

INVERWAY



Inverway homestead, 1934 (NTPLIC collection).

According to R. Reynolds (1965), Inverway was known to the Aborigines as ‘Khudurdhi’ which is said to mean ‘swampy place’. The station was first taken up by the Farquharson brothers, Archie, Harry and Hughie, and there are many versions about when this happened. Author-pro prospector Michael Terry met Archie Farquharson in the 1920s and later published what Archie told him about the origin of the station, vis, ‘They [Archie and his two brothers] selected the country in 1896, stocking it from Creswell Downs ... with cattle on April 2nd, 1902’ (Terry, 1927: 135). It comprised 2280 square miles, and [today] carries 9000 cattle and 600 horses. Leonne ‘Jo’ Biltris, also known as ‘Mrs Bill Hammil’ (WHPJ, 2-12-1949), and later as Mrs Frank Willmington, knew the Farquharsons in their later years. She said that the station was originally taken up in about 1890. The brothers couldn’t afford to stock their land immediately, so they spent three years in Queensland, droving and dealing in horses and cattle to build up their funds (Biltris, 1951). Reynolds (1965) states that he met Hughie and Wattie Gordon in 1910 and was told by them that Inverway was taken up in 1900. However, Myra Hilgendorf (1994: 35) met the brothers in 1939 and claims it was taken up in 1896 but not stocked until April 1902, and this appears to be the correct version. It’s supported by ‘Vanguard’ (1934), and by J.A.G. Little (1901) who reported that he met the Farquharson brothers overlanding cattle ‘for the purpose of forming a new station near the Western Australian boundary’. The *Northern Territory Times* of November 22nd 1901 reported that, ‘Messrs. Farquharson Bros. are now camped near Wave Hill Station with about 700 head mixed cattle and 40 horses, waiting for rain before proceeding to their destination; this stock is being travelled on to their Sturt’s Creek country.’

Finally, and in support of the *Northern Territory Times* report, the Timber Creek police (TCPJ, 16-10-1901) received information in October 1901 that the Farquharson brothers