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6 March 2008

Mr. David Best 6/27-29 Lexton Road BOX HILL VIC 3129

Dear David,

Re: "Byways"

What a coincidence that you called this week, only two or three weeks after I had auctioned and sold your old family home

I am enclosing for your information copies of title circa 1948 showing your father having purchased the property (some 20 acres) from Mervyn Brewer in 1946 and then subdividing the land and selling the Byways portion to Jessie Cleland in 1952. I note you confirmed your father built the house.

Cleland sold to Little in 1966, Little sold to Campbell in 1981, Campbell sold to Nicholls in 1989 and now Nicholls sold to Packer in 2008. In each case we handled the sale. It was interesting to hear of your recollections.

I am enclosing a brochure from the recent auction. I would love to see the sales brochure from 1952 that you have.

Did you find out the information you wanted in relation to Winnington Grammar School?

Yours faithfully

C E CARTER & SON PTY LTD

had but

Richard Carter **DIRECTOR** 

Enc

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## ORIGINAL

NOT TO BE TAKEN FROM THE OFFICE OF TITLES



REGISTER BOOK

VOL. 8642 FOL. 886

## Gertificate of Title

VOL.

JESSIE MAY CLELAND of Buronga via Mildura Married Woman is the proprietor of an estate in fee simple subject to the encumbrances notified hereunder in-ALL THAT piece of land coloured on the map hereon being Lot  $\,9\,$  on Plan of - -Subdivision No.74444 Parish of Ringwood County of Mornington

Issued under Regulation 12 on the approval of the above Plan of Subdivision -



ENCUMBRANCES REFERRED TO

As to any land coloured blue--

ANY EASEMENTS implied under Section 98 of the Transfer of Land Act - - - -

BYWAYS DRIVE ISABEL AVENUE MEASUREMENTS ARE IN FEET AND INCHES DERIVED FROM VOL.8552 FOL.495 21/10/66.

Current

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THE OFFICE OF TITLES



Entered in the Register Book

Vol. 7933 Fol. 154

Certificate of

UNDER THE "TRANSFER OF LAND ACT 1928"

11.12.50

Richard Blennerhassett Best of 238 Doncaster Road North Balwyn Merchant is now the proprietor of an Estate in Fee-simple subject to the Encumbrances notified hereunder in All that piece of Land, delineated and coloured red, blue and green on the map on the sheet annexed hereto containing Four acres Two roods and Twenty-three - perches or thereabouts being Lots One to 8 (both inclusive) and land appropriated -for Roads on Plan of Subdivision No. 22716 lodged in the Office of Titles and beingpart of Crown Allotment 31 A Parish of Ringwood County of Mornington -

Dated the

Fourth

thousand nine hundred and forty-nine.

day of

March

One

Mortgage No. 89 1038 is

being the land in treater CHIMINORULL 10 May 1949

being the land in imaster Cuminosell 22 Aug 1950

The above fortigage

Discharged as 19 Chimilokell seing the land in houster

ENCUMBRANCES REFERRED TO

As to the land coloured blue ---

THE EASEMENTS (if any) existing over the same by virtue of Section 212 of-

the Transfer of Land Act 1928 and - -THE BASEMENT appurtenent to the land described in Certificate of Title Vol. 7939 Fol. 153 - - - -As to the land coloured green ---

THE EASEMENTS (if any) existing over the same by virtue of Section 212 of-the Transfer of Lend Act 1928 - - - -MORTGAGN No. 891038 in the Register Book-

Title Best 1949 & Cleland 1952

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Tible
Brewer 1946
Best 1948

## AUCTION



THIS ORIGINAL BYWAYS HOMESTEAD SET ON A LARGE CORNER ALLOTMENT OF 1754 SQUARE METRES (18,800 SQUARE FEET) ONLY MOMENTS FROM TINTERN.

A large rambling timber home. Features wide entry, lounge with OFP, dining room, pine lined family room with solid fuel heater. Master bedroom and parents retreat with ensuite. Two extra bedrooms. Study with stone OFP. Spacious farm-style kitchen. Paved outdoor living area with BBQ house. Self contained bed sitter bongalow with bathroom and toilet. Spacious allotment with subdivisional potential.

Terms 10% dep. Balance 90 days.

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128 Maroondah Highway, Ringwood
870 6211

98990772(B)

David Best,
Factory 6
27-29 Lexton Road
BoxHill 3129

Dear Richard,

RE: "Byways"

Thank you very much for your letter, and attachments, all of which are extremely interesting and useful for my family history.

I have contacted Russ Haines in regard to Winnington, and he certainly will be able to help. More importantly, it seems, is that he is doing a project on East Ringwood. He would be very interested in seeing and maybe using some of photos I have of "Byways".

I also recall you mentioning the absence of the Winnington school song. I found a printed copy of the song which I believe was handed out at one of the speech nights, probably in 1950 or 1951. I do not recall if the audience sang the latin version! I have enclosed the original for safekeeping by the Historical Society.

Also I have enclosed a copy of the sale leaflet for "Byways' in 1951. It is interesting to compare yours and this one, which indicates that the house is pretty original, apart from the northern extension, and the location of the bungalow.

The name Mervyn Brewer rang a bell, so I asked my Aunts (Richard Best's sisters) if they knew the name. We hit pay dirt. Mervyn, Jeffery and Irene Brewer were the children of Stella MacRobertson. Her father was Sir Macpherson Robertson of chocolate fame.

Richard had gone to Melbourne Grammar with Jeffery Brewer, and the families knew each other. Richard's mother Lillian was a very ambitious land developer in the 1920's and 30's. She always kept an eye out for a deal, and would have been instrumental in arranging this deal.

Richard's father Henry Best was a textile merchant, and Richard had joined the business in 1937. Richard then went to war, and returned from Singapore in December 1945 and was discharged in January 1946. He built his first house at 238 Doncaster Road, on a block given to him by Lillian.

I recall the Byways land quite clearly. The piece at the bottom was a defunct orchard. The only fruit trees remaining were 10 quince trees. An old fruit packing shed was located at the bottom of the hill, and it was this shed that Richard moved up to the main house and

rebuilt as servants quarters. That is now the bungalow, although I think it has been shifted from Richard's original location.

Richard started building spec homes. The builder was Lindsay Hancock, and together they built a lot of homes. After Byways was sold, we moved into one of these homes on Block number 3 (I think) of the Alexandra Road extension subdivision. Blocks 1 and 2 had a large dam which had been filled in and was a quagmire. We then moved to Mont Albert.

In the meantime, Richard and Lillian had purchased 90 acres of Middleborough Road at Blackburn North, and this was subdivided into Joseph and Chapman Streets.

Your title searches are excellent. Can you find out who owned the land prior to Mervyn Brewer? The parcel that Mervyn sold to Richard must have been connected to his Dorset Road property, but did Mervyn actually farm the land?

The land was heavily timbered when we moved to Byways. The Landy's were on our right, and on the left was a very dark foreboding house that we never visited. I recall the name Macgilacuddy (or similar) and I think he sold to Tintern.

I look forward to meeting with you and Russ at some stage.

and Best

Kind regards