

The following are scanned images taken from the Minute Books of the Tuross Head Bushfire Brigade. These minutes are presented as evidence that the land on Hood Cres was donated to the Tuross Head Bushfire Brigade and Tuross Head Community by Hector McWilliam and shows how it's ownership was transferred to Eurobodalla Council as a means to technically render the block "unrateable" so that the Brigade could use the land rate free.

Minutes of the annual meeting of the
Tuross Head Bushfire Brigade held at 7:30 pm
on 10th October 1963

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There were present:- Messrs A. Lang R. Welch
E. Wilson L. Bushby W. Elphinstone
E. Berteman E. Brown H. Overgaard
A. Buchanan H. Aunsets H. Hogden
W. Campbell J. Thornton J. Taylor
Mrs Gosnell C. A. Miller.

Apologies were received from J. Mount
and E. Gillow.

The minutes of the previous annual
meeting were accepted on the motion
of Messrs W. Campbell seconded by
L. Bushby.

The financial statement disclosing
a balance of £138-17-11 was received

this scanned image of a foolscap leaf continues on the next page. The pages shown here are offered as scanned images to prove their authenticity. Whilst replication of these minutes are not officially sanctioned by the Rural Fire Service it is considered under the FOI Act that the public interest should be an overriding consideration in their display and that nothing private nor

confidential is revealed therein. Had they simply been quoted inevitably the original document would need to be viewed and until then the authenticity of the content brought into doubt. The actual minute book is well secured.

The financial statement disclosing a balance of £138-17-11 was received and favourably commented on. ~~It~~ on the motion of Mr E Brown seconded by Mr Besterman.

The captain's annual report showing that the Brigade attended five fire calls and carried out five burning off operations during the year. It gave a summary of the equipment under our care and stated that from the next allocation more would be available and that from that allocation a fire station would be built on the lot donated by Mr McWilliam and now taken over by the Council.

The elections of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows

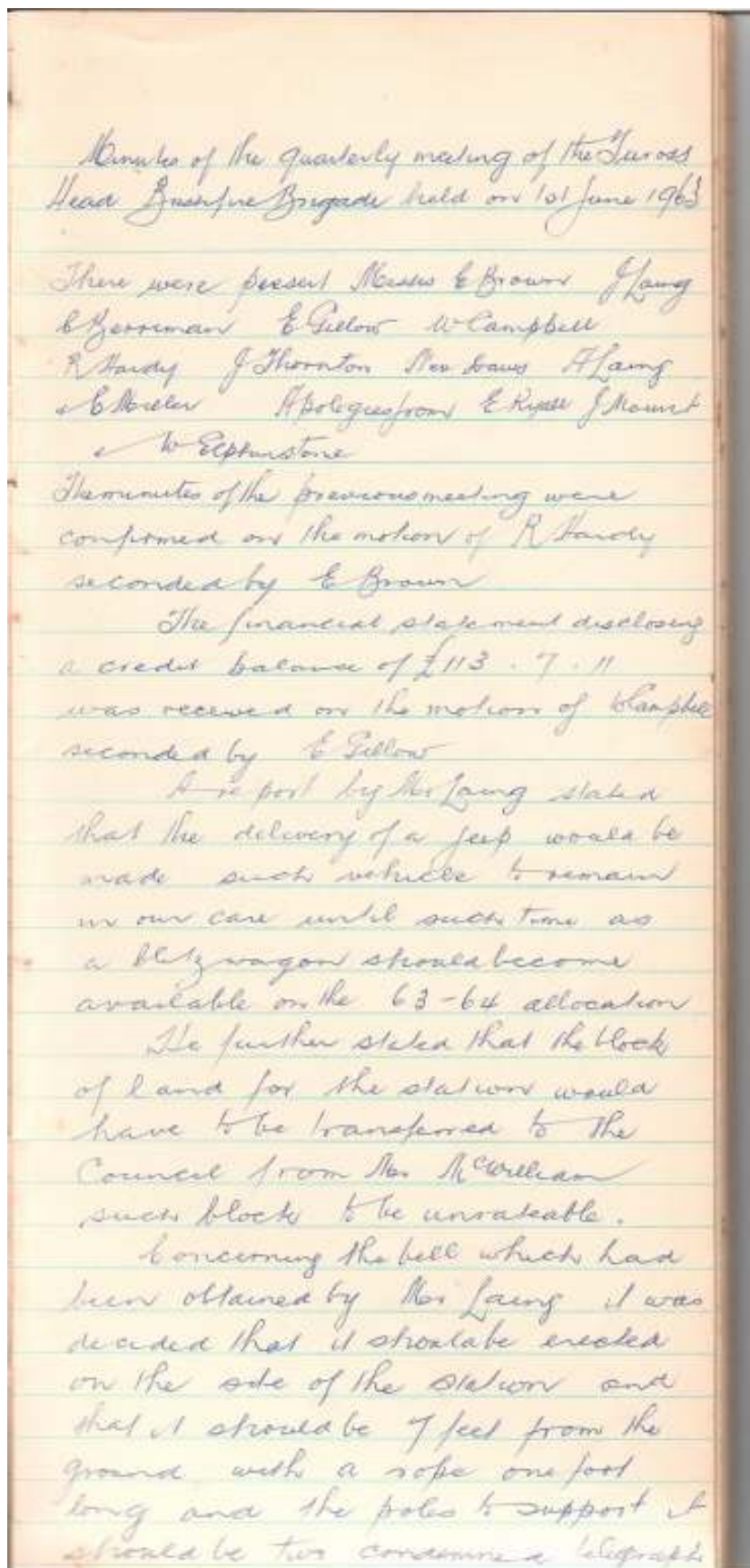
Secretary & Treasurer :-	L. J. Miller
Captain	A. Long
Chairman	L. E. Phipps

Note that it clearly says in the above official minutes that the fire station would be built "on the lot donated by Mr McWilliam and now taken over by the Council"

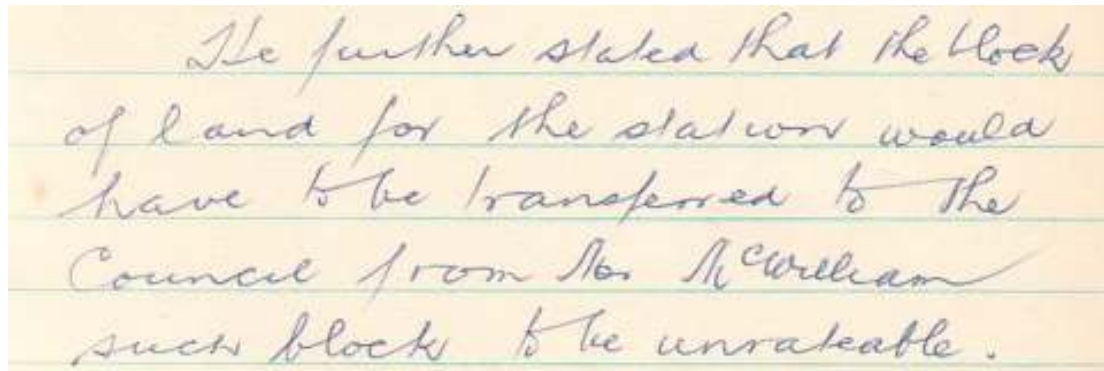
that allocation a fire station would be built on the lot donated by Mr McWilliam and now taken over by the Council

Why was the land taken over by Council?

In the minutes of the previous meeting on June 1st, 1963 the following was written:



The section of relevance from the above minutes is the following text:



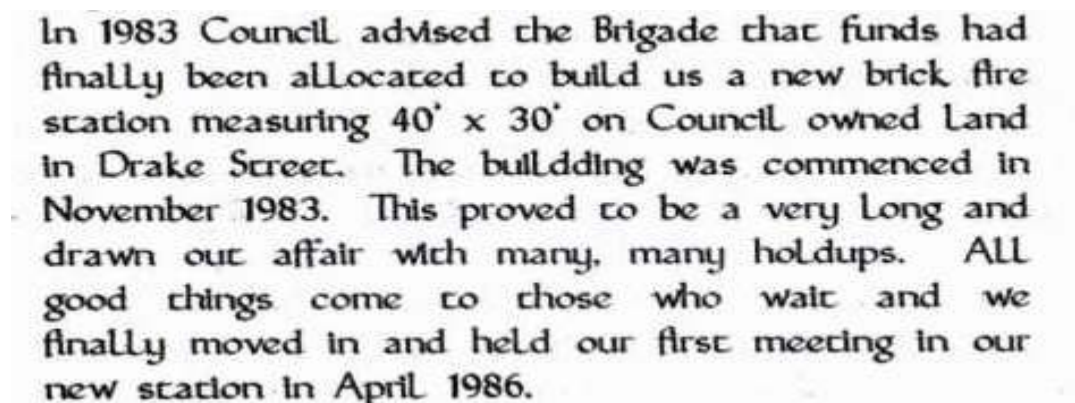
The further stated that the blocks of land for the stations would have to be transferred to the Council from Mr. McWilliam such blocks to be unratable.

So as to be free of rates the land needed to be technically "owned" by Council.

The Hood Cres land and shed served the Tuross Community until 1986.

From

[Tuross Head Bushfire Brigade 40 year history.pdf](#)



In 1983 Council advised the Brigade that funds had finally been allocated to build us a new brick fire station measuring 40' x 30' on Council owned Land in Drake Street. The building was commenced in November 1983. This proved to be a very long and drawn out affair with many, many holdups. ALL good things come to those who wait and we finally moved in and held our first meeting in our new station in April 1986.

The new shed in Drake Street was built on Council land with materials supplied by Council and labour provided by volunteers and through the Red Scheme (work for the dole)

As is evident throughout the Eurobodalla Shire bushfire sheds are universally located on Council owned land and come under Councils care and control. Council has provided land to all of the Bush Fire brigades in the Shire (with NO Bush Fire Brigade being required to purchase its own land).

The Tuross Head VRA has enjoyed the use of the Hood Cres land and shed owned by the Fire Brigade since 1986 and have extended the old Fire Shed to two bays at their own cost, leasing the property for a peppercorn rent of \$1.10 per year from Council.

Moral ownership of the land is held by the Tuross Head Bushfire Brigade to whom the land was donated by Hector McWilliam. No doubt the fire brigade is grateful for Councils generosity over the years in making the land "unratable" by the technicality of "transferring" ownership to Council however, now that Council wishes to sell the land the information above is offered so that residents of Tuross can determine for themselves who should be the beneficiary of the sale of .this parcel of land.