

BAPA, AT THE REQUEST OF MRS IRIS RANKIN, A MEMBER OF A PIONEERING FAMILY OF THE BEECHMONT PLATEAU, IS WRITING TO YOU WITH THE FOLLOWING ENQUIRY.

COULD A PLINTH, BEARING THE HISTORY FOR THE REASON BEHIND THE NAMING OF NELL SCOTT PARK, BE PLACED IN A PROMINATE POSITION WITHIN THE PARK

MANY LOCALS AND TOURISTS ALIKE ASK FOR THIS INFORMATION.

MRS IRIS RANKIN WOULD BE VERY PLEASED TO FURNISH YOU WITH ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THIS MATTER. Following are extracts from publication Taming a Plateau – A History of the Beechmont District, Complied and Edited by Robert Longhurst, first published in 1992.

BELOW: Aerial Photo noting location of Nell Scott Park, Beechmont Road, Beechmont.





*Mrs Nell Scott stands
in front of the
Beechmont Post Office,
closed in 1975.*

From 1922 to 1975 (53 years) Mrs Nell Scott (nee Rankin) operated the Beechmont Post Office.

In 1922 the telephone came to Beechmont with the exchange at Bonnie Brae. Elsie Rankin took charge of the manual exchange and later Nell Rankin continued the service. Everyone who knew them held these two very popular ladies in high esteem. Nell was missed when the automatic phones arrived. For many years the telephone line. Along the Nerang road, only went as far as Providence Farm.

Nell married Ken Scott in The Scott family settled at Beechmont early in 1914.

Ken and Nell had no children. Nell was Post Mistress for many years until the Post Office was closed in 1975. It was what is known as an 'Unofficial' Post Office and was taken over by Mr George Rankin Snr from Mr Duncan McKenzie who had the original postal service, and run by Elsie Rankin until her marriage to Jack Scott in 1922 and was then carried on by Nell Rankin often assisted over the years by her sister Elsie.



*Scott family home
Kalimna', built in
1914.*

Nell was always on hand to help people with their problems and in times of trouble like deaths, fires, floods, etc. would 'phone the Mountain people with any information available'. Cups of tea were often provided for travellers passing through or anyone else who needed help of any kind.

Her services were many and varied and during World War II, she was an official aeroplane 'spotter' identifying any aircraft passing over. She was presented by the R.A.A.F. on 20 September 1945 with a Certificate as a 'Record and in Appreciation of Patriotic Response to the Call of Country by Service with the Volunteer Air Observer Corps'. George Rankin now has this document.

In addition to her Post Office business, Nell also conducted a newspaper service for many years.

Ken died in 1962 and Nell in 1984.

Over the years they were at Beechmont the Scott family were closely associated with the work of the Presbyterian Church (later the Uniting Church) and the Sunday School and took an active part in many ways – teaching in the Sunday School (Frank, Alison and Elsie), Elsie as organist. Edna was Secretary and Treasurer of the Women's Guild, and so on. They were also active in the work of the Australian Red Cross Society.

Not long after the Scott family home "Kalimna" was built, the roof was blown off in a severe wind and hailstorm and it disappeared down towards Numibah Valley and was never recovered. A new roof had to be quickly constructed and attached more securely and the house repaired.



Beechmont Residents and Visitors, 1909. Nell Rankin pictured back row middle.