

Introduction

This little written history has evolved because like so many others, I value the unique nature of Glenburnie Road, its trees, bird life and rustic charm.

My own history within this street began soon after the war. When I was a child I would walk from my Vernal Avenue home to Vermont State School, detouring along dusty Glenburnie Road to ensure my late arrival.

My family moved to Glenburnie Road in 1954 when my parents bought a poultry farm of five and a half acres. Back then the road was a rough tiled track with only twelve houses spanning its' entire length.

Charmed by the lovely view of the hills, my husband Ray and I decided to purchase land and build our own home here. That was thirty six years ago and the years that have passed since allowed me to witness the many, many changes that have taken place upon Glenburnie's bumpy path. For many years this remarkable road has held a special fascination for people throughout the community, who have made it a favoured walking path. Likened to everything from a 'goat track' to a 'charming country lane', Glenburnie Road is testimony to the city's rural past.

When the Glenburnie Road Committee was talking about the history of the road recently, it seemed important to document the information and local stories that belong here, before it is all lost. The history, its' people and most importantly the changed and changing landscape have been recorded by me here in an attempt to document the historical significance of unique Glenburnie Road.

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The Days Before White Man

Imagine if you can, the whole of Melbourne's Eastern suburbs covered in thick forest. Huge Gum trees, dense bush and frequent water holes and streams abounding with wildlife fish, eels, ducks and platypus lived in these creeks. Whilst kangaroos, wallabies, dingoes and possums were all endemic to the area, the emus were further north, where it was not as thickly treed.

In this paradise lived the inhabitants of the Wurunjeri, a clan of the Woiwurung tribe of the Kulin. To the indigenous inhabitants these ideal conditions supplied an abundance of meat. There were five tribes of the Kulin nation; the Kurung, Wathaurung, Taungurong, Bunurong and the Woiworung.

The Wurunjeri tribe once camped at the natural soak that these days is the Hale Park Dam. At the south end of Blooms reserve in Cochrane Street evidence has been found of aboriginal presence, and Mrs Myrtle Carruthers possesses an antiquated axe, collected at the site. This bush land was so thick and inhospitable that the early white settlers considered it uninhabitable.

In 1863 a parliamentary select committee recommended that land be set aside for Aboriginal people to form a settlement. The Wurunjeri tribe had previously settled at Acheron station but land hungry settlers had forced the tribe to abandon the area. Survivors of the much depleted tribe were removed to Coranderrk Station in Healesville. This was viewed by the Parliament at the time as adequate compensation for land lost. Twenty years later, a new act of Parliament declared that only full blooded to half cast families could live at Coranderrk, effectively breaking up many of these families.

Early Attempts at Settlement in the District

It was not until 1851 that Victoria separated from New South Wales, and became a colony. Between 1850 - 1854 a great deal of crown land was purchased in Melbourne, but not around Vermont where the harsh terrain was considered inhospitable and difficult.

Much of the land around Vermont was a government reserve before 1850. The Grant Land Act of 1862 followed the gold rush of the 1850's. It was declared as an attempt to stop speculators and developers from holding back settlement and keeping land values inflated.

At this time Canterbury Road was called Delanys Road. With the Grant Land Act came the opening up of the area and this permitted selections of land of up to eighty acres. Selectors had to live on the allocated land for three years and pay two pounds per acre per year, payable at two shillings a year over ten years. The settlers had to show evidence of spending and improvements to the blocks, such as clearing and fencing.

These first white settlers were mainly woodcutters and charcoal burners and their families. Firewood for the winter fires of Melbourne and charcoal for the steam trains (before the electrified railway was introduced) was cut and carted into Melbourne by dray at ten shillings per load. This continued until about 1870.

The early woodcutters first attempts at shelter were a lean to affair of bark and boughs. By the time they had completed building, the houses were usually one room of split sapling and clay, and a roof of Eucalyptus bark.

An early map of 1864 shows large areas of land on the east side of Canterbury Road to be owned by Nelson Polack. He also owned an area to the west of Mitcham Road, extending north about half way to Whitehorse Road.

Vermont in these days was called L.L Vale after a Dr L.L Smith, a land speculator and farm owner, who in 1858 bought all the area from Boronia, Canterbury and Heatherdale Roads bounded by the Dandenong creek. He established a model farm which included fruit trees and berries, vineyards and stock.

By 1858 Vermont's early pioneers had arrived. These settlers owned properties between 120 - 500 acres and by 1870 there were quite a few farmers at Vermont who battled to make a living from the heavy clay soil. Orchards were appearing with apples and pears thriving. Farming and flowers and poultry runs were also established. There was of course no reticulated water, nor electricity, telephone or railway services.

In 1882 the electrified railway was extended to Ringwood thus encouraging further settlement. The heavy clay of the subsoil of the area was found to be suitable for making tiles and bricks and the subsequent employment found at the Australian Tessellated Tile Company was encouraged. There were several other potteries in the Mitcham-Vermont area, such as Moore Road, Vermont and later Wunderlicks Tile Works.

GOLD

Following the Victorian gold fever of the 1850's fossickers were busy in the area. But with poor results. Glenburnie Road at a point opposite Orient Avenue has a quartz reef under it which runs across to Warrandyte. Mr Paton, who worked a poultry farm of five and a half acres there between 1940 to 1953, used to crush quartz found close to the surface of the unmade road. He told us that he collected some colour and when I was a child he showed me a small jar containing gold flecks.

In approximately 1935 a Mr Hamilton established a gold mine on the south side of Blooms reserve, where a pristine creek flowed past. He lived in a humpy of hessian bags and branches and his bed was also made from forked branches and hessian bags. He dug a shaft twelve feet down and then tunnelled under the creek. The local boys liked to visit this very well educated man and talk with him. They would tell us that he kept gold in paint tins under his bed. The Pittosporum trees which sheltered his humpy are still there on the south side of the toilet block at Blooms reserve.

Glenburnie Road Itself.

Before 1918 all the land north of Canterbury Road was dense bush. Houses had not yet been built in the Glenburnie Road area, though there may have been a bush dwelling erected during the wood cutting days.

An early map of Mitcham in 1892 shows the Glenburnie Road area was owned by J Hacker and J Ballenger.

In 1918 James Malcom purchased forty three acres which spread north from Canterbury Road beyond Orient Avenue. Within a year Mr Hugh Anderson purchased the land and subdivision occurred after this.

Between 1919 and 1925 Vermont spread and developed and most of the land in Glenburnie Road was subdivided into two to four acre blocks. Looking at the transfer of titles it is amazing how much of the land was purchased by women. Not many women went to work in these days. Were they widows of the first world war? Or were they wealthy gentlewomen?

By 1940 most of these blocks had been cut up into smaller blocks again, and it was then that building began in earnest in the street.

Roads and Road Making in the Area.

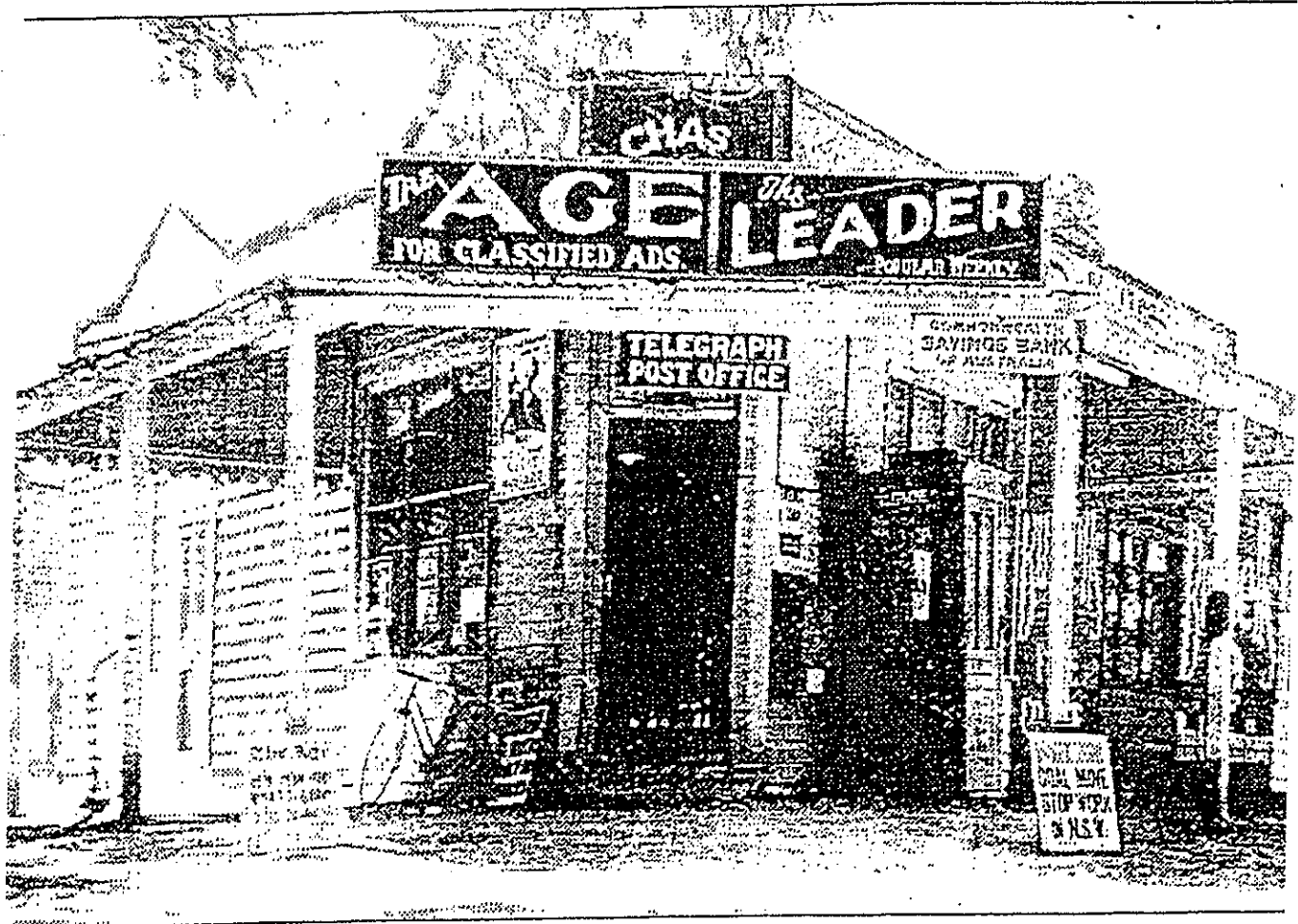
Before 1950 Mitcham Road was a narrow bitumen road with a footpath of crushed cinders from the tile works. Oak trees grew along the nature strip, and the gutters were deep blue stone pitchers, where local children collected tadpoles along the length of the road. It was resurfaced in the 1950's. Canterbury Road was made with bitumen, west of Mitcham Road, but to the east crushed local stone remained.

At about this time during the late 1940's, Vermont was visited by gypsies. Some of us still remember the wagon they parked at Pannam's store and the headmaster of Vermont State school locking all the doors and windows to keep the children inside while the gypsies were around. The school children were most excited and the boys continually had to "be excused" so they could dash out and look at these strange and fascinating people.

Canterbury Road was finally completed in the 1950's. The local roads Vernal Avenue, Orient Avenue and Halls Parade were just mud, tiles were added latter. Vernal Avenue which had a creek near Halls Parade was made around 1945. Edna Holland nee. Bomford who lives in Orient Avenue well remembers leaving her gumboots by the back fence and walking to the Rangeview shops through the paddocks just north of Orient Avenue, because the roads were such mud heaps. Vernal Avenue was built around 1946 and Halls Parade a little later.

Halls Parade south of Vernal Avenue is one of the highest points in Melbourne, which is why the properties in Glenburnie Road have more flash floods and rainwater than others in the area. In the very early days there may even have been a creek north of Orient Avenue.

At the turn of the decade leading into the 1950's, Orient Avenue was a track to Halls Parade and a Mr Parkinson of Melbourne owned land through to Glenburnie Road. His was a bush block and he built a small shed with a bed in it spending his weekends in the "country". He grew flowers, particularly Daffodils and Iris. His neighbour Mrs Cowan would not allow him any access to his property so he had to use Mrs John's entrance in Halls Parade.



Pannam's General Store was situated where the 7-11 store is today. Gypsies would visit this shop in the 1940's

The Flora of the Area

Circa 1940, the Eucalypts were most probably Mealy Stringybark, Yellow Box, Apple Box and Narrow Leafed Peppermint, Spiked Acacia. Prickly Moses Acacia and Cherry Ballard also thrived.

Some of the wild flowers included Early Nancy, Sundews, Egg and Bacon, Guinea flower, Wild Violets, Sarsaparilla, Pincushions and Billy Buttons.

Several native orchids also grew in the area. These included Greenhoods, Donkey Orchids, Hyacinth Orchids and Pink Caledonias. Prominent also were Trigger Plant, Olearia, Chocolate Lily, Fringe Lilly, Flax Lily, Heath, Beard Heath, Correa, Hovea, Bluebells, Rice Flower and Creamy Stackhousia.

How well some of us older residents remember walking through beautiful bush blocks in the spring and nature showing us an absolute riot of colours, shapes and textures. Around the natural spring (Hale Property Dam) was a most beautiful bush block which contained many of these plants. Sadly all this has disappeared.

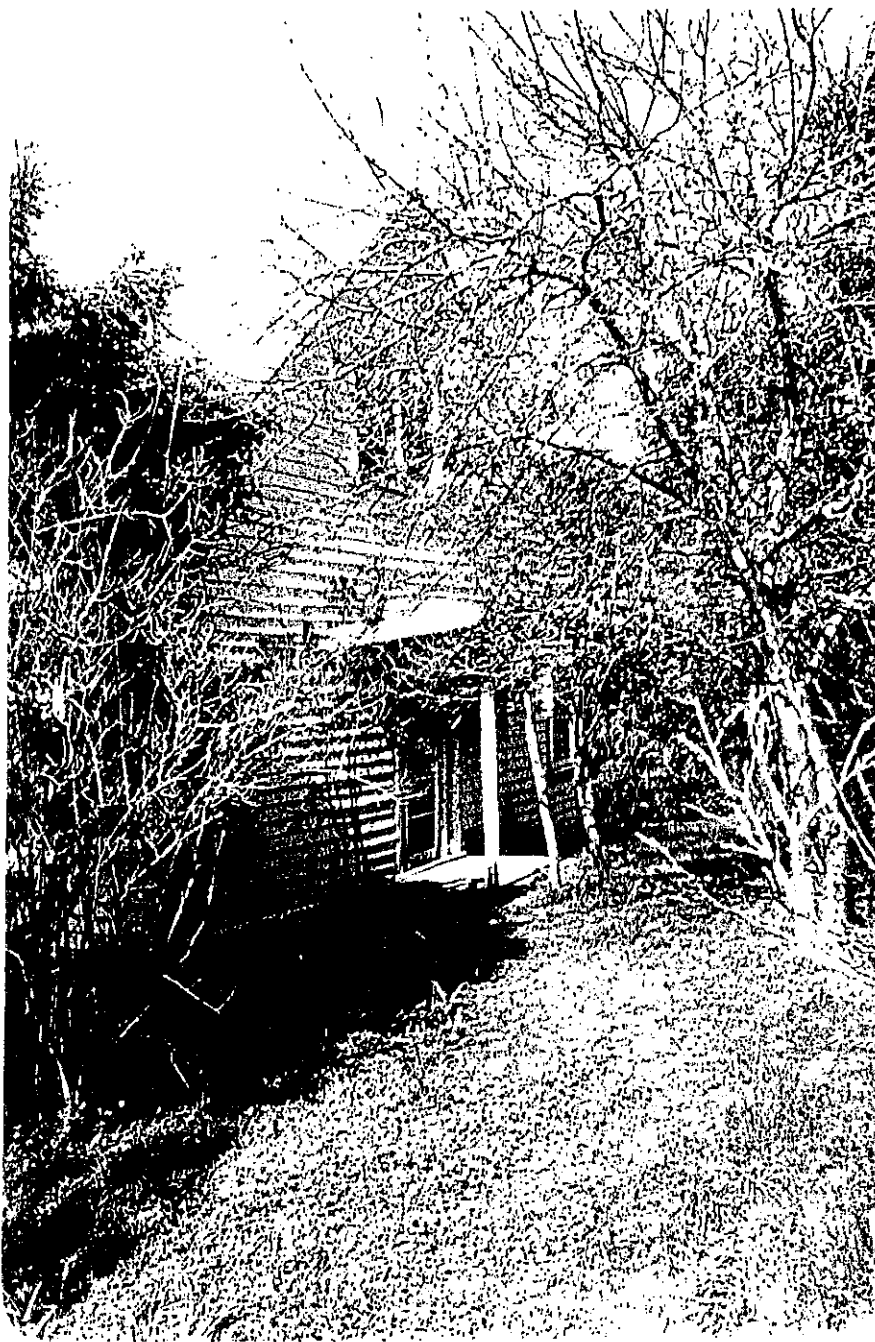
Between 1960-90 horses were kept in the area of the Hale Property. Compaction of the soil and excessive drainage from further up the hill have created boggy conditions, which in turn have killed off the endemic plants and led to the loss of a wonderful asset.

To experience the wonder of these wildflowers now lost from this area, we need to visit Antonio Park in Deep Creek Road, Mitcham in the spring time.

Development of Home Sites in the Street

The first homes in the street were built around 1925. The land of no. 63 Glenburnie Road was owned by Ethal Caplan in 1919, however Mr and Mrs Bereton had bought the land and were living there before 1937. The house built there was a small four roomed square dwelling without water or electricity. They were a couple of real characters. Wingy Bereton as he was known (he lost one arm at the elbow during World War One) would often be seen walking along the road with his dog Spider and any other dogs that wanted to come along, wearing a hessian bag slung over his stump. He used to collect the mail from Pannam's store and deliver it along the street. When he had been drinking heavily he would often sleep it off in the bushes across the road from his home. He was a landmark personality, to say the least.

Mrs Bereton was one of the truly delightful individuals of the district, and greatly loved within the street. Bought up in the Mallee, she would have such remarkable sayings. If we complained of the heat, her reply would come..."It's hot when the birds fall out of the trees dead". During the great depression of the 1930's she did crochet work for a living. This was a skill she passed on to all we young neighbour women in the area, along with jam making, and cake baking. In fact even her doctor was paid not with money, but rather home-grown vegies, cakes and jams.



No. 63, one of the very first houses in the street, was owned by the Bereton's in the 1930's. They built on an attic and a back room after winning tattersall's

Mrs Bereton loved animals and her chickens would come inside. It was not uncommon to see a chook or two fly up onto the table and search for extra food there. Terribly untidy, she would go out visiting in odd shoes, stockings around her ankles, glasses falling off her nose and a battered hat, rakishly angled upon her head. She was an albino and could not see very well at all. Mrs Bereton lived into her eighties and upon her death in the early 1970's a huge crowd gathered at her funeral.

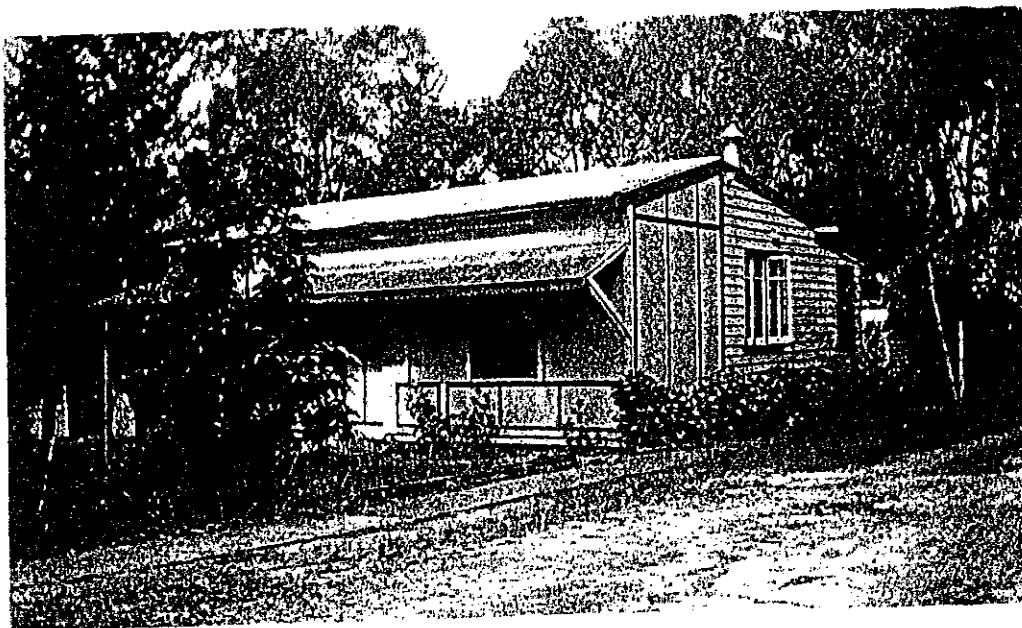
Numbers 65, 67 and 67A were one property, owned by Beatrice Hurcun purchased in 1923, followed by the Tovey family, who then further subdivided the land in 1960 and then the land was subdivided in 1960. Tovey's had a car port quite near the road where they parked their Austin A 40 and one day someone with an axe to grind emptied sugar into the motor. Great friends, the Beretons and the Toveys won Tattersalls and shared 10,000 pounds between them. The road at this stage was a mud track and they paid for a load of tiles from Wunderlicks to be dropped off and spread, it was then rolled by handroller.

Another early house in the street was number 69. Mr John Sangster was walking past in 1936 when the cottage was being constructed. The builders were arguing heatedly and John offered them 100 Pounds there and then and bought the property. He was the father of John Sangster the brilliant musician. This cottage remains today and is now owned by Mrs Betty Palmer. One more early block was no. 45, which was purchased by Beatrice Rawson, a concert pianist, in 1923. The land extended as far as Langford Avenue. Mr Rawson was the local dentist, the only one in Mitcham. Beside the house was the most beautiful dam with water lilies and large green bull frogs and it was ever so attractive.

In 1937 Mr and Mrs Henry Palmer purchased land with a small cottage on it which was called EULOLO which they further built onto. Cyril (Henry's son) and Betty Palmer, newly married in 1937 were able to buy 200 feet to the north of this block a little later. They built a small house which remains now at no.75. They also owned the land now no.73, which was purchased in 1952 by Ken and Joan Lewis

By 1937 the road was almost un-negotiable. Henry Palmer and Cyril Palmer were responsible for putting crushed tiles on the west side of the road to Canterbury Road, after numerous complaints by the trades people. John Sangster who lived at number 69 altered the road and put it further to the right.

Ken Lewis and Cyril built a three foot concrete box near the old tree to deflect the water which was flowing across the road and making it's way down to Scott Street, which was unable to be negotiated by foot or vehicle it was so boggy. It was not drained or formally made until around twenty five years ago.



'Eulolo' Henry and Jennie Palmer's home at 77 Glenburnie Road

Glenburnie Road in the 1940's

Glenburnie Road was just a track and a rough one at that when Betty and Cyril Palmer moved there in 1940. Their block was thickly bushed, and there they built their house, now no.75. Henry and Jennie Palmer (Cyril's parents) had the electricity put onto the street, and also the water. They started off in 1937 with rain water caught in a barrel. After years of only a Coolgardie safe, ice was finally made available, however the iceman complained that the poor state of the road (a creek flowed across the road from the overflow of the dam) broke up his ice while driving along the road and so he refused to deliver ice down Glenburnie Road. Betty Palmer remembers having to push the children's' billy cart to Canterbury Road and wait perhaps an hour and a half for the ice truck, and then bring the heavy load of ice home. Mr Merton Phillips who moved to Halls Parade in 1942 and bought the block through to Glenburnie Road, no.56 used to ride his bike to Doncaster Road Box Hill, now called Dorking Road, to collect ice from the ice works there, before riding home again.



Cyril, Betty and Henry Palmer on their bush block prior to 1940

The toilet arrangements were primitive in those years. All homes had an outside toilet which was emptied weekly by the night soil man. He wore a hat and used to balance the heavy pan on his head. Other visitors were the baker who called at the door daily, the milkman who delivered milk to a billy which hung on the front fence and the grocer and greengrocer who called for orders, and later delivered the goods. There was no rubbish collection in those days and all rubbish was either composted or buried.

Every family kept chooks and it was not unusual to own a cow. The Palmer's kept a temperamental goat which only Betty had the knack of milking.

During the war petrol was rationed to one gallon a month and cars ran on gas-producers fired by charcoal. Often as Cyril Palmer was driving home in the early hours of the morning from his factory (commandeered by the Government to make equipment for the war effort) the fire in the car's engine would go out. He would have to re-light the fire to get moving again. As it was a requirement that car lights be dimmed at night it was a very dangerous time to be driving on the roads, for wandering stock were a hazard.

After the War

After the Second World War the demand for building was huge. The shortage of building materials was extreme and it was returned servicemen who were allowed the first available materials. Many homes had to be built in a/c sheet and there was an area limit of ten squares per house. By 1948 the limit was twelve squares, later increasing to fourteen squares. There was an eighteen month wait to build and a further eighteen months wait for materials.

Glenburnie Road North of Vernal Avenue

The blocks purchased around 1922 on the east side of Glenburnie Road were mainly poultry farms, with thick bush remaining on the western side of the street. On this western block was a little miners cottage to the back, owned by the Dale family. Langford Avenue on the south side of Vernal Avenue contained a large poultry farm, and there were also several poultry farms in Halls Parade.

The Area North of Glenburnie Road

Extending from behind Orient Avenue right through to Heatherdale Road, the area was quite thick bush. A pristine creek flowed gently through the wild flower laden bush, emptying into the East Mitcham Dam, where the scout hall now exists. The wildflowers added a riot of colour to the bush in the spring, and as small children we would take a picnic lunch and disappear into the bush for the whole day. It was so safe and so very beautiful. Maiden Hair Ferns dotted the banks of the creek.

After the war this area was subdivided and many migrants, Dutch, German and Lithuanian arrived and through sheer hard work (often living in garages and sheds) built their homes in the surrounding streets.

The 1950's

Ken Hauser who lived in 'Dandevue' number 58, was so concerned by the deplorable state of the road that in 1956 he called a meeting to discuss the predicament of the road. As a result a committee was formed to improve the road and tackle the drainage problem. As all homes were on septic systems by now, gastro-enteritis was rife in the street, and each winter and after rain, there was a very distinctive smell around. Sewerage was connected in the mid 60's allowing the mothers in the street to finally heave a sigh of relief. The telephone was mainly a party line system up until 1960 and gas was not connected until the 1980's.

The garden of Dandevue included a miniature maze, and with it's secret paths creating a perfect habitat for children's imaginations, local kids would run wild here. The grounds of the property were fascinating to children. For some strange reason the property was a haven for blue tongue lizards and many skinks, and there was a family of foxes living in a den beneath the garage.

After the death of the beloved Glad (Ken's widow) the property was left to the Vermont Elderly Peoples Homes. The estate contained two homes that were rented out for some years before the property was subdivided in 1995.

The Kirpatrick Years

Firstly Emma Newshan, then May Swain originally owned part of the Hale estate. In 1922 Arthur Plaisted, an architect, bought Lot 15 of subdivision 7514 in the parish of Nunawading, county of Bourke. It is thought he built the large home later called 'Buckanbe'.

In 1924, the widow Mary Kirkpatrick bought the land extending from Glenburnie Road west, almost to Mitcham Road. She died and left the property to her sister Miss Kirkpatrick. In 1946 the eastern portion of the property was sold to Miss Julia Hale who lived in the big home with her sister Edith. Julia Hale was a timber merchant and owned a timber mill at Corryong. Miss Kirkpatrick and her brother continued to live in Orion Street in a small cottage called 'Bethany', and they rented another small cottage out to Miss Rose. Miss Kirkpatrick drove her car to the local shops until she was 93 years old. The local church people would visit and help her and she gave her property to the Vermont Elderly Peoples Homes in 1968.

The Funding for the Kirkpatrick Homes

The idea of erecting homes for elderly people came as a result of conversations between Esme White, Pat Faggetter and old Miss Geoffries (who was living at no. 61 Glenburnie Road at the time) and stalwart workers of the local churches. There was nowhere in Vermont for older people to live in small accommodation areas, and so it was decided to build some units on the Kirpatrick property (fronting Orion Street).

The Mitcham opportunity shop became a major source of funding for the units. The profits from this shop were divided evenly into five annual amounts, with each organisation involved receiving one fifth of the profit. These organisations were the three Maroondah Hospital Auxiliaries, Vermont, Mitcham and Nunawading, Community Aid Abroad and The Vermont Church Community Aid Group. The shop was staffed voluntarily one week in five by each of these groups.

When the Vermont Church group had raised one third of the amount needed, the Federal Government provided the remaining finance and together with donations and help from voluntary organisations, the six units were completed.

The pretty little gardens were established soon after through voluntary help and they are a tribute to the hard work of many people. Workers from the two churches at Vermont, St Lukes Anglican and Vermont Uniting have seen a dream fulfilled and the homes are a credit to everyone who worked so hard over the years.

The Hale Estate

In 1946 Julia Hale moved into 'Buckanbe'. The large old house was surrounded by a lovely garden of spring colour. Azaleas, Camellias, Rhododendrons, Bulbs, Helleborus and old trees gave a shady garden wonderful colour. There was an orchard to the east of the house and an extensive vegetable garden which was watered from the dam using a windmill to pump water up to the garden. This famous dam was originally a natural spring and continually ran, causing Glenburnie Road, then a narrow track to become a bog.

Julia Hale died in 1964 and her sister Edith (Edie) inherited the property. At this time there was a narrow track which bordered the Hale property on the north side. It was a council right of way for pedestrians to pass through on their way to and from Mitcham Road and spanned from the end of Orion Street to Glenburnie Road. It was just a dirt path but an old bylaw stated that once a year on the 15th. April, under council regulations the gate had to be locked. It so happened one day that Edie Hale saw old Mr. Kirkpatrick (Miss Kirkpatrick's) brother, making his way down the track. He was not popular with Edie, who, on seeing him wending his way down the hill, rang her good friend Pat Faggetter, living in Glenburnie Road. Pat hurried over and quickly locked the gate before the poor fellow arrived forcing him to retreat back.

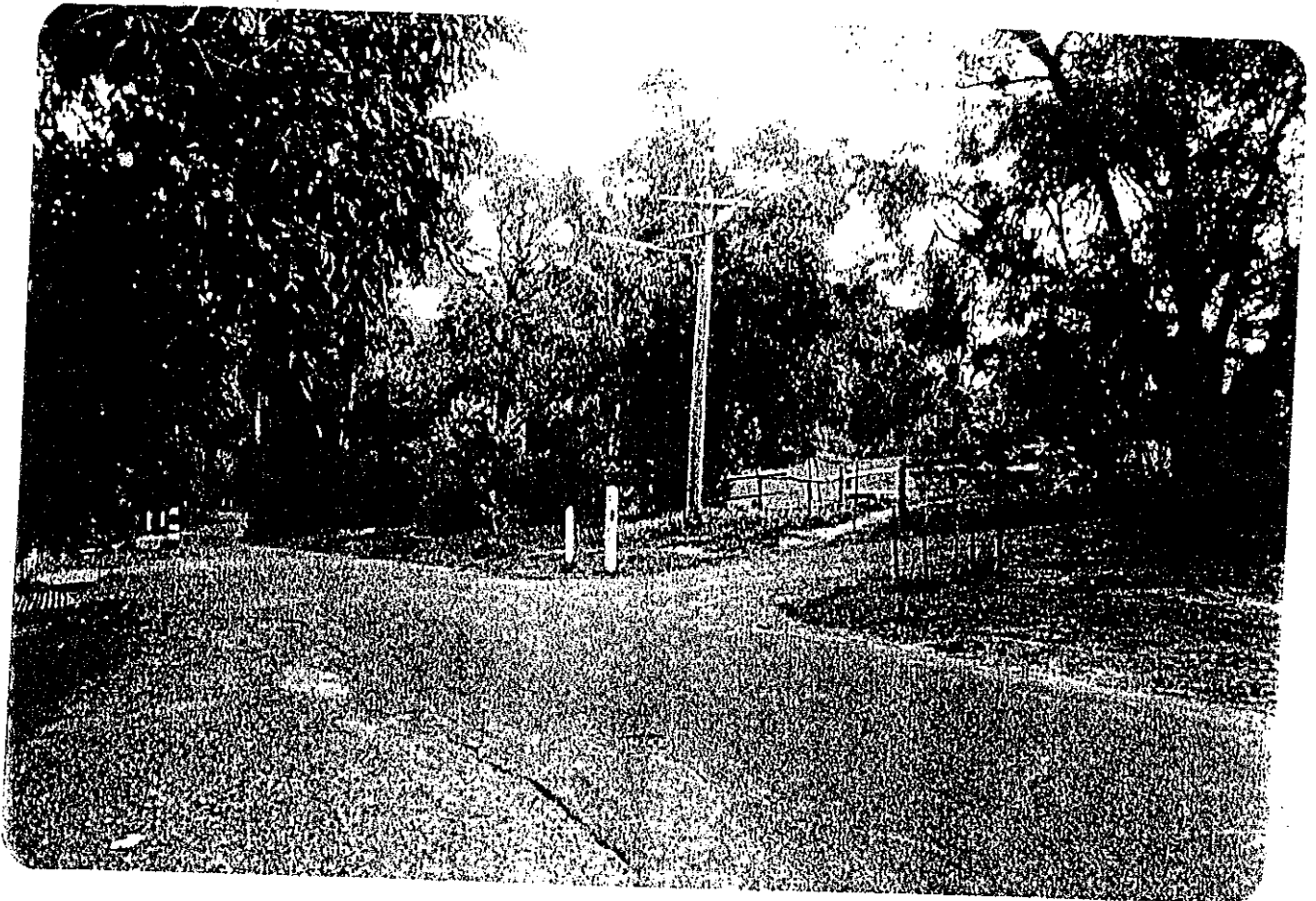
After the death of Edith Hale in a tragic motor accident, the estate was managed for some time while the will was in probate. It was then that horses were allowed to graze the paddocks, compacting the soil and causing so much damage.

death the property went back for probate. The Hale Estate was then left to a niece in America and the remainder of the estate was left to the Forestry Department of Melbourne University. The solicitors Irving, Goddard and King then purchased the property in 1989. Nunawading council purchased the middle portion of the estate for half a million dollars and the land around the perimeter was sub divided in May 1989. The proceeds of that sale were forwarded to the niece in America.

Four entrances to the park were created from the abutting streets, Orion, Grey, Malvern and Glenburnie Roads.

After Council purchased what is now known as Hales Park, the residents were invited to state where they wanted the main park to be. Street representatives from the adjoining streets disputed the proposed parks boundaries, fiercely at times. Finally council decided that the main park should be at the brow of the hill. The park has since been planted with a variety of native species, but endemic plants to the area have not been used.

The famous dam has delighted generations of children. Huckleberry Fin like adventures on home made rafts, and fishing for yabbies, gamboozies (small fish), tadpole collecting, dragon fly netting and more recently the feeding of wild ducks, are some of the recreational activities the dam has provided locals. The dam with its' superb water lilies was landscaped when the park was finally established, incorporating attractive large rocks, perfect for sitting upon, to retreat amongst the company of bellbirds, parrots and other native birdlife. Council maintains the area, but from time to time voluntary working bees involving residents from the four streets are held, often with a barbecue to follow. An advisory body consisting of representatives of each of the four streets meets from time to time, advising the council on pertaining matters.



Standing opposite no. 67. Hales paddock appears on the right hand side - 1980

The Vermont Elderly People's Homes at Pinaroo Court

The land on which the units of the Vermont Elderly Peoples Homes are placed at number 77 in the street was donated privately in 1980 courtesy of a family living in the street (they wish to remain anonymous). The area of land .538 of a hectare or one and a third acres was built on in two stages. Part of the proceeds from the Mitcham Opportunity Shop and many private donations helped raise the amount needed before the Commonwealth Government contributed sixty percent towards building costs.

The first ten units were erected in 1982 after a great amount of concern and opposition by some Glenburnie Road residents who feared the street would become excessively busy and noisy, changing its' character for ever. Mrs Esme White and the architect Mr David Gawler faced an extremely hostile street committee at the time.

Many were the working bees involving various community organisations, Toc H, the Lions Club, the Kiwanis and the Vermont Horticultural Society among them. In 1988 another nine units were added. Again the church community was responsible for the erection of the units. People such as Bruce Littlejohn, Esme White, Harry Ross, Bob Peck, Cyril Palmer, Alan Evered, David Gomm to name a few, worked very hard over several years to accomplish the huge task of establishing the village. Even the lawns were donated, the Blackburn bowling club contributing the turf, which was eagerly received and placed on the prepared soil area.

The village today remains the property of the Vermont Elderly Peoples Community. Mostly local elderly people live there, but in some cases where families of older people live in Melbourne, then elderly people from outside areas are able to inhabit the village; however priority remains with local people.

The grounds of the homes are quite lovely and many of the residents tend their own neat colourful gardens. A hired gardener looks after the lawns and some of the garden areas. The peace one feels when walking in the lovely quiet grounds is apparent to all who enter Pinaroo Court.



Looking North along the road from the Pinaroo Court development - 1984

Some Other Subdivisions in the Street

The land, now numbers 57 -59 was originally purchased by Francis Hall in 1924. Mr Lawrie later bought the land through to Scott Street where his house was built. He established an orchard of Buerre Bosc Pears (a few of which still remain) Plum Trees and Lemon Trees.

Number 56 was a bushy block owned by Mr Merton Phillips and more than once young escapees from Bayswater Boys Home camped under the trees, evading the police for some time, before capture. Merton built his house on this block in 1969.

Llewelyn and Joy Jones owned the property at no. 48 and this was subdivided in the 1980's and three white two storey Georgian terrace homes were built in 1989.

The large block at number 42 was first purchased in 1920 by Victor Clarke. It was sold to Ritzmans who built a tennis court facing the road (the embankment is still visible). Thwaites then purchased number 42. The block to the north of this was bought by Myrna Coates in 1920 and extended out to Vernal Avenue. It has since been sub divided into four blocks. In 1919 Edgar Walker made his purchase to the south of number 42. This block which extended down to number 56, was later sold to a Miss Rawlings. The block which includes numbers 56 through 64 was bought by Christine Lorimer in 1922 and later sold to the Robbins family and was sub divided after the Second World War.

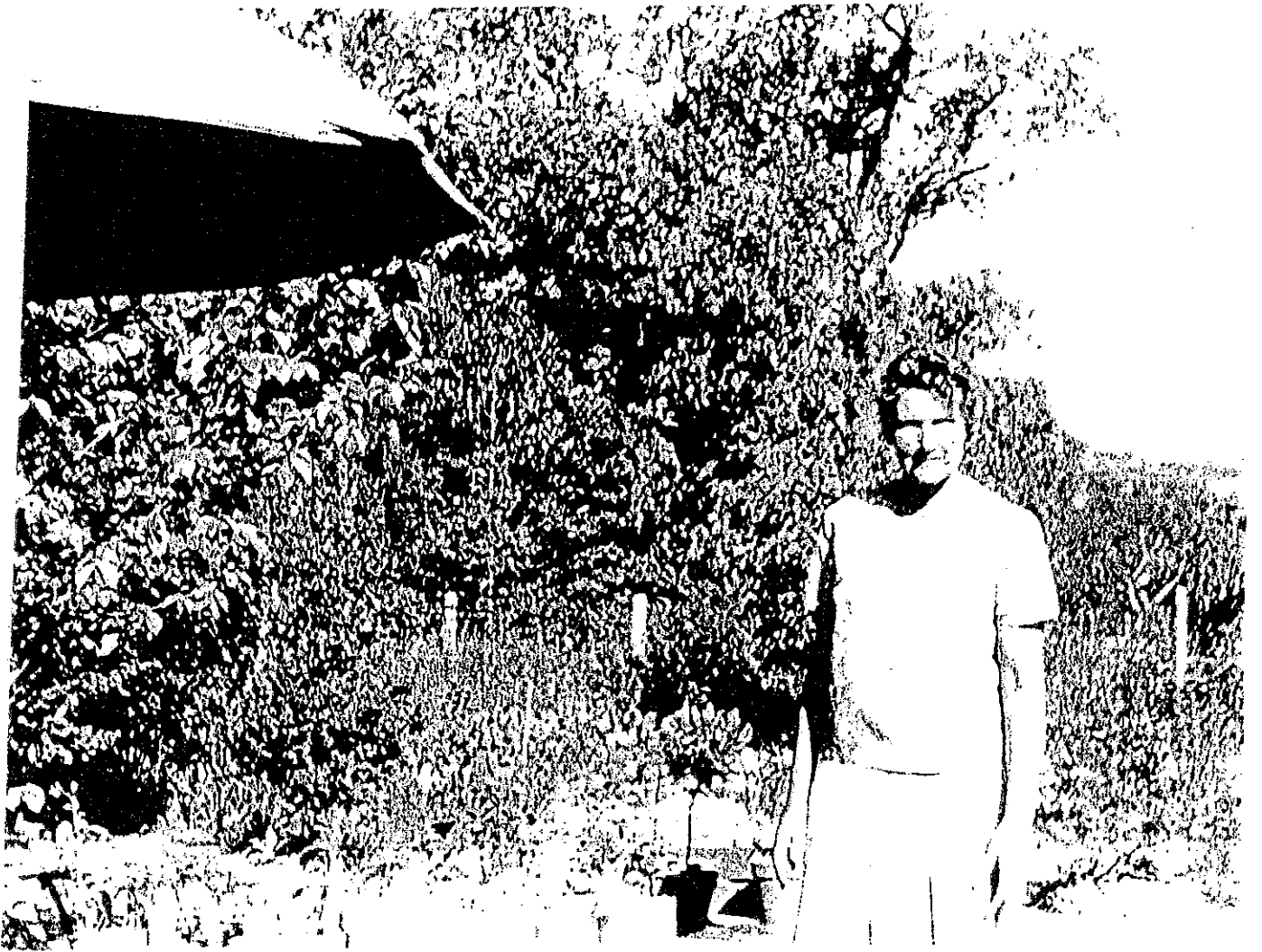
The Faggetter Property

Number 53 in the street was originally purchased by Francis Hall in 1824. 'Rhyme' a property of 2.5 acres was built after the Second World War by Ted and Pat Faggetter. Both Ted and Pat loved gardening and their garden was a truly beautiful part of the landscape. The garden faced east to the Dandenongs and featured a Horse Chestnut specimen tree and a glorious Persimmon tree.

Pat was an authority on herbs and their uses. She visited many parts of the world learning herbal remedies and applications from tribes in remote areas. She also gave talks on television on different gardening topics. Pat was an outstanding social worker and many were the garden parties held in her lovely garden to aid cancer research, Yooralla, Community Aid Abroad and other charities.

Ted looked after a wonderful vegetable garden and supported Pat with her interests. He won many prizes for his vegetables at the Vermont Horticultural Show.

Pat Faggetter died in 1983 and her loss was felt deeply, both in the street and by the whole community. Ted retired to Aireys Inlet to be near his daughter Rachel and after he left, the property was sold to the Russell family and then to the Catholic Church who in turn sold to a developer. The house 'Rhyme' still stands today at no. 53 but the adjoining property was subdivided into a further five sites around 1988, the building commencing in 1989



A photograph of Pat Faggetter, in her lovely garden, which faced east towards the Dandenongs.

The Farley Green Estate

The Farley Green Estate was purchased in 1922 by Mr Leonard Uren and extended from Canterbury Road to the other side of what is now Farley Green Court. At this time it was a flower farm and later it was sold to Mr and Mrs Tippet. They lived in a large two storey home with a long sweeping yellow gravel drive. Tall wrought iron gates at the entrance were most imposing and a gardener was employed to look after the extensively landscaped garden.

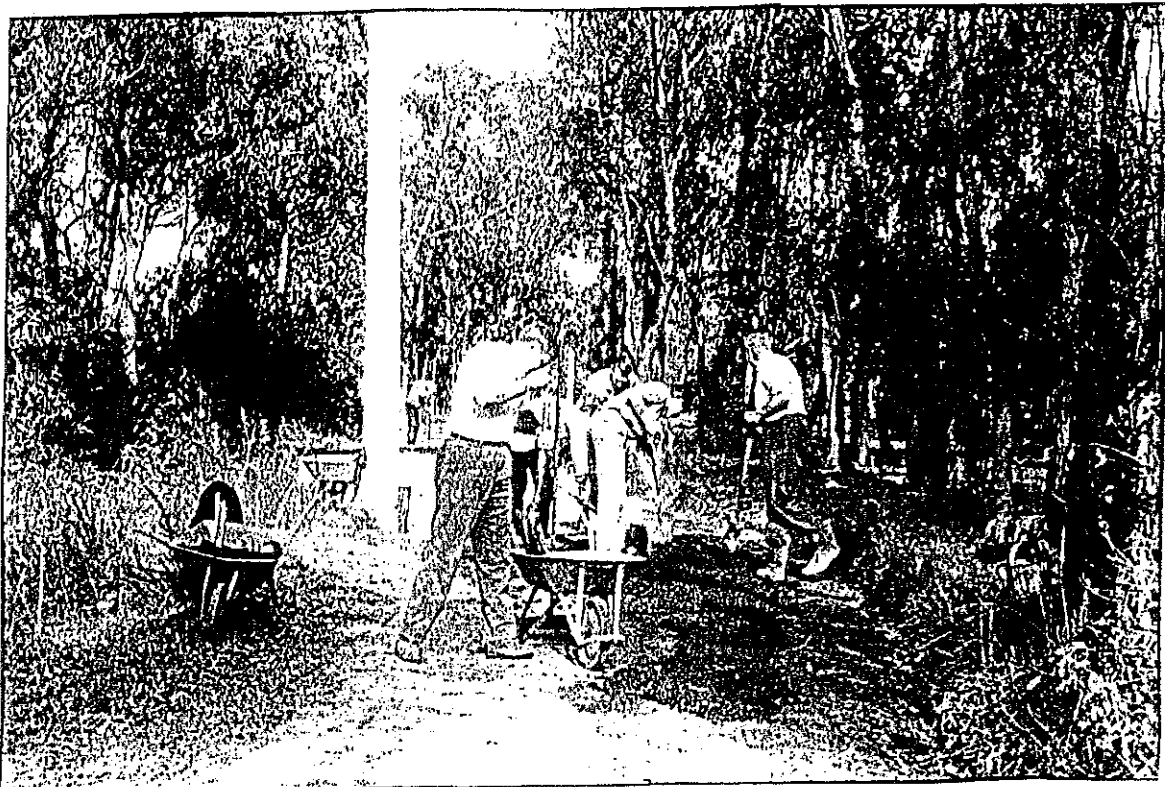
North of Farley Green was a property owned by Robertson's, extending over to the Hale property border, flowers were grown here too.

The block facing onto Canterbury Road on the south east side of Glenburnie Road was purchased in 1927 by Hilda Black. It was later owned by Miss Cummings. There was an old oiled wood house on the property which extended up as far as Henry Palmer's property. This block was a wonderful spot for wild bush mushrooms and they popped up under the bushes every autumn. Very few people knew about them as they were well camouflaged amongst the dried grass and leaves. The old house was rented out in the late 1970's and early 1980's and a small aquarium was set up inside the house by the tenants. The property sub division took place in the mid 1980's, when the first homes on the south side of the Vermont Elderly People's Homes were built. The other homes down to the corner of Glenburnie and Canterbury Roads were built from 1987 onwards.

Progression of the Road

In 1965 Albion Reid quoted at two shillings and nine pence per square yard to sweep rubbish surplus off the road and to spray tar at one shilling and five pence per gallon per square yard. To supply and spray hot bitumen would cost one shilling and five pence per gallon per yard. The company would supply, load, cart, spread and roll screenings at one pound per yard over ninety square yards. The quoted exercise was council approved and carried out, thus finally sealing the road.

In 1967 the road was resealed. Some early committee members resigned from the street committee because they did not believe the road would hold. Since then Glenburnie Road has been patched very many times. Sometimes the council was paid to repair it but usually the work has and is still done at street working bees by the street's residents. About 1990 the road became the Glenburnie Road Residents Association Incorporated, to safeguard residents in case of public liability.



Early working bee on the road - about 1962

The 1990's and the Future

How amazed the first owners of the road's large two and three acre blocks would be today if they could see the way Glenburnie Road has progressed, through sub division of the old estates, and the multiple houses assembled.

It is surprising how the native birds have adapted to such changed conditions. The Magpies, Mudlarks, Parrots, Bellbirds, the occasional Kookaburra, Silver Eyes, Eastern Spinebills, Wattle Birds and Kurrawongs continue to delight us. We still have the occasional Spotted Pardelot but no longer Frogmouth Owls or Blue Wrens.

There will be much more development in the street, it is inevitable. Now it is up to us all to retain the precious character of treasured Glenburnie Road, especially those of us who have chosen this area to build our homes on. We must continue to contribute towards it's very uniqueness within the Whitehorse community.



Looking south from no. 58 around 1984

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- | | |
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Mr Martin Johns
Mrs S Cook (nee. M. Robbins)

And any other residents I have bailed up in the street, the local shopping centre, or elsewhere.

If there are any inconsistencies or mistakes I apologise, but so much of the following information is by word of mouth and covers a long period of time. And memories dim with time and age.

Mrs Jenny Brash

February 1997

