

Peter Cook [REDACTED] Thu, 23 Oct 2014  
Hi Bob

Thank you for your recent email regarding Scherkolt Cottage.

Our family moved to Loughnan's Rd in 1947 after purchasing about 25 acres on the east side of the road where the shops and Service Station are now located. We purchased the land in 1945 after the war.

My father was a doctor in Balwyn and bought the property as a weekend retreat. I have many memories of the area as we had ponies and rode around the district in the late 40's and 50's. My father developed a poultry farm and lemon orchard on most of the property running right down to the creek.

He slowly sold off the property in small parcels over time and after he died in 1995 my brother continued to live there until last year when he sold the house and the last block of land.

My son Michael was a friend of Caroline Scherkolt in about 1980 and we were interested in her relationship with the family. Her brother was Charles.

Our property was called Eastleigh and I lived there with my parents until I married in 1960. I well remember riding my bike up and down to Ringwood station each school day for about 6 years, sometimes to Mitcham across the little bridge over the creek in Deep Creek Road.

One of our neighbours, a Mr Lucky, had won Tatts and built himself a big house on the south side of us.

In the early days the property was covered in large tree stumps and gum trees. These were removed with a tree puller and the stumps blown up with gelignite. A very exciting time for me as a 12 year old. I used to plough up the orchard with a little Ferguson tractor in the weekends. The orchard and poultry farm was all sold off in the 60's and all the land fronting the creek was acquired for the freeway in late 80's. Our front gate was where the last shop is now sited.

I would be delighted to visit the Society on a working Wednesday and discuss my recollections of the area. I will endeavour to do this in the near future possibly November.

Our Probus Group was most impressed with the work being done at the Cottage and I will look forward to my visit.

Peter Cook  
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