

MAV 00816

**Right:** In the photo taken in 1977 we can see that the cottage's 1840s roof shingles still remain, protected under the 20th century corrugated iron roof.

1977 Photo kindly donated by Mr Laurie Lewis in March 2010



Once the Moorabbin Council had taken the decision to proceed with the re-construction of the cottage, Lewis Timber Pty Ltd, generously offered to donate the timber for the re-build. Funds

were provided by Moorabbin City Council, in conjunction with a small Bi-Centennial Grant for the labour costs. During the demolition, samples of the original **hand-made nails**, and original **hand-split palings**, (weather-boards), were conserved and are now displayed in the cottage. The retired builder, Mr A. Smith, who was contracted to re-construct the cottage was a talented, and meticulous craftsman who painstakingly re-built the current 'Box Cottage' to the same specifications as the original cottage, using the original cottage's convict bricks to construct the fire-place, as well as the old windows and doors. (The re-constructed dairy walls were re-built in timber, whereas the original dairy had fourteen inch thick stone walls, with a brick trough along the wall thought to have been used for pickling )

The little re-production cottage was finally re-opened in Joyce Park, by the City of Moorabbin, in 1988, **only about 100 yards away from it's original site** .

The community owes a debt of gratitude to both Mr Lewis', and the Moorabbin Council's combined intervention and foresight, without which the cottage would certainly have been demolished. We read in the Moorabbin Standard on the 18th May 1977 that the National Trust had declared they were "**not interested**" in preserving the cottage as it was of weather-board construction. Following Amalgamation the Glen Eira City Council now continues to support 'Box Cottage' and ensure it remains for the community to enjoy.

**Moorabbin Standard 6th July 1977 "Who lived there? - History of home"**

The following points are excerpts from two articles in the Moorabbin Standard, and one article in the Chadstone Progress. Although the name of the author is not recorded, it seems likely that they were all written by Mr Tom Sheehy.

**In the Moorabbin Standard 6th July 1977 we read:**

"The house is believed to date back to 1835" (Regretfully, this very early date cannot be substantiated.)

**In the Chadstone Progress 15th June 1977 - we read:**

"The house was built before 1850, and was revealed when a shed was being demolished to make way for a steel warehouse next to Lewis Timber merchants"