

## PROPERTY SITES AND HISTORY

## Rusty Ruins | Mudgee's Early Settlers

The Cox family (the first family to settle in Mudgee) settled across the river in 1822, farming the region's first beef cattle.

The Evamor property is home to the remnants of the family's cattle operations, including the original metal shedding, used to process beef, along with the original water well, which was bricked-up using bricks built by Sydney convicts. The well is still in use (powered by a windmill) and provides a secondary water supply to the property's residence.

The pressed metal shedding has been preserved as a point of interest, along with the artefacts found on the property, also left behind by early settlers.

The Camping Tree - adjacent to the property

William Cox first camped at a significant river red gum now called The Camping Tree. The tree was said to be the largest tree in the district at the time. It still stands and is now being preserved.

The tree is located directly adjacent to the property, on the opposite river bank, and can be accessed from the property - if you like to get your feet wet!

Billabong

The word "billabong" is believed to derive from the Wiradjuri word "bilabang," which means lake. As billabongs tend to stay wetter for longer than rivers in the summer, it was important for the Wiradjuri people to create a name for this unique water mass, and to know where they were located. The word also derives from the Wiradjuri expression "bilaban," which means the creek or watercourse that runs only during and after the rain or rainy season.

The billabong is a place of cultural and ecological significance, providing a still source of water, home for an abundance of wildlife, and shelter with its large, river red gum trees. The billabong was once a camp site for the local Wiradjuri people and a preferred resting place. The people would use the billabong as a water source, and a place to camp away from the main river system. Artefacts have been found in the billabong and surrounding property.

Federation Hill - 600m to the north in full view of the property

Federation Hill was the name given by Mudgee residents to the location where a picnic was held in January 1901 to celebrate the birth of the Commonwealth of Australia. It is now home to vineyards.

## Red River Gums

The billabong is home to several enormous river reds, know as Blakely's Red Gum, (Eucalyptus Blakelyi), estimated to be more than 600 years old. The gum tree can grow up to 25 metres, with leaves that are dull green or grey green. The gums can flower white (and very rarely pink!) from August to December.

EVAMOR

One of Evamor's Red Gums is hollowed. Originally mistaken as a birthing tree, the gum has since been identified as a smoking tree, used by local Wiradjuri people for cooking/ smoking food.

Cudgegong River

The Cudgegong River runs through Mudgee and has been a lifeline for not only residents and farmers, but for fish and wildlife. Forming part of the Macquarie Catchment within the Murray–Darling basin, the river rises on the western slopes of the Great Dividing Range within Wollemi National Park, east of Rylstone, and flows generally west, north-west, and south-west. It's joined by 14 tributaries, before reaching its confluence with the Macquarie River at Lake Burrendong.

Several reservoirs, including Rylstone Reservoir and Lake Windamere, impede the natural flow of the Cudgegong River through Mudgee, and nearby Gulgong.

