

24 Sinclair St,
Old Bonalbo 2469
N.S.W

23rd February 2017

Dear Mr Kenneth,

In reference to the naming of the new concrete bridge 9.7Km on the Duck Ck Rd over Duck Ck. I propose it be named the McKee's Bridge after the people who selected the property in which the bridge is on. There is still a descendent of the McKee family living on the property today.

It would there for be appropriate to name the bridge McKee's Bridge. As Council named Frasers Bridge and W.H Ralston bridges after the people who selected the land which the two bridges are on.

Thankyou for the opportunity for me been able to make my suggestion on naming the bridge
yours faithfully

Jeff + Cheryl Whitney

McKEE'S BRIDGE

Reply to advertisement in 'Richmond River Express Examiner' Wed. 22nd February, 2017 inviting submissions regarding the naming of the new bridge on Duck Creek Road.

The Case for the new bridge on Duck Creek Road, 9.7km from the Clarence Way, to be named -
"McKee's Bridge"

The McKee family has been closely associated with the opening up and development of the Duck Creek valley and descendants of the original selectors are still land holders in the district today, owning land adjacent to the bridge in question which is to be named.

Samuel and Margaret McKee came to Australia from Northern Ireland in 1886. They had five children born here in Australia. The children were: Hugh, John (Jack), Sarah, (who was to become Mrs. Robert Minnis) Robert James (Bob), and Leslie (he was actually Samuel Leslie). So the five siblings were Hugh, Jack, Sarah, Bob, & Leslie.

In 1902, Margaret took sick, and it was her wish to end her days back home in Barnmeen, Northern Ireland, so the family moved, and she died in 1905.

In 1906, Jack McKee, the second child, returned to Australia with the Jennings family.
In 1908 Bob McKee, the fourth child, also returned to Australia, to his older brother Jack.

The entire Bonalbo district was under the control of the Bonalbo Station, a large cattle station, leasehold, the homestead of which was near the present village of Old Bonalbo, near Armstrong's dairy, and the most recent owner was Henry Barnes. The Bonalbo Station consisted of the entire Duck Creek, and Peacock Creek Basins, right to the Clarence River, some 330 square miles or over 200,000 acres.

There were no towns, no roads or bridges. Nothing at the site of the present Bonalbo, and only the Bonalbo Station homestead at the present Old Bonalbo site. Some land was cleared, but areas such as the Upper Duck Creek Valley, north from what is now, the Gospel Hall, was virgin bush. In 1906, it seems the lease ran out, & the Station was dissolved, and land was let out for selection, under a closer settlement programme. The cleared country was the first to be taken, and by 1909 it was largely the virgin bush areas which were left.

Jack McKee, and Bob McKee both selected property on Duck Creek in about 1909. Jack at "Avondale", (Terry Rutherford's it is now,) and Bob at "Streamvale", (part of which is now Harry Creevey's, but which initially extended north to join what would become Hugh McKee's selection of "Hillview".)

In 1911, the rest of the McKee family came to Australia. The father, Samuel James McKee (with his new wife, Agnes), was accompanied by the remainder of the family, Hugh, Sarah, and Leslie.

Hugh McKee selected "Hillview" where Noelene (his daughter), and her husband Athol Young now live.

Sarah Minnis (ne McKee), and her husband Robert Minnis, selected part of the property now belonging to the Barrett family – portions in each of the two names. Samuel McKee, the father, didn't select land in his own name, but was instrumental in the selection of his daughter Sarah Minnis' block.

Leslie McKee selected property nearby on Slaughter Gully

Jack McKee purchased other property nearby, as did Bob McKee

The McKee Brothers commenced a sawmill on "Avondale", which was later transferred to the Capeen Mill site, and continued until sold to Keys Brothers in 1947. This mill was an important source of timber for the armed

forces during the Second World War, and many special orders were trucked to Brisbane for the American Army. The high quality stand of untouched timber on the nearby Richmond Range was the source of logs for these orders of sometimes almost unprocureable dimensions required for wharf construction.

This means that the McKee Family – the five siblings - selected property and operated business in the area immediately surrounding the bridge in question

Remembering that there was no bridge when this land was originally selected.

These families witnessed, and were involved in the opening up and the development of this local district, remembering also that upon selection this land was virgin bush. A condition of selection was that the land had to be fenced and progressively cleared in a timeframe, as evidence of being able to manage the land.

The property adjacent to the bridge on the north-eastern side, "Hillview" has only ever been owned by the McKee family - Noelene Young (ne McKee) still resides on the property.

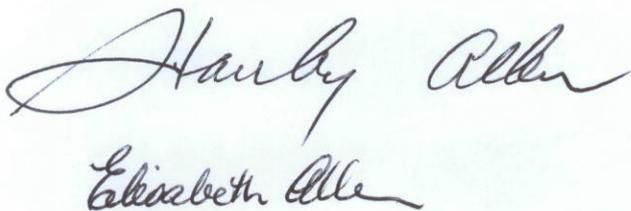
Descendants of Jack McKee still own property nearby; in fact, Jack McKee was a prominent business man in the wider district. He commenced the Post Office in Old Bonalbo, and his daughter Ella Crossett ran this Post Office with the telephone exchange for many years. Jack McKee owned the first Garage/Service Station which incorporated a General Store. His son-in-law, Jack Crossett, ran the Garage, while other family members operated the Store. This building was subsequently destroyed by fire, and Jack McKee rebuilt two new structures. The building now owned by Robert Grey Engineering became the new Garage/Service Station which Jack Crossett continued to run for many years. The other structure, now owned by Russell & Merrill Carr, and includes the present Post Office Agency, became the new General Store, which the McKee family continued to operate until it was sold to W A Cooper.

Jack McKee built the first house in the Old Bonalbo village at 10/12 Prince St, where he lived with his family, and his brother Bob McKee built and lived in the house across the street, where Doug Caldwell now lives, which was likely the second house to be built in the village.

This association which the McKee family has had with the local district spans more than a century, and actually covers the entire history of the development of this section of the Duck Creek valley. No other pioneering family has had anywhere near the same association with this part of the valley as has the McKee family.

With the long and continued association of the McKee family with this part of the district, and with descendants of Hugh McKee still in ownership of land adjacent to the bridge, the family having owned this land since selection, before the crossing was even built, it would seem fitting that this bridge be called "McKee's Bridge".

It could be argued that the bridge be called the "Hugh McKee Bridge", in fact, one of the names attached to the bridge over the years by the local population was Hughie's Bridge – after Hugh McKee. However, since all of the five McKee siblings had a close association with the immediate district, and Jack McKee still has family living, and owning property in the district, it would seem fair that the bridge be named "McKee's Bridge".



Stanley & Elisabeth Allen
1312 Duck Creek Road
OLD BONALBO NSW 2469
02 66653209
stanallen@clearmail.com.au
25th February, 2017

[Compiled from family historical collections/documents by Elisabeth & Stanley Allen.

Elisabeth (ne Young) is a granddaughter of Hugh McKee, and Stanley is a grandson of William Jennings who selected property adjoining Hugh McKee's property of Hillview in 1909. The couple live in the Jennings Homestead.

The McKee and Jennings families had been close friends before leaving Northern Ireland.

All of the five McKee siblings are buried in the Old Bonalbo Cemetery. Thomas McKee, Jack McKee's first child who died at birth, is the first body interred in the Old Bonalbo Cemetery]

From: barry marshall [bazbaseduckck@yahoo.com.au]
Sent: Sunday, 26 February 2017 9:31:57 AM
To: Kyogle Council
Subject: Bridge on duck creek rd 9.7kms

Just letting you know that bridge on duck creek rd has been know as Browns bridge for at let 50years by us local what been here for a long time so can we have it as Browns bridge please for the people that only been here since the bridge got wash out and a person put it in the paper as Barrett's bridge not Browns if they ask us one been here a long time they fine out what the name is. I hope you call it Browns bridge so we can keep some history here around old bonalbo
Thank you from Marshall family

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From: Terry Moody [uccl@bigpond.com]
Sent: Monday, 27 February 2017 9:15:12 AM
To: Kyogle Council
Subject: Naming of Bridge on Duck Ck Rd

I propose that the bridge be named MC Kees bridge, in recognition of the following:
the adjoining land was originally selected by McKees, and remains in family ownership (Youngs)
the McKee family as Irish migrants made a highly significant contribution to the area through agriculture and forestry
the McKee family continue to make a highly significant contribution to the Old Bonalbo and Woodenbong communities, through their senior roles in the local church.
The church, referred to as the Gospel hall remains well used, and has long hosted a weekly afternoon children's activity / get together, that is well attended.
No other such opportunities are available locally.
Many other bridges West of the Range also record the areas history, being named after original selectors. The proposed name fits with this mode.

Regards
Terry Moody
Upper Clarence Combined Landcare Inc
02 66653133

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1056 Duck Creek Road
Old Bonalbo NSW 2469

27 February 2017

Graham Kennett
General Manager
Kyogle Council

Dear Sir,

Re: Naming of new Duck Creek bridge

I write as son-in-law of the late Hugh McKee and resident at 1056 Duck Creek Road for 49 years.

Until comparatively recently, the above-mentioned bridge has been known locally as "Brown's Bridge" after Edward (Ted) Brown (or his parents) the owners of portion of the property now owned by Stephen Barrett.

The commencement of ownership by Mr & Mrs Brown (senior) appears uncertain to local residents but probably the mid to late 1920's. Ted Brown and his wife left no family to carry on the property.

In recent years, the bridge is commonly referred to as 'Barrett's Bridge', especially by newer residents in the valley. Stephen's father, Colin, purchased two adjoining properties on the western side of Duck Creek in the early 1970's.

However, since property adjoining the bridge on the eastern side of Duck Creek has been in the Hugh McKee family (now 3rd & 4th generation) since 1911 and Hugh's siblings having owned adjacent property, it appears appropriate to name the new bridge 'McKee's Bridge'.

Consideration could also be given to the contribution to the timber and pastoral industries by the McKee family over the past 100 plus years. Although there is no known record, it is likely that the McKee's sawmill supplied the timber for the original bridge.

However, I believe there is sufficient goodwill in the area for other names to be considered and adopted, as I expect a number of options have been presented by others.

Kind Regards,

Athol Young

PLAN OF PORTION 14

County of Buller Parish of Buller

Land Board District of Crafton Eastern District of Casino

Land Board District of Crafton Eastern District of Casino

PASTORAL HOLDING

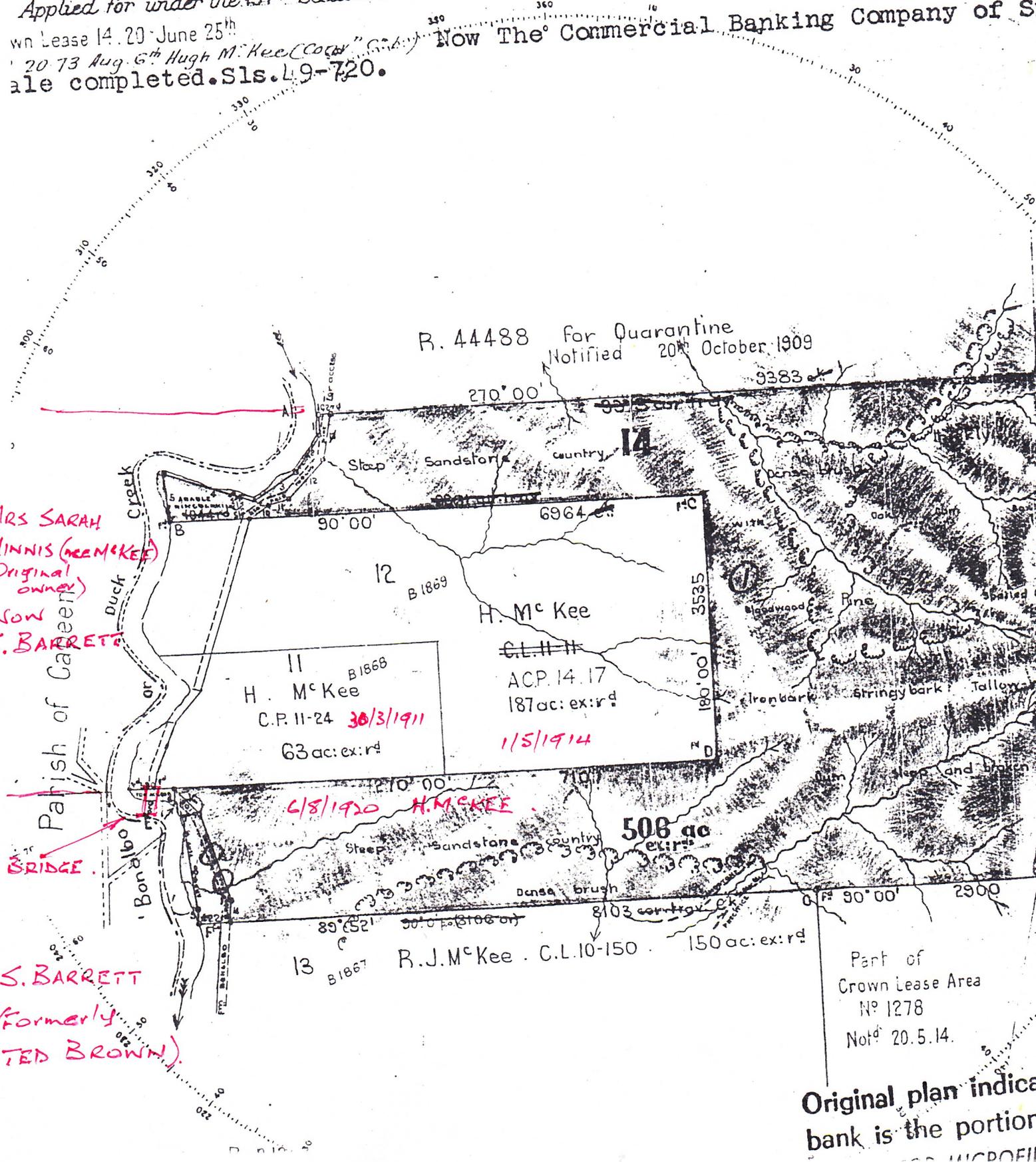
RESUMED AREA No 660

Applied for under the 131st Section of the Crown Lands Act of 1913 by Hugh McKee consolidation

with Lease 14.20 June 25th 20.73 Aug. 6th Hugh M. Kee (Crown Lease) Now The Commercial Banking Company of S. Sale completed. Sls. 49-720.

R. 44488 for Quarantine Notified 20th October 1909

MRS SARAH MINNIS (NEEMCKEE) (Original owner) NOW S. BARRETT
S. BARRETT (Formerly TED BROWN)



Part of Crown Lease Area No 1278 Not^{ed} 20.5.14.
Original plan indica bank is the portion

From: John McKee [johnmckee@internode.on.net]
Sent: Monday, 27 February 2017 2:29:53 PM
To: Kyogle Council
Subject: Bridge Name - Duck Creek Road

Kyogle Council
Mr Graham Kennett
Dear Sir,

Re - naming of bridge on Duck Creek Road

My suggestion for the bridge name is 'McKee's Bridge'.

I previously lived for some years on the property (Hillview) adjacent to the bridge. My Grandfather (Hugh McKee) was the original settler. He fenced the property and cleared the cultivation area for dairy farming. My father (Samuel McKee) was a timber hauler, and used that bridge extensively. It is very possible that one or both of them were involved in supplying the original timber for the wooden bridge. At one stage they operated the local sawmill mill. My father became a sharefarmer with my Grandfather, so I grew up there. I well remember pulling out the 'burrs' along that part of the creek. The property was later inherited by my Aunty Noelene who married Athol Young. They continue to live at the Hillview property and they with their family maintain the property in good working order. Other members of the McKee clan did previously settle on various farms in the district. I think it would be appropriate to connect the bridge with a significant part of Duck Creek history by naming it McKee' Bridge.

Presently I live in Toowoomba, but maintain close connection with Old Bonalbo. My forebears are permanent residents at the Old Bonalbo cemetery. Thank you to the council for maintaining that cemetery so well.

John McKee
149 Fernbank Road
Cabarlah
Tel 0746969979

John R McKee

www.biblecompass.com.au

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From: jjfrogley jjfrogley [jjfrogley@bigpond.com]
Sent: Monday, 27 February 2017 5:31:04 PM
To: Kyogle Council
Subject: Naming of bridge on Duck Creek Road

To whom it may concern

I grew up on the property now owned by Barretts (Barretts purchased the property from my parents) and during that time the bridge was always known as Browns bridge, Ted Brown owned the property on the Old Bonalbo side of the bridge.

Having said this I feel the bridge should be named McKees bridge. As far as I can recall the original property owners were a Mr & Mrs Minnis and Mrs Minnis was nee McKee.

Mr Hugh McKee owned the property across the creek, he was a brother to Mrs Minnis. This property also runs to and around the Capeen side of the bridge and to this day is still owned by a member of the McKee family, Mrs Noeline Young.

PS Noeline and I caught many a fish in the waterhole beside and under the old bridge.

J.A. Frogley (nee Connolly)

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Graham Kenneth

P.O. BOX 4042
Old Bonalbo

General Manager

2469

Kyogle Council

28-2-2017

P.O. Box 11

Kyogle 2474

Dear Sir

Reference Renaming

Brown's Bridge Old Bonalbo.

I would like to make a submission in respect to council consultation regarding the naming of Browns Bridge upper Duck Creek Rd Old Bonalbo

I have been resident of Old Bonalbo for 90 years and I would ask that the naming of the Bridge be based on historical information and refer to the family who first settled the property.

Mrs Hugh McKee originally selected the property in 1911 and the McKee family still own & work the property through marriage Hugh's Daughter Mrs Young is still there. I request that bridge be called McKee Bridge or Youngs bridge

I would appreciate your favourable consideration

Yours sincerely

Jean Coonan

From: Michael McKee [removalist@bigpond.com]
Sent: Thursday, 2 March 2017 12:54:33 PM
To: Kyogle Council
Subject: Renaming of bridge on Duck Creek

To whom it may concern,

re:- renaming of bridge over Duck Creek, Old Bonalbo.

I would suggest the bridge be named "McKee Bridge", or "Hughy McKee Bridge". This in light of the fact that McKee's have farmed the land directly adjacent to the bridge since settlement. There has been a direct association with the bridge, and an integral involvement with the region, for over 100 years.

Thanks for your consideration,

Michael McKee
McKee's Removals
McKee's Antiques
McKee's since 1980
0428 622 407

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