



We Celebrate the life of
Gweneth Horman

2nd October 1918 – 5th November 2013

Service of Thanksgiving held at
Heathmont Uniting Church,
89 Canterbury Road, Heathmont
Tuesday 19 November 2013

Order of Service

Opening Music

Welcome

Introductory words & Scripture sentence

Hymn - Guide me O thou Great Redeemer (569)

Prayer

Readings

A Word of Hope

Tributes & Celebration of Life

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Remembrance

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn - O for a Thousand Tongues (210)

Commendation and blessing

Closing Music

Minister: Rev Nigel Hanscamp

Organist: David Ingamells

Gwen's family thank you for your friendship, care and support.

I love a sunburnt country
A land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges
Of droughts and flooding rains.

I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel-sea
Her beauty and her terror
The wide brown land for me!

- Dorothea McKellar -

18002

18002

Richard Carter

From: Greig & Lindee Horman <ghorman@exemail.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 11 November 2013 8:38 PM
To: Richard Carter
Cc: Trevor Horman
Subject: Thanksgiving Service for Gwen Horman

Hi Richard,

Following our chat earlier this evening we are very grateful that you are prepared to say a few words about Mum at the service.

Could we also ask that you please forward details of the Thanksgiving service to anyone who may be interested including your email circle for the Historical Society.

The Thanks-giving service to celebrate Gwen's life will be held at the Heathmont Uniting Church at 2pm on Tuesday 19th November. After the service there will be afternoon tea in the Church Hall.

The church is at 89 Canterbury Road, Heathmont and is on the left hand side of the outbound lanes after you cross the railway bridge.

We have received many messages from people who come in contact with Gwen over many years relating their interactions with her. Whilst in Ringwood last week we drove past places like Eastwood School, East Ringwood Elderly Citizens club, East Ringwood Infant Welfare, Lionsbrae Retirement Village, etc all of which had strong associations with Gwen.

My contact details are - Greig Horman

Ph: 0412 277 622 or (02) 4353 1888 at work or (02) 9985 8687 at home

Email: ghorman@exemail.com.au

My brother details - Trevor Horman

Ph: 0417 838 578

Email: t.horman@bigpond.com

We will definitely get together with before the event to iron out any questions on content, however please feel free to ask for any information you feel we can help with in the meantime.

Thanks again for your support.

Best Regards,

Greig Horman

In November 1942, we purchased a house in Old Lilydale Road, Ringwood East. My husband was in the army but was stationed in Design Division based at Wesley College and lived at home. There were only seven houses on the south side and three on the north side of Old Lilydale Road.

We lived opposite Bill Meyland's orchard in Old Lilydale Road, and brother Ollie Meyland was down the road a bit. In the season, they used to overload you with fresh fruit. Bill orchard took up almost all of the north side while his father's orchard bordered the section nearer Whitehorse Road.

Another brother, George Meyland had an orchard on Oban Road, which was later named Carcoola Road. Bill Lord was opposite. Ted Purser had a poultry farm in Everard Road opposite the Ringwood East Primary School, no. 4180. The whole area was under orchard, poultry farms or flower nurseries. There were a few deserted orchards. After the Second World War, many orchards were sub-divided and cut up into building blocks. Land sold at £1 per foot but there no roads, drainage, sewer, electricity or gas. Returned servicemen bought these blocks and began building their own homes, often building the garage first and living in it while building the house at weekends. One woman told me it was "soul destroying".

Our block of land was originally 83' by 110' in Old Lilydale Road. When the land was split up into blocks there, my brother, Ivor Davies, bought the block at the corner of Joseph Street and Old Lilydale Road. Then got sick and died, so it was sold again. Rawson, the builder, was on the southerly corner of Dynes Street, who was Max Rawson's father. There was a lovely lady who lived on the other corner of Dynes Street. The Normans lived in that house for a while. They had four children and were both school-teachers. Their children were all named after the characters in JM Barrie's book *Peter Pan* – Peter, Wendy, John and Michael. They were very clever people.

The Nortons lived just around the corner in Dynes Street – Stan, Percy, Jack and Florrie. I remember my husband coming home, after working in the city, and said that Jack Norton had told him all about the history of the area. I said, "Who is Jack Norton?" He said that he walked with him from the railway station. He was tickled pink that people were so friendly in the area. The derelict kilns of the insulator works were on Mount Dandenong Road, opposite Carcoola Road. The whole area was covered with insulators and the foxes used to hide in the tunnels around the area, and they used to come and pinch our chooks in the night. There was nothing between our house and Mount Dandenong Road but paddocks and orchards.

We decided that the place in Old Lilydale Road was too small so we bought a block of land in Braeside Avenue. The Bloods lived on the highway side. We paid £400 for it but I didn't like it because it was on top of a hill and, on the unmade roads, it was too difficult to push prams and the like up to it. The house is still there but we eventually sold it.

The only shops in the area were a post office, cum general store, opposite the football ground in Mount Dandenong Road and the Burnt Bridge store run by Mrs. Cheevers and family. Burnt Bridge store was once the old hotel. Previously, the De Pelsenaires ran the store, one of whom married Arthur Meyland. It used to have a post office, Nelson's Hill. The Cheever's boys used to come on their bicycles delivering goods from the store. Brian Cheevers used to live in East Ringwood, in Vista Avenue. He bought land over that way and sub-divided it. He named Cheevers Close after the family. Other shops in Ringwood used to deliver, including the Merv Smith the butcher, who was near the old clocktower.

Marge Ord's husband owned a block at the corner of Russett Road and Northwood Street. My husband and Marg's husband got talking about it on the train into work, and he said he would sell it for £210. So we bought it in 1950 and we had to bring a pipe for water up from Knaith Road. We started to build our house on Show Day 1950 and moved in on 1951. On a hot day, there was no water after 4pm when the people below in Stanley Avenue started to water their gardens. This was a real fire hazard as we had 6½ acres of dry grass behind us that eventually became Merrilong Street Estate. At the same time, on the block next door, Hec McLean built a house. It wasn't long before the school was built also. There was the railway station and one or two shops. But there was still the problem of unmade roads, with the great inclines and mud in winter. Road construction began in the 1960s.

Marge Ord came here in 1947, in an old house across the road, but that was later demolished and town houses put there.

Eastwood Primary School opened in May 1953 with seventy pupils, half from Ringwood East and half from Ringwood. The Education Department provided the building, the desks, blackboard and a box of chalk. That was it! Mr Powers was the first head-master and there were only two rooms and an office. A Mothers Club was formed immediately to raise money to buy extra equipment.

Population grew rapidly in the 1950s and 1960s and a The Ringwood East Progress Association, which was very active when we first came here, battled for essential services, like roads, sewerage, etc. Street lighting was turned off at midnight and the railway station light was turned off by any passenger alighting from the last train.

Concerning transport, apart from the train, there were two private taxi services. Milner's and Hussey's had gas producers on their cars during petrol rationing. A bus service was introduced by Earl Stewart about 1944. The bus had hooks on the back to hold the babies' prams.

There were several quarries in Ringwood East, a legacy from the brick-making era. There was one in Knaith Road, which was eventually used as a tip and later filled in as a boy drowned there. There was also two in Dublin Road, where the Army Depot is now, which were filled with water and called the Double Dams. In later years, my

boys told me that was where they learnt to swim. I believe the Army used them for tank maneuvers and they are "bottomless".

The first doctor was Bill Prott who came here in about 1952 or 1953 and was soon joined, in his Railway Avenue surgery, by another doctor John McCubbin. Bill played football with East Ringwood and lived in Ringwood Street, to start off with. Barry Hall, and his wife Rhonda, opened the chemist shop. The Railway Avenue shops grew rapidly as the population grew. Berry Bick opened a grocery and Ernie Edwards, a greengrocer. Next to the newsagent, where it is now, was another surgery with Doctor Blackburn, who only came a few hours per week. Then they built the post office there, so that disappeared.

There was a postie, before Harold Winneke, that used to whistle all the way around. Not the postie's whistle but with his lips because he was so happy. There was another one, who lived down Holland Street, who knew everyone and was very friendly. The dairy came later, down the end of Railway Avenue, and there was also a service station around there.

The population in the 1950s and 1960s was mainly young families and soon there was the need for sporting clubs, scouts, guides, youth clubs, etc. The Infant Welfare Centre opened in 1960. The Klix family belonged to the Baptist Church but I'm not sure what happened to them. Bill Meyland's wife, Bessie, who was a Gowland, her sister, Winnie, moved into the Klix's residence after she married a Cassidy. Then they moved again to the corner of Dublin Road, where they built a nice brick house. The old lady Gowland was the mid-wife around the area. I used to help Bessie mind her children, before mine were born, when they were busy picking. I remember when Joyce Meyland was born and I was present at the birth. I went home before she was born, then Bill came down and said, "You should have stayed!" But I didn't tell him I didn't feel like staying, and watching the action.

The Baby Health Centre started up in the Community Hall. The Ringwood CWA started up around 1945/6, three years before Ringwood East CWA. It just outgrew itself and that's why they started Ringwood East branch. In no time we had 70 or 80 members, with Doris Wedge as the first President. At one time we had about 50 branches in the area. Meetings were held in the Baptist Church in 1949, as there was no Community Hall then.

Guest's bakery used to deliver bread, and we also had Conlon's in Warrandyte Road, near the doctor's premises but they didn't come out to us. Wally Vincent, Ralph, Max and Wally's father, used to deliver it for Guests. The Donnellys were west of the football ground and had a shop there. Milners were on the corner of Federal Road.

There were two lots of Howships, with several girls. There was one family down Federal Road and the other on the highway. Claude Howship used to grow flowers. The Baptist manse was built in Howship Avenue and there had been a lot of trouble with the walls moving; someone suggested there had been a dam there. The manse

backed onto the church. Originally there was only the old wooden church on the left. Mr Good and Miss Good, who were old then, lived up in Harrison Street, Ringwood, and someone put them onto an old poultry farm, and they pulled it down, and they used the materials to build the Sunday School Hall.

We didn't have ready materials in those days, and we had a devil of a time trying to get pieces for our house. There are about four different types of timber in the floors. Bricks were hard to come by. The Baptist Church was built by voluntary labour in 1928 and was the only church around East Ringwood. There were one or two houses opposite the Baptist Church and some down Pattison Street. Down on Mount Dandenong there was Colin Campbell, the wood merchant. There was a house, which is still there now, hiring out medical aids. When Marg broke her ankle, I took her down there. It was the most awful place you ever saw, with chooks going in and out the doors of the house. The Bruces lived there and, I believe, that the boy Bruce still lives in Bona Street, near the corner of Freeman Street. He was a cabinet-maker.

A man, who had a real estate business where photographer is now in Railway Avenue and where the hardware shop used to be, went into the city to talk to all the main churches, and sold them land out this way. That's why they're all around together.

Trevor, my eldest son, worked at Alexander's men's wear, during the busy periods, when he went to Uni, then Ross worked there and, finally, Greg did the same. The boys had a lot of odd jobs around the area – delivering local papers, lawn-moving. I never gave my children pocket money, they always earned it. This added to their resilience because they didn't expect to have things given to them on a plate.

In 1961, a friend of mine from the Baptist Church, said to me, "Why haven't we got an Elderly Citizens Group?" I was already on the committee of the Ringwood Elderly Citizens. So I said, "I'll think about it." So I put an ad in the local paper to see if anyone was interested. About 20 or so people turned up, so we started one up in the community hall. They came from Croydon and from everywhere. We used to meet each Wednesday. Initially they only met once a month but I asked the ladies from the local churches to come, and they brought afternoon tea. It was a beautiful afternoon tea.

We petitioned the Council to build us our own rooms. The government would give the four to one financial arrangement but they wouldn't furnish it. Alan Robertson, the council engineer, used to ring me up and ask me if I wanted this or that. That was around 1957, when I was in my forties, I was chairperson for eight years before they got the building but as I wasn't old enough to join the group, I couldn't be called the President. We used to have some good times then.

Alf Kelly rang me up, when I was Mayoress, asking if I would get a committee together for the Ringwood Welfare Centre. We raised money via cake stalls and the like, and often generous people would donate things, including some of the

furniture. There used to be quince orchards up near Vonadawn Avenue and apples near Grey Street. We often made quince jelly and jams. You couldn't afford to buy jams and sauces and, with all the fruit around the area, you didn't need to!

I remember going to Mr Long, the Town Clerk, complaining about payment for garbage collection on the rate notices, and I said, "I don't have any garbage!" He said, "What do you do with all your tins?" I replied, "I don't have tins!" We either used fresh produce or made our own. The rest was recycled in the garden or some other way. But I didn't get out of paying as everyone paid the same amount, whether they used the facility, or not.

We bought a new Austin A40 from the old garage in Mt Dandenong Road, opposite the football ground, in 1949. There was also a shop further east, the house being occupied by Florence Davy, who belonged to the CWA. It was later used by a real estate man who stood against my husband for council.

I used to run coach trips for the CWA and Alice Milner (nee Cope), who was a member of the CWA, used to come. She had sons Jock and George, the later playing football for Melbourne Football Club. I taught Jock at Sunday school.

Bob Cleater came to live in the area around 1947 and, at one stage, his wife opened the small shop, as a tuck shop for the East Ringwood School. Roy Gregory married a daughter of Bill Meyland and had a greengrocer shop at the top of Everard Road. He used to grow violets on Bill's land. Poor Bessie would be out on a frosty morning picking violets, putting them in little bunches and sending them out to market which sold for two pence a bunch. It was hard work! The Meyland's also had cows, pigs and fowl.

I was at Burnt Bridge Shopping Centre recently and one of the twin Delahunty's said, "Hello, Mrs. Horman". I often bump into people, around the area, who still know after all those years. Ringwood East was, and still is, one big community.

Gwen Howman was a lady who was always there. Moving to Carcoola Road in 1942, she had a continuous association with Ringwood East for over 70 years. At the time of her passing, she was the senior Lady Mayoress of Ringwood, performing that role on two occasions, firstly in 1954/55 and again in 1962/63.

Gwen's life was dedicated to her community. Whilst it might have been facilitated by her role as Mayoress, it was obvious that her drive, her commitment to her community, were what spurred her on, rather than simply being Mayoress.

I am fortunate in having read some notes on her life that Gwen recorded some years ago and also in having shared some thoughts with fellow members of Ringwood Historical Society, which is where I first got to know her.

Consider what she was involved in:

- Eastwood Primary School Mother's Club (buildings, classrooms, desk and chalk)
- Ringwood East Progress Society (character forming and soul destroying?)
- Infant Welfare Centre Heathmont (Lady Brooks 1960)
- Ringwood East CWA 1949 (70-80 members)
- Ringwood East Elderly Citizens 1961 (she was 43!)
Chairperson 8yrs in getting club rooms, but too young to join!
- Ringwood IWC (cake stalls, not funding submissions)
- CWA Armchair Travel (weekly speakers for 18yrs!)
- Lionsbrae
- Uniting Church (just being there)
- Royal Children's Hospital

Ringwood East was, and still is, one big community.
Gwen, you made it so.

Thank you.

Notes on Council in 1950s/1960s

- Progressive. Brave.
- A council of outsiders, not old timers
- Eastland. Ringwood Planning Scheme
- Litigation. Personal Liability.
- Not possible without commitment, resolve and an eye to the future wellbeing of the community. Gwen played her role, as Mayoress to Bob and as the wife of a Councillor, a much more prominent role then than now.

Descriptions of Gwen:

Gracious

Commitment

Responsibility

Knowledge

Interest

Understanding

Alertness

Community

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"hugwood best was, and still is,
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Lionsbrae.

=

Robert Charles Stormon
1951/52 → 1962/63.

Mayor 1954/55 + 1960/61.

"A Council of Outsiders, not old timers."

Eastland

- Compton Med.

- s/i supported Eastland but great.

=

Irene
(Derwin)

Ineig
(Sydney)

"A Lady Who Was Always There"

66/17004

£149.9.9

Trevor : Dawn
Greig : Sydney.

Lwen Horman

\$450?

Robert Charles Horman

1951/52 → 1962/63

Mayor 1954/55 1960/61.

opening of Heathmont IWC 1960.
Lady Brooks.

IWC Civic Pl. 1954 Lady Brooks.

At Francis Road E. 1958

25/1/60 RC Horman City Seal design.
accepted

Councillors being sued re Eastland.

C. Horman 8/1 supported Eastland
but greater!

Maie Ricardo. 9870.1438.



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Gwen Horman

Notice

HORMAN Gwen
2.10.18 - 5.11.2013
A life dedicated to serving her community. Loved mother of Trevor, Ross (deceased) and Greig. Nan to Leah, Cameron, Clancy and Tilly.

Published in The Age on Nov. 9, 2013

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Be the first to share your memories or express your condolences in the Guest Book for Gwen Horman.

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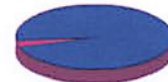
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HORMAN. Gwen. 02.10.1918 - 05.11.2013 A life dedicated to serving her community . Loved mother of Trevor, Ross (dec.) and Greig. Nan to Leah, Cameron, Clancy and Tilly. Please see later paper for Funeral details

Obituaries

Published in [Herald Sun](#) on 09/11/2013



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Supporting Notices

HORMAN. Gwen. Loved aunt and mentor of Margaret and Ray Paulsen. Great aunt of Kerri and Allan Hillgrove. Great great aunt of Alexandra and Georgia.

Obituaries

Published in [Herald Sun](#) on 11/11/2013

HORMAN (nee Davies). Gwen 02.10.1918 - 05.11.2013 Loved sister of Ethel and Jack (dec.) Waters. Also sister of Alec, Phyllis and Ivor (all dec.).

Obituaries

Published in [Herald Sun](#) on 09/11/2013

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Funeral Home Information

- [A & V Ioannides Greek Funeral Directors](#)
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