

OPEN FOUNDATION 1989

REGIONAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

Researcher Helen Sankowsky.

Interviewee Ivy Easthope.

Project The Seventh-day Adventists at  
Cooranbong.

Interviewer: I would like to introduce, Ivy, Gladys, May Easthope of Victory Street, Cooranbong. It is the fourth of August, 1989 and I am interviewing Mrs. Easthope about her life in Cooranbong.

Interviewer: Mrs Easthope where were you born?

Mrs. Easthope: In the Taranaki District of New Zealand.

Interviewer: When did you come out to Australia?

Mrs. Easthope: Nineteen-twenty-one, nineteen-twenty.

Interviewer: Nineteen-twenty.

Interviewer: Were you married when you came out to Australia?

Mrs. Easthope: Yes.

Interviewer: You are, how old are you now?

Mrs. Easthope: Ninety-eight.

Interviewer: Why did you and your husband come out to Australia?

Mrs. Easthope: My husband, my husband was given the job of manager of the press of the Seventh-day Adventist College, factory in Cooranbong.

Interviewer: Were you, Were you and your husband Seventh-day Adventists when you were in New Zealand?

Mrs. Easthope: We had been Seventh-day Adventists for about two years.

Interviewer: Did you have any children when you came out to Australia?

Mrs. Easthope: Yes one daughter.

Interviewer: How did you get to Australia from New Zealand

Mrs. Easthope?

Mrs. Easthope: By boat from Wellington to Sydney.

Interviewer: Then how did you get from Sydney to Cooranbong?

Mrs. Easthope: By train to Morrisset, because it was the nearest station.

Interviewer: Then from Morrisset how did you get to Cooranbong?

Mrs. Easthope: In a sulky, a one horse sulky. I think it was the postman if I remember right.

Interviewer: And where did they bring you? Did you come straight to this house?

Mrs. Easthope: No we came to quarters. Living quarters that they had rented for us in the village. In the Cooranbong village.

Interviewer: Were there many people living in the village in those days?

Mrs. Easthope: It was quite a decent size village.

Interviewer: Did your husband come out here to work as a printer with the College?

Mrs. Easthope: With the factory, the Seventh-day Adventist factory.

Interviewer: The factory. And was the factory far from the

Cooranbong village?

Mrs. Easthope: The factory and College. The factory was next door to the College and that's about a mile from the village.

Interviewer: Where is it, on the creek?

Mrs. Easthope: Yes it is right on, you can almost see the creek from here. The creek just flows through here.

Interviewer: Did you live in lodgings for very long when you first came out here?

Mrs. Easthope: Oh about at least twelve months.

Interviewer: And then did you purchase some ---

Mrs. Easthope: My husband bought four acres of land on the opposite bank to the factory. I am on this side of the creek and the factory is on the other side of the creek. Because we had to buy a boat as well. And we always went, cause there was no bridge, no bridge, at this point. There was a bridge, a road bridge in the village, but there was no bridge from this property over to the College. There was only one road into the College.

Interviewer: So your husband had to travel by boat---

Mrs. Easthope: Every day, just to cross over the creek and walk the few yards up to the College.

Interviewer: Did you build your house yourself on the land?

Mrs. Easthope: No we had a builder.

Interviewer: Was the land already cleared or ---?

Mrs. Easthope: We had to get it cleared in order to get room for the house.

Interviewer: Did you have any more children once you moved to Australia?

Mrs. Easthope: Yes I had----- while we lived in the village I had, my son was born. See Doug was born in the living quarters in the village. He wasn't born in this house.

Interviewer: Where did the children go to school?

Mrs. Easthope: At the Avondale school on the --- near the College. Two schools I think there were.

Interviewer: What did the College and the factory consist of in the late nineteen-twenties?

Mrs. Easthope: Well the College had classes, but the College, the factory made Granose biscuits and all nut meats.

Interviewer: Who ran the factory?

Mrs. Easthope: They had a manager for the factory and they supplied work for the students to pay their way through College. They only worked half a day. They worked half a day then studied in the afternoon. No it was the other way round.

Interviewer: Did the students live at the College?

Mrs. Easthope: Some lived in College, yes some lived in the College and some were outdoor students.

Interviewer: What were the outdoor students.

Mrs. Easthope: Well they, well they, took the same subjects as what the College students took.

Interviewer: But they lived in the village.

Mrs. Easthope: They lived at their own homes.

Interviewer: Did children go to the College from Primary School.

Mrs Easthope: Yes they could take any subject they liked.

It's a Missionary College and they could either take Ministerial and it was taught practically everything. You could do office work. They could take ---- what was called office work.

Interviewer: Secretarial.

Mrs. Easthope: Secretarial work yes.

Interviewer: Did it go to University level?

Mrs. Easthope: Yes.

Interviewer: How did your children get over to the school?

Mrs. Easthope: Well whoever wanted the boat. Somebody had to put them over if they wanted the boat. The boat for the next one to go over. Many a time I have gone over there three or four times in the morning. Row the boat over if I wanted to go out in the boat.

Interviewer: Did it take long to row over?

Mrs. Easthope: Oh no only just a few minutes. Just straight

across.

Interviewer: How did they get home?

Mrs. Easthope: I had to see that the boat was over the other side, on the right side for them to come home.

Interviewer: They'd row themselves home.

Mrs. Easthope: They'd row themselves home. If one was a bit late there was many a time the children swam across, rather than wait for a boat.

Interviewer: They swam home.

Mrs. Easthope: Yes.

Interviewer: So later they built a bridge.

Mrs. Easthope: Yes. About forty-five years ago they built a bridge. We eventually, we eventually got a bridge built.

Interviewer: Who built that?

Mrs. Easthope: I don't know whether it was the College or the factory or who did the work it was just a natural thing to have. I really don't know who was responsible for that bridge.

Interviewer: And how were the biscuits and nut meat that was made at the College, where was that taken?

Mrs. Easthope: It was taken by conveyance, taken by, in the early, in the very early days it was taken by a horse driven bus, not a bus, a trap I suppose you'd say, a wagon to the station. Either Dora Creek or Morrisset station.



Interviewer: There was no electricity or sewerage in the village?

Mrs. Easthope: No but the factory had their own power station.

Interviewer: They ran their own electricity.

Mrs. Easthope: They used the power for their factory and I think it was many years before they had it in the college. They had candles. In the very early days everybody had candles.

Interviewer: At the college.

Mrs. Easthope: At the college. It was terrible. I have heard different ones like the Principle of the college. That was their biggest fear that someone could burn the college down. They wouldn't be careful with candles against curtains.

Interviewer: And what sort of lighting did you have in your houses.

Mrs. Easthope: Kerosene lamps.

Interviewer: Do you remember much about the Depression Years.

Mrs. Easthope: We had work at the college right through the Depression years.

Interviewer: At the factory.

Mrs. Easthope: At the factory. There was always work at the factory for the people. For the students. I know my husband



was never out of work. The factory supplied work for the college students right through the Depression.

Interviewer: Did the college have it's own market garden?

Mrs. Easthope: Yes a garden where they used to grow enough stuff for them to feed the----to help feed the college with vegetables. I think they had fruit too some of the time.

Interviewer: Did people come from all over Australia to go to the college?

Mrs. Easthope: Yes and from New Zealand and from the Islands.

Interviewer: Was this the main college in Australia?

Mrs. Easthope: The main college, the main Adventist college. I think they had one or two smaller ones. But they always finished up their education here. It was the highest of all their colleges.

Interviewer: What was your first impression when you arrived at Cooranbong?

Mrs. Easthope: That we would go back on the first boat. We didn't like it a scrap and my husband used to come home from work and tell me don't unpack everything yet because we might be going back on the next boat. It took him a long time to adjust. Because we had come from a small country town in New Zealand and all our people were over there you see. I can remember that. we hated it really hated it.

Interviewer: How were you treated when you first arrived here?

Mrs. Easthope: Very well really. Because everybody was very kind to us, helped us every way they could.

Interviewer: Did your husband have to travel at all?

Mrs. Easthope: Yes. He had to go to Sydney. He went to Sydney every fortnight to do the buying for the press. Because there was always ink and typing things to get.

Interviewer: What material did the press print?

Mrs. Easthope: Mostly, The denomination had written quite a few books on the religion you see and they had to print them and do the binding of them. I don't know if they did the binding. They had all the advertising to do for the food stuffs.

Interviewer: What other sort of food stuffs did they make in the factory?

Mrs. Easthope: They made weetbix and nutmeat.

Interviewer: Where did they get the ingredients?

Mrs. Easthope: They got it from the growers the country growers. They went up north every little while to buy up a whole crop of peanuts that were grown.

Interviewer: Did your husband do the buying at all.

Mrs. Easthope: Yes my husband did all the buying for his press and the peanuts. No matter what it was he did all the

buying. He had many a trip up to the peanut factory.

Interviewer: Did you ever go with him?

Mrs. Easthope: No.

Interviewer: What would you do with yourself during the day?

Mrs. Easthope: Well I was a dressmaker and I used to make dresses for some people and I even got to making clothes for my husband.

Interviewer: Where did you go to get your food?

Mrs. Easthope: To one of the small towns either Morrisset or Dora Creek. The village had quite a good grocery shop out there.

Interviewer: How did you get to the shops?

Mrs. Easthope: They used to run a conveyance at certain times to catch the train and I would get a ride or I would go in one of those or I would walk and they would nearly always deliver.

Interviewer: Can you remember what the village of Corranbong was like then?

Mrs. Easthope: There was one shop and they sold everything, fruit and vegetables and you could buy anything at all.

Interviewer: Did you ever go back to New Zealand for a holiday?

Mrs. Easthope: Yes my first trip back, or one trip back I think on my own and my daughter and I went on another trip.

I have been about four times, and once with my husband and once by myself.

Interviewer: Where did you attend church?

Mrs. Easthope: We went to church in the village it has been there for many years. Although it has been newly built now. We used to walk out and push the pram. We used to walk a mile. We would cross the creek in the boat and then walk right up to the church. When we would come back many times the boat was the wrong side of the creek and somebody had to swim for it.

Interviewer: Did you stay at the church all day?

Mrs. Easthope: No I didn't. I think my husband used to go back to another meeting in the afternoon on the bike. It was too far to walk twice a day and I had the two children I had to push them in the pram.

Interviewer: In the early days was it a very isolated place?

Mrs. Easthope: Yes it was a very isolated place in the early days. It was mostly Adventists living in the area.

Interviewer: If you got sick how was that dealt with?

Mrs. Easthope: Well the nearest hospital was either Newcastle or ~~Curry Curry~~ mostly Newcastle, we used to send them up to Newcastle. We have got a Sanitarium at Wahroonga.

Interviewer: You must be about the oldest person in the area.

Mrs. Easthope: Yes I think I am the oldest person that has actually lived in the district for so long.

Interviewer: Do you still go over to the church?

Mrs. Easthope: Yes. Someone drives me over now.

Interviewer: Did you have a car?

Mrs. Easthope: Yes I had a car for quite a few years. I was sixty when I got my licence and I drove till I was eighty five.

Interviewer: What happened to all the timber that was growing around Cooranbong?

Mrs. Easthope: Well there were several timber getters living in the district and Martinsville was another village, it was just a district up on the mountain and there was bullock wagons taking this timber down to the railway yard to the trains.

Interviewer: And where would that timber go?

Mrs. Easthope: To the manufacturing that handles timber in Sydney.

Interviewer: What was the original industry in the area ?

Mrs. Easthope: Timber getting. It was cedar and rosewood and they would float it down the creek, down to where the boats were tied up. They must have had bullocks to pull it to the water. Mostly it went down the water to Dora Creek and put on trucks to go to Sydney. Now what did I get to.

Interviewer: We were talking about the bullock wagons.

Mrs. Easthope: We were always worried when you were driving the horses seemed to be afraid of them. They would come down the street sometimes over ten bullocks. You hated to meet these bullocks on the road. I don't know why but the horses used to be afraid of them. They used to put their bullocks out to pasture on the road. They would never go very far only a mile or so and very often they would come down the lane down the side of my house, which was always green, and they would come down there and they would stay there all night and most of them had bells and you could hear these bells ringing and have to get up and chase them. The leader of the team always had a bell. There would always be two bells and you would hear that in the middle of the night, it would just keep you awake.

Interviewer: How did you keep your food cold in those days?

Mrs. Easthope: In a water safe outside with a tin tray on the top, it was always kept full of water and it had canvas hanging down the sides soaking up the water. The food used to keep beautifully in those. Like a big outside cupboard with rails for shelves, and milk particularly in a big milk can and it would keep there for days with water dripping down. You always kept the tray on top full of water and the canvas went right across that and down the sides cause there



was only gauze in the sides. It had gauze at either side of it so that the water dripping down it let the cool air in it. And I could get up in the morning and make butter as easy as winking. I made all my own butter.

Interviewer: How did you make your butter?

Mrs. Easthope: A spoon or a fork. A spoon in the basin and just stir it round. If it was too thin you used an egg beater and just stand there and beat until it got a certain stiffness and you would get your butter made in no time. Work it round until you got it crumbly and then you turn it out and it all sticks together and then you give it a rinse with clear cold water. Give it a wash with cold water. Wash this clump of butter. Even a big lump of butter like that. You would just wash that with water and you would have butter pats, lift it out and you would have butter pats. I used to love making butter.

Interviewer: You didn't eat any meat did you?

Mrs. Easthope: No. We always had nut foods. There is a lot of things you can make to take the place of meat. You can get mixtures mixed up with gluten flour and a little bit of ordinary flour and seasoning, chopped onion and things and put it in a basin like you would a boiled pudding and when you tipped it out you could just take thick slices of it. We used to call it nut meat. We always used quite a few eggs.



We didn't seem to go hungry.

Interviewer: Did you make all your own clothes?

Mrs. Easthope: Yes everything warm and pyjamas for the children. All the children's clothes I always made. And all of mine. I have made shirts for my husband at times and I did make him one pair of trousers once.

Interviewer: Did you learn your trade in New Zealand.

Mrs. Easthope: Yes. I went to work when I was about thirteen I think and it was a very good workshop. They were very good dressmakers and I learnt it very quickly. In three or four years I had my own business. My mother had been sick and I had to stay home to look after the children. There were five children and when she was better I think someone else had my job and I said to Mum I think I am going to take in dressmaking, cause people were always coming to me to show them how to sew and it would end up that I was half making their clothes for them and not getting anything for it. So I would charge them so much . They would want me to cut out the sleeves and show them how to put it together by the time you had finished you had made the dress. They only wanted to pay me for cutting. So I thought to myself that is not good enough. So I opened a business, took the dresses in myself and I always had more dresses than I could make. I used to sit up until eleven and twelve o'clock at night making them..

Because I always got up and helped Mum in the mornings to wash up the breakfast dishes, made the beds.

Interviewer: Where was your father?

Mrs. Easthope: He was there. He used to do all the gardens. We had a very beautiful vegetable garden. We grew all our vegetables. When we got up in the morning there was always a bucket full of vegetables to cook for that day already washed that he had prepared. He was working in the post office and had certain spare time. It was a shift job. He could spend quite a bit of time in the garden.

Interviewer: What sort of entertainment did you have in the early days?

Mrs. Easthope: We worked it in the district. The church worked it. They would get up a concert. About every three months or something like that. Perhaps more often and then they would have a few birthday parties for anyone special. Then you would always have a factory picnic. The factory hired buses to take us down to one of the waterways down on the lake and provide all the meals for us. We would spend the day down there it was really quite nice.

Interviewer: What are some of your memories about the depression?

Mrs. Easthope: During the Depression there was always swaggies on the road. Do you know what a swaggie is? It is

a man out of work and going round looking for work and begging food. So nearly every, once a week at least I would have a swaggie come to the door asking for breakfast. So I always gave him breakfast. My daughter always said I think he goes and tells the others where he can get a feed. Presently another one would come down. We'd feed two or three sometimes. But we didn't mind. We used to grow all our own stuff. We had a cow and had plenty of milk. They used to thank us for it. Make them a cup of tea. That's all they wanted.

Interviewer: So you were really all fairly self sufficient in this area.

Mrs. Easthope: Oh yes we were quite self sufficient, grew everything. I used to make my own bread in those days.

Interviewer: How do you think Cooranbong has changed since those days?

Mrs. Easthope: It is not the same place really, because in those days it was so scattered whereas now the houses are so close together. There is a lot more houses and a lot more people and evidently a lot more work for all these people.

Interviewer: Do the students still work in the factory to support themselves?

Mrs. Easthope: Yes. Still the same. The factory is three times as big as it was in those days.

Interviewer: Thank you very much for the interview Mrs.  
Easthope. I have found it most informative and have enjoyed  
interviewing you.

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I, Ivy Gladys May Easthope give my  
permission to Helen SANKOWSKY

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Signed J. G. M. Easthope

Date 10th August, 1989

Interviewer Helen Sankowsky

OPEN FOUNDATION 1989

Australian History.

Tuesday Morning Class.

Regional History Research Paper.

Helen Sankowsky.

A brief history of the Seventh-day Adventists at Corranbong.

The following paper is a brief history of the establishment of the Seventh-day Adventists Church at Corranbong. It is meant to pre-empt the taped interview of a present day veteran and follower of the religion in the Corranbong area.

The twenty-ninth session of the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventists was held at their headquarters in Battle Creek, Michigan in March, 1891. At this session the importance of training religious workers in their own countries, rather than sending them overseas, was discussed. It was decided that a permanent school and training centre should be established in Australia. The prophet Ellen G. White was recommended by the Foreign Mission Board to visit Australia and bring the strength needed to promote the school. 1

Ellen White travelled to Melbourne with, among others, her son W. C. White who had been appointed Superintendent of the Australasian Field. During the "union" conference in Melbourne in January, 1894 a school committee was set up and a blue print for the school was developed. 2 The committee recommended that it be located away from the larger cities, and the distractions they offered, at a site favourable to the development of agricultural and manufacturing industries.

1. White, ARTHUR, L. Ellen G. White Volume 4. The AUSTRALIAN Years 1891-1900. WASHINGTON, 1983. P13.

2. Ibid P 121.



These were to be for the benefit of the students and their families. It was also desirable that a village settlement be close by for the residence of ministers<sup>1</sup> canvasses, and families of students. <sup>3</sup> New South Wales was chosen as the location because of the warmer climate. The committee wished to secure one to two thousand acres in order to provide small farms for Sabbathkeeping families because previously many of these families had been discriminated against and had lost their homes and incomes.

W. C. White and Ellen White moved from Melbourne to Granville, New South Wales, in April 1894 from where they began searching for a suitable site. Both Dapto and Thirlmere were examined but proved unsuitable. W. C. White then travelled to Morrisset and viewed the Brettville estate on Dora Creek near Cooranbong. It consisted of one thousand five hundred acres and could be purchased for \$4,500. <sup>4</sup> Several church leaders travelled to Dora Creek and with Ellen White inspected the land. They found the area to be satisfactory and an ideal location for the school. The committee voted to purchase the estate.

In his report to the Foreign Mission Board W. C. White stated that much of the land was suitable for vegetables

3. Ibid P 123

4. Ibid P. 147.

fruit and dairying. 5 Ellen White's later vision about the richness of the soil reinforced how appropriate the choice had been despite initial adverse soil reports from Government agricultural experts. 6

A builder, W. C. Sisley was bought out from America in December, 1894. 7 In conjunction with Adventist builders plans were drawn up for the school and work started at Cooranbong. Letters were sent to the Churches inviting the young men to come to the new school to study and work. 8 The young men were required to work six hours a day to pay for their board and tuition. Manual training was combined with certain study hours. 9 It was thought that the pupils would receive an all round education both physical, mental and moral. 10 As well an industrial department was set up, with brickmakers, tentmakers and stonecutters. 11

The young men lived in a rented hotel or tents while clearing the land and building roads and bridges in preparation for agricultural undertakings. An experienced orchardist was employed to supervise in the planting of the orchard while also teaching the people intelligent agricultural procedures.

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5. Ibid. P 152.

6. Ibid. P 176.

7. Ibid. P 181.

8. Ibid. P 217.

9. Ibid. P 218.

10. Ibid. P 219.

11. Ibid. P 220.

12. Ibid. P 224.

The development of the Avondale school buildings remained dormant due to lack of finance until September, 1896 when money from brethren in Africa was sent. On the first of October, 1896 the corner stone was laid for the first school building, Bethel Hall, by Ellen White and work began immediately. 13 The school opened on the twenty eighth of April, 1896 with a staff of six and ten students. 14 By 1898 accommodation had been expanded with the addition of new buildings. The student population had increased to over one hundred including boarding students and day students. 15

By 1899 College Hall was completed this provided classrooms, a chapel and administrative offices. 16 The Avondale school had come of age. It was a strong training centre and a home base for mission field activities. Students were taught all farming activities, domestic duties in conjunction with recognized educational subjects and later, with the advent of the factory, the manufacture of health foods. 17.

Cooranbong was chosen as an ideal site for the establishment of the factory. It was close to water transport and a railway station. Fuel for power, in the form of timber, was also readily available. The factory was used for the manufacture of health foods and provided employment for male

13. Ibid p 269.

14. Ibid p 302.

15. Ibid p 421.

16. Ibid p 422.

17. Ibid p 425.

and female students to earn and combine studies with natural food production. The parents of students were also able to obtain work at the factory. 18 A hospital was also planned for the benefit of these workers.

A site near the entrance of the school was selected for the hospital. It was to be used to treat the sick of the neighbourhood and a convalescent home for Sydney patients. The hospital was also to provide a health retreat for aged workers. 19 On the first of January, 1900 the hospital opened prepared for boarders and to treat the sick. 20

By 1925 the achievements of thirty years of steady progress could be observed. A print shop had been built. This was used to print tracts in a variety of languages for missionary workers in the South Pacific. A water tower had also been erected. Accommodation had been built for girls and also a multi-purpose area for studying and socializing. Cooranbong post office was connected to Avondale by phone. Eventually a large suction gas plant was installed so electricity became available. 21

In the late 1940's an extensive rebuilding programme was underway, once again with the help of voluntary labour from

18. Ibid. P 433.

19. Ibid P 438.

20. Ibid. P 441.

21. Hook, Milton Avondale College. in Clapham, Noel Seventh-day Adventist in the South Pacific. 1885-1985. AUSTRALIA. 1985. P 157.

the students. Extensions were added to the chapel to create a library and more classroom space. A large gymnasium was also built, this was used for student activities as well as a venue for large occasions and graduations. A high school hostel was erected mainly for children of missionaries serving overseas. 22 As the number of married students increased a married students' village was built to accommodate them. 23

Considering the humble beginnings Avondale has achieved a great deal, often with a minimum of resources, made even more difficult by the political and economic circumstances of the time. Two world wars and a world wide depression had both a direct and an indirect effect on the growing settlement and its people. Despite their struggle of ninety eight years a high level of scholastic achievement together with a large range of practical skills has become the trademark of the Corranbong Adventist Community. The visions of a distant American congregation almost one hundred years ago and the faith in their success was so strong, that from those visions a flourishing settlement enterprise remains to this day.

22. Ibid P 159.

23. Ibid P 160.

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OPEN FOUNDATION 1989

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY.

Summary of interview with Mrs Ivy Gladys May Easthope of  
Victory Street, Corranbong.

Date: August, fourth, 1989.

Interviewer: Helen Sankowsky.



Mrs. Ivy Gladys May Easthope was interviewed by Helen Sankowsky on the fourth of August, 1989 at her home in Cooranbong. Mrs Easthope is a follower of the Seventh-day Adventist religion and is ninety eight years old. She is the oldest person that has actually lived in the district for so long.

Mrs Easthope is originally from New Zealand and was a dressmaker by trade. She began to learn her trade at the age of thirteen. Eventually Mrs Easthope opened her own business and would sit up until very late at night making dresses. After marrying, Mrs Easthope and her husband became Seventh-day Adventists. They came to Australia in 1920 with their daughter.

The family settled at Cooranbong which was a timber getting area, mostly cedar and rosewood. The Seventh-day Adventist Church owned a large tract of land in the area where its students were housed and educated. The factory, also owned by the church, was located at the site at Cooranbong. The factory manufactured health foods. Mrs Easthope's husband had been given the position of manager of the factory press. The press printed many of the books the Denomination had written as well as advertising for the factory products.

When the family first arrived at Corranbong they lived in lodgings rented for them by the church for about a year. It was at these lodgings that Mrs Easthope had her second child. The family then bought four acres of land on the creek, on the other side of the factory, where they had a house built. From there Mr Easthope would travel to work by boat across the creek.

The Seventh-day Adventist College, called Avondale taught students of all ages ministerial work and a wide range of other subjects up to and including university level. Students came from all over Australia, New Zealand and the Islands to attend the College. To support themselves the students would study in the morning then work in the factory in the afternoon. Students either lived in at the College or the local students lived in their own homes in the village of Corranbong.

During the 1920's the village of Corranbong was scattered with the main inhabitants being Seventh-day Adventists. The College grew all its own fruit and vegetables. The factory had its own power station but it was not until later that the College acquired power. In the village kerosene lamps were

used for lighting. The brethren would spend most of Saturday attending church. Most of the entertainment was church based. The church would organize concerts, factory picnics and birthday parties. The community was very close knit.

During the depression, although times were hard, the Seventh-day Adventists were quite self sufficient. There always seemed enough work at the factory for the brethren. The majority of the people living in the area grew their own fruit and vegetables. The Seventh-day Adventists did not eat meat but Mrs Easthope was able to make quite nutritious meals without using meat. Mrs Easthope made all her own bread and butter. The many swaggies passing through the area, during the depression were given meals and cups of tea by Mrs Easthope.

Since Mrs Easthope came to Corranbong she has seen the area change. The bullock waggons carrying the timber to the creek to be transported to the manufactures do not exist. The population has increased and there are many more houses in the area, although the college community, even though it is much larger, remains the same in principal.