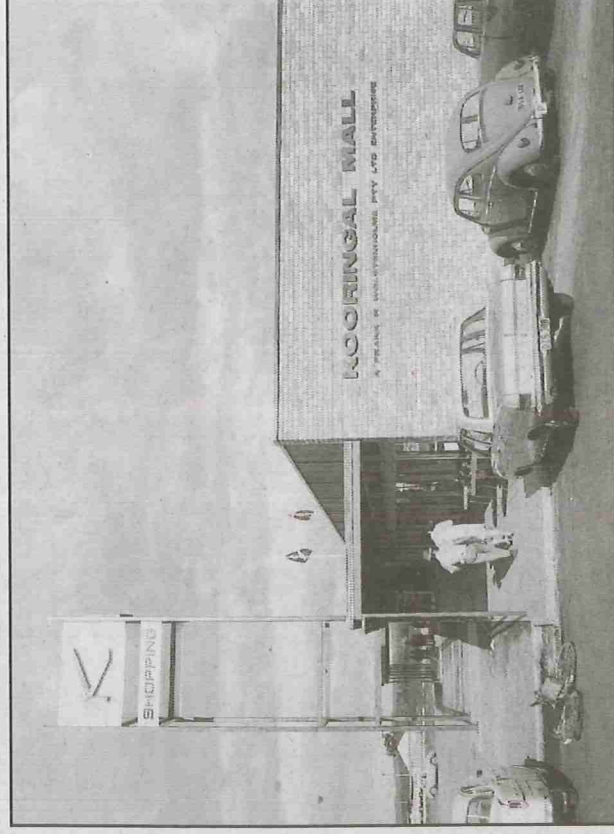


The CSU Regional Archives is currently extending its opening hours to include the first Saturday of every month. On these days, the archives will be open from 10am to 3pm. The archives will be open today, November 5. This trial initiative has been put in place to cater for those researchers who are unable to visit the archives on weekdays during normal business hours. It is hoped that enough researchers and visitors will avail themselves of this service to warrant it becoming a permanent occurrence.



The Koorringal Mall, complete with its signature big "K" back in the 1960s.

The beginnings of the suburb now know as Koorringal.

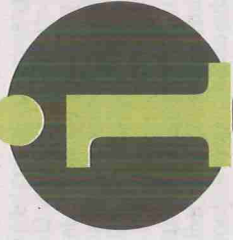
Birth of a Suburb

what you need to know

The CSU Regional Archives are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Located in the Blakemore Building on South Campus of the university, access can be gained via College Avenue or Hely Avenue. Members of the public are welcome to visit the search room, where professional archival staff can assist with enquiries. For those people unable to visit the archives in person, staff can provide a research service for straight-forward enquiries for a fee of \$55 per hour including copying and postage. For further information, phone 02 6925 3666, email archive@csu.edu.au, or visit our website at www.csu.edu.au/research/archives for a full listing of holdings and more detailed information.



at the archives
Wayne Doubleday



In the decades following World War II, the city of Wagga expanded to include large suburban areas such as Koorringal, Lake Albert, Tolland, Turvey Park, Ashmont and Mount Austin. While the period of the 1950s and 1960s saw Koorringal emerge as one of these large suburbs, the recorded history of this land began almost 100 years earlier. Early maps of south Wagga showing the whole area recognisable as Koorringal today provide names such as Thomas Terry, George Forsyth, FA Thompson, Edward Graham, PS Murray and JD Mearns, as being some of the first to take up these sections of land. The land was used for pastoral farming, in particular dairying and grazing. The primary pastoral holding was the station called "Koorringal", situated on Koorringal Road. The property expanded to 431 acres and included a brick homestead with eight rooms and spacious verandahs, men's quarters, stables, a motor garage, a blacksmith and carpenter's shops, a coach house, a vehicle shed, nice gardens and an orchard. At the time this new suburb was emerging, "Koorringal" station was still being farmed for dairying and grazing. Meanwhile, extensive subdivisions were taking place, chiefly by pastoralist Stan Henwood, whose property had been in the family for more than 70 years.



The mall included a butchery complete with old-fashion service.

KOORRINGAL

The suburb was initially referred to as Henwood Park and by 1953 the suburb consisted of 27 houses and one small shop on Lake Albert Road, which included the post office (opposite today's Prime television station).

In March 1959, a self-service grocery store and butchery was established on Lake Albert Road (Stuarts), to provide for the rapidly growing population of almost 300 houses. The proprietors of this and the original store were I M and M L Cosier.

The official naming of the suburb was met with some objection and confusion, when in 1959 council notified the concerning departments of the decision to give the Koorringal suburb its official name.

Local government, Department of Education and the Department of Lands were in favour of the name. However, the post master general had objections, given that the post office operating at the store on Lake Albert Road used the name "Darrung".

Additionally, the post master general had concerns that mail which had already been marked as "Koorringal" was being directed to South Australia. After careful consideration, it was decided to go ahead with Koorringal, ahead of Henwood Park and Darrung, due to the fact churches, schools and businesses were already applying this name.

Perhaps one of the most significant developments for the new suburb was the construction of the Koorringal Mall, which was opened in October 1968 through the vision of Mr Frank Wolstenholme.

Costing \$100,000, the mall was "a step towards making Koorringal a self-contained section of the city of Wagga". Among the many businesses that began operating were:

- Huthwaites Food Fair
- Koorringal Fruit Bowl
- Koorringal Pharmacy
- Liliane's Hair Salon
- Koorringal Newsagency

- Koorringal Hotel-Motel
 - Koorringal Shoes and Footwear
 - Catherine's Ladies and Children's wear
 - Koorringal's Book and Toy Store
 - Big K Butchery
 - A service station
- Other notable icons in Koorringal include, Prime television, formerly RVN2, which was officially opened on Friday, June 19, 1964 and marked the beginning of local broadcasting in this region. During this time of development, Henwood Park sporting fields were also established, with facilities for tennis, cricket, soccer and a children's playground.

One potential development that did not eventuate in Koorringal was a 1986 bid to have a cinema built in the Koorringal Mall. At a time when Wagga was without key entertainment facilities, developers The Paul Ramsay Group were pushing to have the cinema in Koorringal due to them already owning the land. However, council denied a number of applications because of it being in a neighbourhood area and not the central business district.

In a period of less than 20 years, during the 1950s and 1960s, Koorringal grew into a fully established, sought after residential area equipped with churches, schools, and a modern shopping complex.

In the pursuing years to present day, Koorringal has grown steadily and established itself as a mainstay for the city of Wagga.

- Compiled by Lauren Carroll
- References: Wagga Wagga Advertiser, September 22, 1923; March 24, 1959; March 3, 1960; October 11, 1968; October 30, 1986; The Street Names of Wagga Wagga by William R Ellis, pages 64-65, 117-118; Wagga Wagga City Council Urban Heritage Study Volume 1, Peter Freeman; Parish Map of South Wagga Wagga 1889; Wagga Wagga a History, Sherry Morris, pages 214-215, Wagga Municipal Council Minute Book April 9, 1959 "Suburban Areas - Naming of".