

THIS IS A GREAT HONOUR FOR ME PERSONALLY AND FOR THE
DANDENONG AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY I HAVE NEVER
SPOKEN TO A GROUP BEFORE (AND MY KNEES ARE KNOCKING)
AND THE SOCIETY HAS NOT BEEN ASKED TO VISIT BEFORE SO WE ARE
MAKING A LITTLE PRIVATE HISTORY

RECENTLY I HAVE BEEN DOING A LITTLE SPARE TIME READING
AND THE LAST BOOK I READ WAS THE STORY OF MINOS AND THE MINATOUR
AND THE EXCAVATIONS AT KNOSSOS AND THROUGHOUT CREETE AND GREECE
AND THIS READING HAS RESOLVED ME TO A POINT ON WHICH I WISH TO
PRESS THIS TALK

HOMER THE GREAT POET WAS THE ONLY LEAD THE SEARCHERS HAD IN
TRACING A PAST CIVILIZATION AND HIS POEMS WERE BASED ON WORD OF MOUTH
LEGENDS

POSSIBLY YOU HAVE GREEK AND ITALIAN FREINDS AND THEY HAVE TOLD
YOU A LITTLE ABOUT THEIR HOME LAND BUT MUCH OF THEIR HISTORY HAS
BEGOME CONFUSED WITH (FABLE AND LEGEND BECAUSE OF THE DISTANCE
OF TIME BUT HARE IN AUSTRALIA AND DANDENONG OUR HISTORY IS NEW
AND AT PRESENT GOOD RECORDS ARE KEPT BUT EVEN SO PRIVATE HISTORIES
ARE ALREADY BEING LOST THESE PRIVATE HISTORIES ARE WHAT MAKE
MEMORABLE AND INTERESTING READING THEY ARE THE STORIES WHICH GIBE
US OUR EVERY DAY COMPARISONS NOT JUST THE GREAT DEEDS DONE BY A
FEW BUT THE LIFE AS LIVED BY THE MEM AND WOMEN (AND DONT FORGET THE
WOMEN FOR THEIR LOT WAS AS HARD AND SOMETIMES HARDER THAN THE MENS)
FOR INSTANCE STOP AND THINK OF YOUR HOMES TOBAY MOST PEOPLE HAVE
A T V SET A RADIO AND IRON A WASHING MACHINE FLUORIC LIGHT EVEN

THE GOOD OLD WAKENER OF THE DAY THE ALARM CLOCK EACH ARTICLE
HAS A HISTORY OF MANS INVENTIVE GENIOUS EVERY THING YOU
LOOK AT TOUGH WEAR WAS A HISTORY

BACK TO OUR WOMEN PIONEERS LAST WEEK THERE WAS AN ARTICLE IN
"NEW IDEA" ESPECIALLY PRINTED FOR MOTHER'S DAY

YOU KNOW ITS A STRANGE THING ABOUT HISTORY YOU JUST CANNOT
SEPARATE IT FROM ANY OTHER SUBJECT FOR IT INTRUDES EVERY
WHERE HERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF THIS HAPPENING IN DANDENONG
IN 1832 THE EDITOR OF THE JOURNAL WROTE AND PUBLISH A HISTORY
OF DANDENONG MENTIONING THAT AT THE TIME OF WRITING HE HAD
DISCOVERED THAT THE HILL UPON WHICH ARMITAGE OWN WAS BUILT
THAT IS THE HILL THIS SIDE OF THE HIGH SCHOOL HAD SINCE THE
COLONIZATION OF THE AREA DECREASED BY 8FT THIS BEING DUE TO
THE CUTTING OF THE GIANT RED GUMS (FOR ROAD BUILDING) HAVE YOU
EVER NOTICED THE BLOCKED ROADS LEADING TO ST KILDA JUNCTION
THESE ROADS WERE LAID WITH RED GUM BLOCKS MANY OF WHICH CAME
FROM DANDENONG CULTIVATIONS HAD ALSO ASISTED IN THIS LOWERING
PROGESS I HAVEN'T ENQUIRED BUT IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO
FIND OUT JUST HOW HIGH THAT HILL NOW IS IN RELATION TO ITS
ORIGINAL HEIGHT

DANDENONG'S HISTORY IS A STORY OF MEN AND THEIR FAMILIES
ONE OF THE OLDEST BEING THE KEYS FAMILY WHOSE NAME IS CELEBRATED
IN THE AREA WHERE THEY SETTLED KEYSBOROUGH

IN THE PAST AND PURPOSES THEY SETTLED IN A VERY POOR SPOT FOR
THE WOMEN AND THERE WAS NO SURFACE WATER AND THE BORE WATER
WAS ONLY FIT FOR THE CATTLE DRINKING AND PERSONAL WASHING WATER
HAD TO BE COLLECTED FROM THE ROOF AND THE WASHING HAD TO BE CARRIED
5 MILES TO THE CREEK TO BE DONE THEN EITHER HUNG UP TO DRY THERE AND
CARRIED HOME OR CARRIED HOME WET AND THEN DRIED
MY CLOTHES LINE IS AT THE BOTTOM OF MY GARDEN OUT OF SIGHT PRACTICAL
BUT MY NEIGHBOUR SAID THAT THAT WAS MUCH TOO FAR TO CARRY THE
HEAVY LOAD OF WET WASHING I DON'T THINK SOMEHOW SHE WOULD LIKE TO
BE TRANSPORTED BACK TO THE DAYS OF THE PIONEERS

BESIDES THE WATER DRAW-BACK THERE WAS LITTLE BY WAY OF FOOD IN THE
AREA TO LIVE FROM AT THAT TIME RABBITS WERE NOT BREED HERE REMEMBER
THEY HAD TO BE INTRODUCED NOR WAS THERE MUCH BIRD LIFE AND SO FOR
FRESH MEAT THEY CAUGHT AND KILLED KANGAROO AND WALLABY

IN 1845 GEORGE KEYS MOVED TO A LEASEHOLD KNOWN AS MOODIE YALLO OR
YALLOCK NOW KNOWN AS KEYSBOROUGH

1850 HE APPLIED FOR CROWN GRANTS

1852 HE RECEIVED THE GRANTS FOR MOST OF THE LAND BOUNDED BY
ISLAND ROAD WELLS ROAD EDITHVALE ROAD AND HUTTON ROAD

1400 ACRES WEST OF EDITHVALE ROAD BOUNDED BY GOVERNOR ROAD
AND MENTONE ROAD PRICED AT £1-£3 PER ACRE

TO DAY IN DANDENONG MOST HOUSES ARE BUILT ON A 1/6 ACRE BLOCK
AND IN THE TOWN THE PRICE CAN GO UP THOUSANDS IN THE OUTSKIRTS

1-1500 AND OUTER AREAS FROM 450-£8500

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THE KEYS FAMILY WERE PRESBYTERIANS AND LIKE MOST PIONEER
FAMILIES THEIR FAITH MEANT A GOOD DEAL TO THEM SO ONCE THEY
WERE REASONABLY SETTLED THEY SET ABOUT THE TASK OF GETTING A MINISTER
WHO WOULD HOLD A REGULAR SERVICE FOR THEM METHODIST MINISTER
FROM BRIGHTON NIGHT BEFORE 6 IN MORN TO 12NOON LUNCH
RETURN MIN AND GET HOME 20HOURS
THEIR FIRST SERVICE WAS HELD IN GEORGE KEYS HOME IN 1853
FIRST CHURCH BUILT 1861 WOODEN BUILDING
PRESENT CHURCH BUILT 1877

IN DECEMBER THE WORLD JAMBOREE OF BOY SCOUTS WILL CAMP
ON ONE OF DANDENONGS OLD SETTLED AREAS
1830'S A BARRACKS WAS BUILT AT WHAT WAS KNOWN AS POLICE PADDOCKS
NOW CHURCHILL NATIONAL PARK HERE THE POLICE WHO TRAINED HORSES
FOR THE POLICE FORCE LIVED WHILE IN A LEANTOO LIVED THE

BLACK-TRACKERS WHO HAD BEEN BROUGHT INTO THE POLICE FORCE FROM
THERE OWN HOMES THIS BUILDING IS OF STONE

LATER A SUPERINTENDENTS HOUSE WAS ERECTED THIS BEING OF ABOUT 5
ROOMS AND OF HAND CUT BRICKS SOME OF WHICH WERE NOT BAKED TOO WELL
THIS IS AN UTTER RUIN

LATER STILL A STORE WAS ADDED AND THIS STORE HAS BEEN USED AND
DAMAGED BEYOND HISTORICAL INTEREST

STILL REMEMBERING THE POLICE FORCE OUR FIRST POLICE OFFICER
WAS A MR MCKEE ASCOT WHO HAD SERVED WITH THE QUEEN'S GUARDS IN
EDINBURGH HE MIGRATED TO START SEARCHING FOR GOLD BUT WHEN THE
POLICE HERE HEARD OF HIS MILITARY TRAINING HE WAS CONSCRIPTED INTO
THE FORCE THE MINUTE HE LANDED IN MELBOURNE AND SENT TO DANDENONG
HE HAD A LARGE AREA TO COVER WEST AND NORTH TO THE GIPPSLAND
GOLD FIELDS HE WOULD SET OFF ON HORSE BACK LEAVING HIS WIFE IN
THE CARE OF THE ABORIGINES ON THEIR PROPERTY THE CALLED HER
"THE WHITE QUEEN" CAMP AGAINST THE WALL OF THE HOUSE FOR THE
TIME HE WAS AWAY

NOW FOR A PIECE OF HISTORY WHICH HAS YET TO BE QUALIFIED
MCKEE BUILT THE HOUSE FOR HIMSELF HERE IN DANDENONG THIS HOUSE
LATER BECAME THE CATHOLIC PRESBYTRY BUT WAS IT THE HOUSE USED NOW
FOR A PRESBYTRY OR WAS IT THE HOUSE WHICH WAS USED AS A PRESBYTRY
UNTIL THE 1940'S THIS HOUSE STOOD WHERE NOW THE LANGTON CLINIC IS

MANY OF OUR ROADS REMIND USE OF PIONEERS LANGHORN LONSDALE CORRIGAN
CHANDLER WEDGE POWERS WHAT OF SOME OF THE OTHERS

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WALKER SCOTT CLOW ETC

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DONT BE AFRAID TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR HISTORY
BECAUSE NOBODY WILL JUST OUT AND TELL YOU ANYTHING THEY DONT
THINK AND ONE IS INTERESTED AND USSUALLY THE YOUNGER GENERATION
DOESN'T SHOW A LOT OF INTEREST IN THE PAST IT SEEMS TO BE LATER
THAT YOU GAIN AN INTEREST IN COMPARISONS YOU OFTEN HEAR PEOPLE
TALK OF "THE GOOD OLD DAYS" HOW GOOD WERE THEY
DONT WHEN YOU ASK PEOPLE ABOUT THE PAST LET THEM TELL YOU ONLY
ABOUT THE DANCES PICNICS THE FUN AND GAMES NO SCHOOLS ETC
BUT ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW LONG DID YOU WORK WHAT WERE YOUR
HOURS HOW ABOUT PAY WHAT WERE THE HOUSES LIKE NOT THE MANSIONS
OF THE RICH BUT THE HOMES OF THE WORKING CLASS
ETHEL TURNER WROTE A WONDERFUL BOOK CALLED "THE GOLDEN FIDDLES"
THE STORY OF A FAMILY ON A FARM DURING THE DEPRESSION YEARS
THEIR HARDSHIPS HARD LITTLE TO MAKE ANYONE WISH FOR A RETURN OF SUCH
A TIME

HERE IS A QUESTIONNAIRE FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY
WHEN DID YOUR FAMILY COME TO DANDENONG
WHERE DID THEY LIVE BEFORE THAT
WHERE DID YOUR GRANDPARENTS LIVE
WHEN DID YOUR FAMILY COME TO AUSTRALIA
WHERE DID THEY COME FROM
FIND OUT NOW GET YOURSELVES AN EXERCISE BOOK AND WRITE IT ALL
DOWN DONT BE SHY SHOULD YOUR PEOPLE RELATE BACK TO A CONVICT
REMEMBER THIS VERY FEW RELATIVELY SPEAKING WERE WHAT WOULD

TODAY BE CALLED CRIMINALS PETTY ØILFERING AND POACHING 7
MENNT TRANSPORTATION JUST AS DID MURDER THE GREAT MAJORITY BLEII
POLITICAL PRISONERSWHO DIDNT AGREE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
TIME

REMEMBER ALSO THE LATER HISTORY THE FOUNDING OF THE GREAT F,
FACTORIES G M H HEINZ INTERNATIONAL ETC THESE FACTORIES ALL
PLAY THEIR PART IN OUR HISTORY NOW

EACH OF THESE FACTORIES HAS A PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER WHO
SHOULD BE WILLING TO ASSIST YOU IN THEIR OWN HISTORIES IF YOU
ARE INTERESTED I KNOW BECAUSE I WORKED IN THE PUBLIC RELAT
OFFICE AT KWINANA REFINERY

OWN SCHOOL HISTORY

DO YOU KNOW THE RECORDS

1ST HEADMISTRESS

2ND HEADMISTRESS

1ST HEADGIRL PREFECTS CELEBRITIES ETC

HAVE YOU A VISITORS BOOK

WHO OPENED THE SCHOOL AND IN WHAT YEAR

HAVE YOU A SCHOOL MAGAZINE AND IS A COPY KEPT AND FILED

IN RELATION& TO THE SUBJECT OF WATER I HAVE TO MENTIONS THE
DEATHS OF THE YOUNG CHILDREN IN THE CREEKS AROUND DANDENONG
THESE DEEP HOLES WERE DUG BY THE PIONEERS TO ENSURE A WATER SUPPL
EVEN IN THE SUMMER THEY WERE HAND DUG NOT AS TODAY DAMS ARE
CREATED BY OUR BULLDOZERS HOWEVER WHERE HISTORY CAN DESTROY
LIFE AS THESE HOLES HAVE DONE THEN I THINK VISUAL HISTORY
ITSELF SHOULD BE DESTROYED THESE WATED HOLES WILL LIVE IN
HISTORY NOT ONLY AS A BENEFIT TO OUR PIONEERS BUT AS A DANGER
TO OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS