

## **Stan & Hazel Amos**

### **Doris Street Greensborough**

#### **Hazel's story.**

Hazel was born in England. She met Stan when she was sixteen, and in 1942 they were married, they had a son and in 1947 their daughter was born.

#### **Here is her story:**

On 8th May 1949 we set sail for Australia on the S.S. Ranchi, and arrived on 8th June a cold and frosty June morning.

We lived in Garden City (Port Melbourne), as there were no houses to rent we bought this block of land in Doris Street Greensborough in 1950. We bought the land for 75 pound. The block of land was originally owned by Councilman Santon's wife, she had brought two blocks of land for their children but they didn't want them, so she sold them and we bought one. We then borrowed a thousand pound from the bank for building materials, and my husband Stan built our house from the ground up. I had said to Stan I don't know whether we should be living out here in the sticks. We had borrowed a caravan for six months and after we gave it back we moved in to a car case till the house was finished.

Things were different in those days, we had no electricity or gas supply we used kerosene for lights and the heater. We had an ice chest for our food and our milk man would come and fill a billy we left out the front for him, and our mail was delivered by a postman on horseback. As I didn't have a copper I would boil my whites outside in a kerosene tin on four bricks. I think the gas came in the 1980's.

As I said we had a son and daughter and now we have eight grandchildren and two great granddaughters, unfortunately Stan is not here to enjoy their company as he passed away in September 1987.

My son went to Greensborough Primary School and Macleod High School and was to have gone to the Anglican Church for Sunday school, but we found out about a month after he started that he was going to the Methodist Church, at that stage I didn't know anything about the Methodist Church so I had to get a book and read about it. Stan said if they are happy we should leave them there so we did.

My son was in the Boy Scouts and my daughter in the Girl Guides so I helped out at both of them. My daughter played netball and I was one of the umpires. We didn't have a car until 1956 when we got a 1927 Chev with a dicky seat at the back, the kids thought that was lovely, we paid 50 pound for that car.

## Oral History

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Before the Safeway store was in Greensborough, opposite the school there was a shop that sold lollies and groceries and in Main Street there was a Greengrocer, a Post Office, the little old Methodist church, the one butcher, a chemist and a feed shop opposite Hailes Street.

Out the back in Nell Street towards Watsonia there was a golf club where the Greensborough College now is. During the earlier days Watsonia station was very small and had a lot of a plant called Watsonia growing there.

Stan worked at the Repat Hospital in Heidelberg and I worked in East Ivanhoe cleaning people's houses, that was where the money was in those days. I would put my daughter in the pusher and catch the train to Heidelberg and then the bus to East Ivanhoe. I also worked in Flintoff Street Greensborough.

After learning earlier about the Methodist Church I joined the church's ladies guild in the 1950s and still go to that same church. I have been involved in a lot of charity work in my life, and during the 1950's I visited people in the Austin hospital reading to them and writing letters for them.

I also enjoyed 31 years with the Brotherhood of St. Laurence and at Gabonia Avenue as a kinder granny for 5 years, 6 years with a play group with our church and two years at the Plenty Mental Hospital on Monday afternoons in the kiosk.

When I had my 80th birthday party Tom Vickers came, he was the chemist in Greensborough for 31 years, he was a Probus member and also a member of Nillumbik Historical Society.

I still go to the Methodist Church that I started to follow in the 1950's. I also go to Probus and Noel Withers from the Greensborough Historical Society came to one of our meetings and showed us lots of photos of old Greensborough. I am also a caller at bingo for senior citizens in Macleod I've been doing that for a couple of years.

My thanks to Hazel for telling us some of her reminiscences of days past.

Marilyn Smith. 2011



**1 Hazel at the door to the car case**



**2. No roof and no chimney**



**3. Stan in front of the house**



**4. Hazel next to the wood pile & clothes line**



**5. Now we have a roof**



**6. Looking good now**