

CASE STUDY: The History of Water Supply on the Central Coast

13. The Heritage Value of the Mangrove Creek Catchment

Before deciding to construct any major item of water supply infrastructure, we must weigh up the physical, environmental, social and economic benefits and costs. These considerations focus on the perceived needs of current and future generations. Just as important however, is the impact these decisions have on the **heritage** value of the region in which the infrastructure is to be built.



Plate 13: Abu Simbel, Egypt (Wikipedia)

Perhaps the best known example of this is the building of the Aswan dam in Egypt which inundated much of lower Nubia, displaced over 90,000 people, and would have drowned the famous Abu Simbel Temples had action not been taken to excavate and entirely relocate the temples during the construction of the dam.

When a dam was first proposed for upper Mangrove Creek, steps were taken to buy existing properties that might affect the **closed** catchment status needed to ensure water quality in the dam. One farm, "Fairview", was resumed by Gosford Council in 1973. In recent years, the history of Fairview has been recorded in an effort to preserve the heritage of the area.

Brief history of "Fairview Farm" on upper Mangrove Creek.

"Richard Woodbury was one of the earliest settlers in the upper valleys of the catchment in the area of Fairview ... The Fairview property (then known as 'Parks') was purchased by John Martin Andrews (1834-1902) in 1872. It was previously occupied by Ester Park and her family who lived in a small hut on the property... Andrews married Sarah Craft (1838-1924) ... They built the first house and outbuildings ... Later they moved ... and Alfred John Andrews (1860-1943) then took over the farm. Alfred and his wife Amanda ... built the "Fairview" homestead to replace the original house.... Their son Stanley Andrews and his wife Hannah (nee Thompson) took over the property The property was expanded through purchase of additional land in 1899, 1909 and 1920. The property was sold to Donald and Annieles Crone in 1964 and was resumed by Gosford Council in 1973."

Based on the source: "Fairview Heritage Assessment" by Elizabeth Evans, 2006.



Plate 14: "Fairview" farmhouse located between Mangrove Creek dam and the Mangrove weir. ("Fairview Heritage Assessment" by Elizabeth Evans, 2006)

ACTIVITY: Evaluation of arguments for and against a Controversial Issue

Consult the following Website where arguments are presented (beginning on page 5) both for and against the long term preservation of the Fairview homestead

http://www.gosford.nsw.gov.au/council/council_meetings/agenda_reports/2007/04/03/environment-and-planning.pdf

Construct a table with columns "For" and "Against" the long term preservation of the farm buildings. List three arguments under each column. Now write a brief paragraph with your own judgement as to what should be done at the Fairview site.

