Fairbridge Settlement Catalogue

Section 2 Lady Gowrie Cottage

Gowrie Cottage, originally known as Green Cottage was the first cottage to be completed in January, 1938 in time for the arrival of the first party of Fairbridge boys who arrived on March 24, 1938. It was used for a few months as the home of the Principal and his family prior to the completion of the Principals house in early March 1938.

The cottage was also known as the Andrew Reid Cottage in recognition of a donation to Fairbridge by Mr. Andrew Reid, who was one of the founders of the Molong Fairbridge Farm School. The cottage was renamed the Lady Gowrie Cottage on November 26, 1938, when the Governor General Lord Gowrie came with his wife to officially open the School.

Gowrie cottage has a number of distinctive features. It was the only cottage at Fairbridge to have two gables, to the left and right of the roof line. As with Brown and Molong cottages Gowrie cottage had two rain water tanks and steps on both the left and right hand sides of the front veranda.

The first cottage mother to take over Gowrie was Miss Barr who arrived at Fairbridge on the 22nd March, 1938 two days before the arrival of the first party on the 24th March, 1938. Miss Barr was to remain at Fairbridge for many years. Mrs K Johnstone took over Gowrie Cottage on the 17th August, 1954 and was to remain at Fairbridge as a cottage mother until late 1966. However Mrs Johnstone moved into Rose cottage in 1962 and remained there until her retirement.

In 1963 Gowrie cottage closed as there were not enough children to fill all cottages and Gowrie remained closed until its removal to a property on the Wellington road 12 miles from Yeoval.

Figure Lady Gowrie Cottage (formally Green Cottage) shortly after construction in 1938 although number 2 on the architects plan, it was the first cottage to be completed in early 1938

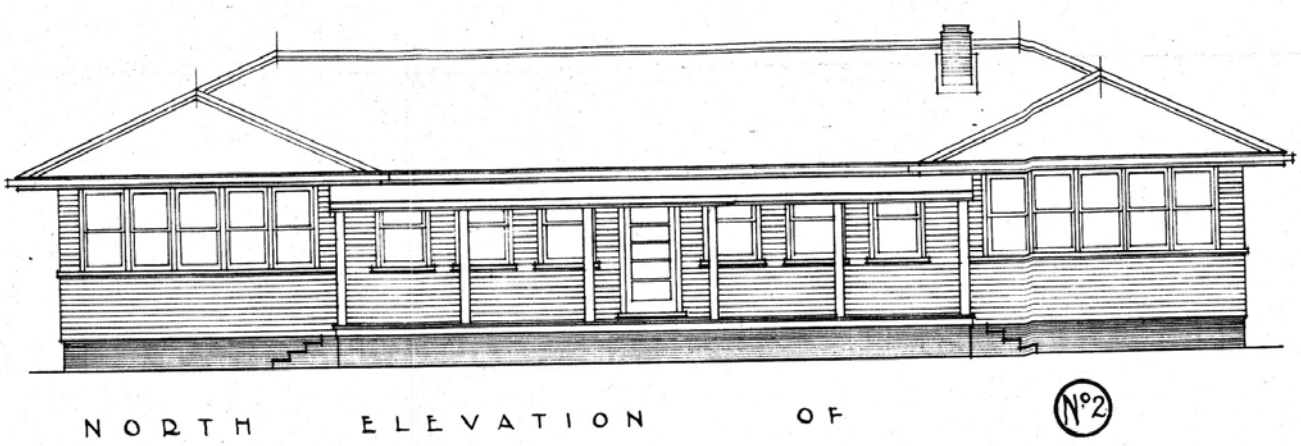

Figure 1 Gowrie Cottage plan. 1937. North Elevation.

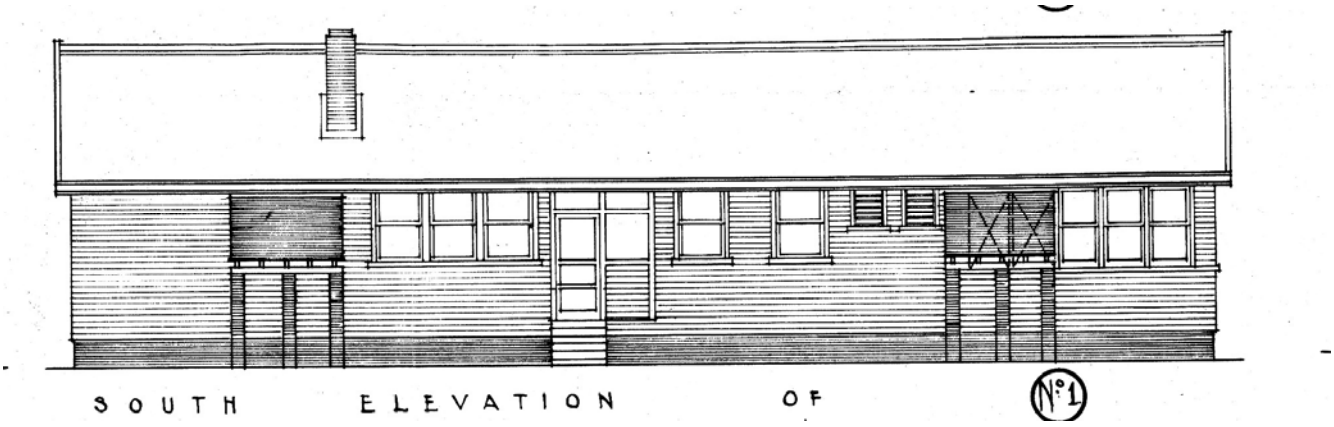

Figure 2 Gowrie Cottage plans 1937. South Elevation.

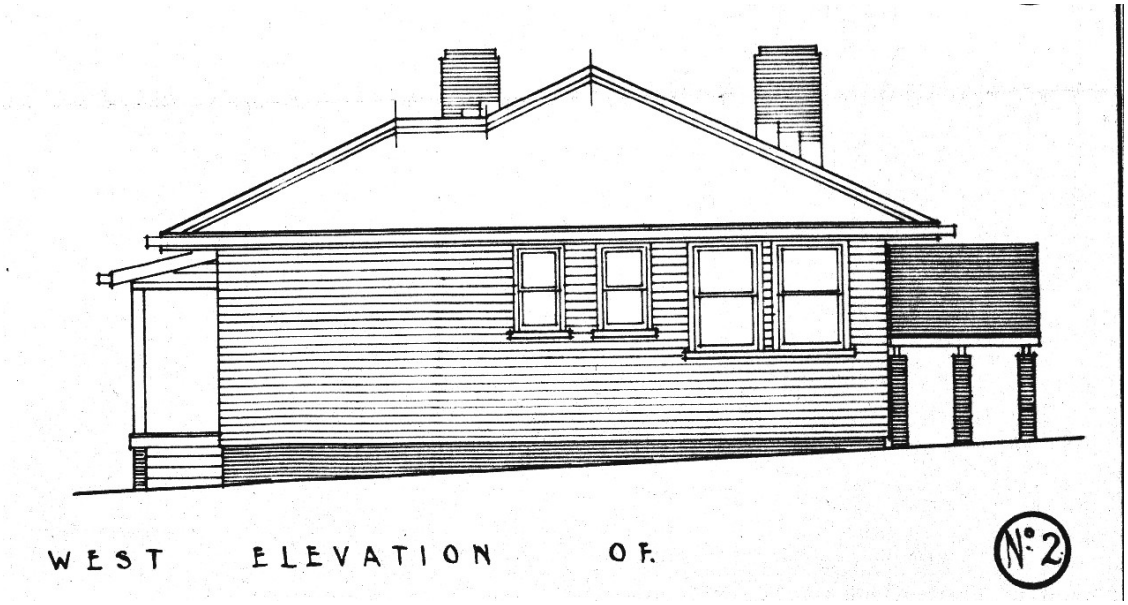

Figure 1 Gowrie Cottage plan 1937. West Elevation.

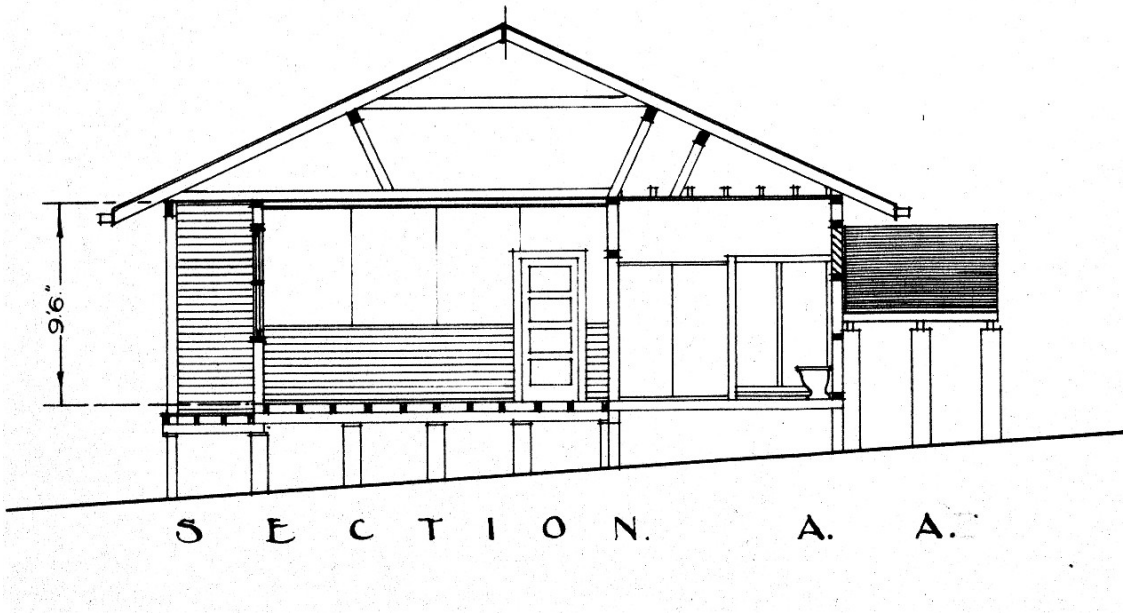

Figure 2 Gowrie Cottage A.A Section plan 1937

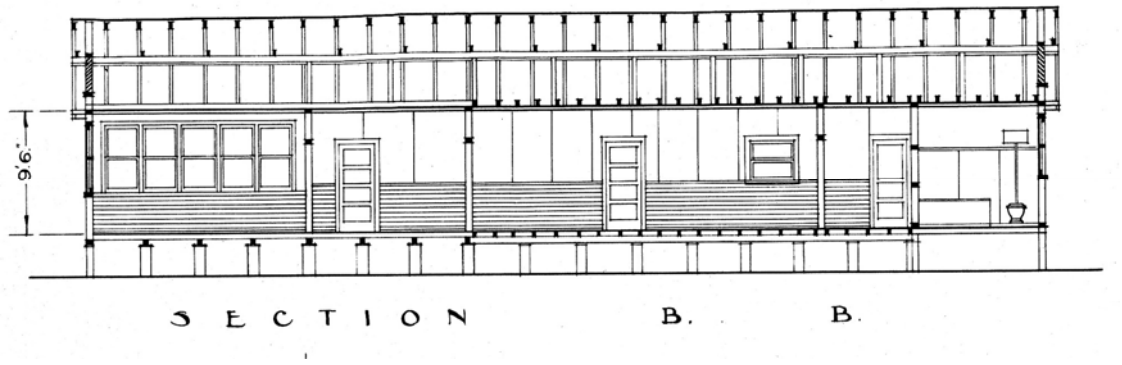

Figure 3 Gowrie Cottage B.B. plan 1937

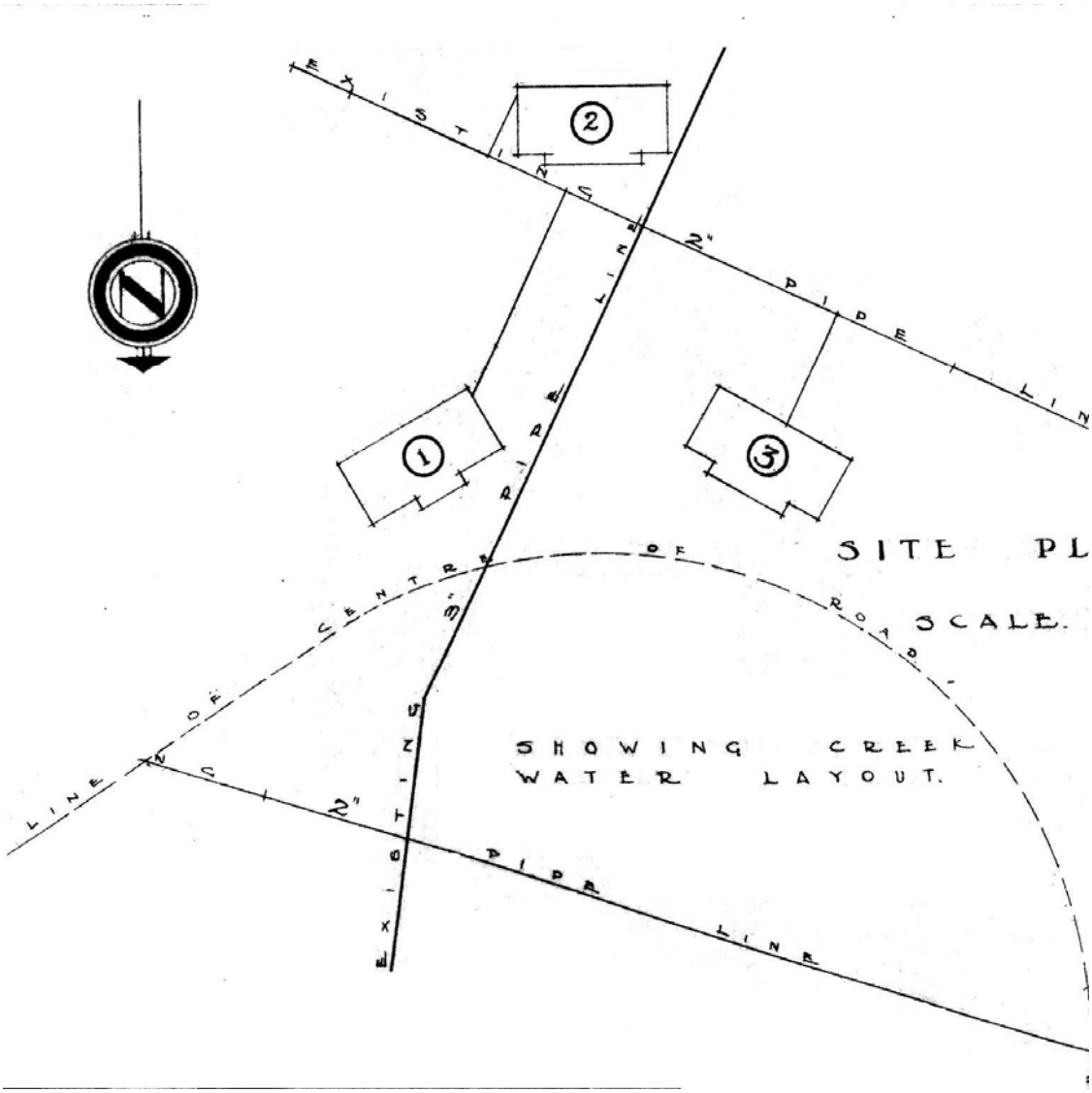

Figure 4. Site plan of Gowrie Cottage (No 2) 1937. Molong Cottage is shown as No 1 and Brown Cottage No 3

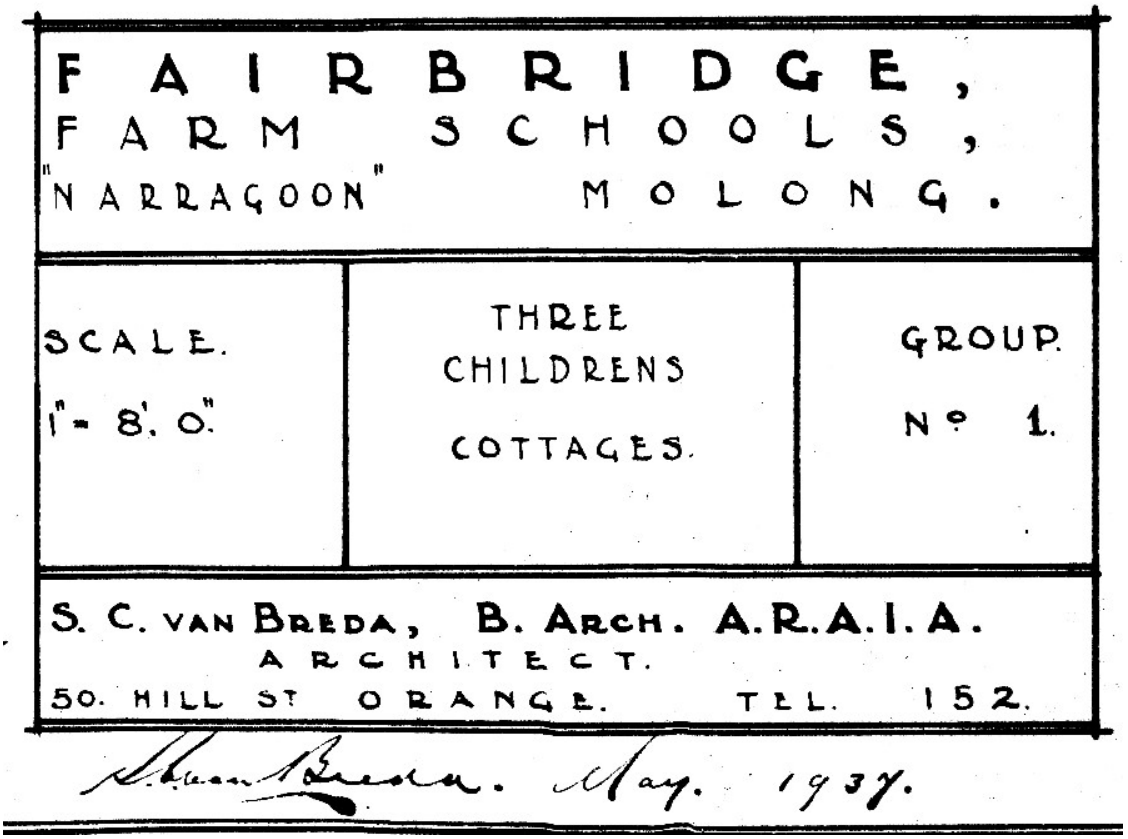

Figure 5. From the architectural plan of the first three cottages; Gowrie, Molong and Brown, the architect S.C van Breda. The same architect was used to design all of the first 11 cottages, the Nuffield Hall and the Principals House.

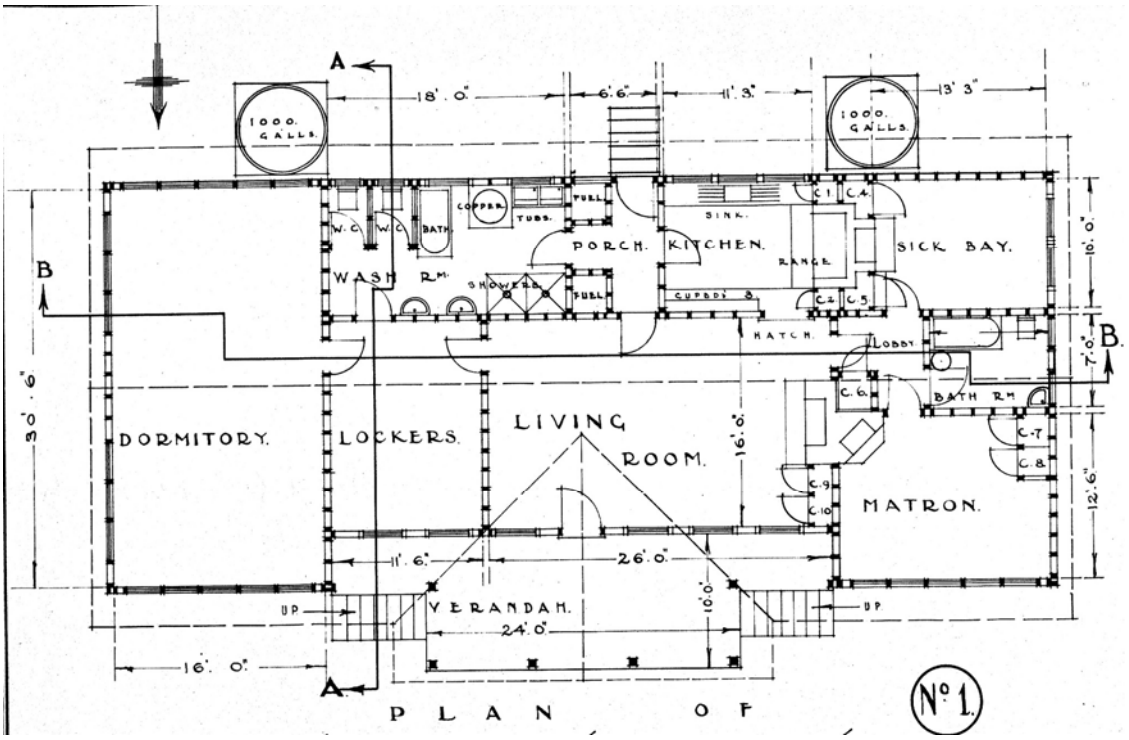

Figure 6. Floor Plan of Gowrie Cottage.

Figure 7 Gowrie Cottage C1954, probably taken on a Tuesday afternoon when children were rostered to work on their cottage gardens.

Figure 8 Gowrie Cottage 1959

Figure 9. Gowrie Cottage, 1960.

Figure 10 Gowrie Cottage, 2006 after being moved to a farm on the Wellington road, 12 miles from Yeoval, New South Wales, where it was converted to a family house. Gowrie Cottage was one of seven cottages (of the total of 15) that were privately sold, following the closure of Fairbridge and the sale of the settlement in 1974.

Figure 11 Front view of Gowrie cottage at its present location

Figure 12. Site of Gowrie Cottage at Fairbridge. 3/1/2006.

Figure 13. Site of Gowrie Cottage 3/1/2006.