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Early Dandenong, from 1925

In 1925 I first came to live in Reptonborough & remained there until 1955 when I came to live in 74 Stud Rd. Dandenong

Reptonborough was entirely a corridor area consisting of dairy farms & market gardens, all the land on both sides of Cheltenham Rd. or Brighton Rd, as it was then known was given over to cow farms or market gardens. Where Parkmore now is was Mr. Bruce Cochran's market garden & North side of Cheltenham Rd, in fact three corners of Corrigau & Cheltenham Rd. were farms owned by Corrigaus, Seanon Corrigau his son Clarence on the corner of Chapel Rd. & Brighton Rd. & Mr. Lat. Corrigau Seanon's brother on Corrigau Rd. People called Dintons owned land on the <sup>west</sup> side of Corrigau Rd, along Chapel Rd, - lived on each side of the Rd. the Clarkes, Charlie & Pat who were both market gardeners.

On top of the hill in Chapel Rd. lived Bill Foster & on the opposite side was Walter his uncle who was a market gardener, along the flat part of Chapel Rd. was the State School & next to it the Methodist Church, built in 1875 (?) Opposite lived a family named Tyers, who were early settlers there & had a market garden, at the end of Chapel Rd. was the property first settled by William Keys in about 1845, the original area consisted of about 1000 acres & ran from Chapel Rd to Zuland Rd, as it was called is now known as Perry Rd.

Other families well known in the district were the Touchlacs & the Andrews, all large market gardeners & behind W. of Bermans place lived

The Morris family who were dairy farmers & market  
 gardeners, two brothers William & Alex. Bouman  
 farmed the original Kep's property which was  
 divided between them. W. his portion is now farmed  
 by his only son, & has not changed hands  
 except the name by marriage. The Bouman's  
 mother was a Kep's. Unfortunately grandfather  
 William Kep was drowned in the Boughrales Creek  
 when only 47, but his widow & family continued  
 to farm the land which was called "Holmwood".  
 Elizabeth Kep married Alexander Watt Bouman,  
 whose family were very early settlers in the  
 Dandenong District & at one time Grandfather  
 Bouman owned many blocks of land in  
 Dandenong beside running the Pointe-Garn-Gum  
 station at Beaconsfield.

When our son Robert married<sup>m</sup> 1954 my husband  
 & I built a home at 4 Stud Rd Dandenong  
 & it is hard to imagine that Stud Rd. was  
 in those days a metal road with no pot path,  
 no sewerage but a vastly better postal service  
 as there were two deliveries a day 1 P.M. & 4 P.M.  
 The land behind our block was a market garden.  
 When living on the farm we used to bring cows  
 to Dandenong market along Brighton Rd & up  
 Bennett St. & then across Connetts to Kemming  
 St. & across Princes Highway to the old Cattle  
 sales yards on the corner of Cleland & Clow St.  
 next to the old Showgrounds. The first  
 produce market I remember was conducted on  
 a pot path in front of what is now Clark  
 Rubber Shop. & on the corner was a garage  
 run by Brown & Buchan. Along side the market  
 in Clow St. ran a deep drain & one time when  
 there was a heavy flood in Dandenong a woman  
 was swept along this until rescued. This  
 drain ran under shops & buildings but it finally  
 came out into the Dandenong Creek. The subway

at the railway line has frequently been flooded  
& two or three cars submerged.

The Dandenong Butter Factory was a well known  
landmark in Stud Rd, & I often pulled in line  
with cans of cream in the old days. Also at  
no more dry the ground covered with a black of  
flats.

In 1955 the year we came to Dandenong,  
David St, & Bunn St. were unmade & the  
winter rains made them into quagmires & the  
footpaths were pretty awful.  
Along Pines Highway where G. M. H. Benz  
International Harvesters are was low ground  
swampy in the winter & considered worthless.  
I used to drive into Dandenong with pony &  
guide along dirt roads in the early days &  
it was a great event when Brighton Rd. was  
metalled, & we have progressed. Now all  
is Tarmae & the old straw trams are a thing  
of the past. It was my delight to have a  
trip in the frame well out into the  
country to Dandenong & then a buggy ride  
from Gunns trees to Ryeborough where I was  
a little girl. 1934 was a year that stands out  
in all our memories as that was the year there  
such disastrous floods in Tooradin &  
Koo-wee-rup & in Ryeborough. It nearly  
reached our house & we lost sheep & cattle & an  
excellent oat crop stocked, ready to eat in  
& all washed away to Warradilla & many  
place to Frankston was a large sea of  
water. My husband's his father rode his  
back via Edith Vale Rd. To take food etc. To  
flood crevices along the Main Drain Rd. It was  
a disastrous time for Tooradin & Koo-wee-rup  
area.

D Bowman