

## A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF PARK ORCHARDS

### Park Orchards Community House

A unique collection of early photographs, press clippings and original maps telling the story of Park Orchards from the time of the first Crown Allotments in 1854 to the eventual subdivision and settlement of the village we know today.

**8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> September 2007**



1951 - Park Orchards Golf Course - 8<sup>th</sup> Green  
Photo Provided by Mr. David Eldridge

**1951 - Park Orchards Golf Course 8<sup>th</sup> Green  
(Now 66 Ennismore Cr.)**

**Prior to 1850** this district which first became known as 'The Park' was a native bushland of wattles eucalypts and wildflowers, inhabited by Kangaroos, Echidnin's, Wombats, Bandicoots native birds and Possums.

**The First Crown Allotments** were purchased by **C. Heape** and **F. McDonnell** in **1854**

In **1902 Tom Petty** and his wife **Eliza** purchased 500 acres of land and after clearing, established **80 orchard blocks** with 10 dams and rows of pine trees as wind breaks. These orchards were productive by 1906. **E & M Gibb** acquired this property in **1914** with **W. Sell** as caretaker.

**By 1920 other orchards** had been established and a small community resided in the locality. Some of the families living here were: **Mitchell, Domeney, Brown, Milne, Zoch, Tortice, Sell, Coleman, Johansen, and Porter.**

The **Park Orchards Country Club Estate** was launched in **1926** by Timber Merchants **Sharp & Taylor** when they purchased all of the **Gibb & Sell** land (this would eventually become the village of Park Orchards). **Tuxon & Miller** who had worked with **Walter Burley Griffin** surveyed the estate and subdivided most of it into half-acre blocks following the **contours of the land.**

The estate consisted of a **Cricket Ground, Croquet Lawn, Tennis Courts, Swimming Pool** and a **Club Hall (Chalet).**

**A nine hole golf course** was completed in **1931.**

Gates were placed at the entrance, and a covenant was placed on the subdivision to maintain exclusive residential status.

At this time **Sharp and Taylor** cleared sections of the estate surrounding the Golf Course and planted **Pine Plantations.** These trees eventually self-seeded to produce the pines we see today.

**In 1940 The Australian Army Signals** requisitioned the Chalet and adjacent blocks for a **Wireless Communications Centre**. Power and water mains were brought in and **400 army personnel were housed in tents and huts**. Large rhombic antennas were erected pointing to the pacific. The Chalet and Golf Course became temporary recreational facilities.

After the war the Army moved out and in **1947 Sharp & Taylor** sold the estate land to **Edments**, a variety store in **Bourke Street** as a staff provident fund and recreation facility. **The Army sold the Chalet building** and six acres to **V.R. Jones** who opened a **Cabaret**. **The Edwards family** later purchased this and established the **Chalet Restaurant** we know today.

Over the next ten years the population of Park Orchards grew slowly. Some significant events were:

1958 **Milk Bar** was opened. 1958 **Post Office** was opened  
1961 Park Orchards Primary School (**P.O.P.S**) was opened  
1965 Council purchased **Domeney Reserve** and constructed a pavilion.

1966 **Tennis Club** was formed

1967 **Park Orchards Ratepayers Association** was formed

1969 A **private street scheme** was approved and constructed.

1962 **Bushfires** came through Warrandyte and swept through Park Orchards.

1978 Community House (**P.O.L.T.A**) established at POPS

1980 **St Anne's Primary School** opened.

1982 Community House property purchased by Council.

1968 Park Orchards Community House Inc. established

**We have much to thank our far sighted early settlers for this unique environment of Park Orchards.**

# "Park Orchards"

DONCASTER

To be Created a Family Playground. To make life Healthy, Pleasurable and Worth Living

*Designed and Laid Out by Messrs. Tuxen & Miller, Surveyors*

## PROPOSED CLUB ACTIVITIES

*TO BE CONTROLLED BY "PARK ORCHARDS" CLUB (To be registered under Companies Act 1915)*

*Club Hall, Cricket Ground, Tennis Courts*

*Children's Playgrounds, Golf Course*

*Parks & Gardens, Bowling Greens*

*Swimming Pool, Croquet*

*Lawns*

*Agents*

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TITLE CERTIFICATE

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