

Looking back with Molly



By Molly Smith

For the final looking back of 2015 we look back a mere sixty one years – which is actually the time I have been involved with the district!

I came to the district as a new bride in November 1954 – just before Christmas. It was an absolute delight to find that Christmas then was very much a community celebration.

Throughout the year each district held a Saturday dance at some time during the month – except Hazelvale where table tennis was enjoyed.

At Christmas every district held functions and preparations for these were intense! Father Christmas had to be found, presents collected for the youngsters and of course the all-important Christmas tree had to be carefully selected and installed in the hall. This job was left to the men, for hadn't the women been busy all morning preparing copious amounts of food?!

Most of the district people were dairy farmers and dairying is one job that can't be postponed. On the afternoon of the function, all hands would be at the hall decorating. With this job complete, there was a general exodus to the various farms to get the milking done as quickly as possible, don party clothes and race back to the hall to relax and enjoy a great community event.

Woe betides any dairy cow that had the temerity to misbehave and delay the job!

After Christmas day had been enjoyed by the families, it was the custom for a big majority of the district residents to head down to Peaceful Bay for a picnic on Boxing Day. Vehicles lined the beach where they are prohibited now, and the beach itself was dotted with family crowds. What a great day it was for the youngsters! New Year's Day followed the same pattern, after varying parties the night before for New Year's Eve.

It's not quite the same today. Although the Bay still provides much enjoyment, but 60 years ago leisure time in the district during Christmas-New Year period was definitely a community event.



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SUNDAY - JANUARY 3