

Historical Information for McIlwaine Street Proposed Road Name Change



Hewett Street

Proposed by the Leongatha and District Historical Society and Meenivan Returned Services League (RSL) for section 1.



The Hewett Family

Andrew George Hewett was born in 1857 and married Janet McMaster. Their eldest son, also Andrew George Hewett, was born at Halston NSW in 1882. He married Florence Wood in 1909 at St. Kilda.

The Hewett's moved to Leongatha where their two children Charlotte and Morton were born. In 1918 they purchased the Saddler's Shop in Geale Street, Meenivan. This shop was later burnt down.

Andrew became the proud owner of the first motor vehicle in the town. His son Mort studied motor engineering and they purchased the building on the corner of Hanily and Whitelaw Streets where they commenced a garage service.

Mort and his wife were heavily involved in the committees of the progress association, red cross, hall, recreation reserve, and fire brigade.

Livingstone

Proposed by the community during the first and second round of public consultations for section 2.

The Livingstone Family

The Livingstone family have resided in Morgans Road and surrounds for approximately 70 years. The late Ewen and Hester Livingstone farmed in this area off Morgans Road.

Ewen bought the farm at Morgans Road after the war. He cleared this land and turned it into a dairy farm, which is still being run by Livingstone descendants. He also volunteered a lot of his time to the community and various organisations for many years.

Ewen also delivered the mail around Meeniyah and Tarwin, whilst his mother Jane Livingstone ran the first Post Office and General Store in Tarwin. Jane's husband, Hugh Livingstone, worked on building the first roads around the Meeniyah and Tarwin Districts.

Hester also volunteered many hours of work to the Meeniyah and district community and organisations and was made a life Governor of the Woorayl Hospital for her work. The Uniting Church at Meeniyah has a pew with her name attached.

Mcllwaine

Proposed by the community during the first round of public consultations that section 3 remain as Mcllwaine.

The Mcllwaine Family

Mcllwaine Street was named after William (Bill) Mcllwaine in recognition of his work building roads and in the Shire. Married to Catherine Agnes Mcllwaine, the family name is known to the area. They lived on property at the west end of Mcllwaine Street (section 3). Bill Mcllwaine contracted his horse teams for road making throughout the Woorayl district and Catherine was often on her own with the children when he was away working on the roads. Four of her children grew up to run their own businesses. Bill's older brother was killed during the Gallipoli campaign.

Catherine

Proposed by the community during the second round of public consultations for section 2.

Catherine Agnus McIlwaine

Catherine McIlwaine came to South Gippsland around 1904 with her parents and 11 siblings and has lived in this area her entire life. She passed away at Meeniyan in 1980, aged 91 years. Catherine, also known as Kitty or Kit, farmed on the Tarwin River for around 35 years and provided milk for the town for a number of years. She worked beside her husband, William (Bill) McIlwaine as they cleared their land, harvested crops, and milked cows. Catherine nursed her only son when he returned home as an amputee from the Middle East in World War II. He recovered and afterwards farmed at Dumbalk. Five of her sisters and their husbands also farmed in the district. In later years she cared for her brother, P.A. Dunne, who ran the produce store in Leongatha for many years.

Hamilton

Proposed by the community during the second round of public consultations for section 3.

Tom Hamilton owned the land that follows the north side of the lane from Morgans Road to Ross Street. Tom was a well-respected local farmer and valuable member of the community, and was responsible for opening up this section of Meeniyan for residential settlement.

Nugget

Proposed by the Leongatha and District Historical Society and Meeniyan Returned Services League (RSL) for section 1.

“Nugget” named after local identity, Charles Nugget. Unfortunately no further information has been obtained on Charles.