The first residents of what is now Hayfield West were John Lewis Plaidy, his family, and his assigned servants. Plaidy was an officer of the British Navy, who, August 27, 1821, received a grant of 2000 acres of land, which was described to be on the Hunter River at Quadrant.

This grant extended from what is now Hayfield West, and a portion of Waimate, to the Ironbank Creek. Plaid occupied the grant in 1828, being the first settler in this new area.

He cleared his homestead (which he named Diamond) on the nor-easterly portion of his grant, and moved to Quadrant, and here and there of his assigned servants, he cleared a small portion of about forty acres, where he planted and worked.

He also opened a windmill on his farm near the waterfront of one of the old tobacco type wooden mill, called Delphi.

Plaidy built as the first house in the Hunter River, and some of the early artists of New Zealand, (among them were, J. Hornard) went there ahead and many live to be known.

But Plaid's attempt at the cultivation of wheat proved a failure, due to the soil being unsuitable.

And he was said to be greatly mistaken.

Then on January 9, 1831 his home was destroyed,

and two of his young sons were burnt to death.

A new homestead was then cleared on the land by

Hornard at what is now Bradgate, by 1832, both Plaid and his wife were dead.

The old mill stood for many years, and gave

to that area the title of the "Mill Rancher", as

well known to all residents of the area for
Philip Channell was also named after John James Philp, whose receipt bears this entry: [Handwritten text]

The old timber's id starved and fragile attempt
To plant itself to a settle in any country,
Was referred to by other settlers along the Hunter River
as "Philp's Folly," a title which eventually applied
To much land on the land along the river front
From the Neutral to Port Macquarie, was called
"Philp's Folly." One of the first to purchase land on "Philp's Folly" was
Charles O'Connor who in 1840 purchased three
acres, and upon one of 36 acres on the rear
front, he erected a substantial residence.
He named his residence "Wannahomee" from
old Jack's Lead, on the banks of the rear of his
Adams. The "Wannahomee" flourished, and there
is evidence to have been the most notable spot on
which had particular uses until
O'Connor was an official of the Macarthur
Company under [C] [Charles Beken, (d)"[Palmer?] Court, who also had purchased several thousand
of land at the Folly, portion of which was locally
Known as Beken's Beach.

In 1854, O'Connor disposed of his property to
his Thomas Insole, a wealthy squatter who had
made a fortune in his odyssey "Slate" in the New
England District. He was a son-in-law of
Robert Charles Horne, a master in many years aboard
of the "Slate.

Insole made considerable additions to "Wannahomee" land out the grounds, planted
University, instead, "the residence of Wannahomee"
when his death in 1859, as an age of 93 years. He is described by his relations as being
a fine old gentleman, who lived the life of a
Typical English Squire.
During 1847 a Mr. Cackett travelled through the valley arranging with the principal landlords to bring over experienced vine dressers from Germany under the Government bounty. One of these was Peter Cackett (born Kedward, 1824), who arrived in Hereford in 1849, under contract to Dr. James Mitchel. In 1853, Cackett purchased a piece of 1st class of land at the Folly from Charles Bolton for £6,150, and two years later he added further six acres, in which he paid £100.

On his land Cackett cultivated a vineyard and waited, and in 1859 to make the first wine produced in Hereford. Cackett's Folly Gardens became well known in latter years, and on Sunday afternoons and holidays, Hereford folk used to drive out to the Folly, to walk through the gardens and procure fruits and wine.

In those days most of the lands in this portion of the valley were utilized for meadows, vineyards, and dairy farms. Names of some of the occupying landlords were Edwards, Bull, Williams, Mylne, Howard, Osbaldeston, Gray, Russell, Cummins, Robertson, Key, 

Some of these families have left their names there on the doors of to day - Cackett's Folly, Bull Folly, Williams Folly.

In 1857, the Great Northern Railway opened from Hereford to Edwinstowe, and its first railway station out of Hereford was named Wartend, after Wartend House, the old only substantial building in the district. This gave its title of Wartend to all the surrounding district, and the northern edge of its railway line became Lords Wartend, although in many years the old title of the Folly was used by many.

Then when the Wartend Coal Mining Company in 1883 continued to coal mine from the Folly....
to the present form for the inhabitants of their care, these became Port Waratah.

During 1867 the Company cleared an area of land here and the Wellington and North Copper Mining Company of South Australia, erected a dwelling and

The present site of the settlement is the site

The first school at the Folly was conducted in a room under the side of a building at the end of Culcairn

Then a building built of slate was erected

The present site of the Folly Public School opened in 1874, which now after 40 years has become one of the popular names at Bond, West Ward, Hayfield, and Hayfield East. The term of the first three principals here, James Kelk, John Gillies, and Donald Robertson, covered a span of twenty-five years,

At the rear of the school was a reserve which, in those days bore the high bounty line of the Botanic Gardens, of which E. D. Laidlaw was its caretaker.

A more popular site of location was the residence of Mr. Angus, a well-known gunsmith, and his home was

In 1870, Mr. Rooke purchased an area of land near

The property eventually became part of the

Charles Leigh, Managing Director of the Sydney and

Castle Company. On this land (and an additional seven acres) the largest and most modern equipped copper mining plant in Australia has been erected. It cost some £20,000 to build, and the machinery installed cost another £13,000.

The company made elaborate arrangements for the

The Company made elaborate arrangements for the opening ceremony on February 10, 1878.

The Unicorn Steamship Company's steamer "Sydney"
was chartered to make a special trip leaving Sydney at
5 o'clock a large number of Sydney and Melbourne women.
A fleet of some forty buses and trucks, and other
vehicles were lined up in Oxford Street to convey the bodies
to the venue, 450 yards out down to a banquet after
the ceremony.
These women provided employment for a number of employees.
Many of whom became residents of what is now Princes St.
The northern side of Princes Road was an heavily wooded,
and used as bullPasture and elayughter homes by
Natives, Farmers
On the northern side of Princes Road, William James Green
owned a large area of land which extended along to
Duke Street, also Dunn Street which owned another large acres here, portion of which in 1850 he
donated to the Church of England for a church, school,
and parish. On the land of Andrew's Church are
erected at a cost £200; it was capable of seating 150
persons, and was opened for Divine worship by Rev. Dr. Hough
Preacher on May 21st 1851. At this consecration of the
Parish the present were attended as the Lord's Parish
Parson, 'Woodside House', where a large Party was
been erected.

One year later it was decided to use portion of the
Church land for a cemetery, but some of residents
objected, and argued that a burial ground would
interfere with future land sales for residential purposes.
They also claimed that K Campion's gift of land
should be used for the church, school, and parish.
The objections were overruled by the High Commissioner,
and as a portion of the land became the last resting
place of many of the pioneers of this district.
George Clout was the Pastor of St Andrews for many
years, and in 1868, the members had reason to many
of his kind words. For
Having the erection of this Church provided an end for
the Church (Church End).
Dr. Richardson Road near the corner of Church there was a large two story house occupied by J. Richardson, a deceased fireman, and now used to house the firemen whenever their fire engines were not in use.

The lot was opened by Benjamin Tools under the name of "Woodford Hill," and is now the site of Lewis' modern "Mayfield Hotel."

The road running from Tools' Hill to the railway station was named Homestead Street, from the fact that it led to the early pipe townships of Homestead (now Wanstead)."1

Thomas Grove in 1862, when he outdistanced his land, and formed a small colliery township, he named it after his birthplace in England, Homestead. — a title it retained for some time, although the railway station was named Wanstead.

On its southern side of the railway station, there was an old hotel, aptly named the "Railway Hotel," and continued for many years by the Lee family, and around them there was an essential settlement.

Then in Homestead there was another old house, which, reported in 1862, was "Our Robert Peel Hotel," and this brought us to the home of James Anderson, Anderson was a miner, who later became a hotel keeper, and renamed it "George Anderson," then later he took over the hotel on the corner of Homestead and Newcomen Roads, which was called the "Crystal Palace Hotel." After leaving these houses, for eleven years Anderson sold out, and purchased the existing land in Homestead which included 120 acres of "Our Robert Peel Hotel." Here Anderson transformed his land into a picturesque pleasure ground, with gardens, a meandering brook and stream, running through large playing areas, and playing facilities, among which was the ground now surrounded by a 12 ft. high iron fence. This area was named the "Crystal Palace Grounds," and became a popular venue for picnics, sports, band concerts, flower shows, etc.
Proceeding along the Newcastle Road are found, which
headed's automatically built and owned and once was
Monks by W.C. Thomas, manager of the Cottage
kitchen and Gales family.

Just forward and not far on to the left are large
days, known as the "Syrn House" — it was in the early
Regency's a road side inn, a stopping place for
Ramsdell's and Novis Haynes' coaches, as well as
and from Newcastle.

Old Times: The site that was "Syrn House" as at no time
the finished post for horse races along the road
or the eastern side of the Newcastle Road, as Rome
Catholic Denominational owned a large race ground which
salvaged from the road to the top of the hill.

Here lived Hall on December 3rd, 1886, the eminent
Cardinal with the foundation and then the
Monastery of Our Lady, which was to cost $2,000

To erect. The Rev. Father Vaughan can instate
Principal.

The elevated land extending practically from the
Monastery to Castle Height, became covered with
the homes of many of the prominent business people
of Newcastle, such as the Ashtons, Wines, Frank
Withsporn, Langfield, Great, Windy, Osbourn,

Christen

House also on Highfield Place died and Winder's Place
was opened in 1890, with the Rev. Gardiner as minister.

It was at times in the early days for landowners
was to the description of the finest occupying their
upland estates, such as Northcote, Le-Grape,
"McLaren," New Castle, etc. — they entirely
with dwell upon their notice, but was from
Monastery. But when John Osbourn farmed
for sale a large area of his land he named it after
his daughter, May. Names we have to day and
little of Mayfield. Little did the old gentleman realize that in the years to come, the name he helped
would carry the largest and most popular brand
in Greece, Kounos, and an area within which
are the greatest isn't oak plants in the surrounding.