



YALLOURN ASSOCIATION

formerly Yallourn Old Girls' Association Inc
Preserving the memories for all to enjoy

Newsletter - Jan 2016

Committee:

*YHS
or Equiv*

President:

Judy King (Ross) 1951

Vice President:

Jean Fox (Hattam) 1937

Secretary:

Julie George (Francis) 1966

Treasurer:

Chris French (Francis) 1962

Committee:

June Jardine (Blenkiron) 1942

Kendal Laws (Taylor) 1977

Mavis McAllister (Webb) 1940

Carol Summersgill (Hunt) 1959

Helene Warner (Wall) 1962

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Bank Details:

Bank Australia (MECU)

BSB No: 313140

A/C No: 12055305

Name: Yallourn Association

Please write your name in 'Reference'
and email Julie once payment made.

Websites:

www.yallourn.org

www.virtualyallourn.com

www.facebook.com/yallournassociation

Next Reunion:

Saturday, 5 March 2016

Yallourn Reunion at Woorabinda
School Camp - more details inside

Wanted:

Any old home movies showing
Yallourn - happy to convert to DVD
for you - also slides, photographs
and stories for our website, future
books, newsletters and DVDs -
please contact Julie.

Welcome to another newsletter. Some really exciting news involves our Virtual Yallourn website. Thanks to the Morwell Historical Society, we have been able to scan over 150 **SEC Magazines** from the 1950s, 60s, 70s & 80s. These contain some really interesting photos and articles of Yallourn residents and workers at the SEC. We have now started to progressively upload them each week for all to share. Just go to **www.virtualyallourn.com** where you can view and print if you like. To find them, either scroll from the top down or click on the 'Magazines' tab at the top and they will all be there.

Also coming soon will be some films which the SEC commissioned in the 1990s of the briquette factory, power station, the Queen's visit in 1954, a biography of Sir John Monash and many more.

If you can contribute to our archives with information, photos, stories etc about your family's life in Yallourn, or sporting and/or community groups, please either add directly to the website or send to Julie.



NEWSFLASH



Venue: Arts Centre Melbourne
Date: Monday 19 October 2015
Occasion: Royal Historical Society – Victorian
Community History Awards

Here is Julie, proudly receiving a Commendation Award in the Multimedia History category for our **Virtual Yallourn** website.

"I really hope everyone will occasionally visit **www.virtualyallourn.com** to see all the new photos, magazines and film clips of Yallourn being added."

THANK YOU!

for your donations to the **Virtual Yallourn** website - the above work would not be possible without your generosity.

Data is still being entered for residents of Yallourn from the old SEC House Maintenance cards. Eventually, we will have every resident listed. We are currently up to **Strzelecki Road** and working through alphabetically.

Many thanks to **Latrobe City** for their continuing support - we are updating our Yallourn Association website and uploading some SEC films to it. Another project on our 3D Town Map on Virtual Yallourn website is creating a time line to show the Open Cut expanding and taking over the town, plus adding contour lines to the map. We would also like to thank **Public Record Office Victoria** for their valuable assistance.



Representing all schools in Yallourn

Proudly Sponsored by:



Latrobe City
a new energy

and





Our next reunion is Saturday, 5 March at Woorabinda - please organise some ex-classmates to come along - everyone is welcome, ex-residents and ex-students from all schools in Yallourn and visitors to our beautiful town - more later.....

**SUBS
DUE**

Subscriptions - are due March 2016 - if you have a red stamp on the outside of this newsletter, it means your subs are either due now or are overdue and those who haven't paid since 2014 will sadly be deleted.



Correspondence

Graham Beanland (YTS 1942) sent a ripper photo of Yallourn State School Grade 3 in 1938:



Back Row L-R: ? , ? Rickard, Albert Troak, Neil Lobley, B Connelly, B Stephenson, William Whatley, Maurice Williams, ? Murray, Max Merritt, Ted Ebsworth, Max White, Jim McAllister, Ray Tate

2nd Back Row: W Galbraith, Gavin McFee, Frank Sutton, Ken Cooper, B Douglas, Peter Watkinson, R Head, B Jolliffe, John Pethybridge, Gavin Edmondson, B McIntosh, Dave Kiernan, A Shaw, Ted Schofield, Syd Cooley

Second/Third Row: Bill White, Graham Beanland, Betty Wharfe, Marie Collins, Peggie Welfare, Pearl Melbourne, Marjorie Manners, Barbara Comber, J Sutton, Chris Garvin, Phyllis Johnson, Dorothy Powell, Joan Pollock, Vikki Greer, Pat Millar, Jeanette Wiggins, Lauris Stanger, Winnie Watkinson, Joan Raine, Yvonne Mussared, ? , ? , M Sutton, B Leiper or Mary Sutton, ? , Stan Ostlund

Front Row: Max James, Jack Oswald, Audrey McLarty, Olwyn Cannon, Joy Sutton, Lucy Crowe, Pat Clyde, Georgina Gilchrist, Sylvia Rainbow

Can you can fill in any of the missing names?



Overseas with the SEC by Graham Beanland:

Julie George recently provided me with a copy of 'Contact' (a bi-monthly journal of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria) for June-July 1956 which reported the awarding of scholarships to 23 budding engineers, of whom I was one, to gain qualifications and broaden their experience. It was a first for the SEC to be awarding eight special overseas scholarships to enable the recipients to gain experience, relevant to different aspects of the Commission's work.



G. Beanland

Following graduation from the University of Melbourne I followed a typical career path for Electrical Engineering Graduates joining the SEC early in 1952 as a Cadet Engineer. In my two-year program, six months was involved in each of the following: Yarraville Electrical Laboratory, Hydro Design at Rubicon House, ESD Protection Section at Flinders Street and Electrical Operations Maintenance at Head Office and Brunswick Terminal Station. This provided a broad introduction to the SEC organisation working under some great engineers from whom I learnt a great deal – Bill Harvey, G T Kerr and J D MacDonald to mention a few. At a time when jobs were scarce, I was fortunate to be 'taken on' by Electrical Operations where I worked until awarded an Overseas Scholarship.

The Program I submitted was to involve working in England in the design office of British Thompson Houston (BTH), a large company manufacturing high voltage switchgear and transformers, in London and Rugby respectively. My wife accompanied me on the *S S Orcades* and in England we lived on the SEC's £5 pw allowance plus a BTH wage of £6/5/- pw, assisted by rent derived from letting our new Melbourne home. Sounds tight by today's standards but we managed, supported an infant son born six weeks after our arrival, travelled in the UK most weekends and took a touring holiday in Europe.

Towards the end of two years in England I was asked by Bill Thorn, Engineer for Production, to stay on for an additional six months to study Pumped Storage Hydro systems. This was agreed to on condition of a flight home; sea travel still being the norm in those years. I was relieved to be back on my SEC salary and Kath and our two-year-old returned home to Melbourne in time to celebrate Christmas 1958 with family. The hydro experience was a valuable added bonus thanks to English Electric and the Boving Company who both gave me access to their design offices in Rugby and London and arranged a great series of site visits around Europe and Scandinavia. The

hydro experience was used on my return when I was given a position in that field; which was followed by a few years as Assistant Area Engineer Richmond and five years as Electrical Operations Superintendent, Latrobe Valley, resigning in 1965 after 13 years working with the SEC. Returning to Yallourn at age 29 (the town of my growing up years from 1932 to 1943) with a family of my own and in a senior management position was certainly 'interesting' and the experience laid the foundation for two subsequent careers.

Memory Lane - life in the fast lane – well eight lanes actually by John Gloz YHS 1965

Everyone who lived in Yallourn after about 1960 would have memories of the fabulous facility that was the swimming pool. Being born in late 1953, I



Yallourn Swimming Pool

have only vague memories of the old pool (but I do remember that I hated it) which then became a lake with a small island, but quite vivid memories of the new Olympic-sized concrete structure, with the fantastic (as they seemed to us at the time) brick changing rooms, toilets, and kiosk. I mustn't forget the toddlers' and kids' pool either; these were both very well used by many.

I don't remember for certain what time the pool opened in the morning (10:00am?), but closing time was definitely 5:50pm and everybody had to be out of the grounds by 6:00pm, after which the swimming club had exclusive use for the next hour, then it was re-opened to the general public until final closing time at 9:00pm. I remember hearing the siren announcing the session times.

For many years, entry cost was 2/- for adults and children over 12 years old, but I can't remember what the cost for those under 12yo was, maybe 6d or 9d (being young and not in control of my finances back then, I can't be sure). I can remember that a 'season ticket' did give a substantial reduction if you went swimming often.



Living where I did in Banksia Street I didn't have a large hill to negotiate, so I didn't overheat too much walking home from the pool after a nice refreshing hour or so, unlike those who lived on either of the two hills, or who lived further afield in Hernes Oak or Yallourn North and who relied on those lovely non-air conditioned buses to get to and from.

There were a few spreading cypress trees for shade along the north-western side at the top of the embankment close to Parkway, and also on the open area at the front of the pool in the wedge between Parkway and Lake Ave, with a scattering of a few other much smaller trees in the lawns on the southern side, which I don't think were large enough to provide any shade. (Back in the '60s and '70s, there wasn't any concern about UV exposure, and when the tanned look was essential – remember the Piz Buin tan-through bikini?) There must have been countless cases of badly sunburned kids and probably more than a few adults as well.

Of course a facility of that standard was used for many swimming competitions; intra and inter-school and many district competitions were held there. I remember that I used to think that it was rather crowded when the whole complement of



'The girls' at the pool on Sports Day

YHS was there (all 350 of us!) for the house swimming competitions, but when a few other schools from the wider valley area gathered for inter-school competition it seemed incredibly crowded. I remember feeling a little bit annoyed sometimes when there was a district competition scheduled on a weekend and we couldn't go for a swim, but we could pay to go in and watch proceedings though.

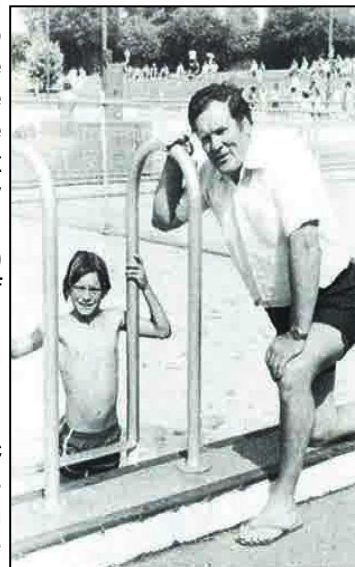
The pool was certainly a gathering point for a lot of people, both individual and families, during the summer months. Once we were old enough and competent enough at keeping afloat to be allowed to go swimming without adult supervision, the pool

was definitely a great place to meet and spend time with friends of both sexes. I'm sure that many teenagers formed (and in many cases probably enhanced) their relationships at the pool. Even without becoming involved in the swimming club, going swimming there certainly helped one's general fitness, swimming ability, and confidence. I remember using the 1m diving board and for some time being afraid to tackle the 3m board, until one afternoon being involved in a game of 'tag' with several school friends; the 'victim' took off from the 3m board so I just took off after him without thinking – that 3m board didn't daunt me after that!

I also remember a few kids suffering broken arms from slipping on the incredibly 'slippery-when-wet' black tiles that edged the parapet. I never suffered that indignity, but I did suffer a rather colourful black eye when some other kids were skylarking, diving from the top of one of the ladder/handrail units. The guy who dived on me promptly gave me a mouthful of abuse for getting in his way, but by the time I'd climbed out of the water I had a lump about the size of an egg on my eyebrow. As soon as he and his friends saw that they were most apologetic, but I went and reported the incident to the duty supervisor who gave me the required first aid then promptly evicted the others. By the time I got home, my eye was almost totally closed and turning lovely shades from the violet end of the spectrum.

Another time I remember is when some 'hooligans' had thrown a couple of empty beer bottles over the fence one night, smashing on the concourse at the deep end. I think it was a Friday night and the subsequent clean-up next morning delayed the opening by quite some time.

With all the talk of other memories associated with the pool, it would be very remiss of me not to mention the ever-faithful and diligent staff who made it possible for the rest of us to use the pool. Of course the 'life guards' were the most prominent (Mr Terry Swindon and Mr Jensen and others no doubt) and then the kiosk staff who must have been run off their feet on busy days, serving musk sticks, Colvan chips and Choc Wedges (aah, Peter's Ice Cream, the health food of a nation!) by the dozen.



Terry Swindon and swimmer



Mrs Myee Huddy's Dancing School by Helen Hender

Someone who had a real influence over the young kids in Yallourn was Mrs Huddy. Most old "Yallournites" you speak to remember her or attended her classes at some time in their youth.

I remember it was a large part of my brother Ross's life in his younger years, along with Peter Fitzgerald, John Crane, Daryl Young and Malcom Foy to name a few. They used to practice in the St Andrew's hall and I used to go along and watch sometimes.



Ross Hender, Peter Fitzgerald, Daryl Young or Malcom Foy and John Crane.

(Daryl if you are reading this - is this you???)

The best part were the concerts which were held in the St John's Church hall. Mum would be busy sewing Ross's numerous costumes. I can recall a clown suit, soldiers uniform and a sailor uniform. The best outfit was the "Fred Astaire Tux & Tails" they danced in! I loved seeing my brother in his. Sue Hinkley (Duxbury) emailed a newspaper clipping of the boys which read : Formal Dress - Not often you see such young men in tails and white waistcoats, but Ross Hender, Malcom Foy and Peter Fitzgerald were stars in the ballet concert at the Civic Theatre on Tuesday.

They also used to compete at the Latrobe Valley Eisteddfod and won medals. Unfortunately I don't have Ross's but his two granddaughters are both very good ballet, tap and modern dancers and have won numerous medals at the eisteddfods just like their grandfather (must be in their genes)!! Mum kept Ross's suit in the spare wardrobe with his tap shoes. When sorting through things I gave it to him - worst thing I ever did as he threw it out - whereas I would have kept it as a family heirloom. The shoes were patent leather.

Ross danced on the Happy Hammond show (as I have mentioned before) and also at my Auntie's 21st birthday - as you did in those days.



Ross Hender dancing at his Auntie's 21st birthday

I was only familiar with the tap dancing side of the school but I used to love watching the graceful ballerinas dancing. Josephine Fitzgerald was one of the ballet students and I inherited her tutu's and other costumes when she grew out of them. I loved dressing up in them, so did my friends and we had pretend concerts! I wanted to learn ballet - Mrs Norden was teaching then at the small room at

Kernot Hall. I remember our uniform was a pair of black velvet shorts with tap shoes which I loved wearing - used to tap around the house for hours - shuffle, ball chain - that is all I can remember of my tap dancing days!!!

In the Yallourn book "Digging People up for Coal" it says that Mrs Huddy was not given a house of her own to rent as her husband worked for the contractors so they sub-let a house while the tenants were away. She became an identity in the town as a dedicated teacher, concert organiser and fund raiser, raising money for numerous community groups in Yallourn. It also states that when the tenants came back in 1947 - a period of acute housing shortage - Mrs Huddy had to leave. But I was born in 1955 and remember Mrs Huddy well so did she move to Morwell or Newborough as there is the Myee Huddy District Aggregate at the Traralgon Eisteddfod. Kevin Brogan - do you know the story?? (Another Kevvy Conundrum to sort out for me!!)



Helen in one of Josie's costumes

A **Monash University study** is examining the effects on **former SECV employees** and the Latrobe Valley community of the privatisation and redundancy process of the 1990s. If you are a former SECV worker and are interested in sharing your story, please contact Julie or **Mathin Biswas** (Doctoral Candidate) Monash Business School - 03 9903 1395; mobile 0430 947 242; or email mathin.biswas@monash.edu. Mathin attended our last Yallourn Reunion and was able to speak to some people there. There is a list of interview questions to view beforehand if required.



Joan & Win Ashmead

WIN ASHMEAD (Drummond) Yallourn Elementary School 1928 – born Smethwick UK on 28 July 1916 : passed away Mandurah WA on 21 July 2014. Attended Yallourn Elementary School. Married Phil Ashmead (dec) on 8 May 1942. Children – Neil (dec) and Joan.

Joan writes: “21 July 2014 was the day mum passed away - exactly one week before her 98th birthday. After a fall in January (hip fracture), her lifestyle took a sudden change. Up until then, she was living completely independently in her own home with Home Help support.

As I reflect back on my childhood and how involved mum was with community service, I am incredibly proud. She came to Yallourn in 1921 as a 5yo with her parents, Ben & Louisa Drummond, her 3 older sisters Anne, Dot, Kit and her younger sister Margaret. Her father was very involved with the Yallourn Bowling Club (a championship competition was named in his honour), as well as the Yallourn Golf Club when it was between No1 oval and the hospital. He worked at the Yallourn Workshops. Her mother was also community minded, with the CWA being a very important part of her life. The Methodist Church provided religious and social opportunities for the whole Drummond clan. A tree was planted in her honour in the gardens near the Infant Welfare Centre. I'm curious to know what happened to the plaque!

As for mum, from what I can recall her telling me (and I'm sure I've missed some), her time as a youth and young adult was spent in the Guiding Movement. She was Baloo in the local cub group. I think she may have had a stint as Guide Commissioner too. From the CWA Youngerset which had an age limit; a group of ladies formed their own club - RAIWEENA. (This was because they considered themselves too "young" to join the "mature" ladies in CWA.) It is incredible to know that this club continues to exist. When Yallourn closed, they thought that would be the end of RAIWEENA but what they found was that it became more important; as it was now an excuse for the now scattered friends to meet up.

Win too got involved with golf at an early age with her father's encouragement. Tennis, badminton and bowls were also played. When Yallourn was in its early days many people worked very hard to raise money for facilities such as the library, picture theatre and swimming pool. Cake stalls and committee meetings were all the go!

Mothers' Club meetings for the Primary and High schools were attended for many years, along with other supportive mums. The 1968 Pylon printed an article of her recollections and has her photo on the front cover (to view this and all Pylons, go to www.virtualyallourn.com click on "Schools" at the top and then select "School Pylon Magazines").

The Yallourn Golf Club was like a second home for mum and dad. Many a weekend was spent picking up rocks and planting trees when the Club was relocated to its current site; then for 20 plus years afterwards enjoying playing and socialising at the new course. I'm proud to say both their names appear on the Honour Boards.

I think mum must've been an original women's libber. She got her driver's licence at a young age (not many women did). She'd reminisce about having to do a hill start in Hillside in an old heavy manual Ford in the late 30's.



1968 YHS Pylon Magazine

In 1956, their adventurous spirit saw the Ashmead clan (mum, dad a 9yo Neil and a 2yo me), travel around Australia in an FJ Holden and a home built caravan for 7 months.

For many years mum wrote a social column in the Yallourn Live Wire, reporting the social events in the town such as the Matrons' Ball and SEC functions. This led to a job doing serious reporting for the Moe Advocate and the Morwell Advertiser (both echoes of the past). Only recently I discovered a letter dated the 11.5.1949 that mum wrote under the pseudonym "G Sullivan" for the SEC Magazine which I'm guessing was throughout the '40's.

Win worked for the SEC as a typist and was eventually promoted to be the private secretary for the then General Superintendent of the SEC - Mr R A Hunt, a position she held throughout the war years. Shorthand was an essential skill in those days, which she taught at Yallourn Tech School night classes.

My parents lived in Yallourn until 1972. They moved to Melbourne when the SEC was building Newport Power Station. When dad retired in 1976 they settled in Bairnsdale where mum lived for another 4 years after dad's passing in 1977. She returned to "the fold" so to speak by building a comfortable little home with a huge veggie garden



at Yallourn Heights. From there, she relocated to a Lifestyle Village in Mandurah WA (2001) to be closer to us. The decision to move was made easier when she decided she had to relinquish her beloved driver's licence. Her challenge was to yet again establish her veggie garden; another one of her life's passions. Silverbeet was her secret to longevity!!!!

...by Joan Thomson (Ashmead) YHS 1965

MEMORIES OF THE YALLOURN TENNIS CLUB

by **Murray French** YTS 1954

Murray French grew up in Yallourn and is regarded as one of Gippsland's greatest all-time tennis players. Murray's name has dominated tennis circles for more than 50 years and he has won many titles and championships during his long and auspicious career. In 2015 he was inducted into the Latrobe Sporting Hall of Fame...

"Our first legend is Murray French, honoured for his outstanding tennis career. Murray has been a force in tennis since the 1950s claiming the Latrobe Valley Singles Championships twenty-five times until 1988, a record that still stands. Moving into the veterans' age group, he represented Australia nine times including wins at the World Team Championships and World Doubles Championships in 2007. He was the Australian Captain in 1999, 2002 and 2004."

Murray was also a brilliant ruckman for the Yallourn Football Club and a story about his career with the Blues can also be found on this website.

Sincere thanks to Murray for recording these wonderful memories of his days at Yallourn Tennis Club. This is his story...

At about 12 years of age I lived in Latrobe Avenue. Peter Tibballs lived down the road in Meadow Lane. We used to get together and mainly kick the footy and play cricket. Peter's father was always playing with us and one day he invited us down to the Yallourn Tennis Club. Little did I realise how that moment would start something that went on for the next sixty years. Mr Arthur Tibballs was a wonderful man and a very good tennis player and his enjoyment of the game rubbed off on both Peter and I.

At about this time my Father took me down to watch the local Yallourn New Year Tournament. I vividly remember that we had to pay two shillings to watch the tennis. This would be the only time that I ever saw an entry fee charged to watch a country tournament. I never realised at the time

that The Yallourn Open Tennis Tournament was the biggest and best in country Victoria. Time has flown and some of the men who won this event will be remembered by a few, however, I will name some of the Title Holders for old time sake. Ken McGregor, Ron Brophy, Rex Hartwig and Bob Marks all played Davis Cup for Australia; however there were many more wonderful players who played in and won this event.

As a young kid my favourite was Paul Hearndon who won the event six times. At this stage I must apologise to the ladies but as a young boy, my attention was always focused on the men.

It didn't take long before I became a fully-fledged and active junior member at a cost of 15 shillings. I will never forget the kindness that was displayed to me. The place was alive with activity and if there was ever an opportunity, you would be invited to play with the senior players.

Every evening in the summer it would be a race to get home and down to the courts. There would be about forty kids with the same idea and if you weren't quick enough, you would miss out on a court. Us kids would only have the courts until 4.45pm, then we would have to vacate the courts for the seniors.

When we went to tennis we did have a serious concern - our caretaker, who back then seemed a very old man, who we all called Pop. He took great care in keeping the courts in tip top shape. He would always be bagging and watering and if we did anything to upset his routine, he would chase us and quite frankly, he had us all scared stiff.



Clive Atkins, Bob Crookston, Murray French, David Nicholson



Looking back he did a terrific job and our courts were always the envy of our neighbours. Can you imagine a tennis club with an on site caretaker today?

I'm not sure of the date but I'll guess and say around about 1958, it was decided to dig up our courts and replace them with concrete. This was a big move but it was necessary as maintenance was becoming too much. It's amazing how I can still remember Mrs Carlisle saying that she would have to retire because of the extra wear and tear on her body. I don't know how old I was at the time but I was so disappointed for her as she was such a wonderful tennis player.

I wish I had the skills to convey to you just what a wonderful place Yallourn Tennis Club was. People had as much fun after tennis as they did on the court. They had these Butchers Fridges in the men's dressing rooms and they supplied all the necessary requirements for all to have a good time.

We all knew our place and everything was wonderfully organised and everyone just enjoyed themselves. I remember just being there and enjoying an atmosphere that taught me so much.

A highlight of the year would be the three inter-town matches we would play against Maffra, Yarram and Bairnsdale. We would play them once each year and alternate the venue from one year to the next. Places were highly sought after, twelve ladies and twelve men. There were always more players than positions and a place in the team was highly sought after. My how things have changed! When I first started, Mr Jim Hill would give all us kids tennis lessons each Monday evening. He was an absolute gentleman and a wonderful tennis player and I had the honour of playing in a pennant team with him.

Stan Brown also was a tremendous influence and helped me enormously. Stan organised for me to attend a clinic at Kooyong when I was about

thirteen and he gave me ten shillings to help me with the expense. Norm Meadows was also a great friend and partner. When the juniors started playing senior tennis, we would be placed in a team with a number one man. During this time my mentors were: Bob McDonald, Bob Dinsdale and Bob Crookston.

If only. I often wish if only I had the opportunity to thank all the people who showed a genuine interest and care for me when I first went down to the club. I guess we are all a bit like that. I do try to help the juniors, so I guess that would please them.

I know it is crazy to mention names and I know I will leave some great names out, but here are a few that would be in my Yallourn Tennis Club Hall of Fame:

Max Sparrow, Bob Dinsdale, Jim Hill, Austin Lynch, Bob Crookston, Leon Melbourne, Bob McDonald, Stan Brown, Tom McAllister, Don McAllister, David Nicholson, Jack Carlisle, Dick Hurley and Keith Lawton.

Mrs Lorna Carlisle, Mrs Bowen, Mrs Doris Langdon, Mrs Sonja Bates, Mrs Norma Hutchinson, Mrs Joan Lee, Mrs Donnett, Mrs Jill Bickerton (Carlisle), Corrine Hurley, Mrs Ashmore and Mrs Ashmead....and of course all our Life Members: C H Kernot, J Carlisle, J Hutchinson, V Gore, H Martin, Mrs Carlisle, J Hill, R Dinsdale, T McAllister and W Johnston.

It was a privilege to be part of this great club and I hope some of the names mentioned will bring back some pleasant memories.

Murray French
July 2015

VIRTUAL YALLOURN HISTORY 'FROM THE NEWSPAPERS' 2015

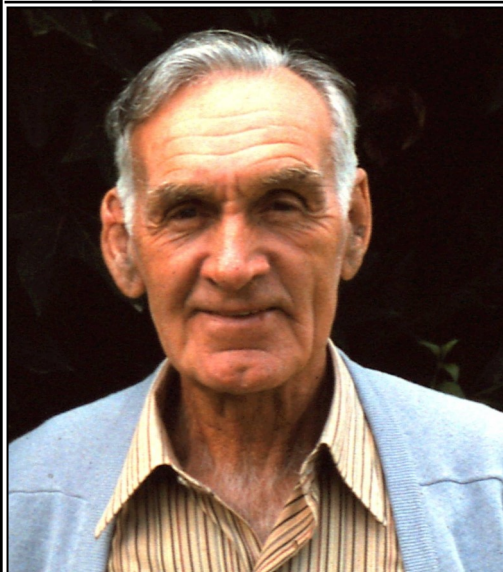
The series 'From The Newspapers' commenced at the beginning of 2015 and attempted to research and record various aspects of Yallourn's history using past editions of local and metropolitan newspapers.

In this series, more than 20 stories from early newspaper stories were unearthed and posted on the Virtual Yallourn website. As can be seen from the index of titles, some extracts were from the early 1920's not long after the first sod of 'the grand vision' was turned.

The history project has been quite successful in encouraging former Yallourn residents to contribute their memories of the town and events;



Yallourn Tennis Courts - circa 1959



One of the articles from 1945 – Jock Lawson and Yallourn Bowling Club

and we would like to thank those who have contributed to the project during the past year. Thank you for the numerous photographs which have been forwarded to be posted on the website.

Further newspaper extracts in this series will be again posted in 2016 and everyone is

warmly encouraged to forward articles, stories and photographs about the history of Yallourn for inclusion on the website.

Julie George and Roger Spaul for the Virtual Yallourn website (October 2015)

Articles uploaded so far:

Year	Title
1921	Christmas in the Mining Camps
1922	General John Monash : A Vision
1923	Undercover Operation by Police at Yallourn
1927	Landslide at Yallourn
1928	Buried Alive
1932	Lost Boy – Harry Rickard
1934	Yallourn Branch of the Housewives' Association
1934	Adventure with a Snake
1934	Christmas at Yallourn State School 4085
1936	Jock Lawson and Yallourn Bowling Club
1945	Yallourn Flower Show
1945	Opening of Yallourn High School
1947	Michael Thwaites – The Rhodes Scholar who Attended Yallourn State School 4085
1947	Funding announced for Yallourn Kindergarten
1948	Margaret Reid Excels at Yallourn High School
1949	Yallourn High School Examination Results
1952	Runaway Truck Crashes : 3 Hurt
1952	Heather McKay from Yallourn Wins a Bicycle
1953	Yallourn's First 3D Film
1953	Yallourn Public Library
1954	A Night of Action – Boxing

1945 - THE YALLOURN FLOWER SHOW

Despite the industrial backdrop, constant clouds of heavy smoke and the ever-present challenges (sometimes dangers) caused by coal dust, Yallourn was a unique 'garden town.'

Yallourn boasted some of the most beautiful home gardens in Australia; and bearing in mind that the homes in the township were rented from the SECV, their upkeep was exceptional.

Such standards of gardening were understandable when the viewpoints and philosophies of Ebenezer Howard, Walter Burley Griffin and Sir John Monash are taken into account...

"Yallourn was planned by A.R. La Gerche, the State Electricity Commission's Architect. The design of Yallourn incorporated lessons learnt from the early UK garden cities such as Welwyn Garden City and Letchworth Garden City which were inspired by Ebenezer Howard. Walter Burley Griffin also drew on similar sources for his designs."
From: YOGA www.yallourn.org

Sir John Monash's strong influence is apparent in the planning of the town. In 1920 he said that...

"...he favoured the adoption of the design and planning of a Garden Town to be called Yallourn." Meredith Fletcher.

Sir John Monash was unequivocal about the importance of well-maintained home gardens in Yallourn. In July 1926, Sir John wrote a letter to every resident of Yallourn, which included the following...

"...and a point of duty for every occupier to see that his home and garden are not allowed to be or become an eye sore or an offence to his neighbours but should, as soon as possible, be beautified by being kept scrupulously tidy and by the planting of trees, shrubs, flowers and climbing plants." 'Yallourn Was' Page: 52.

Town and home gardens were a significant part of Sir John's vision for Yallourn and in the SEC's report related to the establishment of township at Yallourn, it states that ... "the gardens which residents will be encouraged to make and keep in order."



The details of the 1945 Flower Show were published in 'The Morwell Advertiser and Gazette' the results of various sections of the show are listed:

November 15th 1945

Morwell Advertiser Page: 4

Flower Show at Yallourn

Members of the Yallourn Horticultural Society have reason to be proud of the splendid display staged recently. The quality and variety of blooms exhibited produced a wealth of colours that even experts were impressed.

Results were:

Best bowl (popular vote): Mrs. Sherry 1, Mr. Passey 2.
 Collection of cut flowers: Mrs. Sherry 1, Mrs. Brown 2.
 Three vases of roses: Mrs. Cannon 1, Mrs. Rusden 2.
 Three roses: Mrs. Rusden 1, Mrs. Hayward 2.
 Six vases cut flowers: Mrs. Needham 1.
 Three vases cut flowers: Mrs. Brown 1, Mrs. Evans 2.
 Vase cut flowers: Mrs. Passey 1, Mrs. Anderson 2.
 Three sorts flowering shrubs: Mrs. Brown 1, Mrs. Anderson 2.
 Vase flowering shrubs: Mrs. Sherry 1, Mrs. Brown 2.
 Lupins: Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Clifton equal first.
 Sweet peas: Mrs. Hoffman 1, Mrs. French 2.
 Pansies: Mrs. Ashmead 1.
 Antirrhinum: Mrs. Menadue 1.
 Stocks: Mrs. Hoffman 1, H. James 2.
 Iris: Mrs. Anderson 1, Mrs. Stanbury 2.
 Iceland poppies: Mrs. Brown 1, Mrs. Passey 2.
 Mixed cut flowers: Mrs. Sherry 1, Mrs. Hayward 2.
 Bowl of roses: Mrs. Needham 1, Mrs. Brown 2.
 Sweet peas: Mrs.: Mullane 1, Mrs. French 2.
 Pansies: Mr. Trusler 1, Mrs. Clifton 2.
 Bowl to harmonise: Mrs. Hayward 1, Mrs. Rusden.2.
 Vegetables: Mrs. Anderson 1.
 One variety vegetable: Mr. T. Hill 1, Mrs. Stanbury 2.

NOTES ON THE NEWSPAPER REPORT...

- The following quote is taken from 'To Yallourn with Love' ...
 "During the war years (1940-44) gardens were turned over to vegetables and people were encouraged to 'grow their own'; the society (VHS) brought lime and fertilizer which were sold to members at wholesale prices." Page: 43.
- According to one source, in the early days the Autumn and Spring Horticultural shows were held in the Guide Hall (in Office Place) but because of the restrictions on the use of halls, caused by Wartime regulations, the shows were later held in Foster's Garage showroom.
- It is recorded that the best (winning) home gardens were presented with a special medallion known as the Royal Horticultural Society Fawkner Medal. John Pascoe Fawkner (1792- 1869) was the founder of the Victorian Horticultural Society.
- It is difficult to uncover a list of Fawkner Medal winners but mention is made of certain Yallourn residents in connection to the award in the 'Morwell Advertiser' (20th March 1947...page 6). Unfortunately, the poor condition of the newspaper print makes deciphering the names of the Yallourn residents impossible.
- According to Prue McGoldrick, Life Memberships of the Yallourn and District Horticultural Society were awarded to the following local identities...Mr and Mrs 'Jock' Lawson, Mr and Mrs Bill Needham, Mr and Mrs Reg Stevens, Mr and Mrs Baird and Mr B. Spackman.
- Walter Burley Griffin (1876- 1937) was born in the USA but won fame throughout Australia for designing the city of Canberra.
- Ebenezer Howard (1850-1928) is known...
 "...for his publication Garden Cities of To-morrow (1898), the description of a utopian city in which man lives harmoniously together with the rest of nature. The publication led to the founding of the Garden City movement, that realized several Garden Cities in Great Britain at the beginning of the Twentieth Century." www.planetizen.com



Our sympathy goes out to all relatives and friends of those who have passed away since our last newsletter, including:



- Win Ashmead (Drummond) YES 1928, wife of Phil (dec), mother of Neil (dec) & Joan.
- Bev Carstein (Kite) YHS 1941, wife of Keith (dec), mother of Garry, Julie-Anne (dec), Pamela & Robyn
- Brian Downey YHS 1936, husband of Betty, father of Dianne, Margaret, Jennifer & Leanne.
- Joan Downey YHS 1955, sister of Faye & David, mother of Paul, Mark (dec) & Rod.
- George Fullwood, husband of Beth (dec) and companion of Ivy, father of Dean, Leigh & Nick.
- Gayle Guerin (Malpass) YHS 1967, wife of Lindsay, mother of Donald, daughter of Don (dec) & Betty and sister of Bev.
- Rodney Hawken YHS 1959, husband of Dianne, son of Allan & Eula (both dec), brother of Alan (Wayne) (dec), Dale, Russell & Mark.
- Joan Henry (Saunders) YHS 1935, wife of Douglas (dec) and mother of Kristine & Peter. Past Treasurer of Yallourn Old Girls Assoc.
- Bruce Matheson, husband of Gwen, father of Susan, John & Jennie, brother of Gwen (YHS 1952).
- Elsa McAllister (Turner) YHS 1943, wife of Jim and mother of Bruce (dec), Linda & Brenda.
- Beryl Millin (Cameron) YHS 1937, wife of Walter (dec), mother of Lynette & Kaye.
- Robert O'Hara YHS 1948, husband of Pam, father of Anne, Michael (dec), Maree & Susie. Brother of Marion, Peg (dec) and Denis (dec).
- Wilma Suckling (Irving) YHS 1945, wife of Don (dec), mother of Gary, Paul & Donna. Syd Tate YHS 1937, brother of Jean Cook (Tate), Ray & Sylvia. (Read tribute to Syd and about his football career on

YOGA's 40th Anniversary

Yallourn Reunion - Saturday, 5 March - from 11am

Entry pre-paid (\$10.00 includes entry and tea/coffee - day and/or evening)

11.00am Arrive

12.00-2.00pm Lunch (Dining Room) pre-ordered.

(\$10.00 per head - includes 1 1/2 rounds (6 points) mixed sandwiches, cake and tea/coffee **or** BYO lunch

3.00pm Photographs for each era - ***please bring your own camera***
Tea/Coffee



5.30-8.00pm BBQ Dinner - under cover (\$2.00 per sausage, bread, onion & sauce) **or** BYO and cook your own on the BBQ provided

8.30pm-on Music and chit chat (Inside & Outside)



Overnight accommodation available (\$45 per head includes cooked breakfast) - to be pre-paid

If you would like a map of how to get to Woorabinda, please contact Julie

Don't Miss It!

*Especially for our Reunion weekend, the **Yallourn North Historical Society** will have a wide range of **Yallourn** on display at the Brown Coal Mine Museum, Yallourn North - open from 10am till 4pm on both Saturday, 5 March and Sunday, 6 March.*



On Saturday, 5 March 2016 from 11am.....

Tickets to be pre-paid for both 'entry only' and 'entry & lunch' - see coupon on next page.

Entry Only (\$10) covers day and evening, or day only, or evening only - when payment is received for entry, a name tag will be typed up to be collected at 'registration table' on arrival.

Entry & Lunch (\$20) - a dot will be placed on the tag to be removed when lunch received.

Dinner - BBQ Sausages extra - \$2.00 each includes sausages, onions, bread, mustard/ tomato /BBQ sauce.



Overnight Accommodation available - single or twin rooms (BYO linen) for a mere \$45 per head, which includes a hot cooked breakfast on Sunday morning...so don't risk drinking & driving - book a room (to be paid in advance).

Parking - ample parking available within a short stroll to the facilities. ***For anyone requiring special close parking and/or assistance, please contact Julie in advance and this will be arranged.***

Registration Table will be set up for collection of your name tags - please stop here first.

Photographs will be taken of groups for our future use. For all other photos, don't forget your camera.

DVDs, Pens, Bookmarks, Coasters, Post-It Notes etc - for sale.

Photos & Memorabilia - there will be some photos and memorabilia on display for all to browse but feel free to bring your own along to share.

Lists of ex-students - for a list of ex-students from your era prior to the reunion, contact Julie. We need as many people as possible to spread the word and make contact with ex-classmates, neighbours, friends etc

Get in and pay early to add your name to the list of attendees for others to see. I get a lot of phone calls from people just asking who is coming from their year because they don't want to come on their own. Remember, for the 1946, 56, 66 and 76 years - this is a special celebration - 70, 60, 50 and 40 years since starting High/Tech School! Also it is 40 years since YOGA was formed and the beginning of these annual get-togethers.

....and on Sunday, 6 March 2016.....



A **combined church service** will be held at 10am on Sunday, 6 March at **St Aidan's Anglican Church**, Old Sale Rd, Newborough - a trip down memory lane from your days at Yallourn St John's and St Aidan's Newborough - cup of tea to follow and memorabilia will be on display.

(and don't forget the Brown Coal Mine Museum at Yallourn North - open again today from 10am till 4pm with a special display on Yallourn)

Hope to see you all at the reunion. For any further information, please contact me.



Till next time, keep in touch and keep smiling.

Julie George
On behalf of your Committee

Please return this form by **Friday, 19 February**, to Julie George, P O Box 1413, Frankston 3199, together with your money for entry to the reunion, and lunch/accommodation if required (direct debit also available - see front page LH side).

Reunion - 5/3/16 starting at 11am Woorabinda Camp, Lake Narracan

Enclosed is payment for

Entry only	ticket/s	@	\$10.00 per head	=	\$.....
Entry & lunch	ticket/s	@	\$20.00 per head	=	\$.....
Overnight Accom	ticket/s	@	\$45.00 per head	=	\$.....
(incl breakfast)					

Name:.....(Maiden Name)

Address:.....

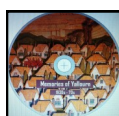
Email:.....(Phone:.....)

(Please write additional names overleaf as we need all names of those attending for nametags)

Yallourn Memorabilia For Sale (while stocks last):

All profits go toward the Virtual Yallourn website

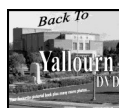
Plus P&H



Memories of Yallourn - 1930-1970s DVD - New

(Interviews with ex-residents, photos and music - 2013)

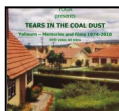
..... @ \$15.00 each = \$.....



Yallourn Pictorial DVD III - Updated

set to music of the time - 1300+ photos

..... @ \$20.00 each = \$.....



Tears in the Coaldust DVD - Updated

Yallourn - Live footage and interviews

..... @ \$25.00 each = \$.....



YALLOURN 3838 Pens incl pouch

A unique postcode for a unique town!

..... @ \$ 8.00 each = \$.....



Yallourn Bookmarks

Magnetic with landmarks of Yallourn

..... @ \$ 5.00 each = \$.....



Yallourn Coasters

Fountain with shopping centre behind - or Set of 4

..... @ \$ 3.00 each = \$.....
 @ \$10.00 per set = \$.....



Yallourn Post-It Notes

Small

..... @ \$ 2.00 each = \$.....

Large

..... @ \$ 3.00 each = \$.....

Name:.....(Maiden Name)

Address:.....

Email:.....(Phone:.....)

First Year (or equiv) at YHS/Tech.....

Donations

Enclosed is a donation towards the **Virtual Yallourn Project**

(please circle) **\$10 / \$20 / \$50 / \$100**
 (thank you)

Subscriptions due March 2016

Enclosed is payment foryear/s @ \$10.00 per year = \$.....

Name:.....(Maiden Name)

Address:.....

Email:.....(Phone:.....)

First Year (or equiv) at YHS/Tech.....



If undeliverable, please return to
YALLOURN OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION
P O BOX 1413
FRANKSTON VIC 3199

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