
"Briarcliffe" Glenbrook

(Residence of the RAAF Air Vice-Marshal Glenbrook)

"Briarcliffe" adjacent to the RAAF Air Command Headquarters is the official residence of the Air Commander. The property was purchased by the RAAF in 1953 from the Millingen Family. The Millingen family lent the gardens and grounds to St. Peter's Anglican Church for many fetes. "Briarcliffe" was built in 1922 by John Colquhoun Dunn born 1862 and son James for G.H.D. Morris and named after the Morris residence in England. It is built from sandstone quarried on the property and one can see the pittings on the stoneface of each block from the claws of the hand winch used to place blocks in position.

In the scrub to the left of "Briarcliffe" fence are traces of William Cox's Road. Cox built the first formed road over the Blue Mountains in 1814. A year after the historical crossing by Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson and surveyed by George Evans.

G.H.D. Morris who wanted to be a good artist but was never to realise his ambition. Morris designed "Briarcliffe", it was tailored to the view and created a lot of interest in the unorthodox flat roof originally covered by a sand textured bituminous material. There were problems associated with it and later a gabled roof was added.

Many years ago an owner of "Briarcliffe", A.H. Poolman terraced seven acres of gardens. Evidence of these terraces can still be seen in the present colourful gardens.

The First Glenbrook Boy Scout Group held many fund raising events at "Briarcliffe" in the early RAAF days. These were later curtailed owing to security upgrading.

