

## Gardens seen through the eyes of the photographer

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1. **An Illuminated Address** of the farewell for J.D. Bradley, the District Inspector of Schools for the Department of Public Instruction. It features Bona Vista, his home as well as the Girls Superior School at the Armidale Public School built in the 1890s but demolished in the 1960s. Bona Vista was built in the period 1885 to 1910.

2. **Bona Vista.** This photograph by Henry Tonkin, headmaster of Hillgrove Public School was taken in the 1890s. Bona Vista, completed between 1885 to 1910 was once the home of J.D. Bradley, the District Inspector for the Department of Public Instruction. Note how the photographer has emphasised the formal design of the garden, featuring the mature pine, hedges and dominant driveway.

3. **Slab Hut.** The gable roofed slab and bark house on Belle Vue Station on Mount Mitchell, Road, Glencoe about 1898. Obviously there is no female in this man's castle. One of the distinctive feature in many garden photos is the fact that a female has arrived. A fence is constructed to protect the garden and then pushed out further and further from the homestead.

4. Theopolis Cooper and family.

This is an early homestead and property 'Beverley' established by Theopolis Cooper near Bundarra. Note the material used in its construction- there was no chance to collect water for the garden. This is a deliberately posed photograph with the family in the centre. We have a wisteria hedge and the garden is full of plants more closely related to a very dry climate. Note the courting male with a flower in his hand but there is no apparent interest from the young lady.

5. **House garden at Glencoe.** This garden is a contrast to Beverley. Note the presence of females, a cottage garden, a galvanised iron roof and thus a round galvanised iron tank which indicated that there was a tinsmith in Glen Innes.

6. **Glencoe Public School Gardens.** Note the square ship's tank brought out from the UK by ship. The school began in 1885 but a Miss K McCann was a teacher from 1893 until 1926. It was she who was there during the heyday of the school garden. The school garden was associated with Arbor Day introduced at Ryde Public School in 1890 and the development of Junior Farmers Clubs. Junior Farmers Clubs were extremely strong in the Glen Innes area.

7. **Hillgrove Public School** was a public school from July 1885 to 1974. It marked the heyday of mining in Hillgrove from the 1880s until World War One. Henry Tonkin, headmaster from 1888 to 1909, was a remarkable photographer and was well known for the varied activities provided for its pupils. From the 1890s there was an emphasis on improving school gardens and in 1904 Peter Board, Director of Education emphasised practical education from the early 1900s. I knew that Tonkin had gone to the Hawkesbury Ag College for a summer school vacation in-service training course for teachers and helped these teachers to develop slides. These slides disappeared until the college found them in a box in the 1990s- a staff member recognised Hillgrove School.

8. Boys at work- note the colouring in the slides and the dress. Was it for the garden or for the photograph?

9. **Strathbogie**. A number of pastoral stations in the Emmaville area included Wellington Vale, Rangers Valley and Strathbogie all established in 1839. The latter was taken up by a Scotsman Hugh Gordon. This is an interesting garden established close to the stone homestead. Note the inner timber fence and the wider garden outside.

10. **Strathbogie** photographed by Joseph Check a travelling photographer. Apart from external shots he also photographed interiors of homestead. You had to trust the photographer otherwise you would have all your possessions covered by chemical. I will say more about Check later.

11. **Saumarez Homestead** was constructed in 1888 and a second storey was added in 1906. How was such an aerial photograph taken- we didn't know until we found this photograph.

12. **Elsie White**, one of the daughters at 'Saumarez' was a keen photographer. The Heritage Centre has now numerous albums demonstrating life on the property in the home and on the farm. Photographers were keen to demonstrate the extent of the diverse work on the large property.

13. **Parkland**. Since the arrival of Europeans in various districts, residents set out to develop cultural landscapes. Many of the resultant gardens meant that introduced trees were planted to create a deliberate European setting. Reserves were developed in many towns and parkland featured with lawns and diverse introduced trees; very rarely did councils or residents plant native trees. This parkland in Glen Innes demonstrates this approach with lawns, weeping willows, stonework and the way that the stream has been reformed.

14. **Gostwyck**. The 'Gostwyck' property is located east of Uralla. In 1832 Edward Gostwyck Cory took up the property and sold the grazing rights to

William Dangar in 1834. Over time, the property has undergone subdivisions and here we have an earlier homestead but note how the landscape has been planned with rows of introduced trees in the background. Note the timber fence to protect the garden from rabbits as well as covers over orchard trees to protect fruit from the native birds.

### **15 Kings Plains.**

In 1832 William Vivers an immigrant from Dumfries in Scotland took up some 25,000 hectares of pastoral land between Glen Innes and Inverell. In 1908 his great nephew George Vivers began construction of this property now known as Kings Plains Castle; clearly a reminder of Scottish heritage. Note the planned garden with the gardener in the photo as well as the vineyard; a feature of many early pastoral New England and district properties.

### **16. Crossman Album.**

Formerly located at the corner of Faulkner and Brown Streets but now demolished. Many of our earlier domestic buildings were saved from the horrors of the 1960s because they became student homes but not in this case. Note the simplicity of design with the low roof and supported verandah and the Scottish dormer windows. The building features the Wisteria vine very popular with gardeners at the time.

### **17. Arbor Day at Booloominbah**

'Booloominbah', is now administrative offices for the University of New England which was established in 1938. It was built in 1888 by Frederick Robert White and designed by John Horbury Hunt. During World War One, Mrs Sarah White gave over the greater part of the property to the local Red Cross and some 370 ex-servicemen found a convalescent home at the property. Arbor Day was first introduced to the Department of Public Instruction at Ryde Public School in 1890. Here soldiers are planting trees in the grounds of Booloominbah in 1917. Note the wire protection for trees to protect them from kangaroos and possible rabbits.

18. **Saumarez Homestead** orchard in 1917. The homestead had extensive vegetable gardens, an orchard and a dairy to supply food for the property but also the New England Hospital in Armidale. Here we have soldiers from Booloominbah enjoying fruit from the orchard which disappeared in the 1920s when F.J. White became very ill.

### **19. Teringa**

G.W. Dight awarded a tender for construction of this Armidale Villa at the corner of Mann and Marsh Streets to Edward Sharpe in July 1903. J. Rutledge was the architect. An amazing feature of this garden is the sweeping driveway and the heart shaped garden popular in the Victorian period. Note the courting couple and the chaperon seated nearby. She had ridden her pushbike to supervise the event and was obviously successful as the Dight daughters did not marry.

## **20. Wongwibinda**

The property dates from 1842 and was originally known as 'Kangaroo Hills'; situated sixty kilometres north-east of Armidale. It was renamed by the Albert and May Wright Family as 'Wongwibinda' from the mid 1880s. It was then developed as a cattle and sheep station. Albert Wright died in 1890 and May ran the property until her death in 1929. It then passed into the hands of the son Cecil. Note the love heart garden and the way that the photograph is deliberately structured; even with the dog in the foreground. You will see many similar photos with cattle, sheep or horses in the foreground- no easy task.

## **21. Deepwater**

Deepwater Station is situated about forty kilometres north of Glen Innes and was taken up as a pastoral property in 1839 by Archibald Windeyer. It was originally known as Deep Water but in time became Deepwater (one word). In time it became associated with the Cadell and Macanash families. Over time the station was reduced by Soldier Settlement. Note how this photograph was taken by a professional company, McBurnie of Sydney. You can search your collections for other similar professional photographers.

## **22. Devon House or Devon Villa**

This is an amazing early homestead constructed in the Gothic Revival Style more typical of an urban setting rather than a rural one and in April 1976, it celebrated its centenary. It was built by John Robert Chappell who named the building after his home county, Devon in England. It was designed by Edwin Bridges of Glen Innes. It is surrounded by a distinctive garden and is designed to overlook a magnificent vista created by the Severn River to the south.

## **23. Local Ha ha**

Early homesteads were built on hills as a protection against floods. An early feature of homesteads was the construction of ha has to prevent stock coming in close to the homestead but also to ensure that the vision of the surrounding countryside was not effected. It was a deliberate recessed landscape design.

## 24. Joe Check

Joe Check travelled extensively from the 1880s until his death in 1935. In early days he travelled by horse and buggy and would stay several days in one area and then move on. This a later wagon constructed in 1924. Notice how the wagon is decorated by his art work. It was placed on trains and moved by trucks. The sign states:

Joe Check Premier Country Artist and Photographer. Second to none. Here for two weeks only.

In the background is a Kodak Sign.

## 25. American Optical Camera

This was used in Solomon's studio from c1895 for group portraits. Its size meant that it could not be transported and was set up in a studio.

26. **Walter D. Solomon's studio, in Beardy Street, Armidale.** Each major town had a professional photographer of long standing. If you look carefully at their studio shots, you will notice the same backdrop and this will help identify the photographer. It is interesting that this illustration was sketched rather than photographed by A.S. on 9 June 1892. Note the glass wall and roof for studio work under natural light.

27. **August Hartmann's** photographic studio, largely of glass and canvass construction at Dundee in 1900. The little boy on the left is Victor who carried on his father's business.

28. **Les Young of Uralla.** (Born about 1895-1979). He was a blacksmith, foundry man, fitter, turned and amateur photographer with his camera in about 1918. His brother Frank who became the Archdeacon of Tamworth was an accomplished cameraman and may have taken this photograph. In my research I found that the travelling photographer came to Uralla on a number of occasions and once he was photographed with Les; both had a German descent and obviously talked much about photography.