THE HALFWAY HOUSE HOTEL, GIDGINBUNG

Denis Kavanagh first licenced his "Australian Hotel" beside the track linking Temora and Barmedman in 1886. Approximately half way between the two centres, it quickly became a staging post for the coach lines plying the route.
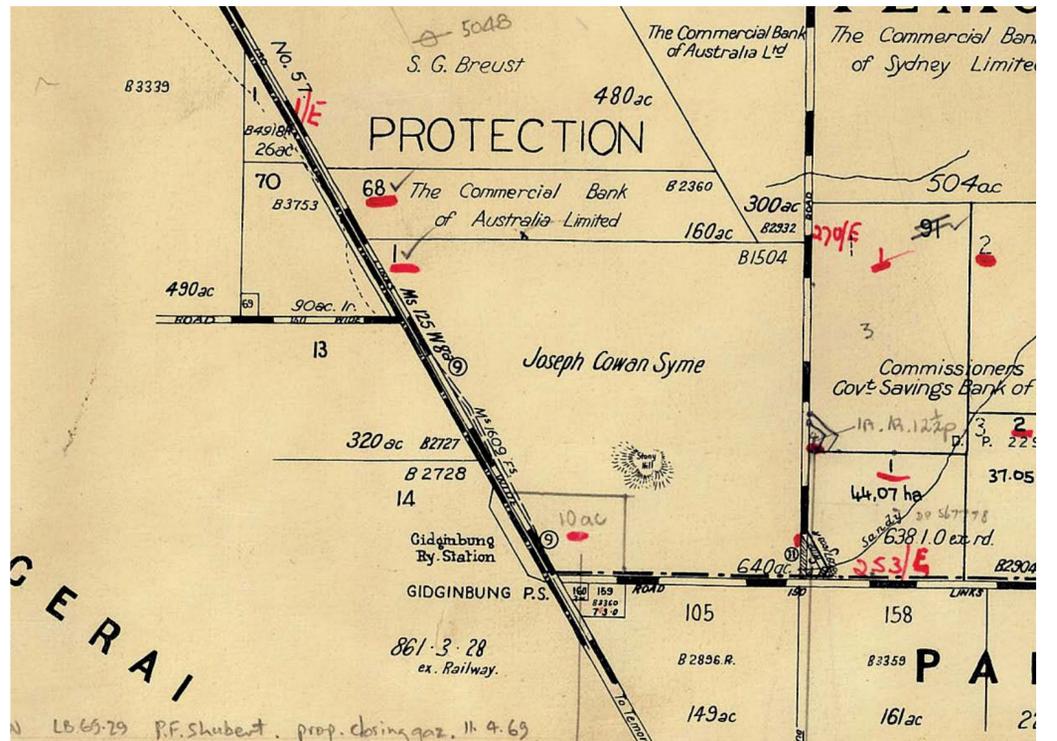
When the licence passed to Denis Clancey in 1888 he conducted the hotel under the sign "The Halfway House" and it appears to have retained this name through successive licensees – Denis Kavanagh (1889), Samuel Clark (1890) and Charles A. Naylor (1891) Charles Richard Edmunds became mine host in 1892 and conducted the hotel (referred to as "Edmunds Half Way Hotel") until the licence lapsed in 1903. His tenure spanned the period between the establishment of the Wyalong Goldfield (1894) and the opening of the railway line linking Temora through Barmedman to the new township of West Wyalong (1903).

Increased road traffic associated with the "Rush" to West Wyalong in 1894 resulted in "a fine main street being laid out and a number of wooden buildings in the process of being erected at Gidginbung" several hundred metres south of Mr. Edmunds' hotel.

Among the scant records of the old hotel, are references in the Temora Star newspaper in 1892 and 1896 to unknown persons laying baits around the site, and, on a happier note, a complement to its "beautiful gardens" in 1903.

All that signals the hotel's existence is a few stones, some mounds of dirt and a couple of trees.

After the hotel licence lapsed, Mr. Edmunds remained at Gidginbung as postmaster until he retired to Temora in 1908. A Mr. Briese resided in the hotel building after Mr. Edmunds.

In February 1915 the Albury Banner and Wodonga Express noted that "after a large amount of rain the old Gidginbung Hotel is surrounded by flood water". No record of its fate after that date has yet been found.

Information sourced from Time Gentlemen compiled by Dyon Corby and the panel produced by Temora Shire Heritage Committee

Panel erected in 2017