



# Griffith's Romantic Rise

## YOU MUST VISIT GRIFFITH

(Under the Jurisdiction of the SHIRE OF WADE)  
**THE WONDERLAND TOWN OF THE RIVERINA !!**

A VERITABLE OASIS

Griffith — The Ultra Modern Town—Pulsating with Activity, Progress and Happiness



Time Marches On — and so does Griffith  
FROM A WILDERNESS TO A THRIVING TOWN!

Such is the Triumphant Progress of Griffith.  
Population of the District, 10,000  
Population of the Town of Griffith, 3500

LESS THAN 20 YEARS AGO A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE ON A FEW STATIONS COMPRISED THE POPULACE

## VISIT GRIFFITH for Health and Pleasure

SEE this MODEL TOWN — A Miniature Canberra!

SINCE 1930 more than £208,000 has been expended on Buildings.

The Town is brilliantly lighted with Electricity. There is a great water supply, while streets and other Public Utilities would do justice to any Municipality in the suburbs of Sydney or Melbourne.

VISIT SCENIC HILL AND OTHER BEAUTY SPOTS.

Come to Griffith for the Celebrations!  
Come to Griffith for Your Holidays!

GRIFFITH — THE TOWN OF ROMANCE — OF PROGRESS!

If You Plan a Visit to the District Write to the Shire Secretary for Details.

YOU'LL BE SURPRISED AT GRIFFITH — A VERITABLE TRIP TO FAIRYLAND !!

CR. WALTER BULL, Shire President.

FRANK O'BRIEN, Shire Secretary.

YOU MUST VISIT GRIFFITH!

## Flourishing Town Springs Up From Waste Area Modern Riverina Settlement

Not more than a generation ago Griffith (N.S.W.) district was a wide expanse of country, uncultivated, overrun with rabbits and little or no habitation.

Today it is one of the most flourishing towns in the Riverina, with a population of 10,000—of which 2500 are in the town proper—and with modern shops, buildings and homes that would do justice to leading suburbs of Sydney or Melbourne.

By J. J. Maher

**E**ARLIEST inhabitants of the Griffith district 25 years ago were a few boundary riders who were employed on big stations in the district. It was rather wild country and little did that handful of people realize that within a few years Griffith was to develop into such an important factor in the life of New South Wales.

Those things at Griffith will never cease to praise the foresight of the pioneers of little more than 20 years ago who sowed such seed which has yielded so abundantly.

Before the inauguration of local government the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission controlled municipal and other undertakings over a very wide area.

The large area which now forms the Murrumbidgee irrigation area was formerly grazing land occupied by a few sheep owners who, with their families and station hands, comprised the entire population.

### 300,000 Acres Resumed

More than 300,000 acres of private land have been resumed and more than 70,000 acres of Crown land appropriated. This land has been subdivided into farms of various acreages to suit the different types of farming, with towns and village areas, roads and reserves.

The Murrumbidgee irrigation area is 600 miles south-west of Sydney, and there are two separate irrigation areas known as Yanco and Mirool.

The Yanco area was proclaimed May 1, 1912, and the Mirool area on November 6 of the same year. On May 29, 1912, the first farms were set apart on the Yanco area, and in the following November the first farms were notified as available for disposal on the Mirool area.

The main town of the Mirool irrigation area is Griffith and the villages of Yenda, Bullock, Hanwood, Charabogang, Lismo, Yooagan and Beebango.



D. G. DOBSON, General Organizer of Griffith Celebrations.

Yanco is the main town of the Yanco area, the villages being Yanco, Murrumbidgee, Wamboan and Gopelgrove.

### Local Government Control

Local government was inaugurated in 1920 when the shires of Wade and Wilmabong were proclaimed. Before the constitution of these shires the commission discharged almost every function of government. With great vision the commission laid out model towns, constructed roads and bridges, established experimental farms, factories were built, electricity was generated and accommodation houses were erected and managed.

Local executive boards, representing the commission and the settlers, dealt with the various problems incidental to the management of the area. The work today now devolves on the shires in the district, including maintenance, sanitary and garbage services, and water supply and sewerage.

The commission still supplies electricity, but steps have been taken from time to time to enable the councils in Griffith and Leeton to control those services.

During the last few years Griffith has steadily progressed and the wave of prosperity continues.

Visitors to Griffith for the first time will receive a pleasant surprise. Entering the town from Leeton—a nice drive of 40 miles through big fruit, rice, and other properties—is a wide road with Kurrajong trees planted down the centre. On the left are modern shops, while on the opposite side are the Municipal reserves and such public buildings as the post office, Shire hall, etc.

### Fine Lighting System

The Council has adopted a fine system of lighting and driving into Griffith at night is like a trip to fairyland. Within a few years Griffith has been transformed from a land of wilderness into a town pulsating with activity, prosperity, and happiness.

One visit to Griffith will bring due appreciation of its progress, its architectural beauty, and its fascination.

Many miles of tarred roads have been constructed into rural parts of the Shire. An all-weather road has been constructed from Narrandera to Griffith. At present the Council is expending £6000 on a drainage scheme for Griffith, including the Show Ground.

Griffith is yet only in its infancy. Within the next decade there is no guessing how much it may expand. Members of the Shire Council have looked well ahead in providing plenty of scope for sporting activities and recreation.

A fine type of building has been constructed, while there are two picture theatres, built on modern lines. The first release pictures are shown in the district before they reach the suburbs of Sydney.

It is significant that Griffith has been specially singled out by the New South Wales 150th Anniversary Committee as the official venue for the district festivities, which will extend for a week.

## ADVANCE GRIFFITH Cr. Bull's Life Work



CR. WALTER BULL, President of the Shire of Wade.

**I**N Councillor Walter Bull, the Shire of Wade has a president of mainly demonstrator and forceful character.

He is a fourth Digger President of the Shire. He served in the early stages of the war and came out with one or two physical "souvenirs." They have in no way diminished his enthusiasm for work, be it on his farming property or at a Council table.

Born at Castella, New South Wales, Councillor Bull reached Griffith 18 years ago to take over a property on which today are many beautiful and profitable orange groves.

Following the war, he was one of a small band of R.S.A. men sent to Universities in California to study intensive farming, fruit-growing, etc. The knowledge he gained is reflected in the manner in which he handles his properties today.

Cr. Bull has little time for sport, though in his younger days he played tennis and football. He finds it a full-time job to supervise his properties and help an advancing Griffith.

### HIS GRIP ON LAWS

He has a real grip on the laws pertaining to local government, and has a splendid "back-stop" in the Shire secretary, Mr. Frank O'Brien.

Believing in the principle that it is no use taking up a position unless he can fulfil it with credit to himself and any organization to which he belongs, Cr. Bull has been forced to decline nomination on several sporting and other bodies. As a member of the Griffith Celebrations Council, his views are respected, and his decisions recognized as sound.

Griffith has every reason to be proud of its civic leader, who has done so much for the town, and who has many ambitious schemes afoot to put Griffith still more in the limelight.

## How Griffith Got Its Name

It is not generally known that the flourishing town of Griffith (N.S.W.) was named after the Hon. Arthur Griffith, an M.L.A. for 15 years. He was Minister for Public Works from 1918-1915 and Minister for Education and Local Government in 1916.

Born at Gortmore, County Westmeath, Ireland, he was educated at Scotch College, Melbourne, and for nine years was a master at the Sydney Grammar School.

It was as a tribute to his work as a Minister of the Crown that the new town in the Riverina was named after Mr Griffith.

## Great Building Progress In Seven Years

**O**VER a period of seven years there has been wonderful progress in the building up of Griffith indicated by the figures set out below, which show erection of new buildings in the town and additions for business and residential purposes.

Since 1930, more than £208,000 has been laid out in buildings. During 1936 there was a big boom, for £20,553,000 was expended in new buildings, with £2138 in additions, while for new residential buildings during that period, £13,000 was laid out with £1206 for additions.

The following details tell the story:—

SUMMARY OF PERMITS ISSUED		
Year	No.	Value
1930	44	£18,424
1931	77	£11,576
1932	103	£7,825
1933	12	£13,025
1934	17	£14,340
1935	11	£9,969
1936	14	£9,553
1937	1	£1,150
Totals	214	£208,274

RESIDENTIAL		
Year	No.	Value
1930	17	£12,501
1931	2	£1,800
1932	7	£4,725
1933	20	£11,162
1934	33	£20,837
1935	39	£17,895
1936	21	£12,067
1937	2	£1,150
Totals	156	£107,712

ADDITIONS		
Year	No.	Value
1930	11	£1,600
1931	5	£85
1932	5	£90
1933	10	£1,020
1934	14	£1,234
1935	16	£2,280
1936	11	£2,147
1937	22	£2,442
Totals	94	£18,205

## FINE LEADER

### Frank O'Brien Popular



MR FRANK O'BRIEN, Secretary to the Shire of Wade.

**T**HE Wade Shire Council, which controls the destinies of Griffith (N.S.W.) and other villages, has as a shire secretary a capable leader and tactician in Mr. Frank O'Brien.

Mr O'Brien's worth was realized in 1930 when the shire of Wade enticed him to leave a similar position at Leeton to take over the fast developing district of Griffith.

A man with fine personality, he has made a study of municipal law and administration, and at a recent conference of local government clerks he delivered an interesting address on the romance of the Murrumbidgee irrigation area. He is a forceful speaker and always is assured of a good hearing.

Still a young man, Mr O'Brien is a great believer in sport as a builder of character. He likes a game of tennis as well as bowls, but has been out of action lately due to having an ankle broken in a collision with a cyclist.

When the Griffith Celebration Council was formed some time ago Mr O'Brien was appointed honorary secretary, and was among the few favored guests who went from Griffith to the Government and other festivities at Sydney in January.

While the organizing work for the Griffith celebrations is being well handled by Mr Dobson, Mr O'Brien is the man behind the scenes to render any aid necessary.

Population Of 10,000  
THE population of the Shire of Wade is 10,000, of which 3500 are in Griffith, the residential and business area of the shire, which comprises 250 square miles.

## Come to—GRIFFITH

—for the—  
150th Anniversary Celebrations  
A wonderful round of festivities!

**BUT**  
make reservation now at the

## HOTEL GRIFFITH

and avoid disappointment!



**LUXURIOUS LOUNGES**  
Where you may recline in delightful comfort and Pleasant Surroundings.

**SPACIOUS DINING HALL**  
Where you will enjoy your meals from Menu of distinction.

**MODERN BEDROOMS**  
Of modern design and furnished in delightful style—for your comfort!

**BATHS & SHOWERS**  
With a strong pressure of both hot and cold water, hairdriers, etc., and all conveniences.

**SPLENDID BAR SERVICE**  
With fine equipment, cool and refreshing beverages and smart, attentive service!

Enhance still further the pleasure of your trip to Griffith by staying at the . . .

## HOTEL GRIFFITH

Telephone:—  
GRIFFITH 20  
W. DOMINISH, Manager

## GRIFFITH'S NEWEST HOTEL

### The AREA HOTEL

Situated in Banna Avenue  
GRIFFITH

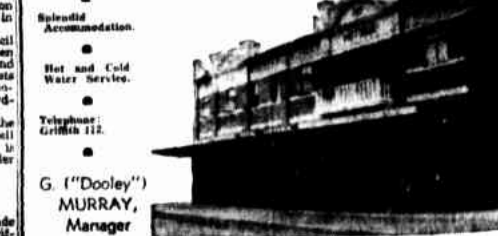


JOHN DEEGAN, Manager. Telephone: GRIFFITH 115.

## The Home of the Sportsmen!

### HOTEL VICTORIA

BANNA AVENUE  
GRIFFITH



• Splendid Accommodation.  
• Hot and Cold Water Service.  
• Telephone: Griffith 112.  
G. ("Dooley") MURRAY, Manager