THE BULLI FAMILY HOTEL AND THE CROFT FAMILY:

Mr. Les Johnson, M.H.R., has passed on to the Society the following letter from Mrs. C. Elder of Innisfail, North Queensland, with a covering letter expressing the hope that the suggestion that the Park Road Cemetery should be preserved might receive consideration:

Dear Sir,

As a Grand-daughter of the late George Croft, the original owner of the Hotel, I am pleased to learn that you have stepped in and made a move for its preservation.

My sentimental interest lies in the fact that John Croft, son of George, courted my Mother there, where she was employed.

Our Family have always been told, and believe, that my Grandfather gave the land on which is the Memorial to the Miners who were lost in the tragic disaster. He also gave to the Church of England the land for the Park Road Church (where my Parents were married) and also the Cemetery and other parts of that area. It was he who planted the Norfolk Island Pines which have in recent years been removed.

His name was added to the gravestone where my Grandmother was buried in the Park Road Cemetery, after he had died overseas. I have been told that the grave is in a state of disrepair, and the iron railings gone. I would appreciate it if the area could be concreted and the head-stone embedded in it, and would be willing to contribute something towards this. There were two of the late George Croft’s grandsons in Gulgong, graziers, and must be many others in New South Wales who would contribute towards the grave’s restoration if asked.

I would like to draw your attention to the book “Black Diamonds” by William A. Bayley. On page 49, paragraph 5, he writes “First Hotel at Hungry Hill, best and finest building in the District.”

With deep appreciation of your interest in the old building, I am,

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs.) Charlotte Elder.

(nee Croft)