

Tabourie Memories: Essence of Tabourie

It was in 1957 that Bill Blackhall purchased a block of land from Fred James. The block was for sale for 275 pounds, Bill had £250 so the deal was done on a handshake for £262.10s. After shaking hands with Fred, Bill, his brother Neville and their mother Ida pooled their funds to purchase equal shares in the block of land.

Between them using their own resources and anything they could find, they were able to build a holiday home with one bedroom and a kitchen. As time went on a water tank for collection of drinking water, an outhouse and septic system were added. The block next door to the north was purchased by the Leatherburroughs in the early sixties. The block to the south remained vacant for some years.

The original 'house' was an ex-army hut purchased for £10 as Holsworthy army base was dismantled. Bill and Neville literally pulled it done and relocated it to Tabourie. A significant portion still remains. Over the next few years the original structure was added to, with the addition of a kitchen, then a second bedroom and then a third. Some years later an extensive renovation was done by John Gillies which added a lounge room as well as a variety of other changes. Bill and Neville inherited Ida's share of the house in the 1970's and continued to use it as a holiday house.



The family and friends have seen Tabourie continually change over time. We have seen Tabourie grow to its current level, seen the bridge move to its current location, seen things like Tabourie Tuckerbox grow to its current size, seen our neighbour Jack and Colleen Cummings move in, develop their house and live their final years. We have seen the floods, the many bush fires, lake openings, lake closings, the development of the caravan park, Julies Corner come and go, The James store come and go, as well as numerous other developments and changes.

Yet the essence of Tabourie remains the same: the tranquillity of Tabourie is its best feature and Bill and Neville felt the same way. It is an ideal place to get away and find yourself again, to rest away from the demands of your normal activities of life. To refresh, recharge and rejuvenate.

The house at Tabourie has played host to many honeymoons, innumerable weekends away, every long weekend and annual holiday and as our family have grown every one of them has called the Tabourie house their holiday home. The house has grown to 6 bedrooms, but the ambience, peace and friendliness of Tabourie has never changed.

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