



Cranebrook – Timeline

James McCarthy was tried at Antrim, Ireland in August 1792 – the nature of his crime unknown – and sentenced to 7 years transportation. He arrived in Australia onboard the ship ‘Boddingtons’ in August 1793. By 1802 he is listed in the musters as farming in the Hawkesbury District and in August 1804 he received a land grant of 100 acres from Governor King. He named his property Crane Brook Farm, probably after the number of cranes frequenting the numerous lagoons in the area. Unlike many farmers of the time, McCarthy was very successful with wheat, corn, vineyards, cattle and horses. His home became the centre for Catholic services and a small room was set aside for the Priest when he stayed. McCarthy set aside a small parcel of land for a cemetery for Catholics in the area and is now recognised as the oldest Catholic Cemetery in Australia. In the twentieth century his property became a productive dairy farm. The house was extended several times but remained in the family until 1960. It was destroyed by fire in 1971. The site is now part of the Penrith Lakes Development. The district was originally part of Castlereagh, but in September 1886, a Post office was established in Mt. Pleasant School which had begun in 1883. Both school and Post Office now took the name of Cranebrook, as did the surrounding area.

1793		James McCarthy arrived in the colony on the Boddington
1804	August	McCarthy received a land grant of 100 acres
1806		McCarthy had 5 acres in crops, a few goats and pigs
1809	18 March	Rosetta Marsh, wife of Samuel Terry granted 160 acres at Cranebrook
1841	31 March	Martha, daughter of Samuel Terry, granted 150 acres at Cranebrook
1883		Mt Pleasant School opened
1886	September	Post Office established in Mt Pleasant School
1971		McCarthy's house destroyed by fire
1981		Braddock Public School opened
1985	29 January	Samuel Terry Public School at Cranebrook opened
1992	15 January	Cranebrook Public School reopened
1992	1 February	Corpus Christi Catholic Parish, Cranebrook, is separated from Penrith