

Oral History

BROOKS (Brookes)

By Ross Brooks

My grandmother, Alice "Lal" Muriel Poulter was born in Greensborough, her parents were William Haylock Poulter and Mary A. Dalrymple, and she married Alf Brooks in 1927, my grandfather. I know nothing about him; he left my grandmother before my father was born. I know my father was brought up in Greensborough by his grandparents, in the old house in Poulter Avenue.

A few years after my father was born, Alice met Lawrence Bourke (Burke) and married him in 1934; dad went to live with them in Fitzroy, where Laurie managed the Fitzroy Pool. Dad was thirteen or fourteen when his mother passed away in 1939 aged 29, and he was uncontrollable. Laurie couldn't manage him, so he was sent back to Greensborough and lived with his aunty Nell in Main Street, near Poulter Avenue again.

When he was about sixteen, aunty Nell (Poulter) and her husband Clive Wiltshire, and their family moved up to Shepparton, dad went with them and stayed until he was about twenty. He was boxing then so, he came back to Greensborough and lived with Bess and Jack Richards in William Street.

Dad met my mother in Greensborough, Margaret Roberts who lived in Scotland Avenue. My grandfather Roberts didn't like my father; he said he wasn't good enough for my mother. My father had to give up boxing and get what pop called a proper job, and live a normal life, which he did.

He and mum were married in 1952 in the Methodist Church in Greensborough. They lived here all of their lives.

We children were all born in Greensborough, in the Diamond Valley Community Hospital. I was born in 1954, my brother Lawrie in 1957 and my sister Leanne in 1959.

We all attended Greensborough Primary School, then my sister went to the local High School, and we boys went to the Tech.

We were brought up in the Methodist Church, my grandparents Roberts were members there, and we had to go to church every Sunday. All the local families were there, you knew everyone because it was a small community.

There were the McDowells, who I still see, Willetts, Roy and his family, the Uptons, the Mellors and the Partingtons.

Leanne and I are still in the area and my brother is down at Traralgon.

June (Evans) Hall 2010