

The Time was Ripe

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NO BEER AND NO WATER

By Clarrie Combo, (Tranby, Glebe)

I remember the Fellowship. It used to meet here some times at Tranby. It abolished the Welfare Board. I remember that. The Dog Act went with it. The Dog Act was bad, like you had to show your licence to get a beer — that's if they would serve you.

We didn't get Social Service cheques until nineteen sixty-six. My Aunt had a licence. It cost her ten shillings and she was pleased when the cheques came because if you did not have a licence you couldn't draw the dole.

But about the licence. If you lost one, like you might give it to the barman and he might wet it up with beer, then it wouldn't be any good, so you would have to go to the police and a justice of the peace and get them to sign the papers to get another one. And then you would have to pay another ten shillings.

When I came home from the war I was up North for a while and one day, with my mate, we went into a bar because it was so hot and we were thirsty. Well we went up to the bar and asked for a beer. The barman said; "I can't serve you a beer". So we said: "Well give us a glass of water then", and he said: "No I can't give that in here".

I don't think the people on the North Coast were aware of the organisation or people who brought the changes. But I know that it all made their life easier. I went to one Fellowship meeting. That was in 1964. I can't remember what was said or what was being discussed, but I know that the people were working hard at something that had to do with the laws.