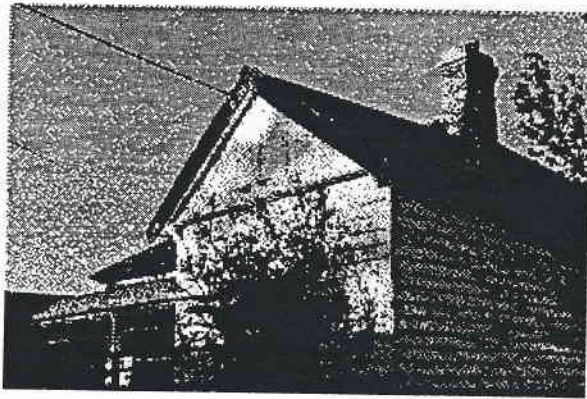


## The Hedge

**Other name:** Tom Knee House  
**Address:** 9087 Yarra Road, Wonga Park  
**Place No:** 20.16.04  
**Dates:** 1912-13 **Use:** Residential (rural)



*The Hedge*

**Description:** An Edwardian timber house, once associated with a large orchard (since cleared).[1] It is asymmetrical with projecting gabled bay with half-timbering and brackets below. It has a bull-nosed verandah with timber detailing, and paired windows. At the rear is a skillion section. Adjoining is a corrugated iron clad shed (original purpose not known) and on the opposite side is a brick beehive (below ground) tank/well.

The house is set behind a huge clipped cypress hedge and the pine windbreak that once sheltered the orchard stretches along Yarra Road. The house remains on 20 acres.

The property extends to Holloway Road. There is also a large cypress hedge in front of the house, the only local example noted.

Windbreak for Tom Knee's orchard remains along Yarra Road adjoining the house.[1]

**Condition:** Fair **Integrity:** Intact **Threats:** Deterioration

**Designer:** -

**Theme:** 5  
5.03

**History:** Thomas S. Knee, orchardist, was rated for the first time for a house on over 20 acres in Crown Allotment 14B in 1912-13, valued at 11 pounds.[2] The house now called The Hedge, is located in this allotment. Knee had been rated the previous year for vacant land in 14B valued at six pounds but with a note that valuation would be raised to 11 pounds the following year.[3]

Knee's house seems to have been gradually extended in subsequent years. By 1913, when the property included 14C, and comprised 39 acres, valuation rose to 20

pounds.[4]

In 1920, when Thomas Samuel and Jane Knee, orchardists, owned the property, the valuation had more than doubled to 50 pounds.[5] This suggests extensive developments on the property. By 1924, when the owners were T. S. and Jane Knee still, the valuation had increased further to 55 pounds.[6]

The former Union Christian Church (now the Milpara Catholic Centre) in Yarra Road, is located on land in 14B donated by the Knee family. This building was opened as a non-denominational Protestant church in 1928.[7]

**Associations:** Tom Knee

**Statement of Significance:** The Hedge is of local significance as the home of Thomas S. Knee, orchardist, from the First World War period, remaining as a rare intact example of the farm dwellings built in Wonga Park at this period. (Criterion B2, H1)

**Source:** [1] Workshop Places 13 & 14.  
[2] Shire of Lillydale RB 1912-13 No.2092.  
[3] Shire of Lillydale RB 1911-12 No.1865.  
[4] Shire of Lillydale RB 1913-14 No.2196.  
[5] Shire of Lillydale RB 1920-21 No.3522.  
[6] Shire of Lillydale RB 1924-25 No.3906.  
[7] Pers. comm. Pastor Eric Kenyon. Place No. 20.16.03.