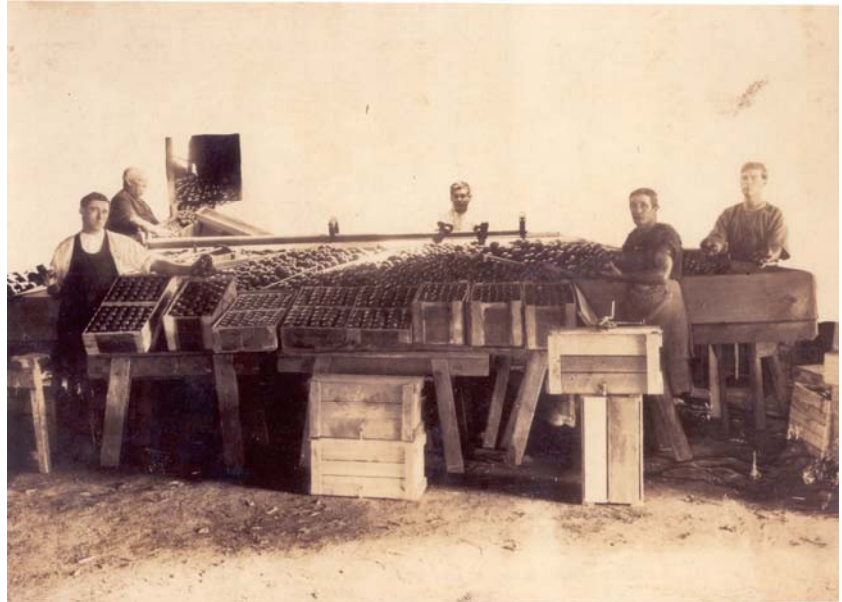


History of Fagan Park

William Fagan was a free settler from Londonderry Ireland, who arrived in Sydney in 1848 and soon after married Ann Waddell. William and Ann went on to raise their four daughters and three sons on the 70 acre property they purchased in Arcadia. The family worked hard to establish a successful citrus orchard and as such became pioneers in the citrus industry at Dural, Galston and Arcadia.

Sons William and Sam went on to become partners and began their own operations at Dural. They also went on to become excellent citrus orchardists in their own right. Sam and his wife Emma purchased their own land at Galston in 1900 and moved from Dural to Galston after the partnership between William and Sam dissolved. Sam and Emma conducted their own growing operation on the property and constructed a fine homestead made of hand made bricks known as



'Netherby', as well as a large packing shed. After expansion, the Fagan property became the largest orchard in Galston and employed a large workforce. Sam was also known as a good citizen with many civil responsibilities. By the early 1930s with the onset of the Great Depression, Sam Fagan gradually closed down his orchards. Bruce Fagan, youngest of William and Ann's children, ran a herd of Jersey dairy cattle on the property after the orchard closed down. Bruce added a dairy building to the property and his cattle breeding programme was described as first class.



In 1980 Bruce Fagan and his sister Ida, donated the original Sam Fagan property, Fagan Park, to the Department of Lands with Hornsby Shire Council appointed as sole trustee for the park. The park was adopted as Council's bicentennial project. Before his death in 1984, Bruce Fagan was consulted in regard to development plans for the site. Hornsby Shire Council received a Bicentennial Grant towards the cost of the planned "Garden of all Nations" at Fagan

Park. The garden covers a 10 hectare site in Arcadia Road and is part of the larger 55 hectare Fagan Park. The garden features the flora of gardens from all over the world including North and South America, England, Netherlands, Africa, Asia and the Mediterranean. The original homestead 'Netherby', the original

packing shed and milking complex were all restored in time for the bicentennial year and is being used as a rural museum. Fagan Park also includes picnic and barbecue facilities, playgrounds and bushwalking trails. The Premier of the time, Nick Greiner, officially opened the park and gardens on November 5, 1988 with over 500 people in attendance. In 1989 a plaque was unveiled in honour of Sam and Emma Fagan at the park.

In 2000, an Eco Garden was established to show people how to create a sustainable garden. The Eco Garden contained an organic food forest, orchard and herb garden. As well as the attractions at Fagan Park, the park has been a very popular venue for events over the years such as country music festivals, heritage days, Australia Day celebrations, spring fairs, garden expos, opera, weddings and the Bushland Shire Festival.

Despite some controversies over the years as to how the park would be used, today the wishes of Bruce Fagan have been met by the park providing a recreational, educational, cultural and historical area for the people.

Produced by Hornsby Shire Council's Library and Information Services