

divide VRD into two stations and establish a new homestead somewhere in the Pigeon Hole-Mount Sanford area. She thinks her then husband George might have been considered as the manager of this new station.

By November 1950 the frameworks of buildings had been erected at the new homestead site but further progress was extremely slow. By July 1951 it was reported that, 'a bore equipped with a mill has been sunk at the new site and three buildings are in the course of construction. However, covering materials not yet to hand and supply is most indefinite' (Evans, 10-7-1951, cited in Evans, 20-6-1958: 2).

In 1952 Evans (6-12-1952c) reported that:

The Manager [Hartley Magnussen] plans to replace Gordon Creek and Pigeon Hole out-Stations by a new out-Station and to bring Moolooloo stock camp into the Station. A beginning has been made on the new out-Station. Windmill and framework of the main building is up, but no progress has been made in the past twelve months. Mr. Magnussen advises that he has the steel frames of a number of buildings for the native 'Compound' at the head Station, and the new out-Station, stacked in the Station yard, but his company are unable to obtain sufficient corrugated iron for Station buildings. He has now been instructed by the Managing Agents for Bovril Estates in Australia (The Australian Mercantile Land and Finance Company) to suspend work on all improvements on account of heavy stock losses last year (owing to loss of stock feed due to bush fires) and probably heavier losses this year.

In 1954 Native Affairs officer Lovegrove (c1954: 7) reported that for several years up to late 1953 or early 1954 there had been a tentative plan to move some of the outstations – 'Gordon Creek and Moolooloo to the Head Station' and 'Pigeon Hole about 20 miles nearer the Head Station to a place known as Pinjara.' Anzac Munnganyi (pers. comm.) said that this was at Hutt Spring. In spite of the fact that work had begun on a new homestead at Pinjara Lovegrove regarded this tentative plan as an excuse the station used for not having built accommodation for the Aboriginal workers at Pigeon Hole and Moolooloo, as required by law. He added that the new VRD manager, Scott McColl, was opposed to the location because it was on a black soil area. Apparently nothing more was done at Pinjara and by June 1956 the plan had been dropped. At that time it was said that a contractor had been employed to dismantle the Pinjara buildings and re-erect them at Pigeon Hole (Quirk, 26-4-1957). The building that was supposed to be erected at Pinjara was described as, 'Twelve double married couples quarters' (Evans, 6-12-1952c), but whether such a building was ever re-erected at Pigeon Hole is unclear: there was no sign of it there in 1977 (pers. obs.).

The area resumed from VRD was divided into three blocks – Killarney, Camfield and Montejinni – which were put up for ballot in 1952 (*Hoofs & Horns*, February 1953: 39). After the blocks were allocated to their new owners VRD was given a certain amount of time to muster its cattle from the resumed areas – there was a huge number of cattle involved – and this led to what is probably the closest thing Australia has had to a range war.

Because there was little in the way of boundary fencing in the district in 1953 there were plenty of cattle from the neighbouring Vestey stations, Delamere, Birrimba and Wave Hill, wandering on the resumed areas. Consequently, in March or April VRD organised for Vestey to help with the mustering. Vestey advised that they were willing to supply four