

Mary Lodge

Mary Lodge replaced the original Kerami which was built in 1907 on 18 acres on the Woods Point Road for Sister Elizabeth Glover. For 25 years Kerami House was operated by nursing sisters, including one of Marysville's best promoters, Sister Elsie Bolam not far around the corner from the bridge. Mary Lodge was positioned further along the Wood Point nearer Lady Talbot Drive intersection.

Very late in the 1920s Eric Dowdle came to Marysville and started building his Mary Guesthouse Chain - Marylands, Mary Lyn, Mary Lodge and Mary Meadows.

Eric purchased Kerami in 1933, completely rebuilt it and gave Kerami a new name - Mary Lodge. He in fact built the new building further along the Woods Point road on Lot 8 passed Lady Talbot Drive. Using building materials where possible from the original Kerami buildings.

Healesville & Yarra Glen Guardian, 18 Nov 1933

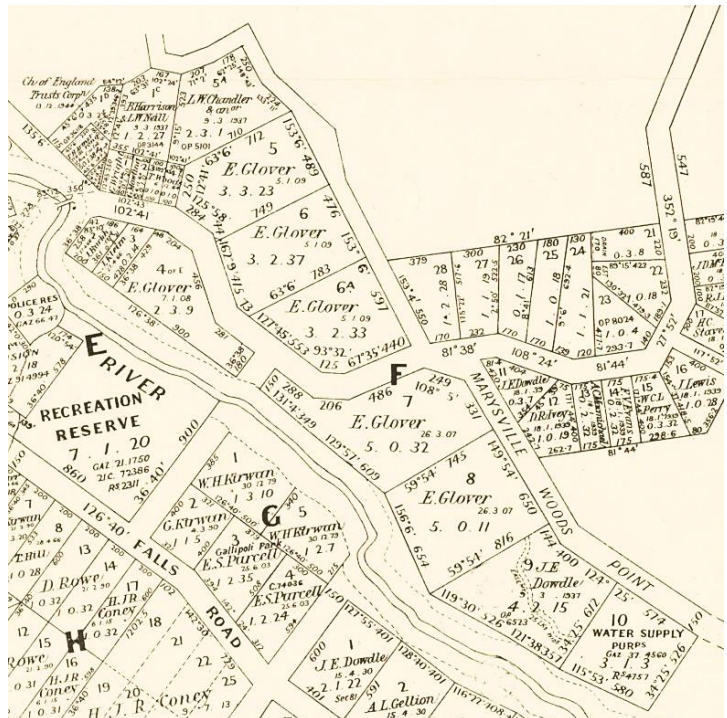
Improvements at Marysville.

At the Licensing Court on Monday application was made on behalf of J. E. Dowdle, owner and licensee of "Kerami," Marysville, for which there is a wine licence, for permission to rebuild the premises, at a cost of more than £2000. The ground floor would be of concrete, and the main building of fibrous cement. There would be a large dining room, bar, lounge, parlours, 30 bedrooms, hot and cold water service, electric light, septic tank and garage. Mr. P. Lee, who submitted the plans, said it was intended to make the house a thoroughly up-to-date place of residence for visitors. The court approved of the plans.

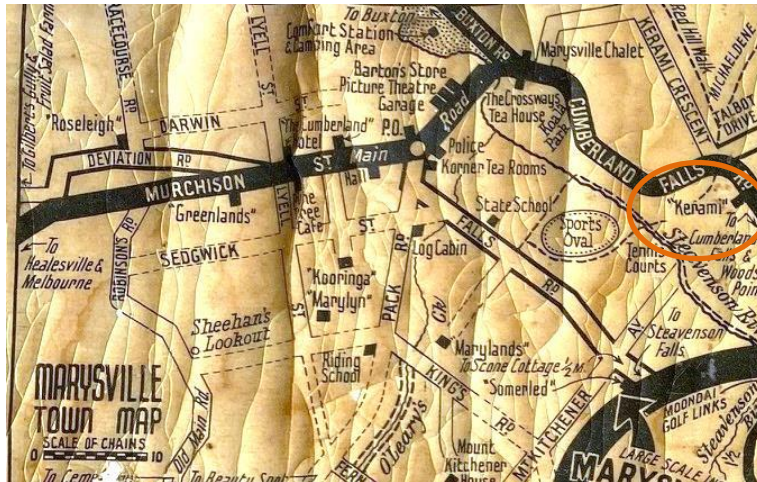
In 1934 Mary Lodge was open for guests and soon the newlyweds, Bessie and Wykeham Perry were the managers. Wykeham snr was a photographer and took many of the Rose postcards. By the early 1950s they were farming on the Buxton Road at 'Dalewyke', previously Scott's 'Cloverdale'.

During 1944-49 Mary Lodge was managed by Jim and Madge Walker.

In 1949-50 it was Mr G H Brett who marketed it as Mary Lodge ex Kerami.



Kerami again



Extract from 1958 Broadbent's Map of Marysville area.

By 1953 it was back to Kerami with Robert and Lucy Vautier, the proprietors and their young daughter Rosalind. Lucy died in 1957 and Robert left Marysville with his 10 year old daughter.

Sadly in 1969 Kerami burnt down. The manual telephone exchange cards¹ give N Evans at Kerami, Cumberland Road phone No 157.



Photo of Trevor Harrow trying to push over the chimney with Gus on the left and Len Norman on the right.

After the fire a new accommodation establishment was built and went on under a number of guises until the 2009 Fires destroyed the buildings. For details on these accommodation houses see 22 Woods Point Road document.

¹ The manual exchange closed in 1971 and new telephone numbers were allocated according to the PMG rules.