mr. Chorley asked me to apologize for his absence, as he is suffering from a cold in his larynx.

Mr. Brigg said they should send a deputation along at once, as in a week or two the Minister would refuse to receive a deputation.

The secretary: It might be best to wait until Mr. Hunt reports.

Mr. Brigg moved that if the reply is unfavourable, or if it is not received in a week, that steps be taken to arrange for a deputation to the Minister at once.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 10 September 1910, page 6**

Beecroft.

The members of the newly-formed rifle club for the Epping, Beecroft, Thornleigh district have arranged a working bee for this afternoon, the object being to clear the scrub on the proposed rifle range on the Blackacre estate so that the inspecting officer may be given a clear view of the range to enable him to report decisively as to the suitability of the country for the purpose.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 14 January 1911, page 8**

Beecroft.

RIFLE CLUB. - A special meeting was held at the School of Arts, Beecroft, on Tuesday, presided over by Mr. Nixon. Some 211 members put in an appearance, including new enrolments. Arrangements are being made for what promises to be an attractive programme for the present year.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 23 September 1911, page 8**

Beecroft.

Rifle Club. — Another effort to get a rifle club formed in Beecroft is under way, and the Minister for Lands is to be approached to grant part of the Crown i lands in the vicinity for the purposes of a rifle range.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 16 November 1912, page 8**

Beecroft.

Rifle Club. - The Pennant Hills Rifle Club, which has its headquarters at Beecroft, has been gazetted as a club. The club was formed some time ago in connection with the movement to have part of the Crown lands between Pennant Hills and Epping dedicated for the purposes of a rifle range. About 213 acres were ultimately secured for this purpose, but so far no targets have been erected, and no bullet, save perhaps from a pea-rifle in the hands of some lad, has sped its way over the range. The land in question is about half-a-mile from Pennant Hills station, and about a mile in an aerial line from Beecroft.

**Evening News (Sydney, NSW: 1869 - 1931), Saturday 15 February 1913, page 2**

RIFLE SHOOTING.

RANGE FOR PENNANT HILLS CLUB.

At a meeting of the Pennant Hills District Rifle Club, In the Beecroft School of Arts, the following officers were elected: Captain. Mr. O. W. Thomas; secretary, Mr. R. L. Cadden; treasurer, Mr. W. J. Schrader; committee: Messrs. C. C. Tucker, W. Nixon, W. J. Douglas, and H. M. Postey.

The club was formed two years ago, but owing to lack of accommodation for shooting, it could not start operations. But it has since been gazetted, and the Government has granted 211 acres of land at Blackacre, Pennant Hills, and is expected to expend over £100 in the course of a few weeks in constructing the range.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 29 March 1913, page 10**

Beecroft Progress Association.

Since last report, two hundred and eleven acres have been reserved for a Rifle Club at Pennant Hills; and the local rifle club is now formed, and the authorities intend to spend over one hundred pounds in making the range.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 14 June 1913, page 8**

Beecroft.

Rifle Club. - A start has been made with the clearing of the land granted for use as a rifle range near Beecroft. As soon as this is completed, targets will be erected, and then the local rifle club will get to work.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 20 September 1913, page 8**

Beecroft.

Rifle Club. — The Defence Department have completed the new rifle range on Blackacre Estate, near Beecroft, and last week handed over to the local rifle club. There are four targets of the disappearing pattern, and the range is competed for shooting up to 600 yards. The club comprises some 44 members, and eight Lee Enfield rifles, have been supplied to the club for their use. Some of the members, however, have purchased their own weapons.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 14 March 1914, page 8**

Beecroft.

The Range. — The Prime Minister, Hon. Jos. Cook, has consented to officially open the Blackacre Rifle Range on the 21st inst. The Beecroft Rifle Club is making arrangements for suitably celebrating function. The range affords practice for rifle shooting up to 600 yards.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 21 March 1914, page 8**

Beecroft Progress Association.

Mr. Schrader said he would have liked to see a reference to the formation of the rifle club, which comprised some 40 or 50 members. Shooting at the two targets provided went on every Saturday. Next Saturday, Mr. Cook was to formally open the range, and deliver a policy speech.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Wednesday 1 April 1914, page 3**

Pennant Hills Rifle Range.

On Saturday, the Northern Suburbs Rifle Range, which is reached after about 20 minutes walk from Pennant Hills station, was opened by the Prime Minister in the presence of a fair-sized crowd.

Mr. C. W. Thomas (captain of the local rifle club) said that it was necessary that the young men of Australia should be trained to shoot well, so as to be fitted to defend the country if, need should arise. The Government had assisted in this movement by providing the range, the two targets, and the ammunition; and it now rested with the parents and young men themselves to have those facilities made full use of. Those people who considered themselves too fat to take active part in the club-shooting, might assist with money, not to add to the pleasure of the club members, but to enable the young men to qualify as rifle shots. Mr. Harris had kindly donated a handsome silver cup to be competed for in club-shooting.

Mr. W. Thompson, M.L.A., jokingly, took exception to a remark by the captain. The 'fat man,' he said, was nowadays made the target for all forms of taxation. He belonged to a rifle club, himself years ago, but the good old game of cricket had greater attractions for him, and he had not done much at shooting. The Government had thrown the onus of the defence of the country on the young people, but these rifle clubs go a long way towards the building up of a great defence system. The Boer war showed what could be done by undisciplined men who were good marksmen. This range filled a great want in this district as was evidence by the large number of people who had gathered there that day, and he hoped to see this range the great shooting centre of the rapidly growing northern suburbs. It was very good of Mr. Cook to give them so much of his time, for in the next three or four months he would be in the vortex of a political campaign.

Mr. E. J. Brown (president of the National Rifle Association) said that to hear the remarks oi the previous speakers, one would think that the Government had expended thousands of pounds in constructing this range, whilst, as a matter of fact, it cost merely about £100 - and if a government could not find that much money for rifle shooting in such a large and populous district, they should close down the Defence Department altogether.

He was glad to see that a member of the Pennant Hills Club "took the money" at Randwick in the B series competitions. There seemed to be an idea abroad among the people that the big prizes for rifle shooting — amounting to £6000 or £7000 at a big meeting — were contributed by the Government. All this money was pooled by the men competing — not a penny coming from the Government. Mr. Thomas spoke of the liberality of the Government in regard to targets, range, and ammunition; but the Government didn't even provide each member of a rifle club with a rifle, and if a member wanted one for his own use, he had to buy one. Granted that the equipment of a rifleman was an expensive item, still, as a factor in the defence system, he was well worth it. The members give their time and money learning to be proficient marksmen. When Mr. Cook was Minister for Defence, he always listened carefully to the representations made by the clubs, and he rendered them valuable assistance.

The Prime Minister said Mr. Brown had rendered great services to the country in respect of tba rifle club movement, and no one was better qualified than he to know the drawbacks connected with rifle shooting, because of the difficulty experienced in getting the Department to assist them. The reason, however, was that there were so many objects for which money was required that it could not be found for all. Land defence alone cost £3,500,000 per annum, and if every grievance was settled, it would cost double. Mr. Thompson had said it was good of him to come there, but it gave him great pleasure to do so, and it was, moreover, an admirable opportunity of meeting many of the constituents whom he felt proud and honoured to represent. From the small arms factory at Lithgow they had hoped to be able to supply enough rifles for all requirements. It was difficult, of course, to start a new industry, and there were always delays at first, but he hoped to see the Lithgow factory working three shifts per day, and then there would soon be enough rifles to satisfy the association. The cadets were-growing up, and they would take their rifles with them into the reserves, and so each man would have a rifle. He hoped the club would prosper, and be able to give a good account of itself. They could not tell when the necessity for defending this country might arise. With our “White Australia” policy, and its irksome restrictions, who knows when the shock of war may come to make it necessary for us to defend our standards of civilisation? There are so many points of friction and possible causes of war, first in the last resource it may be that only the power of our Australian army will preserve us. Meanwhile, the British fleet is protecting the highways of the world, but there are five millions of people in this country, and it was time that we took the burden of defence on our own shoulders. The Government of today, as well as the Government before, were trying to make this country self-defendable. (Applause;)

The Prime Minister then, coached by Mr. C. W. Thomas and Mr. Brown. fired a shot. And, wonderful to relate, it was about the only bulls-eye score that afternoon.

Afternoon tea was very kindly dispensed by a number of ladies, amongst whom we noticed Mesdames C. W. Thomas, Eleton, Cadden, Broughton, Nixon, and Misses Tullock, Nance, Douglas, and others.

Warrant-Officer F. W. Salpry [?] was in charge of the range; and the rifle club officials present were Capt. C. W. Thomas, Secretary R. Cadden, and Assistant Secretary Whittell.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 4 April 1914, page 8**

Beecroft.

During the year the Pennant Hills District Rifle Club has been established, with a membership of over 40. The range is situate near Blackacre, with a reserve area of about 200 acres. Shooting takes place every Saturday, all necessary appliances having been provided by the Defence Department. Great interest is being taken in the shooting, and valuable trophies have been presented and will be competed for during the coming year.

**First World War starts July 1914.**

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 19 September 1914, page 12**

SEND-OFF AT BEECROFT.

In the local School of Arts on Wednesday evening, there was a large gathering of members of the Pennant Hills Rifle Club, presided over by Captain Thomas, the object being to accord a send-off and make presentations to Norman Giblett, of Thornleigh, and E. Miles, also of Thornleigh, both of whom are going to the front shortly with the expeditionary force.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Wednesday 14 October 1914, page 3**

BEECROFT DRILLS.

A public meeting was held in the hall of the Beecroft School of Arts on Tuesday night, for the purpose of encouraging elementary drilling of the men of the district, in view of the present national crisis. The notice convening the meeting contained the phrase: “It is the duty of all to be qualified to resist his Majesty's' enemies.” Mr. C. W. Thomas (chairman) explained the object of the meeting, and called upon Major Buchanan, of the 36th Infantry Brigade to address the meeting. The Major explained what had been done with regard to the formation of a rifle brigade, and demonstrated the necessity for training as well as being able to shoot. The idea of the rifle brigade was to have a strong line of defence behind the compulsory trainees. In the rifle clubs were some of the finest men in Australia. Captain. Vantln, A.I.C., explained how rifle clubs were run on economical lines, and said that target shooting taught men to take steady aim. A man, he said, was worth a machine gun if he pulled a steady shot in war. 'In reply to questions, it was elicited that 30 men would be required to start with the nucleus of a brigade at Beecroft; that, in the event of the worst coming to the worst in the present crisis, every male from 18 to 60 would be required to go to the firing line; and that it would be better to go there with a knowledge of drill and how to use the rifle than not.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 12 December 1914, page 8**

BEECROFT.

Drilling. — In connection with the Pennant Hills and Beecroft District Rifle Club, a large enrolment has taken place at Beecroft, and members are drilling assiduously and enthusiastically every Monday evening, the school grounds being used for the purpose. The ultimate object is to form a rifle brigade for home defence purposes. Considerably over 50 drill on Monday nights. Mr. R. Cadden, of Beecroft, is secretary, and would be glad to enrol many more.

**Referee (Sydney, NSW: 1886 - 1939), Wednesday 23 December 1914, page 9**

THE RIFLE.

INSPECTION OF THE RIFLE BRIGADE.

''Despite the continuous rain, there was a muster of 300 men and 24 officers of the newly-formed Rifle Brigade under Major C. A. Buchanan at the Sydney Cricket Ground (No. 2) on Monday evening for the inspection by Colonel Wallack, C.B., the State Commandant. The clubs represented were Sydney, Randwick, Yorkshire; Parramatta, Wunderlich, South Sydney, Western Suburbs, Concord and Enfield, Beecroft, National Reserve, Legion of Frontiersmen, Killara, Rockdale, Randwick Institute, North Sydney, Eastern Suburbs, A.M.P., Water and Sewerage, Roseville, Lands Department, and Manly.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Wednesday 10 February 1915, page 4**

RIFLE SHOOTING.

Pennant Hills Club.

The club, with its headquarters at Beecroft, has only been in existence a little over two years, and its membership now totals over one hundred members, and since the war has increased its strength by 100per cent, with more joining every week. It possesses a most up-to-date range, being situated at Pennant Hills.

The club holds drills every Monday night at the Beecroft Public School grounds, under Lieut. Robertson, assisted by Mr. R. L. Cadden and. Dr. Holt. Although the members have only been drilling for a short period, they have attained a marked proficiency in military training. This does not bar new members from joining, as new squads are being formed every week. Shooting takes places every Saturday on the range, and the committee are always present to Impart the use of the rifle to all intending members. Those who have not joined should do so at once, and help to lighten the task of our boys at the front and that of the Empire by being ready and prepared. By communicating with the secretary, Mr. R. L. Cadden, any particulars intending members wish to know will be immediately answered.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Wednesday 10 March 1915, page 4**

Hornsby Council.

From J. J. Armstrong, Inviting the council to attend a public meeting, at Epping to form a rifle club. Invitation accepted.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 13 February 1915, page 8**

BEECROFT.

RIFLE CLUB.

The Beecroft-Pennant Hills Rifle Club are holding drills every Monday and Thursday evenings, and the members are attending same regularly. Drill is being enthusiastically performed, and the members are accordingly showing a steadily increasing proficiency.

**Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Wednesday 17 March 1915, page 14**

PENNANT HILLS.

A meeting under the auspices of the Pennant Hills District Rifle Club was held in the Beecroft School of Arts for the purpose of urging the public to become members. Mr Holcombe said that the club had been in existence a little over two years, its membership before the war numbered 70, now It had nearly 200 in its ranks. The club was one of the first to start the drilling of its members, and was fortunate in having a range of its own. This enabled them to carry out rifle practice every Saturday.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 20 March 1915, page 8**

BEECROFT.

TO EQUIP THE MEMBERS.

The Beecroft Rifle Club is steadily increasing in membership, and six new life members have been enrolled. An effort is to be made to raise £200 for the purpose of assisting members to purchase uniforms, to erect a room on the rifle range, enable improvements to be

carried out to the range, and to provide a fund for the payment of instructors. It is felt that it is unreasonable that men who are giving their time and labour in fitting themselves to take part in the defence of the country should have to pay for these matters out of their own pockets, whilst other men give neither time or money. Lieut. O. Robertson has very kindly acted as instructor, free of charge, but it is considered that the club may not be fortunate in always having this gentleman's services.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 27 March 1915, page 1**

BREVITIES.

The Epping branch of the Beecroft Rifle Club held their first drill on Thursday night, when they mustered 50 strong.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 3 April 1915, page 8**

BEECROFT.

DRILL.

There was a largo attendance at the Beecroft Rifle Club's drill on Monday night, though the muster was not as big as usual. The club will probably not drill again till the Thursday after the Easter holidays.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 12 June 1915, page 8**

BEECROFT.

RIFLE CLUB PARADE.

The Pennant Hills District Rifle Club (including the Epping branch), held a parade at Beecroft on Sunday, and attended a religious service in the School of Arts. About 45 members attended under Captain Thomas, Mr. Robert Vicars (president of the Beecroft Progress Association) presided. Stirring addresses were delivered by Rev. J. Young (Anglican), Rev. A. M. Ogilvie (Presbyterian), and Rev. Mr. Doust (Methodist), who appeal ed to all who could, to enlist, aa the Germans were threatening the very principles of honour and liberty, which the British had upheld for centuries. Mr. W. T. Sharp (organist of St. John's), presided at the piano, and the hymns, “Onward, Christian Soldiers,” 'Eternal Father,” and “Fight the Good Fight,” were sung with a will by the large congregation present, and by the united chorus of the three churches. Prayers were offered for the soldiers at the front. The offertory amounted to about £15, and this is to be devoted to the Red Cross fund.