

"KINGSWOOD" HISTORY

1911 before the 1st World War

Before the beginning of the First World War, a family by the name of 'Counsell' were visiting Canning Downs Station. As they looked out across the horizon they saw a bare hill and thought it would be a nice place to build a home.

The family built the beautiful old Queenslander, that still stands today, in 1911.

1942

During World War II the Australian Government requisitioned the Scots College Warwick for use as an Army Hospital. At Easter in 1942, the junior school was evacuated to this property, "Kingswood", through the generosity of the Counsell family. Approximately 40 students and staff of Scots lived and studied here for 5 years.

1945

In 1945 Mr C. F. Counsell passed away, leaving the home to his wife and children.

1948

The Counsell family then sold the property to the Gospel Service Mission and a man named Herb Johnson, a farmer from Yangan, managed the property. "Kingswood", the property was then transformed into a Christian camping centre where they offered a vast range of accommodation, activities and experiences. Some of these things were birdwatching, bushwalking, BBQ facilities, tennis, caravan and camping grounds, meeting rooms, games and recreation room and much more.

1952 - 2009

In 1952 Kingswood hosted the first Darling Downs Easter Convention and continued hosting the Convention until the year 2009.

1980 - 1997

For 17 years, Mr Roy Waites and Mrs Heather Waites put all of their hard efforts into managing the property.

1988

1988 was the year that the toilet and shower blocks were constructed.

1994

The large dining hall featuring a commercial sized kitchen was built.

2002

In 2001 Kingswood was bought by a family of the name "Brown" who stayed at the property for 5 years before selling to Christian Community Ministries Pty Ltd.

2007

Christian Community Ministries Pty Ltd purchased the property in 2007 and started a private school using the school buildings. This school is 'Warwick Christian College' and it started out with only 7 students. Families that were a part of the beginning of the school have continued to support the education facility throughout the years. The Ryans, Nicholls, Wixteds, Skerrs, Belchers and Comptons are among some of those who attended the school's first days.

Mr Owen Bonney, a Christian man with a kind heart and desire for helping others, the first teacher and voluntary School Manager of the Warwick Christian College used the Queenslander home to start a student support business which started in the second year of the College operation. While he was on medical leave, Mr Bonney dedicated his time and efforts into supporting children with the materials obtained from Groves Christian College School of Distance Education.

2012

At the end of 2012, Warwick Christian College moved to their current location on Horsman Road where the School has continued to grow and thrive. 100% of students in 2016 met or exceeded the National Minimum Standard in NAPLAN tests.

2013

At the beginning of 2013 Mr and Mrs Bonney with a team of dedicated supporters developed the Southern Downs Flexible Learning Hub for children who struggled to fit into main stream schooling. Up until 2017, the Hub continued to run at Kingswood when the college made the decision to move the Hub to a new location.

2013

Pastor Cameron Wallace and his wife Kayleen Wallace started hosting the New Hope Church meetings and holding them in the meeting room. Children would go off to Sunday school while the adults would sing and listen to the inspirational messages that were delivered each and every Sunday.

2018

This brings us to now! Kingswood has seen a lot over the years. Just like the previous owners of this property, it is now your time to make your mark on history and turn this property into something remarkable. With the sub-division approval in place, the possibilities have no end!

Courtesy to Roy Waites, Sharon Ryan, Owen Bonney, Peter Halloran and Carmelo Rubio for the information and assistance so generously provided about this truly unique and inspiring property.