

FRANK KENWORTHY

Frank Kenworthy was born in England in 1880, and with his wife Molly and son Stanley came to Australia about 1912. One of his first jobs was working on the building of the Scenic Railway at Luna Park, St.Kilda.

Later on Frank started a coach building business in Whitehorse Road Ringwood, shown in the photo taken in the early 1920s. He built horse drawn milk floats and bread delivery vans from start to finish, including the decorative painting as used in those days. His business was located just near the South West corner of Whitehorse Road and Wantirna Road, where the Shell service station now stands. The family home stood behind the business close to the railway line. Ibbotson's Grain Store was on the corner, then a vacant block between the two. During the mid 1920s the business gradually changed from coach building to motor repair shop. At this time petrol pumps were erected in front of the building.

Frank sold the business to Coffey Motors in 1948, and retired, moving the residence to the South East corner of Harrison and William Streets in Ringwood. Frank and Molly lived there till his death in 1965 aged 80. Molly went to a Nursing Home, and died in 1970 aged 90. Their son Stanley suffered for many years with rheumatoid arthritis, and died in 1942 at the age of 37.

The house has since been demolished, and units built on the block.

My family migrated to Australia from England in 1927, Molly and my Mother being sisters. We lived in a house owned by Frank in the original William Street, which is now renamed Kendall Street. I started school at the Ringwood State School at age 4.

RON JACKSON (nephew of Frank and Molly Kenworthy)

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