

Weston Bates tells us in his book "History of Brighton", Pg 92,

"There were four brickfields in Brighton in 1859, of which at least one, operated by the Lindsay brothers, Dendy Immigrants, could have been manufacturing in 1842".

It is noted that the Halley Park area is well within the Dendy Special Survey boundaries. It is certainly possible that one of the very early brickworks was established in this park area, as were the later brickworks on Jasper Road, owned by Thomas Ethell in the 1870s. Ethell's land extended from Jasper Road to the railway line, and at one stage was 17 acres in area. One description reads "the clay is hoisted, and ground by horse-power, the bricks are hand-made, and of the ordinary description." The Elster Creek, which ran through the area, was initially a valuable source for the ready supply of water for the "puddling" of the clay, to remove grit and other material before brick or tile making. However flooding of this area occurred with any heavy downpour of rain. (This problem was only finally solved in the 1970's when a large drain was put through.)

In John Cribben's book "Moorabbin - A Pictorial History" on page 99 we read more of the Elster Creek's fickle nature,

'In early years McKinnon Road dipped for the Elster Creek near to the corner of Wheatley Road and there was a bridge at this point. But the creek was prone to flooding, sometimes creating torrents of water that would inundate the road and the areas around it.'

In the 1930s, the state of the Elster Creek, which had become a polluted, offensive drain, raised public ire again, when it was blamed for the outbreak of a Polio epidemic that swept through the schools, and the City of Moorabbin, with horrifying results.

Today, in the Jasper Road area around 'Box Cottage', following heavy residential development in the 1900s, a reduced Elster Creek, is constrained safely in barrel drains beneath the ground of Joyce Park, before it flows on through its manmade water-course, consisting of both underground barrel drains, and man-made canals, then finally out into Port Phillip Bay.

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"LATE NEWSFLASH"

Following a meeting only last Friday with Ronnie at 'Box Cottage', I feel confident he will do a good job. Both the SLV, and Vicki Court, (I.T. "extraordinaire"), will also work with, and advise Ronnie on technicalities as necessary. The web site contents/information will be forwarded to Ronnie by email. Ronnie will be working on setting up the site mainly on weekends, so a time-frame of about 8-12 weeks for this work seems feasible. Of course, the rate that I am able to compile and forward the site information, will also impact on the completion date. I will be seeking the advice of Committee members as to what goes on the internet site. The information on the site can easily be updated, or changed as required.