



HISTORY OF THE KOJONUP DHS FARM

First Departmental record of an agricultural school is contained in a letter from Kojonup Farmers' Union dated 1st April 1949 asking the Director

"that you give consideration to the establishing of a farm school at Kojonup on the Glen Lossie Research Farm. According to our information the three existing schools (Narrogin, Denmark and Muresk) are overcrowded and there is a waiting list of about 50 for Narrogin".

The reply was non-committal.

The topic was revived again in 1953 with letters from both the Farmers' Union and P&C Association followed by support from the Road Board and representations to the Federal (G Freeth) and State (Hon. A F Watts) Members of Parliament.

During 1954 the Director gave consideration to acquiring 200 acres of land from "Glen Lossie" C.S.I.R.O. Research Station but also wrote

"The Government is committed to the establishment of agricultural courses at Wyalkatchem and Morawa and that will be as much as we can envisage in the next year or so. After that I think Margaret River and Manjimup should take precedent as we already have land there and there is considerable population interested in such provision. I therefore feel that although Kojonup might, in the distant future perhaps, be the location for an agricultural wing, yet it will be some years before the Government should contemplate such a development".

On 23rd February, 1957 the P&C Association wrote that they had heard that 1800 acres of "Glen Lossie" land was to be sold. The land proved to be undeveloped bush country yet it was felt nonetheless, that 500 acres would be a start and the matter was submitted to the Prime Minister. The reply came that 2470 acres were available for disposal but Federal Government departments had first option. Inspection indicated that a convenient package would be lots 871 (160 acres), 872 (100 acres) and portion of 7930 (377 acres), altogether 637 acres, the price 2560 pounds. This was purchased.

Again in 1960 the Director refused to start any form of Agricultural education at Kojonup:

"the Department is not satisfied that there would be sufficient boys to fill places in all these (existing) centres and the cost of establishing one would be beyond the compass of the Department at the present time".

A new development occurred in April 1964 when it was made known to the Department that Mr George Church, owner of land adjacent to the south boundary of the Junior High School, was prepared to sell and it was suggested that the "Glen Lossie" holding be sold and this purchased. Mr Barton investigating, found Mr Church willing to sell 600 acres at 32 pounds per acre and the market price of the Department's holding to be about 25 pounds. Negotiations as to this price continued till May 1966 when agreement was reached and the following transaction is approved:

"to purchase 450 acres of Mr Church's property in exchange for the Glen Lossie Property and \$12000 cash".

By early 1968 the very prolonged negotiations resulting in the school obtaining 450 acres adjacent to its south boundary were completed and the fences constructed.

By 1969 power was organised but the Department was not able to finance a shearing shed for some years, however by 1974 it had been erected and connected to S.E.C. power.

Summary

- 1st April 1949 First approach to set up a school farm at the Glenn Lossie Research Farm
- 1953 An approach from the Farmers' Union, P&C and Road Board to Federal and State Members of Parliament.
- 1954 Reply from the Director (of Education?) to give consideration to obtaining 200 acres at Glen Lossie for a school farm but after Manjimup and Margaret River who had greater populations
- 23rd Feb 1957 An approach by the P&C that there were 1800 acres of undeveloped bush land at Glen Lossie was for sale. 637 acres were purchased for 2560 pounds.
- 1960 The Department was not satisfied that there was enough demand or enough funds to start agricultural education at Kojonup at the present time.
- 1964 George Church was prepared to sell 600 acres for 32 pounds/acre on the south boundary of the school when the Department's land was valued at 25 pounds/acre.
- May 1966 It was decided *"to purchase 450 acres of Mr Church's property in exchange for the Glen Lossie Property and \$12000 cash"*.
- 1968 After prolonged negotiations the school obtained 450 acres adjacent to its south boundary and fences were constructed.
- 1969 Power was organised but the Department was not able to finance a shearing shed for some years, however by 1974 it had been erected and connected to S.E.C. power.