

**Russell Vale House,
The Estate of Francis Peter MacCabe.
Compiled by Carol Herben**

Late 1966 saw the demolition of Russell Vale House. In a grand manner Russell Vale House had an imposing drive way. Visitors were greeted at a large door which was sheltered by an iron laced verandah. In the large foyer was a grand cedar staircase which led to a landing with a large stained glass window bearing the family coat of arms (the window is part of the Illawarra Historical Society's collection and on display in the eastern room of the Museum). The doors and the architraves were all cedar. Each room had a high ceiling and a marble fireplace. The two upper rooms at the front of the house had folding partitions for conversion to a ballroom. French doors led out onto the upper verandah.

The property was purchased by the Bellambi Coal Company around the time of the death of F P MacCabe in 1897. The building was permitted to become run down. When the demolishers moved in there were still two sulkies rotting away in the front yard of the house. Though the home had been occupied by a tenant until a few weeks before its demolition the wall paper, though faded, was still in place. After the MacCabe family vacated the old home the stables were used by the Bellambi Coal Company for several years for the recuperation of injured pit horses. Bales of hay, remnants from those days, were still present. Many weary miners passing the old house on their way to and from work were aware of the legend of the ghost that haunted the house late at night.

The MacCabe family were part of the old pioneers whose contribution to the area became part of our history today. The 250 acre estate was mostly a dairy venture with mixed dairy cattle. The Woronora Creamery Company commenced operations on the property in 1894 with a "separating station" supplying cream to a butter factory at Berry. The company operated only for a few years before it closed down.

In 1904 one of the largest land sales in the area took place when the 250 acre estate was released in two stages. In April Mr H F Cotterill reported the sale of the first lots of the subdivision totalling some 116 lots.

Following are the names of the purchasers and prices paid. There is a good chance that our readers' ancestors could have been one of those first purchasers.

<u>Lot numbers</u>	<u>Purchaser</u>	<u>Price</u>
1	L A Riddle	£12/19/4
2 and 3	J Pritchard	£25/19/8
4, 5 and 6	C Diment	£38/19/7
7	A Lang	£14/17/-
8	A Lang	£18/11/3
9	A Lang	£18/16/-
10, 11 and 12	L A Riddle	£39/12/-
13	L A Riddle	£19/16/-
14	L A Riddle	£17/6/6
15 and 16	J Pritchard	£38/19/7
18	A Lang	£28/1/-
19	A Lang	£24/3/-
20	Rev T H Holmes	£18/11/3
21 and 22	W Settle	£29/14/-
23	E Shepherd	£16/1/9
24 and 25	Mr M McAllister	£57/10/6
26 and 27	E A Jones	£49/10/-
28	G McAllister	£9/18/-
29 and 30	L A Riddle	£25/19/9
31	L A Riddle	£9/5/9
32	J Rigby	£9/18/-
33, 34 and 35	W Settle	£29/14/-
36 and 37	Beauchamp	£17/12/6
39	F Brownhill	£13/4/-
40	H Cornford	£12/7/6
41 and 66	J Cornford	£26/8/-
42 and 65	D Palfreyman	£26/8/-
43 and 44	D Davis	£26/8/-
45	W Wyard	£13/4/-
46	R Davidson	£14/0/6
47 and 48	G McAllister	£28/1/-
49	G Wanson	£12/7/6
50 and 51	J A Wanson	£26/8/-
54	L W Byer	£14/0/6.

55	J Standon	£13/4/-
56	C Thorne	£28
57, 58 and 59	L Riddle	£100
60	G McAllister	£20
61	A Kenning	£13/4/-
62 and 63	M Green	£26/8/-
64	J T Allen	£13/4/-
67, 68 and 69	M Green	£85/6/8
70 - 74	T Knight	£279/7/-
75, 76, and 77	J Robinson	£52/12/3
78 and 79	L A Riddle	£42
80 and 81	C Diment	£23
82	J Husband	£25/2/6
83	privately	£50
84	M Curry	£22
85	E Morris	£15
86	R Spinks	£18/12/6
88	Brownhall	£11/1/-
89 - 92	J Cavill (Bulli)	£40/4/-
93, 94 and 95	H Harrigan	£31/15/3
96	L A Riddle	£24/15/-
97	J Robinson	£31/2/6
98	L Riddle	£16/1/9
99 - 109	L Riddle	£108/18/-
110	Cockburn	£10/12/6
111 - 115	A Lang	£56/14/-
116	M Mackay	£15/10/-
117	C Caldwell	£18
118 and 119	R Spinks	£260/10/-
120	C K Thorne	£25/19/-

After the conclusion of the sale Mr Cotterill disposed of lot 83 for £50. The total amount realised from this sale was £2281.

During November 1904 a further release of 96 lots from the MacCabe estate were sold and the purchasers and prices will be published in the next Bulletin.

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During November 1904 a further release of 96 lots from the MacCabe estate were sold and the purchasers and prices were as follows.

<u>Lot numbers</u>	<u>Purchaser</u>	<u>Price per square foot</u>
1	Craddock	4/-
2	A McDonald	4/-
3 and 4	Mary Davidson	6/6
5	M Shipp	7/-
6	J Boland	8/-
7	J Pritchard	6/-
8	S Fellows	4/-
9	S Fellows	3/6
12 & 13	J Stanford	5/-
14 & 15	W Ennis	4/-
16	W McGrath	4/-
17 & 18	B Challoner	3/9
19	M Shipp	3/6
20 & 21	L Critcher	3/6
22 & 23	T Beecham	4/-
24	T Beecham	3/6
27	J Boland	5/-
29	W Medlyn	5/-
30 & 31	H W Mott	5/-
32	J Sweeney	4/6
33	H Gallagher	4/-
37	G Wyard	3/9
38	G Wyard	5/9
39	J Boland	3/6
40 & 41	C Bishop	3/6
52	J Garland	4/6
53 to 58	J S Kirton	4/-
59	F J Rawle	4/3
60	J Bowland	3/9

61,	J Hobbs	4/-
62	J Hobbs	3/9
71 to 74	A Sellars	4/6
75	A Sellars	11/6
76	A Sellars	4/-
79	P Brady	4/6
80	M Purcell	3/6
81 & 82	F Hart	4/-
83	S Gahan	3/9
85 & 86	L P Waterhouse	3/9
87 & 88	Sharma Graham	3/6
89 to 92	L P Waterhouse	4/-
93 & 94	H W Mott	4/-
95	T & M Williams	3/9

A further 15 lots were subsequently disposed of by the Auctioneer. The total of the sales were £1,047 which averaged out at £51 per acre.

After the sale of the lots housing development soon began.