

Hillgrove Chinese.

The Chinese in Metz and Hillgrove.

There is no evidence to suggest that there was a large presence of Chinese at the Hillgrove and Metz Goldfields in contrast to the situation at Rocky River in the 1850s or at Tingha in the 1870s. The *Armidale Chronicle*, 5 February 1902 stated there was sixteen Chinese in Hillgrove. In 1904 there were twelve Chinese males and one female in Hillgrove. (*Armidale Chronicle*, 8 February 1904) The *Armidale Chronicle*, 30 January 1907 reported that there were twelve Chinese in Hillgrove and none in Metz.

The *Armidale Express*, 28 July 1905 advertised the sale of 40 acres, portion 106, parish of Metz, close to Metz known as the Chinese Gardens and let at £20 per annum.

Note Chinese religious presence. See Hillgrove personalities visiting. *Armidale Chronicle*, 17 July 1897. Chinese mission.

YEE, An

Police found a large amount of stolen goods at the property of An Yee in Hillgrove in June 1897. The goods belonged to Mr Henry Cock, Mrs J. Taylor, Mrs T. Arnott, Mrs Gellatly, Miss Bauer, L. Glen, Edward Hay, Mrs Brodie and Mr Penning. (Source: *Armidale Express*, 29 June 1897). Following his arrest, he apparently committed suicide at the Hillgrove lock-up.

* AN YEE.

Details in Salvation Army register: buried 29 June 1897; age 60 years; residence Hillgrove; occupation hawker; grantee Police case, suicide. *Hillgrove Guardian*, 3 July 1897. 'The Police Court-Sergeant Edwards informed the bench that a chinaman An Yee was dead, having hanged himself in the lock-up on the previous morning. A post mortem and inquest was held and the Sergeant asked the bench to direct that the property found in possession of the deceased be restored to the rightful owners. The order was given'.

YEE, Sam.

A Chinaman, he was assaulted at Hillgrove in September 1897. Source: *Armidale Express*, 28 September 1897.

YAT WAR and COMPANY.

Yat War and Company established their drapery and grocery business in Hillgrove in 1889. In December 1897 R. Morrow announced that he will offer for public auction the valuable freehold property opposite the Post Office in the main street now in the occupation of Messrs Yat War and Company and H.E. Bewley. Yat War enlarged their store in December 1898 and the *Hillgrove Guardian*, 24 December 1898 reported the store, 'always noted for its neatness, now presents quite a roomy and well fitted appearance'. A Photographic Gallery was also established at the back of the business premises with their artist ready to take in work in January 1900. The *Inverell Times* expressed some concern about the opening of a studio in Hillgrove and commented 'what next?' The *Hillgrove Guardian* sprang to the defence of the business. They photographed the Hillgrove Football team in August 1903.

Following the death of Low Ah Kee in March 1904, the stock and furniture of the late Yat War and Company was offered for sale on Saturday 8 and Monday 11 July 1904

Source: *Hillgrove Guardian*, 20 January 1900; 29 August 1903; 28 May and 2 and 9 July 1904.

Intestate estate of Low Ah Kee, late of Hillgrove, general storekeeper. deceased.

Source: *Hillgrove Guardian*, 28 May 1904

The *Hillgrove Guardian*, 4 March 1899 announced the death of Sam Hop, a market gardener near Elder's Paddock.

The Hillgrove cemetery register recorded the death of Dummy described as an old chinese in 1932. His religion was undenominational and his address was Hillgrove.

Low Ah Kee died at his Bracken Street residence on Sunday 6 March 1904. Aged 36 years, the *Hillgrove Guardian*, 12 March 1904 reported that he was a native of Canton, China and had been a resident of Hillgrove for the past sixteen years as a businessman. He was employed at the Yat War Company and came to Australia twenty years ago. He name also appeared as W. Lo Kee. His name appeared in the Salvation Army burial register but he was buried in the Church of England section of the Hillgrove cemetery.

The store occupied by Yat War was taken over by another firm of Chinese storekeepers in July 1904. (*Armidale Chronicle*, 9 July 1904)

The *Armidale Chronicle*, 24 May 1911 reported that Wong Jack, a gardener on the Hillgrove Station was assaulted in Hillgrove and was admitted to Hillgrove hospital in a low state. Three weeks later, Wong Jack was recovering speedily but no arrests had been made. (*Armidale Chronicle*, 10 June 1911)

The *Armidale Express*, 28 September 1897 reported that Sam Lee was assaulted in Hillgrove.

Low Kee was in a Hillgrove business in January 1910. (*Armidale Chronicle*, 22 January 1910)

Tragedy struck the Show Yin family in 1911. On 9 January 1911 the Hillgrove family buried a three weeks old child in the Methodist section of the Hillgrove cemetery. Then on 20 November a still born child was buried in the same plot. Show Yin operated a store in Hillgrove by February 1912. Show Yin and his wife Alice were farewelled at the Hillgrove School of Arts Hall on Monday 16 July 1923. They had conducted a clearing out sale of groceries, crockery, ironmongery, drapery and boots at Wollomombi in May 1922.

Source: *Armidale Express*, 13 February 1912; *Armidale Chronicle*, 27 May 1922 and 18 July 1923.

Low Shang general store West Bracken street Portion 265.
(See Dumaresq Shire rate books)

ROBB, William.

Aged 80 years, William Robb was attacked by a chinaman and suffered two broken legs in August 1907.

Source: *Armidale Express*, 16 August 1907.

Way Sum, a Chinese market gardener was fined in court in December 1914 because he kept vegetables in a shed used for a sleeping residence. The court was told the small hut measured 9 feet by 6 feet. Source: *Armidale Chronicle*, 5 december 1914.

Hillgrove.

Hillgrove Guardian, 4 August 1900.

Armidale Chronicle, 20 February 1904. Description of Chinese celebrations.

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Metz.

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