



Easter Camp circa 1970's



View of the Dining Room of the old Cotter Centre circa 1983

Greenhills Centre

A Record of Names

**A history of the names of
various sections and units within the Centre**

Names applied to sections of the Centre

How and why the names are used

The Presbyterian Camp & Conference Centre

In 1965 it simply did not occur to anyone to call the place anything else and it became known and referred to as such for several years. We became aware that sections of the public had the perception that the centre was only for Presbyterians; we could correct this by giving the place a more distinctive name.

Greenhills Camp & Conference Centre.

In 1969 the need for the Centre to be named became urgent. This turned out to be more difficult than we had imagined and actually took from twelve to eighteen months before a final settlement was reached.

Our piece of land included the site of a pioneer dwelling, which had been built by Richard Moore in 1874. It was a significant & prosperous holding. Richard became Mayor of Queanbeyan around 1900 and acquired much property in that town.

Our Ladies Auxiliary noted that Don & Joyce Moore, Members of the Management Committee, were related to Richard Moore and saw much value in reactivating the original name of the property, "Greenhills" and the Management concurred.

The Max & Zeta Hill Building

In the words of a Presbytery of Canberra citation, "Max spent forty years, planning, administering, lobbying, networking, delegating, and hands on practical involvement in bringing to reality many of his dreams and visions for the Centre". Max was ably assisted by Zeta, who was called upon to make many family sacrifices over this time.

The Murrumbidgee Centre

Our beautiful new units on the Southern side of our block were seen as the start of a Centre of further permanent buildings and should be given a name to define this development and "The Murrumbidgee Centre" was deemed to be appropriate.

The Cotter Centre

The completion of the new units higher up across the creek created two centres and a decision to charge extra for the units confirmed this. This in turn created the need to identify them. We were already using the names Cotter & Murrumbidgee to define the dormitories. It was logical to use local names because Greenhills was situated in an interesting area and we were adjacent to the Cotter River junction with the Murrumbidgee River.

Murrumbidgee Hall

An analysis of bookings in 2001 showed that the accommodation was underutilized. Constructing a small Hall would allow two groups at the same time to be booked into the popular Murrumbidgee Centre. Following the disastrous bushfire of 2003 in which we lost 88 beds and Rotary Hall, the building of this Hall became urgent. Murrumbidgee Hall was built without financial assistance and dedicated in a worship service on 19th September 2004. No was received.

The Connie Christie Chapel

Connie Christie was a devoted PFA member and keen camper. Among other things she served for two years as Treasurer of the Presbyterian Fellowship of Australia. She was one of the group in the earliest planning of Greenhills. Following her marriage to Alistair she was away from Canberra for some years. On her return, she resumed her work for the welfare of Greenhills; this was enhanced by her work for Emmaus.

Rotary Barbeque

The opening of the new dining room in 1996 made it impractical to continue using The Grace Stevenson Memorial BBQ for meals.

Canberra East Rotary Club became aware of the difficulty created and offered to build a new BBQ under the wonderful old English Elm trees, adjacent to the dining room. The Rotary Club provided all the labour and shared the costs. The double BBQ was large enough to cater for more than one hundred people.

The Doris Jackson Memorial Garden

Doris Jackson became involved with Greenhills through the Rotary Club of Canberra East. Doris delighted in the involvement of Rotary for she saw Greenhills as a great community asset. She developed a great admiration for the work that so many volunteers accomplished in building Greenhills and worked tirelessly in our gardens and as often as possible.

Following her early death her husband Alan sought to commemorate her love of gardening and the idea of a commemorative garden was conceived. This was put in place and financed by the Rotary Club.

The John Loutitt Memorial Hall

Rotary has provided annual assistance from our beginning, commencing with the Canberra Club and the Canberra East Club, and over the years Canberra South and Canberra Belconnen.

This community recognition of the value of Greenhills was a great boost to our work.

Past District Governor John Loutitt became so impressed with the value of Greenhills to the community, he sought to involve the whole of the Rotary District. Rotary Hall built in 1980 was destroyed by fire in 2003 and a replacement was needed. The Rotary District financial backing was significant in the building the new Hall.

Sadly John Loutitt died before the Hall was complete.

The Norma Heath Lounge

Norma was the embodiment of the volunteer work that made the existence of Greenhills possible. Clear thinking and resolute, she enhanced the Management Committee. Norma was a totally “Hands on” person. Management of the linen became her department and she would spend hours engrossed in pillow cases, mattress covers, curtains, table cloths and blankets all coming under her eagle eye. Almost twenty years of service, she was devastated by the loss of the Cotter Centre and Norma’s “Linen room” by the fire in 2003, but recovered to continue to serve right up till her untimely death.

The Kinmont Seat & Tree

The Rev. William Kinmont Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of NSW was a tall, silver-haired, physically imposing man, but gracious with a personal magnetism and was also Chairman of the Greenhills Management Committee.

On his death our Ladies Auxiliary sought a monument in the form of an outdoor seat to be overshadowed by a substantial tree. An oak was thought to be symbolic of the man. This to be placed on a high point on the southern side of our block overlooking the view up the Cotter valley to the distant Mt Coree.

The Grace Stevenson Memorial Barbeque

Grace Stevenson was Secretary of the Management Committee, a veracious ex professional dancer, combined with her competence, people enjoyed working with her.

Grace was a member of, St Aidan’s Church.

She was killed in a car crash on her way to Greenhills.

The Jim Glenn Oval

“Big Jim Glen” joined the Management Committee very early, he had been at the Cooma Church during the time when Rev Bill Kinmont was minister of that parish and together they had given some thought to a campsite in the Snowy area. Jim, an engineer, was manager of a large engineering & road building company. It was Jim who persuaded Leighton Bros, free of charge, to excavate and level an area of land for a sports field. A large job with a thirteen foot cut on the top side. This was a huge leap forward for Greenhills. The naming of the oval was a tribute following Jim’s death.

Murrumbidgee A Block – “The PWA Units”

The Presbyterian Women’s Association of NSW. This was an organization that brought together Women’s groups from all the parishes in the State. Annually they held a monster Fete supported by all parishes. This fete raised a considerable sum of money and this was put towards a selected project, this project to be commenced and completed within the year. Greenhills submitted plans for a block of four motel style units that was estimated to cost \$14,000. This sum was within the PWA budget.

Max Hill presented this plan to the PWA Executive at a meeting in Sydney with an impassioned speech on the need to develop facilities for Youth.

The plan met with approval and the project was completed within time and budget.

Of course the block was duly named “The PWA Units”

Murrumbidgee B Block – “The Kinmont Units”

The Rev. William Kinmont in 1962 accepted the position of Chairman of the Management Committee, and remained there until ill health forced a change. He was far sighted and dedicated.

When it became apparent that the PWA would finance the building of a block of four units the committee gave serious consideration to building another block of six units at the same time, the finance to come from our first public appeal and loans. Before completion our Chairman Rev “Bill” Kinmont had passed away and this was an opportunity to commemorate his contributions by naming these units “The Kinmont Units”.

Murrumbidgee C Block – “The Max Hill Units”

Max Hill is the acknowledged founder of Greenhills

Murrumbidgee D Block – “The Roy Rowe units”

Roy Rowe was a member the Presbyterian Church of St Andrew and a prominent administrator and leader. Upon his death he bequeathed a substantial sum of money to the church and this was under the care of Presbytery.

In 1994 this legacy amounted to \$130,000 and Presbytery made this available to the Greenhills expansion. This amount was sufficient to fund a seven room twenty-four bed block of units. The Committee decided to apply to this block the name “The Roy Rowe Units”

The Moore Auditorium

Named after Joyce and Don Moore. Don’s Grandfather was a brother of the Richard Moore who established the property that he named *Greenhills*. Don, for some years, was the Greenhills (voluntary) maintenance man. He remained devoted to Greenhills and its development until his death.

The Christie Cabins

The Christie Family played a significant role in the establishment and development of the Greenhills Centre. Patriarch Robert “Bob” Christie inspired the general interest in Christian camping that existed in 1959. Alistair, later The Rev. Alistair, was leader of the PFA Camping in 1960 and it was Alistair who recruited Max Hill. Alan Christie, a design engineer, in 1961 took charge of restoring and commissioning of all the original buildings. Brother Bob was a PFA leader, as was sister Jan. The Management Committee wished to acknowledge this significant Family by naming all the family units as “The Christie Cabins”