The turn of the century was a time of change: roads extended and improved; deliveries from stores in Milton and Ulladulla began; dependence on ships for supplies declined; the ships were changing from sail to steam; schools were established. But the 1890s were depression years, and many families suffered great hardship.

The history of the schools in the area (and in fact in the whole Milton–Ulladulla district) has been given in detail by McAndrew.\(^1\) The difficulties and expense of providing schooling in developing areas led to many different arrangements, which seem quaint by modern standards.\(^2\) Thus we find provisional schools, set up as the result of a petition from local residents, where the petitioners had to provide the school building, guarantee a minimum enrolment of 15 and an effective attendance of at least 10. Such a school could be reclassified as a public school if the enrolment reached 20 and an attendance of 15 was maintained. Some schools were run half time with another school, with only one teacher. The usual arrangement was two days at the first school and three days at the second in a given week, then three days and two days respectively the following week. If there was trouble finding a suitable building, the system provided for house-to-house schooling, as operated at East Lynne from 1884 to 1888. If you could not guarantee a minimum attendance, the system provided for subsidised schools, where the parents provided both the building and the teacher, and the Department provided a subsidy for each student. No official records of subsidised schools were kept, so we do not know how many of these

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2. ibid., pp. 43, 118.
operated in the area. Flat Rock School, 1940–1942, was one such. If settlement was so sparse that none of the above methods applied, you had to fall back on correspondence.

Kioloa and Termeil schools both began in 1885, and Bawley Point School in 1894. The first Kioloa school building, and its furniture, were moved from Red Head when the mill was moved. This school was probably near the mill, where most of the workers lived. The teacher in 1892 was Arthur Wilson. This school closed in December 1893, after the mill closed. There was no school at Kioloa till milling resumed in 1912, when a schoolhouse was built a short distance south-east of Walker’s (presently Joy London’s) house at the top of ‘The Avenue’ (see Chapter 6). Teachers at this school were Beattie, Turner, Stanford, Allen and Walsh. This school operated till the opening of a new school at Murramarang, to serve both Bawley Point and Kioloa, in 1922. Murramarang School (teachers Hayes, Brown, Bullen and Chilstone) closed in 1931, and some years later (around 1936) a third school building was built at Kioloa, north of The Avenue. This building is still standing, but was moved closer to The Avenue after 1975, and converted to an amenities block for the Edith and Joy London Foundation. Teachers at this school were Mr Bone, Mollie Lenehan and finally Mrs Scott, who eventually found the walk from her home near Merry Beach too tiring, so schooling was continued for some time in Mrs Scott’s home.

Termeil’s first school was built by H. Bevan, a local landholder, and was a ‘snug slab building (20 x 14 x 8 feet) with a fireplace’. It was probably on Portion 31, Parish of Termeil, about half a kilometre west of the site of a later school (Portion 97, where Monkey Mountain Road joins Princes Highway). It was used as an evening school in 1886, but this initial enthusiasm did not last. The school building was soon found inadequate and the site inconvenient, so a new school was built on Portion 97 in 1897. This building is still standing, and in use as a private home.

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3 ibid., pp. 137–8.
4 ibid., p. 110.
5 Murramarang School closed temporarily between August 1929 and May 1931, and during this period Bruce attended Termeil School (See Alex McAndrew, Tales Out of School, A. McAndrew, Epping, NSW, 1990, p. 137) (A.G. and S.F.).
6 ibid., p. 119.
7 Ulladulla and Milton Times, 1 July 1893.
The first teacher at Termeil was William Chaseling. Later there were at least two women who deserve special mention. One was Eliza Kellett, who taught there around 1887–89. In later years she corresponded with Mr J. W. Vidler of Falls Creek, who sent extracts of the correspondence to the *Ulladulla and Milton Times*. Eliza often visited Kioloa at weekends, and knew the mill manager, Mr Pearson, ‘an old Scotch gentleman’, and Mr McMahon, the mill foreman. The schoolmaster was Mr Jamieson, and there were around 100 pupils. She and a friend often visited on board Goodlet and Smith’s steamer when she was in on one of her regular fortnightly visits to pick up timber. They fished from the ship, and often caught big snapper. She did not mention Bawley Point or Willinga; perhaps the route to Kioloa did not pass through Bawley Point at that time, as it was a few years before the mill started at Bawley Point.

Eliza taught at several other schools before marrying a Mr Gunter, and retiring from teaching. She lived to within a few weeks of 106 years of age. When well past her century, an interview with her was taped by a relative. I have had the pleasure of listening to part of this, and I was much impressed. It was a

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8 *Ulladulla and Milton Times*, 21 September 1962.
They came to Murramarang bridge over generations, as I had spent the years 1929 and 1930 as a pupil at Termeil. The second lady deserving special mention is Mrs Will Boag (née Annie McDonald), who retired in 1926 after teaching at Termeil for 35 years.9

Bawley Point School started as a Provisional School in September 1894, and continued with some breaks and many changes of status till 1922.10 It was half-time with Kioloa for two periods, and with the more distant Brooman for two other periods. The mill owner, Mr Guy, provided a four-roomed workman’s cottage for use as the school, but expected the parents to pay threepence per week per child as rent. Times were hard, the men were on half pay, so very little was collected. The school was destroyed by fire on 1 August 1897.11

The site of this first ill-fated school is not known. A sketch in the State Archives, dated 9 September 1893, shows a proposed school site east of the present easterly limit of settlement on Bawley Point, just north of Cormorant Beach, but there is nothing to indicate this site was actually used.

Figure 23: Termeil School, on Old Schoolhouse Road, off Monkey Mountain Road.
Source: Margaret Hamon.

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9 *Nowra Leader*, 9 April 1926.
11 *Ulladulla and Milton Times*, 4 September 1897.
A public school site at Bawley Point had been dedicated in November 1896. This site was Portion 96, Parish of Termeil: a two-acre block on the western side of the road to Kioloa, almost opposite the present shop. A school was on this site around 1910, but it is not clear when it was built. Bill Cullen, who started school there under Mr Stanford around 1916, remembered it as ‘a little wooden place … most likely built of slabs’. Mrs Lily Veitch (née Walker) also remembered ‘the little school: a little slab building on the hillside on the left as you go in [from Kioloa]’. And Charlie Stephens referred to it as ‘the little school was stuck up in the tea-tree, you could never ever find it. You could hardly see it.’ This school also burned down, and pupils then went to a temporary school, a single room in a private house on the north side of Willinga Lake, where the teacher was Mr White. This temporary school must have sufficed till Murramarang School started in 1922. Built on land donated by Lindsay Wilson, Murramarang School operated till December 1931, with a brief closure from August 1929 to May 1931, after which it was moved to near Eden. It was my first school.

In February 1893, the local paper published two articles by ‘Mariner’, who travelled on horseback from Ulladulla to South Durras. The route ‘crossed five lakes … two were crossed by bridges; and the remaining three were shallow’. Presumably the bridges were over Burrill and Tabourie lakes, and the shallow lakes were Termeil, Meroo and Willinga. Mere mention of the lakes implies that their crossing was regarded as risky.

‘Mariner’ did not mention Bawley Point, which is curious, as the mill should have been under construction if not actually working. He was not impressed by Kioloa, which he found ‘a desert of sand, upon which stood a dozen or more houses, which were by no means imposing in appearance’. The ‘desert of sand’ seems a strange description, but could fit the area near the mill site, including much of O’Hara Head. Some later photographs show much less than the present level of vegetation, and the soil is sandy.

‘Mariner’ inspected Kioloa mill, which he said sent between 140,000 and 150,000 super feet of timber each month to Sydney. Some of the logs came nine miles ‘on trucks, which are run on rails’, so the tramline system must have been established early. A punt was used to take timber out to the schooner *Samoa*. This vessel carried 45,000 to 50,000 super feet of timber.

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12 Interview with H. J. Gibbney, 4 October 1976.
13 Interview with H. J. Gibbney, 3 October 1976.
14 Interview with H. J. Gibbney, 16 May 1976.
15 *Ulladulla and Milton Times*, 18 and 25 February 1893.
The men at the mill worked ten hours a day, which was considered ‘fair’, as was their wage of about £2 10s a week. There were 30 or so men employed at or in connection with the mill. The manager was Mr Gibson.

Mariner’s route south appears to have been over Durras Mountain, where he found McKay’s farm, and commented on the difficulties of marketing its produce ‘about twenty-six miles, in a cart, over some of the worst vehicular roads in the colony’. Further south, he found a small village and another sawmill managed by Mr McMillan. This was probably at South Durras. The mill cut the usual timbers used in the building trades, but also had a band saw, used to cut felloes, the curved segments that make up the rim of a dray wheel. As at Kioloa, a punt was used to take the timber out to the ships. A tramline was also mentioned, but here it was between the mill and the loading point on the shore. The ships Lena Lillian, a small ketch, and the larger May Howard took around 112,000 super feet of timber to Sydney each month. The mill employed around 24 men, who were paid 7–9s a day.

It appears from the comments of ‘Mariner’ that workers at Kioloa and Durras were paid in the normal way, but those at Bawley Point were not so lucky. Up to the time of the fire at Bawley Point mill (September 1897), the workers operated under the ‘truck’ system, meaning that goods were supplied to them by the company, in lieu of wages. This unpopular method was abandoned when work resumed in November 1897.16

Mining has never played a significant role in the local economy. The hard times of the 1890s forced people to try anything to earn money. Twenty-seven ounces of gold, valued at £108, were obtained by a party of three working for six months on Murramarang Beach in 1896.17 The following year some prospecting was done there, but with little success. But at Termeil a shaft about 40 feet deep was sunk by Sinclair and party, and some very fair prospects obtained. The 1898 report of the Mines Department said four men had done a little washing for gold from the sand at Murramarang Beach, but it did not pay.

An advertisement in the Ulladulla and Milton Times, 4 April 1896, sounded very hopeful: ‘We are in receipt of the prospectus of the Great Pacific Beach Gold Mining Company, Murraramorang Bay, near Ulladulla … The idea is to work the black sand near Bawley Point by a patent electric gold-saver.’ Perhaps the advertisement was intended for 1 April?

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16 Ulladulla and Milton Times, 2 October 1897.
17 Department of Mines, Annual Report, 1896, p. 32.
The very fine gold on Murramarang Beach was tackled again when the next depression came round, in the 1930s. Bill Cullen recalled Joe Saunders and Dick Hapgood ‘washing for gold on Murramarang beach near the lagoon. They had a hand pump and dug the black sand and washed it over a quicksilver plate [copper plate coated with mercury]. This was the only way they could trap the gold, since it was so fine.’

Belle Vider (née Walker) remembered an old chap at Kioloa, Dick Sampson, who used to do rouseabout work:

He would disappear at weekends, looking for gold. He had some gold, which he kept in a bottle. Before he died, he told his mates: ‘if you can find my pick and shovel four miles due west of Murramarang, that’s where I found the gold’. No one ever found the pick and shovel.

The Collinses recalled that shellgrit was mined at Kioloa for a short period by the Kellys, who had a plant at Burrill for converting the shellgrit to lime. Later, during the Depression, a Mr Latta collected shellgrit from Kioloa and took it to Sydney by truck. The Kioloa Parish map shows two mineral leases for ‘sea shells’: one on Nundera Point and one slightly east of the mill site. Termeil Parish map shows three such leases: two on Brush Island and one on the south of Meroo headland.

The ‘Trig Station’ on Bawley Point was established in 1892. It is officially known as ‘Termeil’ station; presumably this name was chosen before Bawley Point was established. The station is part of a trigonometrical survey of the State, which was started in Sydney around 1880. The idea behind the survey is simple: a base line is chosen, and its length measured as accurately as possible. By measuring angles from each end of the baseline to a third point, the position of the third point can be calculated by simple trigonometry. Any two of the three points can then be related to a fourth point, and the process repeated, measuring angles only, until the whole State is covered. The ‘points’ became the ‘trig stations’, and served as reference points for subsequent more detailed surveys. The station on Bawley Point was related in the original survey to stations on Pigeon House, Durras Mountain and Warden’s Head (Ulladulla). The station is a survey mark in concrete at ground level. Initially there was a cairn of loose rocks and a central wooden pole above the station, but this was destroyed by vandals and replaced by the present concrete block in 1974.

18 Interview with H. J. Gibbney, 4 October 1976.
19 McAndrew, A. Beautiful Burrill, A. McAndrew, 1993, pp. 82–5.
20 Shellgrit mining would have almost certainly involved taking material from the Aboriginal shell middens at Nunderah Point and elsewhere in the region (A.G. and S.F.).
Postal services in the district started in 1889, as a result of a petition from residents at Termeil, Kioloa, Murramarang (Thomas Gould, farmer, and Arthur Gumley, farm labourer), and Durras Mountain (E. Smart, farmer). Neither Bawley Point nor Willinga was mentioned; presumably these places were not yet settled.

Arthur Baxter was the first postmaster at Termeil, starting duty on 1 September 1889. The office was at his homestead for some years, but a petition in June 1893 asked for it to be moved to a more central position. This petition carries seven names from Willinga (H. Gillard, W. Casey, T. Casey, G. Veitch, R. Innes, T. Ball, and one other), confirming the settlement there in the period 1889–1893. Postmasters in the period 1905–1913 included Eliza Hockey, Annie Boag (who offered to take it on, as well as teaching), George Veitch, G. W. Smith and W. Went.

There is a record of Arthur Baxter carrying the mail between Ulladulla, Termeil and Kioloa in 1891, on horseback, for £31 a year. At Kioloa, E. T. Mackay applied for the ‘postmastership’ in a letter dated 9 August 1889. He stated: ‘my residence is in the same enclosure (a 30 acre paddock) as Messrs Goodlet and Smith’s sawmill and the workmen’s dwellings. I have been seven years in their employ and acted as postmaster at Redhead.’ I am not sure if he was appointed. An office at Kioloa was opened some time before November 1912, when it was converted from a ‘Receiving Office’ to an ‘Allowance Post Office’ with Mr W. Walker as postmaster. Walker continued until the property was sold to Mrs London in 1929, after which the office was run by her sister Bernice (‘Bobbie’) Moore, and then her daughter Joy. The Kioloa office closed on 31 August 1976.

The first postmistress at Bawley Point appears to have been Mabel Wright, who started on 8 January 1910. She was succeeded by Mrs E. Hockey, who resigned in November 1911, handing over to Mrs Christina Vider, wife of the mill manager. My mother probably took over from Mrs Vider around 1919, and was postmistress until around 1939. The post office closed 31 July 1962.

The telephone was connected to both Bawley Point and Kioloa some time after the post offices opened. At Bawley Point the only phone was at the post office for many years, but in the early 1920s two subscribers (Collins at Guy’s Willinga property, and Orr at Murramarang) were connected, necessitating an imposing and complex switchboard.

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21 Information from Australian Archives, Sydney Office.
We take the phone so much for granted these days that we forget it was once a newfangled gadget, and that it took some getting used to. At Kioloa in the early days Mrs Walker would take off her apron and tidy her hair before answering the phone.

The Walker family came to Kioloa in 1910, and became a significant influence in the district. William Walker (1875–1938) had come from England in 1887 with his family.22 He established a coconut plantation in the New Hebrides for his brother-in-law, Hepburn McKenzie. On 9 March 1910, McKenzie, in the name of his wife Helen Mary McKenzie, bought the Kioloa property from William Evans for £3,100. He asked Mr Walker to run the property for him, and to be ‘bush manager’ for the new mill, that is to supervise the cutting and hauling of the timber.

![Figure 24: The Hamon’s house, which also served as the Bawley Point Telephone Office. Alma Hamon is fifth front on the right (in light coat) with Bruce Hamon in front. Source: Bruce Hamon.](image-url)

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They came to Murramarang

William and Maud (1878–1967, née Brown) Walker and their two eldest children, Lillian and Roland, moved down to Kioloa in 1910. The house being built for them at the top of what was later called ‘The Avenue’ was not ready, so they stayed around three months with the Evanses at Murramarang House after first rejecting an old and bug-ridden hut near the mill site — the only building left over from the days of the Goodlet and Smith mill. During this period, Mrs Walker stayed in Milton, where her third child Isabel (Belle) was born. Her husband visited by bicycle from Murramarang — no mean journey on the awful tracks that passed for roads at the time.

When they moved into their own home, Mrs Walker found the surrounding bush oppressive, so trees were cleared from a strip running east from the house, giving a view of the sea over the sandhills. Around six houses were built soon afterwards along one side of the strip and facing south. These housed some of the employees for the new mill, and the area became known as ‘The Avenue’. My grandfather, William Hamon, worked on the construction of the houses.

The Walkers had four more children: Ruth, Jean, Phyllis and Annie; the latter lived for only 10 days. Belle (Mrs J. C. Vider) and Lillian (Mrs V. Veitch) lived in Ulladulla most of their lives, and Phyllis (Mrs J. P. Ferguson) lived there after World War II.

William Walker, a lay preacher in the Methodist church, held services in the small school building near his house. This building was also used for entertainment: he had a hand-cranked movie projector, and showed mainly humorous items which came from Melbourne. Belle Vider recently gave me the following poem, written by her father; it captures the excitement of simple pleasures in places where there was little other entertainment:

**WALKER’S PICTURE SHOW**

We went to Walker’s picture show, and Lor! it was a sight
For everyone in town was there, both black and white.
We went to see them pictures so everybody said,
Mothers had to take their kids, they wouldn’t go to bed.
You talk about excitement, it licked the Aussie’s fleet,
The people thought it bosker, and never could be beat.
They seemed to love the pictures and said it’s worth a sprat
For that there clever picture man who runs a show like that.
Kids that hadn’t cut a tooth, not three months old I’ll swear
Sat gazing at them pictures as only kids can stare.
When kangaroos and elephants came trotting on the scene
Those nippers tried to catch them, ‘twas the funniest thing I’ve seen.
But when the show was ended, as every show must end,  
We all went home and, sad to say, with sixpence less to spend.  
But if the picture man will come and give another show  
We’ll have another sprat’s worth — it’s worth it, don’t you know!

Mr Walker took his ‘picture show’ to Bawley Point and Termeil. He enjoyed the shows as well as anyone, even to the extent of laughing so much at times that he could not continue to crank the projector.

But some entertainments were not in his line. While he was away from Kioloa on business, a dance was held in the school. It was a great success, and some time after his return he was approached for permission to hold another dance there. He replied: ‘Not on your life. It took me a fortnight or so to sweep the devils out after the last dance.’ Some dances were held in the feed shed down near Kioloa mill. Mr Walker had to go to these, whether he liked to or not, as the feed would still be in the shed, piled up at one end, and bullockies with a few drinks aboard would try to steal it. One resourceful bullock driver bored a hole through the floor of the shed, up into the feed, then collected it as it drained through.

Mr Walker was one of the earliest to use motor vehicles in the district. He started with motorcycles. The first was described by Charlie Stephens as ‘an old Italian one, an F. N. (Fabrico Nationale or some bloomin’ name)’. After this ‘blew a piece out of the cylinder’, Charlie was asked to take it to Ulladulla and send it to Sydney. Mr Walker got another motorcycle, a six horsepower Zenith, which he rode to Braidwood and back in one day, but later changed to cars: first a T-model Ford, then a ‘Standard’. Belle Vider recalls that the car could not be used at all for the first six months, due to heavy rains. I remember it making a drunken track in the rain-wetted, sticky unmade road past Murramarang School. To avoid crossing Willinga Lake, Mr Walker initially used part of ‘Smart’s Road’, which apparently ran north from Durras Mountain to join the Bawley Point — Termeil Road at ‘The Gap’. This meant leaving his vehicle in the bush, probably near Don Moir Hill, and walking the rest of the way to his home. Later, with help from others at Kioloa who were getting their first cars, he made a road from Murramarang around the head of Willinga Lake to the Bawley Point — Termeil Road at ‘The Boiler’. It was a do-it-yourself age, even to the extent of making your own roads. I knew this road round the head of the lake well, and often used it when guiding guests in to my mother’s guest house at Bawley Point.

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23 Ulladulla and Milton Times, 31 December 1914.
Mr Walker also had an early radio receiver in the 1920s. Almost the only station that could be received in Kioloa was 2FC, which has now become Radio National. He was an enthusiastic listener, and would hurry back even from fishing to avoid missing a favourite programme.

Crops (corn, sorghum, oats) were grown to feed the bullocks and horses. There were 18 bullock teams used in connection with the mill work. Potatoes were also grown. Mr Walker ran a small store, mainly for the benefit of the mill workers. Being postmaster, minister, storekeeper and entertainer, he was undoubtedly the local community leader, and was well respected.

World War I had little direct effect on our area and its community. Both sawmills were working, although Kioloa mill burned down before the war ended. Timber-getting and milling were part of the war effort, so enlistment was not encouraged. Those who enlisted were given a send-off at Termeil, and each was presented with a wristwatch. The declaration of war must have been especially hard for those who had come from ‘the old country’. Mrs Bevan recalls that her mother, Mrs Hogg, was very distressed when she opened a paper and saw the announcement. She wanted to go home to Scotland straight away, but was persuaded to stay at Bawley Point, a place she had regarded as ‘the end of the earth’ when the family had arrived there a short time earlier.

Bob Backhouse, who was living at Kioloa and working in the mill, enlisted and was killed. Mr Beattie, teacher at Bawley Point, also enlisted when war broke out. Belle Vider (née Walker) recalled that their family at Kioloa did not suffer any great hardship during the war. Her sister Lillian remembered having to go to bed early because they relied on petrol for lighting, and there was a petrol shortage. With no wireless, and only one or two papers a week, they did not hear much about the outside world. Some of the feeling of isolation at the time can be captured from the following verse, written by Mr Walker and published in the Milton Times:

When the Kaiser and his mighty armies come to take our land,
And they march along on sunny streets with the good old German band,
The Kaiser he won’t smile at me ‘cause I’ll be far away
Where there ain’t no streets and soldiers and ‘no nothing’ so they say.
If he wants to find my residence it ain’t on the map,
So it’s no good him looking for this nervous little chap.
No doubt for sickly people it’s a place where you should stop,
Especially when the Kaiser and his guns begin to pop.
Let me recommend to any who may suffer from the pip,
Who ain’t too keen on Germans or a European trip,
Who are looking for a peaceful life upon a peaceful shore,
Where soldiers brave are never seen or canons loudly roar.
They seek dear old Kioloa where peace and safety dwell.
It may take a year to find it. When you do, Oh well,
You will never sigh for heaven or that other place many dread,
For you feel somehow you are living with a tombstone on your head.

Hepburn McKenzie came to Australia from Scotland as a single man, and started a timber mill at Pyrmont. He moved the company’s head office to Glebe Island, and had timber yards at Belmore and Ryde. The company expanded after he took over a timber yard at Rhodes. McKenzie also had timber interests in New Zealand, and he imported timber from America to be cut in local mills.

His property at Kioloa was in his wife’s name (Helen Mary McKenzie in the legal documents, but known to the Walker family only as ‘Auntie Nellie’), and consisted of the ‘front block’ of 860 acres (block E on Map 1; presently the Edith and Joy London Foundation) and a ‘bush block’ of 1,600 acres (blocks H and G). It was bought from William Edward Evans on 9 March 1910, and was sold to William Walker on 9 December 1927, for the nominal sum of 10 shillings.

Before Kioloa mill started, McKenzie had employed teamsters to bring logs to the beach and load them onto the South Coast trading boats. The logs were hauled through the surf by means of winches on the beach and on the boat. Bullocks on the beach pulled the wire and slings into the shore. The boat’s winch would wind the wire back, and the logs would be pulled through the water and hoisted over the ship. They were then lowered into the hold or onto the deck.

The medical needs of the community at Kioloa in the early days of McKenzie’s mill were taken care of as far as possible by a Nurse Taylor. It was rare for the doctor to be called out from Milton; if he did come it would be a slow trip by sulky, or if the timing suited he might come to Termeil by service bus and be met there by sulky. Charlie Stephens, who as a young lad was driving a delivery cart for the Milton bakery, remembered being asked to take a sick child and its mother to the doctor in Milton. The mother was Mrs Gleeson, wife of one of the mill workers at Kioloa. They were past Termeil and going slowly since the horses were tired, when Charlie glanced at the child:

the little kiddie was sort of staring at me, her eyes wide open, but she didn’t seem to be right to me, because I tell you I had never seen any person dead in my life. And I said to Mrs Gleeson ‘I think the little baby’s dead Mrs Gleeson’ and she let out a squeal or screech which you can quite understand.

They hurried on, but Dr Renwick pronounced the child dead when they arrived. The sad trip had taken about seven hours.
The following paragraphs summarise items of local interest in the *Ulladulla and Milton Times*, for the years 1891–93 (its first years of publication) and 1895–99.24 ‘Walinga’ or ‘Willinga’ is referred to as a place separate from Bawley Point (for example, 25 February 1893, 29 April 1893). The locality referred to was near the north end of the tramline bridge over Willinga Lake. In the 1920s, we called this area ‘The Lemon Trees’; it had been settled up to around 1920, and the horses used on the tramlines were stabled there (see Chapter 8).

Kioloa mill is considered to have started around 1884, and Bawley Point mill some years later. There is some indirect evidence on starting dates in the *Times*. In February 1893, Kioloa mill was said to have been in its present position, after the move from Red Head, for ‘about nine years’. This puts the starting date at around 1884. For Bawley Point, the only clue from these issues of the *Times* seems to be the mention of the tramline from Termeil to Bawley Point being already in use in 1893 (24 June 1893).

Termeil is described as ‘only in the early stages of development’ in 1893 (24 June and 1 July), but there is little else to indicate its probable date of settlement. An article on the opening of the church at Termeil in the issue of 13 November 1897 mentions that Mr Herne settled there 11 years previously. This puts the settlement not later than 1886. The pioneering spirit was alive and well in the district. The *Times* of 24 June 1893 said of Termeil:

> The primeval forests — and some first-class timber is to be met with on all hands — are slowly disappearing, and already a good deal of open country is to be seen on every side. The pioneers of settlement and civilisation are wrestling with wild Nature, and slowly but surely man is gaining the supremacy, so that before long the giant trees and luxuriant undergrowth will have given way to rich pastures and artificial grasses, on which dairy herds will feed, and struggling, hard-working, patient selectors will develop into, let us hope, prosperous and well-to-do farmers. The small band of settlers at Termeil have already done much pioneer work, but much still remains to be done.

The following are some dates of events relevant to Bawley Point mill:

24 June 1893: The mill is working, and the tramline to Termeil is operational.

2 November 1895: Mill is working half time; the men are poorly paid. (There was a severe recession in the 1890s.)

30 May 1896: Mill shut down.

26 June 1897: Wreck of the *Bonnie Dundee*. Presumably the mill was working at the time; otherwise it is unlikely that the ship would be there, unless to unload goods.

24 From the film copies in the Mitchell Library, Sydney.
21 August 1897: Both Bawley and Kioloa mills are closed, but it is not clear if the closure was recent or not.

30 August 1897: Fire destroys the mill, or at least part of it. The account of this, on 4 September, leaves no doubt the mill was working at the time. It is hard to square this with the statement two weeks earlier that the mill was closed.

2 October 1897: Re-erection of the mill is under way.

27 November 1897: Mill has now been re-erected, and milling operations are being recommenced.

Considering the isolation, sparse settlement and poor roads, there was an impressive social life: cricket, dances, picnics, a literature and debating class (27 October 1899).

The short note on Kioloa on 4 February 1892 depicts an active social life there, including a local paper, the Kiola Star. This paper, handwritten and double-sided, and thought to have appeared weekly, had ceased two years before, ‘when Mr and Mrs Pearson went to England’. (Mr Pearson had been mill manager.) Some copies of Kiola Star must have survived till recently. The following is reproduced from Australian National University News:

Extracts from the Kiola Star … show that Kioloa was a centre for shipbuilding, mining, champagne-making, as well as sawmilling. There was even a bathing establishment. The newspaper contains shipping notices, railway notices and letters complaining about the impassibility of the road to Milton and calling for a public meeting to be held at the town hall.

The paper also recalls a picnic when a boat, The Dancing Wave, was chartered for Brush Island, leaving Railway Wharf at 9.30 a.m. and arriving at The Cove at 11 a.m. An awning was erected, officers lit the fires and the ladies provided the food.

After food the botanizing party went towards Azure Bank. The hunting party, with guns and ammunition, set off for Mt Ocean View. They were scarcely at the top when a gigantic herd of gazelles started with all the speed of terror from the caves. Two fine animals were secured, one taken alive. A large party left in the afternoon and secured a large haul of schnapper.

The ‘Wanted’ advertisements show the homestead, ‘Sandbank’, asking for a housekeeper; the shipbuilding company calling for tenders to complete the SS Durras; ‘Oak Villa’ wanted a skiff and ‘The Stables’ a cat.

Termeil seems to have been the most active centre, with its hotel and church both opening during the decade. It also had a post office, hall, butchery and store. The church was on the east side of Princes Highway, opposite the school. It was moved up the coast later. The hotel, under Hugh Bevan, opened in August 1892. Termeil had a small hall early in the 1920s.
The main sport mentioned was cricket. This seems to have been played year round, if we can judge by the report on 13 July 1895. Racing is also mentioned (18 March 1893). Football came later: the *Nowra Leader* of 11 July 1913 records that Kiloa footballers travelled by steam launch from Bawley Point to play Milton.

The main industry was certainly the milling of timber at Kiloa and Bawley Point. Logging must have provided extra employment and income, particularly for residents of Termeil (24 June 1893). Dairying was also important at Termeil (3 December 1898), where a government dairying inspector found the best-conditioned cattle on the properties of A. Baxter, W. Herne and J. Evans, and at ‘McKay’s farm’, between Kiloa and Durras (25 February 1893). From the context, this was probably the farm on Durras Mountain, later worked by the Beadman family. There is mention of wattle-bark stripping (9 April 1898). Gold was mined in the district, the main places mentioned being Currowan, Bimbramalla, Nelligen and Batemans Bay, and at least a rumour of alluvial gold in the centre of Termeil (17 August 1895). Fine gold in the black sand on Murramarang Beach is also mentioned (4 April 1896). Murramarang gets little mention. The brief reference on 25 February 1893 indicates Mr W. Evans had the property, and was running cattle there.

Figure 25: Kiloa rugby football team, c. 1910.
Source: The Edith and Joy London Foundation of The Australian National University.
Not much is said about supplies, but the report on Kioloa in the 4 February 1892 issue implies most supplies came by ship. The 'truck' system at Bawley Point (see page 58) also implies that the goods supplied in lieu of wages would have been sent by the company’s ship.

There was a tragic drowning in Willinga Lake on the afternoon of 8 October 1895, when two teenage daughters of John Lynn, manager of Bawley Point mill, lost their lives. The girls were Sarah, aged 16 years and seven months, and Henrietta, aged 15. The following note, from the 19 October 1895 issue of the *Times*, gives some details:

*Late Bathing Fatality at Willinga Lake: A True Heroine*

The Rev. J. Hornby Spear writes: ‘In justice to the memory of a brave girl, permit me to mention a fact in connection with the late deplorable accident at Willinga Lake, which did not come out at the inquest, owing to the illness of my informant, Annie Bettens, the sole survivor of that ill-fated pleasure party. The three girls, Sarah and Henrietta (Etta) Lynn and Annie Bettens, were in the water for over half-an-hour, when “Etta” Lynn got out and was about to dress when her attention was attracted to the two girls, Sarah Lynn and Annie Bettens, screaming for help; and looking round she saw that they had got into deep water and were sinking. Without a moment’s hesitation, or thought of self, the brave girl sprang back into the lake and caught her sister Sarah by the arm and Annie Bettens by the shoulder; unfortunately the convulsive gasps of the drowning girls caused her to lose her balance, and she also was dragged into deep water and lost her life. The two sisters were subsequently found with their arms clasped around one another’s neck, a sufficient evidence of the hopelessness of their chance of escape. Annie Bettens kept herself afloat by paddling with her hands until the brave boy Wagstaff swam out to her rescue. These facts I learned at the bedside of Annie Bettens, the sole survivor, and surely they ought to be known so that a well-merited word of praise might be paid to the memory of that brave, unselfish and noble girl, Henrietta Lynn, who gave so signal and heroic an example of the “Greater Love” (John XV. 13) by the shore of Willinga Lake.’

Several children died from diphtheria; apparently the very sparse settlement provided no safety. There was no hospital (15 January 1898), so accident victims needing continued care had to be taken in by private families. A doctor was resident in Milton.

The poor state of the roads, especially the road linking Termeil, Bawley Point and Kioloa, was often mentioned.

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This text is taken from *They Came to Murrarang: A History of Murrarang, Kioloa and Bawley Point*, by Bruce Hamon, edited by Alastair Greig and Sue Feary, published 2015 by ANU Press, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.