

## Eungella Range Road 1908



Engineer James McGinn with family and some other notorieties inspecting  
The Eungella Range Road Construction  
which was begun around 1906 completed in 1908

L to R: Jack Malcom?, Mrs. James McGinn with daughter Mona, Mr. James McGinn with daughter Marjory,  
Mr Fred Clark, Mrs. Jack Malcom, Mr. Whitcomb?, unknown, unknown,

Photo from: Bonnie Davidson  
(a grand daughter of James McGinn)

Gold was first found at Bee Creek in 1888. At first the main access to gold fields on Eungella Range was by way of Armstrong's track from near Netherdale to Broken River. Everything including roofing iron was brought up on pack horses. Road access was by Nebo and Mt` Britten, in places very steep and dangerous. The heavy mining machine was brought over this rough road/track by teamsters. The drawback to this route past Eungella Station was that two ranges had to be crossed. A more direct route to the top of the range (than Armstrong's track ) was found and another pack track was cut through the scrub to Bee Creek. This was known as Carl Flor's track. It wasn't until 1904 that a road was first surveyed and later built from the Netherdale railhead to the low part of the range, known as `The Top'. The railway and road were built by the Pioneer Development Board, which later divided into Shire Councils. The Board's Engineer on both projects was Mr James McGinn .The McGinn range road cost 17,000 pounds to build, at a time labourers were paid about 1 pound per week (\$2). A road for wheeled vehicles made Eungella accessible to settlers and timber getters.